

# Volunteers climb stairs for charity

By Joseph Kidd  
Emerald Contributor

About 500 people "stormed the stairs" at Autzen Stadium Saturday to raise funds for a cure for what an estimated 500,000 Americans suffer from — paralysis.

While music and shouts of encouragement blared over a speaker system, students and community members bounded up the stadium's north-side yellow stairs and walked down the green aisles from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They accumulated 66.1 miles of vertical stair-climbing — more than the height of 12 Mount Everests.

The University's Recreation and Intramurals program organized "Storm the Stairs" as part of United States Fidelity and Guaranty's National Drive to Cure Paralysis.

"Through pledges we hope to raise \$10,000," said Karla Rice, RIM director. "Every dollar raised will then be matched one-for-one by USF&G."

"If all of these people come back with \$10 or \$15, we'll have made it," Rice said.

Not only did hundreds volunteer to run the stairs, but about 50 volunteers organized the event and 25 companies donated services or prizes.

"Nike, AT&T and a lot of local companies and restaurants donated prizes. KSND donated \$600 worth of air time for advertising. And Sacred Heart Hospital's Therapeutic Unit and U-Can were key in making it happen," Rice said.

U-Can is an organization that offers facilities and activities to support handicapped people during and after rehabilitation.

The event's main sponsor, USF&G, designed the national drive three years ago specifically to fund research and clinical work for the recovery of paralysis victims, said Tim Windsor, public relations supervisor.


This year more than 200 colleges and organizations will participate in the fundraising

Turn to Stairs, Page 5



Photo by Marty Thiel

More than 500 volunteers covered a distance equal to 12 Mount Everests at Autzen Stadium Saturday to raise money for research on paralysis.



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*Oregon Daily*  
**Emerald**

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

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The Emerald is operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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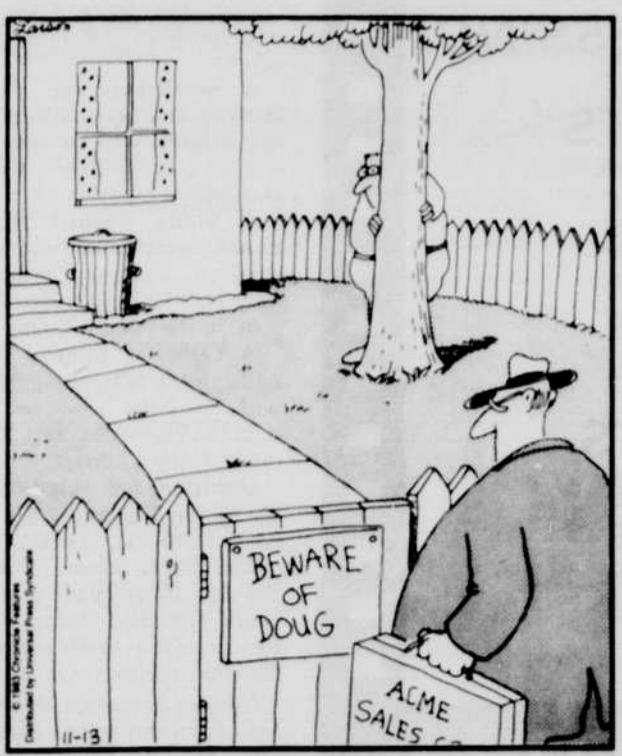
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Classified Advertising	686-4343
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