



CREECA News

September 2000

University of Wisconsin

Vol. 9 No. 1

From the Director

Welcome back! I am pleased to be able to share good news on many fronts regarding our Center. Perhaps most important is that we have received renewed life in the form of continued funding. In the late spring we learned that CREECA had been successful in the competition for Title VI resources, and has been refunded as a National Resource Center. The grant will finance most of CREECA's activities for the next three academic years. Thanks are due to the faculty members who assisted us in preparing the grant proposal, especially **Ben Rifkin** (Slavic), **Alex Rolich** (Memorial Library), and **Uli Schamiloglu** (Languages and Cultures of Asia). We owe a deep debt of gratitude to **Rita Krueger**, who took the lead in writing the proposal and who coordinated the activities of the CREECA staff, who spent countless hours collating key information and formatting it to meet the requirements of the Department of Education.

The fall semester brings new faces to the CREECA office. Our Associate Director, Rita Krueger, will be taking a much-deserved two-year leave of absence in order to focus on her own research. She will be spending the next two years as a post-doctoral fellow at the European Union Institute in Florence. During the interim, we are fortunate to have **Steven Duke** as our Associate Director. Steven is a specialist on Baltic history. He received his Ph.D. from Indiana University and most recently has been teaching at Brigham Young University. He will be teaching in the History Department, in addition to his CREECA duties. The other staff members in the CREECA office are familiar faces, and their experience will undoubtedly be invaluable to Steven. **Erica Tucker** will continue as outreach coordinator; **Pete Rottier** will return as webmaster; **Joshua Kysiak** will continue as newsletter editor and coordinator of outside speakers; and **Bob Duessler** will continue as financial administrator.

We are also delighted to draw your attention to several new faculty members. **Jason Wittenberg** is joining the Political Science Department, where he will be teaching courses on East European Politics. **Francine Hirsch** is joining the History Department. She will be teaching courses on Soviet Politics. **Margaret Beissinger** is taking up a joint appointment in the Slavic Department and the Folklore Program, after a year away from Madison focused on her research at Harvard University. I trust that you will join me in welcoming these old and new friends to the CREECA community.

During the spring semester we received final approval from the UW Regents to offer a master's degree. We will be admitting our first group of graduate students in the fall semester of 2001.

I encourage you to take a look at our new-and-improved web site (<http://www.wisc.edu/creeca>). Pete Rottier has been working over the summer to redesign it in an effort to facilitate its use by students, faculty, and K-12 teachers. Suggestions on how the website might be further improved would be most

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New CREECA Faculty

CREECA is happy to welcome two new faculty members to the University of Wisconsin. **Jason Wittenberg** has joined the Political Science Department and **Francine Hirsch** has become a member of the History Department.

Dr. Wittenberg completed his Ph.D. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1999. His dissertation, *Did Communism Matter? Explaining Political Continuity and Discontinuity* addressed whether communism had an impact on the political attitudes and behaviors of Hungarian people. He has spent the past year at Harvard University undertaking a study on political continuity in Spain and the former East Germany.

Dr. Hirsch earned her Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1998 and has been teaching at Binghamton University-SUNY. Her dissertation *Empire on Nations: Colonial Technologies and the Making of the Soviet Union, 1917-1939* examined the national element in the making of the Soviet Union. Dr. Hirsch's interests also include French, German and Central European history.

CREECA is pleased to welcome these gifted scholars to the University of Wisconsin.

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Fall Calendar

September

CREECA Party

September 22, Friday
6:00-8:00 p.m.
220 Ingraham Hall
Come celebrate the beginning of the semester!!!

Lecture

September 22, Friday
4:00 p.m.
Pyle Center
"The Literary-Historical
Consequences of the Russian Non-
Renaissance in a Comparative
Context"
Michael Shapiro
Professor of Slavic and Semiotic
Studies
Brown University

CREECA Grad. Group Meeting

September 27, Wednesday
12:00, noon
336 Ingraham Hall
Meeting of interdisciplinary graduate
students interested in REECA regions.
Refreshments served!

CREECA Faculty Meeting

September 27, Wednesday
12:00, noon
422 North Hall, The Ogg Room
All CREECA faculty members are
invited to attend.

