



## The Raleigh Llama Wins Worlds!

By Garrett Dyer... [Garrettd@bigfoot.com](mailto:Garrettd@bigfoot.com)

I would like to touch upon a subject that may seem rather self-congratulatory, but its merit seems to stand on its own. This summer, the Raleigh Llama went to Heilbronn Germany and won every game (12 in all) plus the World Championship. For those of you who are unfamiliar, there are two different world championships for Ultimate—Worlds and Club Worlds (as they're commonly referred to). Typically at Club Worlds, held on odd numbered years, the top 4 club teams in the nation from each division compete. These championships are the tournaments that Ring of Fire has traveled to. "Worlds" are different in that only one national representative from each country is invited. Because of the fact that the Llama won the UPA's Coed National Championship last fall, we were invited to Worlds as the United States' coed representative.

As some of you already know, the Llama consists of area players as well as several players from Wilmington. Many of the players who currently live in Raleigh used to play in the Wilmington area, and they helped to bridge the gap between players who'd often been opponents. Because of the length of the tournament (7 days of play), others were added to strengthen the roster. Among them was Debbie Byles, a player who has worn many hats in the past year, playing with Kudzu Red, Backhoe, and Spear. At the time of this writing, she's off in Blaine, MN, trying to add to her trophy collection.

Upon arriving at Opening Ceremonies in Heilbronn, the Llama was impressed to find out the magnitude and scale of the tournament. This was no weekender, that was for sure. Nine soccer fields (split into halves for Ultimate fields) from 6 different soccer clubs hosted 1200 players from 23 countries in 6 divisions. There were kiosks with lots of different types of food, though most of us stuck to pizza and pasta. And you can bet there was plenty of beer...

Each team played two games a day, always with a two-hour

bye between each game. This type of schedule was particularly welcome to the Raleigh Llama, mainly because the average age of its players was far greater than that of the other teams. Beginning play as the second seed, the Llama started off against Great Britain and was immediately challenged. It was apparent that every team was there to knock off the cocky Americans. On a dewy-wet morning, they found themselves down 2-4, but with a few quick strikes took half 8-6. From there, it was mostly a roll, taking the game 15-7. The second match was against Sweden, a team that always shows up en force at Worlds. We were well aware of the fact that they posed a serious challenge and didn't want to open the door, so we came out on fire and overwhelmed the Swedes 15-3.

On Monday, the Llama cruised to victories over New Zealand (15-7) and the Czech Republic (15-4). The next serious challenge came in a Tuesday morning match against Germany. Perhaps still with sleep in our eyes, we sleepily slipped to a 5-10 deficit. In a game to 15, we needed to wake up, and did so, finally taking the game 15-13. It was a scare, but definitely well worth the anxiety to keep the cockiness in check without costing us a win. With a win later that afternoon over the International team (formed by players from countries without representative teams) by a score of 15-2, the Llama maintained its seed and won the pool. Onward to the regrouping...

The top 4 from each of the two pools were regrouped, and our first match was against the other pool's second placed team, Finland. We were very interested to find that Finland ran their 4 men in a homey offense and totally left the women players out. This seemed to work well for them, because they stuck with it and rode it to an eventual bronze medal finish. Once we abandoned our straight-up force and went with a hard force one way, we took half of their working space away and

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# DISCover High School Ultimate—in the Triangle!

By Paul Mullin

The first point of the 2000-2001 high school Ultimate season was a long one. However, captain Yin Song's subsequent series of 40-yard hucks to deep-cutting marvel Chris Stynes quickly put aside any doubts about the Jordan Underdogs living up to their title as reigning state champs. The 15-6 punch delivered by the Underdogs to start the season was impressive. But even more so has been the meteoric rise into existence of a team from Cardinal Gibbons HS, playing in their first Ultimate game. Coached by art teacher and ex-Ring of Fire player Brad Watkins, the CG team is barely a month old. Yet, they clearly have the potential to be a contender on the Triangle's exploding high school scene.

High school Ultimate is not new to the Triangle. Durham schools Jordan, NC Science and Math, and Carolina Friends have been playing games against one in another since the mid-'80s. And, there have been competitive middle school games in Durham and Chapel Hill for years. But only last year did high school teams in Raleigh and Cary emerge. Finally!

