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Message from the OLA President

by Aletha Bonebrake

If you are not already aware of it, there is an important video called "Just Yell Fire," which was created as a project by two female students at St. Mary's Academy in Portland. The students, both skilled in martial arts, teach young women how to escape predatory attacks on their persons. It grew from a modest class project to a professional production, which premiered to the public on October 3 at Cinetopia in Vancouver, WA. It is now seeking distribution to every teenage girl who requests it, from anywhere in the world. The October 16 issue of iN Touch Weekly highlighted the film and the teens' accomplishment for their 1,100,000 readers, inviting readers to either download or request a DVD of the film, free of charge. The bandwidth to accommodate the expected demand was donated by Portland-based IntegraTelecom. The project even attracted one of the stars of the popular sci-fi tv show, *Lost*, for a cameo appearance, which I understand would mean a lot to the "IT generation." I contacted the mother of one of the girls who is acting as the distribution manager, and she said she would be thrilled if every public, school and academic library were to request a copy for its collection. I encourage you to visit the website to

see what a tremendous impact this Oregon-grown film can have on the safety of young women. I hope every library in Oregon will acquire a copy. ■