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Relief: Campus groups rally for tsunami victim support

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"Campus support for this is phenomenal," Ritley said. "People are really generous. They'll walk up and drop \$20 without any thought."

In an OSPIRG meeting Tuesday night, University pre-business administration student Susan Woodard suggested a "concentrated day of tsunami relief" on Jan. 18 for OSPIRG to raise more funds to donate to Oxfam, Ritley said.

"We'd like to put stations throughout campus where people throughout the day can put in as much or as little as they see fit," Ritley said. "One of the ideas is to have it be kind of a 'skip-your-coffee' day where the money you would normally spend on a latte or something, you'd actually put that money in a jar to go toward disaster relief."

Ritley said her group still needs to contact University administrators to get their "encouragement and support," but was confident they would "recognize how crucial this is and how great the need is right now."

OSPIRG also plans to contact University Housing to see if students' excess meal points at the end of the week could be donated to the disaster relief.

Sat Pavan Khalsa is a local woman who was raised in India and is heading up a growing group of volunteers that gathered Monday evening at her south Eugene home to begin coordinating efforts to host a fundraising event.

"When something like this hits, we really need to look at ourselves as human beings and put aside differences," Khalsa said. "We just need to help our brothers and sisters and form a united group now."

At Monday's meeting, about 20 volunteers decided to host a benefit dinner with entertainment and a silent auction. The relief group, which has received e-mails from 30 to 40 interested volunteers, is researching different charities that will offer long-term relief to tsunami-ravaged areas by providing health care, housing and schooling support.

Those at the meeting divided into three smaller groups to organize the different facets of the fundraising event. One group is finding a location for the event, a second group is researching charities and the third group is contacting

people to help donate to the event.

A few Indian restaurants from the Eugene area have agreed to cater the dinner. The group is talking to different artists to donate work for the silent auction as well as talking to local businesses to donate goods and services.

"There will be food, entertainment, a raffle, the silent auction and a slide show of the disaster area to show people what their money will be helping," Khalsa said.

Leslie Brockelbank, who is volunteering with the group, said students can make the event a huge success.

"The most powerful tool is word of mouth and just passing information along," Brockelbank said. "We are putting this fundraiser together quickly, and every person will help."

Brockelbank chose to be a part of the Eugene Tsunami Relief Fund because it is the first local group that she heard of, but she was attracted to the group because of the cultural base and the diversity the group offers.

"There is a lot of diversity, but many people have Indian connections," Brockelbank said. "It makes it much more specific about where the money goes. It's neat to do this with a group that really cares about a particular place."

After a meeting Tuesday night, the ASUO wants to collect funds for tsunami victims by organizing a candlelight vigil in the EMU Amphitheater, International Student Advocate Laila Taraghi said. At the vigil, set for the evening of Jan. 14, students could both show solidarity and give donations, Taraghi said.

Some volunteers were compelled to get involved for more personal reasons.

Volunteer Michael Carrigan, who is helping with the group organized by Khalsa, said he has traveled extensively through the areas affected by the tsunami, which helped motivate him to get involved.

"I have been to the areas that are devastated," Carrigan said. "I want to give something back to the people who have given so much to me."

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Wave of assistance

Charity officials expect donations for tsunami victims to stream in with the biggest recipient so far being the American Red Cross. As of Tuesday its pledged donations totaled \$92 million.

Tsunami aid raised by some top American relief organizations

In millions	
American Red Cross	\$92
Doctors Without Borders	20
UNICEF	20
Catholic Relief Services	15
Oxfam America	15
World Vision USA	15
Save the Children	15
CARE USA	11
International Rescue Committee	2

Total aid raised by American relief organizations

U.S. fund	
About \$2.3 billion	
So far more than \$200 million	
Sept. 11, 2001	Tsunami

SOURCES: American Red Cross; Association of Fundraising Professionals; Chronicle of Philanthropy

Professor: Tsunami unlikely in Oregon coast's near future

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and Mineral Industries, said.

"The last tsunami Oregon suffered occurred in 1700 when the populace of Oregon consisted of tribes," Roddey said.

He added that scientists have not been able to find clear records of the magnitude of damage and any death tolls as a result of the deadly wave besides village ruins, but the fragmented records they do have come from oral history passed down by those tribes and from records in Japan, where the country experienced the catastrophic tsunami hours later.

Roddey said for a tsunami to occur, it has to be offshore and happen on the seafloor — there has to be a very large earthquake (at least 7 magnitude) or it can also be an underwater landslide. The most common tsunami, he said, is an underwater earthquake that displaces the sea floor.

Oregon's timeline is marked by dozens of tsunamis that have been recorded in the 1,500 years scientists have been able to research, Roddey said. While there is no consistent pattern, the average interval between these tsunamis — which can reach the 9.0 magnitude earthquake seen in the Asian tsunami on Dec. 26 — is 400 to 600

years, with the longest interval lasting 1,000 years, Weldon said.

What if a tsunami were to strike today?

"The problem in Oregon is its coastal estuaries," Weldon said, referring to towns and cities close to the ocean, such as Florence, that are without the benefit of rocky cliffs to protect them. "Florence and other towns have a risk associated with tsunamis. Properly warned, people can get away from a tsunami."

The tsunami warnings would come first with an earthquake that would cause considerable damage, leveling buildings and destroying cars and even bridges. Injured Oregonians and those who did not escape in time would find an enemy in the inaccessibility the earthquake and tsunami would cause, isolating townspeople from the mainland, Weldon said.

"Many of the communities will be isolated, but they have to be prepared to take care of themselves and neighbors," said Weldon. "A very minimal protection is all that's needed until a lifeline is connected."

Both Weldon and Roddey recommend food, water and medicine kits that can last up to a week as precautionary measures.

Tsunamis that have affected Oregon have not

always been caused by Juanda Fuca-North American plate collision. The most recent tsunami Oregon suffered came from Alaska, known as the Good Friday Alaska Earthquake, in 1964.

"The Good Friday Alaska Earthquake caused a tsunami that washed down the coast," Weldon said. "(The tsunami) killed four people in the Oregon coast."

Tsunamis from even farther away could cause damage. Roddey said that had the Southeast Asian tsunami not been directed toward the Indian Ocean and instead toward the Pacific, the damage could go as far as the United States coast. In those cases, people living on the coast would have hours of preparation.

"Tsunamis cross entire ocean basins," Weldon said. "If something happened in the Philippines, we'd have 10 hours of warning."

But the chance of a tsunami hitting Oregon any time in the near future is minimal, according to the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, which estimates between 10 and 20 percent probability of a tsunami hitting Oregon in the next 50 years.

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