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## Program helps students fit in

By Susanne Steffens

Adjusting to a new culture is not at all easy, especially for the new international students who have arrived in Eugene to attend the University.

Culture shock is expected, and for the past week and a half, the Office of International Education and Exchange has provided orientation for the new students who are facing a totally different education system than they are used to.

The University already has a thriving international community. Today, more than 1,600 international students from nearly 90 countries comprise nearly 10 percent of the student body.

With the arrival of the new students and the opening of the pilot program at the International College, the campus environment is being enriched together with improved cross-cultural under-

Peter Briggs, the international student adviser at the Office of International Education and Exchange, has been involved in the orientation from early summer, preparing a variety of activities designed to meet the international students' needs.

Briggs said the orientation has been very successful, thanks to the student volunteers who participated in the program. Altogether, 60 volunteers helped the international office with the main work,

functioning as group leaders who lead the new students through academic advising, campus tours and general University information.

Much of the knowledge the new students received was how to get involved in campus and community life, because international students generally take longer to feel part of the life on campus. After the first week, the new students have learned about the Coffee Hour, which brings together students from around the world in the International Lounge each Friday.

The new students also became acquainted with the hospitality table in the EMU, which is a new resource set up to help the students through orientation and also through this fall. The table provides much valuable information about the different University resources, and nine international peer assistants have been employed to assist the table and help the students with various issues.

Magid Shirzadegan, one of the international student advisers, is the person behind the table. He has been working hard to form this new program.

Besides the table, workshops will be given this fall on "Cultural Differences in the Classroom," concentrating on cultural and academic adjustments. The peer assistants will help the students understand the U.S. system of higher education and American cultural norms.

## Safety awareness info available

By Susanne Steffens

Personal safety and protection for students is becoming more and more important.

Nationally, one in four women are sexually assaulted during their college careers, and last year 52 rapes were reported to the Eugene police department.

In order to raise awareness of students' personal safety at the University, the Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force will be providing an information table at the University Bookstore today, where information about rape and sexual assault will be given.

Some of the material will cov-

er the "Creating a Rape-Free Environment" seminar that will start this fall and crime prevention tips of how to protect yourself both indoors and outdoors

Mainly, attention will be given to the safety whistles that will be given out free in order to increase safety on campus. The whistles should be only be used for safety reasons, and if students hear the whistle around campus, they should push any of the emergency call boxes located around campus or call University Office of Public Safety at 346-

The safety table will also be giving out unofficial report forms so that students can anonymously report sexual assault experiences

In the 1992-93 school year, three rape and sexual assault reports were given to OPS. Unofficial reports of acquaintance rape, date rape and sexual assault numbered 59.

With the unofficial report form, the University can better track sexual assault on campus, while the student remains nameless.

Joanie Robertson, assistant dean of students, hopes the table today will reach the largest number of students and said many people will be present at the table to answer questions, stretching from the Eugene Police Depart; ment to the Counseling Center

