PHILOSOPHY: JUST THINK

Milos Rastovic worked as a philosophy teacher in Secondary Technical School in Sombor and is now a graduate student of philosophy at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

"I have created the first philosophy web site in Serbia and all the Balkans. I wanted to improve the way the educational system

*Modern technology, especially the use of the Internet, offers many possibilities for the expansion of knowledge in all scientific fields.
--Milos Rastovic*

teaches philosophy in Serbia. This web site is unique because students and others who are interested in philosophy and life in general have the opportunity to learn and study from this site."

In this way, Milos tries to encourage students to use their minds and modern technology, and therefore feels he has contributed to developing the educational system in Serbia. He translated the site into English so that American students could use it to learn about philosophy, too.

The site includes interviews, biographical information, course options and more. He also has a list of some more famous students of Philosophy that includes such figures as Spike Lee, Ivo Andric, Harrison Ford, Thomas Jefferson, Elie Wiesel, and Zoran Djindjic.

Milos Rastovic wants to make Philosophy more interesting, more approachable and more popular. He has started on that path with this website. www.philosophymr.com/engleski/

The New Way of Education
By Milos Rastovic

"Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-incurred immaturity. Immaturity is the inability to use one's own understanding without the guidance of another. This immaturity is self-incurred if its cause is not lack of understanding, but lack of resolution and courage to use it without the guidance of another. The motto of enlightenment is therefore: Sapere aude! Have courage to use your own understanding!" said Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher.

In this sense, the question is: How does one make education more interesting for students? How do teachers encourage students to use their own minds?

As a professor of philosophy at Secondary Technical School in Sombor, Serbia I struggled with the problem of how to make philosophy, i.e., history of philosophy interesting to students in a new way. Modern technology, especially the use of the Internet, offers many possibilities for the expansion of knowledge in all scientific fields. In the context of this research, I've created a web site dedicated to making philosophy i.e., history of philosophy and its many other disciplines more accessible,

FALL HARVEST SPECIAL

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic, crushed and minced
1 large onion, quartered and thinly sliced
1 small eggplant, cubed
2 green bell peppers, coarsely chopped
4 large tomatoes, coarsely chopped
3 to 4 small zucchini, cut into 1/4-inch slices
1 teaspoon dried leaf basil
1/2 teaspoon dried leaf oregano
1/4 teaspoon dried leaf thyme
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley or cilantro

In a 4-quart Dutch oven, or saucepan, heat olive oil over medium heat.

Add garlic and onions, and cook, stirring often, until soft, about 6 to 7 minutes. Add eggplant; stir to coat with oil. Add the peppers; stir to combine.

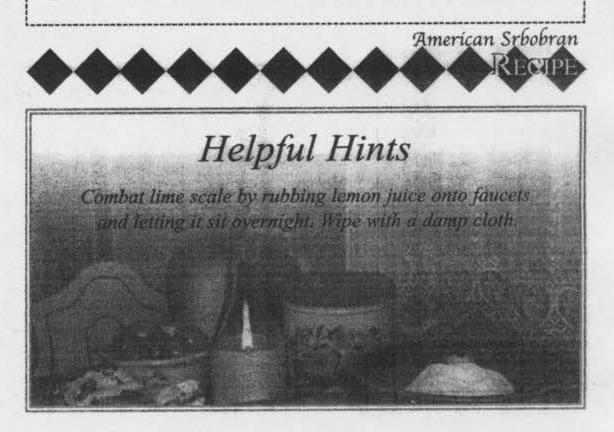Cover and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally to keep the vegetables from sticking.

Add the tomatoes, zucchini and herbs

Mix well.

Cover and cook over low heat about 15 minutes,, or until the eggplant is tender, but not too soft.

Serves 4.

Questions? Write to Marija Vukcevich at MARIJAVUKCEVICH@aol.com

American Srbobran RECIPE

Helpful Hints

Combat lime scale by rubbing lemon juice onto faucets and letting it sit overnight. Wipe with a damp cloth.

ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLICATION POLICY
Adopted by the SNF Board of Directors - Effective May 1, 2007

BIRTH
Birth announcements are published at no cost to Serb National Federation members when verifiable lodge membership information for one or both parents is provided at time of request for publication; and shall not exceed 100 words. Birth announcements for non-members are not considered.

ENGAGEMENT
Engagement announcements are published at no cost to Serb National Federation members when verifiable lodge membership information for one or both persons is provided at time of request for publication; and shall not exceed 200 words.

Engagement announcements for non-members are published at the rate of $50.00 and are strictly limited to 100 words or less.

WEDDING
Wedding announcements/articles are published at no cost to Serb National Federation members when verifiable lodge membership information for one or both persons is provided at time of request for publication; and shall not exceed 300 words.

Wedding announcements for non-members are published at the rate of $100.00 and are strictly limited to 150 words or less.

DEATH/OBITUARY
Obituaries under 350 words are published at no cost to Serb National Federation members when verifiable lodge membership information is provided at time of request for publication. Obituaries over 350 – 500 words will be published at a cost of $30.00 for SNF members when verifiable lodge membership

information is provided at time of request for publication. Requests to publish obituaries exceeding 500 words will be considered only if paid in advance at the regular rate for advertising at the time of publication (i.e. 500 words is approximately 1/4 page in space, $100.00 for SNF members).

Obituaries under 350 words for non-members are published at the rate of $50.00. Obituaries over 350 – 500 words for non-members are published at the rate of $100.00. Requests to publish obituaries of non-members exceeding 500 words will be considered only if paid in advance at double the regular rate for advertising at the time of publication (i.e. 500 words is approximately 1/4 page in space, $200.00 for non-SNF members).

PHILOSOPHY: JUST THINK

interesting and popular.

Learning via the Internet is a new concept in Serbian secondary schools. This is the only web site in Serbia and Balkan dedicated to philosophy that is presented in this way. You can find all information related to teaching philosophy: seminar papers are presented on students' page, the lectures and literature from the professor throughout the school year, a gallery of philosophers, interesting facts philosophical quizzes, games and jokes famous people who have studied philosophy and received the Nobel Prize for literature or peace, the meaning of philosophy in today's society, useful philosophy links in Serbia and in the world in general and many other interesting things about philosophy related disciplines.

One of the most popular web pages is the "Film and Philosophy," which the prestigious web site of the Britain Philosophical Society "Friedrich Nietzsche was published in a newsletter in December 2006. Guests to the site include many professors and students from American universities who wrote almost panegyric impressions of him. The Internet has enabled philosophy teachers to develop a student's methodological awareness in critical thinking; thus, the educational process becomes a combination of Plato's Academy and Sammerhil.

Such an approach can-help people who have enough wisdom to use their minds to critically and autonomously perceive reality. This wise, critical perception is a humanistic ideal in the development of the individual and society.

Web site address is: www.philosophymr.com

About Philosophy, by Milos Rastovic
"The unexamined life is not worth living"
Socrates

Everybody who considers himself "an educated person" should know something about history - the history of his own country, its political, cultural and economic development as well as European history and the history of the world. It is absurd to demand the knowledge about the great conquerors and warriors, and remain completely ignorant when it is about the great creators who contributed to development of European culture.

The inheritance, left by the great painters and artists, has a value that has not decreased over time after the death of its creators. Also, the great scholars such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel and many others, enriched the European culture and contributed to its development. With their death, the need and interest for their work has not disappeared, but on the contrary, nowadays it represents the key marker of European identity that reflects in every field of knowledge: from everyday life to economy, politics and art.

During its history, which already lasts 2500 years, European philosophy has been changing, in its contents as well as in its functions. Since philosophy tended to explain the society in which it existed, thus socio-historical circumstances were changing philosophy. That is the reason we cannot give a definition of philosophy that would have an obligatory meaning which could be adopted by everybody.

