

Taking a ride on the Russian rails

Jackson tells tale, 'How I survived the Trans-Siberian Railroad'



Contributed photo

Clackamas Athletic Director Jim Jackson (right) ran into many interesting people on his trip to Russia, such as this Lenin impersonator that he met on the streets of Moscow. Jackson recently gave a "Brown Bag Travel Series" presentation at the college about his trip.

Katie Wilson

The Clackamas Print

Clackamas Athletic Director Jim Jackson gave the last of his term's "Brown Bag Travel Series" presentations last Thursday.

The presentations, brought to the staff, faculty and students of the college by the Social Science Department and the International Education Committee, are a way for people who have traveled to foreign

countries to share the knowledge they have gained through their experiences abroad. Those who attend are treated to an hour of stories, pictures and a look at some souvenirs.

Last Thursday, in McLoughlin 206, Jackson talked about his travels in Russia last summer in a presentation called "How I Survived the Trans-Siberian Railroad." He traveled with a group led by Elena Bogdanovich, the college's Russian language instructor, and her husband.

"It was quite a whirlwind tour," Jackson told his audi-

ence. "We saw a lot of different parts of Russia, a lot of different people."

The trip served several purposes.

"[Bogdanovich] was trying to promote the [Russian] language, so we had 16 people. About eight were Russian students in the first- or second-year class, and the other eight were relatives and friends," said Jackson.

The trip helped the students with their Russian and provided a wonderful experience for everybody.

On the flight back to Portland, Jackson had written down a list of his thoughts on Russia. He shared these with the audience.

"The Russians are rude and wonderful," he said. "They're so rude, but they'll give you the shirt off their back. They want you to enjoy their country and their language."

In Russia the group had to learn to accept many cultural differences and realize that what Americans would consider to be rude, the Russians see as a part of normal life.

"They're not hassling you because you're American—that's just what they do to everybody. You have to tell yourself, 'I'm not in America,'" said Jackson.

Everyone had to get used to the food as well.

"The Russian food was great ... the first time," said Jackson. "I have a hard time eating fish right now because we ate fish everywhere we went."

The group had many interesting experiences: They found out that outside of the United States toilet paper is truly more valuable than anything else. They also got to see the Olympic torch ceremony go through Moscow.

"The day before [that happened], Moscow was probably the cleanest it has ever been," said Jackson. "It is the most beautiful city that I've ever seen ... but don't take my word for it. You have to go to Moscow and see."

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A weekly Spanish-language column

Todo empleado es protegido por la ley

Norma Martinez

The Clackamas Print

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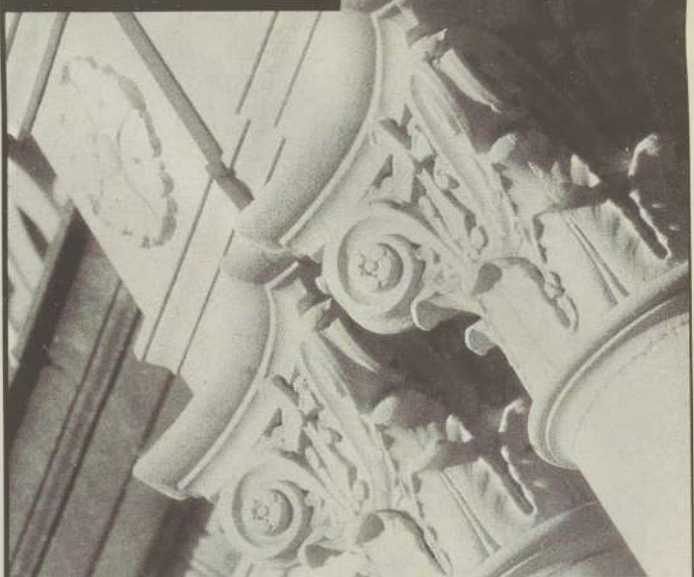
Nosotros como empleados

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