Lecture

September 25, Monday
12:00, noon
422 North Hall, The Ogg Room
"Why Force Could Not Have Saved
the USSR: Rethinking the
Mobilization/Coercion Relationship."
Mark Beissinger
Professor of Political Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Workshop on Central Asian Studies

September 28-October 1
Lowell Hall
Fifth Annual Workshop on Central
Asian Studies
University of Wisconsin

Lecture

September 29, Friday
4:00 p.m.
Memorial Union
"The Nart Sagas of the Caucasus: An
Ancient Eurasian Epic Tradition"
John Colarusso
Professor of Linguistics and
Anthropology
McMaster University

Lecture

September 30, Saturday
9:00 a.m.
Lowell Hall
"Music and the Reimagination of
Tradition in Central Asia."
Theodore Levin
Professor of Music
Dartmouth University

Lecture

September 30, Saturday
2:00 p.m.
Lowell Hall
"From Confucian Maktap to Chinese
Jadid: Conjunctions and Agendas in
the Advent of New Education in
19th-20th c. Xinjiang."
James Millward
Professor of History
Georgetown University

October

Lecture

October 25, Wednesday
12:00, noon
336 Ingraham Hall
"The City, Contested Identity, and
Democratic Transitions"
Blair Ruble
Director, Kennan Institute for
Advanced Russian Studies,
Woodrow Wilson Center,
Washington, D.C.

*For the latest schedule and
information for CREECA
events, visit our on-line
calendar at:
<http://www.wisc.edu/creeca>*

Lecture

October 27, Friday
12:00, noon
336 Ingraham Hall
"Feminist Discourse East-West"
Ewa Hauser
Director, Center for Polish and
Central European Studies,
Professor of Political Science
University of Rochester

November

Lecture

November 13, Monday
12:00, noon
7200 Law Building, Lubar Commons
"Political Economy and Legal
Institutions: Evidence from Russia's
Regions"
Tim Frye
Professor of Political Science
Ohio State University

Lecture

November 17, Friday
12:00, noon
206 Ingraham
"Russia's Real Economy: Building
Apartments in a World of Barter."
Michael Burawoy
Professor of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley

Lecture

November 30, Thursday
4:00 p.m.
6191 Helen C. White
"Literature and Discovery."
Brian Boyd
Author of the 2-volume biography of
Nabokov

December

December 1, Friday
12:00, noon
336 Ingraham Hall
"Postsocialist Portfolios: Network
Strategies in the Shadow of the State"
David Stark
Chair, and Arnold A. Saltzman
Professor of Sociology and
International Affairs
Columbia University

Conferences

AATSEEL

The Wisconsin chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages will hold its annual conference on September 22-23, 2000, in Madison. On September 22, 4:00 p.m. (location TBA), Michael Shapiro, Professor of Slavic and Semiotic Studies, Brown University, will give a keynote lecture entitled:

“The Literary-Historical Consequences of the Russian Non-Renaissance in a Comparative Context”

The conference will resume on September 23, at 9:15 a.m., in the Pyle Center. Speakers from Northwestern University, St. Ambrose University, and UW-Madison will present papers on Croatian, Polish, and Russian literatures and on issues in the learning and teaching of Slavic languages.

The conference is open to the public. No registration is necessary. For further information, please contact David Danaher or Halina Filipowicz, 262-3498, dsdanaher@facstaff.wisc.edu, hfilipow@facstaff.wisc.edu.

CREECA Grad Group Meeting

Noon, Wednesday, September 27th

336 Ingraham Hall

The CREECA Grad Group is a student group sponsored by CREECA to help bring together students of various disciplines. The goal of the group is for individuals to become acquainted with other students interested in the region and plan events aimed toward developing professional skills. Don't miss the first meeting of the year!

Refreshments will be served!!

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appreciated. Pete is also working to make our library of lectures available via the web. We routinely tape the lectures given by CREECA-sponsored lecturers. These audio tapes are part of our resource library and can be borrowed. By making them available on our website, these lectures will be more easily accessible to the broader CREECA community. Funding for these web-related projects has been provided by the International Institute as part of its technology initiative.

As always, the fall semester promises to be busy. We are looking forward to an active schedule of outside speakers, as well as the annual AATSEEL conference and the Central Asian Workshop. Details on the times and places of these events are provided in our calendar. Updates will be provided periodically by email.

*Kathryn Hendley, Law & Political Science
Director*

Central Asian Workshop



FIFTH ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES & FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES SOCIETY

September 28-October 1, 2000

The Lowell Center

University of Wisconsin-Madison

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

The Central Asian Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (in conjunction with the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia) is pleased to announce the convening of the fifth annual “Workshop on Central Asian Studies” September 28 through October 1, 2000.

