



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Center for Russian & East European Studies

Encina Hall, Room 200, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-6055

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1991

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Letter from the Director

Greetings at the start of another exciting year at CREES. The events of mid-August have forced us again to rethink our suppositions about the USSR. We were helped along in this process by a fascinating roundtable on October 2, which featured Michael Bernsham, Alexander Dallin, Terence Emmons, Grisha Freidin, David Holloway, John Litwack, and Martin Malia. The persistence of the war in Yugoslavia also prompted a spirited exchange of views at a panel held on October 24.

During the winter and spring quarters, the distinguished Hungarian sociologist (and Director of Hungarian radio and television), Elemer Hankiss, will teach courses on the transition in Eastern Europe. This year's Kendall Professor in Soviet Studies is Andrei Sinyavsky, the brilliant Soviet writer and former dissident, who will teach in the Slavic Department during spring quarter. In addition, we again welcome a group of Polish scholars from Jagiellonian University: Waldemar Martyniuk, who is responsible for this year's splendid Polish language program; Jacek Szmataka, who is teaching in the sociology department; and Kazimierz Baran, who will be associated with the History Department. We also wish to extend a special welcome to our new Fulbright Czech instructor, Ivana Bozdechova, and our Serbo-Croatian instructor, Jasmina Bojic. The Polish and Serbo-Croatian instruction is supported in part by the Steve P. Rados, Sarah Stys Vucinich, and Konstany and Antonina Stys Funds.

Our ability to greet many visitors from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. A group of Polish librarians is working at Green Library with Slavic Curator Wojciech Zalewski. Two Polish Fulbright scholars are working in the Hoover Archives with director Ann van Camp. In addition, a strong complement of East Europeans are enrolled in the third round of the Hoover Institution's diplomats' program, led in part by Bert Patenaude. Tatiana Krylova, a Russian economist, has been named the first "Raisa Gorbacheva Fellow" for 1991-92. Heinrich Bortfeldt, an (East) German political scientist, is a visiting scholar at CREES and will be in residence winter quarter. Our exchange programs with the Soviet Union, generously funded by Donald M. Kendall, will make possible the visits to campus of Soviet scholars Vitali Startsev from Leningrad and Andrei Tartakovskii from Moscow. New books edited by CREES associates include: Terry Emmons, *Around California in 1891*; Alexander Dallin and Gail Lapidus, *The Soviet System in Crisis*; and Thomas Emmert and Wayne Vucinich, *Kosovo: Legacy of a Medieval Battle*, based on a CREES-sponsored conference. We are pleased to announce that Professor Vucinich has been coaxed out of "retirement" to teach "Yugoslavia in Crisis" during winter quarter. The noted East European expert, Gail Kligman, will be visiting from U. C. Berkeley and teaching courses in the Anthropology Department this winter and spring.

One of the great pleasures of the "post-Com-

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continued from front page

The Institute of International Studies (IIS) is under the new and capable leadership of Wally Falcon. I would like to thank Dick Lyman personally for his strong support and good wishes while he was Director of IIS. We are all grateful that Condi Rice is back on campus. She will play a key role in IIS's efforts to initiate a new European-oriented research program.

Severe budget constraints and administrative reorganization

are a source of deep concern at CREES. At the same time, we can count on the strength of our staff, the vibrancy of our programs, and the ongoing interest and support of our students, faculty and friends on the campus and in the community. We invite you to stop by the Center and bring along your ideas and suggestions.

*Norman Naimark,
Director, CREES*

Old California Through Russian Eyes

by Caroline Drewes, reprinted with permission from the San Francisco Examiner, c1991 San Francisco Examiner

Nicholas Russel, alias Nikolai Konstantinovich Suzdilovskii, came to California, settled here for a while, cast an occasionally jaundiced eye upon the idiosyncrasies he encountered - as well as the delights - and uttered such declarations as this:

"Insatiable passion for profit drives the American to the point where he doesn't have time or sense to eat, rest, or enjoy himself. He eats breakfast and lunch, as it were, on the run, swallowing hurriedly, hardly chewing whatever is available, with scant concern about the taste and quality of what has been swallowed...If this sort of lifestyle continues for another century...it's difficult to say what fate awaits the American people."

Nevertheless, he had a lot to say about other things.

