



A tree fell onto the back porch roof of the Kappa Sigma fraternity house Tuesday night.

Trees

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great view of the tree falling as well.

"We were just sitting [in a friend's room] talking and watching the tree just sway back and forth," said Matt Radochonski, a junior sports marketing major. "After about three minutes, the base was spinning and I just heard it crack and boom and it tipped right over. It was scary because it could have landed on us."

In the meantime, a grand fir estimated at 130 feet fell across University Street and landed partially in the EMU Amphitheater after clipping a smaller tree and a street light.

No injuries and no damage other than to the street light were initially reported.

The fir fell amid high winds and rain that saturated the soil and, along with possible root decay, caused the collapse, said John Anthony, an arborist for the University Physical Plant. About three-tenths of an inch of rain hit Eugene between late afternoon and the early evening.

"The tree was leaning even when the wind wasn't blowing that hard," said student David Weaver, who was walking up 13th Avenue at the time. "Then I heard a crack-crunch, like fabric ripping, and it fell. I just said, 'Oh my God,' be-

cause you don't see that everyday."

Anthony said the tree would be removed through "bulldozing," or cut into smaller pieces with chain saws.

He said officials would initially clear the sidewalks and street of potential hazards before beginning full-scale removal of the tree.

Office of Public Safety officers responded initially to the collapse and roped off the area. A representative of EWEB arrived immediately to shut off the power to the street light.

The forecast for Wednesday calls for showers and continued wind gusts, but nothing approaching Tuesday's winds.

Higher ed

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Portland) to work out many of the concerns legislators and lobbyists have voiced.

"We don't know what we're going to look at when it comes back," Castillo said.

Kerans compared the proposed loan program to social welfare because those students making more will be paying more to make up for the lesser-earning graduates.

But more problematic, Kerans said, is

money spent on the loan program could help more students in need-based programs that would not increase student debt.

"What we've got is a sketch of a plan, and people are trying to flesh it out to see how it would work," Kerans said.

Castillo, who in the past has voiced support for the new OUS competitive funding model and an Oregon tuition freeze, said she is pleased with how the Legislature has

handled higher education issues this session.

"So far, I'm very optimistic that we're going to be able to help higher education," she said.

She added that her only concern is finding funding in the budget.

"In that mix," Castillo said from her Salem office, "I think we have very strong support for higher education in this building."

Shoemaker had a more positive take on the session.

"Everyone realizes this is the session where we need to make a reinvestment in higher education," she said.

Mike Hines covers the Eugene police and the Oregon Legislature for the Emerald. He can be reached via e-mail at mbines@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

News Briefs

Wilderness Week takes aim at Big Oil

Wilderness Week, a campaign by the Committee to Re-establish OSPIRG to promote student action to protect forests and wilderness areas, continues this week with two events.

The state branch of OSPIRG will release a report today documenting the oil industry's efforts to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. Students can join a peaceful protest of the oil industry today at 10 a.m. at the Chevron station on the corner of 7th Avenue and Lincoln Street.

On Thursday, the group will commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, one of the nation's worst environmental disasters. Students are welcome at the gathering outside the University Bookstore from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Black cake and black balloons, as well as information on the long-term effects of the Valdez

spill and other spills, will be available.

For more information, call Merriah Fairchild at 346-4377.

Drawing winner to get day with Frohnmayr

Students can enter their names today and Thursday in a drawing to spend a day with University President Dave Frohnmayr next term.

"A Day With the President," organized by the Student Alumni Association, offers one student an opportunity to attend a Rotary Luncheon and a speech by Frohnmayr on April 13. Frohnmayr, in turn, will attend the student's classes for the day.

The event lets the president and student learn about each other's lives, organizers said.

Students can enter their names in the free drawing at the Student Alumni Association table in the EMU lobby. The winner's name will be printed Friday in a paid advertisement in the Emerald.

Today's Events

Wednesday, March 3

■ Gary Paulson, author of books such as "Hatchet," will be holding a book signing from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Gerlinger Lounge. The event is coordinated by the University Bookstore.

■ OSPIRG is releasing a report documenting the money spent trying to open drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. "No Refuge: The Oil Industry's Million Dollar Campaign to Open Up the Arctic," will be presented at 10 a.m. at the Chevron Station on the corner of 7th Ave. and Lincoln. Contact Tami Cummings at 346-4377 for more information.

■ A memorial service for Valerie Knutson will be held in the Carson Gold Room from 7 to 9 p.m. Knutson died from a lung infection caused by leukemia on Feb. 7. She was 21.

Election

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The hearings committee would include but would not be limited to three elections board members.

The rule interpretations and committee decisions then could be appealed to the Constitution Court.

Wortman said this measure, if passed, would help streamline the grievance process. Any grievances filed would be acted upon while the elections are underway.

Grievances filed against parties involved with the elections sometimes have gone without review or reprimand until the elections were over.

After last spring's general election, official confirmation of the election's outcome came weeks later, after grievances were heard.

The other measure that was approved by the Constitution Court to appear on the ballot was removed by the committee Monday.

The ballot measure was intended to gauge the student interest in boycotting Gardenburger products from University Housing dining hall menus. ASUO Elections

Special Election

- Today and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- In the EMU Breezeway outside of the ASUO office, EMU Suite 4
- University student identification necessary to vote

Coordinator Taylor Sturges said that the committee felt that because of the small size of the election, the measure would not get the attention it deserves.

The measure, submitted by Senator Spencer Hamlin and sponsored by MEChA, will be placed on the spring general election ballot.

"Until then, we will continue our educational campaign in order to bring a higher level of consciousness to campus about this issue and hope that the result will be a positive dialogue about human rights and support of farmworkers," Hamlin said.

The ASUO Special Elections Voter's Guide is available in the ASUO office in Suite 4 of the EMU.

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