

Businesses seek recompense

Insurance companies are processing claims for many who received wind storm damage

By Brook Reinhard
Oregon Daily Emerald

Local businesses that lost power last weekend after Thursday's violent wind storm started picking up the pieces as best they could. Most were open for business, but owners have started to question who will pay for the revenue lost because of the storm.

House of Records music store on 13th Avenue lost its power when a tree crashed through its roof and severed the power line running overhead. The Eugene Water and Electric Board had the store's power restored Sunday, and the gaping hole in its roof has been patched with tarps, but manager Raenie Kane wants to know who will pay for the estimated \$6,000 worth of business she lost.

"We lost power because the tree that hit the building snagged a power line," she said. "How often do we get a freak windstorm like that?"

Insurance companies are scrambling to process the claims resulting from the windstorm. State Farm Insurance spokesman Jeff Aeschliman said a national team has been assembled just to work on the claims, which they have been processing at a break-neck speed.

With a typical business package policy, "Most the damages would be covered," Aeschliman said. He added that every claim is handled individually. While a tree crashing into the roof would most likely be fully covered, "In general, if there's no physical damage, the loss of power isn't covered," he said.

Farmers Insurance Group Branch Supervisor Steve Hendrickson said his company is also taking the claims seriously.

"Our adjusters are the 'storm troopers.' They go around from storm to storm," he said.

The owners of Pegasus Smokehouse Pizza are welcoming the extra help. Their basement-level bar flooded when an electric pump failed to operate and stop water from flooding the basement floor.

The business had no power until late Sunday afternoon, and co-owner Paul Reader said the pizza place lost \$10,000 of business during the weekend.

Reader and his wife, Lori, also a co-owner of Pegasus, believe EWEB was negligent in returning power promptly to his business and the surrounding campus area, and is planning to sue the utility for out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the outage.

EWEB spokesman Lance Robertson said he's surprised the restaurant is suing the utility.

"It's the first I've heard of it," he said. "I'm not sure what grounds they would sue us on."

EWEB's six crews and eight additional crews from Portland worked 18-hour shifts over the weekend, clearing the more than 300 fallen trees littering the city and replacing the 60 utility poles that were destroyed by the storm.

"This is probably the worst storm we've had in years," Robertson said.

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ASUO

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developing a campus-wide leadership development program. We're going to be working on housing standards. Instead of trying to get across the entire housing code as an all-or-nothing sort of deal, we're going to implement housing standards — passing one piece of legislation at a time — that way we see improvements continually.

Q: How do you define diversity? And how do you plan to bring together the diverse voices on campus?

A: To us, (diversity) is just the recognition — and acceptance is the biggest part — of different human attributes and making sure that there's a presence for each of those. That can be defined by age, gender, ability, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, race, economic background and education level.

Q: If two student groups were at odds with each other, how would you resolve the conflict?

A: It depends on the nature of the

conflict. If there were two student groups at odds with each other over more of a belief issue, I think the only way to work on that would be to create a safe and open forum so that people from within the groups could try to come to a compromise.

Q: If you could change one thing about the University instantly, what would it be?

A: We would like 100 percent voter turnout. Not that necessarily there's a lot of apathy, but there's a lot of people who are just unaware of what's going on.

Q: How would you do things differently than the current ASUO Executive?

A: When new leaders take their position, a lot of times there's a big tendency to completely reinvent the wheel and that is something that we don't want to do. We're not going to come and recreate everything they've done. We're going to add to that and hopefully be more effective as a result.

E-mail student activities editor Kara Cogswell at karacogswell@dailyemerald.com.

PFC

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"It's not really fair to all the groups that came before SIS. We need to continue to be consistent."

PFC decided to drop the Minority Law Students Association's budget to equal to what it received for 2001-02 — \$1,616. The Native American Student Union received a decrease of \$50 for a new budget of \$19,659. The Oregon Marine Student Association's budget was also reduced, from \$4,795 to \$3,296. PERMIAS's budget was decreased from \$5,433 to \$4,290.

PFC decided not to decrease the Oregon Marching Band's budget of \$104,841. PFC members said OMB had spent money well in previous years.

PFC will hold another meeting Thursday at 8:30 a.m. to decide on further budget recall action.

E-mail reporter Diane Huber at dianehuber@dailyemerald.com.



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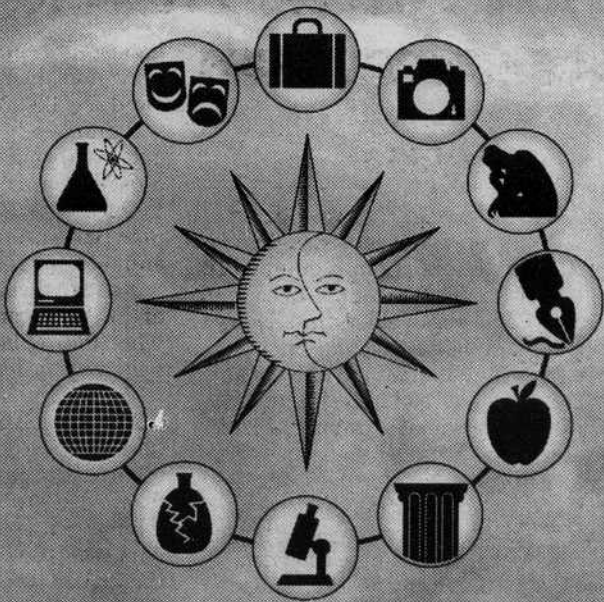
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