

Office helps foreigners with culture shock

By **DANE CLAUSSEN**
Of the Emerald

Editor's note: The stories on this page are the first in a series about foreign students.

Despite rumors to the contrary, the Office of International Services will continue to provide advice and help for the University's approximately 1,000 foreign students.

Recent budget cuts have affected exchange programs with universities in West Germany, France, Japan, and Mexico, but have not affected the office's ability to serve students already here, says office director Tom Mills.

The office will continue to help foreign students fill out their U.S. Immigration Service papers, or deal with financial, academic and personal problems, Mills says.

"Someone's got to sign the papers and help with housing when they arrive on campus," he says.

In fact, the immigration service requires that the University provide "adequate advising and services," he adds.

Besides providing paperwork and counseling services, the office also sponsors cultural exchange programs, speaking engagements for foreign students and annual bus tours of Oregon. It also publishes

quarterly newsletters and finds host families for foreign students.

Mills notes that not every foreign student takes advantage of the office's services. Some

culture shock. But Mills wasn't surprised.

"Most other cultures are more private about personal problems," he says, adding that problems are "kept in the family."

Americans are much more willing to talk to an adviser, counselor, or minister, Mills says.

A phrase such as "culture shock" could make foreign students feel like there's something wrong with them, he adds.

Mills, who has been with the office for 10 years and in his present position for the past five, says his job is "enjoyable and interesting."

It is inspiring to work with students who are from "developing countries, often have little support, take jobs, and carry full loads in a second language," he says.

"Most other cultures are more private about personal problems." Problems are "kept in the family."

The office keeps in contact with other organizations that sponsor foreign studies programs, assist foreign students or help American students who plan to study abroad, Mills says.

students don't like to discuss problems with an outside party, while most others simply don't have problems to discuss, he says.

"I think overall foreign students do very well," Mills says. "Very few are up for academic disqualification."

Recently, only 18 foreign students showed up for an orientation session dealing with

Budget drop to limit worldwide exchange

By **ANN PORTAL**
Of the Emerald

When University Pres. Paul Olum announced a \$146,000 cut in the International Studies program, some foreign students and faculty thought he had eliminated the office altogether.

"People keep coming up to me and saying 'Hey, sorry you lost your job,'" says Paul Primak, foreign studies advisor.

Actually, both Primak and office director Tom Mills will keep their jobs, and the office will continue to counsel and coordinate student and faculty foreign exchanges, Mills says.

The funds Olum proposed to suspend for one year pay for the international education program, a study abroad program coordinated by Oregon State University.

The program sends students to France, Germany, Mexico and Japan for a year of study. The \$146,000 cut is the University's share of the co-operative program's budget for next year. Western Oregon State College also pays a small amount for the program.

John Van de Water, director of the international education program at Oregon State University, says the cut means the program can no longer operate the way it has in the past. The University's funds are at least half of the entire program's budget, he says.

The two schools usually send about the same number of students abroad. Currently 60 University students and 55 OSU students attend universities in the four countries.

OSU's part of the budget was cut a "fair share" by reductions announced Thursday by OSU Pres. Robert MacVicar, but nothing like

the amount cut at the University, Van de Water says.

"I don't know, frankly, what it will do," he says.

But Van de Water does rule out the possibility of OSU providing more funds so University students still could enroll in the program.

Mills says he realizes the predicament caused by the withdrawal of University money, which he points out has not yet happened and must be approved by the State Board of Higher Education and Chancellor Roy Lieuellen.

"Practically speaking, OSU cannot continue to run the same type of program without our assistance," Mills says.

However, the University participates in other, less-expensive study abroad programs and may, somehow, continue to send a small number of students overseas, he says.

Part of the \$146,000 payed for resident directors, housing coordinators and student entitlements in each of the countries. The elimination of those aspects may make the program unavailable or unattractive to some students, Mills says.

In addition, the University will no longer be able to waive out-of-state tuition for foreign exchange students.

"Maybe a few will come, but not very many without that tuition assistance," he says.

Primak says he is concerned the one-year suspension of the program may damage delicate relations with the foreign universities.

"We don't know, but we suspect it's going to take some years to recover."

"I think (administrators) recognize it's not something you switch on and off like a light switch."

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