

New director hopes to inject intercultural flavor in education center

By CATHY COCKRELL
Of the Emerald

The International Education Center (IEC) has been under new management this summer. Elizabeth Benson, a 24-year-old graduate student in inter-cultural communication, took over in June as director for the coming year.

As an ASUO-funded, volunteer-staffed office, IEC has a built-in distinction. What Benson hopes to inject into an already unique organization is a truly intercultural flavor. Many students, she says, have the idea that the IEC is solely oriented to

Europe. She hopes that the notion can be overcome, and the round-the-world resources available there will be used more.

Information on work, study and travel in foreign countries are categorized by country and by university. Charter flight services, student and youth hostel identification, immunization, passport and visa information are also available at IEC. In addition, a Peace Corps representative and a representative from the National Student Exchange, which list university exchange programs with the United States, work at the IEC Office.

In terms of the traditional informational function of the center, the new director is enthusiastic. She emphasized the vast wealth of opportunities abroad, including modestly-priced programs.

But Benson's hope for the coming year is that the student body will express interests around which the IEC could then coordinate events. For instance, a foreign film festival or an art exhibit from a specific country might be worked out if there is enough interest.

A Search class in intercultural communication sponsored by IEC is a keen possibility for the coming year. Benson

envisions the course as including a rich mixture of American and foreign students, and focusing on sensitizing its participants to the culture-bound nature of our actions and behavior.

Benson describes herself as a typical case of someone who participates in a foreign study program and comes back saying that everyone should do it.

Benson encourages everyone to drop in at the IEC Office in the EMU to discuss volunteering, or the use of the extensive IEC resources, or even possible events. IEC's summer hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Its campus extension is 3721.



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Educated blacks achieve gains

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Young college-trained blacks continued to make impressive gains in employment and income in the early 1970s but the majority remained behind whites in most social and economic areas, the Commerce Department said Sunday.

In a report prepared by the Census Bureau, the department also said the national median earnings of college-trained white and black women, ages 35 to 54, averaged about \$7,300 in 1969 and in the North and West, median annual earnings of black women actually exceeded that of white women — \$8,100 to \$7,600.

During the same period, young 25-34 year-old black men in the North and West with four years of college earned 86 percent of what their white counterparts made.

Older 35-54 year-old blacks in the same regions and with comparable education, earned only 71 percent of what whites did, the report said.

The study, "The Social and Economic Status of the Black Population in the United States, 1972," said 40 percent of all non-white families made \$10,000 or more in 1971, compared with 20 percent in the South.

But the report attributed the higher family income for non-whites to the fact that black women had higher earnings and in many cases worked all year round to reach income equality with whites.



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