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Japanese students will provide taste of cultures to 'sightseers'

Tasha Eichenseher
Oregon Daily Emerald

Japan has six different areas, each with its own unique characteristics, and everyone who attends the Japanese cultural night this Saturday will be exposed to all parts of this Asian country, according to Yukiko Hajy, vice-president of the Japanese Student Organization.

Hajy and nearly 80 other people have been working hard to put together the first cultural night of the term, "Japan Night."

The theme of this year's Japanese cultural night, sponsored by the JSO, is journey.

"We think Americans know about Japan but they don't really know about the areas," Hajy said.

The third annual Japanese cultural program will be set up as if the audience is sightseeing in Japan.

This will be accomplished by having the meal served dinner-box style, as it is on the trains in Japan. On the menu is Japanese-style fried chicken, *kara-age* in Japanese, meat and potatoes called *niku-jaga*, tofu with plum sauce and Japanese tea cake.

The sights include a Taiko drumming performance, a play of a traditional Japanese legend, several people wearing kimonos and other traditional costume and a ninja show.



NATALIE MONTGOMERY for the Emerald

Tomo Sacki (dressed as a monkey), Takashi Masuda (who plays Mumotaro), Shin Yasui (who's character is a bird), and Mika Kobayashi (who's character is a dog) prepare for "Japan Night" this Saturday.

Featured is a shoot-wrestling match in which the New York state wrestling champion of 1994 will compete against Takashi Nishizawa, a former shoot-wrestling champion in Japan. This portion of the show takes place in a simulation of the Tokyo Dome.

"We hope we can succeed in introducing our culture and hope everyone can understand our culture," said Hajy, who encourages people to visit Japan. "We are proud of it."

"Japan Night" is Saturday, Jan.

14 at 6 in the EMU Ballroom. Dinner is at 6:30.

Tickets are available at the EMU Main Desk Store and are \$8 for students, \$9 at the door, and \$10 for non-students.

The JSO, which organizes events such as "Japan Night" and offers services for and about Japanese students and culture, is affiliated with the International Student Association.

There were 370 Japanese students at the University last term, making up approximately 2 percent of the entire student body.

Query into state's bowl trips unanswered

Marcelene Edwards

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Economic Development Department has not sufficiently answered questions raised about money used for trips to the Rose Bowl, said Julia Brim-Edwards, spokeswoman for House Speaker Bev Clarno.

Clarno received a response from William C. Scott, director of the Oregon Economic Development Department, who answered her questions in vague terms, Brim-Edwards said.

House Speaker Bev Clarno last week criticized the Economic Development Department's decision to send 12 employees to the Rose Bowl using state money.

The department spent about \$22,000 from the Oregon Lottery fund to pay for the trips, which were supposed to attract new business to the state. Expenses included meals and hotel bills for each employee.

Clarno said that was not acceptable and asked Scott to provide her with more details about the trip.

"Attracting businesses to the state is certainly a laudable goal and one that I support," said Clarno, in a letter to Scott. "However, I believe this action raises questions whether the taxpayers' money was appropriately spent."

Clarno wants some type of justification for the expenditures, including names of companies with

whom the department met.

The development department says that those names, representing \$3 billion in business, are confidential, but Scott said in a response letter to Clarno that he would be happy to meet with her "to provide that information confidentially."

The development department wanted to take advantage of all the publicity surrounding the University's participation in the Rose Bowl and meet with prospective investors in the state, said Peggy Eberle, communication manager for the Economic Development Department.

These businesses were cases that the development had been working on prior to the Rose Bowl and the office took the opportunity to follow up on some interests, Eberle said.

"This was a prime opportunity to cement business," she said.

"Being quite aware that we would have to justify it to the legislature, we still chose not to pass up the chance to take advantage of Oregon's celebration in Southern California," said Scott, in his letter to Clarno.

Members for the development department met with 60 representatives from about 25 companies, Eberle said.

The department is investigating the issue and further reports on the events of the trip and expenses will be available later today, she said.

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