But it took an eminent scholar of Russian history from Stanford University, a visitor in the USSR enough times to lose count, to unearth the tale - 100 years after writer/physician/revolutionary activist Russel penned his pungent account. History Professor Terence Emmons found Russel's handwritten, unvarnished, unpublished "travelogue" last autumn, while researching in a dusty Moscow archive.

Here was a document emphatically more than entertainment. "It is a moral exploration of turn-of-the-century America as seen through the ... eyes of a Slavic de Tocqueville.

This last evaluation is by Bruce Goldman, editor and manager of the university-based Portable Stanford Book Series, an arm of the alumni association, who appreciated the serendipity of the find and has just published "Around California in 1891", by Terence Emmons, to coincide with Stanford University's dawning centennial.

The first part of the book is Nicholas Russel's. The second belongs to Emmons, who oversaw the translation, who knew of the turn-of-the-century Russian visitor's

strange life, and was able to reconstruct, among other things, the story of the bishop and the schoolboys. This, according to Goldman, was "a slice of San Francisco history the local Chamber of Commerce may have forgotten."

Russel was testy, feisty, but he could also wax lyrical. When it came, for instance, to the "placid San Francisco Bay," he wrote, "The surrounding landscape was shrouded in transparent light-blue fog. The sun had just risen, and its rays had not yet dispersed the invigorating morning freshness; they played merrily in a light ripple on the ocean's blue surface and sparked like multi-colored lights on the spray of the paddle wheels...Only those who know the panoramas of Swiss lakes, Naples, and Sicily could imagine this scene."

Fascinating stuff, this. The man responsible for bringing it to light - a big, handsome man in a blue shirt, wearing gold-rimmed glasses, a man who refuses to install an answering machine because "I entertain this fantasy that I lead a simple life and nobody needs to get in touch with me" - leans back in his chair behind the desk in his book-lined office on the Stanford campus and describes himself as "an Oregon boy who got into the Russian field as a young man during the McCarthy era when I was interested in leftist politics."

As a UC-Berkeley graduate student, Emmons spent two years in the Soviet Union, where he would meet his French wife; he finished graduate school during the Free Speech Movement, and has taught at Stanford since 1965. He was last in the Soviet Union just before the present revolution, which he regrets missing. "This is really the beginning of a revolution in some ways similar to 1917 when the old regime was overthrown and all the symbols of the old regime were torn down, seven months before it was aborted by the Bolsheviks."

He knew of Russel because "I'd been interested for some time in 19th century Russian revolutionaries or radicals in the United States... I don't share his views about humanity and the social revolution anymore; on the other hand I admire his intellectual liveliness."

News from SPICE

Today's elementary and secondary school teachers are confronted with such a myriad of challenges in the classroom, from ethnic and cultural diversity to language barriers and inadequate resources, that it is difficult to imagine how they can keep up with changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. At the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), a project is producing new supplementary curriculum materials to meet some of their needs.

Since the beginning in 1989, we have published teaching units on Soviet-American relations, on Berlin and the Wall, and on Eastern Europe (for the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies). Units currently in development focus on post-war Eastern Europe and on the cultural diversity of the Soviet republics.

Each unit contains complete lesson plans and handouts developed from primary source documents (speeches, articles, photographs), and includes such useful materials as maps, political cartoons, charts and graphs, and most recently, videos. These resources have significantly en-

hanced the appeal of teaching about the region (videos contain such gems as animation and home-made documentaries of the recent revolution).

But SPICE materials do more than provide the teacher with some guidance. Lesson plans and handouts incorporate small group work and role playing to teach cooperative learning skills and multiple perspectives. A readers' theatre on the construction of the Berlin Wall, for example, excites students by placing them in dramatic historical roles. The end result is that even students uninterested in world history or school in general become curious about events occurring in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. And that, we hope, will translate into the awareness we are striving for.

For information, contact Adrian Chan, Project Coordinator, 415- 725-1480.

Adrian Chan
SPICE Project Coordinator

News from the Slavic Department

The Slavic Department, now firmly ensconced in our "temporary" home in Wilbur module, welcomes three new graduate students to Stanford. Andrew Kaufman comes to us from Amherst College, where he graduated with a BA in Russian. Richard Schimpf, from Columbia University, also comes to us with a BA in Russian. Finally, Daniel Gackle comes to us from the Great White North, where he earned a BS in Math and a BA in Russian at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The Slavic Department cordially welcomes you all, and we hope your stay here at Stanford is productive and enlightening.

