

with  
quakes

# Earthquake Punctuates Wild Storm

12/24/79

As if the wind and rain were not enough, the Santa Cruz area was rocked by a minor earthquake at 5:10 a.m. today.

Because the temblor was not registered in intensity by the University of California Seismology Station in Berkeley, officials there believe the quake was probably centered somewhere in the Santa Cruz Mountain area due to the numbers of calls received from residents.

"That's one of the most accurate ways of determining the location," said Russell Sells, engineer at the UC Berkeley station. "Energy diminishes quickly with distance, so it's a safe bet it was located somewhere in the Santa Cruz area."

The fact that the station did not pick up the quake was not unusual, he said, because the alarm system it set so high that a minor quake will not set off the sensitive measuring devices.

"Each time you go down one-tenth in magnitude you register 10 times as many earthquakes," he said. "We have a lot of them in California so we purposely set it so low that it won't be waking up the seismologist all night long."

The Sentinel received numerous calls this morning from residents in the Felton, Boulder Creek, Bonny Doon and Santa Cruz areas.

Santa Cruz Police and the sheriff's department both reported getting a number of calls about the earthquake this morning.