

Book may shake-up belly dance world; describes exercises

By ANAMARIA BELL
Of the Emerald

The University dance department has offered a course in belly dancing since 1975, but there has never been an available textbook to help teach it.

Two University students, Marianne Morino and Pamela Gates, have written a book to supplement the course.

"The Secrets of the Veil," which has been accepted by a national publishing company for consideration, traces the history of belly dancing and includes exercises, ideas for coordinating costumes and anecdotes.

The book took three years to research and is the first of its nature to deal with belly dancing history. Morino and Gates traced belly-dance history back to 3000 B.C. In Egypt, belly dancing was a sacred fertility rite.

The belly was sacred in Egyptian times because they did not understand the biological and scientific process of impregnation," Morino says.

Two-thousand years later in the Middle East, the stomach was praised as a pure and holy symbol. Morino says men would make oaths on their stomachs instead of on their hearts.

"They would lay their sword on the stomach to make an oath," she says.

The book outlines the various phases of the belly dance, illustrating girl's youth through womanhood. The introduction, which represents youth, removal of the veil signifies marriage and the rest of the dance symbolizes womanhood.



Photo by Adrienne Salinger

Marianne Morino demonstrates the content of her book - on belly dancing - which she wrote with fellow student Pamela Gates. The book has been accepted by a national publishing company for consideration.

Belly dancing costumes vary with different countries and different times, according to Morino. She says that while Egyptians wore airy, transparent gowns, the Greeks preferred harem pants and head dresses with veils to cover the face.

Morino says the sheer costumes did not originate until the 18th Century.

"I disapprove of them because they are not traditional and were developed more for cabaret-type nightshows," she adds. "Belly dancing was presented not in its original art form, but as an attraction for soldiers.

In the mid-18th Century, Morino says an Arabian king by the name of Mohammed Ali banned female belly dancers because they were more like prostitutes than artistic belly dancers. At that time, male belly dancers flourished.

Morino says she has thoroughly enjoyed working on the book because she wants to share her concept of belly dancing with other people.

"My concept is respectability," she says. "Belly dancing should be presented as an art rather than as an exploitation."

"I perceive belly dancing as an ancient art form which I believe takes much discipline, strength and control," Morino says. "It is as challenging as any other forms of dance such as ballet and modern jazz."

New labor regulations keep youths from picking berries

SEATTLE (AP) — There is no way Washington and Oregon farmers can meet Department of Labor standards that would allow 10 and 11-year-olds to pick berries this summer, an aide to Rep. Lloyd Meeds said Tuesday.

The Labor Department has rejected all of the applications from nearly 200 Washington and Oregon agricultural organizations and employers who had requested waivers to allow 10 and 11-year-olds to hand-harvest crops.

The department said none of the waiver applications contained adequate documentation on the safety of pesticides used where the children would be working.

"It's impossible for anyone to do

this document pesticide safety," said Larry Ward, Meeds' administrative assistant.

Meeds, D-Wash., shepherded an amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act through Congress last fall, allowing youngsters over 12-years-old to help hand-harvest crops.

The 10 and 11-year-olds can be hired only if farmers make a written request for a waiver and meet a stringent list of conditions.

Ward said the pesticide restriction was an amendment to the Meeds amendment and the Labor Department's use of it to keep youngsters from picking crops means "we've been blitzed," he said.

The amendment required that "the level and type of pesticides and other chemicals used would not have an adverse effect on the health or well-being of the individuals to whom the waiver would apply."

In a news release Friday, the department said it had received comments "that have raised the possibility that serious potential health hazards exist in the covered crops."

Eugene to build new bike path

Eugene received approval to build a bikeway along the Amazon Channel as part of a \$2.2 million package the Oregon Transportation Commission awarded Tuesday.

The 1.85 mile long bikeway will run along the channel between Danebo Avenue and Quaker Street and will cost a total of \$237,000.

Federal funds will pay all costs save about \$300,000.

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