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Comic News

**Pulse brief**

**Art show entry  
deadline extended**

Students will have the opportunity to display their creative works, communicate with others in the universal language of art and win prizes in this year's UO International Resource Center Jurored Art Show.

The resource center has extended its entry deadline to April 16, and entry forms are available at the International Resource Center office in the EMU. Artists can submit slides of up to three creations, and applications should be dropped off Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Exhibit jurors will choose two-dimensional and 3-D pieces for the show. This year's theme is "International Communication," and the exhibit runs from May 5 to May 9 in the International Lounge, located in the EMU. For additional rules and information, contact the International Resource Center at 346-0887 or [irc@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:irc@darkwing.uoregon.edu).  
— Jacquelyn Lewis

**Vietnamese**

continued from page 1

20 to 30 maids working for them, and Chan had two especially for himself.

"I was a spoiled little kid," he said. "Even taking a bath — I just had to sit there."

Corruption within the government, though, meant their lives weren't always easy. Chan's parents also were unsatisfied with the country's higher education.

After high school, it's "out to the work field," Chan said.

Chan's family left Saigon in 1988 and spent the next two years living

in refugee camps in Malaysia and the Philippines, waiting for someone to sponsor their relocation. In Malaysia, they lived on Kuala Lum Bua, a small island with a population of 3,000. Their residence — a section of a longhouse — had no running water, electricity, beds or a kitchen.

"It was pretty much like a camping trip," Chan said.

While the lifestyle was difficult on the family, Chan said he has no regrets.

"If I had to do it all over again, I would still leave," he said.

In 1990, a Portland-area Vietnamese-American pastor sponsored their move and found jobs at Dunkin Donuts for Chan's parents. Several months later, his dad found a better job as an assembly line worker, and his mother now works for a biotechnical company.

"The whole process of coming over here has made our whole family completely different," Chan said. "We pretty much started with nothing."

Chan began his American education in the fourth grade, in 1990. He said he could not understand anything his classmates or teachers spoke about for the first two months.

"It was terrible," he said. "You're the only one who just sits there, and everyone else is looking at you funny. I learned to communicate with gestures a lot."

Chan said while teachers and some students sympathized with him, a few picked on him throughout elementary school.

"They would cuss at me, and I would have no clue what they were saying," he said, adding he would later ask teachers what the words meant. "I got a couple of them in trouble."

Chan said he was the only Asian student in his school throughout his elementary education.

Middle school was not fun for Chan. He said he received many cold stares from fellow students and was pushed around more often. The harassment reached a climax when some students followed Chan home, and his older brothers came out to protect him.

"After that, they pretty much left me alone," Chan said.

This period of Chan's life was difficult for him because he had no close friends to confide in, and he did not feel comfortable around anyone except his family — and it

only got worse after his father passed away in 1995.

In high school, Chan made his first close friends, some of them white, and his first girlfriend, who was Vietnamese. Asian people criticized him for being "white-washed" because he spent time with white friends.

After graduating from high school, Chan moved to Corvallis and enrolled at Oregon State University's engineering school, but after three years, he realized that was not what he wanted. After a struggle to convince his mother he wanted to study architecture, he transferred to the University in the fall of 2002.

According to the registrar's Web site, there are only four Vietnamese students at the University. The low number may be because others haven't yet blazed a trail. International Student Association co-Director Gabriela Serrano said family ties are important.

"The majority of international students here have either come here because a sibling was here before them or there is an exchange program, or because they have some relative here," she said.

Now a member of the University Vietnamese Student Association, Chan feels more comfortable around his white and Asian peers — but he said he has never thought a white girl would find him attractive, adding he sees a lot more white men dating Asian women than vice versa.

"I feel like there is a barrier — I don't feel comfortable approaching a Caucasian girl," he said. "Maybe they don't know much about us or our culture. Maybe they think we are too different from them."

Chan said he still hears hurtful comments, like "go back to where you came from."

"Sometimes I feel like they won't accept our culture," he said. "We're like everyone else."

The negative feelings, though, have eased with time. All four of Chan's brothers have graduated from college — the first members of his family with four-year college degrees — and he has a short time before the reason for the family's move to the United States will be complete.

"Going through all that made me a lot stronger and open-minded," he said.

Contact the reporter at [romangokhman@dailyemerald.com](mailto:romangokhman@dailyemerald.com).

**SARS**

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students. He added students don't usually travel during the term, un-

less for emergencies, but as summer approaches, more students may have questions about SARS.

Contact the reporter at [lindsaysaue@dailyemerald.com](mailto:lindsaysaue@dailyemerald.com).

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