

# Reactions

continued from page 1

saw the police. He later received an e-mail from Halverson about what had happened.

But he said he is not worried that the anthrax threat has reached the West Coast or the University campus.

"It sounded like a cheap prank," he said. "I think someone is just piggy-backing on everyone's fears. ... But it didn't sound like people were that worried. Everyone I talked to was pretty much like, 'Oh well, if we got it, we'd take the antibiotics.'"

Adam Clausen, a graduate student who tutors physics lab sessions, was also in Willamette Hall during the time of the incident.

But he said the anthrax "scare" has gotten weary, and not even a campus threat fazed him.

"I wasn't really surprised," he said. "It mostly just made me tired to think about it. What's the point of doing something like this?... It's gotten so tiring."

He added that even if the threat ends up being credible, the situation does not exactly leave him in shock.

"It's not like I thought, 'Oh man, I almost just died,'" he said.

Beata Mostafavi is the student activities editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at beatamostafavi@dailymerald.com.



A group of HazMat workers takes a break shortly after 4 p.m. Thursday as the Eugene Police Department clears Willamette Hall.

Jonathan House Emerald

# Hospitalization

continued from page 1

At 5:30 p.m., members of the Hazardous Materials response team arrived outside the emergency room as part of a medical follow-up effort.

Two Eugene Fire Department trucks and another vehicle parked just outside the emergency room. Hospital security guards were posted at all entrances to the hospital, and patients and staff were allowed to enter only through the emergency room entrance on the building's north side.

"We got dispatched to the University of Oregon this afternoon because of the letter," a 14-year-veteran of the Eugene Fire Department, who would identify himself only as Andy, said. "We were ordered by the state. This is just a follow up."

The patient treated for exposure to the unknown substance was declared safe and was released at 6 p.m., officials said. The emergency room then reopened.

The biological agent incident is the second in three weeks at McKenzie-Willamette Hospital. On Oct. 31, a man admitted a baby with flu-like symptoms and expressed concern that the child had been exposed to anthrax. Results were negative, a hospital official said.

Eric Martin is a higher education reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at ericmartin@dailymerald.com.

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# HazMat

continued from page 1

"There is an ongoing investigation," FBI public relations coordinator Beth Anne Steele said. But Steele was quick to point out that "there has been no evidence of a credible threat in Oregon since Sept. 11.

"If we discover that it is anthrax, we'll make a public announcement immediately."

At 4:15 p.m., a University employee was admitted to McKenzie-Willamette Hospital in Springfield. The man said he feared he had been exposed to the substance while handling the letter. He was treated and discharged from the hospital at 6 p.m.

After the FBI and EPD had collected evidence and samples of the substance for testing, the HazMat team began a decontamination of Willamette Hall, a process that involves cleaning potentially contaminated surfaces with bleach.

Joan Saylor, an administrative lieutenant with DPS, said the situation is under control and there is no threat to students. University Health Center director Dr. Gerald Fleischli said the area of exposure was contained quickly enough that people who may have been in Willamette Hall don't need to worry about having been exposed.

"The health risk is pretty minimal at this point," Fleischli said. "The people who may have been exposed — the police, the people in the office, the firefighters — have been taken care of."

University officials said there is no threat to the campus mail system because the letter was delivered directly to Willamette Hall by the U.S. Postal Service. The building, which houses the physics and general science departments, was never entirely closed and was not evacuated; however, Crasemann and his assistant were sent home. Other employees in the building were told they were free to go home if they wished.

Saylor said two student workers were present in a room adjacent to Crasemann's office when police ar-

# Symptoms and effects

After the one-to-seven day incubation period, the onset of the symptoms of anthrax inhalation is gradual.

Possible symptoms from exposure include:

- Fever
- Malaise
- Fatigue
- Cough
- Mild chest discomfort followed by severe respiratory distress

More severe symptoms can progress rapidly to respiratory distress and shock. Death usually occurs within 24 hours of the onset of the severe symptoms.

SOURCE: FBI

rived on the scene. Police feared the two might have been exposed to the substance when they entered Crasemann's office during the morning. The students were decontaminated by the HazMat team and released.

Crasemann said he had no idea why the letter had been sent to him, but joked that as editor of Physical Review A, a monthly physics journal published by the American Physical Society, he often has to reject manuscripts submitted by authors from around the world.

"There are a bunch of unhappy authors around the world," he said, adding that the postmark looked genuine to him. "They write angry letters, but I don't know that anyone would go this far." Saylor said DPS has been contacted four to six times by people with concerns relating to anthrax. Officers were dispatched in two of those instances, but both were found to be false alarms. One of the cases was found to be nothing more than a crushed Tic-Tac.

The FBI said that it will take about 72 hours to test the substance taken from Willamette Hall for biological agents. In the meantime, the University has established a hotline, 346-5692, which will be updated regularly as information becomes available.

Emerald staff members Eric Martin, John Liebhardt and Michael Kleckner contributed to this report.

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