

# An independent newspaper Oregon Daily Emerald



## 'Bri'-nging down the house

Oregon senior Brienne Meharry helps keep her team loose amid the adversity. **PAGE 11**

## Political countering

Grievances are filed against ASUO Executive hopefuls Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook. **PAGE 3**

WEATHER  
TODAY



MOSTLY CLOUDY

high 51, low 40

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

# Northwest feels the shake of Seattle's quake

By Luis Cabrera  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A powerful earthquake rocked the Northwest on Wednesday, shattering windows, showering bricks onto sidewalks and sending terrified crowds running into the streets of Seattle and Portland, Ore.

Despite the 6.8-magnitude, damage and injuries were relatively minor, which experts attributed to the quake's depth. About 75 people were treated at hospitals in Seattle and Olympia, none of them for critical injuries.

Still, the quake temporarily shut down the Seattle airport, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people, cracked the dome atop the state Capitol in Olympia and briefly trapped about 30 people atop a swaying Space Needle, 605 feet above the city.

"Everyone was panicked," said Paulette DeRooy, who scrambled onto a fire escape in a Seattle office building.

The quake hit at 10:54 a.m. and was centered 35 miles southwest of Seattle, according to the National Earthquake In-

formation Center in Golden, Colo. It was the strongest to hit the Washington state in 52 years.

Experts said its depth — in a fault about 30 miles underground — spared the Northwest catastrophic damage. Officials said millions of dollars spent to remodel buildings and highways to protect against earthquakes had paid off: Damage could run into the billions, but that was considered light in a highly developed area with more than 3 million residents.

In contrast, the magnitude-6.7 Northridge quake in Los Angeles in 1994 struck just 11 miles underground. It caused an estimated \$40 billion in damage and killed 72 people.

The Northwest quake was felt in Vancouver and other parts of British Columbia and in southern Oregon, 300 miles away. Buildings in downtown Portland, 140 miles from the epicenter, swayed for nearly a half-minute and crowds gathered on street corners to talk about the quake.

Officials evacuated the city's Mult-

nomah County Courthouse, which has not had a major retrofitting for earthquakes.

"I thought, 'If this building goes, we're doomed.' I didn't know what to do. Do I hide under my desk or what?" said Dee Stewart, 46, a judicial assistant who works on the fifth floor.

Of the 27 people treated at Seattle's Harborview Medical Center, at least three had serious injuries, a spokeswoman said. Authorities said two had been struck by falling debris.

Two Olympia hospitals treated a total of 49 people, all with minor injuries, except for two who suffered broken bones.

President Bush asked the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Joe Allbaugh, to travel to Seattle to offer help.

"Our prayers are with those who were injured and their families and with the many thousands of people whose lives have been disrupted," Bush said.

Washington Gov. Gary Locke, who said books and pictures were knocked off the

Turn to **Quake**, page 4

■ There was no damage, but Eugeniens asked each other all afternoon, "Did you feel the earthquake this morning?"

By Andrew Adams and Darren Freeman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene trembled and City Hall was evacuated Wednesday morning while an earthquake in northwest Washington sent bricks falling to the streets of Seattle, cracked a column in the state's capitol dome in Olympia and left thousands of Washington residents without power.

On campus, several buildings, including Johnson Hall and PLC were rocking, but none received damage and no one was injured.

At 10:55 a.m., the earthquake, centered in Olympia, Wash., with a magnitude of 6.8, sent shocks through the Pacific Northwest, compelling the city manager's office to evacuate City Hall.

In her office on the ninth floor of PLC, political science assistant professor Julie Novkov experienced the earthquake at the top of the tallest building on campus, which is also one of the tallest in Eugene.

She said she noticed her computer monitor starting to shake, and when she realized what was happening, she headed for the stairs.

"I was just processing the fact that this was an earth-

Turn to **Shake**, page 4



Emerald

Vans ferry food staples from the Food for Lane County warehouse on Bailey Hill Road to dispatch sites all around Eugene for those in need.

# Emergency food need on the rise

■ Lane County gave out nearly 500,000 food box donations last year, up 15 percent from 2000

By Lauren Saxton  
for the Emerald

Reaching deep into the back of her small cupboard, Liz Allen shifts cans of pinto beans and boxes of macaroni and cheese, producing the coveted gem she had stashed for dinner: a box of Thai curry rice pilaf.

She sifts through a sink full of dishes, locates a small pan and moves toward the refrigerator. A dog wanders in and looks at her, then another arrives. It seems everyone is hungry.

"We have no butter," she says. She turns to her roommate from the open refrigerator door, then back to the directions on the box of rice. "Do you think I

could use yogurt instead?"

In the house she shares with five roommates and two dogs, creativity is a necessity. So is being sparse with her resources.

Allen, a 19-year-old Lane Community College student, lives in one of 1,800 households that will wait in line this month at the Catholic Community Services emergency food pantry at 1070 W. Sixth Ave. Just a mile from campus, it is worlds away from the lines at Holy Cow Cafe in the EMU or Caspian Mediterranean Cafe on 13th Avenue.

Last year, 463,842 people in the state received emergency food boxes. This number is up 15 percent from the year before, and according to the Oregon Food Bank, the number is rising. In response to the hunger problem Oregon encounters, the bank held a food drive,

which ends today.

The University was involved with the drive, placing barrels for non-perishable food donations in buildings around campus, such as the physics department office in Willamette Hall and the journalism department office in Allen Hall.

"The University is one of the biggest sources for food donation," said Joe Softich, food program manager for the Catholic Community Services. "Restaurants, hospitals and the University donate food to the Food for Lane County warehouse, then Food for Lane County brings it to us."

The Carson and University Inn dining facilities are two of the food donors at the University. Unused food is sent to the warehouse on Bailey Hill Road,

Turn to **Food**, page 3

# Panels to highlight annual conference

■ This year's conference will tackle environmental issues in more than 100 panel discussions over the weekend

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Over 3,000 students, attorneys, scientists and citizens have begun to arrive on campus for the 19th annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, beginning today and ending March 4.

Jeff Adams, law student and conference organizer, said issues relating to logging, activism, toxic pollutants and labor relations are just a few of the many that will be discussed at the conference.

"It really hits on so many issues that affect almost everyone's life," he said.

More than 100 panel discussions are planned, Adams said. The topics were chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis to prevent any bias in preference, he said.

The organizers said they expect visitors from more than 30 countries to attend, and one from as far away as Madagascar. Law student Courtney Brown, one of last year's organizers, said the conference is the largest and oldest environmental gathering in the nation.

Some of the speakers this year include Ward Churchill, associate professor at the University of Colorado, Bill Gould, labor law expert and Stanford professor, and Palo Zilincik, co-founder of Slovakia's Center for Environmental Public Advocacy.

"We've got a tremendous mix of speakers," law student and organizer Erin Landis said. "Some of them are pretty controversial so I wouldn't be disappointed if no one heckled them but I kind of almost expect it to happen."

Last year proved that the conference can have heated discussions. During what is now being referred to as the "Hill Incident," Julia Butterfly Hill, forest activist and tree sitter, was heckled while delivering one of her speeches.

Hill lived for two years on a 200-foot-tall ancient redwood tree in northern California before coming down in exchange for an agreement by Pacific Lumber Company, the area's landowner, to save the area and \$50,000 donated toward university science research. Some in attendance

Turn to **Environment**, page 4