



Tom Patterson Emerald

Fourth- and fifth-graders from Howard Elementary School write letters to themselves describing their hopes for the future.

News brief

Building Blocks helps children learn the value of college

Nearly 300 Eugene elementary school students got a head start on their college search last week.

The fourth- and fifth-graders toured the University campus Friday as part of their involvement with Building Blocks, a program aimed at educating children on the benefits of higher education.

About 20 University students are involved with Building Blocks this term. The program offers college credit through the Communi-

ty Internship Program.

As part of the program, University students lead educational sessions in local classrooms on various aspects of college — including financial aid options, academic majors and housing. Building Blocks graduate teaching fellow Khela Singer-Adams said.

The culmination of these sessions is the campus field trip, in which the elementary school students have the chance to see for themselves what college is really like, Singer-Adams said.

Eating at the Carson Hall dining center, touring the residence halls and greek houses, and meeting the school mascot were among the

highlights of Friday's visit for many of the children, she said.

During the day, the group also visited the College of Education, where the children sat down to write a letter to themselves about what they learned through the Building Blocks program, and what they would like to major in.

In a few years, when these students enter high school, these letters will be mailed back to them, Singer-Adams said.

While the program is open to anyone, the main focus is on reaching at-risk youth who may have fewer opportunities to learn about higher education, she said.

— Kara Cogswell

Bush persists with agenda

By Brigitte Greenberg
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's top staff aide took the blame for the defection of Sen. James Jeffords from the Republican Party to become an independent, a move that shifted control of the Senate from the GOP to the Democrats.

"I think I've got to do a better job of communicating with people on Capitol Hill, but the president has done nothing wrong," White House chief of staff Andrew Card said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." He added that Bush has no plans to retaliate against Jeffords, saying: "He is not about political retribution or paybacks."

While pledging to work with the White House, incoming Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said some items on Bush's wish list, including drilling for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, are "dead." He also told NBC's "Meet the Press" he could not envision building more nuclear power plants, as Bush's energy task force recommended, before figuring out how to dispose of nuclear waste.

Card responded: "It sounds to me like he (Daschle) doesn't have an agenda other than an agenda of 'no.' ... This should not be about just saying no to any agenda that the president puts forward."

Losing control of the Senate to Democrats will not deter Bush from pressing ahead with his agen-

da, Card said.

"We'll be able to get the president's agenda put forward because it's an agenda for America," he said. "This president wants to work toward future changes for America that are important to him. He campaigned on them, and he's going to deliver them."

Card said the president bears no responsibility for Jeffords' defection, which the senator said was prompted by his inability to reconcile his moderate positions with the conservative agenda set by Bush and other GOP leaders.

Daschle said Bush has "shut us out" of major decisions. He recounted a telephone conversation he had with the president after Jeffords' announcement last week: "I said, 'Look, if there's ever been a time for us to begin working together, this is it. Now we've got to find a way with which to talk more effectively.'"

Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., the outgoing Senate majority leader, said on ABC's "This Week" that he believes some Senate Democrats may try to "ram their agenda" through Congress and stymie Bush's agenda with unwarranted investigations.

Other Republicans said Jeffords' switch was a wake-up call. Some in the GOP "have become a bit arrogant," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

"You become arrogant, you get sloppy; you disconnect. Politics is about people; elections are about

governance, and you can't disconnect the two," Hagel told CBS. "This is not catastrophic for us, but we should learn here."

Hagel said Bush, who likes to delegate details to subordinates, must take a more active role in legislative affairs: "That means he's going to have to understand issues better, more deeply, get himself immersed in this."

Lott's deputy, Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., said Republicans must do a better job making sure that GOP moderates, especially from the Northeast, feel comfortable in the party.

"Maybe we haven't brought everyone in to make them feel a part of our team and our effort. We're going to do better," Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, added on CNN's "Late Edition."

Although there has been some speculation that Hagel might challenge Lott in a Republican leadership fight, Hagel said he and his colleagues would stand by the incumbent.

Lott defended his leadership, saying Senate Republicans have already taken a personal inventory and have "come out unified." They also came out with a plan to expand or rotate leadership "to make sure that we're hearing every thought," he said.

"Senator Lott's in good shape," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said on "Fox News Sunday." "I don't think there was any lack of effort on the part of the leadership to keep him (Jeffords) in the fold."



9 ball tourney

race to four | single elimination

wednesday

may 30th

4:30 pm sign-up | 5pm play

limited to 16 players per night cost: \$3.00

prizes

1st	\$10.00 & 2 hours free pool
2nd	1 1/2 hours free pool
3rd	1 hour freepool

the break | emu ground floor | 346-3711

Need Cash?



Plasma donations
earn around
\$175 every month.

\$20 on 1st donation
\$30 on 2nd donation
\$50 for the first week
\$5 extra for first-time donors
if you bring in this ad!

Seramed Biocenter • Eugene



Block east of 8th and Garfield
1901 West 8th Ave., Eugene
683-9430

also at 225 B Main St. in Springfield



COMMENCEMENT 2001

VIDEOS FOR SALE!

- Media Services is taping Commencement in Mac Court on June 16.
- Call (541) 346-3048 to order your own copy!
- The cost is \$26.50 (includes shipping).
- To mail a check/money order, please send to
Commencement Video, Knight Library Media Services,
1299 University of Oregon, Eugene Or 97403.
Make check payable to Knight Library Media Services.
- For credit card orders and additional information, call the number above.
- Orders taken in Mac Court on Commencement Day...Look for our table!

ADVERTISE. GET RESULTS.

Oregon Daily Emerald 346-3712