

local

# A&M tour of Russia to go as scheduled

By JON HEIDTKE  
Campus Reporter  
An Afghanistan invasion and a possible Olympics boycott by the United States have not deterred Dr. Michal Barszap from planning a summer tour of Russia that will be one of the most extensive student

tours the continent has ever seen. Barszap's itinerary, scheduled May 14-June 14, includes the usual tourist sites of Moscow, Kiev and Leningrad; but will also include first hand visits to Siberia, where no tourist has ever been; Moslem areas of Russia; and the Black Sea resort of

Sochi, which is the summer playground of top Russian officials including Leonid Brezhnev.

"It is my dream come true," said Barszap, a professor of modern language at Texas A&M University. "This is the one I have wanted to do since I began leading tours five years ago."

For \$2,150 a student will spend 31 days in first class hotels and cover more than 8,400 miles of the communist country. "It is a lot of money," said Barszap, "but when you think in terms of what you pay for, it is a bargain."

Barszap, who led a tour of Russia last summer with Texas A&M students, said that his tour offers much more than a standardized tour a travel agency would.

"I plan the itinerary and what we see in each town," said Barszap, who

spent his first 16 years living in Russia and Poland, "and the Soviet officials usually approve it." Barszap was able to schedule at least one free day in each city, where as standard tours tend to keep the participants in the move all the time. Barszap also conducts most of the tours himself, rather than Soviet officials, because he knows the cities and the language.

Barszap also said students should have the chance to interact with the Russian people, so he scheduled a three-day trip on the Trans-Siberian railroad. "By staying in hotels," said Barszap, "you only see other tourists, but by living and traveling on a train with the Russian people

you can really get to know some of them."

In fact, one student on a former tour became such good friends with a Russian girl that he wanted to marry her.

The tour will also take in performances of the world famous Bolshoi Ballet and Moscow Circus, along with a visit to the world's deepest lake, Lake Baikal, in Irkutsk.

Barszap, who will be embarking on his tenth trip to Russia in the past five years, said the Soviets seem more eager for his group to come this year, than they have in the past.

He said the Olympic troubles might have something to do with

that. If the United States boycotts the Olympics, the Russians will have to find another way to bring in American dollars. But what ever happens to the Olympics, it will not affect the trip, he said.

He also said that the Russians will separate politics and human relations. "They lost image in a political sense when they invaded Afghanistan," he said. "Maybe they will show us they are not the war mongers we think they are, but that they are still friendly."

Barszap is eager to be leading a tour during what he calls a "hot" time. "I think it will be very interesting for the students to hear what the Russian people have to say

about Iran and Afghanistan," Barszap said. "We will have a common topic to talk about. It will make a tour that much more interesting."

As of now, 32 students are signed up including 20-25 Aggies. The original deadline date to sign up was Feb. 1, but the Soviets have extended that to March 1, so up to 50 students could sign up.

Anyone interested should contact Dr. Barszap at 845-2124 or at home 693-3754 or the MSC Travel Committee 845-1515.

If a student is looking for more travel adventure, an optional two-week stay in Poland is included for an additional \$350.

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## ACLU director opposes draft

AUSTIN — John Duncan, state director of the American Civil Liberties Union, has told a group of University of Texas students that a "real public outcry" is needed to oppose registration of 18-26 year-olds for possible military draft.

Duncan told an anti-draft rally attended by about 250 people that persons opposed to the draft must make their sentiments known to defeat a congressional bill calling for registration — a move initiated by President Carter in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"We need a real public outcry against any registration. It is imperative that we defeat the registration bill," he told the mostly subdued students who were fighting 35 degree temperatures on the campus West Mall.

"It is totally unlike an embargo of grain or an Olympic boycott," Duncan said. "The draft is a direct interference in the lives of millions of young Americans."

The rally was sponsored by Students Against the Draft, a

coalition of several campus organizations.

Ken Carpenter, representing the American Friends Service Committee, said the draft movement could be stopped if the American public petitioned Congress.

"There is no consensus in Congress and no consensus in this country for war or registration," he said. "The best thing people could do is to refuse to register. There is no way the draft can work if people refuse to register."

Carpenter said thousands of draft-age men during the Vietnam War were never found or prosecuted because they simply refused to register on their 18th birthdays.

Dru Thompson, head of the Women Take Back The Night organization, said American fighting the draft are those who are drawing on their experiences from the anti-war era of the late 1960s and early 1970s. She said the Middle East situation was a serious one, but it was one that could not be settled by war.



Day students get their news from the Batt.

## Former Bandido ordered to testify

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO — A former member of the Bandidos Motorcycle Club, serving time for a federal firearms violation, has been ordered to testify in a grand jury's continuing investigation into the ambush of a federal prosecutor.

Timothy Kenneth Larson, also known as "Timken," received a subpoena to appear before a federal grand jury session scheduled for Wednesday.

The heavily tattooed Larson, described by the FBI as a prime suspect in the attempted assassination of former assistant U.S. attorney James Kerr, will be transported by federal marshals from the federal penitentiary at

Texarkana, federal authorities said. Larson is serving a three-year sentence imposed last year on a conviction for possessing a firearm despite a previous felony conviction.

Kerr escaped with minor cuts Nov. 21, 1978, when 19 bullets riddled his luxury automobile at an intersection near his San Antonio home. Larson later appeared in a police line-up viewed by Kerr.

Kerr had an almost perfect record for prosecuting narcotics traffickers in the Western District of Texas. He was lead prosecutor in numerous narcotics cases tried in the court of U.S. District Judge John H. Wood Jr., assassinated outside his San Antonio apartment May 29, 1978.

**International Meditation Society**

There will be a free introductory lecture on the Transcendental Meditation Program on Tuesday the 5th of February at 7:30 P.M. in Room No. 502 of Rudder Tower. This lecture is for those just interested in the general knowledge or in learning the technique for expanding awareness and increasing enjoyment of all aspects of life.



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