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Just health

Feds recognize naturopathic accreditation

Recognition begins era of accessibility to medicare and insurance plans.

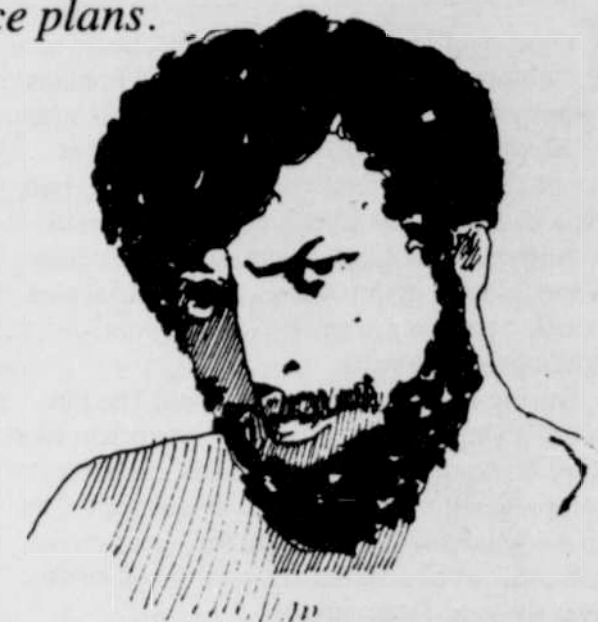
BY STEVEN BAILEY, N.D.

Monday, September 28, a major event happened in the field of naturopathic medicine. This was the formal signing of the Department of Education's recognition of the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). The CNME will now act as the federal accrediting agency for graduate colleges of Naturopathic Medicine.

For the National College of Naturopathic Medicine (NCNM) located in Southeast Portland, there are many benefits associated with federal recognition. Certainly number one on the list is the availability of GSL student loans. Another major benefit of this level of recognition is an increased access to private philanthropic grants for medical research. With recognition by the CNME, the National College will be immediately eligible for student loans.

As the oldest naturopathic college in America, NCNM originally granted its doctoral degree through a legislative charter approved by the Oregon state legislature. In 1981 as per new educational guidelines NCNM applied for and received certification to grant the degree of doctor of naturopathic medicine by the Oregon Educational Coordinating Commission (OECC). The CNME's recognition will now supersede the OECC's degree. NCNM may still seek dual certification, however.

Oregon has licensed naturopathic doctors since 1927, and the present Oregon law governing naturopathic practice is one of the fairest on the west coast. In Oregon, naturopathic practice is basically family practice with professional specialization in childbirth and homeopathy. Naturopathic physicians are prohibited from performing surgeries that invade body cavities (i.e. abdomen, thorax and skull) and from using most synthetic drugs. Oregon N.D.s are licensed to prescribe medications through Oregon's licensed pharmacies and are eligible for federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)



Steven Bailey, N.D.
Just Health

A naturopathic physician, Dr. Bailey is also a political activist. Dr. Bailey can be heard on KBOO's Radiozine on Mondays.

federal licenses, as well as being recognized as descendants of the American herbal doctors of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

As a board member for NCNM, I am thrilled for the future of the college. The availability of student loans will increase the numbers and improve the quality of the student experience at NCNM. Under the capable leadership of President Horace Nealey, NCNM now embarks on a new phase of growth and development.

As much as federal accreditation means for the members of the profession, the greatest benefit may well be to the American and Oregon public. This recognition marks a beginning of public accessibility to naturopathic care in such programs as medicare, for federal employees and insurance plans in general.

For more information about naturopathic medicine write to the National College, 11231 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR 97216; or the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians, P.O. Box 14153, Portland, OR 97214.

