

A&M aids Soviet economic rebuilding

By GREG MT. JOY
Of The Battalion Staff

Several Texas A&M professors might lead the way in the effort to save the Soviet Union's crumbling economy.

The Soviet government has agreed to send 12 to 15 businessmen to an executive development program in May at the A&M study center in Castiglione Fiorentino, Italy.

A&M's Center for Executive Development will provide training in marketing, finance and management for middle- to upper-level managers from the Soviet Union, as well as businessmen and -women from Europe and North America.

Duke Hobbs, director of the Execu-

utive Development Center, said economists in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are facing problems their economic systems have not prepared them to deal with. Therefore, they have turned to A&M's program.

"We've seen the communist system truly does not work," Hobbs said. "Now we are going to attempt to help them move to the capitalist system, and we believe A&M is in a good position to help."

The program in Italy is the starting point for giving more help to the Soviet Union through A&M.

A similar program has been planned for March 1992 at the Institute of Political Science and Socio-Economic Planning in Sverdlovsk,

Soviet Union.

Hobbs said Sverdlovsk is an ideal target for the establishing of capitalist methods in the Soviet Union.

"Sverdlovsk is home to the nation's largest industrial complex," Hobbs said. "It employs 180,000 people, and produces everything from spacecraft to washing machines."

"Unfortunately, as is the case throughout the Soviet Union, the distribution system is hopelessly inadequate."

Hobbs said A&M professors will do the majority of the lecturing at the Italian seminar.

"We have not officially called for volunteers to teach," he said. "But, from the excited response we have

received so far, there shouldn't be any difficulty getting people."

The Center for Executive Development also is planning a professor exchange program. This initiative would bring Soviet professors of political science, sociology and business to A&M.

Hobbs said the exchange program fits into the overall efforts to provide a beneficial situation for businessmen.

"The executive development program helps meet the needs of American businesses to familiarize themselves with European business methods," Hobbs said. "The upcoming formation of the European Common Market makes this familiarization vital."

Tickets are available for the Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant for \$5, \$8, & \$10 February 9th. For more information call 845-1234

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Ringside seats roped fast Rodeo insiders snatch relinquished stalls

FORT WORTH (AP) — Two coveted Stock Show Rodeo stalls were lassoed by Stock Show insiders recently despite a 22-year waiting list for the ringside seats.

The prestigious stalls, often inherited, sometimes snatched up in divorce settlements, were relinquished by death and bankruptcy. The seats are priced from \$2,300 to \$4,700.

"This doesn't surprise me in the

least," said a disappointed O.G. Tobias, a veterinarian who applied for box seats in 1970 and is No. 2 on the waiting list.

"Even though we had an application in for 21 years, it's pretty political out there," Tobias said.

Stock Show director Robert Gunn, whose 1969 box-seat application tops the waiting list, said the waiting list "is not a sham."

"My letter will remain in that pile until it is conducive for me to get a box. Once you understand the integral mechanics of the show, it becomes very clear," said Gunn, a former steer wrestler.

Stock Show president W. R. "Billy Bob" Watt Jr. told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that politics has nothing to do with corraling box seats. Business considerations do.

One of the choice boxes this year was snatched up by Overton Park Bank, one of the show's financial backers and an institution that has rancher Cass Edwards, the Stock Show's vice president, on its board.

That box seat came on the market after the death of Dr. A. Keller Doss, a rancher-physician whose family had leased the seats since the 1950s.

Overton Park was among the first local institutions to make a king-size contribution toward building the Will Rogers Equestrian Center. That fact, not the bank's connection with the Edwards ranching family, moved the bank to the top of the waiting list, Watt said.

Doss' widow, Betty Doss, 78, said she had second thoughts about forfeiting her inheritance and called Watts the day after she mailed a letter giving up her seats to ask him to disregard her letter. But the box had already been promised to Overton Park.

The 156 boxes — spartan cubicles eye-level with the steers — seat six, eight or 12 spectators and are reserved for the 28 performances of the Stock Show Rodeo. The rodeo runs in conjunction with the 95th annual Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, which starts Friday and runs through Feb. 3.

The last time a box came on the market was in 1988, the year that ticket holders were assessed \$200 a seat to help finance the completion of the Equestrian Center.

Rather than pay up, many surrendered their boxes.

None were up for sale in 1989. But Perry Bass received a box after Stock Show officials asked NCNB bank to relinquish one of its five boxes for the millionaire.