Last Spring, Rich Franck and I devised and hosted the first state championship in NC. (I believe it was the first ever in the country—by a week.) We coined the acronym JUST NC (Juniors Ultimate State Tournament – North Carolina), a name which caught on like wildfire in all other states hosting a championship. Eight teams showed up—including Charlotte Latin and Bishop McGuiness (Winston-Salem).

A few of the teams in the area, like CG and Chapel Hill HS, have the advantage of teachers at the schools who serve as Ultimate coaches. Other teams in the area have relied on support, advice and assistance from various TDFA volunteers. TFDA currently has volunteers helping at 5 schools, and "TFDA advisors" are likely to be in place at several more schools this fall. TFDA advisors serve as facilitators for the team (setting up scrimmages) and to provide advice and instruction on Ultimate to the participating students. The TFDA leadership is currently considering and developing plans to build greater organizational support and structure around the TFDA advisor role.

Here's a list of Triangle-area high schools with active teams:

- Jordan Underdogs (Durham, public)
- Carolina Friends HS (Durham, private)
- NC Science and Math (Durham, private/public magnet HS)
- Chapel Hill HS (Chapel Hill, public)
- Cary Academy (Cary, private HS)

- Leesville HS (Raleigh, public)
- Cardinal Gibbons (Raleigh, private)
- Enloe HS (Raleigh, public)

Several others "making noise":

- East Chapel Hill HS (Chapel Hill, public)
- Sanderson (Raleigh, public)
- Boughton HS (Raleigh, public)

Keep an eye on the TFDA Web site for more information about youth Ultimate and volunteering opportunities. I figure the next major enterprise for TFDA Youth Ultimate will be setting up events and classes with Parks and Recreation Depts in the area (ulterior motive: preferences for fields, of course). Please volunteer -- we need people who can be leaders in creating these kinds of opportunities for TFDA.



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## Field of Dreams?

By Christian Schwoerke  
TFDA Fields Committee Chair

The field situation in the Triangle is dire. At the end of last year's Winter League, the parks director in Holly Springs informed me that he'd probably not rent to us again. My concern was that we'd somehow negatively prompted this decision, but he assured me that it was that he needed to have good looking fields at the beginning of the soccer season.

So, there it is again. Soccer. The sport has the advantage of being organized for kids and adult programs, and to its credit, it's made itself nearly indispensable to the local communities. Where the soccer moms and organizers have succeeded is in being able to offer something to the cities' various parks and recs departments: organized, paying youth programs. Triangle Ultimate can't make a comparable offer, so we're finding ourselves locked out of field and park rentals, unable even to establish a working relationship with Durham, for example, which is building three new parks in the next few years.

The answer to our woes lies in buying our own fields. The TFDA board met in April and we decided we'd try to establish a relationship with Durham at that point, in the hopes that we could use it to stopgap our continued need for fields, and maybe even to springboard a few extra extra-Triangle tournaments. The proposals we presented to the parks officials were acknowledged, but it was clear we couldn't expect much. And why should we? Our biggest draw was suggesting maybe we could start some youth programs, maybe some of the tournaments would draw revenue...there just wasn't much concrete.

Again, the answer lies with the purchase of our own site, complete with a field house, a couple of lit fields, and parking. The TFDA board will meet soon (mostly to set up Winter League) and there we will initiate the next phase: fund raising. The beginning of this venture won't be locating an independent fund-raising professional who'll do the work for us (that will happen later), because we first have to establish our goals and take aim at potential contributors and donors.

I'd like to cheer us all up with the prospects, but the truth is that there's a good deal of work to be done. Too often with TFDA officials like myself, there's not enough time to set up leagues, run teams, coach, play and still have something left over for building the future. We need volunteers. We've got two folks interested in helping in the fund raising—Carol Swain and Tom Reid—but we'll have lots more chores to do, not all of them glamorous. So when your phone rings, and one of your Ultimate buddies asks if you can help in raising the funds for our ultiplex, figure you've only got two answers: How much money can I give? And, When can I start?