The featured speakers are: John Colarusso of McMaster University who will give a lecture entitled “The Nart Sagas of the Caucasus: An Ancient Eurasian Epic Tradition,” Theodore Levin of Dartmouth University whose lecture is entitled “Music and the Reimagination of Tradition in Central Asia” and James Millward who will give a lecture on “From Confucian Maktap to Chinese Jadid: Conjunctions and Agendas in the Advent of New Education in 19th-20th c. Xinjiang.”

The goal of this annual workshop has been to offer an opportunity for scholars, institutions, and organizations interested in the Central Asian field to meet annually to discuss strategies pertaining to research, teaching, and the coordination of efforts in the Central Asian field. One result of this series of annual meetings was an effort during the fourth annual workshop in 1999 to establish a new scholarly society known as the Central Eurasian Studies Society which will hold its first annual meeting during the workshop.

The Central Eurasian Studies Society promotes the study of the history, languages, cultures, and modern states and societies of the Turkic, Mongolian, Iranian, Caucasian, Tibetan and other peoples of the Black Sea region, the Crimea, the Caucasus, the Middle Volga region, Central and Inner Asia and Siberia. The fifth annual Workshop on Central Asian Studies will serve to help launch this new society, and we encourage proposals for papers and panels concerning all of these areas.

Transliteration Workshop

A Transliteration Workshop for anyone who needs to search the library catalog (MadCat) for materials in Cyrillic alphabet languages will be held on Thursday, October 5 from 11-noon and will be repeated on Friday, October 13, from 1-2pm, at Memorial Library Room 362.

New Aquisitions

The following videos have been added to CREECA's Lending Library collection and are now available to be checked out at the CREECA office or through CREECA Web.

Ashkenaz: The Music of the Jews from Eastern Europe

Directed by Asher Tlalim. 1994. 28 min. Color. English. Documentary. A nostalgic look at the music of Eastern European Jewry, this film presents Yiddish folksongs, the liturgical music of the synagogue, Klezmer melodies, as well as Yiddish theater tunes. The video also features vintage archival footage of Jewish life in Eastern Europe as it existed prior to World War II, providing an understanding of the environment from which the music grew.

Black Cat, White Cat

Directed by Emir Kusturica. 1999. 129 min. Color. Romani and Serbo-Croatian with English subtitles. Comedy. When Matko botches a train robbery and is double-crossed into debt, he is obliged to force his son into an arranged marriage. In the ensuing chaos family and friends must cope with betrayals, lust, mishaps, death, and ultimately the pursuit of true love and enduring friendship.

Harvest of Despair: The Unknown Holocaust

1984. 55 min. English. Documentary. This film documents the Ukrainian "terror famine" of 1932-33, which caused the deaths of seven million people. Interviews with survivors and scholars supplement rare photographic evidence, illustrating how the Soviet Government under Stalin deliberately created the famine as a means of destroying the Ukrainian peasantry.

Ivan the Terrible, Part I & II

Directed by Sergei Eisenstein. 1944-46. 184 min. Russian with English subtitles. One of the great achievements of Russian cinema and ranked by many critics, film-makers, and historians as one of the 10 greatest films of all times, Eisenstein's two-part epic chronicles the turbulent life and times of Russia's first great Tsar. In Part I, Ivan Grozny is proclaimed Czar of all Russia, defeats the Mongols, and struggles with the Boyars to consolidate his rule. Part II is drama of the highest order. As Ivan's suspicions of those around him grow to near paranoid intensity he launches a reign of terror against his enemies.

Oblomov

Directed by Nikita Mikhalkov. 1980. 145 min. Russian with English subtitles. A beautiful adaptation of Ivan Goncharov's novel of the same name, this film won numerous awards at international film festivals. Oblomov owns 350 serfs that he has never met, and spends the majority of his time lying in bed in his St. Petersburg apartment, pondering one vital question: Should he get up?

