ossack dancers twirl into Rudd

BY NONI SRIDHARA The Battalion

ively, fierce, mighty and brave are some of the words Olga Cooke, adviser for the Russian Club and an associate professor of Russian, s to describe the way the Don Cossacks of Rostov depicted in literature and history.

In a program sponsored by the MSC Opera and Perming Arts Society (OPAS), The Don Cossacks of Rosdance ensemble will perform Russian folk dances n the Don River region of Russia on Thursday night. Jeremy Byrd, OPAS chair and a senior psychology or, said the dance troupe will perform many pieces, luding songs of praise, patriotic choral and acro-

'Every once in a while, we try to bring something ernational to [Texas] A&M to expose students to w cultures which they aren't exposed to as often,"

Sara Peeples, OPAS public relations chair and a jur accounting major, said The Don Cossacks of Rosv have been performing for four centuries now. "This was established to help preserve Russian folk-

ore," she said.

Craig Stansfield, president of the Russian Club and *senior international studies major, said he saw a per-mance by a different troupe of Cossacks this past mmer during a visit to St. Petersburg, Russia.* Most of these performances are folk dances,"

sfield said. "They were performed primarily when vents such as going off to war or courting rituals place].

he Don is a river in what is now the Ukraine where of the Cossacks originated.

Rostov is a city on the Don," Cooke said. "There lifferent places where Cossacks are located. This cular group are from southern Russia.

ne troupe's dances and songs illustrate the life of Russian people who lived on the plains along the River.

ooke said she assumes the men and women of the sacks will be attired in traditional folk-dance dress.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DON COSSACKS OF RUSSIA

Cooke said the Cossacks' performances are not only artistic performances but also are rich in history. She said the closest comparison to the Cossacks she knew of for a lay person to understand was a film known as Taras Bulba.

[The film] is the Hollywood version," she said. 'It [the film] depicts an epic struggle of life — of warring, romantic intrigues and patriotism to Mother Russia.

"Even though they [Cossacks] are very independent, they are at the same time fiercely patriotic." Cooke said the Cossacks changing alliances

forged a colorful history. The famous Cossacks incorporate historical

songs," she said. "They have a real rich folklore. They have had different allegiances over time. They are an independent group of warriors. Cooke said many songs the Cossacks sing are

based on seasonal cycles. Anatoili Kvasov, who heads the ensemble, said in a press release that the ensemble tries to incorporate modern-day Russian life as well as history in its 21-

piece program. "The ensemble strives to present the Don Cossack folk songs it performs not only as beautiful relics of the past but also as the living art of the present,' Kvasov said.

According to the press release, one of the features of this program is a small song cycle unified by common subject matter.

The troupe's orchestra consists of a flute, four accordions, three trumpets, percussion instruments, balaikas [a triangle-shape, three-stringed Russian folk instrument] and a double bass.

It is tradition for the folk songs to be sung without accompaniment.

Tomorrow's program will commence with a piece titled My Little Meadows, a female lyric love song about a girl who meets her love only to lose him in a war on foreign soil. The song is performed by a female singer a capella.

Another piece, illustrating the seasonal cycles, is Winter Frolic. This song depicts winter along the Don River, a festive time period featuring snowball fights, competitions and games.

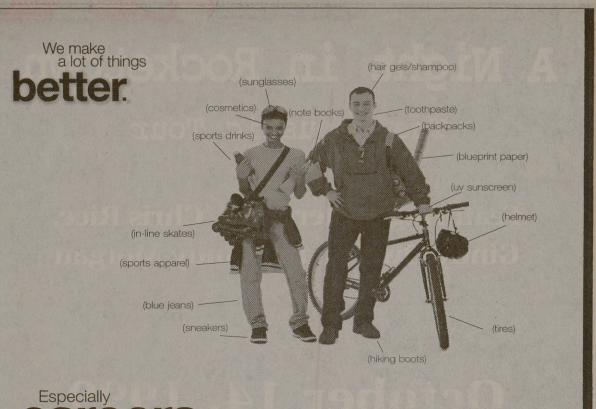
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It is customary for the men to wear big, puffy panons with a white shirt, which has a very decoracollar in some dances," she said. "They are usualso in boots and have a sash around the waist. s is not only [the costume] in Cossacks dancing but a lot of traditional [Russian] folk dancing.

The Don Cossacks are most known for singing at ily gatherings on weekdays after chores were done. hole village would gather to sing when a major ent occurred.

ubin and wife

xpecting child

eir first child next spring.

said yesterday.

WASHINGTON (AP) - State De-

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bin and his wife, TV reporter

ristiane Amanpour, are expecting

"Like hundreds of millions of

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ping to have a healthy child," Ru-

One of the military pieces is Razin's Revolt, about the Cossack hero Stephan Razin, who led the Cossaks in a historic rebellion against their oppressors in the 17th century.

Tomorrow's performance will conclude with Mother Evening, a piece of vocal and choreographic composition about a Cossack and his love gathering apples in a garden.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Rubin lives in Washington while working for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Amanpour lives in London while serving as CNN's chief international correspondent and a contributor to CBS's "60 Minutes."

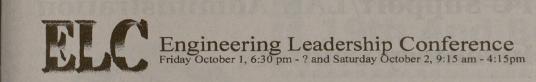
Gehry to design new skyscraper

NEW YORK (AP) — Architect Frank O. Gehry, who designed the ultramodern Guggenheim museum in Bilbao. Spain, has been hired again by Guggenheim.

This time he will be designing a dramatic new building in New York City.

Gehry has designed a building that rises about 45 stories out of a cloud-like shape, The New York Times reported yesterday.

The structure would be on a platform above piers, along the East River near Wall Street.



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