The Slavic Department also announces a number of awards to several of our continuing graduate students. Sally Kux has received a Fulbright Grant and will be on a leave of absence this year to perform research in Finland. Julie Cassiday is the recipient of a two year Graduate Training Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council/ACTR here at Stanford. Katya Hokanson was awarded a Teaching Assistantship here at Stanford in the Humanities Special Program. Natasha Sankovitch was awarded a position in the Stanford Innovative Academic Course, where she is teaching a course on "Contemporary Fiction by Russian Women in English Translation." And Andrey Ustinov has received a Humanities Center Pre-Dissertation Graduate Fellowship for continued work at Stanford.

In addition to the above awards, three of our graduate students have been selected to teach one of our literature classes next quarter. Look for Jehanne Gheith, Tom Hodge, and Natasha Sankovitch in the classroom for SL 146/246, "Survey of Russian Literature in English Translation II: The Age of Realism." Congratulations to all!

Additionally, the Department is pleased to announce the arrival of two new professors. Dr. Rima Greenhill will be teaching third year and advanced Russian. Dr. Greenhill received her PhD from London University, where she also taught. We welcome her humor and enthusiasm in the classroom. Also joining the faculty is Dr. Ivana Bozdechova, who is a visiting professor and Fulbright scholar from Charles University, Prague. She will be teaching Czech.

Finally, the Department announces the departure of Professor Richard Schupbach on a leave of absence, during which time he will be researching and writing for a future publication. In his absence, Professor Lazar Fleishman will be the Department Chair. Also on a leave of absence is Professor Andrew Wachtel, who received a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship and will be working on his book, "An Obsession with History: Russian Writers Confront the Past."

M.A. Students in the CREES Program

Hilary Appel majored in Soviet Studies at Williams College and spent a semester in Moscow on an ACTR program. Her interests are wide-ranging: senior year she studied Gorbachev and Slavic folk dance. On a Williams College fellowship, she spent this summer studying ballet. Hilary is the recipient of a federal W/SRA (Work/Study Research Assistantship) and will be assisting Professor Dallin. **Mei Fen Chen**, continuing from last year, graduated from the National Chengchi University, Taiwan, majoring in Russian studies. Mei Fen's special interest is Chinese/Soviet relations. After the AM program she plans to study Russian in the Soviet Union and return to Taiwan to teach Russian. **Richard Esbenshade** graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 1983 with a BA in Community Studies. He made a trip to Hungary and Czechoslovakia in 1984, where he acquired a wife and an interest in Hungarian culture. At Stanford, Richard wants to explore the connection of literature to social movements in postwar Eastern Europe. He intends to continue at the doctoral level in history or literature.

Susan Gates is a student in the PhD program at the Business School. She graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in 1990, majoring in math and economics. She also pursued Russian studies at Brown and Polish studies at Poznan University. Due to course requirements in Business, Susan will postpone taking the Core Seminar until the 1992-94 academic years, but we welcome Susan into our program now. **Amy Gillet** is a continuing co-terminal student combining a BA in Russian language and literature with the REES MA. Amy has been active in journalism, and contributes articles on the USSR and Eastern Europe to the "Stanford Daily". Amy will complete her MA at the end of the autumn quarter and hopes to find a research or business position involving the USSR or Eastern Europe. In 1989 **Kristin Gustavson** came to Stanford from Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California, and is now pursuing a co-terminal BA in International Relations and an MA in REES. Last year she completed 4th year Russian and is now studying Polish. She became interested in Russian and East European studies during a trip to Moscow in 1990, and plans to finish her MA in 1993. **Karine Hagen**, of Norway, comes to Stanford from Wellesley College, where she earned a BA in Soviet studies. Karine spent half her junior year abroad at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in London, and half at Leningrad State University. She also spent this past summer in London and the Soviet Union. She wants to use her time at Stanford to prepare for a career in East/West trade.

