Journalist 2008

University of Washington - Tacoma Campus

Moscow State University

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Журналист

Joint project of the DPT of Journalism,
Moscow State University
and University of Washington, Tacoma
Black, White and Shades of Gray

by Artem Galustyan & Rachel E. DeForrest

No matter what country we may be from, making choices is part of our daily lives. Sometimes those choices are easy, but often they are not.

The theme of this magazine is "Choice." Choices surround us, and too often, the choices we make are done without thoughtful contemplation or deliberation.

As a part of a joint collaboration between Moscow State University and the University of Washington Tacoma, the Journalist staff decided to use the theme of choice to represent the array and magnitude of choices facing us personally, nationally, and globally. Through the combined efforts of the Russian and U.S. staff members, the magazine grew from that kernel of an idea into the tangible outcome that you now hold in your hands.

The Journalist’s lead article raises questions concerning if, when, and/or how much choice we really have in presidential elections. Other politically-related articles discuss the complexities of becoming an independent nation and who should own the rights to the Northwest Passage. This issue also offers a lighter side with stories focusing on such topics as love, fashion, and fame, as well as numerous other articles covering subjects including higher education, war photographers, and toxic beauty products.

No matter the topic, each article approaches it in relation to choice. Sometimes those choices may seem like choices between good and evil, or between black and white, but most often they are gray.

The articles in this magazine were also choices. The writers of each story chose the topic and approach, so not only does this magazine represent choices in life, but it also represents the choices of the Journalist staff members, each bringing with them their own cultural and national perspectives and styles.

We invite you to read the efforts of the students from both universities, but remember…the choice is yours.

Students Speak Out

As part of our Livejournal page (http://community.livejournal.com/journ), we posed the question: Can there be choice in politics? Here are a few of the MSU student responses.

Kamila Yunusbabaeva, 22—user Sunkama
On the one hand, the U.S. election system looks very complicated...
On the other hand, it's like sieve; it's a long way but at the end you've got the right candidate...

Sergey Nacharov, 21—user Kv_a_nt
If Hillary wins, you may face the situation with political dynasties etc. If McCain wins, you'll get a continuation of the war in Iraq and more complicated relations with Russia. Whoever is elected, it’s YOUR CHOICE! Americans really does choose. There was no choice; there were no elections in Russia.

Anastasiya Gorshkova, 19—user Tentabelle
We do not live in a democratic country. No choice, no voice. I'm fed up with the role of a thankful spectator. Elections 2008 appeared as a big performance of one actor and his understudy.

Anonymous@livejournal.ru
At the end of February my dad asked me:
— Why don't you vote for Medvedev?
— I know the end of this story...
— Did he do anything bad for you? You study in the best University for free, you got grant for your studies from the government...
— Daad... People don’t understand...
— Ok... let’s ask your granny...
— Grammam!!! Do you like Putin and Medvedev?
— Hm... Everybody say he is good!!
I think he should be... Yes... he is good!

Yasen Zassoursky
The President of the Dept. of Journalism, MSU

People always have a choice. The question is how they use this opportunity to choose. If we talk about an opportunity to make a political choice in Russia and the USA, we should understand that there is a big difference between our countries. America has the biggest amount of citizen’s voices, but didn’t become a president.

In Soviet times elections in our country were a mere formality and didn’t determine anything. The system was based on an old authoritarian concept of a kind ruler who can decide everything. It is difficult to give up this concept for those people who were born with it, spent all their lives with it and got used to it. First of all we should get rid of old prejudices and stereotypes. Such a fight usually takes a long time.

Journalist
Joint project of the MSU department of Journalism, Moscow and University of Washington Tacoma.

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N eptune, step aside. Though long ago the oceans' parameters were parceled and divided among nation's shorelines, as of last year, new territory became available for the first time: the Northwest Passage.

The Northwest Passage, a route connecting the Pacific and Arctic oceans, has been the stuff of legends since the 18th century. Last summer, thanks to global warming, it finally became a reality and since its appearance, countries bordering the new waterway have been stepping up to claim it as their own. Several governments anticipate the frozen expanse to be transformed into exploitable resources: newly accessible shipping lanes above, migrating fish within, and potential geo-petroleum resources below. Staking a claim to any of these resources could mean a lot to any of the bordering countries. But who has a right to them?

Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway, all are each maneuvering to get a piece of the pie. Canada is taking dramatic steps trying to secure shipping lane rights with plans to construct a coastal military base and add heightened patrols to maintain control over the area. The incredible attention to the surface may be designed to better control what lays below—the sea floor.

Fluctuating oil reserves and peak oil projections have key countries jockeying to claim potential new oil and natural gas reserves under the sea floor. Russia claims the North Pole to be an extension of the Siberia shelf; Canada counters that it connects Russian to Canadian shores; and Denmark asserts it to be an extension of Greenland. Meanwhile, the U.S. has been busy mapping the seafloor off Alaska to try and attain United Nation approval to extend the nautical boundary for the submerged plateau of the Chukchi Cap.

Another group is eyeing the Arctic seafloor, but ownership is not on their agenda. Since the thaw allowed exploration of the region, scientists have conducted several expeditions. Some scientists believe the colder water could help them project global warming by monitoring its effects on marine life. Others are taking advantage of new access to this unknown region to identify species (see below) not found in warmer waters. All agree that this pristine area's days will be numbered once ownership is settled and commercial interests move in.

The Northwest Passage: once an unobtainable goal by the maritime community is now a reality, both bringing countries closer together through its watercourse and farther apart with its treasures below.

Stakes are High for Arctic Seafloor

by Meagan Ross

Students at UWT and MSU were asked: Who do you think should control the Arctic's seafloor and shipping lanes? The answers below offer a sampling of the disparity of views on this highly political issue.