## Spear Takes Coed Nationals

By Chris Rodning

Burning Spear formed four-ish years ago as a team at the annual Ho-down, Throwdown, Showdown hosted by the Asheville Ultimate folks every summer in Brevard. The summer of 2000 was the first season that Spear has played the UPA coed championship series. Led by co-captains Thuy Boyd and Tim Brooks, the guiding team philosophy was to keep the disc moving by cutting often, making easy throws, and dumping and swinging to reset the offense when needed. The team attitude was relaxed and positive, warming up with hackysack and nerf soccer. During the game, cheering teammates filled the sideline.

One critical ingredient to Spear's success was calm and patient offensive play, exemplified by Beth Cates and Jon Proctor, whose effective handler cuts and quarterbacking led to several great offensive drives for scores throughout the season. Gritty defensive plays were made by the team, including countless blocks and point blocks by Mel Ditz and awesome layouts by Sandy Hartwiger and Denice Cunningham.

Spear had a solid team defense, quickly covering pulls, helping out with switches, and unflappable zone coverage.

Augie Krievenas inspired the team with his energetic cheers and remarkable throws and defensive blocks during big games. Brian Lang became the go-to guy for the team with his highlight catches and throws in game-point situations. Congrats to Dan Axon, the wily veteran of Spear and Ring of Fire, who played tournaments for nineteen years to win his first national title with Spear. Godspeed to Bryce Tennant, one of the core players on Spear and Ring who just moved to Turkey with wife and teammate Leslie for 11 months. Thanks for a wonderful season, Spear!



*Spear: 2000 UPA Coed National Champions*

## Worlds

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controlled the game, winning 15-9. Meanwhile, the #1 seed of the tourney, Canada, was having fits with Great Britain, tied up at 13-all, but eventually pulled away with a win by scoring the last two points.

Our second game was with Japan, who most of us knew would be a tough opponent. Before the game, they ran numerous drills and took half of the field practicing their zone. What we didn't know was whether it was for their offense or defense. It became apparent that it wasn't for their defense as they ran us hard, but when it was our turn, they were not up to mastering our zone defense. We pulled away to a seemingly easy win 15-8. The next morning's game against Switzerland was much of a repeat of the Germany game, but fortunately they handed our mistakes back to us and we were able to win in ugly fashion 15-7.

That afternoon we finally faced Canada, which was surely a preview of the final. With team captain Kenny Dobyms growing tired of 9 games' worth of sub calling, his brother Brian took over calling offensive subs. It seemed to have an electrifying effect as the previously sloppy Llama became crisp, clean, and patient on O. Canada threw a few zones at us, something that we had been hungry for all week and we ate it up, usually working the disc to midfield before Wilmington star Broc Adams would find Kenny, Debbie, or Matt Hull in the end zone. After taking half 8-5, the Llama kept up the intensity in the second, winning 15-10. Canada had kept a few of its key players out of the game which had us guessing about whether we'd see a different team if we were to indeed meet in the final.

The Friday semifinal rematch against Great Britain was something that many of us were looking forward to. After losing to us in the first game of the tournament, Great Britain went on a tear and established themselves as one of the top four mixed teams, and made it known that they were very ready to play us again. We were very interested in showing "GB" that their optimism about winning the game was far from reality. Part of their optimism may have been due to the fact that they had not yet experienced Tully Beatty, who, along with wife Amy, wasn't able to make the first game. Tully was smashing, getting block after point block after layout D. The Brits laid down their arms to the Colonists rather quickly, and it was over in a jiffy 15-4. And so it was, the Raleigh Llama would play for the World Championship in the main stadium.

We arrived an hour early for our 11am finale and the Canadians were already there. Much of the scene had the feel

of the movie "Chariots of Fire" when the sprinters were warming up for the 100-yard dash. Everything seemed to be in slow motion as I watched my teammates and our opponents go through their routines. Things were quiet and intense. The announcer interviewed both captains, with our captain clearly winning (he certainly didn't back away from the topic that they'd held players out of our first meeting). With that, the announcer called each player onto the field, calling out their name and jersey number—in German! It was a surreal experience for someone who'd never advanced past sectionals before joining the Llama.

