Exchange programs continue despite U.S.-Soviet relations

By Mike Sims

"I doubt that any other Russian program in the country can make the claim that every (faculty) member has gone on a teaching exchange to Russia."

That's the proud assertion of James Rice, University associate professor of Russian folklore and literature. And Rice says that faculty members have undertaken these exchanges since 1981 — long after the beginning of the current chill in East-West relations, and after negotiations to renew an agreement arranging for educational and cultural exchanges were broken off at the governmental level.

Rice has made three teaching junkets to Russia, the first being a six-month stay at Leningrad State University in 1962. Rice also spent the summers of 1969 and 1981 at Moscow University.

Students from the University have also been frequent visitors to Russia. Through the University's Russian program, students can spend a summer, semester or full academic year in residence at Leningrad State University or Pushkin Institute in Moscow. Students earn full transfer credit for their work at the Soviet institutions.

Rice believes that despite a recent speech by Pres. Ronald Reagan, in which he indicated support for expansion of such exchanges, the president and the government have little effect on exchanges between educational institutions.

"Presidents don't come in on cultural or educational exchanges," Rice says. "Those things can be nicely exchanged between universities without the State Department."

Rice also says he views the president's remarks as mere political posturing. "Reagan is making whatever kind of a political statement he can at the moment," says Rice. "He's trying to get some amount of political mileage out of the

situation."

Reagan made the speech in late June at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Soviet Studies.

Despite Reagan's remarks, which White House aides termed "conciliatory," Rice sees the president's role in educational exchanges between the two countries as negligible.

"I don't think he can do anything to damage or otherwise affect the (exchanges)," Rice says of Reagan. "He's simply not very important to their maintenance."

Most cultural and educational exchanges with the Soviet Union have been cut off since 1979, mainly because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Russian support for martial law in Poland and the arrest of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov.

Prior to 1979, many scientific and educational exchanges had been arranged under an "umbrella" agreement signed in 1958. The pact expired in 1979 and was not renewed because of the cold state of affairs between East and West.

Some exchanges, such as Fulbright lectureships and research missions for the humanities and social sciences, have been made since 1979 under a separate agreement between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Scholarly exchanges between universities have been conducted for 25 years without governmental aid or intercession, Rice says. And he notes that they've continued through the coldest days of the Cold War in the early 1960s, the Vietnam era and especially through the current state of American-Soviet relations. "If university-to-university exhanges have lasted 25 years through those (events), they'll continue to exist.

"Through all our problems with diplomacy at the governmental level, 'diplomatic exchanges' on a scholarly level have never ceased, which shows that both sides value them," Rice



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Petitions fail to make ballot

Secretary of State Norma Paulus said Tuesday that three proposed ballot initiatives were ineligible to be placed on the November ballot because of insufficient signatures.

The ineligible measures would have cut off voter registration 20 days prior to elections, banned state funding of most abortions, and required that pay and benefits for government employees be comparable to those of similar jobs in the private sector.

None of the three had the needed 83,361 signatures to make the ballot. Friday was

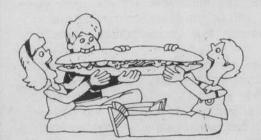
the deadline for submitting signatures for ballot measures.

Signatures for eight other proposed ballot measures still must be verified. These measures include initiatives to reinstate the death penalty, limit property tax, establish a state lottery and end penalties for growing marijauna for personal use.

The state elections division must check a sampling of the signatures, and the percentage of invalid signatures in the sampling will be subtracted from the total number of signatures submitted.

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