

Soviet colleges push science

Students prefer humanities

By SETH MYDANS
Associated Press

MOSCOW — While Soviet universities beef up their scientific and technical programs, more and more students are saying they want to study the humanities, says the minister of higher education.

In a recent interview about trends to higher education, Vyacheslav Yelyutin attributed the changing preferences to a desire for easier courses of study and to a growing interest in human questions, including philosophy and history.

The interview took place as the school year began for 5 million students in 859 institutions of higher education across the Soviet Union.

Without citing statistics, Yelyutin said he had observed over the past 10 years a growing proportion of college applicants who want to study the humanities.

But he said the students' desires aren't affecting Soviet curricula or the numbers of students in different fields.

University curriculums are predetermined in each five-year plan according to the needs of Soviet so-

ciety, and not according to student preferences, he said.

Thus, regardless of changing interests, the Soviet Union continues to graduate a little more than 20 per cent of its college students in the humanities, while 42 per cent graduated last year in the sciences, 9 per cent as agricultural specialists, 7 per cent as doctors and other health workers, and 20 per cent as teachers.

"There are many different reasons, as we see them" for the growing student interest in liberal arts, Yelyutin said. "One, the humanities are easier: look at the difference between studying mathematics and studying literature."

Yelyutin did not go so far as to say students are becoming lazier, but the notion is widespread among Soviets that the younger generation — increasingly far removed from the revolution and without the toughening experience of a world war — is losing some of its drive.

"The second reason is the expanding interest in human questions," he said. "Youngsters nowadays are more interested in learning about philosophy, history and so on."

This expanding interest comes despite the fact that the sciences and technical fields still provide the careers that lead to glory in the U.S.S.R., and despite the fact that the humanities are more subject to political changes today than are the sciences.

Yelyutin hinted at the existence of a new, more introspective, less ambitious generation of young Soviets,

following a half century during which the nation hardly stopped to think as it struggled to become a world power.

Regardless of the growing numbers of college applicants who want to study the humanities, Yelyutin said, the technical and scientific courses of study are the ones being expanded, because they are the ones that are needed.

Artist's curtain will be dismantled soon

Associated Press

VALLEY FORD, Calif. — The shimmering curtain of white cloth that artist Christo Javacheff stretched across 24 miles of countryside to the ocean is coming down — just as he planned.

Soon it will be a memory for its many beholders, who created traffic jams on local roads, tore away sections of it for souvenirs and took helicopter rides to view it.

A contested portion of the 18-foot-high fence that dipped into Bodega Bay about 50 miles north of San Francisco was removed yesterday. The state Coastal Commission had refused to issue a permit for the final 1,000 feet of the project, but it mysteriously appeared there anyway on Sept. 7, the day before the formal start of the enterprise.

Workers on the unique example of "process art" said, however, that it will be November before the dismantling is completed.

"It'll be a lot of hard work and energy to take it down, just like it was to put it up," said Patrick

Morris, a member of the fence crew. He said about 75 people would dismantle it.

Christo, a Bulgarian-born artist who eschews his last name and once draped a curtain across a Colorado canyon, raised \$2 million to finance the fence, composed of 2,000 pieces of nylon fabric attached to steel poles. Some 300 students and other volunteers helped erect it over a two-day period.

"It was exhilarating," said Elizabeth Whitney, who was paid \$113 for her labors. "We just saw little parts of it while we worked on it, and now here's this connected, graceful beautiful thing."

Christo had said from the outset that he planned to display the fence for a fixed period of time and then take it down.

So many came to see it last weekend that traffic was bumper to bumper on some of the area's rural roads. A local entrepreneur who offered helicopter overviews reported a brisk business.



Battalion photo by Cathy Bandy

Texas Cities

The college of Architecture and Environmental Design is currently displaying old drawings of some of the Texas' cities. Janine

Morris, a junior computer science major, takes time to view the exhibit, which will continue through Friday in the Rudder Lobby.

Birthday present for David

Bubble boy to get space suit

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Little David, who turned five Tuesday, will soon become an astronaut on his own planet wearing a specially-designed suit that will allow him to explore an Earth environment that is as alien and harmful to him as outer space to

other humans.

The suit, a by-product of the technology that put men on the moon, will give David the mobility to explore things earthmen are familiar with — sunshine, rain, plants, solid ground and the laughter and faces of other persons.

David has not felt the touch of a human hand since he was born.

His life has been one of isolation in a plastic bubble at the Texas Children's Hospital room and another at his home.

He is the victim of severe combined immune deficiency, an inherited disorder that strikes one in every 10,000 males. His body has no natural defenses and the simplest of germs on earth's environment could kill him, doctors say.

David's parents have declined to be identified. Hospital officials said they did not know if any special celebration was scheduled for David's birthday. But he was told recently of the biggest gift he will be getting hopefully before Christmas — the suit that will get him out of his bubble.

"We told him about it and we showed it to him," said Fred Spross of the Bioengineering Systems Division of the National Aeronautics

and Space Administration NASA which designed the suit.

