

TESTAMENT

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Storm hits Acapulco

The Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico — Fueled by the warm El Niño ocean currents, Pauline powered towering waves — 30 feet tall on exposed coasts — that pounded Acapulco's pristine beaches to a maelstrom of trash and twisted lounge chairs.

Heavy rains turned streets into roaring rivers of debris. Water swept boulders the size of cars down the hills and flipped vehicles like toys, catching some with lights still on, their doors underwater. A coastal highway skirting the famed beaches teemed with raging water, and one man's body stuck from the mud, arms outstretched and mouth agape.

"If Pauline survives, it could become a potential threat to the Gulf of California and adjacent areas within the next day or two," hurricane center forecaster Max Mayfield said.

President Ernesto Zedillo, on a state visit to Germany, ordered army troops into stricken areas along a long stretch of coast. Troops in Humvees poured into Acapulco by the hundreds to secure areas around homes wrecked by raging floods.

TV footage showed bodies mired in the mud. Jaime Hernandez, 40, who lives in the hills near Acapulco, said police took away at least seven bodies after mud and water came rushing down before dawn.

There were no reports of casualties among American or other tourists. Many foreigners huddled in hotels while hundreds of Mexicans up and down the coast remained in emergency shelters.

"You feel bad for the people — there's so much poverty and it's the off-season and now this," said Joyce Walton, a 33-year-old tourist from Chicago.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

SASS offers support to survivors of rape

Sexual Assault Support Services will be providing several support groups this month for female survivors of sexual abuse or assault.

A drop-in group will be held on Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for survivors of sexual assault at the SASS office located at 630 Lincoln St. This group will be on-going throughout the fall.

For adults molested as children and survivors of rape and other sexual assault, closed 12-week groups will be offered at no cost to the participants. Call 484-9791 for an interview.

Also, a closed 12-week group for women who have experienced domestic violence and abuse or assault will be available. This group is funded by a federal grant from the Center for Disease Control and will be at no charge to group members.

All closed groups are limited to eight people. All facilitators are trained volunteers. For more information about any of these groups, call 484-9791.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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