CREECA Lectures Now Available on the Web

During the summer CREECA applied for and received an IDEAL (Interactive and Dynamic Educational Activities for Learning) Grant from the International Institute to develop an Internet platform from which CREECA sponsored lectures can be delivered on demand for anyone not able to attend the lecture. Throughout August CREECA has developed a streaming media component to CREECA Web (<http://www.wisc.edu/creeca>) that will make these lectures available over the internet. Those interested in listening to the lectures will need an internet connection, a web browser and Real Player, which can be downloaded for free from the Real Media website <http://www.real.com> (instructions for downloading are available on CREECA Web). This means that now you never have to miss a CREECA sponsored lecture. The lectures will be available within one week of their scheduled time. Once on the web, you can listen to the lectures at anytime. In addition to new lectures, CREECA will be working throughout the year to prepare lectures that have been recorded over the past two years. These will be on the web as well. Check back later in the semester to listen to past lectures. For more information on the web lectures project, contact Pete Rottier at prottier@students.wisc.edu.

Faculty News

In July **Uli Schamiloglu** (Languages and Cultures of Asia) visited Kazan, Tatarstan upon the invitation of the Institute of History of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences. Prof. Schamiloglu then traveled to Oral (Uralsk), Kazakhstan to lecture on "Ethnic and National Traditions of Inner Asia and Their Relevance for Contemporary Life" at the "Summer University on the Historic-Cultural heritage of the Central Asian Region" hosted by the Western Kazakhstan Institute of Management and Languages "Eurasia" (July 24-29, 2000). The summer university was sponsored by the Soros Foundation.

Professor **David McDonald** of the History Department and Professor **Uli Schamiloglu** of Languages and Cultures of Asia have recently been promoted to the rank of Professor. Congratulations!

M.A. Degree Program for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies

CREECA will begin accepting applications for its new M.A. Degree Program in Fall 2000 for the 2001-2002 academic year. The M.A. Degree Program for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies will provide interdisciplinary area studies training for students interested in pursuing professional careers in business, government, journalism, and law and for students planning further graduate study in an established academic discipline. The curriculum is designed to promote a broad understanding of the cultural, political, economic, social, and historical factors that have shaped the development of societies in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Students will also achieve mastery in Russian, East European, or Central Asian languages at a level necessary for doing advanced research on and/or professional work in the region. The program is designed to imbue knowledge of methodological and analytical approaches of different disciplines that will contribute to a better understanding of the region as well as provide knowledge of the methodological approaches in the student's chosen discipline to prepare the students for advanced research. For more information on the M.A. program and application information see our website; <http://www.wisc.edu/creeca>.

Sergei Khrushchev to Visit Carthage College

As a part of the visiting lecturer's program sponsored by S.C. Johnson Family Foundation, Carthage College in Kenosha will be hosting Dr. Sergei Khrushchev of Brown University who will speak on campus and mingle with students and faculty during his stay September 18-20. Sergei Khrushchev will speak on the Cold War on Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Siebert Chapel on the Carthage College campus.

Dr. Khrushchev is uniquely positioned to place the Cold War in context, discuss current developments in Russia, and provide insight into the future. The son of Nikita Khrushchev, he worked very closely with his father on memoirs of those dangerous years. Since 1991, he has been at Brown University and recently became an American citizen.

Anyone interested in attending the lecture or taking part in the events surrounding Dr. Khrushchev's visit are invited to do so. For more information please contact Yuri Maltsev of Carthage College at (262)551-5880 or maltse1@carthage.edu.



Russian Folk Orchestra

The Russian Folk Orchestra currently has openings for balalaika and domra players. Instruments and instruction are provided free of charge. No experience necessary, but ability to read music and knowledge of another string instrument is always helpful. Weekly rehearsals will begin in late September under the direction of Victor Gorodinsky. Interested parties should contact Erica Tucker at 262-3379 or at creeca3@intl-institute.wisc.edu.



Website gets New Look

Over the summer CREECA Web received a face-lift and a new address, <http://www.wisc.edu/creeca>. The new look is an attempt to make CREECA's website easier to navigate, making it more useful for students, faculty and interested community members. While the appearance of the site is similar to the original website, drop down menus have been added to help users find what they are looking for more easily.

In addition to the improvements in navigation, the new site offers an expanded links section. During the summer CREECA undertook the task of compiling one of the most extensive directories of websites on each of the countries in the region. The result is a far-reaching array of well-categorized websites. The Russian section alone lists over 900 websites. The links project is still in progress and will be completed during the fall semester. This expanded section of CREECA Web is an excellent resource for anyone interested in these regions or those conducting research.

CREECA encourages you to take another look at our website. We welcome comments and feedback to improve the site and make it even better. Please direct your comments to Pete Rottier at prottier@students.wisc.edu.

