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Fire

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the dumbwaiter shaft. The water hit the elevator motor causing it to short out.

Custodial staff cleaning the building called campus public safety after noticing smoke emanating from the service elevator.

The electrical short produced some smoke, but there wasn't any damage other than to the motor, said Bruce Cummings, a lieutenant with the Eugene Fire Department.

"We don't know if the water caused it, or if it just burned out all of the sudden, by itself," he said.

Peace Corps

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fairs Specialist at the Corps' Seattle regional office, insisted that the University is still consistent in its production as a top recruiter.

"The U of O might have slipped a bit this year, but the number of U of O alumni remains about the same," she said. "There are 56 alumni serving overseas presently compared to last year's 58."

The winter term deadline for volunteering is today.

In a tiny room filled with stacks of application forms, guidelines and backgrounders, Fred Jarman, the University's Peace Corps representative, was as busy as always meeting students and giving them last minute advice and well-wishes. According to Jarman, the Corps is still the No. 1 recruiter on campus.

"The Peace Corps has always been very popular with students, and there's still a high demand for volunteers," he said.

Sharing Jarman's sentiments, Semmler pointed out that the University's slight slip doesn't mean

As emergency personnel swarmed around the area, workers remodeling the deck and ramps on the west side of the house remained unfazed.

"I'm not too concerned — I just want to get this job done," said Steve Parker, a carpenter with University facilities services. "From what I've heard, it seemed like it was pretty contained."

Many passersby wondered why so many emergency vehicles were on campus because there wasn't a fire and there were no injuries. But fire and public safety officials said the number of vehicles that responded was normal.

"They've got to make sure, with

so many people around, that everyone stays safe," said Terry Gaeta, a campus public safety officer at the scene. "Until they can be sure, they've got to cover their bases."

Trubia said he would never hesitate to call the fire department. A fire "could happen anywhere, at anytime, and the response would have been the same," he said.

"It's not overkill," he said. "I've been doing this for a long time, and I've seen buildings like the Collier House catch fire very quickly. It's very good to have all this apparatus here to be safe."

Bryan Dixon and Scott Pesznecker contributed to this story.

that it's either stricter on new applicants or is less popular with students. In addition, Jarman defined the role of the Corps as an efficient channel provider that links students to services demanded.

"As long as there's a demand for volunteers, more students will be needed," he said.

The Corps, with a reputation as one of the biggest volunteer organizations in the world for the last 39 years, is, on a bigger scale, planning to recruit more volunteers this year. The new recruitment drive has been employed to expand the number of volunteers to 10,000 during the next few years.

According to Jarman, the volunteers perform their tasks in host countries by adapting to the culture and helping the locals sustain themselves.

"It's a bottom up process and it's all about initiation and the transfer of skills," he said. "Hence, volunteers will find a lot of new skills and ideas that they can transfer and further develop with the locals."

Graduate student Hans Nordstrom, 25, had similar experiences when he was volunteering in

Ghana, West Africa, in 1996. In relation to demand for more volunteers, Nordstrom said his experiences depict that there will always be a high need for introducing new skills and improving the living conditions.

"There's always something productive to do," Nordstrom said. "After being in Navrongo, Ghana, for a while, I had to leave for another place because the school that I was assigned to employed new local teachers. I was given another assignment soon after."

Other than official assignments, Nordstrom said he believes that the entire experience further empowered him to start something useful on his own. While he was there, he started a bee-keeping project that was maintained by the locals interested in the honey production process.

Moreover, Jarman, who previously volunteered in Mauritania, West Africa, decided to extend his service beyond the conventional two years because he was able to initiate a water project in Chad, Central Africa.



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