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EUGENE, OREGON

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Westmoreland kidnapping scare stirs emotion

Safety: An eight-year-old's lie forces residents to think about crime in their neighborhood

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

After hundreds of flyers and several rumors warned Westmoreland Family Housing residents of an attempted kidnapping last week, the girl's parents said Monday night that their daughter lied.

A University official who was trying to rally residents around the girl's cause and

begin a community watch program hoped support for the block watch initiative wouldn't suffer.

The eight-year-old girl, whose parents asked that her name be withheld, claimed that a six-foot white male bear-hugged her last Wednesday and tried to drag her back to a waiting van.

Eugene police took the girl out of her classroom at Westmoreland Elementary School Monday between 1:30 and 2:15 p.m. to go over her story, the girl's mother said.

When police questioned the girl about

whether a van existed or not, the girl admitted that there was no van and that no one grabbed her.

But, the girl still stands by her story that someone followed her from school, said her mother, who was also angry over the way police questioned her daughter.

"I find it very strange that they wouldn't call me," the girl's mother said.

She heard from the school's principal, Dennis Arendt, that police were dropping their investigation as a result of the girl's new testimony.

Eugene police officials said Monday

night that Tim Burr, media representative for the police department, would not be available until Tuesday morning, and all media questions must go through him.

After word of the alleged kidnapping circulated late last week, one resident reported seeing the van that the eight-year-old described as a light tan minivan, two days before the alleged incident.

Another resident, Jacqueline Bowker, said that before the alleged kidnapping, she saw as an older-model, brown panel

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Gospel according to Jim



Brian Rivers, a psychology senior, debates with "Bible" Jim Weber, a preacher from Portland, in the EMU Courtyard Monday. Weber spoke, and often argued, for nearly an hour with a crowd that at times swelled to more than 125 people.

UNIVERSITY

Student wins Paris Prize with design

Award: Architecture grad student's victory a first for University

By Suzanne Marta
Oregon Daily Emerald

Studying a desktop-sized scale model of Paris, architecture student Jane Liao puzzled over the architectural theme of a building structure that would fit into this foreign urban site.

In her solution to this hypothetical architectural problem, Liao had the skills and courage to visualize and design the winning entry for one of the most prestigious and long-standing architectural awards.

Liao and her studio classmates built the model as part of their research on Paris for the Lloyd Warren Fellowship-Paris Prize competition. The 17 studio members submitted entries for the competition with the encouragement of their instructor Jim Tice, associate professor

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Alumnus receives Pioneer Award for career of service

Military: Admiral David Jeremiah is recognized as a leader in his field

By Catherine Hours
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Admiral David Jeremiah received the University's 1994 Pioneer Award last Saturday at a reception in his honor in Portland.

The first Pioneer Award was presented 15 years ago. It honors alumni who have made model careers and have become leaders in their fields. The 1993 award went to James Ivory, a 1951 University graduate and director of the movies *A Room with a View*, *Howard's End* and *The Remains of the Day*.

Jeremiah, a 1955 University graduate in business, was nominated this year because of his outstanding military career and his service to Oregon and the nation. During his 37 years in the U.S. Navy, he built a solid reputation as a gifted commander in both combat and peacetime.

Jeremiah commanded many destroyers and participated in numerous conflicts and historic turning points such as the Berlin crisis in 1961 and the Vietnam War.

He finally rose to the second-highest military office in the nation in 1990 when he became vice-chairman of the U.S. Joint

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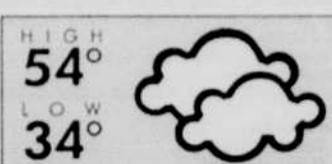
GOOD MORNING

► SPOKANE (AP) — Tarantula breeder Bill Graham says he got his first spider when he was a hyperactive little boy who had trouble sleeping.

When a doctor suggested a nocturnal pet, his parents got him a spider. That led to the hobby that has become Graham's business — breeding and selling spiders and reptiles.

"Like the crocodile, the tarantula hasn't changed in 30 million years. You can look at fossils and see this same spider," said Graham, one of two dozen exotic-animal keepers, breeders and sellers at the Rare Animal Expo held over the weekend at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds.

A reptile importer from Seaside, Ore., was offering three kinds of turtles as well as frogs,



iguanas and a flying gecko, a kind of lizard.

Reptiles and spiders are so easy to care for they're replacing tropical fish and caged birds as pets, he said. Their lack of fur and feathers makes them less trouble for people with allergies.

► WASHINGTON (AP) — A 7-year-old Washington state girl whose family fears bankruptcy because of \$40,000 in hospital bills shared center stage with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today in an appeal for

national health care reform.

"My mom and dad have jobs but they don't have money for the hospital bills," Amber Ford of Spokane, Wash., said today.

Amber was among a dozen children who joined Hillary Clinton at the White House East Room to read the letters they mailed to President Clinton about their health care concerns.

Her sister, Trista, 10, got chicken pox, which led to encephalitis, a condition where tissue swells around the brain.

A two-week stay in the hospital has left the family with \$40,000 in bills.

"It shows how even with something like chicken pox, someone can get really sick," Hillary Clinton said.