The notion of philosophy originates from the ancient Greek word philos (friend) and sophia (wisdom). Therefore, the notion of philosophy could be translated as love towards wisdom or aspiration towards knowledge. According to the papers of Diogenes Laertius and Cicerone, the word philosophy was first used by Pythagoras, and, according to others, by Heracleitus (fragment 35: "For the people who kiss wisdom, it is worthy to know very much"). Philosophy is not the love towards any kind of knowledge, but to the one that

includes the first principles (arche) and, on their bases, one proves the existence of other knowledge. What does philosophy examine? It strives to examine:

The purpose and sense of the world's and human existence.
What is truth?
What is good?
What is beauty?
Where does the human need for god come from?
What is will?
Is there immortality of soul?
What is knowledge?
What are the bases of our belief?

Philosophy is a brand new manner of thinking that occurred in ancient Greece in the 6th century BC. "When Greece is mentioned, every educated man in Europe is being overcome by the feeling as if it is his own country" (G.V.F. Hegel, "The History of Philosophy"). Nevertheless, philosophy, as an aspiration towards wisdom, reached its peak in the eastern countries (between 8th and 6th century BC), India, Persia, China considerably before the beginning of philosophy in ancient Greece. Each of these cultures indirectly influenced the culture of the ancient Greek people. Mythical and religious tradition, which included the roots of wisdom in itself, was being carried from generation to generation through the centuries.

The origins of philosophy in India were given in Vedas (knowledge) and were composed in the glory of gods, sun, water and fire. They were accepted as studies of ancient scholars like Buddha was. In China, Confucianism was developed (by Confucius) and Taoism (by Lao Tzu). In Persia, Zarathustra founded monotheistic religion with distinguished dualism. Something that eastern philosophy differentiates from Greek philosophy is that it does not have critical rationalism that would raise itself above religious and mythical studies, and what has important meaning in Greek philosophy.

In the beginning, religion attempted to give answers on philosophical questions in ancient Greece. Those religious explanations were being carried from generation to generation in the form of myths (mythos – narration, talk). Myths should explain why this life was such as it was. The Greek mythology was systematized by Homer ("Iliad and Odyssey") and Hesiod ("Theogony"). Hesiod describes the beginning of the world as Chaos, then, Gea (the Earth) appears, mother of every being. Tartar is at the bottom, the Gea's and Eter's son. Afterwards, Eros appears as the principle of strength and movement. From Chaos, Darkness and Night appear and, from Darkness and Night, Light and Day occur. From Gea, Sky, Mountains and Sea arise. Supreme Greek god is Zeus – the father of all deities. Greek philosophers tried to prove that one cannot rely upon myths.

They criticized Homer's study about gods because they were too similar to people. One of the philosophers who criticized myths was Xenophon who said: "People created gods according to their own image. They believe that gods were born and had bodies, clothes and language as ourselves."

Philosophers should be differentiated from sages. Sages are not philosophers yet because they only summarize practical life's wisdom, while philosophers are examiners and explorers of wisdom. Exactly when philosophy appeared, Greece started to found many towns in colonies in southern Italy and Asia Minor. There, slaves did physical work and free citizens were occupied with politics and wars. Free citizens started asking questions with no concern about existing myths. The goal of the first Greek philosophers was just to find explanations of natural processes based on reason.

How did philosophy appear? In his work "Theaetetus" Plato says that philosophy started with wonder (thaumadzein). Being amazed meant the acceptance of personal ignorance. Man does not accept empirical world as it is, but he wonders and questions its base: Why does something exist? Why do we live at all?

Besides wonder, another source of philosophy is doubt (skepsa). In the basis of philosophical wonder and doubt is desire for realization of truth (Greek: aletheia). Although, the philosophical questions concern everybody, all people do not become philosophers. For many reasons, most people are occupied with everyday problems that sheer wonder and questioning are repressed in front of life.

While children always discover something new in the world, adults experience the world as something common. According to it, philosophers behave and experience the world like children. No philosopher ever succeeded to adapt completely at the world he lived in. He stands before the world like in front of the great mystery.

The New Way of Education

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