

The Best of Years, the Worst of Years

You know, when you are walking through the woods on a dark night and if you see at that moment a small light in the distance then you do not notice your exhaustion, or the dark, or the sharp branches that strike you in the face...I have no little light in the distance...

Astrov, in "Uncle Vanya," Act 2

It is all too easy these days for those of us in international studies to imagine that we are characters in a Chekhov play, perhaps not bored with our lot, but looking rather gloomily at our surroundings and imagining that we are living not for any satisfaction in the present but rather in the hope that a generation some century hence will value what we have done.

We have particular reason for gloom—the budgetary situation at the state and national levels, combined with an absence of vision and wise leadership from our own administrators on up, threatens the very existence of our programs. Unless the appeals that are currently in process are successful—and the best guess is that even a positive recommendation by the appeal board will not be sustained by the university president—the UW Slavic Department will indeed be dismantled beginning July 1. All the current faculty will remain, in various departments until retirement or other opportunity come; eventually, according to the Dean's projection, what will remain is a unit of six faculty. This leaves many of us little hope that we can sustain in the long term a full language program, much less offer even an undergraduate Slavic major. For the near future though, little will change in the curriculum.

As if the strain of this losing battle were not enough for one lifetime, we are now confronted with the ominous situation regarding the federal budget. In the various budget drafts, which will begin working their way through the appropriations committees this summer, major cuts or total elimination of many programs in education are planned, among them Title VI and Fulbright, which have played such a signif-

icant role in developing international programs and language teaching over the years.

Our administrators keep telling us how international we are and how wonderful it is we do so much with so little support from them; our elected representatives keep telling us how concerned they are over the health of the American economy, which, of course, in the modern world means having a highly educated workforce that can compete globally.

If there is still light off there at the end of the forest path, it is in our students and graduates, whose accomplishments may indeed give some hope to the next generation:

David Curp (Ph.C. in History) has been awarded a National Security Education Program Graduate Enhancement Fellowship for the coming year.

Erica Agiewich (MA 1994) recipient of a Fulbright to spend a year in Romania.

Joy Wagner (M.A., 1994) recently Assistant Director of the University of Alaska American Business Center in Magadan; just hired to head the Eurasia Foundation Operations in the Russian Far East.

Amy Canon (B.A. candidate, Russian) will spend the coming year in Nizhnii Novorod, thanks to ACC.

Kristi Magee (M.A. 1995) just hired as a reporter by the Baltic Observer in Tallinn, Estonia.

Department of Slavic Languages and Literature graduate students Linda Tapp, David Graber, Rick McPeak, Lisa Frumkes and Marilyn Hoogen presented papers at the AATSEEL Annual Meeting in San Diego last December.

It has been the worst of years and the best of years.

Professor Dan Waugh, Director, Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies

Regional REECAS Conference a Smashing Success

The first annual Regional REECAS Conference, which took place on Saturday, May 6, 1995 in Thomson Hall at the University of Washington campus, was a complete success for a maiden conference. More than a hundred people were in attendance, with some flying in from as far as Duke University in North Carolina. Topics at the conference ranged from international relations in the Far East to pedagogical issues relating to teaching Russian across the curriculum. Participants included business representatives, elementary school teachers, and scholars from around the Pacific Northwest.

Next year's conference should be even better. We will change the format to include three concurrent conferences in the morning to match the format in the afternoon. The conference

will be held a couple of weeks earlier, which will allow students and faculty of institutes on the semester system to attend. We will be getting out the call to papers sometime in November, with abstracts due by late January.

Please tell anyone who is interested in things Russian, East European, or Central Asian about the annual conference, as the format and content of the conference sessions depend on the submissions we receive. If you or your colleagues would like to organize an entire session, let me know. I hope the conference will eventually rotate among different locations throughout the Northwest, which will make the conference more of an attractive event to different local populations and get different populations involved. I am also hoping to have more "roundtable" sessions in addition to traditional "paper" presentations.

The conference agenda and

some of the abstracts have been loaded onto our internet "home page" or "web"



site (see the last page of this newsletter for information on our site). In future years, we hope to have all abstracts loaded before the conference date, with participant contact information also made available on the site.

For more information on the annual regional REECAS conference, contact:

Kurt Engelmann
Assistant Director
REECAS Center
(206) 543-4852.

Krygyz-American School

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visit was to define the faculty's curriculum and then determine the most useful pattern of exchanges.

The UW is the main university involved in the faculty exchange aspect of the program, according to Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Professor Ilse Cirtautis

Cirtautis will be the first American faculty member to visit the School, and will stay for approximately six months beginning in the fall. Two other American faculty members will also participate in the program. The second visiting faculty member is to provide instruction in business education and the third is to concentrate on finance and accounting coursework. American faculty in residence for shorter terms will teach business law, psychology and American studies.

One long-term American resident advisor will also be placed in Bishkek to coordinate the curriculum development and faculty mentoring/training program.

After all the advance planning, the School is now up and running with Krygyz faculty. The program has approximately 26 faculty members, 13 associated with language teaching, and 13 associated with teaching mathematics and economics. There are approximately 80 students in the first and second year programs.

The schedule for visits to the United States by Krygyz faculty is still under development, however one KSNU faculty member is already here at the UW. Natasha Iosipenko, the KSNU faculty's librarian, will be at the University of Washington's Suzzallo

Library from May 18 until June 23 for training in basic library skills and in using the new catalog and circulation systems. For more information, contact Susan Pelton, the IREX coordinator of the project, at susan%irexmain@irex.org, or at 202-628-8188.

Mary St Germain is a librarian at the University of Washington who specializes in monograph cataloging.

UW Professor Ilse Cirtautis also contributed to this article.

Hungarian Parliament member speaks at the UW

Former Foreign Minister of Hungary and current member of Parliament Geza Jeszenszky spoke to an audience on the UW campus on April 4, 1995.

