

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper at the University of Oregon

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 107, Issue 48 | Monday, October 31, 2005

Students rally to keep their homes

Leaseholders marched on campus Friday to oppose the University's attempt to sell Westmoreland

BY BRITINI MCCLENAHAN
NEWS REPORTER

Chants of anger and frustration rang out from the heart of campus Friday afternoon as 75 to 100 mostly Westmoreland Apartments residents rallied against the University's decision to try to sell the property and the 404 apartments on it.

"What are we fighting for?" "Our homes!" chanted the crowd gathered at the EMU Amphitheater. If the Oregon State Board of

Higher Education on Friday approves the proposal to sell the property, located more than two miles west of campus, nearly 600 residents could be displaced, including 54 children. If approved, residents will still be allowed to live there until June 30, 2006.

Protesters voiced their opinions about the University's decision while marching from the

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Darlene Hampton, a GTF for the English department, speaks at a rally Friday afternoon in protest of University proposing to sell Westmoreland Apartments.

NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

City code to increase tolerance put on hold

Eugene is trying to amend its anti-discrimination code to include transgender individuals

BY CHRIS HAGAN
NEWS REPORTER

The city of Eugene is attempting to add protections for transgender people to its anti-discrimination ordinance, but discussion over the finer points of the changes by those writing them has created delays.

Some have expressed concern that a code without a requirement for transgender people to show documentation of their gender could make it easier for sexual predators to gain access to female restrooms, and some advocates say adding some kind of documentation requirement would increase the chance of the changes being passed.

Eugene Human Rights Commission member and Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly said the city is still working with community leaders to try to find a compromise on the issue.

"We're trying to build the broadest consensus about what is the best language to use," Kelly said.

The current ordinance protects people from discrimination in housing, employment and work places. The proposed changes would add the term "gender identity" to the list of protected classes, such as race, religion and sexual orientation. Similar language has been adopted by 61 other cities nationally.

In January 2005, the city created the Gender Identity Work Group to research the issue and propose language for changes to the code. The main controversy was over public accommodations, specifically if transgender people could use the bathroom facilities of the gender they identified with or if public places could require them to show legal documentation to use a particular gender's accommodations.

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HALLOWEEN FEATURE

Searching the shadows

BY KAFY GAGNON
NEWS REPORTER

University freshman Gabriel Wahrmond still can't fully describe or understand what happened when he awoke from a nap in his Stafford Hall room Friday.

But he knows it was weird.

Around 6 p.m., Wahrmond said he began to stir from a two-hour nap. The afternoon sun was setting, darkening room 101, and Wahrmond was alone, he said.

The hall was quiet.

What Wahrmond saw in the next 20 seconds, he can only describe as "crazy" or "ridiculous." Transparent clouds or bubbles of

different sizes drifted over him and floated through the wall above his window, he said.

"It was like shadow in mid-air," he said. "It was as if air in certain areas were more concentrated."

He told another student in his hall what happened.

It was then that Wahrmond was told his room was rumored to be haunted.

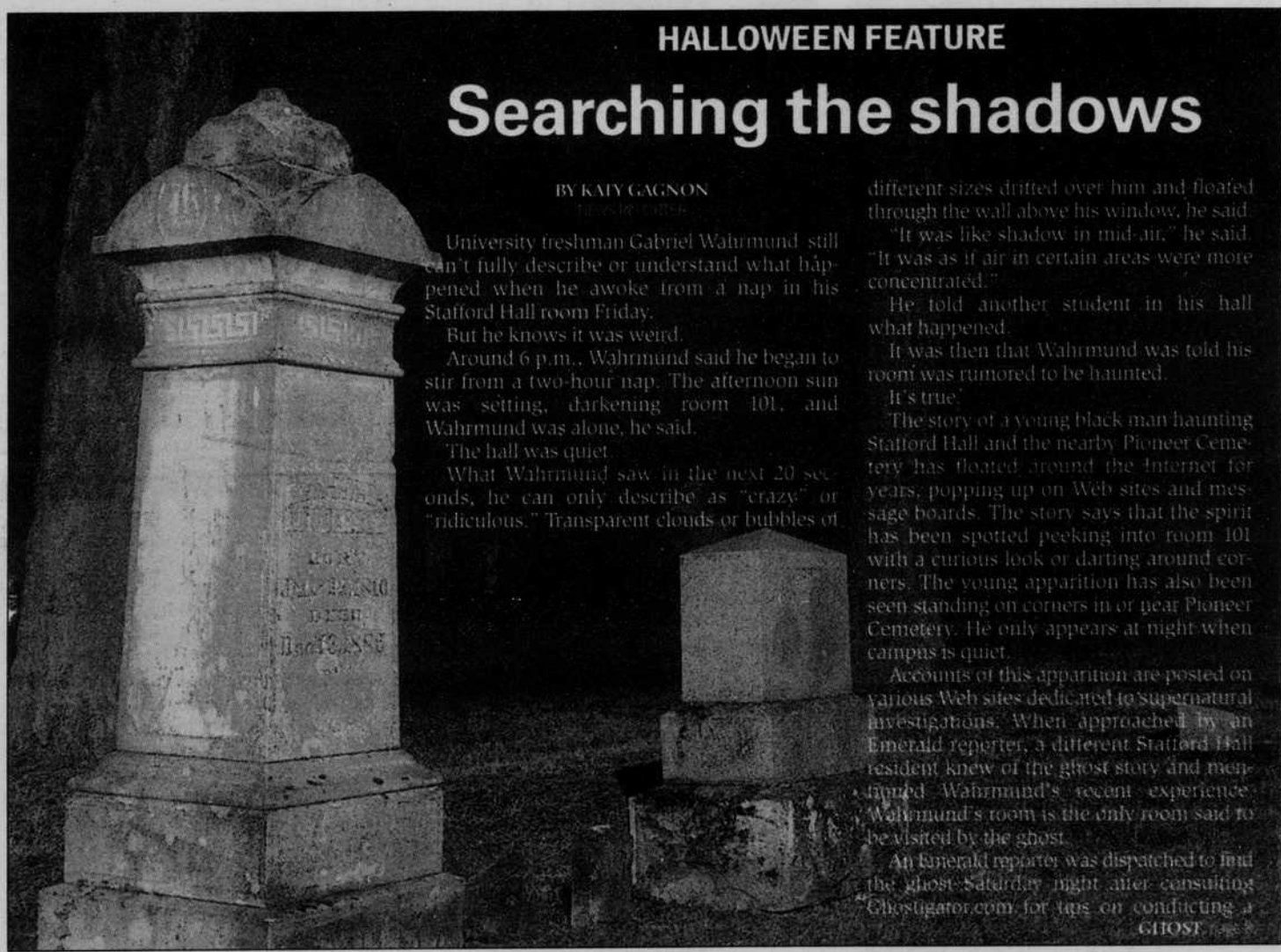
It's true.

