

Foreign students face red tape in off-campus job hunt

By Souna Kang
Of the Emerald

Red tape and restrictions face foreign students who want to work in the United States, but at least three options are available for those seeking employment here, said Peter Briggs, assistant director of the University Office

of International Services (OIS). "On-campus employment is open to all international students," Briggs said. Limited work-study funds are available for awards to foreign students each year, he said.

But in order to work off-campus, foreign students must be authorized by the U.S. Im-

migration and Naturalization Service, he said. To qualify, they must obtain one of the following: a student work permit, a practical training authorization or a green card.

Foreign students can apply through the OIS for a work permit, which allows them to work full time during summer vacation and part time during the academic year.

"Applicants have to demonstrate financial need due to an unforeseen change in their financial circumstances. They must be planning to enroll full time at the U of O for the term following their application," Briggs said.

According to U.S. immigration regulations, a foreign student on an F-1 (student status) visa only can apply for a work permit after spending at least one year in the United States as a full-time student.

Practical training programs are another option. If practical

experience is unavailable in their home country, foreign students can apply for up to 12 months of practical training after graduation. Students can apply for up to one year after obtaining their degrees and are required to find suitable training positions within six months of applying.

And, according to INS requirements, the training should be recommended by the educational institution as an extension of the educational program. Three months of practical training can be used during summer vacation.

Another option is applying for a green card, which allows foreign residents to be employed in the United States indefinitely.

The green card gives foreigners "resident alien" status, which entitles them to an unrestricted period of residence and employment in

the United States. A foreign student can obtain a green card by meeting one of the following requirements: marrying a U.S. citizen, applying for political asylum and proving he or she would face persecution in his or her country, filing for "family reunification" if a sibling or parent is a U.S. citizen or presenting a labor certification as evidence of special skills that will not displace a U.S. citizen from employment.

International students interested in obtaining off-campus employment can see an adviser in the OIS, 330 Oregon Hall, for more information.

"Employment and the International Student" will be the topic of presentations May 6 and 7 at 4 p.m. in Century Room D, EMU. Briggs will discuss U.S. immigration regulations affecting foreign students who plan to seek employment in the United States.

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said. Red and yellow ties are the fad this year as well as paisley pocket handkerchiefs, she said.

The most common fashion mistake women make is to wear evening outfits, such as a bright silk dress and layers of jewelry, to the office, Wortley said. Although businesswomen dress more femininely today than five years ago, they should wear cotton, linen or wool skirts, or dresses with blazers for a more executive look, she said.

Businessmen and businesswomen should not overlook their shoes when dressing for success, she said.

"A sloppy pair of shoes can destroy a carefully coordinated,

expensive outfit," she said. "Shoes should be polished and neat."

Taupe and black shoes are the most versatile for office wear, while brightly colored shoes should be reserved for fun, she said.

Women should wear pumps with heels no higher than two inches, and they must always wear nylons regardless of the weather, she said.

Wortley said navy-blue and brown suits express power and dignity and should be worn for important presentations or meetings.

"You can never go wrong



Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

wearing a blue suit for an interview," she said.

"At work, you are representing your company. If you dress well, you feel better about yourself and have more confidence in your abilities," she said. "People who look good get the breaks."

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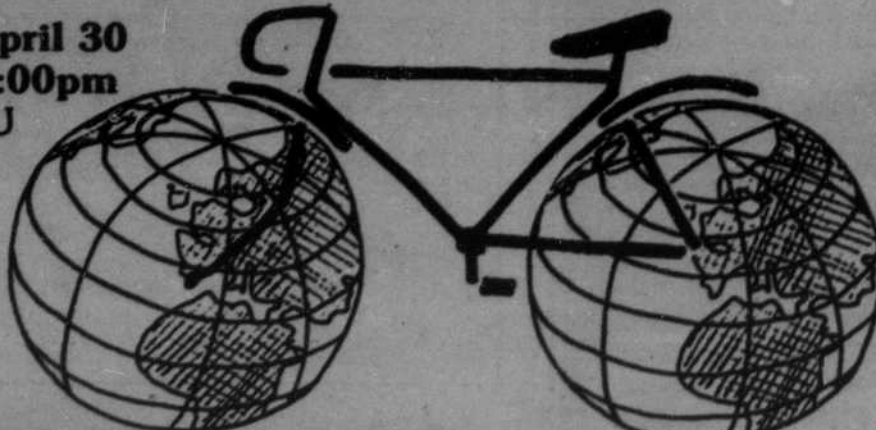
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