After giving some background on the transformation in Hungary, he discussed the priorities of the Hungarian government under Prime Minister Jozsef Antall from 1990 to 1993. Hungarian foreign policy, according to Jeszenszky, was geared toward re-integration with Western Europe, harmonious relations with neighboring countries, and the protection of minority rights in neighboring states. The situation of Hungarian minorities in the states surrounding Hungary is a key issue, because since the end of the First World War and the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a large number of Hungarians have lived outside Hungary's borders.

Jeszenszky described Hungary's relationships with four neighboring countries as good. Hungary has signed minority protection treaties with Croatia, Slovenia, and Ukraine. Hungary has joined other Central European countries in the "Central European Initiative."

On the other hand, Jeszenszky spoke of the unsatisfactory situation of Hungarian minorities in Slovakia, Romania, and Serbia. Mr. Jeszenszky did not speak much of the socialist victory in the Hungarian elections of 1993, except to refer to a certain "longing" for communism, with its lower expectations and standards, on the part of the Hungarian population.

Jane Desnoyers, REECAS graduate student

Letter from President Askar Akayev of Kyrgystan

DEAR ILSE CIRTAUTIS AYİM!

With profound appreciation and sincerity, I carefully read the first issue of the Bulletin published under your direction.

I am convinced that this the first publication published in the United States which addresses the complex issues of the political, social and cultural life of our two closely related countries in Central Asia, and because the Bulletin is also devoted to problems of Central Asia, it may well occupy an important place among American publications known all over the world.

Dear Ilse Cirtautis ayım! I strongly believe that your publication will contribute to the future development of international cooperation and scholarly contacts as well as to the current information on Kirghizstan which is proceeding on its road to

democratic reforms without fail. Because this is so, we are, together with you, doing our best for the progress of mankind!

In closing my letter, I would like to wish you and your colleges good health, all happiness-peace and enjoyable success in your work.

With sincere respect:

ASKAR AKAYEV

Received: September, 1994.

This letter originally appeared in translation in the UW's Kazakh and Kirghiz Studies Bulletin and was reprinted with their permission.

Central Asian
Happenings

Faculty and Student Update

Professor Ilse Cirtautis recently returned from a trip to Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. She met with ministry-level government officials in all three countries. In Almaty, she received an Honorary Professorship from Almaty University, the oldest institution of higher learning in Kazakhstan.

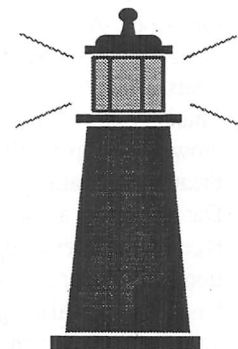
Cindy Kim, Near Eastern Language and Civilization graduate, is currently doing research among the Kazakh of Mongolia

Richard Hawkins, who has been studying Uzbek at the UW while receiving a degree in English as a Second Language, will be going to Uzbekistan in September of this year. He has been accepted as a participant on the 1995-96 Curriculum Consultant Program funded by the US Information Agency and administered through the Counsel for Collaboration in Education and Language Study (ACCELS). Richard will be assisting the faculty of the English Department at Tashkent State University, Tashkent.

Elimira Kochumkulova, an exchange student from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, will continue to study at the UW during the 1995-96 school year. Her fellowship from the Russian and Eurasian Awards Program, administered through the Association of International Educators, was renewed. Elmira hopes to major in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, and be the first Kyrgyz student to receive a BA from an United States university.

Ali Igmen, a doctoral student in History, is going to Osh, Kyrgyzstan in July of this year. His stay has been arranged through the exchange program between Portland State University and Osh State University. While in Osh, he will teach business English and other subjects while continuing his studies of Kyrgyz

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**Kazakh and Kirghiz Studies
Bulletin**

The Kazakh and Kirghiz Studies Group, a student and faculty organization, publishes this bulletin twice a year. The Studies Group is "dedicated to advancement of knowledge and understanding of all aspects of Kazakh and Kirghiz studies, both in Central Asia and throughout the Turkic world," and the Studies Bulletin is one way they hope to do this.

Readers are invited to contribute articles, reviews, information on the Kazakhs and Kirghiz, translations or information on upcoming conferences and events for inclusion in the bulletin.

A recent issue contained a letter from Askar Akayev, President of Kirghizstan, articles on the new constitutions of Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan and a list of events at the UW, among other things. Those interested in subscribing to the bulletin should send \$5 for individual subscriptions and \$10 for institutional subscriptions to: Kazakh&Kirghiz Studies Group, Dept of NELC, PO Box 353120, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 Checks should be made payable to the UW, with Kazakh and Kirghiz bulletin on the byline. *The Bulletin uses a different transliteration of "Kirghizstan" from the rest of this newsletter.*

See proceeding page for President Akayev letter from the bulletin.

**Central Asian Languages and Culture Receives
Grant for Summer Program**



The Central Asian Languages and Culture 1995 Summer Program has again received substantial funding for fellowships through the Social Science Research Council, a DC-based non-profit organization. The Summer Program has received such funding since its inception in 1989.

Many distinguished Central Asian writers, poets and other dignitaries have participated in the summer programs at the UW. This year's program will welcome from Kazakhstan Akylzhan Almesov, head of the Department of External Affairs Ministry of Education and Askar Rekhmetov, president of the Foreign Economic Association "Tau." The Summer Program will also welcome the distinguished writers and poets Muhammad Ali and Abdulla Oripov from Uzbekistan.

A highlight of every Summer Program is the "Summer School Party," where students perform sketches in the languages they have studied during the summer. A video tape of last year's party was shown several times on Tashkent T.V. and Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan, wrote a personal letter in Uzbek to the students and faculty of the summer program expressing his good wishes.

He wrote: "Your great interest in the Uzbek language, culture, art and literature has made us very happy. This, indeed, will help to develop the relationship which exists between our countries and to know each other's people better. I wish all of you health, happiness and success in your good work and in broadening our mutual cooperation."

