

Unexamined life abroad - is it worth credit?

By Barbara Phillips

"The unexamined life is not worth living," the unofficial motto of the Center for Off-Campus Education, points out one of the values of living and learning in different locales getting a broader perspective on our lives. But another concern, which probably never occurred to Socrates, is expressed in the words of Cyril Harvey: "The unexamined life is worth living, it's just not worth academic credit."

This semester, Bill Schmickle is going to visit the Guilford groups in London and Munich to see for himself how well the semesters abroad programs.

Bill Schmickle, who is taking over the responsibility for the Center for Off-Campus Education when Claude Shotts retires this year, is determined that the academic dimension of the overseas program will measure up

to Guilford standards in every way.

"There are two reasons for studying abroad," says Schmickle. "One, it enables students to study something there better than they can study it here." The language, literature, politics, art and architecture of a country are best learned within the context of that country, he says.

"The other reason is the intercultural benefits for the student. The experience helps break down provincialism and parochialism. It enables students to deal better with many of the problems that face them."

He doesn't, however, emphasize one aspect over the other. "Some of my friends are for the academics, some of my friends are for the inter-culturalism, and I'm for my friends," he smiles.

While Schmickle acknow-

ledges hearing the rumors that the programs abroad are not always "up to snuff," he says he has no reason to feel any unease about the quality of the programs. "Some students have been disappointed, others have been more than pleased, just like on campus."

"We ought to be proud of being able to offer the quality of the courses we do, given the difficulty of arrangements. The opportunities for failure are much greater than the opportunity for success," says Schmickle, cautioning against the tendency to be too critical.

Schmickle thinks that studying with a foreign faculty member is a valuable experience in itself. The faculty hired by the programs come from respected schools; "in fact, University of London is far superior to Guilford."

Some of the complaints stem from differences in technique and expectations in U.S. schools

and abroad. Perhaps some of the hired teachers have had experience with foreign students before, and having taught over their heads, they now aim too low, suggests Schmickle.

Schmickle is committed to the idea of overseas studies, and says, "I can't imagine getting through four years of Guilford without taking advantage of Germany for \$250." (\$250 more than a semester at Guilford. London costs the same as a semester on campus.)

According to Schmickle, Guilford is committed to making the programs available to as many students as possible for as little money as possible. This is why Guilford runs the programs as they do, rather than having students actually enroll in a foreign university as in the traditional junior year abroad.

In a non-English, speaking university, a student would have to have at least 3 years of a language, thus limiting partici-

pation to language students or others proficient in a language. Also, it would involve applying for admission at a foreign university, which would mean a full year commitment, not just a semester, and there would be more difficulty in fulfilling core requirements than if the courses were established by Guilford people.

Schmickle believes that students "trade off nothing academically" when they participate in the programs. "These are not odd-ball courses, but are conceived within the curriculum of Guilford College."

The greatest difficulty about the academic dimension of the programs is convincing the students that they are academic programs, and that the courses aren't just to legitimize living abroad. "If students only cared enough," he says, "the courses could be twice again as good as they are. Here on campus or in London."

N.Y. seminar: still want to go?

The New York Seminar has reached its maximum enrollment of 30 students and is finalizing its program arrangements.

The six-day seminar will study first hand some of the current social problems that are facing all the major cities in the U.S. The problems to be studied include housing, crime, drug rehabilitation, education, community development, business, and political issues.

The Housing and Community Development studies will include a study in four communities: (1) Prospect-Lefferts Gardens; and (2) Peoples Fire House Inc. in Brooklyn; (3) Hope Community in East Harlem; and (4) South Bronx People's Action Council.

In these communities the group will meet with social action committees and discuss organization and action by citizens.

Drug addictions are treated at the Odyssey House where the group will have an explanation on the procedure by young people who have been through the program.

Crime -- A morning will be spent studying the youth work in community affairs at the Ninth Precinct Police Station and an evening observing the Night Court in session.

Education -- An afternoon at "The Door" -- a school in central Manhattan for students from ages 12 to 20 who have special education needs or interests. It is directed by the International Center for Integrative Studies and stresses individual initiative in education.