Emily Locker majored in Russian studies at SUNY, Binghamton. She has also studied Russian at the Tolstoy Institute; at Norwich, Vermont; and at Leningrad State University. In school, Emily studied US-Soviet cultural relations and after

graduating in 1990, she worked as a research assistant at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Emily is the recipient of a federal W/SRA through the Center and is working with Professor Fleishman in the Slavic Department. **Jonathon Nighswander** graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 1988 with a major in Italian literature. He also engaged in Russian studies and after graduating, he spent two years travelling the Pacific Rim, Eastern Europe, and the USSR. Jonathon will study Russia's relations with the peoples of East and Central Asia. He is the recipient of a FLAS award from the Center. **Louis O'Neill** is a co-terminal student in Russian language and literature, and spent last year in the Soviet Union under a scholarship from the Institute of International Education. Lou studied the politics of environmental problems and their solutions. This year he is scheduled to live at Slavianskii Dom as a resource person. Lou is the recipient this year of a federal FLAS Fellowship from the Center. **Robert Patterson** is in the State Department and will be a non-matriculated graduate student this year in REES. Robert graduated from Reed College in 1980 with a BA in Russian literature and later earned two MAs in Slavic Literatures. Since 1985 he has been at State, including a year on the Soviet desk and a three year tour of duty at the US Consulate in Leningrad. **Sasha Pursley** graduated in 1990 from the University of Texas at Austin, with a BA in History and Russian. She has travelled widely in the USSR and has served as an interpreter at US-Soviet sports and cultural exchanges. Sasha is interested in women in revolutionary movements in Russia and has received a W/SRA through the Center. She will be working with Professors Naimark and Emmons in History.

Amy Robison engaged in Russian and Soviet studies at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. As an undergraduate, she also studied Russian intensively at Middlebury and in the USSR on an ACTR program. In addition to Russian culture, Amy is interested in studying the country of Lithuania. After Stanford, Amy plans to spend a year in the USSR and hopes to develop a career in Soviet/Western trade. **Dave Stewart**, continuing from last year, earned a BS in engineering at West Point in 1982, with extensive studies in Russian and German. He studied Russian at Norwich this summer, and his next stop will be the US Army Russian Institute at Garmisch, Bavaria, Germany. If it doesn't interfere with his scuba diving, Captain Stewart will finish his MA in winter quarter; in the meantime he is also editing the Center's Newsletter.

*Jack Kollmann,
MA Program Coordinator, CREES*

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies

The AAASS is pleased to announce the success of its second Public Education Program teaching aid, developed in collaboration with the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE). Prepared under the direction of SPICE's Adrian Chan, *Free to Choose: A Teacher's Guide to Revolution and Reform in Eastern Europe* is proving to be an invaluable resource to teachers across the country. Copies of the publication are available from the AAASS, and will be provided to teachers without charge. The AAASS recently finished a collaborative study focusing on the future availability of faculty in the Soviet and East European fields of study. The results indicate that, among other trends, there will be a large

outflow of faculty (retirements) in the next five years, with replacements projected to lag. Coming at a time of increased interest in the Soviet Union and East European region, this may appear to be an excellent time for our younger scholars to be guided into this area. The full results and conclusions of the study are available in the AAASS September 1991 Newsletter.

The AAASS would also like to announce the dates and location of its 23rd National Convention, which will be held in Miami, Florida, on November 22-25, 1991. For information concerning AAASS, call (415)-723-9668.

Berkeley-Stanford Program in Soviet Studies

The Berkeley-Stanford Program in Soviet Studies anticipates, indeed, is already in the midst of, a dynamic schedule of activities for the 1991-92 academic year. In September the program hosted in Berkeley a research conference on "Soviet-Japanese Relations: Domestic and Foreign Policy Linkages." The event was especially noteworthy as it was one of the first international gatherings of scholars to discuss Soviet affairs after the failed August coup. Scholars from the USSR, Japan, Korea, Great Britain, and the United States met to discuss the impact of recent developments in the Soviet-Japanese regional security and economic relations, and on the political and economic situation in Japan and the USSR, with special emphasis on the Soviet Far East. Conference papers will be published in early 1992.

On November 18-20, we will host our second meeting with Soviet scholars from the Institute of International Economic and Political Studies. Scholars will present and discuss papers on key issues of the Soviet transition process, including demilitarization, a reconfigured federal structure, emerging states, economic reforms, and others.

