

■ This issue is the last issue for fall term 1989 and the decade. The *Emerald* will resume daily publication for winter term on Jan. 8, 1990.

Oregon Daily Emerald

Monday, December 11, 1989

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 91, Number 71

Structures lack adequate alarms for fire warning

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

The lack of a centralized fire alarm system, as well as in-operative warning devices, have left many University buildings without the ability to alert people to evacuate buildings such as MacArthur Court, which could collapse in a fire after 15 minutes.

Steve Boosinger, city deputy fire marshal, made alarm system inspections at the University from Aug. 1 to Sept. 8 and sent his report to the Office of Public Safety Oct. 28. Mac Court was one of the buildings with code violations.

The only pull station in the arena is located near doors on the south side of the building. If a fire were to start, someone would have to find the station, break the glass and pull the switch.

The arena should have a pull station at each exit and should be fully protected by a sprinkler system, Boosinger said.

The building contains wall coverings and ceilings made of Firtex, which is low-density cellulose fiber that burns at the rate of 14 feet per second, he said.

"When it burns, it burns at the rate faster than most people can escape," he said.

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When Boosinger tested the alarm during his inspection, no bell or verbal warning was activated to alert visitors of a fire.

Randy Stamm, alarm system coordinator for the Office of Public Safety, said the lack of a buzzing system is not uncommon in buildings that hold large numbers of people. Buzzing alarms might panic people and create evacuation difficulties, he said.

However, Boosinger said every building should have a warning system. An ideal warning would be a voice announcement, which calmly instructs people to leave the building, he said.

Although warning signals were not activated inside the arena, the test signaled an alarm system in the Office of Public Safety, Boosinger said.

He said he also tested a memory unit located inside the communications box that was built in 1979 by former Mac Court events manager Steve McBride, who is now director of computer services for intercollegiate athletics.

The Codaphone unit, which is designed for memory dialing for a telephone and not approved for fire detection, was connected "to provide us with a little higher level of protection," McBride said.

If Mac Court's pull station was activated during a fire, the unit would signal a pager worn by the event supervisor, who could begin evacuation of the building before campus security and the fire department arrived, McBride said.

However, Boosinger said he tested the unit three times and received three busy signals from the pager.

"(Mac Court) hasn't informed us about (the unit)," Stamm said. "Anything to do with the alarms should be cleared with the Office of Public Safety."

