

Unusual remedies for common ills offered by school

The thought of attending medical school does not normally bring to mind images of pins and needles. But the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine in Portland does not instruct students to offer traditional remedies.

The college offers a three-year program that covers all aspects of acupuncture theory and practice, including traditional Chinese diagnosis, needling techniques, Chinese herbology,

a related western medical curriculum and an approved acupuncture clinic internship.

Philip Himburg, executive director of the college, said the school was established in 1983 by a licensed acupuncturist to meet the "growing need for well-trained, qualified people in the field." The school currently has an enrollment of about 75 students, he said.

Acupuncture is a practice gaining acceptance in the

United States, Himburg said. Many states now provide for the licensing of acupuncturists through state boards of medical examiners, he said, although some states have no such provisions.

Oregon was one of the first two states to license the practice of acupuncture in 1973, he said.

The Oregon Board of Medical Examiners charges a filing fee of \$125 to take the licensing exam, and \$50 for initial registration of the license. Acupuncturists must renew their licenses annually for a fee of \$50.

Acupuncture is a completely different system of medicine, said Himburg, who has been practicing acupuncture for two years. Acupuncture theory is based on the existence of channels of energy that flow through the body. When examining a patient who is ill, the diagnostician looks for an imbalance in the energy flow, he said.

Once the diagnostician has pinpointed the problem, he makes the selection and inserts the needles for about 20 to 30 minutes, Himburg said. "We use as few needles as possible. Some people have the misconception that hundreds of needles are used."

The strategically placed needles rebalance the energy flow in the body by stimulating the body's energy in the right direction, Himburg said.

Although licensed acupuncturists don't possess the title "Doctor," they are independent practitioners and don't need a referral from a traditional Western doctor to treat someone, Himburg said. They do need to request the medical records from the patient's doctor, he said.

In some states, such as

California where there are a number of schools of Oriental medicine, the acupuncturist is the primary health care provider, Himburg said.

Traditional doctors view acupuncture with mixed feelings, Himburg said. "Some doctors think the whole thing is real ridiculous. Others refer patients to us."

The school will be dispensing diplomas to the first graduating class this year, Himburg said. About eight to 10 students will be graduating.

Jeff Weih, one of those graduating, came to Portland from Iowa to study naturopathic medicine three years ago. The naturopathic college, which shares a campus with the college of Oriental medicine, was one of two in the nation at the time.

While studying naturopathy, Weih became interested in acupuncture and decided to study it, he said. Weih has completed 345 of the required 350 treatment hours of his internship, he said.

According to state law, acupuncture students must complete a clinical internship before they may receive their

licenses.

"Acupuncture can take care of a great many, if not most, of the problems that Western physicians are faced with, except for advanced serious illness or trauma," Weih said. "Then it would work better in conjunction with Western medicine."

Other illnesses with which acupuncture can be effective include gynecological irregularities, gastro-intestinal disease, respiratory and immunological problems, and headaches, Himburg said.

Although Weih is finishing his internship with a licensed acupuncturist in Portland, he spent four months interning for Malvin Finkelstein, a local acupuncturist.

Finkelstein, who studied acupuncture at the New England School of Acupuncture and at the Shanghai College of Traditional Chinese Medicine in San Francisco, taught at the Oregon college during 1984. He is one of four licensed acupuncturists in the Eugene area.

Story by Michael Rivers
Photo by Ross Martin



More and more people are being treated for illnesses through acupuncture, a treatment based on the insertion of needles at strategic points in the body.

Et al.

MEETINGS

Student Senate meets today at 3:30 p.m. in Century Room F, EMU.

The Latin American Support Committee meets today at 5:30 p.m. at the Council for Human Rights in Latin America, 1236 Kincaid St.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

The Outdoor Program will sponsor a slide show and lecture by freelance writer William Sullivan about his 1,360-mile solo backpacking trek tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Room 107 Lawrence Hall.

Recent Discoveries in Mi-

noan Crete" is the topic of a lecture by Jeffrey Soles, associate professor of classics from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. The lecture will be at 8 p.m. in Room 166 Lawrence Hall.

INTERVIEWS

Submit bids for campus interviews on Monday through Wednesday in Room 244 Hendricks Hall for the following recruiters:

May 12: Dynamix Software Development (micro-computer programmer); Stockton Unified School District (education/spec educ positions).

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emu Food Service

Breakfast is the Most Important Meal of the Day

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