

All students benefit from coffee hour

Tasha Eichenseher
Oregon Daily Emerald

University President Dave Frohnmayer addressed students during the international coffee hour, Friday, in the International Lounge.

"I'm very pleased not only to see the number of international students here but also to see the kind of interaction you have with one another," Frohnmayer told the nearly 200 people gathered for the coffee hour.

Frohnmayer, who has studied abroad two times, told students that being in a foreign country should not only be educationally and personally rewarding but also should allow students to enrich their whole network of friendships.

International coffee hour, scheduled every Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the International Lounge in the EMU, is one of the ways international students can meet others and develop the kind of friendships that Frohnmayer mentioned.

"I come to international coffee hour because it's nice to meet so many internationalists, to meet some Americans and to have some coffee," said Christel Kaiser from Transylvania, a subdivision of Romania. She has been at the University for one term.

This year the International Students Association, an umbrella group for other international groups on campus which organizes the coffee hour, is trying to get more American students involved in their events, said ISA co-directors Susanne Steffens and Tom Lwebuga.

"Coffee hour is a very easy way to meet people. One of the ideas is to make more international students feel comfortable meeting Americans," said Lwebuga, a third-year student from Uganda.

"I think international students go home without having one good American friend and I think that's pretty sad," said Herbert Soanes, who is from India and has been in Eugene for a year.

"When you leave your country you don't have in mind, I'm going to meet international students

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— HERBERT SOANES
International Student

in America," you want to meet Americans," explained Soanes.

However, he said, it is hard to get to know Americans because they have very different social behaviors. For example, they say that they will call you and then they never do. International students become confused by Americans and turn to other international students who are experiencing the same problems, Soanes said.

Most people who attend the coffee hour are from foreign countries, but some Americans come to have coffee, relax and get to know people.

"This is the primary place I can meet international students, talk to them and maybe help them with some of their problems," said Oliver Talbott, an American junior and international peer assistant. "This is where they get to talk to each other. It's a drastic change from life on campus where everyone sticks to their own ethnic groups."

"It's a strong community so people tend to stay in groups," said Steffens, who is from Norway.

According to the Office of International Education and Exchange, there are 1,621 international students at the University this term, the highest number ever. These students come from 86 countries all over the world.

"It's kind of intimidating because we all come from different cultures, we still have to break the cultural barriers," said Wen-li Tu, a sixth-year student from Taiwan, who has been coming to the coffee hour for five years. She said that her goal is to meet one person every week at the coffee hour.

Students march in protest of bus bombing in Israel

Mara Stine

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

A coalition of Jewish students marched through campus Friday in response to the Oct. 19 bus bombing in Tel Aviv, Israel. "We are trying to show our support for the peace process in the Middle East and mourn all the victims of terrorism," said Rachel Kraft, campus director of the Progressive Zionist Caucus.

Described as one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in Israel's history, the bomb killed at least 20 people and wounded at least 46 others. A Palestinian is suspected in the suicide attack that prompted the Yitzhak Rabin government to order wide arrests of suspected terrorists and to seal off the autonomous Gaza Strip and the Occupied West Bank.

The march of approximately 45 students began in the courtyard of the Erb Memorial Union, continued along 13th Avenue until Alder Street and then returned to the EMU.

Marchers held Israeli flags and signs reading "peace now" in Hebrew and "support peace in the Middle East." Some students yelled "Support the peace process: march with us now," as they marched down 13th Avenue handing out fliers explaining the purpose of the march. At the close of the event some sang Hebrew songs of mourning and a traditional Jewish mourning prayer.

"The peace process must go on despite this violence," said Zach Hochstadt, co-chairperson of the Jewish Student Union.

"It was bus number 5 and I've been on that bus many, many times," said Shlomo Libeskind, a University math professor who is from Israel.

Libeskind recalled when 300 marines were killed in Lebanon after a car bomb exploded in their headquarters. "I remember nobody mourned it or said anything about it," he said. "This is very positive what we are doing."

While many students said they had friends and relatives, Kraft said, "This is not an isolated event that only effects Jews or Arabs ... It effects everybody."

"This is one of the biggest and bloodiest terrorist attacks in all of Israel's history," Hochstadt said. "In a way we're getting numb to these attacks in Israel. We need to realize that these are human lives being lost. We cannot become complacent."

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Red Ribbon Week fights drug misuse

Jean M. Bond

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Lane County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution Oct. 11 recognizing the week of Oct. 23 to 31 as Red Ribbon Week.

The resolution stated that drug and alcohol abuse is a prevalent problem in all communities and that visible, unified prevention efforts are imperative. The Board of Commissioners encourages each Lane County resident to enthusiastically participate in community drug and alcohol education activities.

Red Ribbon Week began six years ago in response to the 1985 death of Drug Enforcement Agency agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. Camarena had been investigating Mexican marijuana and cocaine barons, when he was kidnapped, beaten, tortured and murdered. His body was found in a shallow grave one month later, 70 miles outside of Michoacan, Mexico.

Camarena's friends and family began to wear red ribbons in remembrance of him and the ribbons soon became the drug prevention symbol of the National Family Partnership (formerly the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth).

The partnership organizes the Red Ribbon Campaign on the national level and the Lane County Community Partnership organizes Red Ribbon Week activities throughout Lane County.

The Eugene-Springfield Community Partnership will have its Red Ribbon Week kick-off at the Eugene Downtown Mall fountain today at 10 a.m. John Ball, of the Lane County Commission of

Children and Families and Sheriff Bob McManus will speak, and the Eugene-Springfield Community Partnership will present its annual Community Prevention Awards.

Area schools will be especially active during Red Ribbon Week, with poster and essay projects, assemblies, speakers and a "Wear Red" day. Speakers at local elementary schools will include the Trail Blazers' Nick Jones and the University's cheerleaders.

The University's cheerleaders, band and mascot will wear red ribbons at the football game against the University of Arizona on Saturday. Prevention messages will appear on the scoreboard during the game.

Locally, Voltage Teen Center, Lively Park Swim Center and Skateworld will offer admission discounts for people wearing red ribbons, and McKenzie-Willamette, Cottage Grove and Sacred Heart General Hospitals will give Red Ribbon Week T-shirts to all babies born at the hospitals next week.

Last year, more than 120 million people across the United States participated in the Red Ribbon Week Celebration, with more than 70,000 ribbons distributed in Lane County. This year, 80,000 ribbons were prepared by volunteers from four retirement homes and two Girl Scout troops.

Albertsons, Gateway Mall, Movies 12, Centro Latino Americano, the Lane Transit District Downtown Eugene Customer Service Center and the Community Partnership office will hand out red ribbons all week.

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