

Date: February 13, 2001 **Volume:** 3 **Issue:** 2 **Issue Editor:** Amanda Allbritton

Moscow by Day

Activities

By Wade Taylor



Posing for Matisse at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts

We have been extremely busy the last two weeks. Our activities range from purchasing a washing machine to visiting the Great Kremlin Palace, art museums, and even The Russian National Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. We have also attended a Russian folk dancing performance, and several nightclubs. There has yet to be a dull moment.

At the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, we were fortunate enough to see an excellent collection of many well-known paintings and sculptures. Some of the marble sculptures dated back to 210 AD and the paintings ranged from the 12th to the 20th century. The artists of the paintings included Monet, Degas, Matisse, Van Gough, and Renoir, just to name a few.

Also, we visited the Darwin Museum of Evolution, which incorporated many life size animal displays and environmental scenes from all over the world. At the Kremlin Palace we took in several churches and cathedrals filled with many painted religious icons. There, we also observed a 40-ton cannon, and a 200-ton bell

After the Lights Go Out

Culture

By Graham Rupe, Night Club Novice

We have been busy with many activities for the last two weeks; one of my personal favorites has been taking in part of Moscow's nightlife. On the third of February we visited "Champion's" nightclub. The club boasted a variety of activities that included bowling, laser tag, billiards, a restaurant and, of course, a very nice nightclub. Many of us participated in a friendly game of laser tag. The rules were hard to understand since they were described to us in Russian, but the game was brutal. On the second floor of this club, there was a very high-class dance club. Near midnight, the club's dancers came out to entertain the crowd which considerably escalated the atmosphere of the club.



Roman and Nila Hanging out at Ksenia's

A couple times the majority of the group went to the "Voodoo Lounge". It is a 20-something, American friendly dance club. They have menus printed in English and Russian many of the local frequenters also speak English. Although it did not provide as large of a selection of activities, it was preferred over Champion's in many ways. The

along with a few Russian governmental administration buildings.

The night of the Russian folk dance performance was one that will stick with all of us for a long time to come. The dancers all moved with great excitement and grace that kept our attention throughout the entire performance. Lastly, the nightclubs that we have visited have been a great time as well. The Russian people know how to have a good time and enjoy showing us how it is done by their standards. So far there have not been any disappointments.



This Ain't No Taco Bell!!

Climate

Weather

By Casey Saxton

Voodoo Lounge is less family-oriented and creates a smaller, more cordial atmosphere with a preferred music selection.

We also have had some luck finding small bars and billiards halls near our hostel. These neighborhood establishments provide a great opportunity for me to practice my Russian. Their great drink specials provide hours of easy-going entertainment.

Paradigms

Extra

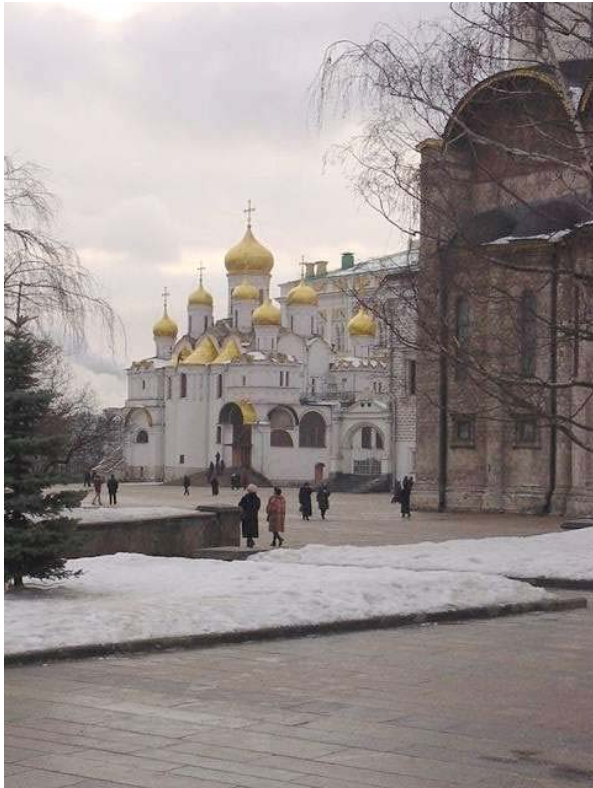
By Theresa Lynn

In our "Changes in Technology" course we are learning that a paradigm is a mental picture of the way one sees any given subject. My family and I had certain wrong paradigms about Russia. First we were sure that there would be long lines to buy bread. Second we believed that I would not be able to buy quality soaps, paper goods or other necessities. A third paradigm: we believed that it would be so cold that this Florida girl would never be able to get warm.

