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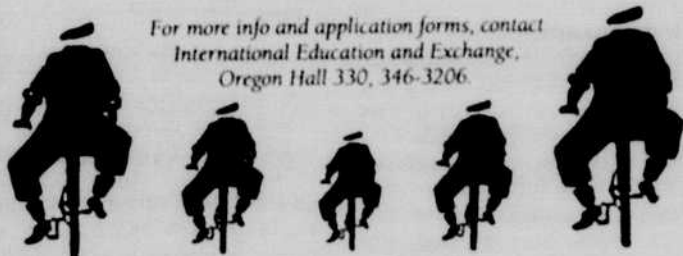
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UNIVERSITY

English Institute offers help

By Eron Witzel

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Ask anyone who speaks English as a second language — it is a confusing and sometimes illogical beast. Fortunately, the American English Institute offers help and support.

Founded in 1977, the AEI is a program of the linguistics department but receives no University funding. The program is completely self-funding with most of the money coming from the intensive language program in which up to 195 non-matriculated students are enrolled each term. Each student pays about \$2,000 a term in tuition.

These students are not in the University, but when they reach higher proficiency levels, they are allowed to take several University courses. Many are preparing for the Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL, a proficiency exam required by most universities.

Tina Hung from Taiwan has spent three terms in the intensive language program and is pleased with the results.

"Nine months ago, I could not speak English very well," she said.

Hung said she enjoys not only learning the language, but also exploring the culture.

"Just a textbook is not enough for me," she said. "I want to understand American culture."

The AEI strives to give students more than just the ability to pass the TOEFL. There is an emphasis on cultural exchange. The tutor program, which is open to AEI and regular University students, employs up to 60 native English speakers.

"Most of the people who want to be tutors here have a genuine interest in other cultures and languages," said Iris Moyer, tutor coordinator.

Moyer said the ideal tutorial situation is one where both students see an opportunity to learn and view each other as resources.

"I expect them (the tutors) to be a constructive link linguistically and culturally," she said.

Many students at AEI come from different cultures and have questions for their American tutors about things they experience here. As an example, Moyer said life in dormitories can be puzzling to some international students because of increased independence, informality and noise they may not be used to.

Moyer also said that Americans can seem distant to some international students.

"Americans tend not to reach out unless they are asked," she said.

Sarah Klinghammer, intensive program coordinator, agreed. "It is often difficult for international students to meet Americans. The tutor system is designed to combat that."

Moyer said tutoring international students can be valuable experience for those considering teaching abroad or working in the Peace Corps.

"It is not an easy way to earn a student wage, so you have to have some other motivation," Moyer said.

AEI also provides the Supplementary English Language Training Program, which administers classes for matriculated international students who need to improve their English skills. Other AEI services include programs for international GTFs and special programs like seminars and orientations for international business students.

The AEI's goal is to help students learn to communicate and study effectively in English, but also to spread cultural understanding. Klinghammer said AEI expanded its range of programs in the past ten years and that it provides a valuable service to the University.

The institute enjoys an excellent reputation, Klinghammer said. A survey indicated most students heard about the program through word-of-mouth recommendations.

Audience appreciates 'Chronicles'

By Anne Moser-Kornfeld

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The opening night performance of the University production of *The Heidi Chronicles* played to a sold-out and appreciative audience.

The Heidi Chronicles, written by Wendy Wasserstein and directed by Jack Watson, is the story of one woman's journey to self-acceptance and discovery from the mid-1960s to present day.

The stark and simple set designs rely heavily on the actors' ability to carry the show. Jeany Snider, who plays Heidi Holland, and Eric Friedman, who plays Heidi's good friend Peter Patron, are in complete command throughout the play.

Friedman plays a gay character, initially afraid to tell Heidi about his sexuality. As their friendship grows, their closeness relies not on the potential for romantic involvement or

their past relationships with other love interests but on their honesty and openness with one another. Friedman and Snider play their biting comedy and touching scenes together like two people who have known each for years.

The dance scenes that move the play along from 1965 to 1977 in act one are the strongest. Using "The Time Warp" from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* in act two to bring us into 1982 seemed a bit contrived. It was difficult to relate the music to the story line. By 1982 it didn't seem believable Heidi, or her crowd of friends, would listen to music like "The Time Warp." The artistic effect seemed too difficult for the audience to grasp and appeared out of place.

There are a number of strong performances in this play. Shelley Douma, who plays Fran/Molly/Betsy/April, showed a wide character range.

She was a radical feminist in the 1970s, a shepherdess from Montana and a talk show host in New York.

Tristan Cooley, playing Scoop Rosenbaum, was Heidi's first love. He is an obnoxious journalist who attaches a grade to everything. Brooke Totman plays Heidi's best friend Susan. Her character develops into a massively self-centered, materialist producer from a high-school senior drooling for guys who could twist-and-smoke.

The Heidi Chronicles is a funny story that addresses significant and constant changes American women and men have faced in the past 30 years. The play runs Jan. 20-22 at 8 p.m.; a benefit performance Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. for Womenspace; and Jan. 28-29 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be obtained by calling the University Theatre Box Office at 346-4191.

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