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# THE NEW PRINT

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## Visit to Russia

# Anyone for cloak and dagger?

by Scott Wyland

Copy Editor

When's the last time you took a sojourn through Russia? Norman Carrigg, an adventurous Clackamas Community College student, took his sojourn last Christmas. He was one of the three from the college who journeyed there via a special budget winter tour.

Norman said the first thing that struck the realization in him that he was in Russia was a Lenin monument "as we entered the city of Wyborg....It was the first sickle/hammer monument ever erected."

Norman observed that, although Russia is a highly industrialized and technologically advanced nation, certain aspects are amazingly backward, such as their travelways. "The road between Leningrad (three million) and Moscow (10 million) - two major cities- was like the road from here (Oregon City) to Molalla, a little two laner".

While Norman was in communist Russia, he couldn't resist his inbred western inclination for "wheeling and dealing." According to Norman, the younger Russians can speak English and usually approach American tourists in particular, initiating the bartering with the question familiar to most capitalist ears: "Wanna trade?"

Much of the merchandise in Russia according to Norman is "ludicrously expensive. A pair of jeans is a month's wages, where



Clackamas Community College student Norman Carrigg noted that the people of Russia are somber and low key.

here you can get a used car. It's to their advantage then to trade off with Americans, like a rabbit-furred hat that's government subsidized (for a pair of jeans)."

Norman noticed an almost dramatic difference in the Russian people's demeanor, especially out in public: "People in Russia are very somber, they don't smile, they dress in low-key clothing, no colorful clothes; the crowds were quiet, almost a

spooky silence. Like in a subway, the sound you'd hear primarily is the shuffling of feet and the sound of machinery.

"On return to Finland it was a stark difference because people were loud and boisterous and dressed colorful, they'd laugh and joke. The Russians seemed to have a general apathy toward life. It goes against human nature to have such limitations."

Norman befriended a young

Soviet student named Mikhail, whose father was politically involved with the communist party. "It was an interesting experience relating to someone with those kind of ideas. Most young people there really don't give a hoot about communism; in fact, they were rebellious even. Mikhail was different, he was more of a conformist. He seemed to go along with the communist party, probably just to make the best of it.

"He (Mikhail) didn't want to be conspicuous about our meeting. So every time we met we had to do it in a roundabout way - real cloak and daggerish...all this just for two people to meet and have coffee."

Norman had received a letter from Mikhail the day before the interview. Apparently, Mikhail had to go through some more cloak and dagger rigamarole just to mail the letter: "It (the letter) was postmarked Austria. He had to give the letter to an Austrian tourist and have him mail it for him because of the strict controls of postage between Russia and the West.

If it's true that the Soviet Union and the United States are achieving rapprochement (more cordial relations), it seems ironic that both countries' common people should encounter such difficulty when attempting a simple, non-political friendship.

## Change to semester system ahead?

by Heleen Veenstra

Staff Writer

Community Colleges might be affected by a plan which is being considered by the four year colleges to change to a semester system.

"The State Board has indicated it will start in 1990. There is some discussion in legislature and a couple of bills dealing with that," said Jim Roberts, Dean of Student Services.

One of the bills is to postpone the plan until there is a better understanding of benefits and disadvantages. Another bill is about the issue of block transferring from community colleges.

Community colleges are not required to change to the semester system, but since many students transfer to a four year college, community colleges are considering to make that change too.

Roberts said that if we do transfer to a semester system all the courses need to be redeveloped. The first semester will then be from the last week of August until Christmas and the second semester will be from the second week of January until the first week of May.

The advantages are that there will be more opportunities for in-depth study, fewer registration periods and flexibility and opportunity for exploration.

Roberts said that it's "really difficult to determine if there is actual advantages in either system." Most colleges in the nation are on the semester system; 65% of the students are enrolled in a college with that system.

Roberts said there isn't anything definite yet about how the semester system would affect summer school. Community colleges probably will have a system that would tie in with four year colleges' schedule in fall.

Roberts feels that "we would need to convert to a semester system if four year colleges are going to do it."

The decision of what the community college will do will be decided by the Council, and maybe adopted by the Board.

Roberts summed up, "what we do need is to be in best interests for students, especially if they plan to transfer."

# Satellite dish widens CCC's horizons

by Heleen Veenstra

Staff Writer

Clackamas Community College is now among the other colleges in Oregon which have their own satellite dish.

"It's already installed and we're already using it. We got it installed around the first of this year, and we're using it daily," said Ira Heard, Chairperson of Audio-Visual.

He stated the dish, which is only capable of receiving, and not uplengthing, because "it's extremely expensive," has four main purposes for the college.

The main purpose is to conduct programs from satellite call-

ed Video Conferences. The Video conferences originate from Portland Community College. Heard said "165 colleges and businesses in the nation are participating in that program."

Another purpose is "to pull programming from the satellite and broadcast it on video connections around campus for the student government people."

The other two purposes are "to receive programs that have telecourses, and to be able to copy from satellite for individual teachers and classes."

There are with copying programs "limitations because of copyrights, but it's pretty

loose," Heard said. He said that sometimes the college needs to buy rights to copy programs and sometimes they are free.

The dish is on top of the McLoughlin building, where it's hard to see on campus.

"We are extremely lucky because not everybody can see it. It doesn't look ugly," Heard stated.

McLoughlin building is a windbreaker and it protects against the rain. Heard said that if it's raining it sometimes affects electronic signals and the pictures become less clear.

The dish is controlled by a microcomputer, "accuracy has to

be extremely important." The microcomputer, which is installed in the audio-visual room, receives the electronic signals from the dish.

Heard pointed out that the college is linked with NCTV (National College Television.) "We have a contract with them (NCTV) to receive their programs and broadcast them in CC mall.

"It takes several months before I get faculty educated on what we can do. I'm making my way around," Heard concluded to explain how faculty and students are reacting to the fact Clackamas Community College has a satellite dish.