With consistent toss-loser Robin Miller coming through in the clutch, the Llama started on D and took it to the Canadians. Up 4-1, it looked to be a rout, but the Canadians crawled back into the game, eventually tying the game at 4-all and had chances to do it again at 5-4, but couldn't capitalize on Llama turnovers. Half was taken by the Llama at 9-5 and things looked to be in control. The Canadians retreated to the locker room under the grandstand to escape the heat while the Llama basked in the seemingly mild conditions. I have to admit, with the game pretty much in hand, the scores seemed to come without much notice, and we eventually found ourselves at game point, up 16-10 and receiving. How fitting it was that the two who gave birth to the team were the two who connected for the winning score as Kenny assisted to Brian. Game over, and the Raleigh Llama were World Champs.

After watching the open and women's final, all medaling teams were saluted at the grandstand. In all, the USA won 4 out of 6 divisions (Open, Mixed, Masters, and Junior Women). Each Llama was adorned with a gold medal and the team received a large brass bell, which can now be found at Bliss Field in Efland. So sometime when you're playing a little pickup out there, ask about it...I'm sure Brian and Bliss would love to show it off.



# Blueblood—'99 WL Champs

By Brent Leftwich

*[Editor's note: Better late than never? Maybe it will inspire!]*

I guess it's okay to say that we had a pretty good team. Since this was my first year as a captain and all my players save one were at least few years older, I had to play the season by ear. I knew a lot of them had much more experience than I did, but I was able to fake it and exude some mock or misplaced confidence so the rest of my team wouldn't beat me up. I remembered playing under Tim Brooks two seasons earlier, and I wanted to be that kind of captain: to emphasize having fun and creating an atmosphere in which folks would want to come to as often as possible. I figured if I did that, the wins would come on their own. I decided I wouldn't always draft the best player, but those whose personality would be as beneficial as their skill. So, I gambled and drafted players who were less well known or coming off injuries or moved or something bad, and it ended up paying off. I had a deep team with a lot of intensity and good spirit. We were able to pull out some close games during the season and finished 9-2.

The entire roster showed up for the first attempt at the tourney, despite the bad weather. We defeated a short-handed Cardinal team 13-3 and were sitting in the cars trying to warm up when we heard the games would be postponed. I knew, like most other teams, we would lose some strong players. These included Matt Montoya, one of our better handlers, a very solid, consistent defender, and promising comic relief, as well as Patrick Nixon, who joined our team midseason but contributed with much-needed hustle that resulted in a playmaker reputation. At the beginning of the season we also lost Amelia Smith, a very gutsy and intense woman who tore her ACL in November. She still came to most of our games though. Because the tournament was moved, the top seed in our pool, Orange, had disbanded, and the struggle to make it to Sunday became wide open among the remaining three teams.

Mark Parris' White team was our first opponent. The Armstrongs and Trexler clan, aided by Carl Erikson, proved a much more formidable foe than we expected, and their junk defenses allowed them to take half. But we managed to settle down and pulled out the close game. Chris Roessler's Indigo team also took half against us, despite the absence of Bryce. Stefan Gottschalk, Erin Cashman, and Paul Mullin helped to keep the teams even, but we eventually prevailed 13-12.

Going into Sunday I felt we had a shot at the title. My players condensed into a fun-loving, close-knit group, and were willing to leave nothing on the field. Everyone contributed during the tournament and the regular season. The Swaims, Criss and Carol, gave their all when they played and were

supportive from the sidelines when they didn't. Their positive attitudes reminded us we were never out of the game. Chris LeBlanc, in his first season, showed he could contribute despite not having a flick quite yet. Chris Gamber, rounding out our Chris collective, used height and athleticism to get open long and underneath, plus he's a hell of a nice guy. Jake "Dutch" Bonenberger, who attended every game, saw a lot of time as a handler, took direction well, and proved valuable strategizing for each game.

Anita Schimizzi became known for following up miscues with incredible endzone catches or pinpoint throws. She also improved greatly during the season to become a major asset in the tourney. Jimmy Schwankl made up for his unfortunate name by playing hard. Although his throws weren't always on target, he became one of my top defenders, often matching up against the best players. Lisa Carter added to our depth with versatility as a receiver, handler, and defender. She had the ability to catch above her defender's head with ease. David Hesselberth brought years of experience and earned lots of PT with his deadly ability to throw against the zone and hit our receivers. Despite our best attempt at heckling, he was unable to play Sunday. Don't believe him if he says otherwise.

