

Talk covers tremors in Japan

Jeff Hanes will give the fourth lecture on the threat of a massive earthquake in Japan

By Amalie Young
Higher Education Reporter

As one of the most earthquake-prone regions in the world, Japan has lost thousands of people to massive earthquakes throughout history.

In a lecture titled "Courting Disaster: Earthquakes on the Urban Archipelago," assistant history Professor Jeff Hanes will explore the reasons why the Japanese have failed to develop adequate disaster prevention policies despite the constant threat of a devastating earthquake — "the big one."

Attitudes about earthquakes and the preparation for earthquakes must be examined, especially in the light of Japan's most recent ma-

nor earthquake, said Stephen Durant, director of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies.

The Great Hanshin Earthquake, which shook Kobe in 1995, took more than 6,000 lives. Before that, the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 claimed more than 140,000.

Hanes' lecture is part of a series, "Confronting Japan." It is sponsored in part by the Freeman Foundation, a Vermont-based private foundation that supports public education about Asia. His is the fourth of five traveling lectures presented in Bend, Portland and Eugene.

"The series tries to make students and the general public more aware of issues that face Japanese," he said. "But earthquakes and responses and preparation are also a hot issue for our neighbors to the south in California."

The final lecture will be pre-

sented by Karen Kelsky, an assistant professor of anthropology. In her lecture, "Desiring the West: Representations of Westerners in Japanese Popular Culture," she will explore the image of Western beauty as it is presented to Japanese consumers. She will speak at Central Oregon Community College in Bend on May 5, the World Trade Center in Portland on May 6 and the University on May 7.

Hanes has taught at the University since 1993 and was given the New Faculty Award in 1995. A specialist in modern Japanese history, Hanes has published numerous articles, reviews and encyclopedia articles.

Hanes' lecture will be presented from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Willamette Hall. For more information about upcoming lectures, contact the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies at 346-5084.

2000: 'Patches' may be a solution

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"There will be something coming on the UO home page to help students check their computers and software for year 2000 compliance," Hilton said.

"Patches" produced by different software vendors are a solution to the year 2000 problem. They will update computers and programs for the year 2000, Hilton said.

The year 2000 problem exists for two main reasons.

Two-digit dates were a device to save memory. In the early days of computer programing, memory was very expensive. The two bits of information saved by omitting the "19" from 1975 could actually save substantial amounts of money, according to the "Microsoft Year 2000 Resource Center" Web page.

In addition, many of the programs that are not year 2000 compliant were not designed to remain in use

for as long as they have. The programmers did not design them to accommodate the year 2000, according to the Web page.

Experts speculate computers may react to the year 2000 problem in a number of possible ways. Everything from PCs to airplanes to security systems may be affected, Allen said. The potential exists for anything from miscalculation of data to full-scale system crashes to occur.

"Anything from minor annoyances that can be dealt with to a dramatic drop in the stock market is possible," Allen said.

The year 2000 problem will be a topic at an upcoming meeting of the Lane County Chapter of the Software Association of Oregon.

The meeting is scheduled for May 20 at 6 p.m. in Deschutes Hall. The meeting will cost \$3 for non-SAO members.

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