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Soviets release 140 dissidents; cases, laws under review

MOSCOW (AP) — The govern-ment has freed about 140 imprisoned dissidents, is considering par-doning about 140 more, and has begun reviewing the criminal code with the idea of softening some pro-visions, a Soviet spokesman said Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gen-nady Gerasimov said the government would like to see "fewer people behind bars and behind barbed

He made no mention, however, of amnesty for those sentenced under laws prohibiting "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." Soviet dissidents have estimated at

least 1,500 political prisoners remain in Soviet labor camps, prisons or internal exile.

Besides the Kremlin's avowed desire to reduce the prison camp population, the government also may be trying to deflect Western criticism of the Soviet human rights record. The issue has hampered better trade and political relations with the West.

The Soviets plan a weekend fo-rum on peace and disarmament to be attended by political, business, cultural and religious figures from Western countries. They also are trying to win agreement at the Vienna conference on European security for a human rights conference in Moscow this spring.

In Washington, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the Reagan administration hopes the Soviet government "will follow up these recent moves with the release of more political prisoners and prisoners of conscience who unjustly remain in confinement or exile without imposing any requirements that they recant their previous activities and limit future activities in support of human rights.'

By late Tuesday night, the release of dissidents had not been reported to the Soviet public. The Englishlanguage service of the Tass news agency carried a report on Gerasimov's comments, but the report was not sent by the agency's Russian-lan-guage service. No mention of the release of dissidents was made on the evening televised news program Vremya.

Gerasimov told a news briefing Tuesday:

'The Soviet Union has been reexamining a number of cases, especially cases related to sentences on (Article 70) of the Soviet Criminal Code, concerning anti-Soviet propaganda.

"Many of those sentenced on that article have been addressing appeals for clemency, and they are being examined and, in many cases, being granted.

Surgeon general pushes TV advertising for condoms

WASHINGTON (AP) - Surgeon General C. Everett Koop told a House panel on Tuesday that he favors advertising condoms on net-work television because the national health threat posed by AIDS "over-

whelms other considerations." Koop said that such advertising should promote disease prevention rather than sexual activity and that, properly presented, it would provide a valuable health service

The surgeon general, designated the Reagan administration's lead spokesman on AIDS, did not state his position on advertising in his pre-pared testimony but expressed strong support for it in response to questions from members of the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and

Commerce Committee. "The threat of AIDS is so great that it overwhelms other consider-ations, and advertising, I think therefore, is necessary in reference to condoms and would have a posi-ting rublic height when "Keepe pid tive public health value," Koop said. He acknowledged that condoms

do not provide 100 percent protection against catching AIDS from an infected partner but added, "With all the failures and drawbacks, it's thing we

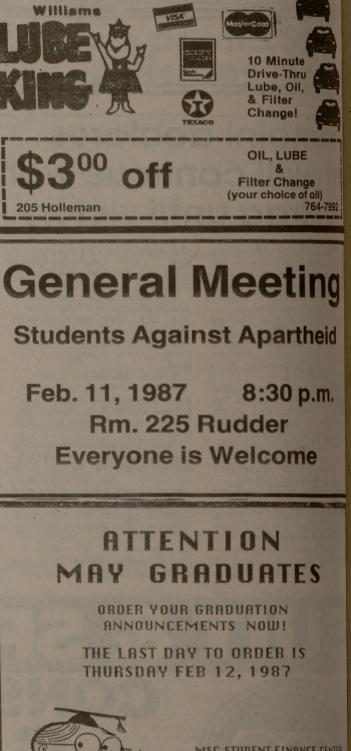
gramming contains sexual themes. "You could make a good case that if television networks do indeed peddle all the attractive parts of sex, then they should be willing to also peddle something that might prevent the transmission of sexually ac-quired disease," Koop responded. "But' I think even without that relationship, the threat... is so great to the people of this country that, of iradf the nublic health measure and itself, the public health message and the preventative aspects of AIDS would accompany condom adthat vertising speak for themselves.'

Representatives of the three ma-jor commercial networks — NBC, CBS and ABC — said at the hearing that they do not carry condom ad vertisements because network officials believe they would be offensive to the viewers of many affiliate stations

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The department also uses binoculars, wireless microphones and light sensors along with other surveillance



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a barrier.

There is no vaccine or cure for AIDS, and no one is known to have recovered from it.

Koop said abstinence is the only sure way to avoid contracting the disease sexually, but "that's not ter-

ribly realistic in our society." Rep. Jim Bates, D-Calif., asked Koop to comment on whether tele-vision networks have a particular re-sponsibility because so much pro-Koop to comment on whether tele-

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their sister or their mother.

Group rape, date rape and aquaintance rape are widely ac-

cepted in fraternities and athletic settings because of "group think,

"You have a sense of 'let's stay

Rape

Stevens said.

lated - abused.

Horner also said the department isn't the only agency on campus fighting the increase in thefts.

The MSC has spent quite a bit of money to set up the securing station outside the bookstore," he said.

"There were many thefts outside the bookstore and students were not using the lockers," he said. "So, the

which these crimes are reported depend on what type of system the community has in terms of dealing with a rape crisis.

together as a team' — the group-think takes over," he said. "They Brazos County Rape Crisis Center will present a date-rape skit at forget that this is a person that has a heart, a brain and a soul like, Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue and a self-defense demonstration in 212 MSC.

The C.A.R.E. program will end today after several more sessions. From noon to 1 p.m., the

will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. "They get this person drunk, they flirt and the person gets vio-The University Police Depart-Stevens said his basic philosoment will give a tour on avoiding phy is that rape occurs in all col-lege communities — no campuses p.m. to 9 p.m. starting in 212 are immune. The degree to MSC.

Psychologist

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But Stevens was careful not to identify all sexual desire as bad.

There needs to be a balance between enjoying that person as a whole and sexual pleasure," he said.

Stevens said men also suffer from the rape culture. He said women tend to think of all men as rapists, which leads to fear.

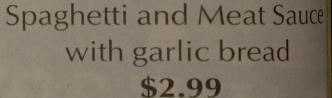
One student said, "I have been in the situation where I was walking behind a woman, especially at night, viser in Hotard Hall. "It'll make me where I could tell that she was a little stop and think about what I'm doing scared of me. It makes me feel kind of bad.

Subtle techniques such as keeping hands in sight, choosing alternate routes to walk, or offering assistance when a woman appears to be in trouble can help, Stevens said.

Those who attended the meeting expressed a positive attitude toward the discussion.

"It makes you realize that you're contributing to a major problem that. you never would have even thought of," said David Bryant, a resident ad-viser in Hotard Hall. "It'll make me and maybe help me to evaluate what's going on with the guys in my The group discussed methods of dorm and try to warn them about helping women overcome this fear. what they're getting into."

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