

# How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Down On The Farm ...

Feature continued from p. 15

## Travelling in Europe

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

Europe -- that wonderful, mystical land across the Atlantic Ocean. That shangrila of which most students dream of at some time in their life. Visions of white sandy beaches in the Mediterranean, hoary ruins in sun-baked Athens, sweeping panoramic plains and plunging valleys in the Alps -- all of these are preconceptions which the student traveller holds - and happily most are more than fulfilled.

For me a dream came true the summer of '79 when with knapsack on back and spritely Irish cousin in tow I set out on the great odyssey. Mirium and I had shopped around a great deal before choosing our very reasonable charter flight. It would be advisable for anyone planning on overseas travel to do the same. The differences in price between various agencies, airlines and charters are sometimes astounding and while you may have to travel to another city for the best price in airfare, it's well worth the effort in view of the savings. In addition to our return airfare we also bought a two-month Eurorail pass, as we had every intention of seeing as much as possible before money ran out.

The trip had been in the planning stages for some time and we had purchased a map of Europe, where, with Eurorail directions in hand we proceeded to map out a tentative plan of action. We discovered over the course of the trip that this too was a well considered move, meeting a number of young travellers who to their regret had arrived with no preconceived plan. There was in their case a great deal of resultant confusion, waste of precious time and loss of money as they literally recrossed their tracks several times over.

My advice is to look for a charter flight, or for the adventurous to travel to New York and either take the Laker flight or simply hang around the airline counters. New York airlines are usually willing to sell tickets overseas at half price if the flight is not completely booked at departure time. In a nutshell, everything that can be done over here, should be. This includes arranging your flights, updating your passports, arranging for visas if you plan on entering Iron Curtain countries, getting inoculations for those who wish to visit the mid-eastern or far-eastern countries and a thorough grounding on what you want to see, where and when. After all, you do not have to stick to the plan, merely use it as a guideline as we did. It is a precaution which prevents you from wasting time and money on unnecessary trips.



Madrid - Plaza de Toros



Madrid - fountain

Pre-departure plans should also include the purchase of a money belt. While uncomfortable initially, you quickly become used to it and apart from the safety measure implied by the use of such a device, it can also relieve your mind of worrying over whether your passport is safe or not. Although I feel that the incidents of theft, harassment etc. are exaggerated, there are those who would stoop to stealing from those like themselves. Needless to say, carry travellers cheques rather than cash. In this case also, ensure that you have left yourself time to change money when travelling from country to country. Avoid money-changing booths in train stations and similar locations as the exchange is usually inflated to their advantage. If possible go straight to the American Express office, or if one is not available, try a reputable bank.

Insofar as clothing needs are concerned -- travel light, very light. Don't forget such necessities as shampoo, soap, cream and deodorant. These items are not used as frequently in Europe as they are in North America and their prices reflect their somewhat unique status. A few cotton t-shirts, a couple of pairs of jeans, a pair of cut-offs, and for women, perhaps a cotton skirt or dress in addition to a few changes of underwear are usually adequate. It is also advisable to bring a lightweight raincoat as some areas of Europe, especially the British Isles are subject to frequent rainfall. A good pair of hiking boots and a lightweight pair of sandals is adequate for footwear.

Do not underestimate the importance of pre-departure arrangements. Remember you will not be dealing with North Americans and many European lifestyles precludes the efficiency which we take for granted. When you add a language barrier to this, then it can become a very frustrating experience to attempt to get a visa, replace a passport or book a flight. Which incidentally, reminds me, photocopy all your documents and keep a copy handy, as well as at home, so that if some accident should occur you have your identification numbers handy.

Regarding accommodation, student travellers would be advised to frequent what are known as pensiones in most European countries. My cousin and I had purchased Canadian Hostelling Cards before leaving but neither of us were impressed with the facilities. Prices were usually reasonable, but certainly not cheap while hostels were almost always located far outside the main thoroughfares. In each train station, however, there are little booths which advertise hotels, classed in Europe as first, second, and third class. When you disembark from the train go straight to the