

Prepare for quake before too late

Aw heck, it'll never happen to us — at least not tomorrow, so why worry today?

No, we're not talking American political theory, we're talking the geological biggy that may soon be appearing in the Pacific Northwest.

Yes, here.

Recent studies have shown the area from British Columbia to Northern California is potentially vulnerable to an earthquake measuring between 8.4 to 9.0 on the Richter scale sometime in the near future. This is big-time, folks, considering the 1906 San Francisco quake was somewhere around 8.3.

The primary cause for concern is the subduction zone off the Northwestern coast where two of the Earth's crustal plates meet, one sliding beneath the other. As the plates move, the friction creates tension, promising, yes, a biggy.

The problem is no one knows exactly when it'll happen.

The quake warnings have been sounded by various experts, most recently by Samuel Clarke Jr. of the U.S. Geological Survey and Humboldt State University geology professor Gary Carver. The two recently wrote an article for *Science Magazine* detailing their study of the area.

Banking their warning on geologic "past behavior" of the area, the men say we're about due for a major tremor.

Geological input necessary for building locations has typically been ignored in the past, as evidenced by examples such as the placement of Oregon's Trojan Nuclear Plant, which lies uncomfortably close to a fault angling near Portland toward the plant.

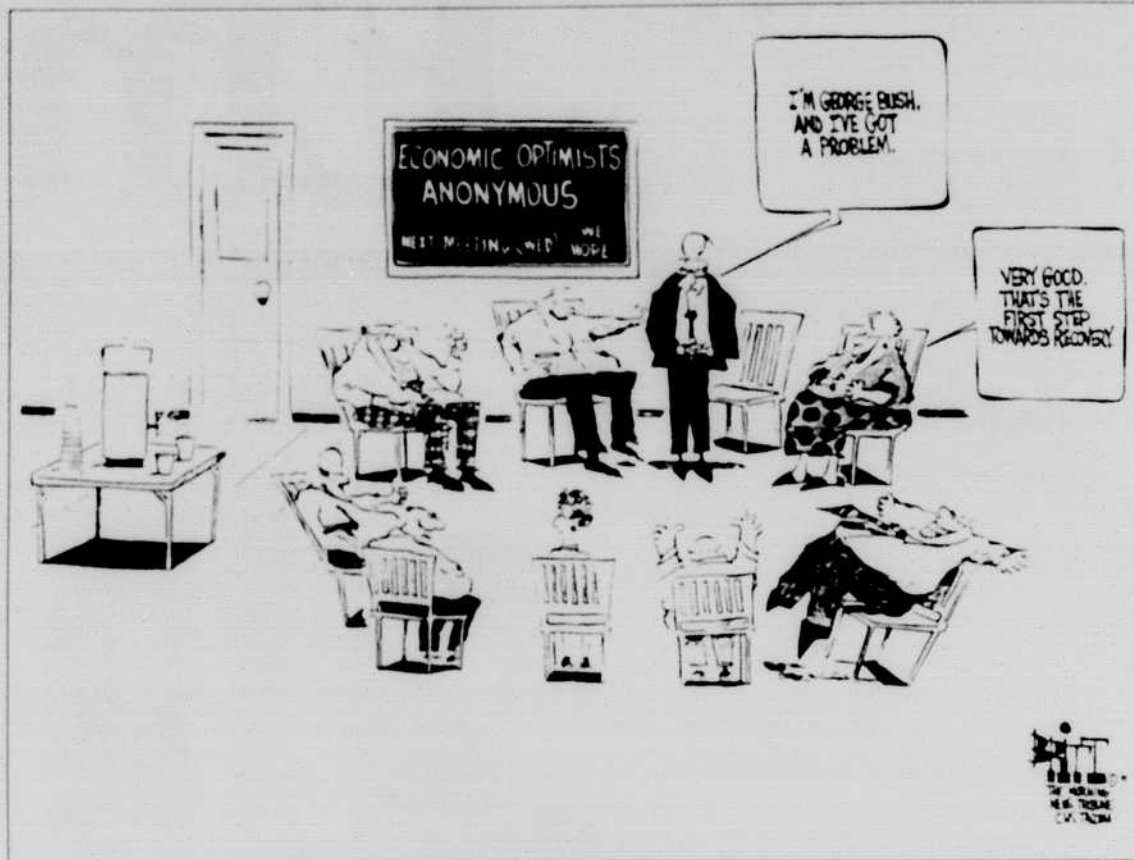
Too bad the fault-line busters weren't called in pre-building time — we all know what will happen should the quake occur. Other structures could fail as well, including dams, buildings, bridges and highways.

With the evidence stacking up in favor of a tremor, we need to start planning ahead. Of course, it'll take time, effort and *money* to bring the Northwest's structures to quake-proof code, these being the biggest obstacles to preparation ranking only behind doubt.

