

'Unusual Opportunity'

Students in 'Collegi' Observe Italian Life

Editor's Note: Ron Terpening studied at the University and was a member of the Emerald staff last year. He is currently in Pavia, Italy, studying under the Italian Studies Center program. Terpening's home is Gresham, Ore.

By **RON TERPENING**
Contributor

Several students taking part in the Italian Studies Center program in Pavia have been provided an unusual opportunity to observe Italian student life by living in an Italian "collegio."

It is difficult to define the term "collegio" in English. Essentially, however, it is a mixture of a dormitory and a fraternity. In Pavia, there are four collegi for men and one collegio for women. Several American students, usually two in each collegio, are profiting from their contacts with Italian student life.

Two of the men's collegi date back to the 16th century. One, Collegio Borromeo, built in 1561, is a palace surrounded by gardens and overlooking the Ticino river. The interior of the building is adorned with frescoes dating back to 1604.

While these Renaissance palaces abound in tradition, they sacrifice the

comforts, such as hot water and adequate heating, of the new collegi. As a contrast, Collegio Fraccaro is in its fourth year. It is here that I live and my experiences are quite different from those of students in the older collegi.

For the first two months of the school year, which for the Italians begins in November, no studying is done. The initiation of the freshmen or "matricole" occupies everyone's time.

The main purpose of the initiation is to "destroy," both mentally and physically, the new freshman. Any request of the upperclassmen must be obeyed. This usually means doing situps during the day and answering unanswerable questions all night. Black shoe polish is also much in use.

Do the freshmen mind this torture? It's tradition, they say. Anyway, next year they too will be taking vengeance on some unfortunate Freshman.

The climax of two month's initiation is the "Festa delle Matricole," a celebration including a parade and a sumptuous dinner. In the evening, wearing the traditional university hats and carrying torches, the students parade through the streets of the city, blowing whistles, singing, shooting off fireworks, and in

general making as much noise as they can.

We, from Collegio Fraccaro, had a cart carrying two replicas of medieval towers, our Collegio's symbol, and the effigies of the other collegi. After walking through the streets, we stopped at each of the various collegi and launched fireworks and bombs against their walls.

Next, a feast took place topped by champagne, which, after the usual wine, put everyone in good spirits. The upperclassmen lined up facing each other down the middle of the dining hall. The freshmen had to start at one end on their hands and knees and crawl, with surprising speed, an incentive being provided by the feet of the upperclassmen, to the front of the room where they then received the collegio's symbolic pin.

When all the freshmen had been run through the gauntlet, we were greeted into the collegio with kisses on the cheeks, hugs, and familiar handshakes.

Since then life has become more serious. The students, having a luxurious lounge and TV room, as well as an excellent library, maintain a quiet studious atmosphere near the individual rooms.

The meals, however, are entirely different. Usually everything is in an up-

roar. While some students are pounding on the table for service (we are served by waiters), others, in an effort to make themselves heard, shout in the ears of anyone willing to listen. Every now and then someone will stand up gesticulating wildly in order to make a point or gain a little attention. The Italians are experts at eating and talking at the same time and consequently finish before we Americans are half way through.

In Collegio Fraccaro the friendliness of all the students is remarkable. Often in the evenings the Italians will come by the room to talk—always of course bringing along a bottle of wine or champagne. The students demonstrate a lively interest in the United States and frequently will ask about various aspects of our life. This gives us an excellent opportunity to practice the language and to learn not only new words and phrases but in turn something about Italian attitudes as well.

The chance to communicate with others is thus one of the most important features of the Collegio. Being above all a learning-experience, life in Fraccaro gives us a chance to sharpen our perception of the world while providing as well the opportunity to make friendships.

South Viet Students Dislike FLN, U.S. Policies in War

WASHINGTON (CPS)—South Vietnamese students view the United States and the National Liberation Front with equal hostility, according to a three-man team from the U.S. National Student Association which has just returned from a two-week trip there.