What's Up

- Thursday**
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** general discussion at noon. Call C.P.D.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
 - NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** general discussion at 8:30 p.m. Call C.P.D.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
 - ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** general discussion at 6 p.m. Call C.P.D.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
 - AUDUBON SOCIETY:** meeting, Dr. Douglas Welch, TAMU Horticulture Extension, speaking on xeroscaping-landscape and water conservation at 7:30 p.m. in the College Station Community Center, 1300 George Bush Drive Call Joan at 845-2351 for more information.
 - OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION AND EXHIBITION:** exhibition: Catching the Eye: Form, Color, Motion. Rudder Exhibit Hall at 8 p.m. Call Catherine at 845-8501 for more information.
 - DPMA:** ICPD: Texas Instruments at 7 p.m. in the Former Students Center. Call the BANA office at 845-1616 for more information.
 - UNITED STATES STUDENTS ASSOCIATION:** first general meeting for the spring semester at 7 p.m. in Bizzell Hall West basement. Call 846-4629 for more information.
 - PEOPLE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST:** meeting for everyone who wants to say no to this war. Welcome at 5:30 p.m. under the Academic Building dome. Call Cara at 693-3663 for more information.
 - CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** Campus Crusade for Christ/Life Line weekly meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 108 HECC.

- Friday**
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** general discussion at noon. Call C.P.D.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
 - STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE:** Supper club meeting with country and western dancing to follow at 6 p.m. at Garfield's in the Holiday Inn. Call 845-1741 for more information.
 - UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES:** weekly Bible study at 6 p.m. in A&M Presbyterian Church office. Everyone welcome. Call Stacy at 847-5300 for more information.
 - SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM:** Twelfth Candle Yuletide Celebration in Middle Ages style. Newcomers are encouraged to attend. Come join us for food, dancing and fun at 7 p.m. in the Wellborn Community Center in Wellborn. Call Star at 845-7768 or 846-3113, or Michael at 845-1365 or 268-7737 for more information.
 - OFF CAMPUS AGGIES:** Dinner Club at 6 p.m. at the Longhorn Tavern, Highway 21 and Texas Avenue. Call Brian at 823-6517 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

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Siekman bought his 1928 La France from Sam Howell of Odessa. One of the things that fascinated him was that the truck had only traveled 8,000 miles.

The truck came from Slaton, near Lubbock.

"There's not anything wrong with the engine." The truck has an 826-cubic-inch engine and gets about 2 miles per gallon.

His other restoration is a 1950 La France that was in service near Chicago. It has 20,000 miles on it. The 14 ladders expand from 14 to 50 feet.

"The 150-gallon tank is not a lot of water, but it does have a 750-gallon-per-minute pumper."

The V-12 engine has 24 spark plugs. "All old fire trucks have dual ignition."

Man shows spark for old fire trucks

PYOTE (AP) — Bob Siekman sat in his restored 1928 La France fire truck and talked about his lifelong love of shiny red fire engines.

"When I was a little kid growing up in Rising Star (east of Abilene), I watched a man build one," the Pyote resident said. "Back then, I thought that fires were very exciting, the most exciting thing in the world."

Siekman became a fire truck collector about 20 years ago when he accidentally made the successful bid at an auction.

Currently, two of his five trucks are restored and running.

"I used to spend more time on my fire trucks, but that was before Betty got hold of me," he said. A longtime bachelor, he married seven years ago. His wife, Betty Siekman, is Ward County health nurse in Monahans.

"I thought when I retired from the dirt moving business last April I would spend more time working on my fire trucks, but even retired I don't have much time, Betty has lots of projects for me," he said.

The two are community volunteers in Monahans and Pyote. A typical range of activities included driving a cancer patient to Houston, then turning around and selling popcorn and Cokes during a cowboy poetry reading at the Million Barrel Museum in Monahans. They also

are members in the Baptist Church and serve on the advisory council for the West Texas Children's Home in Pyote.

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BATTIPS

Anyone with story suggestions can call BATTIPS, The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.

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- Thurs., Jan. 17 - "Meet the Fraternity"**
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- Sat., Jan. 19 - Northgate Night Out**
Flying Tomato upstairs* 7-10:30 p.m.
- Mon., Jan. 21 - I've been hypnotized**
Rudder Theatre (Listen to KKYS for info) 7-10 p.m.
- Wed., Jan. 23 - Poker Smoker****
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For information please contact Jim Watt at 846-1444 or the House at 822-6999.

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