

The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 25 Number 14 □ July 20, 2015 □ www.asianreporter.com



Japan launches free Wi-Fi on Mount Fuji

Page 3



Gushiken at last happy as a boxer

Page 4



Women's soccer teams show up male rivals

Page 9

Robots do check-in and check-out at cost-cutting hotel in Japan



ROBOT RECEPTIONIST. A receptionist dinosaur robot is seen at the new robot hotel, aptly called Henn na Hotel, or Weird Hotel, in Sasebo, southwestern Japan. From the receptionist that does the check-in and check-out to the porter that's an automated trolley taking luggage up to the room, the hotel, that is run as part of the Huis Ten Bosch amusement park, is "manned" almost entirely by robots to save on labor costs. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

By Yuri Kageyama
AP Business Writer

SASEBO, Japan — The English-speaking receptionist is a vicious-looking dinosaur, and the one speaking Japanese is a female humanoid with blinking lashes. "If you want to check in, push one," the dinosaur says. The visitor still has to punch a button on the desk, and type in information on a touch panel screen.

From the front desk to the porter that's an automated trolley taking luggage up to the room, this hotel in southwestern

Japan, aptly called the Weird Hotel, is "manned" almost entirely by robots to save on labor costs.

Hideo Sawada, who runs the hotel as part of an amusement park, insists using robots is not a gimmick, but a serious effort to utilize technology and achieve efficiency.

Henn na Hotel, as it is called in Japanese, was shown recently to reporters, complete with robot demonstrations, ahead of its opening to the public.

Another feature of the hotel is the use of facial recognition technology, instead of the standard electronic keys, by register-

ing the digital image of the guest's face during check-in.

The reason? Robots aren't good at finding keys, if people happen to lose them.

A giant robotic arm, usually seen in manufacturing, is encased in glass quarters in the corner of the lobby. It lifts one of the boxes stacked into the wall and puts it out through a space in the glass, where a guest can place an item in it, to use as a locker.

The arm will put the box back into the wall, until the guest wants it again. The system is called "robot cloak room."

Continued on page 2

8 rotating draft selections along with 175+ bottled west coast craft beer, hard ciders and sodas in a friendly neighborhood location

4214 N. Mississippi Ave
Portland, OR
971-255-1621
www.beercitybottleshop.com

Ate-Oh-Ate
Hawaiian Restaurant
(503)445-6101
www.ate-oh-ate.com

2454 E. Burnside St., Portland
Dine-In or To-Go

Overwhelmed by debt? Want a fresh start?

KELLY K. BROWN
BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEY
503-224-4124
www.kellybrown.com

- ★ LOW-COST BANKRUPTCY
- ★ Free consultation
- ★ Stop foreclosure and garnishment
- ★ Evening and weekend appointments

520 SW Yamhill · Suite 420 · Portland 97204 · We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy under the Bankruptcy Code.

The Asian Reporter
922 N. Killingsworth St.
Portland, OR 97217 USA

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit # 2474

CELEBRATING
30 Years
OF DOING
GOOD THINGS

30 OREGON LOTTERY
30 Years of Doing Good Things

LOTTERY GAMES ARE BASED ON CHANCE AND SHOULD BE PLAYED FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY