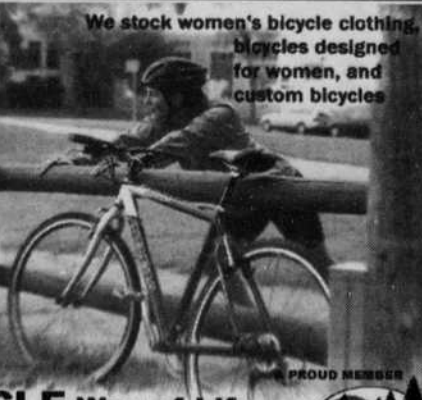


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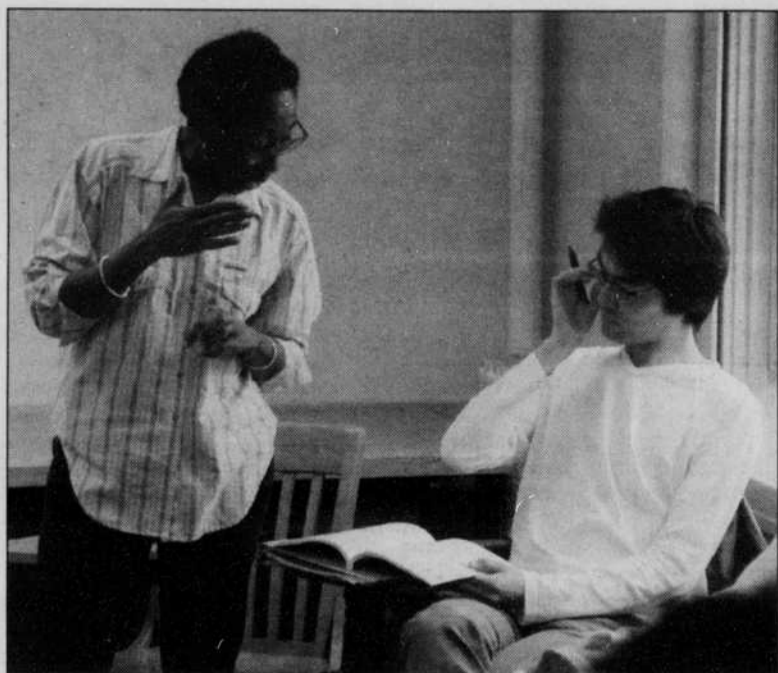
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Tim Bobosky Photographer

Belinda Young-Davy, an instructor at the American English Institute, coaches international student Rikisuke Nakagawa on his English.

## CHALLENGES

continued from page 1

giving out my voice." Other students have difficulties with the concepts in their classes. Freshman Milo Cekerevac from Serbia said some of the vocabulary and concepts such as economics and capitalism in his political science class are difficult to follow. "They use a lot of big words," he said. "I'm not really encouraged to ask questions." American English Institute instructor Belinda Young-Davy said that apart from language, the casual atmosphere — such as when a professor enters a classroom wearing jeans and drinking a cup of coffee — often surprises students.

"They see these rules kind of being thrown out the window here," she said.

She added that international students' perception of university life may also differ from reality. Students often come out of very strict, intensive high schools and expect American university life to be a more laid-back experience, which isn't always the case.

"The fact that they have so much work is really surprising to them," she said.

Faculty who work with international students also face challenges.

Journalism Professor Charles Frazier said it can be difficult when international students are reluctant to approach him, adding that he tries to be

open with them.

He said other problems arise when he is teaching subject matter that may not be familiar to international students, like American brand names in an advertising class.

"That's not something they necessarily know," he said.

History Professor Martin Summers said that at times he works personally with international students who take his upper division history classes.

"In history, it's made more complicated sometimes when they've had very little contact with American history," he said.

Business Professor Richard Mowday said the biggest challenge is language, but he tries to make sure students are spread out in discussion classes and he sometimes helps them prepare questions for class. He added that their perceptions are an important part of class discussions.

"Every culture faces the same kinds of problems, but we tend to solve them in different ways," he said.

American English Institute Director Christa Hansen said professors may not always have the training or background necessary for accommodating the needs of international students, but they are always welcome to come to the institute for advice.

"I think a lot of professors are aware and sympathetic to the students' needs," she said.

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at [chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com](mailto:chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com).



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