

INTOUCH

with the International Student Assoc.

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Advertising Supplement

ISA is altering its image

A "discrimination-free zone" has been declared by students. The Foreign Student Organization, a defender of international rights since the turbulent '60s, is upgrading its image. And the first thing to go was the group's name.

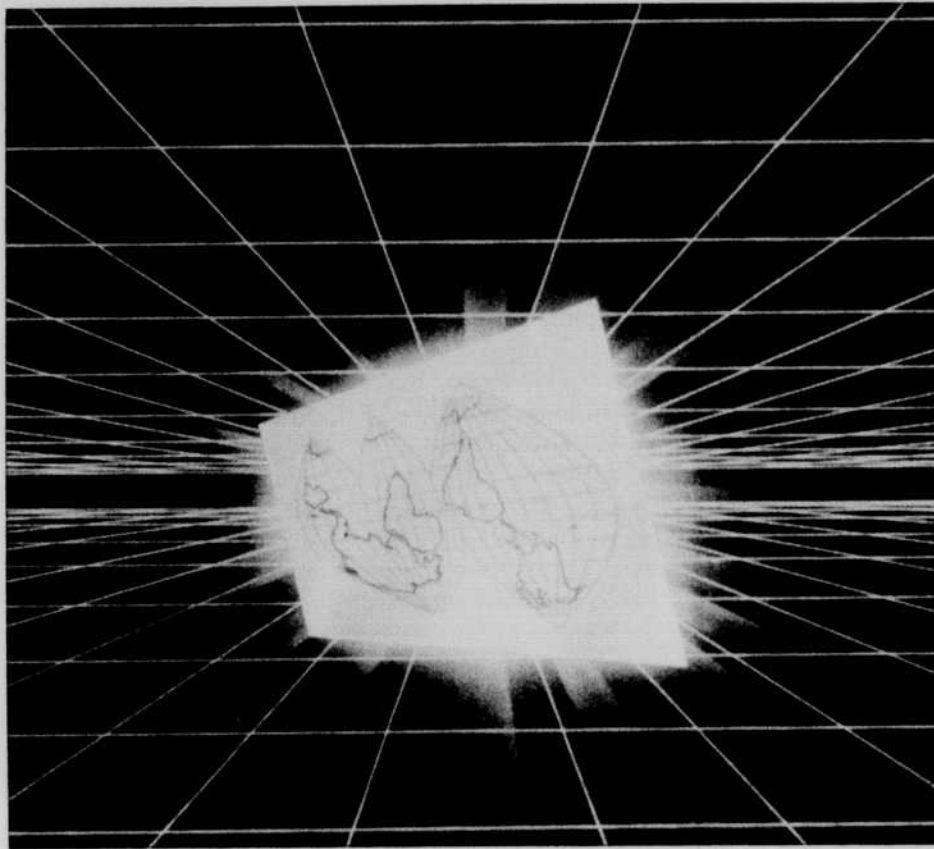
Director Caroline Steele said the word "foreign" was awkward and outdated. It implied that a person was alien or strange, and it blatantly segregated international students from their American counterparts.

A look at other organizations around the country showed that the University was one of a very few still using the word "foreign." A vote was taken among the organization and its counterparts and the name was changed to International Student Association (ISA).

The ISA office, on the second floor of the EMU, seems small for the amount of students it represents. Maps and flags cover the walls symbolizing the 1,253 students attending the University from around the world.

A majority of the international students come from Asia, although people come from as far away as Burma, Nepal and Iceland. This year 77 countries are represented at University, including three students from Russia for the first time.

Although the ISA had its official start in 1963, archives show that the international tradition dates back to



1876. The first class ever at the University had one student from Japan. A "Cosmopolitan Club" was set up in the '30s to provide a suitable place for international and American students to mingle.

Now, with the annual International Festival and the weekly International Coffee Hour, the ISA is extending its reach.

Their main purpose is to promote cultural, political and social aware-

ness among the general student body, community and the international students themselves. The ISA also helps new students make a successful transition into the University and beyond.

"Culture shock" workshops are set up during orientation week and tours of the campus are given by more experienced international students. Next year the ISA will set up follow-up workshops to help students make

adjustments throughout the year.

There are eleven ISA affiliates, which include the African Student Association, the Iran Student Organization and the Association of Norwegian Students Abroad. The ISA acts as an umbrella organization to help the member groups function more effectively and offer maximum service to both students and the subgroups.

According to ISA Co-Director Juanita Soerakoesomah, the ISA as a whole provides a liaison between the international student groups and the general student body and community. They co-sponsor several events during the year with other groups such as OSPIRG, the Survival Center, and the Black Student Union.

"We do a lot of networking," said ISA Director Caroline Steele. "I think other organizations are trying to do the same. It's good for us to establish some sort of a core."

The annual International Festival is April 1-8. Each day of the week is devoted to different continents by displaying crafts and culture from that region. The highlight of the week comes Sunday, April 8th when Indonesia, Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Asia and Europe all will come together for international cuisine followed by a sampling of dance and music from the six different continents.

—Virginia Pearce

AGENCIES

- AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- ARAB STUDENT UNION
- CHINESE STUDENT AND SCHOLAR ASSOCIATION
- HONG KONG STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- PERMIAS INDONESIA STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- IRAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION
- JAPANESE STUDENT ORGANIZATION
- KOREAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- MALAYSIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION
- ANSA ASSOCIATION OF NORWEGIAN STUDENTS ABROAD
- KULTURA PILIPINAS PHILIPPINE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION



Here are opportunities the International Student Association provides for the International students and the University community:

• Information Corner

Discover and learn more about other countries through our colorful collection of books, brochures and pamphlets.

• Social Activities and Sports Events

Walk over to the International Coffee Hour every Friday for coffee or tea and talk to new and old friends. Unwind and relax during our various sports activities.

• Cultural Presentations

Experience and better understand diverse cultures through our annual International Festival, cultural nights and slick presentations.

• Discussions on Global Issues

Share and exchange views on pressing issues at organized forums.

Why not stop in for a chat and take a break from the sometimes hectic and trying school days at the University.

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