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Monday In-Depth
International Continued from Page 6

al Services Office, believes geography determines student distribution as well. "The majority of students are from the Pacific Rim because it's easier to get here from there than from Europe or the Middle East," she said.

As for the political factor, Briggs believes some governments simply do a better job of supporting students abroad. He considers the German and Norwegian support systems the best in the world. In recent years the German and Norwegian student groups at the University have ranked among the top ten largest foreign groups.

Unfair labels

But in the process of discussing who can afford what, some students complain of being unfairly labeled. Hisaya Matsu-moto, head of the Japanese Student Organization, said many American students assume all


Japanese students are rich. "A lot of people see Japan as one big money pot and think that all Japanese students drive Mercedes and BMWs," he said.

Audun Runde, contact person for the Association of Norwegian Students Abroad, said Norwegians are also often perceived as being rich. He attributed that perception to the fact that most Norwegian students are older and have worked for some years before they come to the United States. He also said their government provides many grants and loans.

While Miki Nagae, also from Japan, agreed that her nationality is often stereotyped, she said there is a legitimate difference between Japanese and American students.

"I respect how American students work," she said. "I think Japanese students are spoiled because most don't have to work."

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