Adam Fowler ended up being a pleasant surprise. He always seemed to be making big plays, and thinking back on it later contributed more on the field than you would originally notice. He simply was always in the right spot. John Mallonee, who drove from DC to play, was another one of those sneaky guys who could throw, defend, and get open when the count was high. He made some big plays when the game was on the line. Dan DuVarney, who I got in trade to add more height to our team, was another big game player. He made a living with the big play, whether throwing the long pass or snagging the swill. Tom Reid may have been the biggest surprise. He'd only been playing a few months and hadn't yet developed handler-type throws, but he played with the most intensity and heart I've ever seen. He battled well to snag throws as a receiver, but his biggest benefit came on defense as he virtually threw his body everywhere.

My first round women's pick, Kathy Niblock, was my most consistent player. She brought experience, as well as handling and playmaking skills. Often matched against the Triangle's best women, she held her own and came up with some great grabs in the air and on the ground. Daran Edmonds was the only player I was absolutely determined to get at the draft. At 6'8" he virtually cannot be defended. Not only was he a receiver, but he had the ability to be open underneath and had money throws that shredded the force. Although a mid-season ankle injury and hangover hindered him at the tourney,

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## Blue Blood

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he proved to be a powerful force for Stonewash Blue. Erin Peck may have been the biggest coup of the draft. Since most people outside UNC hadn't heard of her, yet, I was able to snag her without losing a draft choice. This lady has the heart of a lion. She was the team's ultimate competitor with a fantastic head for the game and stiletto throws. If she could, she'd play every minute of the game and not let up.

Eric Guajardo, who drove from DC and sometimes came sober, did what he was expected to do . . . heckle. "Ego" was the mad bomber: he could send the disc anywhere downfield, and often off the field. We wouldn't have been able to use our receivers as effectively as we did, without his cannon. Plus he occasionally would play a little D. My crowning victory at the WL draft was Alec Ewald. A steal in the second round (other captains asked who the hell he was), he was also a gamble with chronic foot problems and the ability to injure himself at an alarming rate. This boy can do it all, folks. I had him match up against the opponents' most athletic player, and more often than not he won these battles. I'm simply not smart enough to count the number of layout D's he accumulated during the season. Plus he had the throws and the ups. He was a disc magnate in the endzone, and I never saw a defender consistently compete with him in the air.

Our first game Sunday was against Brian Dobyns' Forest Green cammo team. However, this team was shorthanded without Brian, Bliss, and Brent Shannon, and we won convincingly—15-5, although Heidi Porter and Mike Moore put up great fights for their team. This matched us up with Purple and Alan Hoyle and Marcie Wily in the semi-finals. Although we'd won decisively the first time we played, they were a much better team now. As a team, Purple had the most talented handlers in Winter League. Alan goes without saying, but Charlie Tefft and Wes Hunt sneaked passes into the endzone, and Bobby Veit and Chris Rodning drove us mad on D. We were reeling and trailing at half 5-8. We managed to trade points, but had a hard time gaining momentum. Then Dan had a big D and suddenly we connected on the Ego to Alec and Daran long play. I'd been trying to get them to do that all season, but it took this long to do it with such success. Neither could be covered deep. Anita also stepped up big with two layout scores and an amazing flick assist. We were finally beating our man to the disc, playing with confidence, and believing we would win. We pulled away and won 15-12. The finals pitted us against Loki and Becki's Café-au Lait (or charcoal, which is easier to spell). This team exuded confidence, and was justified since they only had one loss all year. It was to us, and we knew they wanted revenge. We got

down early 0-2 with some great Loki throws and the inability of our team to cover Jeff Faulkner. However, we never lost composure and decided to rely on our big guns. We used Daran and Alec as our main weapons whenever we needed a score, steadily came back and started building a lead. Ego put the disc downfield and our height advantage was proving difficult to defend. Plus our women stepped up despite the speed of Becki and Jane Volkman. Erin Peck was getting open at will, and made the best full extension layout catch I've ever seen her make. Kathy Niblock was also frustrating her defender. With our key players on fire, others began stepping up. John Mallonee was a squirrely bastard and bailed us out numerous times. Dan was hauling down the throws and getting the big D's. Adam had his best game of the year.