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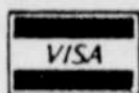


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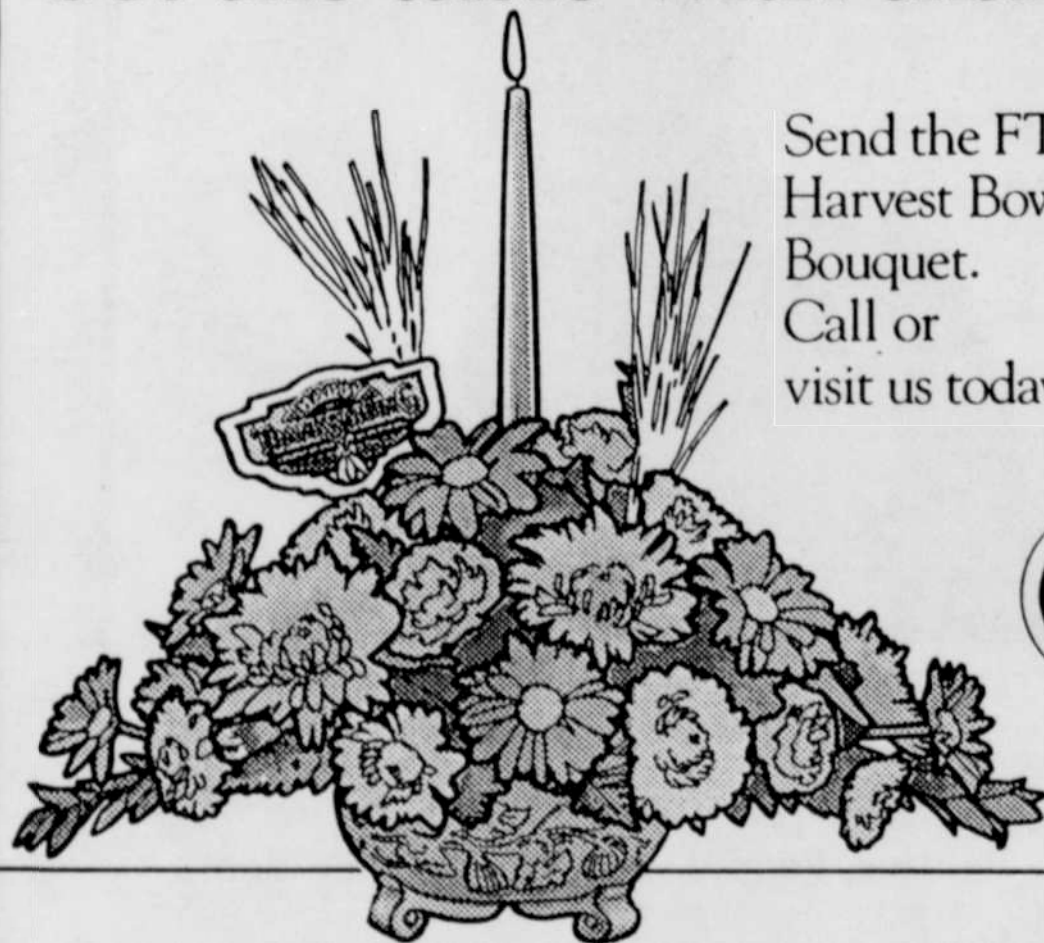
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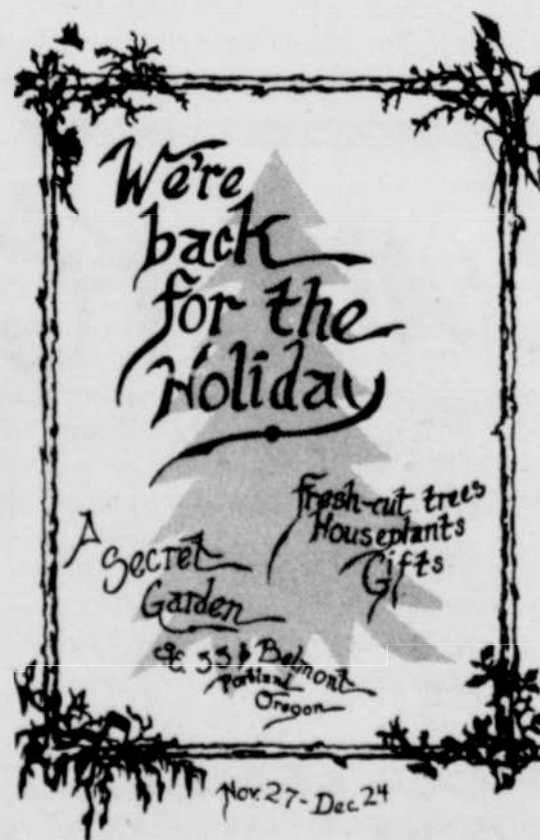


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