Petersburg Potpourri



(Continued from page 1)

they don't. A glance around town reveals grandmothers buying ice-cream treats -- as often as not an expensive Finnish one -- for a grandchild in tow, a crowd of people filing out of a movie theater after taking in the latest van-Damme flick, a dissheveled professorial type on the Metro reading the latest edition of *Delovoi Peterburg* (a tabloid business journal), a group of middle-aged intellectuals in a neighborhood drama theater smoking imported cigarettes during intermission.

Petersburgers are not prospering, but many certainly are doing more than just surviving. How do they manage to live?

A retired engineer and his wife have an apartment to spare, the one she inherited from her late father. They keep their grown children squeezed into their own apartment, and rent out their two-room downtown spare for \$150. Today's real-estate market allows them to raise their rent to \$200, even if the tenants are Russians.

A middle-aged woman has not been able to collect her salary from the research institute for several months, but she still lives in dignity, supported by remittances from her son who has moved to the West.

A bedridden granny eats a well-balanced diet and watches a fine color television with cable, thanks to the resources of her 28-year-old grandson.

What's up?

During the second year of my stay in St. Petersburg, a sports complex across the street from the city mosque became a focal point in my social life among Russians; it was just a five-minute walk from where I worked on Stone Island Ave. It was the perfect setting to practice my Russian.

The sports complex is affiliated with the St. Petersburg Railways Institute, but is open to the public (admission to 25m. pool costs \$2 in rubles, to weight room \$1). Getting ac-

quainted with the regulars in the gym turned out to be an easy way to evaluate a cross section of Russia's new generation.

Surprisingly, a majority of the heavy lifters are not engaged in blatantly criminal enterprises. . . but only a majority. Mind you, in the West one does not walk into a half-decent health club and find that a third of the patrons are professional racketeers, pimps and kickboxers. In St. Petersburg the guys at the gym with cellular phones at the ready are probably among those up to no good, although one must not generalize.

One ex-thug justified racketeering by arguing the Robin Hood defense. He explained that everybody who is rich in Russia got that way through speculation with or outright theft of public property, or by cashing in on Party connections. It is right to

Mind you, in the West one does not walk into a half-decent health club and find that a third of the patrons are professional racketeers, pimps and kickboxers.

extort from these money-grubbing leeches on society, according to the argument. After all, the mafia redistributes some of the gathered wealth to good causes. In a society raised on the ideology of godless communism where all things are relative, this rationale has weight. Absolute right and wrong, good and evil -- these concepts seem to be alien to Russia.

Easy money does come at a high risk to life and liberty, however; anyway such opportunities are usually restricted to sportsmen and those discharged from the elite military services. The other regulars at the gym include a top sales representative from a soft-drink company, two guys

working for an importer/wholesaler of household fixtures from Mediterranean countries, a young entrepreneur who is building a retail network, a broker from the commodities exchange, and assorted youngsters involved in buying, selling and distribution -- derided as "speculators" their elders in Russian society. Yet they all seem to get along just fine with the characters wielding the incriminating "Nokias," as the cordless phones made by Finland-based Nokia are called.

The October Crash

One of the power-lifting speculators from the gym exhibited a talent that many Wall Street professionals would kill for -- namely, timing the market. Early in the fall of 1994, as the ruble was sliding from 1/20th of a U.S. cent to 1/30th, he accumulated dollars. On October 10, he managed to purchase about \$4,000; that afternoon he showed me the thick wad of greenbacks which he was carrying on his unassailable person.

"Are you mad?" I asked.

"Just you wait until tomorrow," he answered.

Sure enough, on the morrow the floor fell out from under the ruble. At day's end he told me that he had sold back all his dollars and cleared a profit worth almost \$1,000. The day after, the ruble bounced back.

He explained that he was acting according to what he thought the government would do. A fiscal deadline was approaching, and the state was short of funds to pay its bills. What could work to raise a little extra cash better than inducing a panic among the populace?

"Most of the people got burnt badly" in this operation, the speculator admitted. "But I'm not going to let the state take advantage of me."

Izvestia offered a more academic description of this scenario a few weeks later. The exchange-rate roller-

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Petersburg Potpourri

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coaster, if indeed manipulated, was but another in a long series of expropriations of the people's wealth by the state. Sadly, the state gets away with it every time.

What "Goodwill"?

Russians must remain vigilant to every peril and opportunity in order to survive today's uncertainties. They no longer have the time or resources to spare for distractions, unlike the good old days when the

oil and gas industry paid for the entire Soviet economy. Perhaps this explains why the Third Goodwill Games turned out to be such a non-event for the typical Petersburgers.

Mayor Anatoly Sobchak spared no expense in preparing the city for the Games. He bought expensive new Hungarian buses. He renovated most of the façades along Nevsky Prospect. He hired thousands of militia to beef up security. He refurbished all the city's sporting arenas. He sent all the gypsies away on a two-month vacation. His only evident omission -- the one thing he could have done of lasting use to the city -- was his failure to open the Sportivnaya metro station on time (still not ready to this day).

"A feast amidst the plague!" reacted the communists and their elderly adherents.

"Big deal," sighed everybody else.

Most of Europe's top athletes skipped the Games entirely. Ticket sales bombed, even after prices were cut by more than half. In the end, the mayor had to order city employees to pack Kirov Stadium for the opening ceremonies, lest international TV viewers see the Games as the fiasco that they were.

The Games pointed to the growing alienation between Mayor Sobchak and his constituents. His frequent trips abroad, his penchant for hobnobbing with foreign politicians and celebrities, his seeming lack of interest in the details of municipal government and his indifference to his cronies' indiscretions com-

bined to exhaust the good will he had earned in rallying Leningraders against imminent military attack in August 1991.

Cynicism and indifference now rule the mood of Petersburgers, supposedly the most progressive and activist of Russians. People are simply too harried and too busy trying to get by to pay attention to politics. This observer does not look forward to the December parliamentary elections.