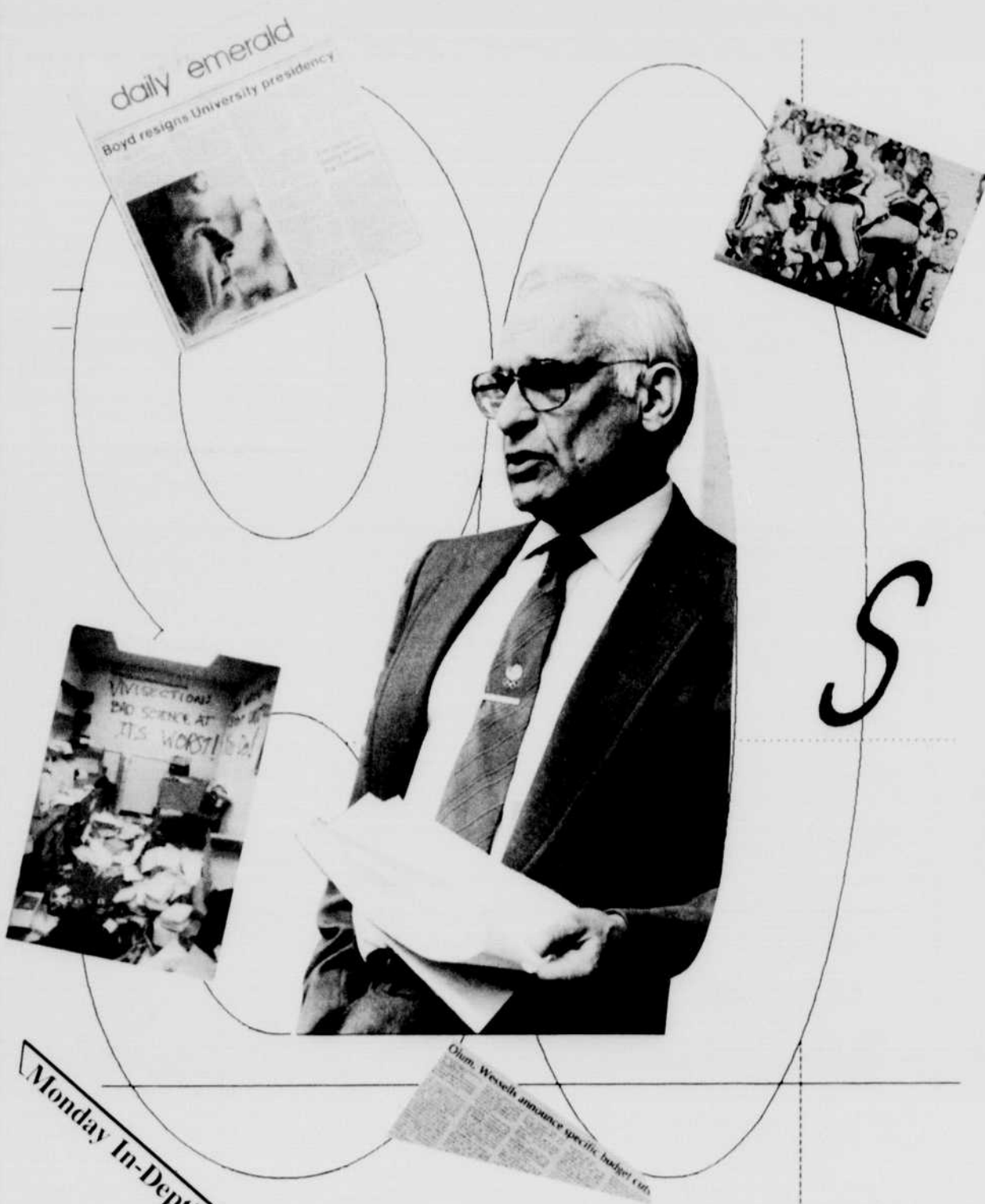
"Any alarm system that's done without a permit or that's put in not according to code is wrong," Boosinger said.

While checking the fire alarms, he discovered hundreds of violations and hazards, some of which are not directly related to the alarm systems.

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Yo! The 1980s are ending, and with them, a crazy decade of budget cuts, child killers, dry parties and education leadership struggles. Sounds like fun, right? Join us as we look back (with some regret) on ...

Our Top Ten news stories of the



By Denise Clifton
Hon Walker
and Thomas Prowell

Well ...

During the Reagan-kissed years of the post-modern 1980s, the University buttoned down its laid-back reputation to become a more conservative, professionally oriented institution.

Or did it? Though the '80s brought student growth, a new \$45 million science complex and a bowl-bound football team, the campus reflected the cynicism of the decade. Student dissatisfaction grew as budgets were cut, a president was forced into early retirement and the University's *Animal House* party tradition was cut short.

And now we careen into the kindler, gentler

'90s. New presidents head both the University and the nation, and the depths of the 1980s soon will be forgotten. But before we so crassly close the doors on the Gimme Decade, the *Emerald*, like every critic, scholar and analyst, must count down its Top Ten news stories from the 1980s.

1. The state board just says no to Paul Olum. On Oct. 28, 1987 the Oregon State System of Higher Education proclaimed its plan to oust University President Paul Olum three full years before his preferred retirement date of June 30, 1992. This unexpected announcement initiated a battle between the combined forces of students, faculty and many administrators and the state board.

Hundreds of students rallied to support Olum, and the Student Senate called for a class

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