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"It was a horror movie. Everything was unreal... It was so fast."

— MOTHER OF UO STUDENT WHO SURVIVED MENINGOCOCCEMIA

UO outbreak survivor recounts near-death ordeal

What initially looked like the flu took a fierce and rapid turn, leaving the 19-year-old woman hemorrhaging and clinging to life

By CHRISTIAN HILL
The Register-Guard

Tylenol dulled her headache the night of Jan. 14, but the University of Oregon freshman slept poorly at

her off-campus apartment and periodically vomited.

Her mother, who lives in Linn County, took her to an urgent care clinic after she was found to have a slight fever in the morning. The doctor

suspected the flu and sent her home with advice to rest and drink fluids.

Less than 12 hours later, the 19-year-old student would be clinging to life, rushed by ambulance to Oregon Health & Science University in Portland as a massive bacterial infection ravaged her body. She was hemorrhaging, and her mother used a white towel to wipe away blood run-

ning from her nose and mouth.

"It was a horror movie," her mother said. "Everything was unreal at that point, and it was fast. It was so fast."

Christina suffered the first confirmed case in the outbreak of meningococemia on the UO campus that would later sicken two other students

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BOOK OF REVELATIONS

Former televangelist's tell-all holds nothing back



PAUL CARTER/The Register-Guard

Danuta Pfeiffer, former co-host of the 700 Club with televangelist Pat Robertson, has self-published her life story, "Chiseled," which focuses in part on the difficult relationship she had with her father. She lives near Junction City.

JUNCTION CITY — Danuta Pfeiffer gestures with her arms across a patio table on the porch of her Tuscan-style home at Pfeiffer Vineyards on an unseasonably sunny February day.

She mimicks an old woman who once stood in a long, long line to ask Pfeiffer to heal her.

"Pat Robertson prayed for my arthritis! Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker prayed for my arthritis! Now you're gonna pray for my arthritis!" Pfeiffer lampoons.

Those days are long past.

It's been 27 years since Pfeiffer, then known as Danuta Soderman, was a co-host of "The 700 Club" on CBN, the Christian Broadcasting Network.

But the stories about the five years she worked alongside Robertson, the conservative

MARK BAKER

LIVING HERE

Christian media mogul and one-time Republican presidential candidate, are central to Pfeiffer's new book, "Chiseled," a self-published memoir that holds nothing back in its revelations.

Revelations such as having to tell her son, when he was in his 20s, that he was the result of her being raped when she was 16, and that the fiction he had always been told — that he was her brother — was just that, a fiction.

The book, Pfeiffer's third, was 24 years in the making.

It's the story of her life, from growing up the daughter of a Polish immigrant in northern Michigan, to enduring two teenage pregnancies, to

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UO drops claim against student

The university isn't seeking legal fees from a woman who says she was raped, but it still wants her lawsuit dismissed

By JOSEPHINE WOOLINGTON
The Register-Guard

The University of Oregon on Thursday dropped its recent counterclaim to a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by a student who says she was raped by three UO basketball players.

In an updated response filed in U.S. District Court in Eugene on Thursday, the university is no longer countering the victim's lawsuit and is not asking the victim, or her attorneys, to pay what the UO has spent in attorney fees and other costs related to the case.

The move follows an online petition created this week that garnered more than 2,000 signatures from students, alumni and professors, urging the UO to "stop suing rape survivors."

UO Interim President Scott Coltrane said Thursday that the UO heard from "many different people on campus, and we really wanted to get away from this distraction."

Coltrane said the UO never intended to col-

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City expected to move ahead with Civic deal

By EDWARD RUSSO
The Register-Guard

Eugene officials are expected to announce today that Civic Stadium will be bought by a non-profit group that wants to renovate the grandstand and use land on the property to build a Kidsports fieldhouse.

City Manager Jon Ruiz is expected to inform the Eugene School District that the Eugene Civic Alliance has raised the \$4.1 million that it needs to buy the shuttered stadium and most of the 10-acre property from the school district in late March or April, city spokesman Jan Bohman said.

