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# Russian professor offers new ideas

■ **VISITOR:** Boris Mironov is teaching two classes at the University this term

By Regina Brown  
Higher Education Reporter

For some, freedom of speech is a constitutional right, but for others it is a gift.

Visiting Russian professor Boris Mironov discovered this as a young man studying economics in 1959 in the Soviet city of Leningrad, now St. Petersburg. Mironov was expelled from the university after two years for expressing what professors referred to as "anti-Marxist views," when he posed questions about Marxism and Leninism in a paper he wrote for a class.

Although Mironov was later readmitted to the University of St. Petersburg, where he has worked as a professor since the 1960s, this incident set a precedent for his future work as a professor and writer of Russian history.

"This experience made me question everything I knew," Mironov said.

During the 1960s, Mironov began making contacts with Western professors who came to Leningrad. These professors helped him publish abroad and visit universities throughout Europe, the United States and

Japan, he said.

Mironov fostered these friendships by ignoring laws requiring him to write reports about his contact with foreign visitors, and instead invited them to his house to discuss Russian problems from a historical perspective, he said.

"Step by step I got acquainted with many American colleagues," Mironov said. "Practically every American who came to St. Petersburg became my guest."

These connections paid off.

In 1989, Mironov made his first visit to the United States at the University of California at Davis. Two years ago, Mironov received a Woodrow International Fellowship, which allowed him to spend a year in Washington, D.C., where he wrote his fifth book, *A Social History of Russia*.

Mironov said he is lucky to have the opportunity to study in the West because most Russian scholars have little access to Western historical sources because of limited funds.

"My mental horizon was widened very seriously ... and I'm very glad," Mironov said.

This is his fourth visit to the United States and his first time instructing U.S. students. He is teaching two courses — one that focuses on Russian history since 1985, and one that teaches Russian social history. Most Russian

history courses focus on political history, and Mironov said he believes his social history course will give students a new perspective of Russia.

"It will give me a chance to give [students] an original course never taught before in the United States," Mironov said.

Mironov left for Eugene amid changing attitudes about academic freedom, he said. Russian academia is more open now, but it does not reflect the same degree of openness as in the West. In some universities, including St. Petersburg, the old authorities are still in power, he said.

"They are concealed communists," he said. "They support professors who teach as they [do]."

These authorities have become less tolerant of Mironov's views in light of the communist party's success in the last Russian election, he said.

Mironov said these authorities believe a communist will soon seize the presidency, and that Russia will again become communist. He says this feeling is apparent in the way they treat him.

"Before, they were afraid to prosecute me for my free thinking, but now they're not afraid," he said.

#### POLICE BEAT

• A 33-year-old male student was arrested for prostitution on Jan. 4 during a police sting operation. The student approached an undercover female officer and allegedly offered sex for money. He was cited, fined for \$215 and set to appear in municipal court.

• Phi Kappa Delta fraternity at 1813 University St. was handed a \$750 fine and a citation on Jan. 14 for excessive

noise.

• A student was cited for allegedly obstructing traffic in front of Guido's bar. Authorities said that when the police car approached, the student allegedly asked the officer, "Why don't you drive slower?"

• Two non-students, one 19-year-old and the other, a 20-year-old, were cited for criminal trespassing in the residence halls on Jan. 15. The two were

allegedly asked to leave the premises, but came back and were then cited by authorities.

• A Japanese student reported having his wallet stolen from 1000 Patterson St. on Jan. 9. The student said two intoxicated individuals walked into his home at 2 a.m. and allegedly took the wallet. The student also discovered that his credit cards were used for further crimes.

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## You are invited to Director of Public Safety Candidate Presentations on "The Unique Characteristics of Campus Policing"

The search committee for a new Director of Public Safety has narrowed the field of applicants to two finalists who have been invited to campus for further consideration. Each will make a brief presentation on campus policing and answer questions. Refreshments will be provided and there will be time for one-on-one interaction with the candidate.

#### Candidate Robert Deutsch

Lieutenant, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Golden Colorado  
January 22, 1996 • 3:30pm-5:00pm • Gerlinger Lounge

#### Candidate Stan Reeves

Police Sergeant, Department of Public Safety, Eugene, Oregon  
January 24, 1996 • 3:30pm-5:00pm • Gerlinger Lounge

All interested faculty, staff, and students are welcome and encouraged to take this opportunity to meet the candidates for this important position.

Contact Linda King, Director of Human Resources (6-2966), if you have questions. Requests for accommodations related to disability need to be made to Linda King by 1/19/96.