Ian Sterling, age 30, has been a REECAS graduate student since 1990. Early in 1993, he fled to Russia in order to put off writing his Master's thesis. Not until this past March did he marshal the willpower to return to the UW.

Exchange Program Opportunities

Mobility International USA is sponsoring an exchange on Russian Culture, Language, and Disability Rights from August 4-28 in Moscow.

MIUSA is looking for participants aged 16-21 who will act as citizen-ambassadors and positive representatives of the USA. MIUSA strives to organize programs that include persons with a variety of disabilities as well as nondisabled participants. They have a few scholarships left.

For more information, contact them at:

PO Box 10767
Eugene, OR 97440
ph. 503 343-1284
fax 503 343-6812
email: miusa@igc.apc.org.

Opportunities for Studying in Russia

There are several avenues for studying in Russia. Here are a few examples:

- The Council for Scholarship in Russia sponsors semester and summer language study programs at the Herzen Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg that cost \$3 - 5,000. They are located at 1456 Corcoran St., NW / Washington, D.C. 20009 / tel (202) 387-0471 / fax (202) 387-0475.
- Mobility International USA also has some programs in Russia. The deadline for summer scholarship money is coming up soon. They can be reached at miusa@igc.apc.org.
- Novgorod State University has international students studying Russian and other subjects. You can contact Valery Nikolaevich Zelenin at his email address tel@pltx.nov.su.
- Moscow State University has a number of programs. Contact Mr. Nicholas Stevens at their Washington, D.C. office at nstevens@mgu-usa.org. Another contact person is Natalia Romanova <natasha@mgu-usa.org>.
- CIE-NEWS is an electronic discussion list devoted to international exchanges that sometimes carries announcements on programs in Russia.

CIE-NEWS is archived on the following gopher site:

gopher://listserv.cwis.uci.edu:7002/11/Archives/cie-news

To subscribe to CIE-NEWS, send a message to <listserv@uci.edu> which says:

SUBSCRIBE CIE-NEWS Your first name Your last name

It also appears on the UCI newsgroup uci.cie-news. Look for CIE's

WWW home page in September 1995!

Reviews



Russian Popular Culture: Entertainment and society since 1900

by Richard Stites

Cambridge Soviet Paperbacks

Cambridge University Press, 1992,
209 pages.

Reviewed by Joan McCarter

Stites takes the reader on a dizzying tour through the late imperial period, the Revolution and NEP, Stalin's crackdowns, Khrushchev's thaw, stagnation under Brezhnev and the beginnings of a whole new cultural world during and after glasnost.

The study of popular culture and society in Russia and the Soviet Union has long taken a back seat to issues of greater urgency and seemingly greater import. Questions of politics and policy, industry and armaments took precedence over examination of the lives of ordinary Russians. Indeed, most scholarship that looked at culture in Russian and the former Soviet Union focused on high culture and the lives of the elite.

But as Professor Richard Stites, the author of *Russian Popular Culture: Entertainment and Society since 1900*, points out, nothing reflects the attitudes and concerns of ordinary people more clearly than the books, movies, songs and television programs on which they spend entertainment time and money.

To that end, Stites has provided this introduction to the vast array of media that have entertained Russians in the 20th century -- from circuses, comics, dance crazes, songs and singers to pulp fiction and the shock thriller movies of the glasnost period. Stites takes the reader on a dizzying tour through the late imperial period, the Revolution and NEP, Stalin's crackdowns, Khrushchev's thaw,

stagnation under Brezhnev and the beginnings of a whole new cultural world during and after glasnost.

In his introduction, Stites states that one of the underlying themes of the book is the "astonishing durability" of Russian cultural themes as a "mighty wall defending Russian cultural forms against the trendiness, rapid-fire obsolescence, and kaleidoscopic changes of style so characteristic of the dominant Americanized world culture."

Stites identifies a few of these stalwart themes as Russian 'bigness, generosity, lavish hospitality and a sense of adventure" tempered by moralism and appeals for "kindness and human decency and exalted expressions of love, patriotism, self-sacrifice, and friendship." Along with these traits, Stites points out the "collective impulse" as an enduring aspect of Russian culture. These factors have combined to create a lasting, indomitable Russian spirit that is reflected in Russian popular culture.

This idea is well presented in the introduction, but Stites unfortunately fails to unify the following discussion around this core concept of "Russianism," for lack of a better term. As it is, the book is a rather fleeting trip through nearly a century of cultural development in a huge and fascinating country with a vast array of characters. More consistent use of the central theme of this "Russianism" could have lent the work some cohesion that is otherwise lacking.

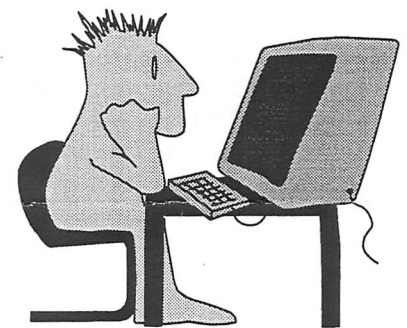
One of the most impressive features of the book is also one of its

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War Coverage on the Internet

The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina has dragged on for over three years now, with no end in sight. For those who are interested in the war, news available in the general media can be sparse, except for infrequent crisis situations. If you are interested in obtaining a larger amount of current information about Bosnia, you can take advantage of a useful Internet resource.

With access to Internet email, one can receive a daily bulletin of news



and information about Bosnia. This service is entitled BosNews, and is run by a group of volunteers. It arrives as an email message every day. On rare occasions, there are two in one day or a day is skipped.

The amount of information provided is very large. Each report has a different mix of the following items: articles about Bosnia published in major U.S. and British newspapers, articles from newspapers in the former Yugoslavia, articles from wire services, notices of pro-Bosnian demonstrations, and notices of U.S. government actions regarding Bosnia. BosNews has also recently begun to add Open Media Research Institute (OMRI) reports which relate to Bosnia. OMRI is another Internet news resource which provides news from the former Soviet Union and East-Central and Southeastern Europe. For those who already subscribe to OMRI,

BosNews

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BosNews will contain duplicate information.

