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# Class explores Soviet culture

By CHARLENE BELL  
Of the Emerald

Stalin raised a few eyebrows in Russia during the 1920s with his ambitious social program aimed at the "liquidation of illiteracy," and Russian Prof. Fruim Yurevich has adopted a tamer version of Stalin's idea in his "Soviet Life and Culture" class.

Yurevich jokingly refers to the general humanities course as the "liquidation of illiteracy about the Soviet Union."

Many universities offer courses in Soviet studies, but the University is the "pioneer in offering a course that provides a broad emphasis on the everyday details of modern Soviet life," Yurevich says.

"It is impossible to understand any problem of world significance without first understanding the USSR."

The class attracts many students for exactly this reason. By examining the superpower's culture, politics and economy, students develop a keener understanding of their own culture, Yurevich says.

Students are not required to take the three-term sequence in order because new topics are covered each term.

Yurevich, who obtained an American citizenship last year, emigrated to the United States in 1974 from Moscow, where he taught English in a high school for gifted children.

Yurevich has brought one tradition from the Soviet classroom to his University class — the oral final. At the end of the term, each student must give a 10-minute oral final to the instructor on a single aspect of Soviet life.

Affectionately dubbed the "face the Rus-

sian" final by the more nervous students, the test is intended to establish a one-to-one relationship between student and teacher even though the class averages 100 students per term.

Yurevich says this aspect of his class also gives students practice in coherent oral expression.

"First-time students are usually nervous, but I find that many returning students actually grow to like it," he says.

Whenever possible, the course features a Soviet guest lecturer. In the past, the speakers have included Prof. Alexander Yanov of the University of California at Berkeley, an emigre publicist; Edward Kuznetsov, a Jewish activist exchanged for Soviet spies in 1979; and Valery Chalidze, an exiled dissident and a founding member of the Moscow Human Rights Committee.

## Eugene jobs still scarce, survey shows

The Eugene-area employment climate will remain chilly at least through June, according to a survey conducted by a national temporary employment service.

The majority of Eugene businesses contacted either plan to reduce staffs or expect no change in employee numbers, says Manpower Temporary Services.

Of the 30 to 40 Eugene-area employers polled, 33 percent are planning staff reductions, 43 percent expect no change and

only 17 percent plan to hire more employees.

A similar survey conducted a year ago showed 47 percent of responding employers expected to hire more workers, 53 percent planned no change and none planned staff reductions, according to John Lueck, manager of Manpower's Eugene office.

"We're hoping the figures indicate (the economy) is bottoming out and that it will get better soon," says Judith Manning, Manpower office services representative. "It's a little bit better than it looked last quarter, so that's encouraging."

Public administrators told the grimmest employment tale, Manning says. Nondurable goods manufacturers, educational institutions and wholesale and retail merchants also are expecting to reduce their staffs.

Transportation companies, insurance organizations and mining companies are some of the few firms planning to hire more workers, Manning says.

Nationally, the number of job opportunities appears to be increasing in nearly all sectors except public service, the survey showed.

Building contractors, transportation companies and public utilities are planning to hire many more workers than last year, according to the survey. Durable and nondurable goods manufacturers expect slightly improved employment trends, while wholesale and retail merchants also are optimistic about hiring.

Public service employers expect to continue reducing their staffs because of the current belt-tightening of federal, state and local governments.

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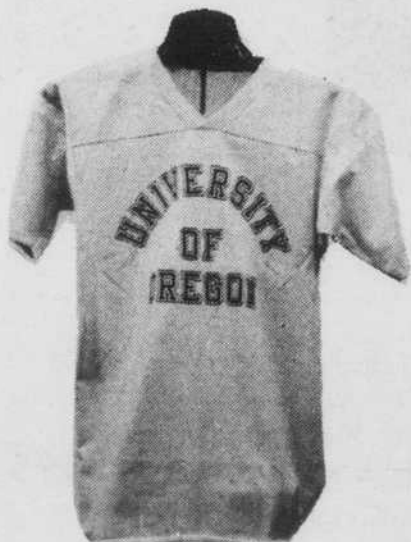
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