The Eugene School Board a year ago agreed to sell the 77-year-old stadium and adjacent land to the city. But the City Council preferred to let private citizens lead the acquisition and stadium ren-

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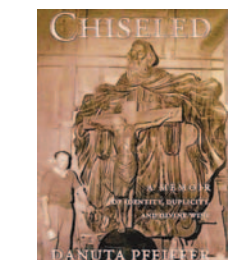


Source: Cameron McCarthy
TOM PENIX/The Register-Guard



Courtesy of Danuta Pfeiffer

700 Club co-hosts Ben Kinchlow, Danuta (Soderman) Pfeiffer and Pat Robertson evangelize from a Virginia Beach, Va., studio in the mid-1980s.



BOOK LAUNCH

What: Danuta Pfeiffer, author of "Chiseled: A Memoir of Identity, Duplicity and Divine Wine," will read and sign copies of the book

When: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday.

Where: Pfeiffer Winery, 25040 Jaeg Road, Junction City

Order: amazon.com or danutapfeiffer.com



UO: New response to civil rights lawsuit still troubles critics

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lect fees from the student, but was rather seeking money from her attorneys.

"We didn't want it to look like we had anything against the student," he said of the UO dropping the counter-suit. The UO still is asking the court to dismiss the lawsuit and to rule in favor of the university.

Coltrane said he hopes the university's move will help the community focus on the UO's recent efforts to improve sexual violence prevention on campus.

Coltrane, however, criticized the online petition that characterized the UO as having filed a lawsuit against the victim, as opposed to responding to an existing lawsuit. He said he was advised by attorneys that it's routine to counter a suit.

"Their suit would have us pay legal fees, and I was told it's typical when you respond" to also file a counterclaim, he said.

High-profile Boulder, Colo., attorney John Clune, who is representing the student, along with Eugene attorney Jennifer Middleton, said the UO's action was the first time he had seen a school make a counterclaim against a rape victim.

Clune declined further comment Thursday.

The student, referred to as Jane Doe, filed the federal lawsuit in January against the university and head basketball coach Dana Altman for allegedly violating her federal civil rights by recruiting Brandon Austin, one of the accused players, after he had previously been accused of rape at Providence College in Rhode Island.

The lawsuit argues that Altman and the UO had "actual knowledge of the substantial risk that Austin would sexually harass other female students at UO based upon his prior conduct."

Jane Doe also argues that the UO and Altman prioritized winning basketball games over her claim that she had been raped repeatedly by the now former players, Damyean Dotson, Dominic Artis and Austin.

The Lane County District Attorney declined to file charges against the players, citing lack of evidence. The players were kicked off the basketball team and banned from the university for the incident.

The UO filed its response and counterclaim to the suit on Feb. 9, claiming the alleged victim's suit is "frivolous, unreasonable and without foundation."

The UO's updated response does not describe

Jane Doe's lawsuit as "frivolous," but still contends that her attorneys "filed a lawsuit with unfounded allegations that damage a good man's (Altman's) reputation in an attempt to curry favor and gain traction in the media and create pressure for a public university to pay a hefty sum to (Jane Doe) even though it has done nothing wrong."

The university argues that Jane Doe's allegations threaten not only the UO and Altman, "but all sexual assault survivors in Oregon's campus community.

"The publication of false allegations about Oregon's handling of a report of an alleged sexual assault creates a very real risk that other survivors will wrongly be discouraged from reporting sexual assault and sexual harassment to Oregon," which conflicts with the goal of a federal civil rights law, known as Title IX, the response said.

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity. The law has been used as a basis for action in complaints against universities regarding their handling of rape cases.

UO psychology professor Jennifer Freyd said that dropping the counterclaim was a "good first step," but still was critical of the UO's response, which she argued still comes across as victim-blaming.

"If (Coltrane) doesn't want this to be a distraction, he needs to have (the response) be corrected yet again so it is not blaming the victim and playing lawyers' games because that's not fixing the problem," said Freyd, a sexual violence expert who has publicly criticized the UO for its response to Jane Doe's case and other sexual violence cases.

Freyd said the UO's claim that Jane Doe's lawsuit could prevent other victims from coming forward "has bothered me the most."

"It's extremely problematic," she said.

Freyd sent a letter to Coltrane on Thursday evening, expressing her concerns. The letter was signed by Carol Stabile, a journalism and women's and gender studies professor, and John Bonine, a law professor.

"The university cannot claim that it is devoted to survivors while at the same time saying that a survivor's use of legal remedies will chill reporting by others," the professors wrote.

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