

World & Local

Destruction and Death in Japan

By Dave Serpentine - *Lion's Eye World & Local News Editor-dms5419@psu.edu*

On Friday, March 11, a devastating 9.0 earthquake rocked several coastal areas near Oshika Peninsula of Tōhoku near Sendai in northeastern Japan, about 189 miles away from Tokyo. The epicenter of the quake was reported about 81 miles inland. Evacuations for 20 neighboring countries, including the Pacific coast of North America, were ordered.

As of April 8, several cities remain in ruins and many lost their homes, possessions, families, and neighbors; the National Police Agency of Japan said there are 12,787 confirmed dead, 14,991 people are missing, and thousands remain injured.

The earthquake and tsunami destroyed many infrastructures, caused extensive damage, and resulted in fires and most areas losing power and featuring rolling blackouts.

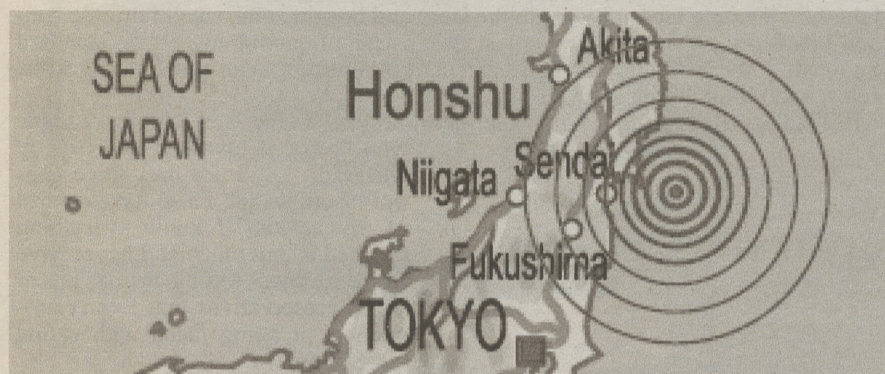


Photo courtesy of Maps4News.com

Also resulting from the quake were mudslides in several cities in the surrounding area. In addition to this chaos, Fukushima I, Fukushima II, Onagawa Nuclear Power Plant and Tōkai Nuclear Power Plants, which were in the area of the quake and tsunami shut down and were heavily destroyed. The Fukushima I and II plants exploded and leaked radiation. As of March 18, IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Chief Yukiya Amano described the crisis as extremely serious. Residents within the area of the plant have been ordered to evacuate.

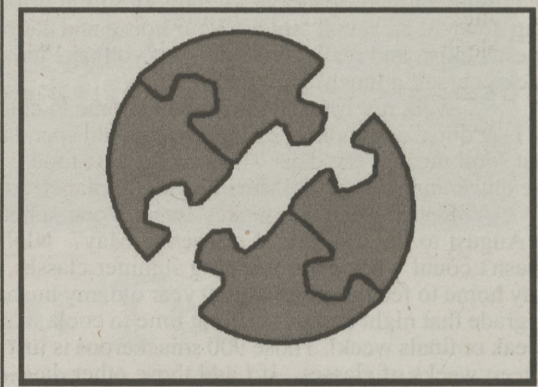
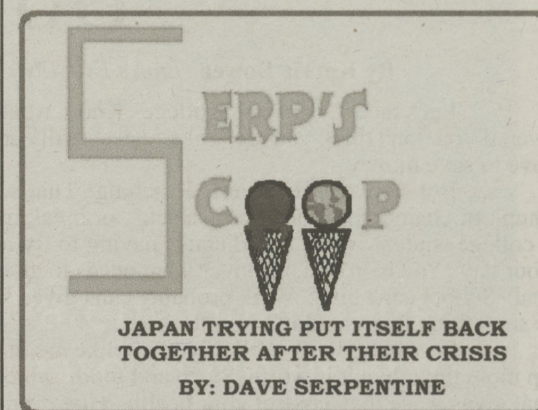
Right now, Japan is working very hard to fix the problem so radiation does

not leak and spread to a vast region. As of March 18, small traces of radiation have reached California. US Government officials say it will not affect anyone, but they will monitor the situation closely. Because of Japan's unstable nuclear power plants, many people in the US question the safety of having nuclear plants.

Coinciding with the disaster is Japan's economy. According to a story posted on AOL News.com, reporter Theunis Bates said the bill for reconstruction of these damages might be \$170 billion; to put it in this perspective, this disaster would surpass Hurricane Katrina's reconstruction bill, which was \$123 billion. In addition, the Japanese stock market is plummeting sharply.

Since the earthquake struck, there have been over 900 aftershock quakes with only roughly 60 quakes being over 6.0 on the scale. On April 7 an aftershock quake of roughly 7.0 occurred off the coast of Sendai.

