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UO alum changes trash into treasure

University graduate Matthew Rutman's charitable work in Guatemala earned him a finalist position in a national program

Lindsay Sauv 
Family/Health/Education Reporter

What is just trash to many students — outdated computers, wobbly tables, old chalkboards — is opportunity for Matthew Rutman. Rather than letting these items go to a landfill, Rutman fills up a semi and sends them to Guatemala.

Rutman, a recent University graduate, founded Partners in Solidarity, a nonprofit organization that collects school supplies and delivers them to remote villages in Guatemala. He recently achieved recognition in the Volvo for Life awards, a nationwide program that acknowledges individuals who have helped others in need.

Rutman was one of 50 chosen from 2,036 nominations. Volvo for Life chooses 10 finalists to receive cash awards. Though program organizers did not choose Rutman as a finalist, he said the recognition he received may attract potential contributors for his organization.

After graduating from the University, Rutman traveled to Central America with the idea of exploring the area and volunteering his time. Rutman ended up in Guatemala and was inspired by the volunteer organizations he worked for.

"I just fell in love with what was happening down there," Rutman said. "There were a lot of people, international and Guatemalan, who were working hard to establish organizations, school systems, medical clinics and orphanages."

Rutman saw a need for basic supplies in schools and medical clinics. After seven months in Guatemala, he returned to the United States, established Partners in Solidarity and received several donations from schools, medical clinics, computer stores and households. In April
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U.S. calls Syria 'rogue nation'

Ron Hutcheson
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON — President Bush didn't list Syria as part of his axis of evil, but it is fast becoming his top target in his campaign to rid the world of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

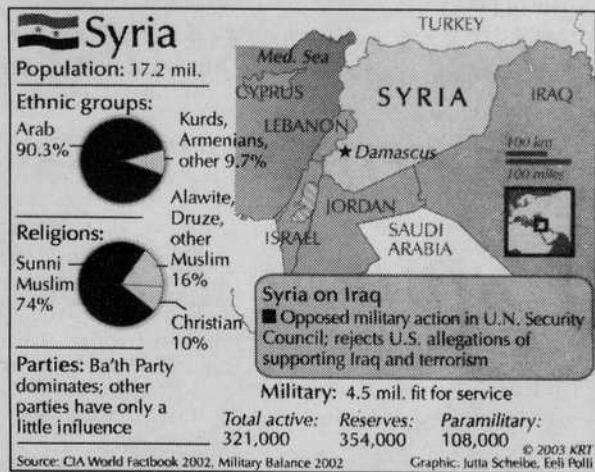
Although U.S. officials downplay prospects of military action, and Syrian officials deny the charges, the steady stream of accusations from the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department is strikingly similar to the invective aimed at Iraq in the buildup to war.

On Monday — a day after Bush accused Syria of producing chemical weapons — administration officials branded Syria "a rogue nation" and threatened diplomatic, economic and unspecified "other" sanctions.

U.S. officials have also accused Syria of offering sanctuary to top Iraqi leaders and harboring a host of terrorist organizations. Syria has been on the government's official list of nations that sponsor terrorism since the list's inception in 1979.

A newly released CIA report says that Syria has a stockpile of sarin, a deadly nerve agent. It also says that Syria "apparently is trying to develop more toxic and persistent" chemical weapons and is probably seeking biological weapons.

"Syria needs to seriously ponder the implications of their actions," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer warned on Monday. "They need to examine their ties to
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Tense life during wartime

Times can try people's souls, but experts offer methods and services to reduce stress

War hits home

Lindsay Sauv 
Family/Health/Education Reporter

News reports about bombs blasting in Iraq, terrorist organizations with access to chemical and biological weapons and the poorly-understood killer disease called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome can make some people want to tune out and turn in under a blanket of duct tape.

But students who find their fears creeping into many aspects of their day-to-day lives have several avenues of assistance available to them. The University Health Center and Counseling and Testing Center have been working together to discover ways to better assist students who are having a difficult time coping with current events.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the number of students requesting counseling for relationship-related problems has tapered off and requests for anxiety-related counseling have increased, said Robin Holmes, director of the University's Counseling and Testing Center. With this in mind, the counseling center offered various group counseling sessions to help students who felt panicked about international events.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Senior Audrey Sheppard says hello to Tiger at the Green Hill Humane Society. Spending time with animals is one common way to relieve stress, along with reading a book, getting a massage and listening to music.

However, Holmes said attendance was low at these sessions, similar to the response they received during the Gulf War.

Travis Breaux, a computer and information science major, said he thinks about the war a lot, but it doesn't necessarily cause him more stress. Rather than taking on problems alone, Breaux said he communicates with friends.

"I'm the kind of person who takes advantage of the environment," Breaux said. "When I become stressed, I have to do something
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Senate Seat 8 contenders surf a tempestuous sea

Jesse Harding and Anthony Kuchulis are dueling for Senate Seat 8, which comes with a spot on the ADFC

ASUO elections

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

Swimming the shark-infested waters of student government politics might have some students running for the shore, but a handful of candidates running for ASUO office who haven't been knocked down by the primary election are moving on to the next big wave — the general election.

Jesse Harding, a junior majoring in journalism and international studies, and Anthony Kuchulis, a sophomore political science major, are competing for ASUO Student Senate Seat 8 in the general election, April 21 through 23, and will serve on the Athletic Department Finance Committee if elected.

Elections: Part 1 of 4
The Emerald takes a more personal look at the candidates for ASUO
Today: ASUO Senate Seat 7 & Seat 8
Wednesday: Senate Seat 3 & Seat 4
Thursday: Senate Seat 1 & Seat 2
Friday: ASUO Executive

Seat 8 is one of three senate positions that includes a commitment to working on the ADFC, which is responsible for

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Close Seat 7 primary could portend generals

Andrew Faust and Laura Schulthies are running for Senate Seat 7, a position responsible for negotiating free game tickets

ASUO elections

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

Students who let the primary election slip by without exercising their constitutional right to vote still have a chance to shape the ASUO's next year by voting in the general election.

Andrew Faust, a pre-business administration major, and Laura Schulthies, a junior journalism major with a minor in economics, are contending for ASUO Student Senate Seat

Read more online
Go to www.dailyemerald.com, click 'News' and then 'ASUO elections'

7, which includes the responsibility of serving on the Athletic Department Finance Committee. The ADFC works with the University's Athletic Department to provide free student tickets to select sporting events.

Faust did not respond to the Emerald's repeated requests for an interview.

The chance to earn real world experience in the career she is most interested in drives Schulthies' desire to be a student leader, she said. With a major in journalism focusing on sports broadcasting and a minor in economics, working on the ADFC brings together the

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