The story of a young black man haunting Stafford Hall and the nearby Pioneer Cemetery has floated around the Internet for years, popping up on Web sites and message boards. The story says that the spirit has been spotted peeking into room 101 with a curious look or darting around corners. The young apparition has also been seen standing on corners in or near Pioneer Cemetery. He only appears at night when campus is quiet.

Accounts of this apparition are posted on various Web sites dedicated to supernatural investigations. When approached by an Emerald reporter, a different Stafford Hall resident knew of the ghost story and mentioned Wahrmond's recent experience. Wahrmond's room is the only room said to be visited by the ghost.

An Emerald reporter was dispatched to find the ghost Saturday night after consulting Ghostgator.com for tips on conducting a

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'Sahara' author speaks on campus

Adventure-series author Clive Cussler spoke about his novels as well as his foundation that searches for old ships lost at sea

BY EVA SYLWESTER
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Novelist Clive Cussler told the crowd filling Gerlinger Hall's Alumni Lounge on Friday night that he researches historical events for inspiration and guidance to make stories seem plausible but also considers hypothetical "what if?" scenarios.

"What if a World War I biplane attacks a modern jet plane?" Cussler said. "It's fun stuff."

Among Cussler's novels is the Dirk Pitt adventure "Sahara," which was turned into a Hollywood film starring Matthew McConaughey.

Frances Cogan, a professor of literature in the University's Robert D. Clark Honors College, titled her class "Colloquium on Adventure Fiction: Homer to Clive Cussler" after the man she described as "probably the best plotter in the modern world." The curriculum, intended for Clark Honors College students with at least sophomore standing, includes Cogan's favorite Cussler

novel, "Treasure."

Cogan wrote a letter to Cussler inviting him to visit her class. After about six weeks with no response, she said she'd forgotten about it. Then, while she was in her office working on a book she's writing, Cussler called.

"I just about dropped the phone," Cogan said.

Cogan told Cussler that because the University's budget is limited, she wouldn't be able to provide him a large honorarium if he came to speak. He agreed to come without an honorarium and to foot his own travel costs. Cussler was originally going to speak to only Cogan's class, but a large public lecture was planned instead to accommodate all the people who had shown interest in attending.

"He's exactly the way I hoped he'd be, and that is generous and kind and funny and very down to earth," Cogan said.

Cussler said he began writing when he was an

advertiser living in a tract house in California. His wife took a job working nights for the police department, while he was home putting their children to bed.

"Afterwards I didn't have anyone to talk to, so I thought: 'Gee, I'll write a book,'" Cussler said.

In the California tract house, Cussler's typewriter was in the bedroom of his son Dirk, who became the namesake for Dirk Pitt.

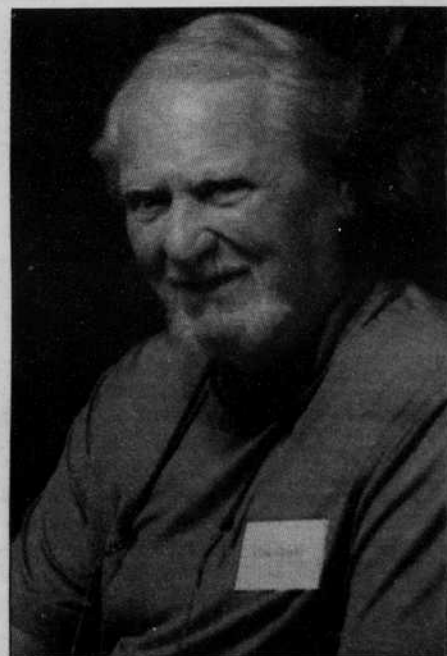
Pitt, the hero of 18 Cussler novels, also drew some characteristics from Cussler himself.

Cussler and Pitt were both 36 years old at the time the first novel was written, but Pitt is now only 45, while Cussler is 74.

Cussler uses the proceeds from his books to finance his second major enterprise: the National Underwater and Marine Agency, a foundation that investigates — and has found at least 60 — old shipwrecks.

The agency, which is named after the fictional Pitt's employer, came into existence in 1978 when Cussler began searching for the Bonhomme Richard, which American sailor John

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NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Author Clive Cussler, famous for his adventure novels, spoke Friday evening in Gerlinger Hall.