

# Trips offer alternative

By TED TAYLOR  
Senior Editor

Imagine a spring break trip where you actually remember everything.

Then again, a hike down the Grand Canyon or rock climbing in Arizona, for some, could be a little more memorable than bonging another beer in Padre.

Organizers of the Campus Recreation Outdoor Adventures think so, which is why they're offering students an alternative this spring break — the chance to challenge and improve themselves.

There won't be room for a six-pack in your backpack, clothing is required at all times and the only chance of puking comes after completely exhausting yourself.

"The Grand Canyon trip is one of the hardest backpacking trips you can possibly do," said Deena Groshans, a six-year veteran of Outdoor Adventures. "But in the end it's all worth it."

Though Groshans is frank about the trip's difficulty, it's not a warning for those considering an outdoor adventure this spring break — it's a challenge.

On day one of the Grand Canyon trip, backpackers tackle a 10-mile long, 1-mile steep trek to the bottom of one of the natural wonders of the world.

After a day of hiking at the bottom, they climb back up.

Similar adventures include spring break trips to North Carolina and Georgia for white-water rafting or backpacking Arizona's Saguaro Desert.

Though the excursions seem

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Outdoor Adventures leader

extreme to those who don't consider themselves "outdoorsy," adventure leaders said the trips are designed for beginning or intermediate outdoor enthusiasts.

"Our goal is to teach you enough to be able to go out on your own," Groshans said.

Tim Epp, another Outdoor Adventures leader, said the major benefit for going on an outdoor adventure is the possibility of something more than a seven-day hangover.

"I think most people get a personal growth out of a trip like this," he said, "as opposed to a drinking trip."

Second-year OA leader Katie Humphrey agreed.

"Because it gives you an experience where you learn something, it gives you a natural high," she said.

The trips also are a way for students to meet and hang out with a different group of people than they normally would.

And they're not just hanging out, they're helping each other survive.

"You get to be and work with a diverse group of people," Humphrey said. "We really focus on working together."

Groshans said the trips usually end with people knowing quite a

bit about fellow classmates.

"We always have people learn a lot about each other," she said. "It's just nice to get out and forget the stresses of life while you're out in the middle of nowhere supporting yourself."

Prices for the Grand Canyon and Saguaro Desert packages range from \$275 to \$375 and one-third of the cost is due Feb. 24.

The total fees include food, equipment, travel and park fees. Anything participants don't have, such as a backpack, sleeping bag or even a water bottle, Campus Recreation provides.

The only materials participants are asked to bring, Groshans said, are specific articles of clothing, depending on which trip they choose. They also need money for extra food and meals while on the road to the destinations.

"The two biggest things we ask is that you are mentally and physically prepared," she said.

Students have until March 3 to sign up for the Arizona rock climbing and Southeastern United States white-water rafting trips. Space is limited and a couple of trips are almost full.

For more information on these trips or any of the others offered by Outdoor Adventures, call (402) 472-3467.

# Leadership urged for minority groups

By CHAD ELLSWORTH  
Staff Reporter

Black and Hispanic students must drop past divisions, take up leadership roles and work together to advance minority concerns, speakers at a university forum said Tuesday.

"Don't look for a leader, be one," said John Harris, special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs.

Too often, minority students look for someone else to take leadership roles instead of looking for ways they can lead themselves, Harris said.

But black and Hispanic students need leadership roles in the community in order to be recognized as a collective force in society, he said.

By organizing a forum in the Nebraska Union, Harris said he displayed one way in which young people can lead — by organizing small but important discussions on race issues.

Speaking to a room filled with members of many racial, ethnic and cultural groups, Jose Soto, vice president of Affirmative Action at Southeast Community College, advocated a political and economic coalition of people of black and Hispanic decent.

"Diversity and multiculturalism are the current reality and future of this nation, this state and this community," Soto said. "These are issues we have not yet resolved."

Minorities are gaining representation in political and economic arenas, Soto said.

But the impact of minorities on

national and global economies is often overlooked.

In some urban areas, so-called "minority groups" are the majority, he said.

"In pockets, it happens already" in Nebraska, said Thomas Christie, Multicultural School and Community administrator for Lincoln Public Schools.

"In Lincoln, Nebraska, we have an elementary school where the majority of kids in that school are kids of color."

But Soto said, historically, minorities who live near one another have not come together to advance common issues, working instead in competition against other minority groups.

"We've been led to believe that the pie is finite," he said. "If you win, I lose."

"This is the mentality that has kept people of color separated in this country."

Many members of minority groups have little knowledge or concern about other groups' cultures and goals, he said.

Diane Myers of Lincoln said a lack of cooperation exists between minority groups because they have no common issues.

"What more in common do we have to have?" Soto said, pointing to a collective experience that includes powerlessness, oppression, exclusion and poverty.

"Let's talk about our collective experience in this country," he said. "We have to set out to share each other's experience."

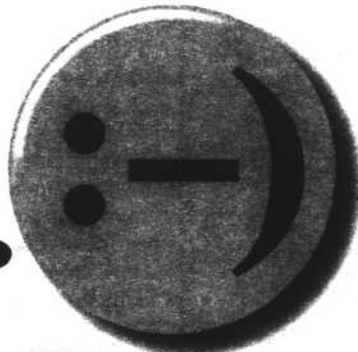
"We don't really know what (common good) means."

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