Big changes, and all for the possibility of a quake in our lifetime. Many would say forget it, but we cannot afford the gamble.

The quake could happen anywhere from 10 to 100+ years from now; no one can predict exactly when it'll occur. We are offered the geologic-time-scale clue, however, that it could happen fairly soon. Soon enough to begin preparing, if not for ourselves, then for future generations.

Better put on the track shoes — time to start hurdling those obstacles, one at a time, no matter how long it takes. It's time to start thinking now for later, because there *is* such a thing as too late.



LETTERS

Mainstream?

Thank you for printing Koalani Roberts' story on environmental activism (*ODE*, Jan. 7).

Before coming to the University, I was on the board of directors for the Alaska Environmental Lobby. I also served on several committees for various public interest groups, and co-founded a non-profit corporation that researches mining company practices.

I spent a lot of time reading and writing letters, speeches and testimonies. I have raised money, helped organize neighborhoods and I practice a low-impact lifestyle; all to conserve resources.

I was more than relieved to read that the above activities are considered "mainstream politics" because in Alaska I have been called a "radical environmentalist!"

When I met a member of Earth First! (here, at the University), I was in awe. I thought, "Now, there's a radical — I wish I had her courage."

Theresa Scott
Counseling Psychology

Bad press

It's so much easier this year to become alienated from vast numbers of people. In the past, it required entire sentences or at least phrases, but now, OCA! Three letters!

Well, once again, the *ODE* editors have been true to form. Den Elm's letter (*ODE*, Jan. 10) was passed by the editor saying, "Most OCA supporters have (somehow) passed 4th-grade sentence diagramming."

This is an indirect insult! Had "gay" been inserted for OCA, I dare say this letter would have been rejected. Why was this allowed? Could it be someone has declared open season on the OCA at the *ODE*?

A few of my neighbors were noted as being OCA supporters by the press. Since that time, they have had windows shot out on a regular basis, but nobody has made an effort to just sit down and reason through things with them. This causes

me to put anti-OCA people into two categories: 1) Full of hatred and violence, seeing no hope of changing people's ideas through reason. 2) Apathetic, claiming to have a cause but unwilling to do anything about it.

Let's get it straight. If you are anti-OCA, chances are you and I disagree about a lot of things. Are you going to fit one of the two categories above, or perhaps shatter my stereotype and talk with me about it? Let's just make it public record, shall we?

Bob Weigel
Eugene

JFK

We can all do something now. I recently called U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio's office in Eugene, and both our senators' offices in Portland about their positions concerning the secret files on John F. Kennedy's death.

I received the following handwritten note from DeFazio dated Jan. 7, 1992: "Jerry, Thanks for contacting my office regarding the circumstances surrounding JFK's death. I share your concerns. In fact, I've instructed my legislative staff to draft a bill requiring the release of all of the material from the House investigation. I would appreciate your support in this effort — I expect strong opposition. Peter DeFazio."

If you feel this way too, then join me: Make a call, drop a line, tell others to join in; contact your elected officials! After contacting Sen. Bob Packwood's office in Portland, I was told I was the only one to call to express my view about JFK and the secret files! Congress will never act if we don't make our concerns known! "...Of the people, by the people, for the people..." indeed!

Jerry Steven Long
Eugene

Protest

Well, I see in the past couple of issues of the *ODE* that an ad is running to hire gay and bisexual men, with good pay. I

didn't think the *Emerald* would do this, seeing as it is job discrimination.

At any rate, I hope the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance takes note of this, because I know they are against discrimination in hiring. Maybe they'll protest.

Ron Williams
Eugene

Protection

After witnessing the defense of Project Saferide's exclusionary policy, I couldn't help but wonder if they were fully aware of the ramifications resulting from their argument.

In case you missed it, Saferide took the stand men are responsible for causing fear in some women because of their appearance and, therefore, can be legally discriminated against because of this fact. Should we reverse that statement and come up with the perverse defence women cause lust in some men because of their appearance and, therefore, can be legally raped because of this fact? Both ideas are antiquated and need to be eliminated.

To establish the physical appearance of a person as legal justification for the emotions and actions of another is one of the things we should fight against, not merely as men and women, but as human beings united against injustices.

The other portion of their defence was that Saferide helps eliminate rape on campus, and because so few men are victims of rape, they have no place within the service. The truth is no one can say what crimes are being prevented if they do not occur. No doubt Saferide has prevented rapes, as well as assaults, muggings, and many other types of crime. Saferide, in actuality, is a vitally important service that prevents potential crime, of which potential rape is but a portion.

The right to protection from potential crime is a right for all people, not just women.

Jordan Lund
English

Emerald

Oregon Daily Emerald
P.O. BOX 3159, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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