

Reform act may stab US students in back

■ **IMMIGRATION:** Foreign countries may react by limiting American student study abroad opportunities

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

American students will face an international backlash if the Immigration Reform Act 1995 passes, act opponents say.

The act, which would limit the number of international specialty-skilled workers and students allowed into the United States, could have serious repercussions for the University.

Immigration Reform



A three-part series on the Immigration Reform Act 1995:

TUESDAY: What the Immigration Reform Act is.
WEDNESDAY: University students' opinions on the act.
TODAY: How the act would affect the University.

MATT GARTON/Emerald

act passes, recruitment of foreign scholars and faculty will be even more difficult.

"Instead of discouraging the exchange of students and scholars, we must find ways to expand this interchange so vital to our local, state and national welfare.

"[The act] is restrictive and burdensome and must be defeated," he said.

Some foreign governments may already be taking steps toward making similar legislation, said Theresa Finch, ASUO Multicultural Center legislative coordinator intern.

“ [The act] is restrictive and burdensome and must be defeated.

— Tom Mills
Director of Office of International Education and Exchange

"Mexico has been making statements and acknowledging publicly what's been happening in the United States," she said. "They're internalizing that and possibly working on similar issues."

The act would not only have lasting effects on international students, faculty and American students wanting to study overseas. University classes, such as foreign language courses, would also be hit by changes, Mills said.

"We often cannot find enough Japanese language teachers to teach our students," he said. "And as you know, it's always best to have someone from the native language."

Under the proposed act, international students' campus addresses, academic progress and disciplinary action would be watched via a new expanded tracking system. However, opponents say the costs will far out-weigh any advantages.

"It would establish a highly bureaucratic and expensive system," Mills said.

In response, various factions of higher education, including the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, have united to oppose the act.

Many opponents fear the act's consequences will contradict our advancing society.

"This would decrease the opportunities for Americans to study abroad and enrich their education, especially at a time when we're in the technology age — a global market place — and we feel we need to open up international exchange," said Kevin Easton, member of the United States Students Association. "We're opposed to the bill for many, many reasons."

The University administration has also taken a stand against the act.

"[University president] Dave Frohnmayer and the administration rigorously oppose this bill," Mills said. "Is this legislation really necessary? The answer from the University administration is resounding 'no.'" Frohnmayer was unavailable for comment.

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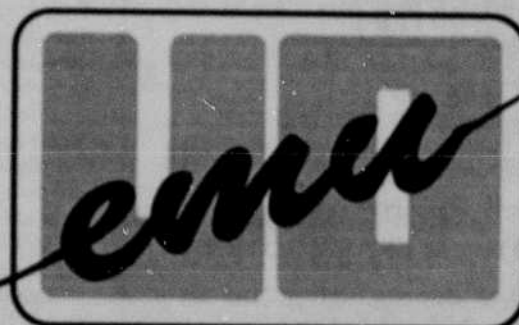
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