Vesper (UWT): No one should have command and control over that region.
Darin (UWT): Good Lord! Must someone OWN everything?
Erin (UWT): The U.N.
Jenya (MSU): This area should be shared between all the bordering countries.
Veronica (MSU): The Northwest Passage can be controlled by the whole world.
Amina (MSU): If the countries don't come to an accommodation, there can be an international conflict. The Arctic seafloor should be shared equally.

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Balkan Crossroads

Kosovars celebrated their freedom with fireworks and drum sessions. However, controversy is still raging over the fate of the world’s 194 state

by Diana Kouatchikska

On the 17th of March, the history of Kosovo reached an important milestone. The Albanian majority made its choice to be free of Serbia. But, the newborn country’s future appears to be uncertain at best—a situation not new to this region.

The number 17 doesn’t seem to bring luck to Kosovo, the former Yugoslavia. Seventeen years ago the bloody and destructive disintegration process started, taking the lives of thousands of victims on both sides, Serbs and Albanians. And, in Spring 2008, this number worked the same way. Will the newborn country manage to keep the fragile peace on the Balkans? This is the question plaguing analysts and politicians all over the world.

The events of March 17, demonstrated that Kosovo is still a minefield. On the one side, Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, was overwhelmed with euphoria. The Kosovars waved flags and chanted slogans of freedom. On the other side, only four hundred kilometers away from there, the Belgrade citizens mourned the separation of the region. The Serbs showed mixed emotions: from total despair to anger. Some of them could not keep silent. They stormed the streets, threw Molotov cocktails and attacked the embassies of the countries that had recognized Kosovo.

This Balkan drama has a long history. By 1999, the national conflict was at its boiling point. NATO forces decided to launch a bombing campaign and to send troops to the territory. The tension was reduced for a while, but the price was high. During the air raids, nearly two thousand civilians were killed and many churches and historical buildings were destroyed. It seemed that faith in peace and prosperity had left this place for ever.

Now that Kosovo has become independent, it's still unclear whether it is powerful enough to act as a sovereign country. Some experts say that from an economic point of view this is a state without prospects. The unemployment rates are extremely high and industry is devastated. The only sphere that is enjoying small economic growth is the service sector.

In Pristina, there are several European-like mall centers that seem to be the symbol of a new and better life. Unfortunately, these shiny buildings have nothing to do with the reality in the country. Other parts of the state are extremely poor. People there can hardly make ends meet.

Experts agree that the only thing that keeps Kosovo’s economy alive is Western financial aid. “This state can be viable as long as the U.S. government and the European Union support it,” claims Sergey Miheev, the Deputy Director of the Center for Political Technologies.

He says that Albanians lost the one-on-one battle with the Serbs years ago and now the newly proclaimed republic has appeared on the map only because of the help of the mighty allies. Miheev thinks that Kosovo will have the chance to rise up from the ashes only if the West continues to be the main source of funding. He points out that this is one of the reasons why the Kosovar government wants the country to join the EU.

Other analysts are not as skeptical about Kosovo's future. They think the newborn country can manage to build its economy based on the mineral wealth of the region. However, it could take decades to develop this into a revenue-making industry.

Another issue that raises concern is the separatism movement that may grow after Kosovo has proclaimed independence. Those countries where small nations fight for freedom fear that this case may lead to a prolonged crisis. Europe, for example, may face a boom of self-declared states. Also, no one can guarantee that the rights of Kosovo’s ethnic minorities will be protected.

"You can create a mononational country on the Balkans only by gunfire", says Anna Filimonova from the Institute of Slavic studies.

The Balkans have always been a region where the mixed ethnic structure prevails. Currently, Kosovo has nearly 5 ethnic groups, which are spread all over its territory. Their fate now seems to be unclear.

Some say that the conflict in Kosovo is a clash of two ideas: Great Albania and Great Serbia. But history has proved that these two ways lead to deadlock. There are always other options, though. It's a matter of which one to choose.

Kosovo Factfile

The history of the ethnic clash between Serbs and Albanians started during the '90s. Now, after nearly a decade, a new country has appeared on the map of Europe.

Albanians are a majority in Kosovo's parliament.

In 1999 Kosovo was occupied and divided under a formal U.N. mandate into 5 sectors.
Chroniclers of the Apocalypse

“Our profession is an act of faith. We know that we can’t change the world, but we are still trying to do it”

by Elena Potapova

That’s how Peter Tarny, a hero of the documentary “Behind the words: photographers of war”, defines his work. Nineteen other world-famous war photographers share his opinion. In March 2008, their views of the profession and their photos became a topic of discussion in Moscow during a “Frontline” discussion.

At the meeting, the audience was asked to reflect on the questions: “Who is a war reporter and what does he do at war?” To illustrate the variety of professional responses, the film makers chose to spotlight 20 war photographers.

“There are a lot of stereotypes. That war photographers always need to dice with death, that they’re all romantics. And, you know, in many respects it’s true”, Tarny said. They don’t want to “work in a dusty office every day”; they want “to live many lives”. Photographer Peter Shovel is sure that “you choose self-destruction by choosing war-journalism as the profession”.

Indeed, the danger of mental disorders for war reporters is great. After all, the war gives them lots of proof that “people are a dying tribe”. Their mission is to find the most compelling evidence of this and show it to the world. Characters of the documentary “Behind the words: photographers of war” act as chroniclers of the apocalypse. Their experiences offer serious examples of the trials on their humanity. For example, photographer Korin Dufla said she didn’t even notice the moment when she stopped sympathizing with those whom she was photographing.

The most dangerous aspect of the profession is psychological. After all, in spite of the noble aims of war photographers, the only way to achieve those aims is to search for the most visually graphic war shots. In the process of documenting the war, photographers must constantly balance their noble aims with the realities of the horrors they must record. Surely, when a reporter is seeing people dying when he is seeing people dying? Someone will hurry to make a bandage and someone will not. After all, they are not doctors; war journalists have their own duty.

The second way to remain both humane and professional is to strongly believe in photography’s ability to influence social change. Undoubtedly, the confidence that “information about war will make people understand all its nonsense” gives credence to this. According to Elena Pronina, psychologist and lecturer of the Department of Journalism at Moscow State University, “If a war journalist serves society’s vital interests, he will be able to go through all the shocks easily and the most terrifying war scenes won’t harm him”.

Nevertheless, are war reporters themselves certain that their photos can change anything? Not everyone and not always. When the characters of the film were asked the question, “What would you like to be, if you had a second life?”, only two of them answered that they would have chosen being war photographers. The others declared that they would have rejected this profession in favor of medicine, politics, art, etc.

Have numerous photos of people dying and suffering caused the audience to stop reacting? If so, then is war reporting really as socially useful as some consider it to be?

The professional war photographers answer “undoubtedly, yes”! Jean-Francoy Leroy of the Sipa Agency supposes that the profession has the right to exist, “if war photos have awoken at least one person”. According to Fass, one example of the power of photography can be seen by examining the case of Indira Gandhi. She took measures to settle the conflict in Bengal after she had seen the photos of an execution, where rebels were playing soccer with decapitated heads.

In this case, one photo did save the world from one war. Such cases make war reporters believe that their work is worth doing. After all, only faith in miracles can keep them going, when almost all of the facts are against them.
Faith or Fanaticism

Religious extremes choose their own way

Christianity is represented by several denominations in Russia, according to the last Census of Population. Currently the most popular religion in the Russian Federation is Eastern Orthodox with approximately 120 million followers. Catholics are the second largest, followed by Lutherans members. Despite all of these options, some people still aren’t satisfied; their religious beliefs spanning from mildly different to wildly alternative.

One of those more interesting groups makes their home in the Penza region of Central Russia. On November 30, Penza natives dug camps underground and decided to live there until May at which time they anticipate the world to end. They refuse to go outside and threaten to blow themselves up if anyone attempts to enter the camp. Many people from their village want to reestablish communications with the sect. This group has drawn national media attention in Russia.

Islamic are not above non-traditional interpretations. The Taricatists of the Caucasus Mountains follow spiritual mentors and every Taricatist group follows its own leader. According to the Russian Centre for Strategic Investigations, the Dagestan territory has approximately 25 Taricatist congregations. Members of the sect take a vow (or taricat) and promise to carry it out during all their life.

The Taricatists are in conflict with another Islamic denomination calling itself Salafizm. This religious branch developed in the Muslim part of Russia during the 1990s. Salafizm suggests returning to the foundations of Islam, going so far as to deny Muhammad—the main prophet of Muslim. Salafists contend that there are no intermediaries between God and the people.

In the United States, there is a high number of religions and religious sects. It is a unique country where Christianity is represented by many denominations. The number of branches from major religions in the U.S. includes about 105,427 churches, according to the latest accessible data of the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches (2004). Most church members are concentrated in a few Christian denominations. Among them are the Catholic Church, Convention of Southern Baptists, The United Methodist (Free) Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons).

The U.S. is also home to many non-traditional religious sects. In addition to traditional versions of Christianity, there exist new interpretations of Judaism and religions separate from any traditional philosophy, gaining in popularity and recognition.

The Pentecostal movement is an example of a Christian sect that partakes in ceremonies of extremely personal connection with God. Although its beliefs are similar to those of the Great Awakening, modern Pentecostal interpretations originated in the 1900s following the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles. Their services often include music, dancing, and members speaking in tongues (acting as conduits for God’s words).

Scientology is a relatively new religion in the U.S., founded by former science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard. In 1949 he released the original book of Scientology—“Dianetics.”

Followers believe that humans are the vessels for alien souls trapped on Earth. According to their texts, Scientologists ascend to the upper levels of the church by confronting traumatic memories (engrams) and achieving a state they call “Clear.”

Kaballah is a sect of Judaism that subscribes to mysticism. Kaballah places importance on an oral history separate from any Jewish texts, but integral to understanding the Torah. Usually it is considered controversial because the oral tradition raises questions about validity. Some of its beliefs include the “10 Sephirots”, or 10 ways of understanding God, a philosophy that has been misunderstood as a belief in 10 gods.

Although we may never know for sure what drives people toward alternative religions, one thing seems definite—as long as people are free to choose, there will always be a multitude of religious options.
Masters of Choice
How to apply to a postgraduate course in Russia and the U.S.

by Irina Filatova, Rachel E. DeForest

Russia and the United States are among the best countries for postgraduate studies. Though the quality of education is superior, the cost also is exceptional as well. Before applying to a postgraduate program in Russia, the United States, or any other country, you should analyze all of the pros and cons—and make a choice.

Foreign students can choose different postgraduate programs at the largest universities in Russia. Application to postgraduate studies has become especially easy during the last five years. In 2003 Russia signed the Bologna Declaration that gave the country the right to take part in the Bologna Process.

The main purposes of the Bologna Process are to create a European educational community, improve education quality, and facilitate mobility of students. Students can take different parts of their postgraduate program in different countries. For example: a German student gets a bachelor's degree at his home university, then he spends the first year of his master's program in Great Britain and the second one in Russia.

The member countries of the Bologna Process must have equal evaluation systems and educational standards. Students must study for four years to get a bachelor's degree and two years to get a master's degree (the four plus two system).

Russia has started introducing this new system of education. Twenty-one Russian universities take part in the Bologna Process. At Moscow State University, however, the system has been introduced in only a few departments. University Rector, Viktor Sadovnichiy, favors the traditional system of education in Russia in which specialists are prepared for five years.

