

# Eugene extends its hand across the water

By Michele Matassa  
Of the Emerald

In the early 1940s, Japanese Kamikaze pilots and U.S. Air Force pilots bombed and killed each other over the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Now, 40 years later, the waters have calmed enough for two cities in Japan and America to call themselves sisters.

Instead of shedding blood, Kakegawa, Japan and Eugene

are sharing it.

Since August 1978, resident delegations from Eugene and Kakegawa have been meeting for an annual exchange of culture and hospitality as part of the Sister City program.

Former Eugene Mayor Les Anderson and a member of the governing Japanese Diet, or parliament, conceived the idea when they recognized similarities between the two

cities while meeting in Eugene.

The two politicians decided to take advantage of parallels between their cities' history, size and commerce by organizing an annual community host program similar to student exchanges.

Every summer since then, Eugene families have been hosting Kakegawans for about five days of tours, meetings and entertainment. In turn, a delegation from Eugene flies to Kakegawa every year to share in that city's culture.

The delegations are open to anyone, not just government figures and prominent business people. This year's group of 27 Kakegawans — which arrives Aug. 17 — includes a 14 year-old student and a 72 year-old, according to Barb Bellamy, Eugene's public information director.

Kakegawa usually sends more people than Eugene because the Japanese program is subsidized by businesses, Bellamy says. Delegates from Eugene must pay their own plane fare, yet most expenses in Kakegawa are budgeted into the city's

general fund.

Eugene usually sends five to 10 delegates who are chosen by Mayor Gus Keller from a group of applicants. This year's delegation — six people so far — will leave Oct. 6 to spend four days in Kakegawa.

What do the delegates and their cities gain from the experience?

The program provides something for everyone, Bellamy says.

Activities include tours of businesses, educational facilities, city government and art centers. The delegates also spend time with their host families, which gives them a personalized view of Japanese tradition and family life.

Corinne Hunt, director of community education at the University, joined the delegation last year after hosting a Japanese delegate in 1982. Hunt's association with the University art museum also had piqued her interest in Oriental culture, she says.

Hunt says she learned a lot by exchanging ideas about education and by adjusting to

Japanese culture and family life.

"It really increases your understanding of a different culture," she says.

For Hunt, her new family life was a learning experience in itself.

She stayed with a three-generation family whose only English-speaking member was the daughter. But constantly speaking through an interpreter wasn't the only thing to which Hunt had to adapt.


"I had to get used to sleeping on the floor. There was no furniture in the room that I slept in. The rest of their houses are pretty much Westernized except they keep one room that is kind of authentic or traditional," Hunt says.

Despite the difficulties and mini culture-shock Hunt may have experienced, she got along very well with her host family during the stay.

"They were just wonderfully gracious and friendly people throughout the visit."

And seeing the country as a member of the Sister City program enhanced her visit, Hunt says.

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## ASUO heads attend conference

By Jim Moore  
Of the Emerald

Three ASUO staff members were elected to the board of directors of the United States Student Association at the association's 36th national congress held recently at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

ASUO Vice Pres. Kevin Kouns and state affairs coordinator Patricia Stuart were chosen for the two Northwest region positions on the board, and student events coordinator Bill Snyder was elected to the newly created

veterans' position.

The three University students, combined with the voice of Lane Community College student body Pres. Bryan Moore, who was elected to the board as an at large member, provide strong representation for local students on the 36 member board, according to Snyder.

USSA has been a strong lobbying force and was instrumental in preventing the Reagan administration from making larger cuts in work-study monies and Pell grants, Moore said.

The association plans to involve students in the 1984 elections, so much of the meeting's emphasis was on increasing voter registration of students. There are strong signs of a growing grassroots concern of national issues by students, Snyder said.

"Students are not apathetic, just uninformed," he said. He was impressed by the intelligence, concern and awareness of other student leaders at the congress.

The University should benefit by having more political clout and access to a huge information base as a result of the trio attending the congress, Snyder said.

USSA is a national student association and lobby founded by returning World War II veterans, who believed students needed a national forum for expressing their views. It was the first national organization to call for desegregation in higher education and to mandate integrated conference delegations.

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