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NORMAN MESMAN for the Emerald

Oregon Hall evacuated

An overheated freight elevator motor triggered fire alarms at Oregon Hall on Wednesday, forcing evacuation of the building and tying up business and automobile traffic Thursday afternoon.

Smoke had been coming from the basement of the building and drifted up to all four floors of the building from the elevator shaft at the rear of the building. Firefighters used fans to

ventilate the building and secured some business office records. No damage, other than to the elevator motor was reported. No injuries were reported.

Most people inside the building had no idea why the alarm sounded, but Public Safety Director Carey Drayton said the evacuation of the building went smoothly and that alarm systems worked well.



NORMAN MESMAN for the Emerald

Panel criticizes conduct code

Speakers claim clause weakens chances to prove sexual harassment

By Scot Clemens
Oregon Daily Emerald

A clause in the revised student conduct code is a huge step backward for women who are the victims of sexual harassment, according to a panel discussion on sexual harassment Thursday night in the Gerlinger Lounge.

According to members of the panel, the clause weakens the possibility that women can prove they have experienced sexual harassment.

Their frustration is heightened, however, by allegations that the clause was added after public debate on the issue had ended.

"To me it is at least unethical," said Marlene Drescher, Director of the University Office of Student Advocacy and a panelist.

The clause states that "unintentional harassment" cannot be acted upon. The victim must prove either that the perpetrator intended harassment toward the victim or that other complainants are describing the same kind of harassment.

Drescher said that she believed that there is a good chance this clause does not comply with federal or state law.

"If it gets past the Secretary of State's desk," she said, "it is begging for a lawsuit."

She blamed the clause on bad advice to President Miles Brand from Alison Baker, an assistant to the president, now on leave, and Peter Swan, legal council to the president.

Turn to **PANEL**, Page 4

Author berates news media

Coverage of Packwood, NAFTA viewed as emblematic, flawed

By Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

The news media is powered by center-right voices and limits people's imaginations, a syndicated columnist and author said Thursday at the University.

"If you believe the news media have a responsibility to facilitate democratic discourse then we're not in the ballpark," Norman Solomon warned an audience of about 100 at Columbia Hall. "We have a classic reconfiguration of a center-right debate that is supposed to cover a whole spectrum of views."

A member of Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, Solomon discussed the control of corporate powers over the mass media in a lecture promoting the release of his latest book, *Adventures in Medialand — Beyond the News, Beyond the Pundits*.

Solomon said the media withhold information and give unfair treatment to issues that benefit corporate interests.

"We are facing a twin crisis in public life and politics in the media," he said.

Solomon used media coverage of the North American Free Trade Agreement to support his belief of a concentrated media. He said the majority of news coverage focused on pro-NAFTA arguments and only 20 percent of sources in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* opposed NAFTA. Also, environmentalists and trade unions were barely represented in the debate.

Reporting of Sen. Bob Packwood's sexual misconduct allegations after his election instead of before is an example of the media withholding information until "after the fact," Solomon said. These "Now it can be told" stories are abundant in today's media, he contended.

Control of the media unfairly takes away people's imagination and their ability to make choices.

Turn to **MEDIA**, Page 4

Minority high school students learn about life at University

Day focuses on college experience

Eric Buckhalter
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

High school students from around the state spent Thursday learning about the opportunities and experiences that college life has to offer.

"Gateway to the Future," sponsored by the University's Office of Admissions and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, was a chance for the students to learn about financial aid programs and scholarships, hear University students tell of their campus life experiences and see for

themselves what it's like on a college campus.

"Hearing University students talk about their first college experiences really helps," said Isai Lemus, a senior at Bonanza High School. "They gave me an idea of what to expect in college, and a lot to think about. I won't be in high school forever."

University staff, faculty and student volunteers collaborated in the seventh annual high school visitation day for students of color, in which 201 high school students participated.

"This is a great opportunity to learn about college life and see for

Turn to **GATEWAY**, Page 4