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Findhorn: an active vision

Founder establishes a community 'alternative'

By Tim Leonard
 Of the Emerald

The Findhorn spiritual community in northern Scotland is, 20 years after its inception, still "a vision transformed into action," says Peter Caddy, founder and a recent speaker at the EMU. The 64-year-old former Royal Air Force officer showed slides and spoke to about 200 people on the history and development of Findhorn, which he said has taken many forms, a lot of work and many descriptions.

He attributed its growth to a series of "inner visions" his wife Eileen experienced while they were staying at a Scottish hotel.

In 1962, they followed the visions and moved a mobile home onto a dump area surrounded by dry, sandy soil, he said. It became the nucleus that now represents a highly-organized community representing alternative living throughout the world, Caddy said.

The first garden at Findhorn measured five by 12 feet and provided 65 varieties of vegetables, 21 fruits and various herbs. They began gardening experiments focusing on three main elements — man the creator, angels or "Devas," or "beams of light" and nature spirits, he said.

Findhorn founders attribute the garden's success on such poor soil to the Devas' help, Caddy said. Eventually, a visitor showed them

how to make a compost pile.

The community grew with help from newly recruited members and visions inspired by meditation, he said. The visions instructed members about growing vegetables to what land to buy. "A place of change" formed, Caddy said.

Since then, the highly fertile garden has had 220 permanent members, 60 children and between 100-150 guests. Caddy and his wife are now separated and have gradually transferred their original maintenance duties to others, he said.

But the change of hands has not curtailed Findhorn's growth, Caddy said. The garden's members have published 40 texts, constructed a performing arts center complete with dance, drama, music and recording capabilities and acquired additional property, including caretaking responsibility of Iona island, off the Scottish coast, he said.

Findhorn's success brings many visitors — ranging from those staying for a week, "experiencing Findhorn," to a three-month "Essence of Findhorn," Caddy said.

He says he now plans to begin another spiritual community in the Pacific Basin near California's Mt. Shasta where he wants to continue to "demonstrate how people can live in an Aquarian consciousness with love, service, oneness, cooperation and wholeness."

IFC denies PLUS \$1,400, offers only operating cost

The Physically Limited Union of Students had its budget slashed from this year's sum of more than \$1,600 to less than \$200 for next year at Monday's Incidental Fee Committee budget hearing.

PLUS's funding was cut back after the IFC decided the bulk of the organization's budget request — money for a potential legal battle — should not come from incidental fees.

The funding PLUS requested was to be used for a possible lawsuit against the state system of higher education for not complying with federal affirmative action legislation, said PLUS director Chester Faller.

Despite Faller's arguments about the importance of a suit, the IFC was not convinced litigation is inevitable or that a suit by PLUS is worthy of IFC

funding.

The IFC, however, elected to give PLUS what it believed sufficient to keep its office open, recommending that the group work through Legal Services to fund its lawsuit.

"I will explore the possibility of channeling PLUS's legal fees to Legal Services, where it belongs in the first place," said IFC chairer Karsten Rasmussen.

"Quite frankly, the IFC has shown its insensitivity to handicapped concerns. They've destroyed PLUS. That should be obvious," said Faller. Since its legal battle will not receive IFC funding, none of PLUS's 67 members will be interested in keeping the PLUS office open, he added.

"Without the lawsuit, there is no reason for PLUS to exist —

period," Faller said.

The ASUO Executive's latest recommendation for funding PLUS was \$800 — although its original recommendation was no funding — ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins told the IFC. Adding this figure to the \$1,200 the organization spent on its legal struggle last year makes a total of \$2,000, the amount Legal Services allots for lawsuits, he said.

However, the IFC rejected this suggestion.

The committee also allocated to the Foreign Student Organization about \$8,000 for next year — \$750 more than the ASUO recommendation — as the IFC voted to subsidize the FSO's Cultural Night. The FSO had originally planned to fund this event through the IFC's loan committee, said FSO director Javed Rasool.

Panel critiques J-school

By Brian Bubak
 Of the Emerald

The University's journalism school is being reviewed for accreditation — the examiner is now the examinee.

You could call it a case of role reversal.

The journalism program comes up for re-accreditation once every six years, says Everette Dennis, dean of the journalism school.

It's been six years. The accreditation team, from the American Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, is finishing up its two-day examination today.

During their stay, the team undertook tasks such as sitting in on classes, interviewing students and faculty, examining student records, talking to University administrators, talking to area professionals and, in general, trying to get a 'feel' for the journalism school.

The accreditation team represents, "the consumer of higher education," explains Dr. Doug Newsom, chairer of the ACEJMC accrediting committee and member of the team visiting the University.

Their goal, Newsom says, is to make sure various journalism schools around the country give the students the education they originally

opt for.

The team consists of Newsom, chairer of Texas Christian University's journalism school; Pat Cranston, from the University of Washington; Ken Atkin, from California State University at Fullerton; Dr. Richard G. Gray, from Indiana University; and James H. Ottaway, publisher of Ottaway Newspapers.

When they finish their investigation here, the team will make a report and recommendation to Council itself. An official decision regarding re-accreditation will be made sometime in April, Newsom says.

And in light of this procedure, neither Newsom nor Dennis are able to make any prediction regarding the journalism school's chances of passing.

"It seems to me... we're in good shape. I think we have a very strong and competent program," Dennis says.

"It's like an exam," Dennis says. "We're extremely well prepared," but one never knows what the outcome will be, he adds.

As well as re-accreditation in news/editorial, advertising, public relations and broadcast news, the journalism department is seeking accreditation in a new field — magazine journalism.