

A different perspective



ANTHONY FORNEY/Emerald

Marie Raney, a graduate student in architecture, uses a pen to gain perspective while working on an assignment to draw doors and vestibules for her media class.

Police arrest man for abducting girl

OPS cites a man for trespassing hours before he kidnaps a 2-year-old girl

By Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

A call to the University Office of Public Safety late Friday night may have stopped a man who kidnapped a 2-year-old girl in south Eugene from committing additional crimes on campus, the OPS director said.

A University custodian called OPS at 11:17 p.m. Friday after spotting a suspicious-looking man using a restroom in the education building, OPS director Carey Drayton said. The man, Christopher Ray Hare, 21, was cited for trespassing and was forced off campus by public safety officials.

Drayton said Hare has a considerable criminal record and apparently entered the building through doors left unlocked by custodians.

"If he hadn't been identified, he may have committed some crime on campus," Drayton said.

Hare was arrested by Eugene police officers six hours later for abducting a two-year-old girl from her home near 30th Avenue and Willamette Street, said Tim Birr, information director for the Eugene Office of Public Safety.

According to police reports, Hare broke into the south Eugene home around 4 a.m., taking the girl, a jar full of coins and a blanket. The girl's parents awoke to find their daughter missing and both the front door and a window open.

Shortly after the girl's father reported the kidnapping, Birr said police officers found a duffel bag near 34th Avenue and Donald Street containing the family's coin jar, pictures of naked, pre-adolescent girls and Hare's identification. Officers stopped a pedestrian on 35th Avenue and Willamette who said his name was Christopher Hare but said he didn't know anything about the kidnapping.

Police dogs that were let loose in the area found the girl in a vacant lot lying on the ground — one hour after she was abducted.

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Tozer will not appeal jury's verdict for city

Former University student won't continue efforts to hold city responsible for accident

By Freya Horn
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

When Tiana Tozer filed a lawsuit against the city of Eugene, she wanted justice, she said. Instead, she said she faced an uphill battle against "a bunch of bunk."

Tozer said she does not at this point plan to appeal last Friday's Lane County Circuit Court jury verdict. The 12-member jury found the city not guilty of negligence in its inspection and maintenance of traffic sign visibility, and absolved it of any liability for a vehicle accident that left Tozer severely injured.

"Right now, I'm just relieved it's over," Tozer said from her home in Point Richmond, Calif. "It's been five-and-a-half years (since the accident), and now I just want to get on with my life."

In May 1988, Juan Mejia's car crashed into the Volvo station wagon in which Tozer was a passenger after he ran a stop sign at the intersection of Harris Street and East 23rd Avenue. Tozer, who was not wearing a seat belt, was injured when at least one of the vehicles ran over her legs after she was thrown from the car.

Both had just attended a University rugby game, Mejia as an on-looker in the bleachers and Tozer as a player on the rugby team.

Mejia was arrested in August 1988. He pleaded not guilty and was convicted in April 1989 for assault and drunken driving. He has repeatedly claimed he did not see the stop sign in time to halt because a tree's branches were obscuring it.

Tozer filed her lawsuit against the city in the spring of 1990, the same year she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and romance languages from the University, despite undergoing extensive surgery.

While relieved the three-week trial has ended, Tozer said she is disappointed by the jury's decision.

"I still hold Mr. Mejia accountable and always did," she said. "I even hold myself accountable for not wearing a seat belt. But I think the city should share in the responsibility for this accident."

In representing the city, Eugene lawyer Jens Schmidt said the accident was caused solely by Mejia's intoxication and excessive speed. He told the jury Mejia was not a credible witness because he had repeatedly lied to police officers and had two prior drunken driving convictions.

The city "can't make our streets safe for alcohol-impaired drivers,"

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Barred IFC member to file complaint

IFC official is asked to leave curriculum committee meeting

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

An Incidental Fee Committee member plans to file a complaint for being barred from an Oct. 13 meeting of the Assembly Committee on Multicultural Curriculum.

A week later, an assistant to the president suggested committee meetings should be open.

Preston Cannon, appointed two weeks ago and new to the University this term, was asked to leave the meeting because the group was new and needed privacy to get to know one another, said Professor Davison Soper, president of the University Senate.

Soper, though not a member of the group, filled in as acting chairman for the Oct. 13 meeting because no chairman had yet been selected.

Cannon disagrees with Soper and believes the meeting should be open, especially for such important issues as the multicultural curriculum.

"If I don't know as a person of color what the committee is about, then that's a problem," Cannon said. "That was not the reputation (of ethnic diversity) that I was sold on (when I came to the University)."

Cannon later said, "I didn't go looking for this. It just hit me in the face. (Soper) never said anything personal to attack me, but he wasn't cordial. I felt like he was saying, 'Who is this guy?' and 'Get him out of here.' I am not happy with what happened and I want an apology."

The IFC member also said he wants to see a greater emphasis on advertising if the meeting is open or closed. Cannon said he is planning to file his protest with the Office of Student Advocacy within the next few weeks.

Last week, an adviser to the University provost said future meetings should be open.

Peter Swan, assistant to the president for legal affairs, looked up state law and found ACMC's meetings do fall under the Oregon Open Meetings Law. He was asked to look at the policy by the University provost.

The ACMC will meet Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in Room 109 Friendly.

Cannon was invited to the meeting by Diane Collins Puente, ASUO vice president and member of the committee. Collins Puente will be adding a statement to the complaint as a witness.

"When I walked in that room, mouths dropped in that meeting," Cannon said.

All of the members of the committee were quiet when the pair walked in, with Soper staring directly at them, Collins Puente said.

"So what you're saying is you're asking him to leave?" Collins Puente quoted herself as saying.

Soper then said, "Yes," Collins Puente said.

Cannon was then quoted by Collins Puente as wishing the members a good, productive meeting and then leaving.

None of the other committee members said anything during the argument.

"The committee is not responsible for what Dave Soper said. But if they had an issue with it, they should have looked up at what happened (and said something)," she said. "There wasn't a lot of distractions."

Collins Puente invited Cannon because he showed interest in the committee's work, she said.

Collins Puente has been part of the University's curriculum changes since the first ad hoc committee (the Multicultural Curriculum Committee) met two years ago to discuss a more ethnically diverse curriculum.

Collins Puente also was part of last year's committee, "when all the chaos broke out," she said, referring to arguments last year over whether there should be a multicultural curriculum at the University.