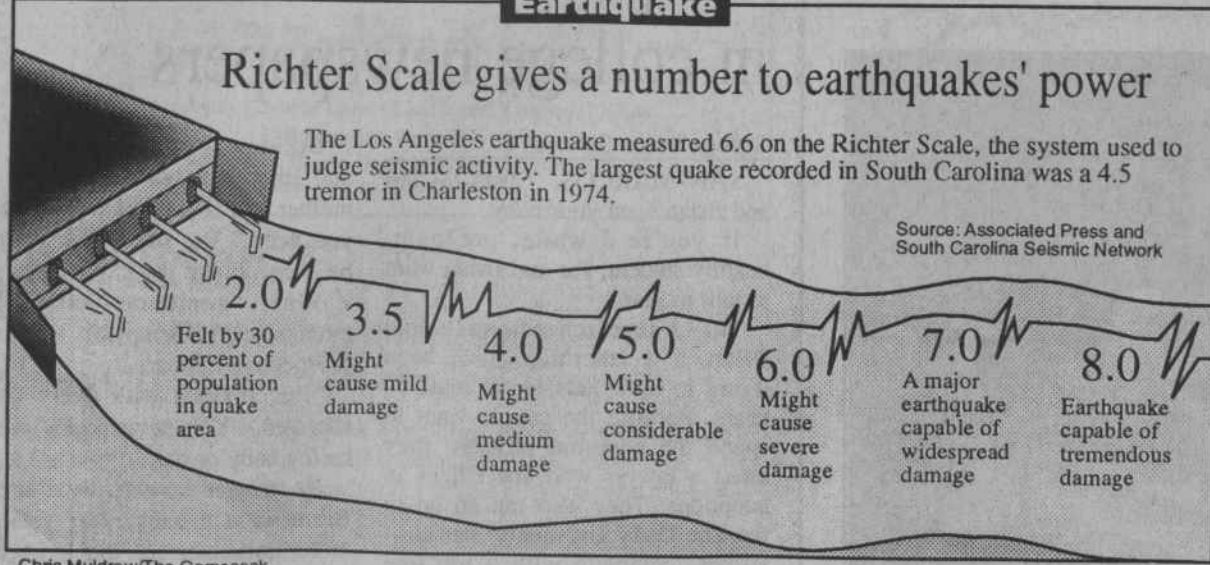


Earthquake

Richter Scale gives a number to earthquakes' power

The Los Angeles earthquake measured 6.6 on the Richter Scale, the system used to judge seismic activity. The largest quake recorded in South Carolina was a 4.5 tremor in Charleston in 1974.



Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

QUAKE Continued from page 1

Eater, the long holiday helped keep the situation under control.

"A lot of our students went away for the weekend," she said. "More people would have led to more confusion. It would have been more difficult to (check) if everyone was OK."

Most local businesses kept their doors locked because of the blackout. However, some stores and restaurants were able to overcome the setback and provide Isla Vistans with supplies and food.

"We sold out of batteries and candles real quick," Dave's Market Manager Scott Buchanan said. "Basically, it was nothing different than the fire last year. When the power went out, we just added everything up on calculators."

Stephanie Berlep, also a manager at Dave's Market, said a line started to form outside the store at about 8 a.m. and thinned out at 6 p.m.

According to Berlep, many customers bought ice and Top Ramen. However, to her surprise, not much water or canned goods were purchased.

At Sam's to Go, the line for sandwiches stretched to the sidewalk, Manager Mike Ray said.

"We had no problem because the owner found a way to get into our cash register, and basically all of our sandwiches are cold," he said.

Despite the hubbub, some people weren't affected by the quake.

"I slept through it, and I found out about it this morning," Nick Feenburg said. "I was pretty wasted."

Students tell of first quake experience

By CHRIS GEORGE
Staff Writer
UC-Santa Barbara Daily Nexus

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — While many state residents take earthquake tremors in stride, some UCSB students found Monday morning's jolt a rude awakening as they rode out their first seismic wave.

Undeclared major Jack Zedlitz, who hails from Oklahoma City, Okla., initially found the experience exhilarating.

"At first, I was excited because I was waiting to feel one," he said.

However, Zedlitz's mood was dampened during the day as news of destruction was broadcast over every mass media outlet.

"This morning, I went downstairs and listened to the radio," he

said. "I came back upstairs and felt another aftershock. I started to think about the death and destruction, and I was saddened. I gained respect for the forces that we have no control over."

Marine biology major Ben Cavara, who was left undisturbed until noon, found the quake less awe-inspiring.

