

## Professor has shaky experience

**Conference:** A University professor witnesses a major earthquake's effects

Tiffany Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

An academic conference in Japan on earthquake hazard response turned into a real-life study for a University professor when a 7.2 magnitude quake hit Kobe, Japan and killed more than 5,000 people.

Risa Palm was part of a team of experts that went to Osaka to meet with its Japanese counterparts to discuss the ways people prepare for and respond to the devastation of earthquakes.

Palm is the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a professor of geography at the University.

Palm arrived in Osaka Jan. 16. She was in bed in her hotel, trying to sleep despite her jet lag so she could make it through the conference that day. The quake hit at 5:45 a.m. about 12 miles away in Kobe.

"This is unbelievable," she said she was thinking. "I'm only in Japan for a few days and here I am in this earthquake."

The shaking seemed to last a very long time, even though it was actually just a few seconds, Palm said. This was the first time she had experienced a major earthquake.

After the shaking stopped, she looked out her door to try to see the others in her group. Everyone else was looking out too.

"We were joking," she said. "What a way to begin this conference. We had no idea there were fires burning and that so many people would eventually die."

"We met for breakfast and it was reported to us that two people had died. By the cocktail party at the end of the day, there were 1,200 dead."

Palm said the sky in Osaka that first night after the quake was red and full of soot from the fires in Kobe.

The second day, instead of continuing the conference, the Japanese media sponsored taxis into Kobe. Members of the U.S. and Japanese teams of experts were paired with members of the Japanese media to

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Professor Risa Palm goes through photos she took in Kobe after the recent earthquake.



Palm took this photo of a collapsed highway in Kobe a day after the big earthquake.

COURTESY PHOTO

## University students find graduation in four years

**Method:** The University adapts to increasing student numbers to speed degree processes

Amy Columbo  
Oregon Daily Emerald

More University students are graduating in a four-year period than ever before, but University administrators said they haven't accomplished everything they want to.

Freshmen entering in the fall of 1989 graduated at 32.9 percent in four years, whereas freshmen entering in the fall of 1983 graduated at 19.1 percent. This statistic does not include students who transferred to other colleges or students who took more than four years to graduate.

The University has a faster-paced graduation rate than the national average. According to the National Center for Education, in 1990 information fewer than one-third of all college students obtained degrees in four years.

John Moseley, vice president of research, said it is the University's commitment to continue to increase the number of students who attend the University and attain their educational goals.

The University has a plan to increase academic productivity and educational reform, the 1994 Productivity Plan. The plan includes effective use of technology, curriculum and other changes to facilitate learning and to speed student progress.

The University has provided full-Internet access to all students and is currently in the process of developing a multimedia laboratory to produce instructional materials.

Many curricular revisions have already taken place, making three-credit courses worth four credits, often by adding a discussion section or a lab.

The number of students that aren't able to get the courses they need for graduation has also gone down, Moseley said.

The University of Montana has taken many similar steps to improve the rate at which students graduate. Tuition has been increased to pay for an increase in faculty salaries and, as a result, Montana

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### GOOD MORNING

► CROWN POINT, Ind. (AP)

The police in Crown Point aren't for sale. But the backs of their cars are.

Chief Michael W. Valsi hopes to raise enough money to equip 10 new police cars by offering businesses the chance to advertise on the backs of police cars.

The price: \$1,600 a car.

"We thought it would be a good idea to pay for light bars, siren box, communication radios and things of that nature," Valsi said.

The new cars will increase the police fleet to 26 vehicles — one for every officer.

## Restaurants comply with nutrition vogue

**Fast Food:** A health-conscious society creates awareness

Marcelene Edwards  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Fast food restaurants are moving toward healthier foods because people are becoming more health conscious, said Kristen Olmos, nutritionist for the Student Health Center.

The nutrition trend of the '90s calls for salads and vegetarian entrees to meet the demands of

many consumers.

One of the restaurants filling the nutrition need is locally owned CJ Pepper's. The need for health food available at a fast-food rate has created a niche for restaurants such as this.

CJ Pepper's offers hamburgers, garden burgers, baked chicken breasts and baked french fries, all made low-fat.

"No oil steps foot in this door," said owner Dan Vishney. Vishney said he receives praise from a lot of his cus-

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NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

C.J. Peppers is one local restaurant that has profited from health awareness