It is important to keep in mind that BosNews is a pro-Bosnian government source of information. Most of the reports support the position of the government, although they are all documented and from published sources.

The editors of BosNews rarely include their own views. The OMRI reports are objective and do not favor one side or the other.

To subscribe simply send an email to "LISTPROC@DOC.IC.AC.UK" with no subject line and "SUBSCRIBE BOSNEWS" followed by your first name and last name in the message area. (Upper case or lower case). The address to subscribe to OMRI is: "LISTSERV@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU" with the message "subscribe omri-!" and your name.

REECAS graduate student Henry Szymonik is an Internet surfer and avid reader of the comic book *BosMan*.



Letter from Prague:

Comparative History of Ideas Program Plans their Quarter in Prague

from Professor James Clowes, Director

The UW Comparative History of Ideas Program (CHID), established in 1993, just finished a successful quarter in Rome. They are now planning a quarter in Prague program. CHID director James Clowes recently returned from Prague, where he laid the groundwork for the program.

He filled in some details in the letter below.

A QUARTER IN PRAGUE, SPRING 1996 (Initial Planning)

My time in Prague was more fruitful than I had imagined mostly due to a healthy dose of luck. There is still a fair bit to be done -- but I think the basic issues are in line.

The Czech Technical University is going to take care of our housing needs: room for 18 students and two faculty members (faculty housing should have space for family members). These facilities will probably be in a student housing facility in the Dejvice area. For the time being I opted for the middle range facilities, although this will depend on costs and the value of the Crown in relationship to the dollar. CTU will also provide classroom facilities, access to computers tied into internet, and a CTU staff member to serve as a facilities and program liaison. That person, Dr. Josef Kolar, will act as a go-between for us: setting up the facilities, organizing the trips and solving general problems.

The people at CTU were very keen on making contact with an American university in order to give their students and staff contact with Americans (English language, certain understandings about culture and computers etc.) They want very little else from the exchange, except payment for facility use. No prices have been set yet -- that should come in September. We should also pay Dr. Kolar for his services.

To date Czech universities survive by encouraging their faculty

and staff to take outside work. From my conversations with many people there I got the impression that our financial contribution to him, and other support personnel, would be expensive. In the next few months I hope to nail down the exact duties of each person and hence how much it will cost.

The CTU would also like to help us find speakers and contacts in various topics within the Czech Republic. They also would like to facilitate meetings with Czech students and Czech families.

As far as educational content goes, I met with several professors from Charles University and one from the Central European University. As it turns out there have been a series of re-arrangements at Charles University as faculty who had been there under communism try to re-tool for the new era

Charles University is a strange conglomeration of innovation and rigidity. I watched in amazement one day when two professors argued about the best method of getting an official stamp on a student's transcript.

and as new faculty struggle with how to revamp the system. For this reason Charles University is a strange conglomeration of innovation and rigidity. I watched in amazement one day when two professors argued about the best method of getting an official stamp on a student's transcript. (Transcripts are a relatively new concept there, and a point of resistance.)

There are a few obvious signs of innovation, however. This is the second year of the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies. The Institute seems quite strong and enjoys overwhelming student support. They routinely must turn away a large number of applicants and currently serve close to 300 students. The directors of this institute, Dr. Zdenek Pinc and Dr. Jan Sokol are well placed within the University as

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K-12 Resources and Information

Curriculum Material Review

Choices for the 21st Century: Charting Russia's Future in the Post-Soviet Era: Teacher's Resource Book. Providence, RI: Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University, 1994
Reviewed by Bruce Larson

The Choices for the 21st Century Education Project (hereafter referred to as "Choices") develops unit plans for high school and college courses. The units teach current foreign policy issues. Each "Choices" unit is "designed to make complex international issues understandable and meaningful for students". The Choices curricula are an excellent source of lesson plans that link significant historical events to current issues, explore policy decisions and alternatives, and provide experiences in exercising civic judgment.

I reviewed a five day unit plan titled: "Charting Russia's Future in the Post-Soviet Era." The unit examines the national identity of Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union. Students explore three possible directions that Russia may follow in the near future. Broken into five days, the unit plan begins with an exploration of four key periods of reform in Russia's history. The attempt here is to establish the notion that Russians have a history of reform, and that this history affects present-day attitudes. The lesson plans then focus on current-day Russia, and explore the significant changes that have taken place since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The emphasis here is on politics, economics, and international affairs since the collapse.

Unique to this Choices curriculum is its "Russian perspective." It is not written from a U.S. point-of-view, but rather through the eyes of Russians.

While space limitations prevent me from covering each day of the unit, suffice it to say the five day lesson is complete and thoughtful. Students are highly involved in the learning as they engage in

role playing, simulations, research, and reading. The lessons rely heavily on cooperative learning (group projects), and provide detailed source documentation and strategies for daily instruction. The most powerful aspect of the five days is the use of role-playing to represent the current Russian electorate. Through this activity, students learn about three political philosophies that currently exist in Russia and will directly influence Russia's presidential election in 1996. The philosophies not only represent current-day thinking, but they are deeply influenced by the history of the country.

I have not had the opportunity to use this lesson with my high

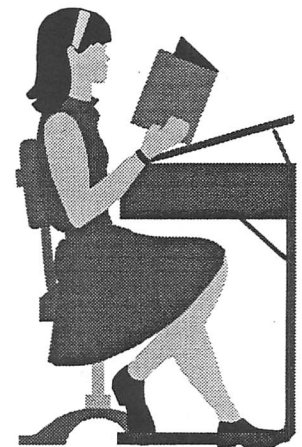
Unique to this Choices curriculum is its "Russian perspective." It is not written from a U.S. point-of-view, but rather through the eyes of Russians.

school classes, though it may be integrated into several social studies topics. It provides a decent case study of an evolving government and political system. As a result, students are exposed to an array of political systems as they complete the unit. The unit also could be used when examining world-wide economics or when teaching about ways a society deals with crises.