In regards to history, this earthquake is the largest magnitude to ever hit Japan. Prior to this quake, the largest magnitude earthquake to hit Japan, since keeping records, was on October 28, 1707, registering an 8.6. And this earthquake is the fifth biggest magnitude earthquake in the world since keeping records. The biggest earthquake on world record was the earthquake in Valdivia, Chile on May 22, 1960 measuring a 9.5.



Stepping Back... From the Lion's Eye archives

April, 1989

Since the early 1970s, generation after generation of *The Lion's Eye* have been bringing you the best of world, local and campus news. In this brand new section of *The Lion's Eye*, we invite you to take a journey back in time with us as we reflect on years past and remember lost times.

Muddy Rivers

By Nick Del Romano - Staff Writer

The new Commons Building cost Penn State millions of dollars. The only problem with the spending of said dollars is that none of them were dedicated to the construction of a path connecting this building with our main building. Any casual observer can see that there is something wrong when students are seen walking across our "precious" grass. This can be dealt with during the bright sunny days of spring when the only real drawback is the killing of grass, but try this during an even slightly damp autumn day.

Imagine this: You're a dedicated student with your mind on the class that just ended in the main building. Feeling a little hungry, a nice healthy lunch at the school cafeteria sounds good, but you don't really feel like walking all the way around the existing paths, so you decide to walk across the grass as you have seen others do. It starts out pretty well. Jumping over the first mid slick, the next few steps feel fairly dry. All seems fine until the halfway point is reached; it's then that the muddy river is met. Now going back is out of the question; after all you've come this far. By now your brand new Reeboks (Nike, Lotto, Penny loafers, etc.) are coated with a thin layer of mud. Run, yes that's the idea- Wrong! As you pick up speed you notice a slipping at your right foot. You've just left your shoe three steps back.

My point is this: With all the funds spend, wouldn't a path be logical?

New on the Turntable

By Tony Testa and Mary Tangi
Entertainment Editors

Loc-ed After Dark is the new album by rap artist Tone-Loc. The single "Wild Thing" has helped to boost his career. Several of the songs do contain foul language. Basically, the album is made up of songs based on "Wild Thing" - 2 Stars

In the latest album by New Order, titled Technique, they continue to supply those fans of club music with more driving percussions and instrumentals. Those songs to listen for are "Mr. Disco", "Round and Round" and "Vanishing Point." Adding to their usual sound, they also pick up the "Balearic Beat" similar to that of acid house music. - 3.5 Stars

A lot of the tracks on Madonna's Like a Prayer are based on her life experiences. "Till Death Do Us Part" is a very

straight forward song about the breakdown

of her marriage. Other songs are "Oh Father" and "Promise to Try" which are about her mother. One on the singles she does is a duet with "His Purple Royalties," Prince, in "Lovesong." Madonna does not display her navel or her boy toy image in this album; it is one in which she wants to be taken seriously. The songs contain a good amount of meaning, and her voice expresses this tone she wishes to exhibit, although her video "Like a Prayer" has created quite a controversy among Catholics. In the video, she dances in a negligee next to several burning crosses, and kisses a saint. - 4 Stars



Campus Qualms

By Nick Del Romano - Staff Writer

Whenever you have a commuter campus, you have to expect a certain number of problems. The Lions Eye took time out to find out what the problems were that most bothered students. Many opinions were expressed, but a few problems remained consistent with most of the students.

The "Big Bang" as described by many students, is the double ditch that they encounter when driving and making that second turn onto campus. It's the sound of your front end alignment being thrown off by the missing piece of road. Where did the road go? Did our friendly security guard take it to slow down all you speeding motorists? Or is it an experiment by the Behavioral Sciences Department to see how we react? Whatever the reason, something should be done to repair it.

"Attention all students: Fly swatters and rubber gloves

will be available at the entrance to the two student lounges." This sounds funny, but cannot be too far away if the conditions don't change. Flies will not be a problem until warmer weather has set in, but the trash is definitely a problem. In order to find a seat, one must push aside at least one soda can and gingerly remove at least one Krimpet wrapper. The campus does employ individuals to keep these areas clean, however even if we posted a 24 hour guard, we wouldn't stop it completely. The only solution: Clean up after yourself!

Some say silence is golden. If that's true, then Penn State Delco's library is made le lead. Maybe some people don't have to study, but the majority of us do. Or maybe it's that the ones talking are supposed to be studying, but aren't. I hope that's the case, because maybe they will fail out and let the true students get some work done. Even with the librarians shouting with all their hearts, the constant buzz of conversation never seems to die down. To coin a phrase: "Let's try to keep it down to a dull roar, guys..."