Volleyball, canoeing, hiking

Recreation Department offers summer services

By Scott Ahlstrand

Students looking for something to do this summer need look no further than UNL's Recreation Department. The department, at 1740 Vine St., will offer a wide variety of trips and services to students this summer.

Coordinator of Outdoor Recreation Mark Ebel said that students have several choices for summer trips. "We offer quite a few weekend trips and then we have

two big trips at the end of the summer," Ebel said. "We generally fill up the trips, because most of them are only offered for a limited number."

The first trip is a 28-mile bicycle ride to Branched Oak Lake. The ride costs \$5 and includes a barbecue picnic. The trip is open to any registered summer school student, and the number of participants is limited.

From June 4 to 6, the rec. department will sponsor a canoe trip on the Niobrara. It costs \$35 and includes canoeing instruction. The trip is open to only 12 students.

There will be a basic rock climbing and mountaineering trip June 23 through 27. Two days of the trip will be instructional and the third day will be spent on a peak climb. The cost is \$95. The excursion is limited to nine climbers and is open to beginning climbers.

The recreation department will have its second summer canoe trip July 9 through 11. Twelve students will canoe the Dismal River in Nebraska. The trip costs \$35 and includes some instruction. Previous experience is recom-

July 30, nine students will leave on a 10-day rock climbing, mountaineering trip to South Dakota. The climbers will do some classic climbing of the mountain routes and will attempt to climb the Grand Teatons in Wyoming. The trip will cost \$175 and experience is a prerequisite.

The department's best trip, according to Ebel, will be the 10-day white water rafting expedition. The group will leave Lincoln Aug. 10 and will travel to Idaho. They will travel through the largest wilderness area in the continental United States. The trip is open to 12 students and will cost \$275.

"The white water rafting trip is really a good bargain," Ebel said. "Commercial companies have a similar trip and they charge over \$500."

Participants are required to have some backpacking, climbing and canoeing or rafting experience.

For those students who don't have the time or the money to go on a trip, the recreation department has a schedule of activities that the sports-minded person can participate in.

A slow-pitch softball and a volleyball league are offered this summer. The department also will organize two tennis

The UNL Coliseum will stay open this summer 4 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Campus pools, racquetball courts, weight rooms and tennis courts will have

In addition to leagues and tournaments, the recreation department will make athletic equipment available to students. Items such as softball equipment and volleyballs can be borrowed or rented. Canoes, backpacks and tents are available on a first come, first serve basis and rent out for a nominal charge.

When checking out camping equipment, the student and a recreation department staff worker go over the equipment, checking for damage. All damage is noted on a form. When the equipment is returned it is looked over again. Any new damage will be assessed and the student will have to pay a fine.

Ebel said he feels that the department would do more business if they didn't have an identity problem.

"We get a lot of business, but not as much as we could," Ebel said. "A lot of people don't know that the little red building on Vine is the rec department. And, unfortunately, even more don't know about the services we offer."

Lean back, close your eyes and take a sigh. Finals are almost here and gone and then it will be time to enjoy summer.

Summer in the city can be more than sublet apartments, high humidity and summer school. Lincoln and the surrounding area offer a variety of recreational and cultural activities during the summer months. Life in Lincoln does not stop during the summer it gets better.

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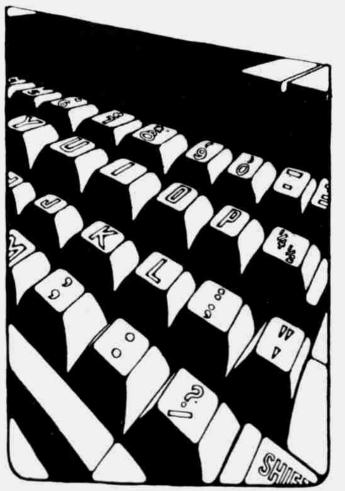
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