"Charting Russia's Future in the Post-Soviet Era" is a brief, but complete five-day unit. I recommend its use by high school teachers because it provides an effective method to teach about a timely topic. The unit provides an alternative to more traditional lecture or recitation-style instruction, and is sure to engage students in the learning process. My only concern is the "pre-teaching" that may be required in those classes that do not typically use cooperative learning. Though the teacher's guide provides 4

pages of direction on using the methods of instruction required for the Choices lessons, I believe students must have had some experience with cooperative learning prior to this lesson. The simulations, for example, seem to require students who have worked in groups for at least one other project. This is merely MY voice of experience, however. The Choices documentation suggests that prior experience with group work is not needed. Either way, I recommend that high school teachers use this Choices unit. It is a nice "stand alone" unit in a history or current events course, but also is useful in a world history course when wanting to gain perspectives of historical and contemporary Russia.

Charting Russia's Future in the Post-Soviet Era is available at through the UW's Children's Literature and Curriculum Materials Collection. For more information, check the following page.



Bruce Larson is a US History teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School in the Federal Way School District and a UW School of Education graduate student.

More K-12 information

Curriculum Development Awards

The Russian, East European and Central Asian Study Center will once again award three \$500 Curriculum Development Awards to local K-12 teachers for development of innovative teaching plans dealing with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Instructional units can be targeted for any grade level.

The award aims to encourage teachers to develop lesson plans on areas in which they have an interest. In this way, we hope to become a local repository for curriculum materials on our part of the

world. Completed plans will then be made available on a loan basis to other area teachers.

They may also be kept in the Children's Literature and Curriculum Materials Collection of Suzzallo library.

Deadlines for the award are:

December 15—proposal must be received in the REECAS office

January 25—Recipients notified of decision

May 1—Instructional units must be completed by this date.

For more information contact kengel@u.washington.edu or call (206) 543-4852

Heard in the trenches

Spain defeats Russia!

Sources report that more than 17 students signed up to study Russian at Seattle's Garfield High School. A qualified Russian teacher was available.

Unfortunately, the class was canceled because the Garfield principle felt that "there was more demand" for Spanish. Said Russian teacher will teach Spanish in the Fall.

Those wishing to express their opinion on the importance of teaching Russian in our high schools can call the Seattle School Board at (206) 281-6040.



UW Children's Literature and Curriculum Materials Collection

The UW Children's Literature and Curriculum Materials Collection, housed on the first floor of Suzzallo Library, has a variety of resources for elementary and secondary teachers. The collection includes books, films, videos and software. The review on the preceding page is an example of what is available.

All materials are available for check-out to the UW community. For non-UW users, materials can be copied or obtained through inter-library loan. Hours for the Collection are Monday-Thursday 9-7; Friday 9-5; Saturday-Sunday 1-5; closed Holidays. Call (206) 543-2725 for more information.

Letter from Prague

(Continued from page 9)

well as within the political community. Dr. Sokol, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Nations in the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly, 1990-1992, is especially well connected. They made it very clear that they would like to have as much contact as possible including team-teaching courses with us. In this scenario we would have Czech and American students in the same lecture class and then break that class up into smaller seminar sized groups. The lectures would then be delivered by both Czech and American professors.

The program would have three courses of five credits each. One class would be an historical class designed to give the students a framework. There would also be a course on intellectual/cultural expressions in Prague. The last course would be a conglomeration of special topics considering the current situation in the Czech Republic. Class time in Prague would be comprised of guest lecturers and student presentations on the same topics as the lectures.

Here is a partial list of potential topics: The Changing Face of Education in Post-Communist Czech lands, Developments in Law, Current Patterns in Politics, Gypsies in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and Women in Post-Communist Central Europe. Other topics could emerge based on contacts with the Jewish Museum and Archive and others.

If finances allow we could offer a course in Czech Language aiming at basic conversation which could be treated as part of the requirements for the class "Current Issues in the Czech Republic."

CHID welcomes applicants for the Quarter in Prague program. Please contact the CHID office at (206) 543-7333 for more information on how to apply.

Resources and Opportunities



Map collection a buried treasure

The UW Map Collection and Cartographic Information Services, located in the basement of Suzzallo Library, is a valuable resource for teachers and researchers alike.

The collection includes maps from the 1950's, until present-day. Maps are stored in drawers which cover different geographical areas of the world. Some of the areas covered are:

- Russia--Includes maps of European oblasts, provinces, districts and city maps. Most maps are in Russian.
- Belarus/Ukraine
- Caucasus--Caucasia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.
- Russian Far East
- Siberia
- Central Asia

Most maps are in the language of the country featured, and could be useful for language study.

Although many of the maps are very large, and thus not conveniently copied, the United States Central Intelligence Agency maps are smaller, in English and can be reproduced. Although these maps are not available for all countries, they do have a great deal of information, for example the map of ethnolinguistic groups in the Caucasus region.

New acquisitions include "Major Ethnic Groups in Central Asia," a 1993 CIA map. This is a small map that is color-coded for the various ethnic

groups. It includes pie charts with the total population and percentage of each ethnic group for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Another recent purchase is the 1994 CIA map of Turkmenistan.

All materials are available for check out to the UW community or through inter-library loan for others.

Hours for the map collection:
Monday-Thursday 8-6
Friday 8-5
Saturday 1-5
Closed Sundays and holidays

Alysha Webb

"Promoting Russia in America" program seeks to save Russian language studies

The Russian State Committee for Higher Education and Grant's Russian Experience, Inc. have created "Promoting Russia in America," a non-profit joint project with the goal of increasing the number of high school and junior college students studying Russian.

The project plans to bring Russian college students to the United States, where they would be hosted by Russian teachers or students studying Russian. The college students would introduce American students to Russian language and culture, and hopefully spur interest in language study.

