

Globe West

THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005

EARTHQUAKE ALARM IS 75 — The Weston Observatory recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of its earthquake monitoring program. The occasion was marked with an invitation-only ceremony and reception attended by local officeholders, public safety officials, and dignitaries from Boston College, which runs the observatory. According to the history published on the observatory's website, it first began recording seismic data in 1930, with equipment donated by Georgetown University. The well-intentioned founders of the observatory weren't experienced in calibrating the equipment, however, and the first earthquake wasn't recorded until January 1931. Currently, the observatory houses equipment that records earthquakes around the world, including the one that caused the devastating tsunamis in South Asia and Southeast Asia last December.

— *Stephanie V. Sielk*