

Hosts assist newcomers

By OSCAR HALPERT
Of the Emerald

Editor's note: This story is the fifth in a series examining foreign students at the University.

One of the biggest challenges to students coming to the University from abroad is just getting here. The second biggest challenge is staying.

Two programs, one sponsored by the University's Friendship Foundation and another by the American English Institute, help foreign students feel more at home in their new surroundings.

Operating since the early 1950s, the Foreign Student Friendship Foundation finds "host families" for foreign students. The students do not live with families, but join them in activities such as dinners and picnics.

"It's kind of informal," says Liz Litchman, a foreign student advisor. "The main purpose is to be a friend in the community."

A picnic is held each fall by the friendship families as a kind of welcoming party, Litchman says. Sometimes families going on ski trips or to the beach will ask their friendship student to go along.

Many friendship families and foreign students remain in contact after the students leave the country, she says.

Once here, foreign students may face another hurdle before being admitted to the

University — learning the language.

At the American English Institute, students who can't speak English well enough to enter the University are given language instruction. But the aim of AEI goes beyond just getting students into college, says director Iris Moye.

"Our goal is to prepare students for life after college," Moye says.

Of AEI's 147 students, the majority are Japanese, followed by Arabic and Spanish students, says Susan Spradling, housing and activities coordinator.

Spradling organizes a host program for non-academic students who want a full-time living situation, rather than the occasional get-togethers with friendship families. About 25 students are placed in houses, apartments or quads each term, she says.

Like the Friendship Foundation's program, students are greeted at the airport in the fall. Spradling says she learns students' likes and dislikes from pictures and other information.

"Then I try to pair the student with a family," she says, adding that she has the most difficulty pairing smokers and non-smokers with compatible families.

"It's mostly a matter of luck. Some relationships are adequate... then there are those that'll be long-term relationships," she says.



Iris Moye

Photo by Bob Baker

Group urges ban on cups

By VANESSA KOKESH
Of the Emerald

The Survival Center is promoting a boycott of styrofoam cups in the EMU to draw attention to the environmental and health hazards of the synthetic material.

The environmental action group has been planning the boycott since the beginning of the 1981-82 academic year. Last week, the center began circulating a petition protesting the EMU's use of styrofoam cups.

The EMU goes through one million styrofoam cups each year, says Liza Scully, Survival Center recycling coordinator. She suggests that paper cups, which are recyclable and biodegradable, should be used

instead.

"It seems like no one on the EMU Board will talk to me about the possibility of a ban on styrofoam. Paper cups are three times more expensive and the EMU food service doesn't seem anxious to trade in profit for safety," Scully says.

Styrofoam is a plastic foam made by expanding polystyrene resin. Environmentalists say the gases used to expand the foam are toxic, and the gases deplete the earth's ozone layer.

The fumes are not only dangerous to those who manufacture the styrofoam, but also to those who drink anything acidic from styrofoam cups, says Matt Holmes, the center's assistant director.

Coffee and lemon in tea can cause the polystyrene to leak out and be inhaled. Polystyrene is a mutagen, or cancer-causing agent. Benzene, a styrofoam ingredient, has been linked to

cancer by Modern Packaging Research.

Steve Kramer, Survival Center director, says there is little need for styrofoam cups in the EMU.

"Most people drink their coffee in the EMU and there isn't much of a need for 'to go' cups. China cups could be used instead," Kramer says.

So far, no one has contacted the EMU administration about the ban, according to EMU director Adell McMillan. She would not comment on the Survival Center boycott.

The Survival Center plans to implement the ban by educating students on the harms of styrofoam.

"The health and environmental hazards connected to styrofoam should be reason enough to prohibit use of the product in the EMU," Scully says.

Correction

John Witte, editor of *Northwest Review* — a journal of creative writing, criticism and comment published three times a year — recently was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Grant to pursue his own writing. He was erroneously identified as John Whitley in Tuesday's Emerald.

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