A new Berkeley-Stanford Program office has been opened in Moscow and is staffed by Gavin Helf, a graduate student in the Berkeley Department of Political Science. The Moscow office administratively facilitates meetings between delegates from the Berkeley-Stanford Program

and Soviet and Russian governmental figures. The Program is currently in the midst of a three-year Soviet-American collaborative research project to study the Soviet transition process.

During the year the Program will host three visiting scholars. Paul Goble, the State Department's top specialist on Soviet national and ethnic issues will be here for a nine-month research appointment at Berkeley. In the spring, he will lead a graduate seminar on ethnicity in the USSR. Alec Nove, a specialist on the political economy of the USSR, and Andrei Melville, a promising young political scientist from Moscow, will both be arriving in the spring.

The Program will be hosting a number of short-term visitors from the USSR, including in November, former editor-in-chief of *Literaturnaia Gazeta*, Fedor Burlatskii, and Mikhail Gouboglo, a specialist on bilingualism from the Institute of Ethnography in Moscow.

The first edition of *Khronika*, the newsletter of the Berkeley-Stanford Program, came out in September, and anyone wishing to get on the Program mailing list should contact Kira Reoutt at 643-6737.

Andrew Kuchins
Executive Director

Impressions of the Coup

Moscow, August, 1991

August 19, almost 7:00AM. Half-asleep, I turn on the radio. "*Soviet citizens cannot hold up their heads abroad...we are committed to retaining good relationships with foreign countries...*"

Something strange is going on, I think to myself. Why are they playing a nocturne now? The voices and music are eerily reminiscent of 1985, when Chernenko died. The phone rings; it's Sally Kux [another Stanford graduate student] and she has also noticed the strangeness. We decide that she will listen to the BBC and I will listen to Soviet radio, then call each other back. Next I hear "...in connection with his illness, Mikhail Gorbachev is unable to fulfill his duties as president. Ianaev will assume presidential duties...". My first thought - well, do I go running or not? How does one behave during a coup?

Sally and I decide to go swimming in the pool of the Ministry of the Interior (Ministry of Internal Affairs), where we have been several times. Since Pugo is one of the conspirators it should be safe. After a relaxing swim, we are ready to cross the street back to the hotel, but can't. After nearly fifty tanks go by, we finally get across; the doorman of the Akademicheskaja Hotel says, "It's about time they brought the tanks in. They'll put things in order." Not comforting.

We decide to take all our important things with us, just in case. I bring documents, money, and my archival notes from Pushinskii dom. They are heavy. I note: it's easier to get seats on public transportation during a military takeover.

At 3:00PM we meet a friend at IMLI (Institute for World Literature) and walk to the Russian Parliament building. It's raining, but people are crowded around metro stops and various walls where copies of El'tsin's decrees are hanging. We stop to talk to tank drivers and soldiers in military personnel carriers. We meet - unexpectedly, but somehow it seems fitting - Grigory Freidin [a Professor in the Stanford Slavic Dept.], who is asking questions of the soldiers. "What will you do if the order comes to shoot? Do you know that you will bear responsibility? You. Not your commanders." A woman, crying, holding a dog: "We are your mothers, your wives, your sisters. Why do you want to shoot us?" Crowds gather at the tanks, asking the same questions. Some of the soldiers are silent, some embarrassed, some argue back. They are so young - 18 and 19-year olds.

It is not frightening to see tanks and talk to the drivers. It is tense; it could turn ugly at any moment, and Tiananmen Square is never far from my mind. I am surprised to see the barricades - they are just metal and wooden poles. I had pictured something more substantial. Trolleybuses are also blocking access to the Parliament building. Someone has the idea to let the air out of the tires to make a more stable barricade; people set to work with more energy than I have seen in a long time. A group of six strong men are carrying a heavy piece of wood. They put it down for a moment and are instantly swarmed by babushki, screeching "don't stop, you have a barricade to build!" Silently, the men pick up the wood and continue.

August 20. I am working for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. We talk to tank crews who have gone over to the Russian side. The tanks are swarming with children; people are bringing gifts of food to the crews. An old woman gives a soldier a cake, saying "this is to go with your tea."

