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International students enjoy wide variety of activities

■ **COFFEE HOUR:** The International Students Association's EMU Friday gathering at the EMU is one of many activities for foreign students

By Tom Potter
Student Activities Reporter

Coming to college for the first time can be an exciting event filled with many new faces and experiences. But for the many international students at the University, the anxiety of living in a new country accompanies the excitement.

The International Students Association helps foreign students become acquainted with other international students at the University and in the community through various activities.

One such activity is the International Coffee Hour, which takes place every Friday in the International Lounge, located in the EMU. Organizers said the social activity is an opportunity for anyone to meet with the international students.

"It's a tradition that we carry out every year," ISA co-director Preeti Nair said. "It's been going on for ten years."

"We'd like [interested students] to participate with every activity we have," ISA public relations officer Amita Malakar said.

The coffee hour has been a way for international students to become familiar with the other cultures around them.

"[Coffee Hour helps with] introducing cultures, building a mutual understanding and to make life-long friends," ISA Director Julius Darmali said.

"[They] get to know each other, promote their country and culture."

— Amita Malakar
ISA public relations officer

The weekly meeting also helps students to learn more about each other and their homelands, Malakar said.

"[They] get to know each other, promote their country and culture," she said.

ISA also serves as an umbrella for smaller international subgroups that handle individual issues with each culture.

"We're the main tree and those [other groups] are like branches," Malakar said.

There are approximately 1,700 international students who attend the University. Many are new to Eugene and are getting used to life on campus.

"I like it, I get to meet people," said Norihiro Murata, a Japanese freshman who studies English. "I like American people, and I like the sunshine. I know Eugene has a lot of rain."

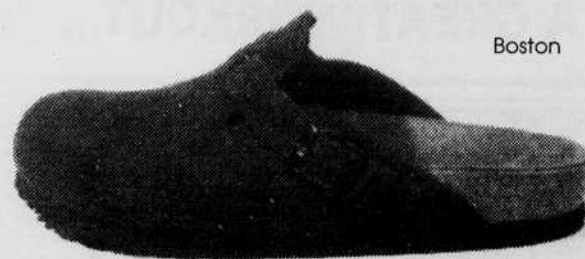
The various activities in Eugene have also been of interest to some students.

"[It's like] a small village, but a huge event," Matthias Kubr, a senior from Switzerland, said. "Here I have everything: beach, hiking, mountain biking, and skiing."

Kubr said he also likes his living situation at the University.

"[The] international halls [are] a good mix between quiet and party," he said. "You get to meet a

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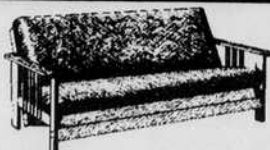
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