For more information on this program contact PRIA, c/o Grant's Russian Experience, Westmoreland Dr., Sarasota, FL 34243

UW Summer Intensive Language Programs

Slavic

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literature will be offering Intensive Introductory Czech and first through fourth year Russian during the 1995 summer quarter. The intensive program enables the student to earn a year's worth of credits in 9 weeks. For more information, contact Charlotte Wallace, at (206) 543-6848, or by e-mail to <charlo@u.washington.edu>.

Central Asian Languages

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization will offer intensive courses of first and second year Uzbek, first and second year Kazakh, first year Kyrgyz and first year Tajik. All languages will be taught with the assistance of native speakers from Central Asia. An extensive cultural program of lectures, music, dance, art and films will also be offered. Fellowships are available. For information contact Prof. Ilse Cirtautis, Director, Central Asian Languages and Culture Program, Box 353120, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 98195-3120; (206) 543-6033.

Baltic Studies Summer Institute

The Summer Institute will offer Intensive First-year Lithuania Thn. In addition, the Summer Institute offers courses on Baltic History, Scandinavia in World Affairs, Introduction to Folkloric Studies and Baltic Culture. A program of guest lecturers and films is also planned. For more information contact the UW Scandinavian Dept. at (206) 543-0645.

For summer quarter admissions information, contact UW Extension, Summer Quarter, 5001 25th Avenue NE, GH-24, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195. Telephone (206) 543-2300.

Slavic Languages and Literature appeal in progress

The Slavic Language and Literature department has appealed the UW's decision to eliminate the department.

The decision, made against the recommendation of a review committee composed of UW faculty and students, eliminated the department but retained six faculty to teach Russian language, Slavic languages and Russian and Slavic culture. The Slavic Ph.D. program would be eliminated, although bachelor's and master's programs would continue.

At the time of the decision, Slavic faculty, staff and students expressed disbelief that a program ranked sixth in the country could be targeted for elimination.

Under terms spelled out in the Faculty Code section of the University handbook, the department has the right to appeal that decision. To that end, the department and interested individuals submitted documents to an appeals committee.

According to David Miles, Slavic Language and Literature

administrative assistant, individuals from in and outside of the department have submitted materials to the committee.

After considering the information in the appeals, the committee must make a recommendation to the UW President by May 30.

Should the UW's Slavic department be eliminated, Department chair Karl Kramer expressed doubt that Slavic studies at the UW would continue for more than a few years.

As we go to press, the deadline approaches. After receiving the appeal committee's recommendation, President Gerberding has 30 days to make his final decision.

Alysha Webb

A Fulbright Scholar from Romania will spend next year at the UW. Dumitru Dorobat will teach Romania. With the fate of the Slavic Languages and Literature Department still hanging in the balance, just what department Mr. Dorobat will be part of is as yet undetermined. See adjacent story for details on the appeal.

Central Asian Happenings

(Continued from page 5)
and Uzbek.

Kagan Arik, a doctoral student in Central Asian Turkic Studies, spent most of his second year of study in Central Asia. During his trip, he visited Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and was an exchange student at Xinjiang University in Urumqi, People's Republic of China (PRC). His research focuses on the traditional culture and oral literature of the Kazakhs and Kirghiz,

Kathryn Libal Arak, a Ph.D. candidate in the Anthropology Department, recently conducted preliminary research and studied Kazakh and Turkish under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council International Predissertation Award Program. She studied Turkey and Urumqi, PRC. During the 1995-96 school year, under the auspices of a Fulbright-Hayes Program, she will conduct dissertation research in Turkey on the development of ethnic and national identity among

New Materials at REECAS Center

Some new arrival in our outreach collection include:

The International Directory of Liberians and Library Specialists in the Slavic and East European Fields. Third Edition. Robert A. Karlowich, Ed. New York: Social Science Research Council. 1990. Like it says, a list of libraries and librarians in our field. Librarians are people with lots of knowledge, this could be a great resource.

Environmental Handbook for Industry, Vol. 1&2. Council for Sustainable Development et.al. First Edition. Robert A. Karlowich, ed. New York: Social Science

Research Council, 1990. Volume one has information on the Russian Federation. Vol. two has information on the Czech Republic. These volumes were prepared by the Environmental Management Office, s.r.o., and Mineberg and Associates.

Gdynia Handbook. Gdynia is a Seattle sister-city. This book in Polish and English details the charms of Gdynia.

Gerhart, Generra. **The Russian's World: Life and Language.** Fort Worth, TX: Holt, Rinehart and Winston/Harcourt Brace College Publications. 1995. "An attempt to describe for non-Russians what Russian common knowledge might be." Contains sections on conduct, names, housing, food, medicine, shopping and much, much more. *All materials are available for check-out. Please call (206)543-4258 for information.*

Any questions or suggestions? Please contact Alysha Webb at <alywebb@u.washington.edu> or Kurt Engelman at kengel@u.washington.edu.

SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



The Seattle International Film Festival runs May 18-June 11. Although you may have already missed some of the great films from our part of the world that are airing at the Festival, it's not too late to catch a few. They include:

The Convert, Poland, 1994. Director: Kazimierz Kutz, 79 minutes. A political satire combining elements of social initiation, political conscience and patriotic fervor. June 1, 5 p.m. at the Seven Gables, \$5.

Kisses and Scratches, Hungary, 1995. Director: Gyorgy Szomjas. 71 minutes. Story of a social worker who works part-time caring for the children of Ildiko, who becomes her lover. American premier. June 9, 9:30 pm, Seven Gables, \$7; June 7, 5 pm, Harvard Exit II, \$5.

Ride. Czech Republic, 1995. Director: Jan Sverak. 88 minutes. Two annui-filled thirty-somethings buy a cheap car and head out of Prague for a summer of touring the Czech countryside. Along the way they pick up a strong-willed waif who's run away from her boyfriend. June 4, 9:15 pm, Seven Gables, \$7, June 8, 9:30 pm, Harvard Exit I, \$7.

