

DIRECTOR

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Phelps was the best candidate for the job for several reasons.

"He showed a very active interest in issues pertaining to people with HIV and an ability to take on challenges without blinking an eye," Sonduck said.

Phelps' experience will serve him well in what will be a "multi-faceted job," Sonduck said. Phelps' new duties will include public speaking, community networking, and finalizing contracts with government agencies, she said.

"It's a complicated job, but I think he can do it," she said.

Dr. Tom Redfield, co-chairman of the AIDS hospice's board of directors, said Phelps was chosen because of his fundraising experience and volunteer work.

The biggest task Phelps has before him is starting the Acorn House, a residential care facility for people with AIDS, Redfield said. The house will be a place for people with AIDS who are too sick to work or take care of themselves. A trained staff will help patients with the basics of daily living by preparing meals and regulat-

ing medication.

"I expect him to be a really big boost for getting the house going sometime in 1992," Redfield said. "At this point we need a full-time staff person to put together fundraising and do volunteer recruitment."

Phelps will also help with the Acorn Club, a social and recreational club for people who are HIV-positive sponsored by the AIDS hospice.

Phelps will share office space with Shanti of Lane County and the Willamette AIDS Council. Shanti and WAC will legally merge into one organization by July 1, but will retain the services they now offer.

Despite the office merger, the AIDS Hospice will retain separate services.

Jenna Southworth, Shanti executive director, said the community will benefit from the office merger. People will soon be able to call one place in Eugene for AIDS information, she said.

"We're pleased that AIDS Hospice is able to hire an administrator for their program," Southworth said. "We're very happy there is going to be a single point of contact for AIDS education and services."

INTERNATIONAL

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Scottish graduate architecture student, and Mathias Roth, a German physics student, said that at home, students write all class papers by hand.

Stark, who advises international students, said in the past, worried students have come to her when required to type papers. They had no computing background but were expected to have basic word processing skills.

Typing versus handwriting is just one adjustment. The American rhythm of both life and education can be stressful.

"I learned to be on time," Moshtael said. "I was raised in a country where time was like a rubber band — you could stretch it as far as you like." Moshtael, of Iranian origin, lived in Cameroon for 10 years.

The junior biology and pre-med student had problems readjusting when she visited her home last year, she said.

In many countries, when students choose a course of study, they are locked into that course for the duration of their University career. All the students' courses are directly related to that major. Hence, the variety of choices offered here can be both exciting and overwhelming.

Masha Shatalina, a Russian economics graduate student in her second year, chose economics as her course of study when she was in high school. Three intensive exams were required to enter the university program there. All the University students in the same major have the same classes, she said.

"Once you enter one major, you don't change," she said.

"If you want to change, you start at the beginning," she said. Here, you can change studies and continue without losing everything you have done, she said.

David Guilfoyle, an Australian anthropology student, said picking courses was hard at first.

McKay agreed that knowing what to take was difficult. In Glasgow, Scotland, where he studied, the courses were mapped out for students.

Guilfoyle said that in American Universities, students can study a bit of everything, a concept he likes.

In Taiwan, the system is a bit more flexible, Do said. Students are still given a schedule rather than choosing their own, but it is multi-disciplinary, she said.

"There is just so much choice here ... so many opportunities," Moshtael said. Cameroon's education system is based on the European model, so "once you start the process, you can't change your mind," she said.

Moshtael cited France as an example, where students are given three years with one allowed repeated year to get the equivalent of the American bachelor's degree. If students don't complete courses in the allotted time, they are not allowed to continue. Here, "you can take as long as you want," she said.

In Cameroon, the emphasis was also on group rather than on individual assignments, Moshtael said. Students need to be assertive here if they need help, she said.

Shatalina agreed. In Russia, everyone helps the others prepare, she said. Because the same

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— Wen-yo Do

International student from Taiwan.

students are together for all courses for five years of University study, a cooperative spirit develops, she said. "Everyone knows who has weak places," she said. "It's difficult (here) because I'm very much a group person."

Asking for help when needed isn't always easy. In Taiwan, "It's an unwritten law — don't question the teacher. A question means you didn't study," Do said.

The cost of study in America is often a jolt to international students. Roth, McKay, Do and Guilfoyle all agreed education is very expensive here.

In many countries, the government provides University education at little or no cost, but competition for entry is tough.

In Russia, although a university education is theoretically open to everyone, the entry exams are very difficult. Shatalina said she studied for her economics college exams for one year. About one of every 14 students can enter universities in Russia, she said.

All these differences, both positive and negative, can cause foreign students stress.

"It's very difficult to be a foreign student," said Peter Briggs, acting director of the Office of International Services. The adventure and excitement of living in a foreign country can be a fantastic experience, he said, but feelings of isolation and depression are also common.

Briggs, who works daily with students from all over the world, said international students seem to like the University. "They see it as a good place to be," he said. "The office's goal is to make cultural contact positive."

The Office of International Services provides students information on immigration regulations, employment, financial guidance, University services, and health insurance and care. Staff are also there for moral support.

Stark said that in many countries, seeking counseling is not traditional. "It's an American thing," she said. Hence, students experiencing loneliness, communication or academic problems may hesitate to express these feelings.

Stark said these feelings aren't always expressed verbally, but may be manifested in depression or physical ailments. Stark said the office works closely with the Student Health and Counseling centers to aid in these areas.

Spending time with other foreign students who can empathize with difficulties is important. Every Friday, students from all nations gather for International Coffee Hour in the EMU International Lounge at 4:30 p.m. Stark said this is a good time for networking and meeting people.

The University also has several international campus groups. Associations for Taiwan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Norway, China, Singapore, the Philippines, and Muslim students have been organized. Call the International Student Association at 346-4387 for more information.



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