Frohnmayer heads north despite earthquake



Kevin Eckert picks up documents in his architecture studio, located on First Avenue, Thursday morning in downtown Seattle. Eckert lost a number of sketches and a computer during the earthquake, as well as a wall to his office.

■ The University president opted not to change his plans to speak to prospective students in Seattle

By Andrew Adams

When there's a group of students thinking about attending the University, there's nothing, not even an earthquake, that can stop President Dave Frohnmayer from making them a sales pitch for coming to Eugene.

'We have enough pioneer spirit that a little natural disaster won't stop us," Frohnmayer said after returning from a quick trip to the Seattle area to speak to a group of more than 125 students interested in attending the University.

After the magnitude-6.8 earthquake that rocked the Seattle area on Wednesday, Frohnmayer had thought about canceling the trip. But when he learned there was space in a van driven by Director of Admissions Martha Pitts, who was also attending the meeting, there was a quick change of plans, and he headed for Seattle

"We decided to jump in the van ... to be quite honest, it was rather an uneventful trip," said Janet Fratella, the director of outreach projects who also was on the trip to Seattle.

While the University representatives did not go into downtown Seattle and therefore did not see any earthquake damage, they did hear all about the quake.

Frohnmayer said every family came into the meeting at the Belleveue Club with its own "tale of excitement about the day," but only a few families invited to the event could not attend because of the quake. He said he expected 80 to 90 percent of the students to attend the University.

Pitts said the University holds similar meetings in areas that generate large numbers of new students. One other meeting is scheduled for the Bend area, and two more will soon be held in Portland, she said.

Two seniors, Grant Bloom and Matt Glem, also attended the meeting to give the prospective students a better idea about what University life is like. Fratella said they provided valuable insights.

"They were characters and good sports, and I think the crowd really liked hearing from them," she said.

Pitts also commented on the students' good nature, but added that Frohnmayer was also a good sport with the day's hectic traveling.

Frohnmayer admitted that not everything went smoothly. He said his hotel room didn't have hot water, but he took it stride.

'It builds character to be in a cold-water suite," he said.

Seattle quake

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inspection at least through the evening rush hour an inconvenience for commuters, as were other road closures around the region.

In Olympia, several streets were blocked off as hard-hat crews began clearing away rubble and preparing to shore up damaged buildings. The Capitol campus remained closed, idling 10,000 workers — most of them until Monday, when officials hope to have most of the buildings inspected and cleaned.

After huddling with state engineers, legislative leaders said they won't know until Friday whether the Capitol itself, which sustained a visible crack behind pillars supporting its heavy dome, can be used. They were scouting other sites in case the Legislature has to relocate for the rest of the session.

Most of the Seattle damage was confined to individual buildings. On Thursday the old Interurban Building near Pioneer Square was enclosed with scaffolding to prevent harm to passersby from bricks that continued to peel off the struc-

Locke said damage estimates are expected to rise when calculating in property damage with the economic impact of lost wages and closed businesses

But the millions of dollars spent to stabilize the region's roads and buildings over the past decade apparently paid off. There was no widespread structural damage, despite the rubble and broken glass.

A \$65 million retrofitting program that has firmed up more than 300 bridges since 1990 has "paid for itself," said Ed Henley, a state bridge management engineer.

"Washington was prepared and they've done a good job handling this," Allbaugh said. "Federal assets are ready, based on Governor Locke's request."

Most Seattle businesses and schools were open Thursday, though many students stayed home in Thurston County, which surrounds Olympia.

Air traffic controllers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport worked out of a trailer Thursday because of damage to the control tower. The airport was closed for several hours Wednesday.

Islamic Awareness Week

MONDAY, MARCH 5TH

What do you really know about Islam?

Open panel discussion on the essence of Islam EMU Fir Room, 5:00

TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH

Lecture by a Chinese scholar

Discussing Islam in China, Br. Abrahim Gilbert 138; 6:00

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7TH

Islam in America

Discussion given by a panel of **UO** students EMU Fir Room, 5:00

THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH

Islamic Civilization

Lecture given by Professor Johnathan Katz, OSU History Department, Gilbert 138, 6:30

FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH

Debunking the myths about women & Islam

From the perspective of an African-American educator and community activist, Sr. Nadira (co-founder of the Islamic School of the Muslim Educational Trust) Ben Linder Room, 6:00

For more information, please contact the MSA at 346-3798 or at asuomsa@gladstone.uoregon.edu