"Four years are sometimes not enough to get a high-class education. It's possible to prepare a reporter within this period, but not an editor-in-chief. That is why I strongly recommend the bachelor students to apply to a postgraduate program" says Dr. Maria Lukina, Deputy Dean for international students in MSU's Department of Journalism.

The Department of Journalism, popular among foreign students, follows the traditional five-year system of education with the option of then applying for the master's program. To apply, students must show proof of an undergraduate degree, take a Russian language exam, and be interviewed.

"It is supposed that a student applying to a master's program in journalism has a certain journalistic experience, though it is not necessary for him to have a Bachelor degree in Journalism", says Lukina. "But, he must have the background knowledge of what he is going to learn at our department".

About 60 foreign students are enrolled in the master's program this year. Dzhu In, 22, from China, is a first-year master student. He wants to stay in Russia and become a TV news reporter.

"My grandmother was a tram driver in Russia in the 1950s. She told me that it is a beautiful country. So, I decided to learn Russian and come here to study", explains Dzhu In. "I like studying here. My favorite classes are literature, history of Russia, and Russian. The only difficulty is that professors speak too fast while reading lectures; Russian is a beautiful language but hard to learn."

The fact is that if you want to become a great publicist or a scientist you should study in Russia. But, if you are dreaming about the fame of writer Sinclair Lewis or vice president Dick Cheney—welcome to the U.S.!

Students in the United States typically must complete a four-year undergraduate degree before entering a master's program. They must also have completed the Graduate Record Examination, a three to four hour exam designed to measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and critical thinking and analytical writing skills, according to the GRE Web site.

While application requirements vary from program to program, the application packet usually includes items such as undergraduate transcripts, a resume, letters of recommendations, and a statement of intent.

Graduate programs cover a spectrum of interest areas, but there are basically two broad categories—professional degrees or an academic degrees. According to Peterson's education Web site, the academic degree focuses on scholarly studies in a specific area and usually leads to a doctoral program, whereas the professional degree prepares you for a certain type of job.

Because each graduate program is unique, it is best to do your research, focusing on your specific interests and needs, which may vary from areas of academic or professional interest to concerns about location, cost, or scheduling.

"I would have to investigate graduate programs and determine what makes for the richest experience", said Darin Cyr, a junior at University of Washington Tacoma. "For example, are there more opportunities for a student to engage in interesting research at a larger university? How big of a role do existing research programs play in a graduate degree? In terms of the academics, taking classes, I think UWT would be just fine. A larger campus might offer exposure to a broader range of ideas, etc."

Another student expressed different criteria.

"I need a graduate program that has a flexible time schedule," said UWT senior Bridget Juvezan, explaining that the graduate program she chooses must be flexible enough to accommodate her work schedule.

UWT has six master's programs that offer degrees in a variety of subject areas, including interdisciplinary studies, nursing, education, business, and social work. Within these broader subject areas, students can further specialize.

UWT offers not only traditional master's degrees, but also boasts an alternative program designed to allow students to focus on a topic, such as journalism, while being immersed in an interdisciplinary environment. This differs from other graduate schools that narrowly focus on one area of study.

"The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies is especially appropriate for students with an interest in public action, public service, and/or public policy," according to the IAS Web site.

Currently, UWT has almost 500 graduate students enrolled.

No matter what country you are in, choosing a graduate school can seem overwhelming, but remember, the choice is yours to make.
Money, Success,
Fame, Glamour

Musical group C.L.U.M.B.A. appeared as a year-long flash on Moscow’s club scene beginning in Spring 2007, offering techno beats and cross-dressing fetishisms inspired by the 2003 film “Party Monster”. Their wild parties are now legendary; their existence a psychedelic homage to the “fabulous” New York club scene of the 1980s. Regardless of gender or sexual orientation, the glitzy insanity C.L.U.M.B.A. brought to its shows was a contagious force, an epidemic Moscow has yet to recover from. Whether the group is the symptom or the virus, they have left the city in the throes of a sexual fever.
Marriage is a Market: We Choose and Pay
The theory of supply, demand and consumption

by Valentina Marenkina

Choice... what a significant role choice plays in our life; we always want to be sure that we have chosen the right way...

I am 22 and single. I have dated different men, but they were never good enough—not handsome enough, or clever enough, or just not “man” enough. My granny always reminds me: “My darling, by your age I was already married. Love is not so important; you will fall in love with your husband after you’re married”.

Valentine’s Day passed, spring has come, but still nothing extraordinary happens in my life and instead I devote myself to studying and working. I still had not found the “right” man for me. One day after class, my professor informed me about The theory of Marriage by Gary Becker.

I went home and immediately began to search for information about him. Who was this famous man, and what insights could he offer to my search for a relationship?

At last I found the information. But, actually I was surprised.

Becker, an American economist, Nobel Prize winner and professor at the University of Chicago, has devoted his life to the study of economics. Through his research, he finds links between economics and other subjects that at first sight may not seem to have connections. For example, he has theorized about economics and family behavior (who is the head, who should work, who gets salary, how many children couples should have, etc.).

The main idea in all his works is that people make all their most important decisions in life based on economics, sometimes even instinctively. According to Becker, the market of ideas, wishes and motives is exactly like the market of products. Both are subject to the laws of demand, supply and competition.

So, what role does love play in this market of marriage? Absolutely none.

According to his theory, marriage is a so-called “market” where everyone can “choose” and “pay”. We can say: “What an outrageous idea!” But Becker espouses this idea about relationships and money—and he is not simply talking about paying for sex.

He explains his theory this way: People marry when the expected total volume of the production of material and other wealth of two people exceeds the wealth that they can produce by themselves. Mutually beneficial relations play the main role. It sounds like an arranged contract marriage, but that’s not the same. In the second variant, at least people know what kind of marriage it is and what profit they will have.

