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Are students
on wayward path
to 'lake of fire'?
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Jesse Nash in a basketball game earlier this season
Photo by Derrel Hewitt

Nash remembered as fun-loving, energetic competitor by friends

By Dennis Fernandes
Of the Emerald

In the aftermath of his tragic death, friends and teammates alike already miss the presence of Jesse Nash.

A memorial service will be held tonight in McArthur Court at 7:30 for the 21-year-old Oregon basketball player, who drowned after falling off an inner tube in the Willamette River on Sunday afternoon.

In a situation emotionally similar to another tragedy more than three years ago, when University wrestlers Jed Kesey and Lorenzo West died in an automobile accident, friends stunned by the drowning reminisced about Nash and their time with him.

Those who did know him remember a shy and quiet personality from Wilmington, Del., who in just nine short months carved his niche in a campus community as a fun-loving friend and fierce competitor.

For Oregon basketball fans, Nash was the 6-foot-5 junior transfer from Santa Monica Community College who filled a void that no one expected him to, averaging 7.7 points and four rebounds a game while starting 19 games at the small forward slot. He scored a career-high 21 points against Arizona State University.

Nash used his athletic ability and smoothness on the court to hold his own at a small forward spot where much taller players usually prevail in the Pacific 10 Conference.

"He still seems alive because he was so alive," recalled teammate Ian Craig, a sophomore. "You couldn't

Drowning site has history of mishaps

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

While statistics concerning drownings in Eugene are recorded on a citywide basis, Tim Birr, the public information officer for the Eugene Fire and Emergency Services Department, said he can recall three drownings as well as several near-drownings in the same area where Jesse Nash died Sunday afternoon.

The stretch of the Willamette River near Autzen Footbridge is "definitely a dangerous area," Birr said.

Two factors make the river particularly hazardous: the current and the temperature, Birr said. Both conditions change throughout the year depending on the level of the water, he said.

"The problem we run into

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display his physique in front of a mirror, jokingly saying, "Check me out. I am so sweet."

But on the court, it was a different story.

"He was not a real 'rah-rah' kind of guy, but he was tough," Craig continued. "Talk about an athlete, he had everything. I used to guard him or Baldy (Keith Balderston) in practice, and when he set his mind to it, he could do anything."

For the residents of Tingle Hall, where Nash lived on the fourth floor, this was the second tragedy they had to cope with in a span of just over a month. Freshman Peter Frangos died a day after falling off the ledge just outside his third-floor room on March 31.

"We're stunned," said Chris Chupa, Tingle's resident assistant, just after a Monday night meeting with some of the dorm residents. "People were just trying to figure out what happened. This being the second time, I think we're taking it a little more in stride."

A few dormmates remember Nash as "quiet, but always encouraging and friendly."

"I wasn't that close to him," said Jeremy Jottwals. "But I liked him a lot. We'd joke around a lot."

"The guy was invincible," said Doug Arroyo. "It seemed nothing would ever take him away from us."

Teacher-ed plan reduces required graduate classes

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

Bold plans to change teacher-education programs in Oregon have been revised by higher education officials after seven public hearings were held throughout the state last month.

The revised plans still call for the bachelor's degree in education, and they still require education students to earn a degree in another field of study, another field of study.

But plans to make education majors earn a master's degree through a fifth-year, graduate-level program were scrapped. Under the new plan, education majors still will be required to complete five years, but only part of the fifth year will require graduate-level courses.

University College of Education Dean Robert Gilberts said Monday that the revised plans allow education departments at state colleges and universities to be more flexible in planning the fifth year.

After the public hearings and discussions, higher education officials decided education majors would find it too difficult to complete the requirements for the Oregon Standard Certificate

and a master's degree both in the same year, Gilberts said.

The new plan calls for the fifth year of education programs to include the course work required for the Standard Certificate, he said. "The exact nature of the extended programs will be left to the campuses," he added.

Also, the revised plan calls for a new one-year, graduate program in teacher education for students who decide to become teachers after earning a separate bachelor's degree.

The revised plans for changing the teacher-education programs will be presented to the State Board of Higher Education at its monthly meeting May 15 at Western Oregon State College in Monmouth.

The State Board is not expected to take action on the teacher-education plan until June to allow time for discussion of the revised plans.

"The changes that (higher education officials) made have very much improved the proposal," Gilberts said. "Given the flexibility provided from institution to institution, this certainly will give us the oppor-

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Flailin' and wailin'

More than 3,000 people showed up for the opening ceremony of Greek Week on Monday night. Members of the Chi Psi fraternity (above) walked away with second place among fraternities in the air band competition. Greek Week continues through Saturday when it concludes with Parents' Weekend.

Photo by Shu-Shing Chen