

REEL I

NEWSLETTER

THE RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN AREA STUDIES CENTER -- WINTER QUARTER 1988
THE HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FACULTY

The Jackson School and the department of economics welcomed this last Fall Quarter a new addition to the faculty: economist Dr. Kazimierz Poznanski. Dr. Poznanski is a specialist in the economics of technological change, focussing on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. As one might suspect from his name, Dr. Poznanski is Polish, specifically from Warsaw. Having struggled to obtain visas for seven years consecutively, he and his wife (who is incidentally, also an economist from the University of Warsaw) arrived in the United States in 1980. Since then, Dr. Poznanski has held teaching and research positions at several of the most prestigious academic institutes in the country. Teaching Soviet economics and comparative economic systems, as well as working on miscellaneous research projects, he has held positions with Princeton University, Cornell University, Northwest University, and most recently, a fellowship at the Hoover Institution, where he was engaged in a study regarding integration of the Soviet bloc in the world economy. Currently, in addition to teaching courses here at the U of W, he's also working on a study on substitutibility of east and west economies in foreign trade.

His research over the last seven years has produced a number of articles on international economics, and two books, the second of which is just now being released, is entitled Technology, Competition, and the Soviet Bloc in the World Economy, and is one of the texts he's chosen for use in his class on political trade and finance being offered this Winter Quarter.

ANNUAL SLAVIC FILM SERIES

This winter quarter the Russian House is once again presenting their annual Slavic film festival. This year's festival boasts an impressive collection of both classical greats such as *Potemkin*, as well as some of the more recent Soviet releases. Many of the films have received awards and are considered to be the cream of the Soviet film industry. In an effort to generate greater interest in the series, the Russian House has greatly increased the number of films to be shown, for a total of ten full length films. Judging from the turnout to see *Rasputin*, the first in the series, the festival promises to be quite successful. The films are shown every Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the HUB Auditorium. Admission is free to all University of Washington students, faculty, alumni card-holders, and guests of the above.

The 1988 Slavic Film Series is being sponsored by the Russian House, the Slavic Club, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, the Russian and East European Program of the Jackson School of International Studies, and by the University Multi-Ethnic Council. For information regarding the series please contact the Russian House at 543-6820.

RUSSIAN HOUSE WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Russian House residents have organized numerous activities this year to promote interest in Russian language and culture. In addition to the well-known parties (for example the infamous Great October Revolution Russian Rock 'n Roll Party, which featured Uzbek dancing as the star attraction) and various Homecoming events, the Russian House is the scene for several more humble weekly adventures.

Sunday evenings around 8:00, students give informal "mini-presentations" of ten to fifteen minutes in length on preassigned topics, the purpose of which is to encourage conversation in Russian on provocative topics. At 8:00 on Mondays, "housemother" Galina Alam plays videotapes of Soviet television programs recorded by the Russian and East European Studies Program of the Jackson School. Tapes typically include films and broadcasts of the Soviet news program *Vremya*. All students of Russian are invited. Gala provides translations and explanations when necessary. Wednesday mornings at 11:30, Gala and any interested students meet for a "Russian Table" lunch in the HUB. Every Thursday afternoon at 4:00 residents play Russian Scrabble or learn card games from Gala.

These activities and many impromptu events make the Russian House a stimulating educational experience not only for residents but for all students of Slavic languages and area studies. Russian students interested in living in the House should call Heather McAuliffe, the student manager, at 543-6820.

To help continue this living-language program, a Russian House Alumni Association has been formed. Anyone interested in lending financial support or fund-raising expertise to the Alumni Association should call John Jacobsen at 543-5048.

SEATTLE - TASHKENT CONNECTION

This year the University of Washington has the opportunity for fifteen of its students to participate in a student exchange with a university in Seattle's sister city in the Soviet Union: Tashkent. The program was established by the Citizen Exchange Council (CEC), the non-profit U.S. - Soviet cultural exchange organization. This "University Pairing Program" has been endorsed both by the Soviet Ministry of Specialized Secondary and Higher Education, as well as by the President's U.S. - Soviet Exchange Initiative.

The initial stage of the exchange-program is a two week student conference, comprised of a delegation of fifteen students from various fields of study. Each delegation will fly first to the capital of the hosting country, and from there will proceed to the sister city where they will participate in all aspects of campus and city life, including sporting events, political discussions, open forums, study programs, and miscellaneous cultural performances.

Participants feel that the Pairing Program has a unique potential for building the all important grassroots cultural ties between the United States and the Soviet Union, and for reducing some of the mythology clouding intercultural understanding. The students who participate in the program will enter their respective careers with an enhanced appreciation of international dialogue and problem solving.

The Pairing Program is already operating at Yale, Stanford, Harvard, Lafayette College, Williams College, and the University of Maine, and is considered by all of these institutions to be highly successful and a valuable asset for the universities. The University of Washington was one of five schools selected by the Soviet Union this year as possible candidates for exchange programs. The Soviets hope to have twenty-one universities active in the exchange program by 1989.