We go to the demonstration at Mossovet, where there is a line of soldiers facing away from the Kremlin and towards the demonstration. Also not comforting. I ask them why; they are silent. We joke with the soldiers... Outside of Mossovet, thousands of people are gathered. Shevardnadze begins to speak: "Some of you may remember that on December 20, I warned that there was a distinct possibility of a dictatorship. The president said, 'I don't see any conspirators (*puchisti*).' Well, now we are all witnesses to the putsch." Loud applause.

Sergei Stankevich, Vice-Mayor of Moscow, gives the best speech. The others have begun with "This is a great tragedy...", but he begins: "I think

what is happening here is wonderful. You can censure me for this, but I think it's amazing. At last we'll know who is who - who is really defending democracy in Russia and who wants only to concentrate power in his own hands..." His several jokes point up the disinformation tactics of the conspirators: "According to official statistics, there are 100 people gathered outside Mossovet. I was just at the White House (Parliament Building) and the 100 people who are gathered there say hello to the 100 people here." The thousands gathered laugh. Stankevich manages to relieve the tension, while keeping people intent on the task at hand. This is a difficult thing to do, because no one knows exactly what that task is. Interesting how little talk there is of Gorbachev. No one seems to be very interested in what has happened to him.

August 21, 2:30 AM. Sally calls to tell me that she heard through her father that people have been killed and she should leave. I decide to stay, and go back to bed.

Most of the day is spent sorting out rumors. How many were killed? Where are the conspirators? Did they catch them at Vnukovo? Will El'tsin go to Foros?

Wednesday evening at the barricades, I turn to my friend and tell her I am staying there that night. She looks at me and says she will also, but must call her parents. We walk a long way to get to a phone that has a line of only five people waiting, instead of the fifteen or twenty we have seen at other phones. We note that, like my friend, all five tell lies about where they will be that night. Mainly to their wives and mothers, because most of the people on the barricades are men.

At midnight, we get back to the White House, where we talk to the elite troops. They are dreadful. "Whom are you defending?" we ask. "You." "From whom?" I ask. No answers, blank faces. No matter who we ask, they say the same thing, and that is all they will say. "Do you have ammunition?" we ask. One says no, but others show us that they do. [It is still unclear whether these troops were for or against El'tsin. Supposedly they were on "our" side, but the crowds were very worried and kept them outside the gates at the White House grounds.]

Lots of people have built fires, and I'm glad because it's really cold. Most of the crowd seems to be workers. Surprising. Various speeches. Lots of anti-Gorbachev sentiment. People yelling: "We aren't doing this for Gorbachev, we're doing it for El'tsin!" And the cheers that go up most frequently are "Russia, Russia!", which imperceptibly blends into "El'tsin, El'tsin!"

At 2:30AM, it feels like we have been standing out in the cold forever and it isn't going to be light any time soon. The comedian Khazanov comes out to do a routine and all I can think is, here we are "saving Russia" - and seeing Khazanov live. Later that night, they announce that Kriuchkov has been arrested. Amazing. It's over. It's over?

Reactions to the coup are contradictory - as is to be expected. In early September, a friend who had been thinking of emigrating said, "I jumped up and down when I heard the Communist Party had been suspended. I'll never leave this country now. It's going to be the greatest country in the world." At the same time, many people expressed "anti-democratic" views. When standing in lines, people would often make comments like, "It was only people who run the cooperatives and various other criminals who defended the White House. Of course, they have something to lose." Many also voiced a longing for order and an easier life. They are weary. But this worries me: If this is the sentiment in Moscow, what are the people thinking in the rest of the country? Of course, these questions can only be answered with time, and I envy those who have the chance to see the outcome of the coup/putsch/revolution.

My favorite coup comments: "It's a good thing Moscow's streets are littered. Otherwise, what would we have built barricades with?" and "For over seventy years, we've been ruled by idiots. This [referring to the coup leaders] is the first time it's worked in our favor!"

Jehanne Gheith
Graduate Student, Slavic Languages and Literatures

Slavianskii Dom

Slavianskii Dom, the Russian and East European Theme House, is entering its fifth year as a popular center for activities dealing with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. This year, 47 students call the Dom home.

Jehanne Gheith returns as resident fellow and hopes to complete her dissertation this year. She spent the summer in Moscow, and her article on the coup is in this issue. Other staff members include: Karin Grisford, resident assistant; John Kissane, house manager; Darren Irwin, kitchen manager, and five theme associates: Andrea Koerselman, Stephan Gutzeit, Kim Freidberg, Elena Tsomik, and Louis O'Neill.

