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Report recommends changes for program

By Christopher Blair
Emerald Editor

A faculty committee report substantiates many of the complaints and concerns of students participating in a University study abroad program, and recommends changes in the way the program is run and evaluated.

The Perugia (Italy) Study Abroad Program, which offers students the opportunity spend a summer attending university classes in central Italy, drew the attention of the University administration in March after complaints about housing and the unstructured nature of its coursework.

The investigation drew more attention in May after the program's director and founder, Prof. Emmanuel Hatzantonis, committed suicide.

The committee comments in the report that its review was "complicated" by Hatzantonis' death. Although it states that the report was not intended as an investigation of Hatzantonis or any other faculty member, his input would have been invaluable to the review.

"That was clearly a deficiency in our ability to sort everything out," said Joe Stone, a committee member and professor of economics. "He was the person who would have had most of the information about last summer. ... Whenever there are problems or concerns, you like to talk to the source."

A major source of concern for past participants was substandard housing. Students complained of crowded conditions, a lack of kitchen and bathroom facilities, and the perils of sleeping in rooms above a late-night piano bar.

The report recommended that the responsibility of finding housing be shifted from the director to students, and that participants negotiate directly with landlords — "in Italian, we hope!" it stated parenthetically.

Although negotiating for housing in a foreign country might be more difficult and crucial than purchasing food or souvenirs, one committee member said the

experience would be valuable to students and take pressure from the director for being responsible for housing.

"(Finding housing) puts a great burden on the director," said Marianne Nicols, College of Arts and Sciences associate dean. "The students feel forced to accept the housing the director has found. To avoid that problem, we might make the student responsible."

The report also states that the Perugia program and other study abroad programs are not properly supervised by the University, and that the Office of International Affairs should have ultimate administrative jurisdiction over all University study abroad programs.

According to the committee's report, in the 20 years University students were in Italy under the Perugia program, 1990 was only the second time the University sought student evaluations, and then only "because of rumors of 'problems' within the program."

Stone said the report emphasizes the need for formal University review.

"(The programs) have been initiated through the efforts of one or two individuals without much University input or supervision," Stone said.

"Now it seems there is a logical place for these programs to be supervised. That's certainly our recommendation."

Student evaluations and reports from faculty directors are currently the minimum requirement of all state system program evaluations. The report also recommends that the the University Senate's Faculty Studies Committee should review all study abroad programs on a five-year cycle.

The committee's concerns with the Perugia program's academic offerings centered on the Italian University for Foreigners (the host school) and the curriculum structure.

The report questions using the university as a setting for the program. As the name implies, students study and interact with other American students and

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Muffy's gift

Emma Piper works on a bracelet for her stuffed bear Muffy in the EMU Craft Center on Wednesday afternoon. Photo by Jeff Paslay

Dancer blends '60s style with native art

By Sparky J. Roberts
Emerald Contributor

Sage Gentle-Wing might be a monk, or he might be a sojourner from the '60s, calling to mind the hypnotic drums and flutes, resonant sitars, redolent atmosphere and chants for peace.

Gentle-Wing's dance is iconographic. He adds gesture to classical pictorial images of the spirit-gods of Tibet, India, Bali and Native American tribes. He underscores each mask by a stylized walk, stance and set of mudras (hand shapes).

The archetypes, Gentle-Wing said, represent aspects of the mind. Each different deity overcomes an obstacle to enlightenment; a fierce, blue-faced despot hops and spins on one foot, strikes the air with his sword, and tames his own inner demons.

A feminine personage, represented by a serene white mask, seems to offer peace. An orange-faced warrior walks broadly, and shoots invisible arrows to vanquish his fears. Kingly Siva, jingling and bejeweled, dandles little dishes of flame.

The choreography consist of illustrative character motifs, repeated with vari-

ations.

Some of the sharper actions resemble martial arts, but compared to MTV, Gentle-Wing's style is non-invasive. In fact, modern-day dance idioms don't prepare us for the aesthetic of Sacred Dance. Gentle-Wing's space/time is metaphysical, trance-like. The cumulative effect of watching his yogic saga is sort of spaced equanimity.

Off stage, Sage Gentle-Wing shows his aspect of self-promoter. After all, he's a trouper on the road with an esoteric form of entertainment: performance meditation.

While talking about his art, he softened into smiles.

"I'm an interpreter," he said, "I mix traditional elements with my personal mythology. I'm trying to walk on earth with balance, and to relate being human to being at one with nature."

Gentle-Wing dresses with flower-child flair — beads, bright yellow Indian-gauze shirt and a woven headband, yet he resists being stereotyped a hippie.

"I'm not 'this' or 'that,'" he said. "I

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Sage Gentle-Wing will perform at the Wilamette Street Theater Saturday night. Courtesy photo

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Bartlett & the U.N.

Thomas Bartlett, chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education, will give a presentation on the United Nations today.

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Suds



The film Soapdish, which lampoons life on the set of a bad TV soap opera, has its moments, but falls far short of its potential.

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Behind Troy

Former Oregon quarterback Bill Musgrave will be competing with Babe Laufenberg and Cliff Stoudt for the backup quarterback spot behind Troy Aikman of the Dallas Cowboys.

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