I am able to buy 90% of the food products that I am used to, and 20% more that is not available back home. A loaf of whole-grain bread or a Snickers bar costs 35 cents, and a McDonald's meal costs about \$2.50. For lunch I can buy borsch (delicious beet and cabbage soup), white bread for dipping, rice and crab salad, hot tea and a huge cookie for dessert, all for less than one dollar. The only line for food is the one at the fresh bakery shops where I have discovered stuffed pastries for 25 cents.

Dial, Zest, VO-5, Comet, which kind of soap do you prefer? They are all available. Soft tissue, clothespins, hairpins, cosmetics and clothes are abundant and at reasonable prices. Free market economics has arrived in Moscow! There are street vendors lined up for blocks outside of every Metro station. A three dollar clock or a \$3,000 clock; a three dollar sweater or a \$300 sweater; a one dollar meal or \$100 meal - your choice.

And the weather? Yesterday it was about 35



The Kremlin on a Snowy Day

Moscow's climate over the past 20 years has been constantly changing. The average temperature during the winter has been increasing, especially over the past few years. According to the record books, the average temperature in the Moscow region has increased approximately five degrees Celsius.

The past few days have been warm and the foot of snow that fell last week is melting. The temperature break has been nice but it created lots of ice and is hazardous for the Muscovites and us less-than-graceful visitors. Many citizens nostalgically remember when the temperature never rose above freezing through the winter months. So if you are in the Moscow region remember to watch your step--it might send you soaring.

Education Conglomeration

Education

By Matt Kriefels

degrees; warmer than some days before I left Florida. Of course, we have had some very cold days but buildings are kept very warm, about 70-75 degrees. I am happy to report that I am rarely cold and that it is always easy to find warmth.



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Pictures courtesy of:

Matt Kriefels, Amanda Albritton, and Nila Kreidich

Photo Editor:

Nila Kreidich

Group Dynamics

Editorial

By Amanda Allbritton

RECIPE: 8 determined leaders; 1 million kg of diversity; 1 city of 12 million; 4 agriculture classes; and a dash of Russian

DIRECTIONS: Combine ingredients in Moscow, Russia and bake at 0 degrees Celsius for four months.

SERVES: The entire world through international agriculture development.



Dr. Briers and the Students at Tchaikovsky Hall for a Folk Dance Concert

And time marches on...

We've officially been here a month as of February 15th. Time is flying and the intensive part of our Russian course is already completed. Are we experts in the Russian language? *Nyet!* There are still more verbs to conjugate, adjectives to make masculine and feminine, and plenty of opportunity to practice. From here on out, our Russian classes are held only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Are we busy the rest of the time? *Da!* Dr. Gary Briers of Texas A&M University has joined us on Mondays and Fridays for a six-and-a-half hour class called "Principles of Technological Change." During this time Dr. Briers will take us through the adoption process of innovations in agriculture.

This class is our first opportunity that we have had to study side-by-side with our Russian counterparts. One of the goals of the course is to overcome the language barrier by increasing student-student and student-teacher communication. "Russian classes are different from American classes. I like how Dr. Briers uses discussion during his classes instead of just lecturing," says Oksana, a Russian student.

Wednesdays are left open for fieldtrips to the countryside. We are looking forward to seeing some wide open spaces again. Dr. Chumakov, Moscow State Agroengineering University, and Dr. Briers will escort us to farm and agriculture production sites. Check back in a couple of weeks for pictures and updates!!

Of all the groups that I have been in, none compare to the dynamics and personality of this group of American students in Moscow. Our group consists of eight people from all over the country, with different backgrounds, experiences, lifestyles, majors, and future aspirations, not to mention, tastes, political views, and values. Withstanding all of our differences, we do have a common bond: a love for and interest in agriculture.

Our program combined eight head-strong and enthusiastic leaders who are practically strangers and created an environment where they eat, study, and live together (sounds a lot like MTV's "Real World"). These conditions have created an opportunity perfect for learning. We have a great opportunity to learn much about agriculture, Russia, our world, other cultures, leadership, group dynamics, each other, and, sometimes the most difficult, ourselves. I am elated that we can share our experiences with you.

A SPECIAL HAPPY 22nd BIRTHDAY TO OUR RUSSIAN FRIEND KSENIA



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