"I slept through the main one," he said. "Wasn't too bad. I didn't even know there was an earthquake."

The Minnesota resident did, however, notice the rumblings that followed the initial quake.

"(The aftershocks) were rather small," Cavara said. "I'm not too worried about it. I just kind of go with it."

Cavara spoke with his parents

Monday afternoon. He said they were confident knowing he wasn't in danger.

"They're not worrying," Cavara said. "Oh, he's going to get into an earthquake."

Freshman Misty Hubbard found her first experience with California's faults a bit more moving.

"I've never been through one before," she said. "I was scared."

The Sacramento, Calif., resident was sleeping in her sixth-floor San Miguel dorm room when the 4:31 a.m. (7:31 a.m. EST) quake struck.

"My bed was lifted, and it felt like someone was shaking the bed back and forth against the wall," Hubbard said. "It was the weirdest thing I've ever experienced."

USC to buy coastal property for conservation, research

By KEITH BOUDREAUX
Staff Writer

USC — A 2,000-acre tract of coastal property, which USC bid for and won in December, will be conserved and used for research and educational purposes.

USC bid \$10.5 million for the Georgetown County property, all of which came from private investors and donors, said James Rex, vice president of University Advancement.

"One of the key points that we want to try to get across is that the dollars for the acquisition of the property and for the maintenance of and activities on the property will not come from state appropriated money," Rex said. The deal will be finalized in early March, he said.

Rex said 500 to 600 acres will be developed into residential homesites. USC will receive payment for allowing development on the land.

"It (the money from development) will be an initial commitment of somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2 million for an endowment," Rex said.

The endowment money from the development will be used only to maintain the tract and fund programs taking place on the property, he said.

"These private dollars are being provided solely for the purpose of this initiative and would not come to the university foundation for any other purpose," Rex said.

The purchase of the tract should help to improve and supplement many of USC's natural science programs. USC's marine science program, ranked fourth in the nation, stands to benefit greatly.

"We'll take an already nationally ranked program and, with the addition of sites like this, be able to be a world-class institution in the area of environmental science," Rex said.

USC's Baruch Institute for Biology and Coastal Research will benefit as well.

"It will enable us to enlarge and enrich our current program by allowing us to have access to diverse coastal habitats to study," said John Vernberg, director of the Baruch Institute.

In addition to supplementing USC's educational programs, the university will use the tract in conjunction with the S.C. public school system to enhance elementary and secondary level science programs.

"This will enable us to reach out and have a greater impact on not only college students, but on K through 12 students as well," Vernberg said.

New registration system completes first run

By WENDY HUDSON
Assistant News Editor

USC — The new fee payment and registration system successfully completed its first run Monday, according to Joe Taylor, director of financial services and bursar for the university.

"This was one of the better registrations I can remember doing for 21 years, not counting the years I was here as an undergraduate," Taylor said. "The crowds were smaller this year than in the past."

"We were able to apply the financial aid directly and print a balance check on the spot. No other university in the country is doing that to my knowledge."

This semester, financial aid and scholarship money were deducted from students' bills before the bills were mailed. However, some students were confused because they had to sign their Stafford and student loan checks before picking up their bills at the Coliseum.

"I didn't know you had to pick

up your check before you got a copy of your bill," fashion merchandising senior Stephanie Tucker said. "I then had to go back to the bill line. If I had known ahead of time, it would have been easier."

Taylor agreed that signing the checks was one of the more confusing aspects of registration.

"The biggest complaint was about signing the Stafford and student loan checks," he said. "They were not ready to electronically transmit funds to us, so we had to use checks. This fall, we will be able to receive the funds electronically, so that problem will be eliminated."

"In the future, we want students to get their bill, go down to the Elephant Room and pay their bill or get a balance check."

Being able to receive a balance check was one plus of the new registration system, chemical engineering senior David Gonce said.

"I liked getting my check today instead of having to wait a month to get it," Gonce said. "Not having to stand in line to sign all of the checks made it a lot quicker."

Taylor said budget cuts caused his office to search for a registration process that required less staff members.

"With the reduction in staff and money, we had to find a way to work smaller with less staff," he said. "The Office of the Registrar, the financial aid department and Computer Services brought up the system with virtually no hitches."

Taylor hopes the new system makes registration better for students.

"We were real pleased by the way it went," he said. "We hope it was well-received by the majority of the students. We want to make registration a more pleasant experience for students."

"The clutter of registration is a thing of the past. Computers will do most of the work. TIPS will do it. Soon, students will be able to register from the convenience of their own homes."

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