



[Previous Issue](#)

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Volume: 1 Issue: 2

Issue Editor: [Next Issue](#)  
Jamie Rayman

## *Hostel Living* *By Samra Willyoung*

We've now been here a month and are rapidly getting accustomed to living and eating in Moscow. It's been an interesting time washing our clothes in the bathtub by hand and eating an evening meal in a culture that doesn't seem to eat an evening meal, or at least not one as big as we're accustomed to in America.

Our hostel rooms are pretty cozy, except on those days when the outside temperature drops below zero. It's those days when the long underwear and layers of warm clothing become pretty handy. When it's cold outside, you can bet it gets cold inside too.

Our kitchen accommodations are pretty decent. We have a stove that's used by everyone on our floor, which usually works out all right. Fortunately, the guys in our group are less prone to cooking than the girls, so it doesn't get too crowded. The only real drawback is that the window in our kitchen is broken, so the temperature inside is generally only slightly warmer than the temperature outside. We've found however, that if you hover right over the stove, you can generally keep warm enough.

The kitchen serves our group well when we hold our weekly potluck dinners. It's becoming a tradition for our group to eat together on Tuesday nights. Everyone cooks or contributes something for our meal, and by the time we're all gathered in someone's room to eat, we end up with a pretty nice dinner.

## *Intensive Dedication* *By Bethany Nelson*

As our Intensive Russian Language course draws to a close, many of us sigh in relief. However, despite the long classes and piles of homework, we owe a great deal of thanks to our Russian instructors. They spent many hours making us repeat letters and words that we would have given up on. One instructor in particular has helped us a great deal. She has done everything from conducting Russian lessons to giving us tours around the city to helping us get our house keeping under control. This special lady is Lidia Zaharovna Tenchurina.

Lidia Zaharovna attended Moscow State Pedagogic University, where she received a degree as a teacher of Russian Literature and Language. Upon graduation, she taught Russian Language and Literature at a secondary school for 2 years. She was hired in the Pedagogic Department at Moscow State Agroengineering University in 1983 and has been there ever since. In 1993, she received a scientific degree as Doctor of Pedagogic Sciences and became a professor. At MSAU, Lidia Zaharovna teaches Russian Language to foreigners and Russians alike. She also teaches classes to help prepare students becoming teachers. Some of these classes include: methods of teaching, Ancient and Medieval history of teaching and classes on the preparation of conferences, field trips and lesson plans.

Lidia Zaharovna began her English

Another interesting factor concerning our living accommodations would be the nonrent paying tenants, also known as the cockroaches. They've seemed to make themselves right at home amongst us. We have spotted a few here and there in our rooms and classrooms and are learning to share our lives and homes with these creatures. We've heard though that if we're messy with food in our rooms they will outnumber us by about a million to one!

We've had to make a few adjustments in our living styles since leaving America, but we're all having a great time learning and living as the Russians do. Not a day goes by when we don't learn something we'd probably never see back in dear old State College!

training when she was in secondary school. She studied English in school and then later in college. However, she didn't develop a great interest in the English language until it became a necessity. That occurred when she got involved in the Penn State/Moscow State Agroengineering University exchange. Her assistance was requested by the vice-president of the University to help prepare for visiting Penn State students. From then on, she has put a great deal of time into this program. She visited Penn State twice to help make final plans for the current exchange program. Lidia Zaharovna has put forth a great deal of effort both before our arrival and now, during our stay. We appreciate all her time and effort.



*Feb 10, 1999 - Moscow*

*Tuesday night dinner has become a much anticipated event every week. Everyone contributes some type of food and lends a hand in preparing it. When the meal is prepared, we all sit down together and enjoy the fruits of our labor.*

*cr: Dax R. Fleckenstein*



*Feb 4, 1999 - Moscow*

*Lidia Zaharovna, our second Russian language teacher, instructs Bethany and Jamie on the finer points of the language. The class takes place in our hostel on the fourth floor.*

*cr: Dax R. Fleckenstein*





## *Moscow Weather Report* *By Erik Kelling*

*By Andrew Roach*



*Petrovsko-Razumovskaya metro station*

Underneath the chaotic streets of Moscow lies one of the city's proudest achievements; its metro. The Moscow Metropolitan was begun in 1935 and now has eleven lines with over 160 stations. It is a mammoth system, which reaches most of the city of Moscow, and it is still growing. Over fifteen stations are currently being built, with several lines being extended as well.

With over 9 million people using the metro each day, these added stations are definitely needed. During peak hours, it is easy to believe that more than 9 million people are using the system. Even if there is nothing to hold on to when the train stops, you can be sure that you won't fall. When there is no room to move, your neighbors have no choice but to hold your body up. I can't imagine a Moscow heat wave...

Even with these minor hassles, the metro is still the best means of getting around Moscow; and it is the cleanest and most efficient metro system that I have ever seen. The trains are large, pick-up

Recently the United States celebrated a holiday called Groundhog Day. The legend of this holiday is that a groundhog named "Phil" comes out of his burrow on this day, and if he sees his shadow, then he will become scared and run back into his hole. This action, according to the legend means that there will be six more weeks of winter. However, if he does not see his shadow then there will be an early spring.

