

Test may help non-native English speakers

Sarah Gray

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Non-native speakers of English at the University interested in improving their chances of landing a job in the future may want to take the Test of English for International Communication.

The TOEIC is a special test to assess the proficiency of English skills of current and prospective employees. The test measures language skills necessary in a business environment, rather than academic language skills.

Prior to January of this year, the TOEIC was not available in the United States. Recently, ICI International Communications organized the test through the Educational Testing Service, making it accessible in the United States.

David Espinoza, University psychometrist and director of the University's testing center in the Student Health Center's counseling department, said that the TOEIC could be important for international students who

plan to find jobs after returning to their own countries. Because several students have asked about the test, Espinoza felt the need to have the test on campus was necessary.

"We're trying to see if people are interested in this," Espinoza said. "I'm assuming there are many students who already know about this."

Results from the TOEIC are used by many people, including recruiters, language schools, managers and college placement offices. Most people who take the TOEIC are graduating students, applicants for professional certification and other industry and international employees. So far, more than five million people in more than 2000 companies around the world have taken the test. IBM, SONY and the Tokyo Stock Exchange are some of the companies using the TOEIC.

Espinoza said that the University's testing center has been working with International Student Services and Academic Advising to let students know the test is now available. People taking the TOEIC will have to pay a

\$65 fee, and the results are returned within 48 hours.

Another test available to students is the Test of English as a Foreign Language. This test is primarily for international students who want to enroll in a degree program at a university or who want to get into a major that requires high English proficiency. The TOEFL test is offered nearly every month, but results usually take four to six weeks to be returned. The test has a \$38 fee.

Espinoza feels it is important to have these services available for students and that offering the TOEIC now will determine if there is a high demand for the test on campus.

"If folks are interested, we'll offer it," Espinoza said. "They'll know if they need it or not."

Espinoza is also helping the faculty understand the tests so they can then advise students when approached.

Students interested in taking the TOEIC should register by May 4 in the testing center in the Student Health Center.

MEDIA

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leaves town?" Cose asked.

Cose said the media has become "predisposed" to traditional beliefs about people of color.

One example Cose used was a book titled *The Bell Curve*.

"This book was about how genetics effect why people do things," Cose said. "There were no new or relevant messages. Yet this book received massive and respectful attention from the news media."

"Yet this book was written by two people who did not know anything about genetics," Cose continued. "This book did nothing more than reaffirm beliefs that were held by established

white members of the media."

Cose believes the reason the media gave *The Bell Curve* so much attention was because of a fear to confront biased beliefs.

"There were people who said *The Bell Curve* was nothing more than quackery," Cose said. "Yet nobody spoke up because they afraid of the establishment."

Cose said that this fear allows books such as the *The Bell Curve* to be accepted by the news media without question. The segregation of ethnic groups in the United States often leads to ignorance, which is played upon by the media, he said.

"Many ethnic groups are segregated from each other," Cose

said. "Such segregation is the seed bed of ignorance."

Claims that black athletes are genetically bred to be better than white athletes are based on ignorance, Cose said.

Cose also compared the media coverage of the Rodney King and O.J. Simpson trials.

"The media focused on the all white jury at the Rodney King trial," Cose said. "This was especially true when the trial was moved from Los Angeles to Simi Valley."

"The O.J. trial is full of personalities," Cose continued. "A lot of attention was also paid to the jury because of race. The media's perception is that O.J. won't be convicted by an all black jury."

Cose said the O.J. trial receives so much attention because he is a celebrity, not because he is an African-American.

"If Joe Montana was on trial for brutally killing his ex-wife, he would receive just as much attention as O.J. does now."

Duncan McDonald, dean of the University's School of Journalism and Communication, had some observations of his own about race and the news media.

"I think that the media struggles with race," McDonald said. "I also think that the news media struggles with objectivity and context. It is a big problem that requires more than good will. It requires common sense and intelligence."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Alliance women's drop-in group will meet today from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-3360.

Student Senate will meet tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3749.

Programs Finance Committee will meet for budgeting today from 5 to 7 p.m. in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 346-0623.

RELIGION

Newman Center will sponsor a Catholic Bible study today at 3 p.m. in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 346-4468.

MISCELLANEOUS

Northwestern Mutual Life will provide information for applicants interested in internships today from noon to 1 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 346-3235.

Black & Decker will have a group meeting tonight from 6:30 to 8 in EMU Cedar Room F. For more information, call 346-3235.



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