A popular feature of the Dom are the Russian language tables (Monday nights for advanced speakers; Thursdays for beginners). Come join us for a delicious home-cooked meal and interesting conversation. A first trial session is free; if you like it, the fee is \$10 for undergrads and \$20 for grad students for the quarter. For information about the language tables, or about becoming an Eating Associate Dom, call Jehanne at 497-5262 or Darrin at 497-1184.

Each quarter, Dom-based courses are offered to the Stanford student population. Fall quarter, Diana Maltz presents "Writers From the Other Europe: Postwar Eastern European Writers in Perspective" at 4:15, Mondays and Wednesdays. In Winter Quarter, we anticipate Paul von Stamwitz's film class, "Wadja and Tarkovsky", offered for one unit on Monday evenings.

On a closing note, the Stanford-Soviet Exchange Project successfully travelled once again to Novosibirsk and Akademgorodok. This last September, 13 brave souls made the journey despite some last minute complications engendered by the coup attempt. Amy Gillet recounts the tale in this issue. The Soviet Students are expected at Stanford this spring, and anyone interested in helping to host the students or who would like more information should call SSEP's 1991-92 director, Adelle Cooper, at 7-2416, or the 1990-91 director, Tracy Wright, at 7-1989.

Louis O'Neill
MA Student, CREES

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The Stanford-Novosibirsk Exchange: The Siberian Experience, 1991

Traveling to Novosibirsk so soon after the August coup, many of us went with apprehensions of imminent starvation, visions of ourselves shivering in the icy Siberian breeze, and fears of being plied with rivers of vodka. Happily, only the latter prophecy came true. In the peaceful university setting of Akademgorodok, my 12 fellow Stanford delegates and I found that Russian hospitality does indeed stretch all the way to Siberia. For eleven days in September, our hosts from the University of Novosibirsk showed us around town and welcomed us into their classrooms and homes.

An Indian summer greeted us in Novosibirsk. The weather was crisp and sunny - ideal for walking in the forests of golden birch trees. Although the dormitory could not offer us much in the way of hot water (first, it was turned off in the region for testing, and then, the women in charge of our dorm mysteriously misplaced the key to the shower), we found warmth in the steaming sauna of the local bathhouse.

Our hosts ensured that we saw meat and potatoes every single day, sometimes three times a day. Could this be anything other than a land of plenty, we wondered. A trip to the local grocery store cured us of our delusions - we were greeted by empty shelves, dotted only by the occasional jar of some pickled product. Even cheese, usually a permanent inhabitant of Soviet grocery stores, was absent. The cheese line formed early each afternoon, waiting for the day's delivery.

My most memorable learning experience took place in the local Pepsi Cola bottling plant, where I received a class in Soviet Inefficiency 101. As rotund women in chefs' hats and aprons proudly ushered us around the plant, their explana-

tions were frequently upstaged by a loud BOOM! "It's nothing," they explained, "just a burst bottle." We also saw the source for the ever-crooked Soviet Pepsi label. The German labelling machine was haphazardly smacking the bottles with labels, many of which had slipped off by the next step of the process. It seems the Germans had not sent any glue with the machinery!

During our one weekend in Siberia, our delegation, along with a number of Russians, travelled to a beautiful log cabin on the outskirts of town. It was on this retreat that we had our best political discussions and drank our most eloquent toasts. The setting was 'skazochni' - we felt as if we had been written into a very great fairy tale. And, like any good fairy tale, this one featured a seemingly unfortunate incident that ended up working out for the best.

During a late-night bonfire, one of our less graceful Siberian friends stepped on the face of one of our delegates, who happened to be lying on the sand. The next day, the victim woke up with a huge mark around her eye. The Siberians felt terrible about the 'sinyak', but both groups jokingly agreed that the victim now had much more in common with Mikhail Gorbachev.

At times, while conversing with our Siberian counterparts, it was hard to believe that we had grown up in such different environments. Our differences spurred our conversations for hours, while our similarities helped us comprehend each other. The eleven days in Akademgorodok passed quickly, yet I left there feeling as if I had known some of those Siberians all my life.

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