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Hager speaks on police raid

■ Back from Italy, University student Morgan Hager says police wearing riot gear beat nonviolent protesters

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

Morgan Hager, the University student injured and arrested during the G-8 global summit in Genoa, Italy, last month, released a statement alleging that police clad in riot gear stormed the gymnasium where she and other protesters slept, beating them despite their nonresistance.

In the statement, which has been delivered to the American Embassy in Milan, Italy, as part of its investigation of the incident, Hager said she suffered a fractured hand, blows to the head and severe bruises.

Hager declined to be interviewed by the Emerald.

She said in her statement, however, that she and other anti-globalization protesters were sleeping in the gymnasium when Genoa police

raided the building and arrested the protesters inside.

"The police rushed into the room. They were dressed in dark clothing and may have had protective vests under their clothing because they looked exceedingly bulky," she said. "They wore helmets with plastic face covers. They wore heavy boots, gloves and carried batons. I am certain no skin was showing on any of them."

Hager said the police began beating the protesters despite their attempts to overcome the language barrier by showing the two-finger peace sign.

"The first thing I recall the police doing was kicking a chair into the group of people kneeling on the floor," she said. "One came over to our corner and, as I was kneeling with my hands extended, he kicked me in the side of the head, knocking me to the floor."

She said that, amid numerous trips to the hospital and different prisons and cells, the police took her money and plane ticket home and shaved off most of her hair.

She said a judge informed her she

had been charged with resisting arrest, being part of a criminal organization, causing bodily harm to the police and possession of weapons. Hager was deported back to Oregon in the custody of her parents, although she said police, her lawyer in Italy and the judge never mentioned deportation.

Hager said her deportation papers said she and the other arrested protesters had been dropped at the border and told to leave the country immediately, but police actually released them at an airport in Milan with no flights going to the United States and without any money. Some people, she added, had their passports taken away during their jail time also.

A group that helped organize the protest came to the airport and found houses for them to stay at until they could arrange to leave the country.

Hager had planned to spend fall term in Italy studying art, which is her major at the University. She had gone to Italy early to join the protest against the eight industrialized nations that met in Genoa late last month.

News briefs

State grants music school funds for remodeling

Gov. John Kitzhaber on Wednesday signed into law a bill that will give the school of music \$7.6 million for a massive remodeling project.

The project, which will cost \$15.2 million, is aimed at eliminating overcrowding in the music school's building, parts of which were built in 1917 to accommodate 300 students. Today, music school officials say about 2,000 students use the building, and 500 of them are music majors.

The school of music has so far raised \$700,000 and hopes the state funds will compel private donors to give more to the project.

While construction plans are tentative, current drafts call for providing more classrooms, rehearsal rooms, studios, office space and a performance hall designed for modern art performances.

McNair Scholars Symposium begins today

After a summer or more spent researching a range of topics varying from mathematics to ethnic studies, a group of University students will soon have the chance to present the results of their research to the public.

Thursday kicks off the McNair Scholars Symposium, to be held in Room 184 of the Knight Law School.

The McNair Scholars Program was established to give minority students and first-generation col-

lege students a head start on preparing for graduate school.

During the academic year, students selected for the program attend workshops and classes on how to succeed in graduate school. They are also paired with faculty mentors who work with them throughout their involvement with the program.

McNair Scholars also have the opportunity to participate in a paid summer research internship in which they conduct original research on a topic related to their field of study. The annual symposium is the culmination of that internship.

Gail Unruh, the program's coordinator, said some of the 17 students presenting began their research during the regular academic year, while others started their studies at the beginning of the summer.

Research projects covered a wide range of academic fields, including biology, mathematics, ethnic studies, political science, sociology and anthropology, he said.

In keeping with the traditional format for academic conferences, each presentation will last about 20 minutes, Unruh said, and will be followed by a 10-minute question-and-answer session.

The symposium begins at 9 a.m. Thursday with a keynote speech by Knight Law School Dean Rennard Strickland, with the last scheduled presentation at 4:30 p.m. On Friday, students will present from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Admission is free and students, faculty and community members are invited to attend.

—Kara Cogswell

Football

continued from page 1

the Rose Bowl this year. The nation's most-read sports magazine picked Oregon seventh overall.

ESPN Magazine picked the Ducks fifth and the Beavers 12th overall. The magazine rankings came on the heels of the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Poll, which ranked Oregon seventh, and the Pac-10 Media Poll, which put the Ducks first in the Pacific-10 Conference.

"It's a reflection of the quality of the team," Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos said. "I'm just tickled and proud."

"It's nice to be considered one of the better teams in the nation," Bellotti said.

The Oregon schools will soon receive even more hype via television. Harrington and Simonton have been followed by ESPN camera crews recently, and they will be featured on "The Life," a show that chronicles the lives of athletes, on Aug. 25.

Bellotti has also been occupying the airwaves, as he chatted publicly online with ABC analyst Terry Bowden Wednesday morning.

After practice Wednesday, Bellotti noted that all this attention won't matter come January.

"It's much more important where we stand later in the season," Bellotti said. "It's the postseason poll that really counts."

But for now, the Ducks will just drink up all the hype and hope it doesn't stop until February.

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