

# Media misrepresent Soviet reality, prof says

By Colleen Pohlig  
Emerald Reporter



Ron Wixman

The American media is responsible for bombarding the public with an almost "sports-like" approach to what's happening in the Soviet Union today, University geography Professor Ron Wixman told a packed room Thursday night.

"What frightens me is the lack of comprehension as to what is actually happening in the Soviet Union," Wixman said. "We often see almost prejudicial statements against the Soviet Union falling apart."

"If you read the American press, we are told that the Soviet Union must remain together," he said. "The Soviet Union has been falling apart now for three years and I think that is a good thing; it's good for the Soviet people, it's good for everyone."

Wixman has a special interest in and knowledge of the area and has traveled to the Soviet Union 22 times. He received his masters degree from Columbia University, where he studied Soviet national problems and the geography of the area.

Sponsored by the geography department, Thursday's two-hour lecture, titled "Restructuring of the the USSR: Why and How," also featured a 30-minute slide show in which Wixman showed signs of change in the former Soviet Union — now called the Commonwealth.

Ironically, one slide depicted a travelling poster on a billboard portraying Communist ideas.

"The poster of Communism is falling apart just like everything else in the Soviet Union," Wixman said.

Another slide portrayed the

reality of the lengthy lines for food. Wixman said this was the longest line he'd ever seen, counting 286 people waiting for the only available food left that day — old, brown cabbages.

A new enterprise exists in the Soviet Union, Wixman said. They wake up early in the morning, buy food at the state price, then go to the corner and sell it for three times the price they paid for it, he said.

Wixman said Americans should accept that it is time for change in the region and that the republics need to be on their own because the Soviet Union is too large to adhere to everyone's needs.

"The Soviet Union is the last of the world's great European empires, and it's coming to an end," he said.

"It is a rebirth of nations," Wixman said. "We shouldn't expect a paradise from these independent republics. We should know that they will have the same problems as other nations."

## POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the Office of Public Safety from Jan. 1-8.

•Police arrested a man for selling marijuana on Jan. 2. An officer observed Randall Bailey, 20, talking with Franklin Jones, 40, a man known to purchase marijuana occasionally, at 13th Avenue and Alder Street, police said.

After a brief conversation, the two men entered the alley at 12th and 13th avenues and Alder and Kincaid streets, according to a police report. An officer entered the alley behind 1249 Alder St. and observed Jones' arm extended with money. Jones saw the officer and placed the money in his front pants pocket.

When asked what they were doing, Jones said he was loaning Bailey money. Jones told the officer he did not know who Bailey was, according to the report.

The officer asked Bailey if he could search him for marijuana and Bailey said, "Go ahead I don't have any ... really." The officer asked Bailey to empty his pockets, which contained a pipe with burnt marijuana residue. As Bailey removed his jacket, small sealed packets of marijuana fell out of the jacket. Bailey told the officer he was selling Jones five packets of marijuana for \$50. The officer arrested Bailey and told Jones to leave the area, according to the report.

•Police arrested a 31-year-old male University student for criminal trespass on Jan. 6. He was tak-

en into custody for trespassing on the apartment complex located at 735 E. 14th Ave.

Police escorted the man off the property Jan. 5 after a dispute between he and another resident. An anonymous caller phoned the police when the man returned Jan. 6 and began banging on the resident's door.

•A pedestrian passerby reported a burglary at Tom's Market, 1490 E. 19th, on Jan. 6. The witness observed a 19-year-old male University student peering into the market's windows. Shortly after the witness lost sight of the man, he heard the sound of broken glass in the area of the market.

When police arrived at the scene, they began checking the doors and windows of the market and observed an aluminum screen door that was standing open. A large hole was torn into the screen, according to police reports.

Police saw a man walking away from the building carrying six six-packs of beer in his hands, stacked from his waist to his chin. He began running and dropped the beer when an officer told him to stop. An officer caught and arrested the man in the alley between Emerald and Agate streets and E. 18th and 19th avenues, according to the report.

The burglary caused \$50 in damage at the market.

## CORRECTION

An article in Jan. 7 edition of the *Emerald* announcing the memorial gathering for psychology Professor Fred Attneave at 2 p.m. Sunday in Gerlinger Lounge contained an error.

The story should have said contributions could be made either to the University Endowment Fund/Fred Attneave Lecture Series, or to Zero Population Growth/Oregon Chapter, P.O. Box 5495, Eugene OR 97405.

The *Emerald* regrets the error.

## ET ALS

### MEETINGS

African Student Association will meet today at 4:30 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. Call 344-1791 for more information.

A reception for graduate students affiliated with the Center for the Study of Women in Society will take place today at 3 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. Call 346-5015 for more information.

### SPEAKER

Dina Trageser, a University student, will be speaking about her recent four months studying in Russia tonight at 6:45 at the Eugene Friends Meeting House, 2274 Onyx St. A potluck, sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation — Call to Peacemaking, will begin at 5:30.

### OPPORTUNITY

Eugene Concert Choir will have auditions Sunday at Grace Lutheran Church, 710 E. 17th Ave. To schedule an audition, or for more information, call Director Diane Retalack at 343-7522.

### RELIGION

"Is the Bible Reliable?" will be the topic of a roundtable discussion today at 12:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room A. Call 343-4914 for more information.

Weekend Masses will take place Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St. Call 346-4468 for more information.

Hillel's welcome back gathering will take place tonight beginning at 6:30 with Kabbalat-shabbat and vegetarian potluck starting at 7:30. Music and storytelling will take place from 8:30 to 10:30 at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. Call 343-8920 for more information.

Deadline for submitting *Et Als* to the *Emerald* front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. *Et Als* run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

## PROFS

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said. Before moving to Oregon, Wheeler had guest lectured at

San Francisco and San Jose State universities and had been a member of the advisory board of the San Jose State's Department of Journalism.

"My experiences as a guest lecturer whetted my appetite for full-time teaching," he said.

Wheeler came to the University to replace Ken Metzler, who retired a year ago.

One problem Wheeler encountered with teaching last term was that he did not have enough room to write a complete writing critique in the margins of his students' papers. To solve the problem, Wheeler decided to hand out oral critiques of students' papers on cassettes instead.

"The students responded very positively," Wheeler said. "They said it was a lot of useful feedback."

Wheeler teaches magazine writing and magazine editing classes.

Lavery began his advertising career in 1972 as an account executive trainee. Since that time, he has worked for agencies in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Lavery received a B.A. in communications from the Uni-

versity of Notre Dame in 1971 and a M.S. in advertising from the University of Illinois in 1972.

The career switch to teaching came after guest lecturing at colleges including the University, UCLA, University of San Francisco, and San Francisco State University.

Lavery said he made the switch because the industry no longer offered him what he wanted.

"I found most of my waking hours were spent relating to advertising," he said. "When I finally stepped away from it, I realized there was more to life than advertising."

Student participation in his classes is important and he said he frequently puts his students "on the spot."

"I think to be successful in an advertising agency you have to have a point of view and you have to express that point of view on a regular basis," he said.

Although some students feel pressured when they are asked a question in front of 20 or 30 of their peers, Lavery said students need to learn to deal with the stress.

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