

Back again

Talk highlights 'soul travel'

The debate over reincarnation is a question which has returned to haunt theologians and lay people again and again. Belief in reincarnation, or soul travel, in which one is thought to return to former lives or to assume the spirit of another being after death, persists into this century.

In Eugene last week an audience gathered to hear a proponent of reincarnation discuss the merits of coming back. Shirley Rabb-Winston, a member of the Association for Research and Enlightenment, Inc. (ARE), lectured her audience on the organization's beliefs of "Reincarnation and Karma."

ARE was founded by the late psychic Edgar Cayce to carry on his research on reincarnation and other subjects. ARE, based in Virginia, maintains a large library and sponsors over 300 study groups and many guest speakers.

Rabb-Winston's primary message concerned her belief in reincarnation. "There is an overwhelming amount of evidence being given to us on reincarna-

tion," she said. "There are many cases of Western children recalling past lives, because we're being more permissive with the children's imagination, and that's a good thing."

Rabb-Winston also tied this to her belief in Karma, in which a person's actions affect him later. Thus, an individual's actions in one life will affect his position or station in a future life. Reincarnation is "man's own choice, not God's whim," according to Rabb-Winston. The entire process is viewed by believers as a series of trips to the "Earth plane" and return trips to the spiritual state.

Finally, Rabb-Winston gave some practical advice to the more than 100 people attending. "Many everyday problems can be tackled successfully by letting the subconscious do the work," she said. This idea can easily be applied to studying for exams. "Think for as long as you can on that subject, then get some rest. The subconscious needs time to assimilate the material."

Foreign travel

(Continued from Page 1)

sional schools including science, law and medicine.

"The ties between France and America are very deep," says Louis Olivier, assistant professor of French and a former resident director. "The person who goes to France is in a sense re-establishing contact with his own past."

One of the goals of the Study Abroad program in France is to aid students in making contact with French people who are not necessarily associated with the academic world, thus giving them a chance to become acquainted with the native way of life.

In recounting his experiences as a resident director, Olivier tells of a small town outside of Poitiers which agreed to welcome his group of 17 American students and host them for a weekend. Students were placed in homes ranging from the town bank president to the local goat herder.

The townspeople were a little apprehensive at first, Olivier remembers, because their knowledge of Americans was based primarily on what they saw in the movies of "motorcycle gangs and drug fiends," so it turned out to be an enjoyable learning experience for both the French and the Americans. "The kids probably did more than all the foreign aid to promote international relations," Olivier says proudly.

For students interested in learning more about the traditions and lifestyles of the people of the Far East, the Oregon Study Center in Japan is located in the International Division of Waseda University, in the midst of bustling Tokyo.

No previous knowledge of the Japanese language is required and any student in good standing after completing at least one year at an American college is eligible to apply. Emphasis is placed on the applicant's ability and willingness to live and attend school in the Asian culture.

Students in the program live with Japanese families during their stay and in doing so are able to "immerse themselves in a foreign culture," according to Ralph Falconeri, associate professor of history and a former resident director.

Falconeri notes that the program has proved so beneficial a few of his former students are planning to return to Japan to live and work after graduation.

Waseda University is an established and prestigious institution with a total enrollment of approximately 43,000 students. Courses are offered in the humanities, social sciences, business and education with emphasis on Japan

and East Asia. The instruction is in English.

Students have the opportunity to travel around the country during the two school vacation periods. Odette Sueda, a University student and former participant in the Japan study program, feels that "traveling and living with the family" were the most beneficial experiences of the program for her.

Sueda says the most difficult adjustment to Japanese customs for her to make was "going to Furo-ya (the public bath house)." Although the large pool is partitioned off between men and women, a male ticket taker sits on the partition to "keep an eye on both sides."

Costs for these academic programs abroad are lower than many

people might expect. "A lot of people spend as much for an academic year in Eugene as they would for the year in Poitiers," says Olivier.

During the 1976-77 academic year in Japan, the costs were \$3,584 for undergraduate residents of Oregon (including transportation to and from Japan). The total cost of the France program was \$2,834 and for Germany it was \$3,034 (not including transportation to and from the countries).

Prices for the 1977-78 academic year may differ from the 1976-77 costs. Interested students are urged to contact the Office of International Student Services for application information as soon as possible.

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