

Snake's weeklong adventure ends, to relief of all

□ Cassandra is back home with owner after escape put neighborhood on alert

By Tim Neff
Emerald Associate Editor

Joggers and small pets breathed a collective sigh of relief Sunday night after University student Scott Gibson found his escaped boa constrictor near the Amazon Park running trail.

Gibson found the eight-foot long, ten-pound serpent named Cassandra about 50 yards off the running trail, which is near his house at the corner of 24th Avenue and Willamette Street.

The boa constrictor escaped from its cage sometime during the night of July 4, while Gibson was out celebrating.

The reunion was made possible by an anonymous tip left on Gibson's answering machine.

Gibson had spent the day at the Oregon Country Fair, where an acquaintance told him that local television stations were reporting that the snake had

been sighted in Amazon Park.

Gibson raced home and checked his machine for messages. As luck would have it, someone had left a message that his child had spotted the snake.

Lacking enough details to begin a search, Gibson called a television station to inquire about the reported sighting. Gibson headed toward Amazon Park after finding out that Cassandra had been spotted near the park's skateboard pool.

That was all he needed. Within a few minutes, Gibson had found the reptile.

"I had a direction to go on, and I got lucky," Gibson said.

Judging from the snake's healthy appearance, Gibson suspects the reptile had found a food source while on the loose.

"She had eaten something," Gibson said. "She was very healthy and very active."

While neighbors check up on their cats, Gibson is taking steps to assure Cassandra's future captivity. He has installed an extra latch on the cage and has blocked the exit.

"She's contained and she's not going anywhere."



Photo by Jeff Paslay
Scott Gibson was reunited with his pet snake Cassandra Sunday, eight days after it escaped from Gibson's home.

That's not to say that the snake has accepted it.

"She's liking the taste of freedom," Gibson said. "She keeps trying to push it open again."

After finding Cassandra, Gib-

son took the snake around the neighborhood while he removed the signs he had posted in hopes of recovering his pet. Reaction from local residents

was a mixture of joy and relief. "One guy told me that his wife hadn't jogged since she heard Cassandra was missing," Gibson said.

TEAM

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Civic Stadium boasts natural grass, a hand-operated scoreboard in right field, new box seating and clean restrooms. Beban has also rid the stadium of beer nights, replacing them with weekend promotions aimed at drawing the entire family to the ballpark.

Beban is quick to admit that only about 30 percent of his customers are actually Emeralds fans.

"Most of them are looking for wholesome entertainment or a chance to get out of the house," Beban said.

Fans or not, the Eugene market has been especially receptive to the idea of minor league baseball. The Emeralds drew close to 7,000 people to a July 4 game with Boise, despite cloudy skies and pre-game rain showers.

Eugene is an ideal market for minor league ball, Beban said, because of its size and a strong, cooperative media.

Beban said *The Register-Guard* employs a full-time beat writer for the Emeralds' home game coverage and all four local television stations follow and are involved with the club. In fact, Eugene's enthusiasm for the Emeralds

persuaded local television to broadcast the team live for the first time earlier this year.

Beban's involvement in baseball began a little more than 20 years ago when he worked as a minor league umpire.

He credits his travels through minor league ballparks as an umpire for many of the ideas he has implemented with the Emeralds.

"I've never had an original idea," he said. "I try to emulate successful programs. I take both the good and the bad ideas from other people."

Beban said that one of the most valuable lessons he ever learned is not to over-manage.

"I was allowed to make decisions, and I was allowed to fail," he said. "In life, people must be given the opportunity to fail if they are to learn."

Beban received his first experience in front-office management when he was offered a job with Salt Lake City of the Pacific Coast League. Soon after, he and several others got together to purchase the Emeralds, an opportunity he refers to as both "lucky and fortunate."

It's a definition he still finds appropriate for himself.

"A lucky man can go to work and it's fun," he said. "I have a very enjoyable job. I never miss a day."

TRIAL

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Building was sparked by the April 29 acquittal of four white Los Angeles police officers of all but one assault charge in connection with the videotaped beating of black motorist Rodney King.

About 400 University students and Eugene residents gathered in the EMU Courtyard the day after the verdict to a stage a rally.

The rally was followed by a march to the Federal Building, where protesters broke 15 windows and two doors.

No official damage estimates

have been released, although some unofficial figures have ran as high as \$27,000.

Hoop was arrested May 13 by Eugene police. Arias and Mehretab later turned themselves in to federal authorities.

Each defendant entered a not guilty plea at separate arraignments.

Arias and Mehretab will be represented by private attorneys. A federal defender will argue Hoop's case.

Footage of the protest appeared on local television stations, and Ray said the videotape will probably be used in the trials against Arias, Hoop and Mehretab.

Ray said the FBI is still investigating the April 30 incident, and charges may be brought against others.

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Drawn by the pulsating sound of a rock thumping on a dead armadillo, two Australopithecines stood at the forest edge. Instantly, Thag's agent knew they had a crossover hit.

MEETINGS

Women in Transition Coffee hour, for international and non-traditional students, will be Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Women's Center lobby, EMU Suite 3.

Deadline for submitting *Et Als* to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. *Et Als* run the

day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit notices for grammar and style. *Et Als* are published on a space-available basis.