But, before getting married one must choose a partner. And this is where Becker makes his most interesting points. He claims that the search on the marriage market ends when we come to the conclusion that it is wiser to choose this particular person as a partner because it will be “cheaper” than single-life. Nice proof!

Becker goes on to assess what factors are most important in choosing that partner: Most women want to find the most handsome, the bravest, the kindest, and, of course, richest man. The more attributes a man has, the higher his value in the market. For a woman, physical beauty will increase demand for her in the market.

So, we might be able to say that people know their value and will interact in the market choosing those whose value level is at least equal to their own.

How awful. What about love at first sight, when someone chooses a person from the crowd, and they live happily ever after?

Love has been lost in a material world, and some doubt it will ever be found. Gary Becker found an unusual way of explaining relationships between people. Whether you agree or disagree with him, if you really think about it, in some ways he was right: Everything in this world has a price.

But, in other ways I think he was wrong. Though one can calculate relationships in terms of economics, I have faith that many people will continue to choose their futures listening to their hearts and not their pocketbooks. At least for me, I will not think about myself as a product, and I will always follow my feelings.
Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Strains Hit Russia

by Daniel Nash

Tuberculosis, a disease thought to be eradicable in the early 1980s, re-emerged a decade later in Russia to threaten an estimated 166,196 people each year, according to the United States Agency of International Development, a U.S.-based international health assistance organization.

The evolution of the bacterium into multidrug-resistant forms is making treatment even more problematic. Russia ranks 12th among 22 countries considered highly affected by TB, according to the World Health Organization.

The fall of the Soviet Union and the subsequent collapse of the regional healthcare system is credited as proliferating the disease throughout Russia and the former Soviet Republics. Other issues, such as overcrowding in the Russian prison system, are cited as contributing to the mass spread of the disease.

Treatment is complicated by the emergence of MultiDrug-resistant TB in southwest regions of Russia. Drug resistance in TB is believed to be connected to the improper use of antibiotics.

"I think this is the consequence of the '90s, when the entire healthcare system collapsed," said Irina Vassiljeva, the head of the Moscow Institute for Tuberculosis Research. "Patients were left to themselves, the disease developed and there were many patients left who were not cured completely, who continued living in the society and contaminating people around them."

According to the organization, 90 percent of patients held in the Moscow Institute are afflicted with a drug-resistant strain of TB.

A strong stigma exists for Russians infected with TB, sometimes resulting in loss of employment. Though some of the infected may receive a disability pension, a typical monthly stipend is less than $100.

Exacerbating the development of MDR-TB is the spread of HIV and AIDS. Russia has the largest incidence of HIV in Europe, comprising two-thirds of cases in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. HIV lowers the ability of the immune system to defend the body, allowing TB to infect those with an existing resistance to the bacterium and evolve into a treatment resistant strain, according to Dr. Emilia Valadas, a Portuguese researcher who has studied co-infection in regions of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Flu Knows No Borders

by Meagan Ross

Health care professionals spend an incredible amount of time and expense preventing illnesses from entering American borders. All the same, each year when it comes time to create the annual influenza vaccine, they look abroad to determine what viruses to include.

This year, even those in Washington State who took the precautionary influenza vaccine in the fall are coming down with the flu. So, why didn't it work?

"It's sort of an educated guess... usually pretty good but sometimes not correct," said Russell McMullen, Director for Travel Medicine Service at University of Washington Medical Center. "There are potentially hundreds of variations of the influenza virus but the advantage is that if you get the vaccine, and they're correct, it would preclude you from getting sick."

Though health officials are usually accurate, this is one of the "off" years, according to the Washington State Department of Health. This year's vaccine is missing the influenza B, Yamagata strain which makes up nearly 19 percent of the cases reported so far in the Puget Sound area.

Another surprising turn is that alternative remedies, such as over the counter remedies like Airborne, may actually be contributing to the number of individuals contracting influenza.

"I guess I'd say it (the use of over the counter remedies) does affect the number. I think there's a tendency for people to not get vaccinated," McMullen said.

Some options for those who received the vaccine but do not want to run the risk of contracting one of the missing strains can be found in basic hygiene.

"Covering your cough, washing your hands—it is all part of good respiratory etiquette," according to Ruth McDougall of the Washington State Health Department.

McMullen agrees but adds that receiving the annual vaccine is the most important step. "People think of it as helping out themselves, but it is also helping those around you—elderly and young people who you can transmit it to," McMullen said.

Toxic Beauty

by Meagan Ross

Shampoo, conditioner, soap, shaving gel, toothpaste, mouthwash, lotion, lip balm, deodorant: a familiar list that takes on new meaning when you consider that each time you use one of these products you are also exposing your body to potential toxins. The Environmental Working Group hosts the website "Skin Deep (www.cosmeticsdata-base.com)", where you can enter in a product name and, if it's in their database, find out if its ingredients are linked to cancer risks, toxicity, and allergies. Here is how some major products scored:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Hazard score (1-10)</th>
<th>Cancer</th>
<th>Toxicity</th>
<th>Allergies</th>
<th>Immuno-toxicity</th>
<th>Other ingredient concerns</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revlon Super Lustrious Frost Lipstick, softshell pink</td>
<td>10 high hazard</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoverGirl Outlast Moisturizing Top Coat</td>
<td>2 low hazard</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olay Complete Plus Ultra Rich Tinted Moisturizer</td>
<td>9 high hazard</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burt's Bees Evening Primrose Overnight Creme</td>
<td>2 low hazard</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Cole Reaction for Her Eau de Parfum Spray</td>
<td>10 high hazard</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loreal Kids 2 in 1 Shampoo, Extra Gentle Boot of Fruity Apricot</td>
<td>8 high hazard</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Essence Jojoba Oil for Hair, Skin and Scalp</td>
<td>0 low hazard</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Developmental/reproductive toxicity
They Chose the Truth
Three MSU-graduated young ladies quote on their career choice

by Daria Klimenko

One must always make choices in life, from what flavor of yogurt to buy to what city to live in. Everyone must make one major choice: to focus primarily on family or primarily on a career. Russian journalists and political activists interviewed here have chosen the latter, dedicating their lives to truth.