The Soviets are prepared to send fifteen of their students to Seattle as early as this spring. They have received approval and funding to send their students to the U.S. and to host U.S. students during their stay in the Soviet Union. This shifts the responsibility to the U.S. participants to raise the funds necessary to reciprocate. The estimated cost for hosting the Soviet students while in Seattle is approximately \$7,600, and the cost to send fifteen American students is about \$15,400. Anyone wishing to contribute to the program is most heartily encouraged to do so. Contributions should be made to:

UW Pairing Program (CEC)
18 East 41st Street
New York, NY 10617

Questions regarding the program should be addressed to:

Dr. Barbara Niemczyk
Slavic Languages and Literature DR-30
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

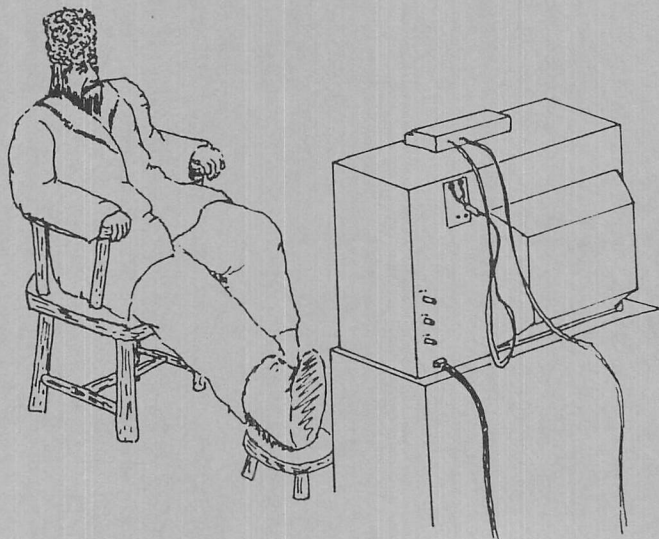
SOVIET TV UPDATE

Since late 1986, the university has been picking up Soviet television broadcasts, tapping the Vladivostok broadcast from the Molniya satellite system. This provides students and faculty with a valuable opportunity to both keep up on Soviet affairs and to brush up on their Russian. At this point, the task lies in expanding the availability of this resource to greater numbers of viewers.

One such project involves broadcasting Soviet television over Cablearn (Channel 27). Cablearn, a university based cable station which specializes in educational programming, has agreed to air a weekly Soviet television hour, starting this Winter Quarter. The idea is to familiarize the general public with as wide a range of everyday Soviet experiences as possible. Hence, a similarly broad spectrum of programs are likely to be selected for airing, including news, dramas, children's shows, nature specials, sports programs, and game shows. The obvious problem facing this project is the language barrier. To compensate, Cablearn plans to select primarily visual programs, and to accompany them with brief introductions, which will provide basic explanations of the programs. If all goes well, Cablearn hopes to start broadcasting Vremya on a daily basis, possibly even arranging for simultaneous translation.

Several other suggestions have been raised for utilizing Soviet television. The Russian House, for example, has hopes of hooking themselves up to the satellite tracking system and starting their own viewing room, where Soviet television would be available to residents around the clock. The Department of Slavic Languages and Literature is in the process of arranging funding and approval to construct a viewing room on the second floor of Thomson, which would be open to all students and faculty. The plan is to remove the wall between room 208, the small office which currently houses the monitoring equipment, and room 202, the adjacent classroom, thus creating a room capable of accomodating a reasonable number of viewers.

Neither the Russian House nor the viewing room proposals have yet been finalized; both are still struggling with the red tape. And in light of the glacial pace of university bureaucracy, patience is probably well advised. Still, the prospects for the hopefully not too distant future are indeed promising. Uspech, tovarishi, uspech!



RADOST TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY CONCERTS

The Radost Folk Ensemble celebrates twelve years of East European and American dance, music, and song at its twelfth anniversary concert in Meany Theatre on Friday and Saturday April 8 and 9 at 8:00pm.

The company of fifty dancers, musicians, and singers will showcase the world premiere of two new Bulgarian dance pieces choreographed by Stoyan Tsankov, Artistic Director of Ensemble "Aprilov-Palauzov" of Gabrovo, Bulgaria, who is currently in residence with the company. Also featured will be the Seattle premieres of songs and dances from Medjimurje, Croatia, choreographed by Nena Sokcic, formerly of the Croatian National Ensemble LADO; an Appalachian Wedding Day celebration choreographed by Glenn Bannerman of Ashville, North Carolina; Haidau Dances from Romania choreographed by Artistic Director Glenn Nielsen; and the return of favorite dances from the repertoire including the Silent Dance from Glamoc, Yugoslavia. The concert will also feature the Radost Folk Orchestra with a variety of new selections from Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, and Romania, and will also feature special guests, the Vecerinka Folk Choir.

