

# Soviets appear to be content

Historian says they can't hope for any more

By Randy Cook  
Of the Emerald

Russian citizens feel as free in the Soviet Union as American citizens do in the United States, a University Russian historian said Thursday.

"Real freedom is often misunderstood — heroes are those who struggle against necessity, and Soviet propaganda reminds their people, subtly, that it's the same in the U.S. as it is in Russia," Honors College director Alan Kimball said.

Speaking to a group of 30 as part of Ground Zero Week, sponsored by Students for a Nuclear Free Future, Kimball said that the Soviet government's message to its people is to not try to affirm their rights.

"It's to say that Russians cannot hope for anything more than they have," he said. "It's to reinforce timidity in them."

Soviet propaganda targets dissent in the U.S., but the dissent is not intended to put the U.S. in a bad light, Kimball said.

Noting several Soviet publications that focused on black riots in the U.S. during the 1960s, Kimball said that their purpose was to show Russian citizens that human rights are oppressed everywhere in the world.

Kimball said that although Soviet propaganda can be humorous to us in its exaggeration, its effect is serious.

"The Russian citizens on the whole tend to be quite content; people tend to be at home in their environment. But societies in which people are content can often be the most disordered," he said.

Problems arise when the individualist discovers that he is not in accord with the power. Most will not express themselves, and those that do are silenced. The result is loneliness, Kimball said.

Our history misleads us into believing that the struggle for freedom is a natural process, according to Kimball. Soviet development was quite different from that of the U.S., and the relationship between society and state dictates what freedom is.

"Whereas in the West society grew strong before the state, in Russia the society was formed by and for the state," he said.

Kimball said that this order of development made for a very different concept of law. "While we say 'it's not against the law, so we may do it,' they say, 'the law does not specifically permit this, so we had better not,'" he said.

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tuency, you can be right on the issues, and no one will listen," says Robin Derringer, a professional lobbyist for OSL.

Money also is an issue, Derringer says.

"If we had *beaucoup* bucks, it would help" the lobby make campaign contributions to candidates who support education, she says.

Student apathy also hinders the lobby's efforts.

Bounds says the OSL tries to fire students up with ads in the Oregon Daily Emerald and a "tremendous push" for letter-writing and phone-calling, but she throws up her hands when trying to figure out why students are so passive.

"I would assume with students being in a learning setting, they would be more involved than any other population group. I don't know if it's because they have too much studying to do or if they have too many other things to do."

Whatever the reason, the lobby doesn't satisfy Rep. Ted Calouri, R-Beaverton.

"I've found them to be less effective than other groups. They are much more persistent but less professional, less well-prepared," says Calouri, a member of the House Education Committee.

In one instance the lobbyists "didn't even understand the bills being presented — they just had general concerns," he says.

Calouri also says the lobby doesn't address the most significant issues.

He says the issues they do take up, such as incidental fees and truth in testing, are "OK."

"All I'm saying is in the broader scheme of things, it is really a make or break issue," Calouri says.

The "general scope" is more important than narrow issues, he says.

The lobbyists give several reasons for not pushing hard and fast for more funds and fewer cuts.

They say "bombarding" legislators with pleas for help and support sometimes irritates some legislators.

Rep. Annette Farmer, D-Portland, agrees.

Farmer says talking to legislators every day wouldn't make a big difference because the state only has "so much money."

Legislators know the problems, and crying won't help, she says.

But Farmer says the lobby is "very effective" on educa-

tional interests in Salem.

"I don't see how they could do any better than they're already doing," says Farmer, head of the House Education Committee.

"Students are in a real gray area because some legislators — Carl Hosticka, Margie Hendriksen, Mary Burrows — really like that a lot," says Debi Lance, ASUO vice-president for state and university affairs.

The OSL also considers time in deciding where to funnel its energy.

The smaller issues and bills the OSL deals with are usually over before the final decisions on the budget issues, says Lance, who serves as one of seven students on the lobby's board of directors.

"At least in this session it's not a problem of having a main issue pass us by," Lance says.

The lobby should have "put pressure on the legislators as far as the budgets and the revenue package," sooner, she says.

"It may be too late. It might have been OK a month ago or at the beginning of the session," she says.

She says students still have a chance to voice their concerns "because the issue's not over."



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