

Katrina: Students contemplate choice between Eugene and New Orleans

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number of factors that are drawing them back to New Orleans.

Lex Steers, who lived in Eugene before attending Tulane, has spent the last few months living with his parents and taking classes at the University.

As an engineering student and a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Steers was disappointed to be at a campus without an engineering department or a chapter of his fraternity.

His decision to return to Tulane was an easy one.

"The difference in classes, the difference in degrees, makes it a

pretty tough sell to stay here," he said.

Lauren DeGraffenreid, a sophomore ecology major from Tulane, relocated

to the University to study at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.

She said that because of her loyalty to Tulane, she wants to return.

"I do not wish to abandon my beloved alma mater during our hour

of need," she said in an e-mail.

DeGraffenreid is quick to offer praise and thanks to the University for providing her with a place to study this fall.

She ended her e-mail to the Emerald with: "GO GREEN WAVE! GO DUCKS!"

Sophomore Nina Pavlich decided to remain permanently at the University, despite her fond memories of Tulane.

"There's a little part of me that

wants to go back," she said. "It's hard to let those memories go."

Pavlich has enjoyed her time in Eugene so far and is excited to have found a place in the architecture program, but she said her decision to stay was based largely on concerns about the safety of New Orleans.

"A family friend went down to New Orleans with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and said it wasn't safe," Pavlich said. "When they start bulldozing houses there will be social unrest, and it's the social unrest more than the physical instability that could

make it an unsafe place to be."

While students make plans to stay or leave, a feeling of uncertainty seems to linger.

Aram Krauson, a second-year graduate student in biochemistry who came to the University from Tulane, said that right now, he still is not sure where he'll be several months from now.

"My first choice is to go back to Tulane if conditions are safe and housing is available," he said. "If not, I'd be happy to stay here."

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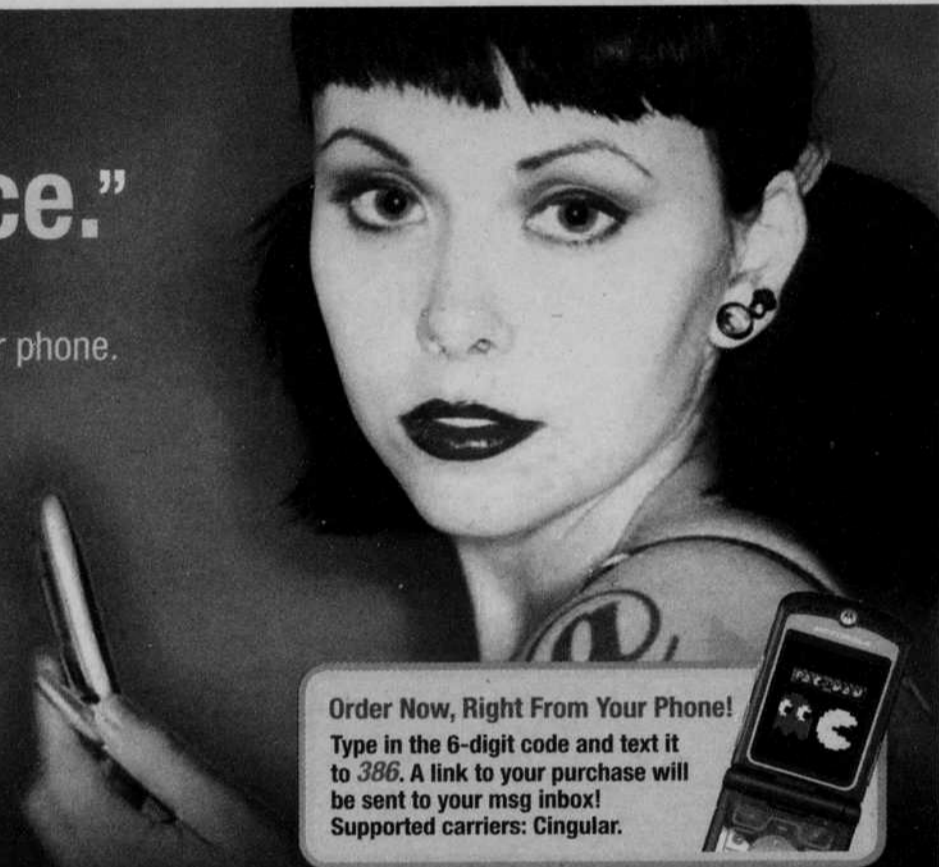
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