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Hostels

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everyone, not just young people.

"Originally they started out that way," said Chris Moehling, who works at the Portland International Hostel on Hawthorne. "Hostels started out in Germany as a way for traveling students to have a cheap place to stay, and it's just the name has kind of stuck."

The only age restriction is for infants and very young children. They are only allowed to stay in private rooms and not the group dorm rooms.

"We still cater to the younger crowd, but a lot of people that stay are older," Moehling said.

Hostels offer travelers a friendly and unique environment very different from a motel experience.

"I really enjoy staying at youth hostels," said Rebecca Reynolds, an undeclared freshman from Texas. "It's clean, the atmosphere is great, there are kitchens and entertainment," Reynolds said.

The typical AYH hostel has dormitory-style separate quarters for males and females, private rooms, dining areas and common rooms for relaxing and socializing. Most, if not all hostels, have fully equipped do-it-yourself kitchens and/or cafeterias. Storage and laundry facilities are also available.

The standard room has six to eight beds, often bunk beds, furnished with pillow and blankets. Private rooms are available at most, but not at all, hostels.

"They have movies, music, pool tables and some have saunas," Reynolds said. "They're super cheap. Ours were \$15 a night, and we got free breakfast and sheets and towels provided."

Linens are either included in the overnight fee or available for rent at a nominal fee.

Hostels also provide a variety of extra features and opportunities.

"Like most hostels, we have Internet access so people can check their e-mail and keep in touch with people," Moehling said. "When the weather is nice, we have barbecues every week. We're building a deck to hold open-mic nights, which we've had in the past."

The Fort Mason Hostel in San Francisco is located in a national park with a view of Alcatraz. There's a hostel in a castle in Germany, a chalet in Switzerland and a light house hostel on the California coast.

At Portland's Hawthorne Street hostel, they have guided art walks the first Thursday of every month.

"Also spontaneous group trips are always happening," Moehling said.

Membership isn't necessary to stay at an AYH hostels, but they do have certain criteria.

Guests at the Portland hostel cannot live in the area. They must have a picture I.D. or proof of travel plans, like a bus or train ticket. These measures are used to discourage the hostel from becoming a flop house.

"Basically, it is for people who are traveling around the country or coming specifically to Portland," Moehling said.

The HI-AYH hostel system traces its roots to Europe where a German school teacher transformed school buildings, left empty on weekends, into overnight accommodations for trav-

Exchange

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it," he said.

During the 1997-1998 academic year, more than 1,600 international students from 90 countries were enrolled at the University. These students comprised 11.6 percent of the University's enrollment, Mills said.

"For the last year and a half, the University has started to recruit more international students," he said. "It is important for the University to have a diverse campus."

The difficult part is affording to go to school, Anderson said. Because tuition is funded through taxes in Germany, students aren't used to paying such a large tuition cost.

"They don't give federal aid to international students, so if they

had more scholarships for international students, [the students] might come over more," she said. "The interest is high, but it is financially difficult."

The Office of International Education and Exchange also manages 70 study-abroad programs in 52 countries, which had 580 University students enrolled in 1997-1998, Mills said. Annually, 3.4 percent of University students are enrolled in study-abroad programs.

"Our program has doubled in the last couple of years," he said. "There are 20 foreign languages taught here, so people go abroad to work on the skills learned here — an important part of the learning process."

Anderson said that students



Nick Medley/Emerald

Briton Jenny Randle tastes the fruits of her labor while making her first batch of pancakes at the Portland International Hostel.

eling students.

In 1932, the first international meeting was held in Amsterdam and the International Youth Hostel Federation was formed. An American couple, Isabel and Monroe Smith, attended the meeting and decided to bring the idea home to the States. They opened the first American youth hostel in 1934 in Northfield Massachusetts. Within a year, more than 30 hostels were opened throughout New England.

Hostel membership kits can be purchased for \$25 at the EMU Ticket Office. Members get a discount on room rates along with a host of other perks.

"We usually sell a couple of hundred a year,"

said Mary Barrios, the EMU Ticket Office manager. The membership is good for a year.

All memberships are valid for one year. Youth 17 and younger get free membership cards.

Council Travel in the EMU has membership kits, they also can be purchased at hostels, or by calling HI-AYH at (202)-783-6161.

Hostels welcome people on a walk-in basis, but during peak travel times, advance reservations are recommended. The HI-AYH Web site is <http://www.hiayh.org>.

G. Jaros can be reached via e-mail at gmojo@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

Top 40

Research Institutions in the United States for International Student Enrollment (number of students enrolled)

1. New York University — 4,964
2. Boston University — 4,603
3. Columbia University — 4,080
36. University of Washington — 2,055
38. University of Oregon Main Campus — 2,001

who aren't majors in German might go to Germany to expand their education in other majors. In the capital of Baden-Württemberg, they have an architecture school that focuses on industrial archi-

Top 30

Research Institutions in the United States for Study-Abroad Enrollment (number of students enrolled)

1. University of Pennsylvania — 1,218
2. Boston University — 1,197
3. University of Texas at Austin — 1,131
27. University of Washington — 586
28. University of Oregon main campus — 580

ecture, while the University focuses on environmental architecture, she said.

"This way they get a full feel in their majors and still enjoy visiting the country," she said.

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