Fall 2000 CREECA Courses

Anthropology

- 330 Peoples and Cultures of Central and East Europe
- 690 Ethnicity, Nations and Nationalism

Central Asian Studies

- 540 The Golden Horde and the Rise of the Central Asian Nations

Economics

- 467 International Comparisons: Industrial Firms and Industrial Organizations

Folklore

- 460 Folk Epics

Geography

- 353 Russia and the NIS: Topical Analysis
- 918 Seminar in Political Geography: Geography of Nationalism

History

- 106 Invasions and Empires: Central Asia from Genghis Khan to Stalin
- 200 Historical Studies: The Gorbachev Years
- 417 History of Russia Before 1800
- 419 History of Soviet Russia
- 849 Seminar: History of the Russian Empire and Modern History of Southeast Europe

Jewish Studies

- 625 The Holocaust: Facts, Trials, Verdicts, Post Verdicts

Law

- 919 The Holocaust: Facts, Trials, Verdicts, Post Verdicts

Literature in Translation

- 201 & 203 Survey of 19th and 20th Century Russian Literature in Translation I
- 205 Women in Russian Literature in Translation
- 224 Tolstoy in Translation
- 233 Russian Life and Culture Through Literature and Art
- 269 Yiddish Literature in Translation in Eastern Europe

Political Science

- 633 Russian Politics
- 659 Politics and Society: Contemporary Eastern Europe

Slavic

- 405 Women in Russian Literature
- 424 Tolstoy
- 471 Polish Literature in Translation Middle Ages to 1863
- 702 18th Century Russian Literature
- 755 Russian Literature Since 1945
- 818 Methods of Teaching Slavic Languages
- 820 College Teaching of Russian
- 920 Seminar Pre-Soviet 20th Century Russian Literature

Sociology

- 929 Seminar in Class Analysis and Historical Change

Urban and Regional Planning

- 590 International Development Planning and Theory

New Course

SLAVIC 755: TOPICS IN GENDER THEORY AND CRITICISM: GENDERS, SEXES, SEXUALITIES

Professor: Halina Filipowicz
hfilipow@facstaff.wisc.edu

Time: W, 4:00 - 6:15

Room: 286 Van Hise

This course is open to interested graduate students in ALL departments. It proposes to serve as a forum for provoking, exploring, and testing fresh insights into the methods of gender studies. Knowledge of a Slavic language is not required.

Thanks to feminist criticism, everyone now knows that gender is a fluid category. Still, we all know that there are TWO sexes, right? Well, not necessarily. In the early modern period, Galen's followers saw only ONE sex where we see two because they believed that women's sexual organs are the inverse of men's. And in the elaborate typology devised by sexologist Karl Heinrich Ulrichs in the 1860s and 1870s, there were SEVEN sexes.

Where does all this leave a literary scholar? To begin with, how do cultures negotiate back and forth between chromosomal sex and social gender? And how can gender studies expand its horizons even further by paying closer attention to Slavic cultures? Do ideas in Slavic cultures about gender, sex, and sexuality support or subvert discursive frameworks developed in the West? At the moment, the methods of gender studies are in an exciting and chaotic state. This class will step into this chaos and will try to make (at least some) sense of it.

Students will apply the discourse of theory to their own fields of study and/or to literary texts of their choice. Course requirements include class presentations and a paper.

Language Tables

Practice your Russian, Polish or Czech right here on campus. Language tables are held weekly. If you are interested in participating in the language tables please contact the following individuals:

Czech Table: David Danaher
DSDANAHER@FACSTAFF.WISC.EDU

Russian Table: Erica Tucker
creeca3@intl-institute.wisc.edu

Polish Table: Katarzyna Modzelewska
kmodzelewska@students.wisc.edu

Voices from Abroad

Americans in Prague

By Joshua Kysiak

Joshua Kysiak is a graduate student in the History Department who was awarded a FLAS fellowship to study the Czech Language at Charles University in Prague.

This summer three UW students and one UW professor participated in the Summer school for Slavic Studies at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. **Michael Abelson** (graduate student, Educational Policy Studies), **Joshua Kysiak** (Graduate Student, History), **John Venham** (Chemistry) and **David Danaher** (Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature) comprised almost half of the American contingent attending the annual four week summer school for Czech language instruction.