Reserved seat tickets are \$10 and \$12. Tickets for Friends of Radost donors, seniors, and children under sixteen are two dollars off. Group rates are also available. For ticket orders and information please call or write:

Radost Folk Ensemble
P.O. Box 31295
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 524-5295 - between 9am and 5pm

Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster outlets, call 628-0888.

Funding for these concerts is provided, in part, by the King County Arts Commission. The Radost Folk Ensemble is a nonprofit corporation.



Cinemaniacs Cove

The Soviet policy of glasnost' has produced some interesting variations from the Soviet and East European film industry. Two which have recently appeared in Seattle include Soviet director Nikita Mikhalkov's new work featuring Marcello Mastroianni, Darkeyes, and the latest Yugoslav work, Hey Babu Riba.

Several films are expected to be released in 1988 as well. Look for a new Georgian film entitled Repentance, a new Russian production concerning grade school peer pressure in the Soviet Union, entitled Scarecrow, and an upcoming Yugoslav film, For a Night of Love. Also worth mentioning is director Phillip Kaufman's most recent work, Unbearable Lightness of Being, which, although a U.S. production, was filmed entirely in Czechoslovakia, so should feature some interesting glimpses of Eastern European geography.

HEY BABU RIBA

Hey Babu Riba, a new Yugoslavian film released originally in 1986, after several successful showings at film festivals has at length found its way to Seattle. Aptly described by one viewer as a Yugoslav Big Chill, Hey Babu Riba is a sensitive portrait of a closely knit group of Belgrade teenagers, weathering the cultural and political pressures of Yugoslavia in the 1950's. Inspired by the nostalgic memories of director Jovan Acin and executive producers George Zecevic and Petar Jankovic, themselves friends who grew up together in Belgrade, Hey Babu Riba has an authenticity and intimacy which greatly contribute to the film's effectiveness and charm.



The film opens in 1953 at the National Junior Rowing Championships on the western coast of Yugoslavia. Four teenage boys illegally row their scull to Italy in order to reunite their friend and coxswain, Miriana, with her father. The scene then cuts to 1985, and the funeral of Miriana is the impetus for a reunion of the infamous "Foursome". After the funeral the "Foursome" take the opportunity to reminisce about their youth in Yugoslavia, when they were inseparable friends, members of a jazz combo and a winning crew team, and all equally in love with the beautiful young Miriana, or "Esther", nicknamed after their favorite screen idol, Esther Williams.

Much of the charm and appeal of Hey Babu Riba stems from its humorous and familiar images of the drama of adolescence. These images combine with those of the turbulent social and political realities -- the heavy handedness of party apparatchiks, the conflict between western and Soviet influences, dispossession of property -- to create an accessible and effective description of an important historical period.

DARK EYES

Soviet director Nikita Mikhalkov, who's works include An Unfinished Piece for Player Piano and Oblomov, has released a new work: Dark Eyes, a joint Soviet Italian coproduction starring Marcello Mastroianni. Beyond being an interesting example of the increased sophistication of contemporary Soviet filmmaking, Dark Eyes is also a highly entertaining, thought provoking, and visually spectacular film.

The story is uniquely suited to both director and leading actor. It is based upon several of the short stories of Anton Chekhov, whose work has influenced Mikhalkov considerably, most strikingly evident in his film Slave of Love. Although perhaps less directly influenced by Chekhov, Mastroianni's characters are typically reminiscent of the traditional Chekhov hero, multifaceted, seething with apparent contradictions, and always strangely appealing. Mastroianni's principal gift as an actor is perhaps also his chief weakness: every character he plays/creates, he makes at least partially autobiographical. This greatly enhances his effectiveness, but limits somewhat the number of varied roles he can convincingly play. Romano, his character in Dark Eyes, is clearly what Mastroianni does best.

The plot develops around Romano, whose life is essentially corrupted by excessive affluence. A bright-eyed, idealistic, university student, Romano marries the daughter of a wealthy Milan banker. He rapidly becomes accustomed to a sedentary and pampered existence, meaningless but temptingly comfortable. Feigning illness, Romano flees to a nearby health spa, to "take the waters", where numerous fleeting but pleasant affairs do wonders for Romano's sagging spirits. While at the spa, he encounters a beautiful, but sadly married, young Russian woman. The remainder of the film tracks their romance.

Dark Eyes, while not a political piece, is not without its political implications, which, depending upon your inclination, may either add to, or distract from the film. Still, the story is appealing, especially for slushy romantics like myself, the acting is good (Winner of 1987 Best Actor Award at Cannes), and, filmed in Italy and in Russia, one gets the chance to see some extraordinarily beautiful countryside.



Reviews by Kevin Jernegan



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