Squadron. Poland, 1994. Director: Juliusz Machulski. 100 minutes. During the Polish peasant insurrection of 1863, a young Russian aristocrat begins to question his role in the war and see the world differently after falling for a young Polish peasant woman. June 5, 9:30 pm., Varsity, \$7, June 7, 7:15 pm, Harvard Exit II, \$7.

These represent just the tip of the iceberg. Don't forget to take in the great films from other parts of the world, as well.

Thanks to "The Seattle Times Seattle International Film Festival Program Guide" for this information.

(Continued from page 8)

biggest drawbacks. While *Russian Popular Culture* is intended to be a survey rather than an analysis, Stites' treatment of the majority of material tends to be cursory, largely because of the bulk of information presented. For instance, nearly 200 films are mentioned, and countless actors, comedians and performance artists introduced. While the reader will certainly gain familiarity with these names, little else is to be gleaned from the information that can be presented in this constrained format.

Stites has kept the book very readable, with a minimum of notations that belies the extensive bibliography he has drawn upon. This lack of notation sometimes leads one to

question statements about the relative popularity of a certain movie, novel or television program -- occasionally his evidence for these generalizations is unclear.

On the whole, however, the book is carefully researched, and provides not only an exhaustive bibliography, but also a discography, filmography and videography of some of the highlights of a century of Russian culture.

Each chapter of the book, and indeed, most of the art forms presented, are so interesting in their own right they deserve full studies. This is probably the books greatest achievement. Stites whets the appetite for exploration into the rich history of Russian popular culture. The opening of Soviet archives will provide

Host Families Sought for Visiting Russian Entrepreneurs

The Foundation for Russian/American Economic Corporation invites you to participate in a program to bring young Russian entrepreneurs to Washington State for the purpose of enhancing social, cultural and commercial ties with local homes and businesses. As Outreach Coordinator for the program, the Trade and Development Consortium (TRADEC) is seeking ten families or individuals to provide homestays for four weeks to the visiting Russian delegation.

Under the direction of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), the Foundation will execute a program entitled "Creating a New Frame of Reference," which will bring a select group of ten Russian business people from Vladimir region to Washington State in early June. The Russians will learn basic managerial skills on operating private enterprise and will participate in hands-on intensive workshops for both business and cultural training.

Area companies are also welcome to participate as one of the learning sites for the Russians.

Homestays will begin June 12. For more information on this unique opportunity, contact Shannon at TRADEC, (206) 224-4340.

tremendous opportunity to research the role of the state in shaping culture. Increased access to the people of Russia -- artist, writer, performer and consumer alike -- will also allow for much more exciting and enlightening discoveries in the realm of Russian popular culture. Hopefully Stites, or an inspired reader, will undertake this venture.

Joan McCarter, a REECAS graduate student, enjoys watching Russian shock thriller movies.

REECAS News & Calendar of Events

Look for the following REECAS events in the upcoming 1995-96 academic year:

- * Internet workshops for K-12 teachers. These workshops introduce participants to the major REECAS-related internet sites and explore methods for integrating these resources into the classroom environment.
- * K-9 "mosaic" workshops, co-sponsored by the Washington State Council for the Social Studies, provide teachers with an opportunity to learn about different areas of the world through various presentation and participatory formats. Topics for the coming year include Europe, Islam, and the International Children's Festival.
- * International update dinner/lecture series, co-sponsored by other Jackson School Outreach Centers. International updates offer the latest insights from top university scholars, and dinner catered by a local ethnic cuisine restaurant.

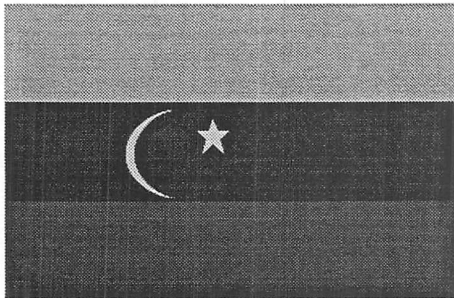
Donald W. Threadgold Papers Call for Papers

The Donald W. Treadgold papers in Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies was conceived as a series of occasional papers which provides a forum for the rapid dissemination of current scholarly research on the regions of Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia.

The Treadgold Papers currently seeks submissions of monographs from all major academic fields which address the region. Articles should be of substantial length -- approximately 40-100 pages, including end notes and/or bibliography. We aim to publish monographs that may be too long for most journals, yet too short to appear in book form.

When submitting, please include an abstract and three copies of the paper for peer review. Submission on disk is requested upon acceptance. All submissions should be sent to the address below. For a list of current available papers, contact kengel@u.washington.edu.

Donald W. Treadgold Papers in Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies
203 Thomson Hall, Box 353650
Jackson School of Int'l Studies
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 -3650
Tel: (206) 543-4852
Fax: (206) 685-0668



The lines in the flag above are green, blue and red, but not necessarily in that order. In what order should the stripes appear, and which country does this flag represent? Answers will be given in the next newsletter.

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REECAS joins the World Wide Web

The Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Center at the University of Washington has a home page on the World Wide Web! On the REECAS site you will find:

- Information the REECAS Center and its K-12 resources and projects
- Information on fellowships, grants, and employment opportunities
- Internet Resources for REECAS and international studies
- The REECAS Newsletter
- Donald W. Treadgold Papers in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (ordering information and call for papers)
- Curriculum for REECAS Internet Class
- JSIS Outreach Centers at UW

This is a site under construction. It will be updated and changing periodically. If you see something that needs to be changed, or something that should be added or deleted, please send a note to kengel@u.washington.edu. We appreciate your input. Last updated 05/15/95.

New World Wide Web Address!

To visit the REECAS site from a UW account using Lynx:

⇒ at the UNIX or shell prompt %, type: **lynx**

⇒ at the Lynx Home Page, type: **g**

⇒ at the URL prompt (at the bottom of the screen) type the URL below:

<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~reecaf/reecashm.html>

Non-UW subscribers: Consult your local computer systems provider for information on accessing the home page.

REECAS Newsletter

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