The Myth of Prague Americana

Over the last ten years, Prague has incrementally grown in the imagination of Americans as a city of splendor and mystery, a place containing seemingly everything that an American city lacks: history, narrow streets, old buildings and good beer. The presence of anywhere from 20,000 to 50,000 (the exact figure is hotly debated) Americans in the city is now as much a documented fact as it is a cliché. As any tour book of Prague will tell you, the American presence in Prague is considerable, marked by huge numbers of “Expat” bars, restaurants, and book stores. Indeed, even “American” style health clinics and laundromats have sprung up around the city to cater to the “special” needs of the American tourist or trust-funder. One can browse the pages of the English-language weekly, *The Prague Post*, and know exactly what is taking place in Prague and the Czech Republic without ever having to pick up a Czech-English dictionary.

To be sure, the cosmopolitan flavor of Prague is increasingly leaning toward the Anglophone side. Storefronts and advertisements in the city center are often in English, and it is not difficult to discern from the billboards on Wenceslas Square where all the investments are coming from. Prague is no longer the out-of-the-way destination for adventurous travelers or investors, rather, it now takes its place among the most heavily visited cities in the world. When walking across Charles’ Bridge, perhaps the most famous tourist destination in Prague, one is as likely to hear the rapid delivery of Spanish or Italian, or the slow drawl of American English, as one does the crisp, consonant-rich sounds of the Czech language.

The effects of American and Western influences, however, are not only reflected on billboards and on the streets, but also in everyday interactions and experiences with the Czechs themselves. The latter have expressed their uncertain feelings about their American visitors in a variety of ways. For example, a current debate in Prague this summer was whether it was possible or desirable to

eliminate the systematic overcharging of foreigners for museum fares and restaurant prices. A visit to the synagogues in the Old Jewish Quarter in Prague, for instance, will cost a foreigner up to eight times as much than for a normal Czech, while Prague’s taxi industry probably suffers from the worst reputation in Europe.

Americans are Not the Only Ones

Yet it is remarkable to witness the dilution of the American presence in Prague when one enters the realm of the classroom. This summer, for example, Charles University boasted of 190 participants from 36 different countries, of which not more than fifteen hailed from the USA. True, with some quick mathematical calculations, it can be seen that the number of American students outweighed those from many other nations. Still, when one takes into account Prague’s place as an American home away from home, fifteen students seems pitifully small.

On a personal level, of course, this was no great loss, for when will I have the chance again to sit down with a Korean, Hungarian, and Russian and speak Czech — our only common language? Perhaps this was the greatest asset of the Charles University program this summer: the opportunity to meet students from other countries interested in Czech studies and, further, to learn about each other through no other medium than the Czech language.

Protectorate of the USA

At the top of Petøin hill, which is covered with orchards and ornate gardens, stands a monument honoring those killed during the Nazi “Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia” (1939-1945). Painted underneath the commemorating plaque is a fresh inscription: “Protectorate of the USA.” It is probable that most Czechs do not harbor such dramatic feelings about the symbols of Western culture that in the year 2000 are already commonplace. Yet, one would have to be blind not to notice the wide-range of anti-NATO and anti-American graffiti scribbled upon the walls of buildings and in the train stations.

The fact that Americans in particular are singled out for this type of attention should give us cause for reflection. It certainly would be easier if I could pretend that I am just another student from, say, Bulgaria or Mexico, but this is not possible in Prague. All Americans — whether we find it pleasing or not — are loaded concepts abroad, symbols of real or imaginary values, projected or inherited, and, most of all, inescapable.

The ugly truth about American expats in Prague seems to be that many fail to actually participate in the realm of Czech society at all. For most Americans in Prague, only fickle attempts at learning the language are attempted. It is now possible, for example, to avoid all contact with the Czech language in Prague if one tries hard enough to do so. After all, KFC and McDonalds are right down the street.

Surfer's Corner

Nuclear Issues in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan - Nuclear Profile:

<http://insp.pnl.gov:2080/?profiles/kazakhstan/>

Kazakhstan Nuclear Technology Safety Center:

<http://www.ntsc.kz/>

Nuclear Reactor Map - Kazakhstan:

<http://www.insc.anl.gov/maps/kazakhst.html>

Semipalatinsk Relief and Rehabilitation Programme:

www.semipalatinsk.org

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the UN on Semipalatinsk

http://www.undp.org/missions/kazakhstan/sa_11168.htm

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Please Recycle

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