Well, for the sake of this article you may call me "Phil", as I will try to give you a glimpse of the weather in Moscow. Every day I get out of my bed (no I don't live in a burrow) and walk to the window to see the new day. Well for the last week in Moscow this "Phil" has had no reason to run back and hide in bed, because there has been no sun. This makes seeing my huge shadow impossible. Instead what I see is a gray, cloudy sky, not to mention the fact that is cold out.

Oh, I know it is cold because I have my own thermometer. I am a high tech "Phil". I use this thermometer along with some technical information from the Moscow news to determine whether I will come out of my home on a given day. The low temperatures coupled with snow showers at least two days a week makes this place very cold for the average Pennsylvania groundhog.

Sadly, I am not able to say that there will be an early spring because I do not see my shadow. In fact, I believe it is just the opposite, everyday that I do not see the sun I predict six more weeks of winter. At this rate it will be winter in Moscow until June!

passengers on a frequent timetable, and the stations are beautiful. In fact, some of Moscow's best architecture lies underground. Many of the stations are filled with marble, mosaics, and statues.

The two-minute escalator ride from the surface of the earth to the subterranean haunts of the Moscow Metro is one that I take almost daily at the Petrovsko-Razumovskaya station across from our hostel. It is a similar ride to that which millions of others take daily. It is a ride that culminates in an efficient, though somewhat crowded and aggravating, mode of transport. Without the metro, I know my feet would be sore.



*Punxsutawney Phil*



*Day by Day Schedule*  
By *D. Fleckenstein, B. Nelson,*  
*J. Rayman, A. Roach*

- |        |   |        |   |
|--------|---|--------|---|
| Jan 30 | Julia and Ksyusha took us to the Moscow Zoo; McDonald's for lunch (the 4th time!)   | Feb 5  | Russian Class; Some of us went to the old Soviet Exhibition Center which is now a huge electronics market; some of us went to a nightclub       |
| Jan 31 | Natasha and Svetlana took us to the Moscow Circus; sliding on the hill outside the Kremlin  | Feb 6  | Natasha and Natalia take some of us to the Victory Arch and the Victory Museum; we have a great snowball fight; we ate dinner at T.G.I.Friday's |
| Feb 1  | Russian with Vera; found American Express Office; Andrew looks for a new camera   | Feb 7  | Julia and Svetlana took us to an "Auto Rally" in Moscow Region; afterwards we went to Julia's house; Dr. Gallay arrives in Moscow               |
| Feb 2  | During Russian class we explain Groundhog's Day to Vera; Ksusha paints Bethany, Jamie, Samra and Samantha's fingernails; we have our first group potluck dinner | Feb 8  | Dr. Gallay's first class, Research Methods in the Social Sciences; we get Food Shopping Survey assignment                                       |
| Feb 3  | Russian class; Some of us went to see the American movie "Saving Private Ryan"; the rest of us went to Sylvan's birthday party                                  | Feb 9  | Russian lesson with Vera  |
| Feb 4  | Russian class; some of us went to see the American movie  | Feb 10 | Dr. Schmelev's first class, Russian Agricultural Education  |
|        |   | Feb 11 | Dr. Gallay's second class; we refine Food Shopping Survey assignment  |
|        |   | Feb 12 | Excursion to Vocational School of Administrative Management No. 301; we get to hear their school vocal group                                    |

"Evita"



*Brainstorm on "The Market"*  
By Joseph Bollinger

Four weeks have passed here in Moscow and I have evolved into something with a little more credibility than a simple tourist. I can now stumble over a number of phrases to communicate important information to the native people with whom I interact on a daily basis. I have found the market to be the most interesting place to interact with such people.

By definition the market is a public place for the buying and selling of goods. The farmer's markets we have in America came to mind when I first heard the word used in connection with Moscow. Markets here however, are quite different! Let me guide you through my train of thought - a brainstorm on the market shall we, so that you can get a feel for the complexity and intensity of the market experience.

Chaos! This is the most dominant word that comes to mind when I think of the market. The market has an organic layout with congested walkways winding around hundreds of stands.

The random lines of stands packed together side by side create an interesting pedestrian flow as shoppers wonder around looking for specific goods. What a change from the everyday order we often submerge ourselves in while living in America.

 E-mail us your questions/suggestions: [Dr. Thomas Bruening \(Project coordinator\)](mailto:Dr.ThomasBruening@psu.edu)

"Kalinushka"



*You can buy everything you need on the market - from a loaf of bread to a wedding dress!*  
cr: A. Roach

Of course, the ultimate goal of the vendors in the market is to make money. They are professional, personal, and thorough with their native customers, however, they have become quite skilled at picking out the foreign "suckers". I am noticed right away primarily because I have the typical wide-eyed Anglican look going for me.

My foreign accent also helps give me away as the American "R" sound catches their ear. I found myself being fitted for 10 different leather jackets in less than 20 minutes one day! The energy of the whole situation was amazing! The market is definitely a place to go for spontaneity.

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