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Cappi Farquar Emerald

Mick Jagers has circulated photographs — like the one above — that 'capture the ghost of Steve Prefontaine' running through the Pioneer Cemetery. Jagers also sells other 'proof,' including plaster castings of Pre's footprints and pieces of tattered shoe laces.

Attacker's identity revealed?

Retired archivist Mick Jagers floats a rumor that runner Steve Prefontaine's ghost is behind the recent spate of campus attacks

By Mikalos Kloknav
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Department of Public Safety tells students that walking through the Pioneer Cemetery at night is risky. The ASUO Women's Center tells women to learn self-defense and not to travel alone at night. Students are aware that campus attacks have been on the rise, but no one has been able to track down the perpetrator or even speculate about who — or what — it is.

Until now.

Retired University archivist Mick Jagers said Friday that he believes he has identified the culprit. The ghost of University track star Steve Prefontaine is to blame for the campus attacks and a recent attempted armed robbery, Jagers said, and DPS officials seem satisfied with his explanation.

"There are stories around the

University that Pre's ghost never left his favorite areas, including the cemetery and the Autzen Footbridge," Jagers said. "He used to love to run there, and he probably still does, although now he has a more disturbing motive."

Prefontaine died May 30, 1975 after crashing his car on Skyline Boulevard near Birch Lane.

Prefontaine's family expressed anger and disgust at Jager's accusations and said it was "absolutely unbelievable" that anyone would even think such things.

"Pre was loving and kind," said a relative who wished to remain anonymous. "We don't understand this idea. If Pre is a ghost, he's probably a happy one."

Jagers said he first made the connection to Pre's ghost after the recent armed robbery. Pre's ghost is searching for money to get his car fixed, Jagers speculated, and he may be terrorizing women out of misguided anger toward his ex-girlfriend.

"Well, you can ask around, and you'll hear these same stories," Jagers said. "He was very angry at his

girlfriend for cheating on him, and he is probably acting inappropriately in his traditional jogging haunt, the cemetery."

Eugene historian Mike Hunting called Jagers' claims "ridiculous and unfounded."

"I've never heard these rumors," Hunting said, "and I know every ghost story associated with Eugene or the University of Oregon."

DPS Director Wilhem Klink, however, said that Pre's ghost "is as likely an answer as anything we're going to come up with."

Klink said that DPS has been working closely with the Eugene Police Department to identify and stop the attacker, but a break in the case is unlikely.

"Basically, we're willing to accept that premise — it would certainly explain why no one's been able to catch him," Klink said. "The most we can do right now is tell students to carry mace and keep to the well-lit paths. This seems like a culprit that can't be caught."

The Emerald hopes you enjoyed this April Fools Day story.

Rumors & lies

Ducks get educated for chicken feed

University of Oregon students are getting a high quality education at a "really damn cheap" price, according to two different college consumer guides.

For the fifth year in a row, the University is listed by the "Starr Guide to Colleges" as one of the nation's

best bargains for colleges and universities. The publication upgraded the University's rating from "Cheap" to "Wow... Really damn cheap."

The Starr Guide also rates the University on a "best buy" list of 43 schools in Oregon, Washington and Northern California.

Also, the "Caplan/National Review College Catalog" called the University "worth every nickel you spend" in their annual report.

"If you look past the crumbling

buildings, ineffective teaching and bored students, the University of Oregon provides a degree at a reasonable cost," the report said.

The report went on to praise the school's architecture, creative writing and education departments as giving students all they need to succeed.

"This confirms what we already know," Director of Admissions P. Everett Newhouse said.

— Mary Chain

ON OUR MINDS...

What's your favorite part of student government?



"The war they're waging against terrorism."

Martin Courts
eighth-year senior,
sociology



"Their slogans... I love Doin' it in the Dark, too."

Betty Blanchard
freshman,
journalism



"Their refreshing integrity when using student fees."

Shaniqua Jones
junior,
biology