

SENIOR SEND-OFF

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

EMU Ballroom

It's a Senior Celebration! The UO Alumni Association invites you to this final bash

featuring musical guest

FIVE FINGERS OF FUNK

You'll get a grad pack full of cool stuff
a free beverage, a chance to win
Duck football season tickets and other
great prizes! Admission is FREE!



Sponsored by the UO Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Association

Rally & March 8:00 p.m. EMU Courtyard UO Campus



MARCH Ends at Federal Building 5th & Pearl **Speak-out** Music

Sponsored by Sexual Assault Support Services &
ASUO Women's Center · For Info call 484-9791

Co-sponsors: Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force and The Office of the Dean of Student Life

**Imagine
A Violence Free World**

The ODE Classified pages ...

much more than a place for the crossword

NATIONAL

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

New roller coaster flies into the record books at 100 mph

■ **RIDE:** Partial credit
for the new record goes
to new military technology

VALENCIA, Calif. (AP) —
Frightful new attractions are
popping up across the country
this summer, luring youngsters
on high-speed joyrides and
flouting the fundamental law of
the land.

The law of gravity, that is.

A new roller coaster opening
June 1 at Six Flags Magic Moun-
tain is designed to break the 100
mph barrier for the first time.
The ride, called Superman the
Escape, propels riders from a
standstill to 100 mph in seven
seconds up a 415-foot tower,
where they float in zero gravity
until they drop backward.

That happens at 100 mph, too.
Weightlessness lasts about 6.5
seconds, another record, the
park says.

But Superman isn't the sea-
son's first superlative, and it
won't be the last. Competition is
pushing designers to make rides
like Olympic athletes: faster,
higher and — one hopes —
stronger.

"We're in the roller coaster
arms race," said Paul L. Ruben,
whose job as North American
editor of the trade magazine
Park World has sent him aloft on
400 of the world's major coast-
ers. "I've seen this occurring for
20 years or more. Every park
likes to have bragging rights to
the fastest, wildest ride for at
least one year."

Las Vegas made its bid with
The Big Shot and The High
Roller, both atop the new 1,149-
foot Stratosphere tower. The
High Roller coaster tools around
a track near the top of the tower.
Connoisseurs call the ride tame,
the views spectacular.

Some people squeeze their

eyes shut on The Big Shot. It
shoots riders 160 feet up toward
the top of tower at 45 mph, then
drops them back to the 921-foot
level.

"This is the most exciting
thing I've ever done next to
jumping out of an airplane,"
said Chuck Manuele, 64, of San
Bruno. "The view is spectacular.
I would recommend it to any-
body."

Bruce Ratajczyk, 27, of Seattle
pronounced the experience
"awesome" and "just unbeliev-
able" before rushing back for his
third trip up Tuesday.

Superman and Big Shot use
new "Star Wars" military tech-
nology. Electromagnetic propul-
sion has already replaced chains
and motors at rides in Mexico
City, Kentucky Kingdom in
Louisville and Wisconsin Dells.
Other such rides are opening at
Worlds of Fun in Kansas City,
Mo.; Universal Studios Florida;
and Dreamland, near Sydney,
Australia, Ruben said.

Promoters in the hype-happy
amusement business have been
bragging about 100 mph coasters
since the 1920s. But that was
before radar guns and truth-in-
advertising laws.

Actually, 82 mph is the record
right now, claimed jointly by the
Desperado at Buffalo Bill's Casi-
no in Stateline, Nev., and the
Steel Phantom in Kennywood,
outside Pittsburgh.

The newest standup-coaster to
take the record for height, Man-
tis, debuted last week at Cedar
Point in Sandusky, Ohio. It's the
12th at Cedar Point, which
boasts the most roller coasters of
any park in the world.

The world's loopiest roller
coaster opened last year: Dragon
Khan in Port Aventura near
Barcelona, Spain, inverts riders
eight times.

Cigarette believed to be cause of fraternity fire that killed five

■ **DEATHS:** The 60-year-old building had no sprinkler
system, a contingency not required by the university

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — A cigarette that ignited a pile of trash
was the likely cause of a fraternity house blaze that killed five peo-
ple on graduation day at the University of North Carolina, officials
say.

The fire, which injured three other students, likely began early
Sunday in the basement of the Phi Gamma Delta house and spread
quickly with the help of open doors, assistant fire marshal Larry
Johnson said Monday.

The fraternity house, built at least 60 years ago, had no sprinkler
system and had more than 30 fire code violations over the past two
years, the *Winston-Salem Journal* reported today, citing safety
records. However, the fraternity had corrected all of the problems by
January, and fire officials said the blaze had nothing to do with pre-
vious citations.

Sprinklers are not required by law in fraternity and sorority hous-
es. Binder told the *Journal* the school has encouraged installation of
sprinklers in all fraternity and sorority houses, but only one of the 36
has done so.

As firefighters continued to look for clues, relatives and friends
mourned the loss of loved ones.

"I couldn't come here yesterday," said Bryan Smith, who graduat-
ed Sunday. "It was quite a bittersweet day."

Three of the dead — Benjamin Watson Woodruff of Raleigh and
Robert Joshua Weaver and Mark Briggs Strickland, both of Rocky
Mount — were members of the fraternity. Also killed were Anne
McBride Smith, a student from Rocky Mount, and Joanna Howell, of
Cary.