Following the recent presidential election campaign, Natalia Morar', originally from Moldova, was forbidden to cross the Russian border. Police claimed that she was a threat to state security. Others claim, however, that her exile is due to her sharp journalistic critiques concerning corruption in the Kremlin and her position as press secretary for the opposition coalition, “The other Russia”. Here, she discusses how her love of journalism came later in her academic career but is driven by an intense passion.

“I completed a physic-mathematical lyceum. That’s why before entering the MSU I was sure in my future; I would be doing something connected to technical sciences. But two months before preparing for the exams, all of sudden, I read some information about sociological faculty and moved in that direction.

The same with journalism. I came to this sphere by chance a year ago, when I was invited to “The New Times” (January 2007) by the deputy editor Eugenia Albats. I had never thought about being a journalist, but it turned out that I learned, quite by accident, that I could do it.

Why journalism? Well, today Russia is a country with no freedom of press or freedom of speech. I would like my country to be different; I would like to see it differently. So, my choice is a tribute to that Russia where I would prefer to live.

The work in the newspaper was something new for me. I chose the topics that I preferred to write about. During my tenure at “The New Times”, I had no sense of pressure, no impression of dictation. Of course, my senior colleagues helped me, gave me advice, but my article topics were always my choice.

I understood that working in a magazine was a spontaneous, risky choice. But now, like my decision to switch to sociology, I don’t regret it.

Following events in my life, my arrest was good proof of my decision. My arrest signifies that my articles were too “good” for somebody. If there is no reaction, then what’s all of this investigative journalism for? I think I was detained because of the articles about the security services of the Russian Federation. I wrote about money laundering through the Russian banks, and inquiries on the death of Andrey Kozlov, deputy chief of Central Bank. I also wrote articles about people from the President Administration and about illegitimate activities of VZIOM, a Russian public opinion research center. I think these articles were the reason for my arrest. The last article I wrote, “A black cash desk of Kremlin”, was published a day before my detention.

There were no real reasons to detain me, yet it was so easy to find reasons not to let me pass the Russian border.

I’m sorry that I can’t live in Russia with my husband and my friends, but I am sure I will make it back into Russia.

Nataliya Morar’
“The New Times” magazine journalist

Marina Litvinovich
United Civil Front member, an executive mem-

Marina Litvinovich is famous in the sphere of political consulting and in politics itself. Being a strong opposition party activist she severely criticizes the governing party, “The United Russia”. But, at one time Litvinovich was an editor-in-chief in the governing party Internet portal, www.strana.ru. What caused her to change party affiliation and does she really believe in the viability of oppositional forces in Russia?

“If you look through my biography, you can see that I entered politics by chance. I was a third year student at MSU, and already living on my own. I just needed money to pay my bills, so I began to find work. During the election campaign of 1996, there was a vacancy in Pavlovski’s Effective Politics Foundation. At that time, practically nobody had heard of it.

When I came to the foundation, I didn’t think I would stay for very long; I saw it as temporary work during the election campaign. My experiences there drove me to wanting to make change.

However, I was a student of the logic department, so I could only conceptualize in abstract terms. That’s why my first time working at the foundation was rather difficult; I saw what politics was like and I had an internal resistance to it.

After the elections, that internal conflict passed. We began to create an enormous mass media database. I needed to convert a big array of information to find something new. I was carried away by that work, so I decided to stay on.

Then, new Internet projects appeared. The first one was connected to culture, not to politics. It was the first Internet-magazine in Russia called “The Russian Magazine”—www.russ.ru.

So, it turned out that I came to politics myself, consciously. Then, I found myself in political consulting.”

—What caused you to so drastically change your political views?

—Actually, everything I was doing in the fund—research, media monitoring, election campaign maintenance, public relations campaigns—was connected to the governing party. I didn’t change my work for political reasons. I was just looking for something new in my life.

From the other side, there were again some changes inside of me. When Putin came into power in 2000, I had high hopes for him. There were two important reasons for it. First, in comparison with his predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, he was young. The second thing was that he had liberal economist colleagues surrounding him. Of course, I knew
about his security service collaborating, but it didn't cause me any great alarm.

The first serious bell that rang for me was the situation around the submarine "Kursk", when our president didn't show any humanity, didn't react to the human tragedy in an appropriate way. There was no help for those dying people.

In my opinion, a politician can be afforded some political faults, but I consider sympathy and understanding to be principal features of a good politician.

The second serious bell rang during the Nord-Ost theatre Centre hostage situation, in which a lot of people died because of care­less government organization.

My personal transformation was completed in 2004-2005, when I changed my occupation from political consultant to politician and public activist. I began to organize rallies and perform my own investigations into the hostage situations at Nord-Ost and Beslan. At that point, it no longer was about my job, it was about my personal feelings.  

—Do you really believe in the force of opposition against the enormous power of the governing party?

"We are occupied with opposition round-the-clock. We go to bed and wake up with this idea, not because of money, but because it is our internal conviction. Obviously, everyone knows that there is something wrong with this country today. Our actions are our conscience expression. Of course, we hope for the best, for some changes. We realize that these changes may not come for 70 years. But, we continue to hope to achieve something in the near future."