"He was very excited about it. He is a very alert boy. He was shown pictures of astronauts to get an idea of what it would be like," Spross said. "He was told he would be wearing a small astronaut suit."

Spross said the \$5,000 suit, which weighs about two pounds, was made of rubberized fabric with a self-transparent helmet and rubber boots.

"The life system is mounted on a portable transporter," Spross said. "There are two fans in the transporter that carry air through a 10-foot hose into the suit and distribute it. Used air is expelled at the ankles."

Spross said the transporter, which weighs about 125 pounds, can be hand-pushed and has a seat for the patient. Its system can operate for up to 16 hours, but David's suit was designed for four hours.

"We had requests from the medical field for a suit of this type. It was developed by this department about a year by people working on their own or when it did not interfere with our programs which deal with space medicine," Spross said.

Foreign service officer exam applications due by Oct. 24

A competitive written examination will be given by the United States Information Agency on Dec. 4, for Foreign Service Officers and Foreign Service Information Officers. Applications for the examination must be received in the examination office no later than October 24.

While a majority of candidates traditionally have been college students or recent college graduates, men and women with professional and vocational experience outside of college are also encouraged to take the examination. For the past several years the average age of newly appointed officers has been 27 and about 65 per cent have had graduate degrees.

This year's FSO examination will include a test designed to measure the candidate's skills and aptitudes in four functional fields (administration, consular, economic/commercial, and political), in addition to the English expression and general background tests which will be common to all candidates. The ex-

amination for information officers will cover general background, English expression and a functional field test in information/culture.

The Department of State and USIA have a special interest in recruiting women and members of minority groups.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States by the date of the written examination. Knowledge of a foreign language is not a requirement for appointment to the Foreign Service but after appointment officers are expected to acquire an acceptable level of proficiency in at least one foreign language.

Full-time language training provided at government expense is necessary.

Additional information and application forms may be obtained from Dr. J. M. Nance, Department of History, Room 426, Academic Building, who serves as campus advisor on State Department matters.

Accounting fraternity to induct 6 new members

Six speakers will be presented at Texas A&M by the Delta Iota Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi on Monday, Sept. 27 to discuss accounting career opportunities for women.

Beta Alpha Psi is a national professional accounting fraternity that is sponsoring a Women's Accounting Career Conference to inform women on the availability of accounting jobs and to differentiate between which jobs suit their personal and career goals.

One of the featured speakers at the conference, Karen McNeely of Price Waterhouse and Co. in Los Angeles, will present her views on public accounting. McNeely, a 1973 Texas A&M graduate works on the

audit staff for the firm.

Margaret Heaton, a certified public accountant, has her own business in Houston and will represent that area.

Paula Holland, from the Atlantic Richfield Company in Dallas, will speak on the industrial field of accounting. Holland is a 1975 A&M graduate with a BBA in finance.

Mrs. Lanette Black will discuss governmental accounting. Black works with the Internal Revenue Service in Austin and is a 1970 graduate of Southwest Texas State. She is presently an Exempt Organization Specialist and is active with the Federal Women's Program.

Janet William's will discuss the single women's career opportuni-

ties. Currently employed as an audit supervisor for Touche Ross and Co. in Dallas, Williams, a CPA graduated from Texas Tech in 1970.

Other job opportunities will be presented by Deane Waltman, a partner of J.K. Lasser and Co. in Houston. A 1949 graduate of the University of Alabama, Waltman became the first woman partner in this national accounting firm in 1970.

The conference begins at 11:30 a.m. with a luncheon in room 206 of the MSC. Tickets may be purchased from the Accounting Department prior to Sept. 24 for \$5.

The speakers will present their program at 1 p.m. in Rudder Tower 301.

Rose new department head in business analysis

Dr. Warren Rose joins Texas A&M University next week as head of the Business Analysis and Research Department in the College of Business Administration.

Rose, 50, was formerly chairman of transportation and logistics management at the University of North Florida. During that time, he had served as a visiting professor to Texas A&M from September 1974 through May 1975.

In his visiting professorship, he served both the Business Analysis and Research Department and the Texas Transportation Institute, a part of the Texas A&M System.

A native of Racine, Wis., Rose was chairman of production logistics at the University of Houston from 1963-71 and formerly taught at the University of Tennessee, the University of North Carolina and

Wauconda Township, Ill., High School.

The new department head received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in 1962. He earned his master's from Northwestern University in 1953 and his undergraduate degree in 1949 from the University of Maryland.

In addition to academic duties, Rose has also served as a consultant to the Interstate Commerce Commission, Humble Oil Co. and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The author of nearly 30 scholarly articles, he holds memberships in the American Economics Association, American Society of Traffic and Transportation, Omicron Delta Epsilon and Beta Alpha Psi. He twice won the Clyde B. Aitchison National Essay Award for Transportation Research, once in 1963 and again in 1965.

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For further info:

Bryan Ewver 845-7648
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