

Capitalism way of life even in Russia

by Mary MacDonald

If everyone should go to Moscow don't try streaking!

One member of the Canadian charter to Russia for the Canada-Russia hockey series says it is not looked on as humorous by Russian Police. Other than this incident (where the guy got off), there were few instances when the group had problems in Russia.

Cheri Lezansky, an employee of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission, was one of the lucky few from Alberta to get on the charter for Moscow.

Many reports Canada received of our rooting section who followed Team Canada over, were complaints, but Lezansky said "I had a ball and would go back again. We were well treated." However, she said a few on the charter (the more "prominent" of our citizens) disgraced Canada by their arrogance toward the Russian people so much so that even the other Canadians hated to be associated with them.

Generally, tough, Canadian fans and players alike behaved themselves except for a few exceptions.

The players wives were not very congenial to anyone, and "rumors were circulated about Walton being drunk and Henderson pouty."

Lezansky noted, "The Canadian players especially, Howe, Hull, and MacKenzie were very good with the Russian fans, always signing autographs."

As regards the series, she noticed that Team Canada seemed to fall apart in Russia. No one really knows what happened in the disputed game Canada lost 5-4, but the red light that signifies a goal plus the one to end the game were both on, which in Canada is an impossibility.

Lezansky quashed some of our ideas of Russia. "They have modern hair styles and clothes like us." One very interesting point she brought up was that there is a form of "capitalism".

"Our guide told us that there are two types of farmers....the ones on the state-owned farms and the collective farmer who owns his own land and is wealthy."

Apparently these farmers themselves own large sections of land and get higher prices for their produce. They even own their own lots and cottages on the Black Sea resort area.

Collectively speaking, the Russian (not to be confused with the Ukrainian or other peoples of the USSR) is much like thy American....he is a proud person who likes to boast. The US and USSR are always pictured as arch-enemies but what Lezansky experienced was, "The American is much more respected than the Canadian."

In other respects USSR and the west are quite similar. They too have a high divorce rate and there is a severe drinking problem. They, too, are trying to open up their north. The Russian usually works a 40 hour work week but may do more shifts. There is a shortage of labourers so much so that these people receive exorbitant wages while intellectuals get much less.

There are also limitations on the citizen. Whenever he finished university (tuition fee) Lezansky was told by one "I was invited by the state to work for 3 years as a guide."

People still need permits to move from one part of the country to the other and whenever he wishes to buy something he must wait in line to purchase each item.

Some things that lacked she noted were modern-looking homes and conveniences. Things we take for granted were missing....no fridges, blue jeans are gold, safety pins are non-existent as are sink plugs.

If you want to tip the bellhop just hand him a package of chewing gum. That is also rare.

Lezansky was impressed with some of their advances. Naturally their space exhibits are quite good. She also had

occasion to visit an exposition when they even had jewels in the fountains. To keep kids off the streets the state has built a large number of areas for them to play. There are also many state-run nurseries to help out

working mothers.

Russia is no longer a dark, mysterious country. It is one in which there are often similar problems and advances as we have, with the individual being just as happy or sad as we are.

Inflation seminar

The Continuing Education Division of Grant MacEwan Community College in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture and the Edmonton Public Library announces a FREE program for the bewildered consumer.

The program entitled Inflation Beaters, will begin on Wednesday, October 23rd, 1974 at the Dickinsfield Library Theatre, 114 Avenue and 92 Street. The four-part series will run on four consecutive Wednesdays from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Credit: Choice of Chance?

The first session will be led by Elaine Barnes from the Department of Consumer Affairs and will look at the attractions and problems inherent in credit buying.

October 30th, Is Budgeting a Bore?, explores how we can get the most from what we have. Pat Masculak, a Home Management Specialist with the Department of Agriculture will lead the session.

For further information call Chris Vidalen at the Dickinsfield Library, 478-2811 or Lynn Fogwill at Grant MacEwan Community College, 484-7791.

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Public Hearings Northland School Division Study

The Northland School Division Study Group named by the Minister of Education to review and appraise the functions, administration, operation and services of the Northland School Division will receive briefs and hear presentations from interested individuals and organizations

On December 2 and 3, 1974
In Room 313 of the Alberta Vocational Center
10215 - 108 Street, Edmonton
Between 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. and
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Inquiries and appointments may be made by calling 229-3943 or by writing to the undersigned. Advance notice of intention to appear will be appreciated but is not essential. These hearings are open to the general public.

W. H. Swift
Chairman
Northland School Division
Study Group
8th Floor, Executive Building
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