We took half 9-6, and Charcoal walked off to regroup. I tried desperately to keep us focused and ready for the second half. At first, things went extremely well. Our deep game was still unstoppable, and we thought we had passed Charcoal frustration level. Then things turned. Up 16-11, Ego threw a huck to Daran, and we saw him grab it in the endzone. I thought the game had ended and we began to shake hands. Then we heard a foul was called and the disc came back. So, Ego hucked it again and Daran snagged it from the troposphere on the goal line. He tried to break the mark to Lisa in the endzone, but Loki point blocked it and sent it OB. Charcoal started to click. Bobby Croom, who battled Alec all day, was getting hot D's, and Paul Klenk somehow picked up the swill. Now we were on our heels and trying desperately not to blow the game. With the score 16-14, we managed to float the disc over the goal line to Daran—final 17-14. After thanking Charcoal for a great game, we hoisted the Loretta Cup, drank some champagne, gave team award discs (Jake and Carol Spirit winners and Alec and Erin MVPs), and staggered home.



*"Blue Blood" wins the '99/'00 Winter League Championship!*

# Winter League Registration Form

*(Note: We encourage you to sign up online at [www.tfda.org](http://www.tfda.org);  
however, if you prefer you can send this form in with your payment.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Magic Number (from your label on back): \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Female  Male

Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

(I need to be paired with this person (s/he must also send a form))

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ It's fine to list this in the WL directory:  Yes  No

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ It's fine to list this in the WL directory:  Yes  No

1. How many games do you plan to play in out of 11? Mark One:

1-3  4-6  7-9  All

2. Will you participate in the Winter League Tournament (Feb 19-20)? Mark One:

Yes  No  Commit to anything that far away? HA!

3. Experience Level (choose the highest level you've participated in):

Club (current or former team name):

\_\_\_\_\_

College (current or former team name):

\_\_\_\_\_

League (name of league and/or city):

\_\_\_\_\_

Beginner

*Send your form, plus a check for \$35 made out to TFDA, to:*

Mary Facciolo  
1222 Cedar Creek Drive  
Cary, NC 27513

***Deadline is November 23, 2000!***

# Letter from the Editor

By Sherry Kappel

It's been a long time since the last *HomeSpun*, and a busy—and productive—time for the Triangle Ultimate community. First and foremost, congratulations to the Raleigh Llama and to Spear for their coed successes (World and National champs, respectively!), as well as to the men's, women's, and masters' teams who progressed to Regionals. Good luck to those moving on to Nationals! And special thanks to the men and women who performed the thankless task of coordinating these events. I know first-hand how hard Mel Ditz worked as our Women's Sectionals Coordinator.

The reason why it's been so long since the last *HomeSpun* is that there's been some debate about how often to publish, and how to best use our limited resources given the dire need for fields (*see related article, page 3*). The Board eventually decided that the paper version of *HomeSpun* will now be annual. However, that doesn't mean that the news isn't important! Given that 99% of the Ultimate community is online these days and the Internet is far more timely than snail mail, our emphasis will be on publishing via the Web site.

What does this mean for you? If you're a news provider (e.g., a tournament director with results to share, one of our wondrous youth volunteers, a recent tournament winner, etc.), please e-mail the details directly to me at sherryk@tangram.com—I'm also listed on the TFDA Web site. I will edit/proof your information as necessary, turn it into html, put it on the Web within 48 hours, and send an e-mail link to the listserv—complete with the appropriate credits. This way, everyone will get the news quickly, there will be minimal work and expense involved, and there will be an online record of Triangle Ultimate accomplishments to which one can refer. The previous *HomeSpun* issues will soon be available electronically, as well.

Last but not least, I'd like to refer once again to the Fields article. There is a lot of work to be done if Ultimate is to remain a thriving sport in the Triangle, and your expertise would be appreciated in a wide variety of areas. So, as Christian says, please say "yes" when asked to help; or better yet, feel free to contact any of the board members to volunteer!

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