For **Government**, the group will visit the City Hall and meet with Councilwoman Marion Friedlander and also the Community Office of State Senator Mendez in East Harlem.

An economist in the Wall Street district will conduct a guided tour of lower Manhattan including a visit to the Stock Exchange. This will be followed by a meeting and lunch at the New York Telephone Company with Walter Blass, a trustee of Guilford.

Thursday morning a candidate for President or his campaign director will discuss the "City Perspective on the Major Issues in the Presidential Campaign."

The group will depart for New York by car at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 18th, and will return on Saturday, October 25th. In New York the address will be the Vanderblt YMCA at 224 East 47th Street.

Though the full break trip to New York cannot accept any more students, a similar experience can be arranged for Thanksgiving time if there is sufficient student interest.

Quaker seminar begins this evening

By Carolyn Welty

For the past two years, Guilford College and North Carolina Yearly Meeting have team-taught an eight week seminar on Quaker history. Offered through the Center for Continuing Education, the non-credit course has been open to people interested in studying the Quaker heritage. The course has been of particular interest to members and attenders of Monthly Meetings, Clerks and Meeting Chairpersons, and Friends' pastors.

Mel Keiser, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, is the coordinator of this year's non-credit Quakerism seminar. The seminar is scheduled on Tuesday evenings, September 30 through November 25 and has a

full registration.

Lecture-discussions will be on 17th and 18th century Quakerism, Quaker women, Friends' testimonies, Quaker education, Quaker ministry, and Quaker attitudes towards nature and the scientific inquiry. The last session will be on Contemporary English and American Quakerism. Each session is led by two discussion leaders: a faculty or staff member from Guilford and a member of the Yearly Meeting. Readings are required in Quaker history and Quaker religious thought.

The Quakerism seminar is part of a series of programs that are cooperatively planned by the College and the Yearly Meeting. Since 1977, four summer conferences for Yearly Meeting pastors have been

offered under the direction of a joint planning committee.

Conference themes meet special interests of community pastors. Workshop subjects have included "Ministering to Families Under Stress," "Conflict Management and Quaker Procedure," and "The Quaker Calling: A Dialogue on Quaker Religious Thought." Resource leaders have been Friends and non-Friends in order to bring diverse perspectives to the issues.

These programs are coordinated through the office for Quaker programs. Judy Harvey is the program coordinator and her office is located in the Center for Continuing Education.

News from Munich

Dear Editors:

News from Munich . . . With the exception of all the rain and the shock some of us got as skinnydippers in Englischer Garten (a big park near the University), Munich is fantastic. One of the unusual treats for some of us has been meeting an old East German soldier in Englischer Garten. While I tried to translate his toothless Deutsch to the non-speakers, he banged his fist on the table or his head, shouting, "Warum krieg?" (Why war?). He also played a make-believe piano to the tunes of Joplin (Scott or Janis -- which, I don't know),

and told us of his love for Jane Fonda and JFK. In between his life story and his shouting at the French at the other table, he told us what he thought of Carter and Reagan. Rather than translate literally, I will just say he thought Carter is incompetent and Reagan is worthless. Who would he vote for? JFK, Jane Fonda, or John Wayne. I will end this time with the only phrase he knew in English -- "Good morning Captain, you know what I mean, sir?"

Until next time,
Joallison Johnson and the
Munich Semester Group

Lowe gathers Munich group

Ed Lowe, the Director of the 1981 Munich Semester, is formulating the group that will be spending a full semester at Munich in the center of Europe. Munich is recognized as one of the great cultural, artistic and educational centers of Europe. Located at the foot of the Bavarian Alps and the beautiful mountain and lake area of southern Germany, it is truly one of the most beautiful localities in Europe.

There will be six courses offered at Munich, of which each student is expected to take four. The courses are:

"An introduction to Opera Appreciation," "History of Modern Germany," "Governments of Germany," "Art History," and "German," 2 levels offered.

All Guilford students who are interested in the 1981 Munich Semester should see Ed Lowe at Dana, room 101.