Nadia Popova is a fifth-year student at the MSU Department of Journalism and a reporter for "The Moscow Times". Popova had spent more than three years at the Izvestia Foreign Desk when she decided to move to the Canadian newspaper "Globe and Mail" in the Moscow bureau. While reporting for the "Globe" this February, she was arrested by the FSB (Federal Security Service).

"It was really exciting to travel around the world, interview both presidents and terrorists, but I wanted to have more experience in international media, and I had a desire to write in English.

Five months after I moved to the "Globe", I was offered a business correspondent position at "The Moscow Times", the only quality English-language newspaper in the city. It was a real challenge for me. But it wasn't the first one.

We were looking for an angle to write a pre-election story before the March presidential vote, and decided to go to Dzerzhinsk. We were curious what changes had occurred there during Putin's presidency.

The times have changed, but people still seem to be living in the past. The security service of one of the plants that we were taking a photo of mistook us for industrial spies. The plant security guards took our identification documents. The head plant security assured us that this was just a formality. We relaxed after he said that, but everything became quite clear when the spetsnaz and FSB officers rushed in.  

They led the reporters out of the building and drove them to the local FSB office. I was trying to talk to them in the car, but they repeated that they didn't believe me because I was a spy. When you have three tall strong men with weapons tightly sitting around you, such a phrase sounds especially scary.

The FSB interrogated the photographer and me for 3 hours. They were interested in specific details about our lives. They even asked me why I came to work in Izvestia. After all I discovered that all my files had been erased from my flash-card. I had traveled to my native Baku several days before I went to Dzerzhinsk, and I had lots of photos of the people and places dear to me on that flash card, and the pictures were very precious to me. My photos had nothing to do with our article and they had no right to search my handbag in my absence. That was the first time in my life that I understood that we do live in a police state.

Now, I am more brave and decisive. When someone refuses to give me a comment or an interview, I say: "I am a journalist. I have a right to know. You must talk to me".

Is Big Brother Watching... Your Brain?

How about this shopping trip? You arbitrarily turn into a store, stopping to look at a jacket that interests you. As you pause, a salesperson approaches with the exact pair of shoes you had hoped to find.

No, this is not a scene from Stephen Spielberg's "Minority Report".

According to a new scientific study released in last month's issue of Nature, this may be the future of shopping, or, as Spielberg's movie suggests, perhaps even crime prevention.

Those issues are being raised about the breakthrough study completed by the University of California, Berkeley.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRI, normally used for detection and diagnosis of brain conditions, has been combined with computer decoding techniques to project what a person is visualizing.

"Our results suggest that it may soon be possible to reconstruct a picture of a person's visual experience from measurements of brain activity alone. Imagine a general brain-reading device that could reconstruct a picture of a person's visual experience at any moment in time," said Dr. Jack Gallant, lead scientist of the study.

Gallant also believes that concerns over Big Brother type "pre-crime" control are still firmly rooted in the realm of science fiction due to the bulky size of the equipment required and the visual-only capability.

Yet, as one considers the recent advances in magnets, computers, and scanners, a science fiction future seems closer than ever.

Information for this article was taken from The Guardian: 03/06/08.
John Freedman: Breaking the Ice

by Maria Danova

John Freedman, a Harvard graduate with a Ph. D. in Russian literature, now working as a theater critic for The Moscow Times, is completely crazy. But in his own special way. This enthusiast is crazy about Russian theater — and very hopeful about its future in the U.S. His hopes are now seeming to come true, with the start of a Russian-American New Drama project.

—I know you're trying very hard to build connections between Russian and American theater. Now you've almost succeeded, but what preceded this success?
—I've been living in Russia since 1988, and all of that time I've been trying to get American theaters interested in Russian drama. And only a year ago something started happening. I think it's even harder to get a Russian play staged in America than to fall in love.

—Why do you think it is so?
—The first thing that comes to mind is that American theaters are very tied to finances. They are slaves to their public. Many of these theaters, especially regional, have learned what plays people like, so they give them Chekov, then another Chekov, then they give Bernard Shaw who's like Chekov. And every Christmas they give them 'The Nutcracker. I tried offering them Yuri Klavdiev's play 'The Slow Sword.' I told the Americans: it's like Chinese cinema meets American comics meets Russian street banditry. But there's no way they're gonna take something like that to their audience because they're not used to it. I started pushing some more commercial plays — for example, a play about a 19-year-old soldier who overnight turns into a woman in order to avoid going combat. We live in a kind of war-world, so it could be played in lots of countries. But the Americans I sent it to come back to me and say: "You know, we're gonna do an American adaptation of Crime and Punishment". But it flopped. So, they're not interested in doing anything Russian anymore. I wanted to say: "Well you stupid, of course it flopped! You should've done the real thing, for God's sake!" So, there's this big argument between me and them.

—And the reasons for this argument are...
—The first reason: people are not willing to take chances. Ok, you fail — big deal! It's a part of the art process. Believe me, I see 150 shows a year and most of them are bad. But, why not try? The second reason: the mentality is so different in America that a Russian play read by an American all of a sudden becomes something entirely different. They don't know the points of reference. Third reason: fear before the audience. Fourth: the lack of understanding from which environment these plays come.

—Well, I hope this Russian-American project you're doing now will push things forward. Can you go into some details about it?
—It's called The Russian New Drama: Translation, Production and Conference project. We do it at Towson University near Baltimore in connection with an organization called CITD (Center for International Theater Development). It's running from 2008 to 2010. Over a period of 2.5 years, there'll be several master classes led by Russian directors, composers and choreographers. We'll be teaching class in October. I've been willing to do the whole thing for a long time. Then I found a guy from CITD, Philippe Arnoul. He came here in early 2000 and we became friends. Now, over these 2.5 years we'll translate 10 plays, and at least 4 of them will be produced at Towson by young Russian directors. This'll be in Spring 2010. Then there'll be a conference to which will be invited almost all of the major theater people in the U.S. to see if they're interested in picking up some plays. At the end, we're planning to publish an anthology of all of the plays we've translated, and a second volume with articles, discussions and speeches. It's a very big and ambitious project, and I'm very hopeful it will actually break the ice.