The delegation was led by Philip Sherburne, NSA president and former ASUO president, who said that four themes seemed to underlie all of the group's conversations with South Vietnamese students:

- "A general unwillingness to be part of any coalition government or to participate in any negotiations with the National Liberation front;
- "A high degree of dislike for the United States;
- "A strong feeling that the U.S. has violated the national sovereignty of South Viet Nam;
- "A great desire to have elections so that a national government with some legitimacy can be formed."

U.S. Resented

Sherburne said the delegation felt the attitude toward the United States was based both on a general resentment toward all whites and the "real feeling of uneasiness and sadness as to what the American presence in Viet Nam has meant for their country." He cited the effect of large numbers of American troops on the na-

tion's economy and the traditional social standards of the country as two examples.

Continued support of the many South Vietnamese military governments and a feeling among students that the Ky government was U.S.-installed has led to the sentiment that the U.S. has violated South Viet Nam's national sovereignty, Sherburne said.

He said that South Vietnamese students feel that policy for the country is being made in Washington and not Saigon, and that they point to numerous statements of President Johnson and other U.S. officials as their evidence.

Sherburne said that in addition to assessing the feeling of South Vietnamese students, the NSA delegation hoped to make arrangements for a suitable exchange visit by South Vietnamese student leaders.

Architect to Speak, Meet With Groups

One of the country's outstanding landscape architects, Garrett Eckbo of Berkeley, Calif., will give a lecture on "Tomorrow's Landscape" at 8 p.m. today in room 106 Lawrence.

Eckbo, head of the department of landscape architecture at the University of California at Berkeley, will be a guest of the University School of Architecture and Allied Arts today and Thursday.

He will meet with students for a series of informal group meetings today and will speak at an Honors College symposium Thursday evening.

Eckbo is the author of three books in landscape—"Landscape for Living," published in 1950; "The Art of Home Landscaping," 1950; and "Urban Landscape Design" 1964. He has also contributed articles to publications in the United States, England, Canada, and France.

change visit by South Vietnamese student leaders.

This exchange trip will not be possible, Sherburne said, because the students "we would want to visit the U.S. won't be able to leave at this time." He said that the students felt that their own activities at this point were so important that they couldn't afford to leave the country and that the government was generally unwilling to have any student delegation leave now because of the unstable political conditions.

Circulate Final Report

Sherburne said the team's findings will be circulated in the form of a report to the campuses. The report will serve as the basis for several magazine articles and a report to government agencies, he added.

He said the team expects to make a report to the government outlining where South Vietnamese students feel U.S. policy has fallen short and making appropriate suggestions. Sherburne suggested that NSA and several government agencies may discuss possible projects in South Viet Nam, especially in community development.

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'Ramparts' Cites CIA Infiltration

By **CLARENCE FANTO**
The Collegiate Press Service

EAST LANSING, Mich.—Michigan State University last week admitted that five agents of the Central Intelligence Agency infiltrated an MSU aid mission in South Viet Nam, but school officials said the five were fired as soon as their identity was learned.

MSU dropped the program shortly thereafter.

The story was revealed last week by Ramparts, a liberal monthly magazine.

The magazine charged that the MSU project served as a front for the CIA mission and thereby violated the 1954 Geneva agreements, which ended the war between France and nationalist Viet Minh forces.

The program, which was financed by the U.S. government, cost American taxpayers \$25 million, the Ramparts article said. An MSU spokesman said a figure of \$10 million was closer to the truth.

The article charged that the

MSU mission helped train a militia for the regime of Premier Ngo Dinh Diem and financed guns and ammunitions for Diem's civil guard. MSU said the school trained Diem's police force only and set up a civil service program for his government.

"CIA agents were hidden within the ranks of the MSU professors in the Viet Nam project," the Ramparts article charged. "The agents' instructions were to engage in counter-espionage and counter-intelligence."

The MSU project in South Viet Nam included the acquisition of research about the nation as well as recommendations on building construction and equipment design.

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