

GIS Day teaches program benefits

The Knight Library will host lectures on Geographic Information Systems' uses

BY EVA SYLWESTER
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Displays and lectures at the Knight Library today will honor Geographic Information Systems Day.

GIS Day is observed around the world as part of Geography Awareness Week, which is principally sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The goal of the event is for GIS users and vendors to show applications of this technology to schools, businesses and the general public, according to www.gisday.com.

GIS technology allows for the rapid update of maps and is the reason why most modern maps are computerized rather than hand-drawn, said Jon Jablonski, the University's MAP/GIS Librarian.

GIS technology has been in existence for about 25 years, Jablonski said, but came into public awareness recently with programs such as Google Earth and MapQuest.

"Ten years ago it would have been an army of GTFs and five or six journal articles. Now it's all free," Jablonski said.

On campus, departments such as landscape architecture, geology and geography use GIS technology, Jablonski said. He added that introductory-level geography classes explaining the use of GIS are very popular.

The library's sole computer workstation with GIS data is used at least 30 hours per week, and Jablonski said librarians are looking for ways to add GIS data to other computers.

"The demand just keeps increasing," Jablonski said.

Ron Renchler, communications director for University libraries, wrote in an e-mail that the following events will take place in the Knight Library Browsing Room today:

Students, researchers and local government agencies will present posters describing GIS applications from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The posters and maps will remain on display until 9 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., University of British Columbia geography professor Daniel Hiebert will speak on the use of GIS in human migration studies.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a panel discussion about using GIS to plan for natural disasters.

Jablonski said the panel will include representatives to speak on the following topics: the Eugene Water and Electric Board's mobile GIS system, which facilitates response to chemical spills and other emergencies; the use of GIS maps to plan for wildfires and how they may affect people living near the urban-wildland interface; and a plan to find out about tsunamis in advance using GIS and deliver automated phone warnings to people living in affected areas.

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Stabbing: Grillo appreciated friends, food and rollerblades

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a genuine like for everybody," Reese said.

In high school, Grillo and his friends passed around fliers for parties they would throw, he said.

Since his freshman year of college, Grillo was "madly in love" with his girlfriend Alexis Saria. They were probably going to marry, Reese said.

"She was definitely a big part of his life," he said.

Grillo was also "a great host," Reese said. "He was more than happy to have friends come down to Eugene and make breakfast for everyone in the morning."

At Grillo's home in Hillsboro, people would come over to their house, sniff the air and ask what's cooking, Ordall said.

Grillo, who took a gourmet cooking class in high school, watched the Emeril Live cooking show and downloaded recipes, Ordall said.

The first dish Grillo learned how to make was lemon chicken, Ordall said.

He asked his mother how to cook the meal in high school when he was trying to impress a girl.

Grillo's favorite meal was portobello mushroom stuffed shells, Ordall said.

"He loved them so much he could eat them for breakfast," Reese said.

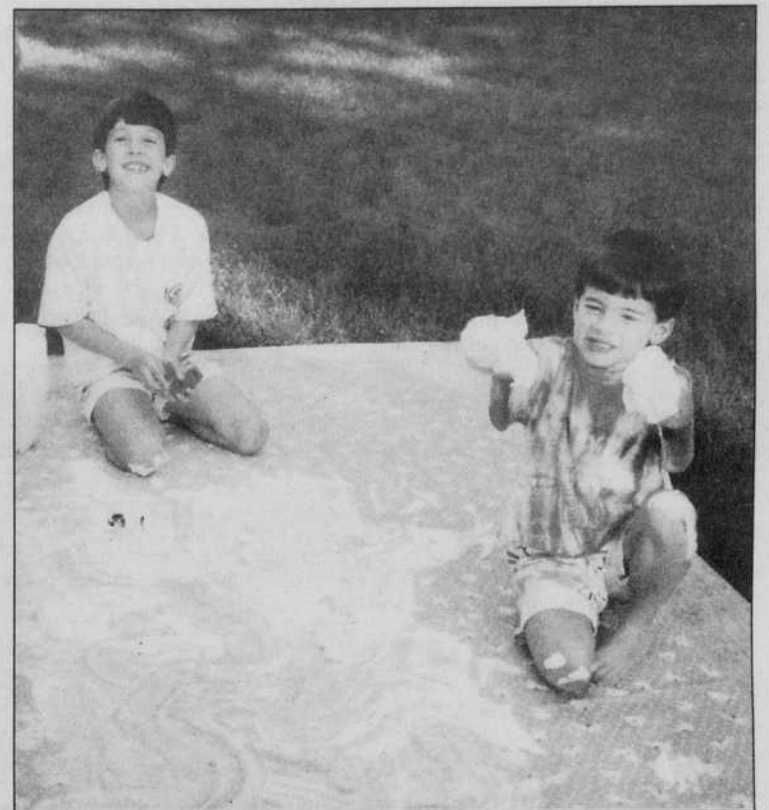
Grillo was really passionate about roller blading, Reese said.

