

Immigration Act would hurt international higher education

■ **LEGISLATION:** The act would decrease the number of foreign workers permitted into the country

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

What began as a way to further the American workers' best interests

Immigration Reform



A three-part series on the Immigration Reform Act 1995:
TODAY: What the Immigration Reform Act is.
WEDNESDAY: University students' opinions on the act.
THURSDAY: How the act would affect the University.

MATT GARTON/emerald

States each year.

Proponents of the act say the new legislation would enhance the competitiveness of the Amer-

ican worker.

"Employers should be able to obtain skilled foreign workers," said the act's creator, Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., in a recent publication of *Time*. "But not with an abandon that leaves 1.1 million skilled young Americans chiseled out of jobs."

Those who oppose the act say the new law could hurt national colleges and universities, especially in international education.

"This would definitely affect the quality of our education," said Theresa Finch, ASUO Multicultural Center legislative coordinator intern. "The University is very strong with the multicultural students — researchers, professors, students and what not. As a student, I would feel very displeased if this sort of action was taken. It would directly affect my education here at the University of Oregon."

Should the bill pass, potential University faculty would face stricter regulations in the United States. Under the new legislation, H-1B visas, which now allow a foreigner to work six years in the United States, would change to temporary work visas for a stay of three years.

Prior to receiving approval for entrance, H-1B workers would

also have to gain two years experience outside the United States.

The act would also affect international students. Foreign language students entering programs for less than six months would no longer be eligible for student visas; they would be permitted only on tourist visas.

The current tracking system on international students would be expanded to include student addresses, academic probation, school disciplinary action and "normal" academic progress.

New fees would accrue for students, faculty and academic institutions. Foreign students would be required to pay a \$100 fee to American consulates and embassies before being allowed to enter the country.

The act would also issue extra fees to the University for each employed foreigner. Payments would go toward a specifically designated retraining fund for U.S. workers. Costs would be 5 percent of an international worker's salary the first year, 7.5 percent the second and 10 percent

IMMIGRATION

International students:

- Foreign language students entering for less than six months would be permitted to enter only on tourist visas.
- Current tracking system on international students would expand.
- International students would pay \$100 fee to American embassies and consulates international.

Employees/faculty/researchers on campus:

- H-1B visas would change to temporary work visas.
- For each international employee, universities would pay incremental fees to a designated re-training fund for U.S. workers.
- Would require H-1B workers to gain two years experience outside the United States before permitted to work here.

the third year.

The elimination of the "outstanding professors and researchers category" would make the recruitment of world-class instructors more difficult.

"[The Immigration Reform Act] would affect every student in that they would have less contact with the international world," said Sarah Larson, another ASUO Multicultural Center legislative coordinator intern. "It would decrease the quality of every student on campus, regardless of whether they know anybody who

is an international student or not."

However, act proponents argue Americans will not be hurt by the legislation, which is slated to undergo consideration by the full Senate Judiciary Committee in late February or March.

"We're not trying to do one damn thing to [hurt] American competitiveness," Simpson said.

The Multicultural Center, USSA and the ASUO Executive will sponsor a press conference today at 11 a.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Jewish Student Union will have a general meeting today from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4366.

MEChA will have a general meeting from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-3508.

Black Student Union will have a general meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4379.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pagan Student Union is sponsoring a discussion on "Forms of Divination" tonight at 7:30 in EMU

Century Room A. For more information, call 334-6842.

Career Center is sponsoring a workshop entitled "Resume/Cover Letter Writing" today from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 12 Hendricks. For more information, visit Room 244 Hendricks or call 346-6001.

Career Center is sponsoring information from the following organizations: UPA will have a table from 8 a.m. to noon in the EMU; Fastenal will have a meeting from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Rooms A and B; JC Penney will have a meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room E. For more information, visit Room 244 Hendricks or call 346-6001.

ECOTOPIAS

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featuring

Ernest Callenbach - author of *Ecotopia*, speaking on ecotopia emerging globally and his new book *Bring Back the Buffalo!*, a proposal for prairie restoration.

and

Tim Ingalsbee - co-director of the Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project, speaking on the ecotopia in our own backyard: Warner Creek and the Cascadia Free State.

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