

Oregon Daily Emerald

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1995

EUGENE, OREGON

VOLUME 96, ISSUE 80

Russian lecturer Tatyana Tolstaya offers intellect, talent to University

Culture: Writer says many Russians want the past back

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

Visiting Russian author Tatyana Tolstaya has found that freedom is difficult to enjoy if people aren't used to it.

Tolstaya, who is a visiting author and lecturer in the Russian department this month, said she has seen Russians change dramatically since perestroika, and many don't know how to handle the resulting freedom — or even want it.

Tolstaya, who is a relative of *War and Peace* author Leo Tolstoy and a granddaughter of writer Aleskei Tolstoy, said despite suffering under a socialist government, many Russians just want the past back.

"Americans think when the controlling government was destroyed, that Russians would embrace each other and democracy would come overnight," Tolstaya said. "But Russians are suspicious and unfriendly; many don't want democracy at all.

"They want the old regime back even though they suffered because then they knew their responsibilities," she said. "There is great protest about freedom. Many Russians think of democracy as a license — that they can do anything they want now that there is no authority."



Russian writer and lecturer Tatyana Tolstaya on her way to speak at the Gerlinger Lounge Wednesday.

Besides lecturing on contemporary Russian literature, Tolstaya said she tries to rid Americans of the misconceptions they have of Russians in her lectures.

"I'm a walking piece of my culture," Tolstaya said. "I can be a vehicle for sending my messages."

Additionally, Tolstaya said Americans who only read newspapers but don't study the country aren't getting an accurate picture of current activity in Russia.

"The [American] media is so distorted [in its Russian coverage]," she said, "that I myself don't even recognize it."

Tolstaya, who only writes in Russian as a principle, is seen as the most original and luminous voice in contemporary Russian prose, said Nobel Laureate Joseph Brodsky.

Tolstaya is the author of two short stories titled *On the Golden Porch* (1989) and *Sleepwalker in a Fog* (1991).

Russian professor Albert Leong said having Tolstaya here is an incredible opportunity for the department.

"It's a great honor and a treat to have one of the most important contemporary Russian writers of the century here," Leong said. "She is creative and is in touch with all the

major Russian writers. She provides us with very good insights.

"[Tolstaya] has changed the face of modern Russian literature through her very force, [her] vigor and the images she creates," he said.

Tolstaya didn't begin to write until she was 32. She said because most of her ancestors were writers, she was reluctant to write herself.

Initially she began writing because she said she was tired of the dull stories on the shelves. Before 1989, a government-controlled writer's union

Turn to **AUTHOR**, Page 4

University considers government reforms

Proposal: University Assembly and Senate may be restructured

Pat Daly
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students and faculty will express their views again today on how to reinvent the University governance system.

The University Assembly's Committee on Governance Reform has sponsored a public forum on both Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The committee will draft proposals later this year to restructure the University Senate and Assembly. A third forum will take place today from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Walnut Room of the EMU.

Committee chairwoman Laura Alpert said the first step is to determine the problems with the current system. For more than forty years, the University Senate has proposed legislation to the assembly for ratification.

A lack of faculty involvement in University governance is a key problem, several speakers said. In recent years, less than half of the eligible faculty have come to meetings.

Journalism professor James Lemert said faculty members get a message that service to the University is less important than research within their departments.

"New faculty are in effect discouraged from getting involved in University governance," Lemert said.

Student representation has

Turn to **REFORM**, Page 4

Regulation, sexual content issues have started surfing the Internet

On-line: First Amendment rights clash on computer networks

Brian Womack
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the information superhighway continues its rapid growth, questions surrounding the rights of users vs. society continue to create roadblocks.

At Carnegie Mellon University in November, the administration took three "erotic" news groups off their news server. The administration considered these groups, which included picture files, to be "obscene," said Don Hale, vice president for Carnegie Mellon University Relations.

Tom Bury, lab assistant at the EMU computing center, said the University does not restrict access to news groups that are tagged "erotic."

But the Internet can be regulated when what happens on it falls within the lines of current law.

Paul Bruno, of Albany, N.Y., was arrested and charged with a misdemeanor for sending, via the Internet, sexually explicit photographs of himself

to teenagers, according to an Associated Press story by David Bauder.

In response to cases like this, Sen. William Sears, R-N.Y., has proposed a bill that would make it a felony for an adult to hold a sexual conversation with a minor or use the computer to induce a minor into "immoral or obscene behavior."

The problem exists on campuses as well. Tim Gleason, associate professor of journalism, said certain people "have been barred" from using the Internet at universities where patterns of questionable behavior have become a problem.

Most of the complaints regarding the Internet have been due to sexually graphic material and what could be termed "hate speech," Gleason said.

"Regulation is an open question," he said. "There's no clear answer. The question is what exactly is [an electronic] bulletin board? A bulletin board on campus? Is it a classroom or a telephone or a bulletin board on campus or in a hall?"

Turn to **INTERNET**, Page 4

GOOD MORNING

► State auditors began an investigation into the Oregon Economic Development Department's expenditures for Rose Bowl business trips, said Greg Parker, spokesman for the state's Division of Audits.

The department spent about \$35,000 in lottery revenue to send 16 people on trips to the Rose Bowl.

The inquiry is expected to take around two months to complete, Parker said. A report will be issued to the development office and the public at that time.

The idea for the audit came from members of the auditor's office early last week, Parker said, because the trip was an unusual event and required expenses that were not normal costs, which is something the office looks for in an audit.

"Going to the Rose Bowl is a unique event," Parker said. "You can't go off a state price list for

Rose Bowl tickets."

The auditor's office will now look for a paper trail and verify expenditures. Often, he said, no rule has been broken, but maybe one needs to be made.

The expenditures included \$3,792 for 79 Rose Bowl tickets, most of which went to representatives of businesses that have expressed interest in investing in Oregon.

► SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A nurse who accidentally dropped a donated human heart, then threw it in a trash can without telling transplant officials, was reprimanded and fined, officials said Wednesday.

Fearing she had contaminated the organ, Wanda R. Condon, a registered nurse, discarded it and then falsified documents to indicate the heart had been shipped to a tissue recovery lab.