The Golden Mask 2008

by Elena Kornilova

The Golden Mask is a National Theater Festival that is being held right now in many cities of Russia. The ceremony of the award will take place on April 15 at the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater in Moscow. The award was founded in 1994 by the Theater Union of Russia and is given to productions in all genres of theater art: drama, opera, ballet, operaetta, musical and puppet theatre. The Golden Mask brings the most significant performances from all over Russia to Moscow every spring. The main activity of The Golden Mask is not just organizing the annual festival and award ceremony but also other theater events including the Russian Case—a showcase of Russian theater addressed to foreign visitors of the festival; the PRO-TEATR Performing Arts Market, an exhibition of theaters from many Russian cities and from abroad; a presentation of the best Russian theaters in various cities of Russia and internationally; and touring events of the Bolshoi and Mariinsky Theaters. Some famous shows presented at the festival: "Eugene Onegin", opera, Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater, Moscow; "Le nozze di Figaro", opera, Opera and Ballet Theater, Novosibirsk; "The living corpse", drama, Alexandrinsky Theater, St. Petersburg; and also the famous "Arlecchino servitore di due padroni", drama, Piccolo Teatro di Milano, Italy.

Festivals 2008 in Russia

by Elena Kornilova

* The 8th international ballet festival "Mariinsky", March 13-23, St. Petersburg. Ballet theaters from around the world participate in it, including the American Ballet Theater.
* The international ballet award ceremony and festival "Benois de la Danses", April 6-7, Moscow. Prize-winners from the USA are presented.
* The international festival of street theaters, June 20-29, Arkhangelsk. During the last many years guests from England, the USA, Italy, France, Poland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Spain, India, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Australia and countries of former USSR: Ukraine, Byelorussia, and Kazakhstan attended it.
* The International Puppet Theater Festival, "The Great Petrushka", September 12-16, Yekaterinburg. The topic of the 4th festival will be "Puppet theater—the synthesis of genres".
Look At Me

Walking the streets of Moscow, I have noticed that most of the winter coats are black. These dark coats fill the streets, but occasionally something catches my eye—color.

by Rachel F. DeForrest

"The Power of Color" is an exhibit by Mukhadin Kishev in the Moscow Museum of Modern Art. The paintings are bright and striking. Unlike the occasional red or green jacket on the streets, the exhibit is overflowing with color.

Each room has pieces that shout "look at me." Four pieces in particular caught my eye: "The Fisher Boy," "One can't kill the soul-The Jewish," "Chameleon" and "Page of the New-Born."

Describing the painting in words will not do them justice because they need to be viewed in person. The colors dance, tricking the eye into believing the painting is in constant motion. My favorite piece, "One can't kill the soul-The Jewish," captured my attention through that technique of movement.

This painting featured black swastikas both across the bottom of the painting and hiding behind flaming red smoke towers. Tiny colored Stars of David are scattered in the background. Some of the stars have died—they are gray instead of the colorful green, yellow, blue and purple stars. The dead ones float up through the red smoke stacks, filling the blue sky.

I chose this painting as my favorite because it spoke to me. The colors captured my attention and held me entranced.

Many of the pieces grabbed my attention because of the vibrant colors. Each room in the exhibit has something to offer. Some paintings use shapes. Others use animals crowded together to create shapes.

Kishev's works are exhibited worldwide and more than 270 pieces currently are in private collections. Some of his exhibits have been part of charity events, which helped to raise money for orphaned children in Russia, according to the Moscow Museum of Modern Art.

He was an elected member of the USSR Union of Artists in the 1970s, and later in life became a member of the International Union of Artists, both prestigious art organizations.

He had his first show while still attending college, and at 68, this color exhibit added another notch to his belt, displaying not only his experience as a painter, but his ability to use color to tell a story.

The exhibit will be open in the Moscow Museum of Modern Art until April 6.

Paris Pleasures

by Elena Kornilova

Until May 11, citizens and guests of Moscow are able to visit the State Tretyakov Gallery to experience the graphic works of the famous French artist Toulouse Lautrec (1864-1901). The exhibition shows Lautrec as an outstanding lithographer and a master who has defined the formation of the European poster of the 20th century. The event presents his most fruitful artistic period from 1890 to 1900. During this time, Lautrec already had achieved recognition as a painter, chronicling the mystery of life in Paris.

The show also is relevant because of the growing interest in the history of the advertising poster and the beginnings of the Russian playslips.

The exhibition is a part of continuing project between the Gallery and its French partners, including the Library of the National Institute of Art History in Paris.

United in Creation

by Elena Kornilova

"To be, not just to seem to be." Konstantin Stanislavsky.
"The human being who acts is the human being who lives." Lee Strasberg.

These two quotes—from both a Russian and American director—express the whole meaning of the word "acting."

Stanislavsky, the prominent director and co-founder of Moscow Art Theater is famous for his unique system of acting. He requires actors to be the character, not just pretend to be the character.

In 1934, after watching the performances of MAT in the U.S., Strasberg visited Russia to meet Stanislavsky and learn more about his system of acting. Strasberg modified Stanislavsky's method and began working with actors in Hollywood. Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Jane Fonda, Jack Nicholson and Al Pacino are all considered to be apprentices of two great masters.

This adaptation of the system by Strasberg has been very important because it has given both American and Russian actors a chance to develop their art and to be united through one thing—acting, i.e. living.
Journalist

Совместный проект
факультета журналистики МГУ имени М.В. Ломоносова
и Университета штата Вашингтон, Такома