In middle school, he created a three-dimensional model of a skate park and presented it to the city, Ordall said. He helped people understand what would make a good park.

The park was built in 2002. Grillo joked that it was finally built after he had left Hillsboro for Eugene, Ordall said. Ordall said the Charles H. Lundquist College of Business plans to hold a memorial service for Grillo before winter break.

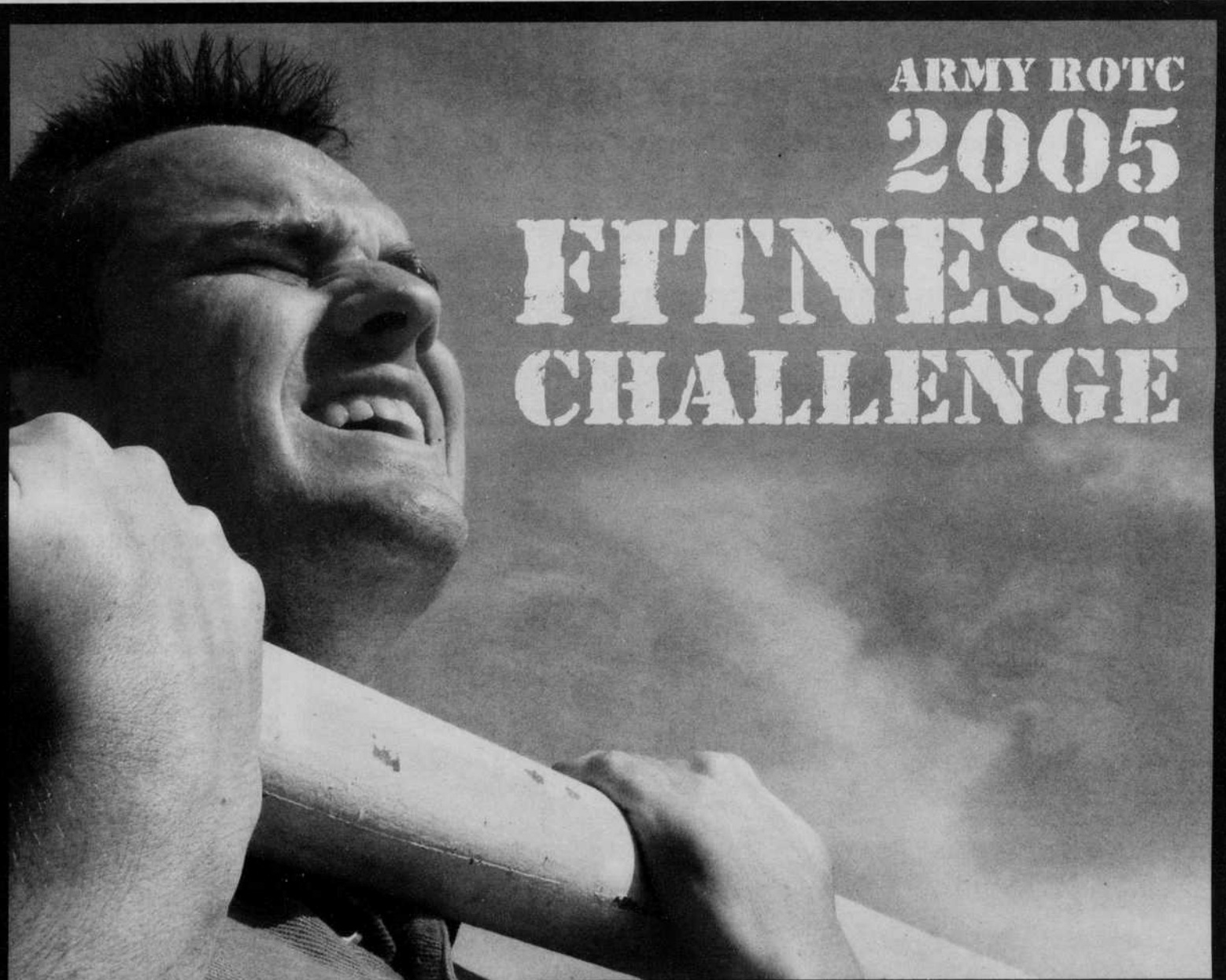
"The outpouring of support has been tremendous," she said. "It's been more helpful than you can imagine."

Contact the crime, health and safety reporter at kgagnon@dailyemerald.com



COURTESY

Paul Grillo, (left), and John Grillo play in shaving cream at a neighbor's house in Hillsboro in 1992. Paul Grillo died in Eugene Nov. 7 of a wound inflicted by John Grillo, police said.



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