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Deep cuts could end services

Student organizations face financial meltdown: ASUWT and The Ledger among hardest hit

by Marques Hunter

The numbers didn't add up when the Student Activities Fund Committee (SAFC) finished a ten-hour budget proposal meeting April 2 for the 2004-05 annual budget allocations.

The Associated Students for the University of Washington, Tacoma (ASUWT) and The Ledger received massive budget cuts that will have an impact on the future success of these two organizations.

The Career Services Center's (CSC) budget allocation for next year should decrease approximately $5,000, compared to their current annual budget.

If Interim Chancellor Steve Olswang recommends the proposed 2004-05 budget to the Board of Regents on April 16, ASUWT's budget next year will be cut in half and The Ledger's budget will be cut by nearly two-thirds. Both organizations received over $110,000 this year in budget allocations. Next year it could drop below $45,000 for both organizations.

The CSC's budget and the Events and Sports budget took the biggest hit from the SAFC's budget crunch.

ASUWT President Mark Dodson serves, as an Ex-officio member of the SAFC, which means he is a non-voting student government member. Dodson said the SAFC was regrettably forced to rank the Career Services Center as a higher asset than other student organizations.

"While I was sitting at the meeting, the SAFC tried to gauge what students need more," Dodson said. "The committee felt the CSC has more of a need on campus.

A large group of people showed up at the budget proposal meeting to advocate proper Ledger's budget's combined.

"Their (SAFC) argument is that if a student really wants to serve on student government, they have to be interested in the feedback, not being a factor," Dodson said. "Or if they really want to work for the student newspaper, than money's not going to be a factor. I would argue against that especially on a massively low-income campus."

"We will feel the impact more this upcoming year instead of feeling it really bad the year after," Dodson said.

The budget decision for student organizations is a financial blow that could affect the sustainability of key student organizations that are essential to any university. Added to this equation is the fact that S&A fees will increase this year.

This year, every full-time student pays $97 dollars per quarter to the Student and Activities (S&A) fee. Effective this summer, S&A fee will increase three dollars. 15 percent of next year's collected S&A fees will go towards the S&A long-term development account (a type of savings account).

To explain the proposed cuts, 15 percent of the S&A fees will go into the S&A long-term development account. The student government did not add to this account last year.

Consequently, SAFC was forced to make budget cuts and strengthen the long-term development account that was depleted largely due to the cost of the Student Center and other amenities.

Still, many questions are left unanswered as to why the CSC was given a realistic budget, whereas ASUWT and The Ledger, two active and arguably necessary student organizations, are left to sink or swim.

Silencing the campus voice

by Meg Smith

Every campus has them—a student government, student organizations and a newspaper. Current budget cuts threaten to change that for this campus.

Recently, each of these groups brought their budgets before the Student Activities Fund Committee (SAFC) and asked for funding from student fees. The SAFC deliberated for many hours and then cut the budgets for various organizations. The Ledger's cuts were so severe, they threaten the very existence of the newspaper.

This year there were more requests for funding than there were funds available and SAFC had to make cuts to existing budgets. Student government and The Ledger both were decreased by more than 50 percent.

Other budgets had minimal cuts, such as the career center with a decrease of around $5,000 from their $90,000 budget this year. The Ledger had operated without an increase for the last two years and was asking for additional funding to update equipment and provide staff additional training. The budget was cut from around $33,000 for this year to around $21,000 for next year.

"The Ledger, an award winning and nationally recognized publication, is the voice of the student body. It provides a forum for students to voice their ideas and opinions."

This paper provides a historical background to the campus. It dates back to 1993 when a group of students joined together to create the first UWT newspaper, The Independent. These first few issues of The Independent were sporadic and inconsistent. There were no established publication dates, no budget and no manager. The paper came together at the expense of the student's grade point averages and families. They felt strongly about having a student voice on campus.

Silencing the campus voice

SAFC budget allocations

Student Organizations $10,000 $14,967
Tahoe West $25,000 $24,000
Safety and Security Escorts $10,000 $12,000
Childcare Assistance Program $80,250 $56,000
Career Services Center $89,710 $85,144
Student Life - Student Organizations $10,000 $14,967
Student Life - Annual Operations $57,200 $44,260
Student Life - SAFC Operations unknown $1,500
Student Life - Events & Sports $65,000 $65,000
Student Life - Leadership Training $35,000 $30,000
Student Government (ASUWT) $57,200 $23,135
Contingency (Reserve Fund) $32,525 unknown

Difference $4,967 $19,467
$24,000 $24,000
$14,967 $12,000
$44,260 $56,000
$44,260 $85,144
$14,967 $14,967
$44,260 $1,500
$65,000 $65,000
$30,000 $30,000
$23,135 unknown
unknown unknown
unknown
unknown
unknown
unknown
unknown
unknown
Hidalgo, great race for survival

by Penney White

Hang up the spurs and sit back for an epic action-adventure about an amazing race and a battle for redemption.

Director Joe Johnston generally draws toward movies that have some fantasy to them. An understanding of the real Frank Hopkins (Viggo Mortensen, Lord of the Rings), were invited to enter the race. Hidalgo's reputation as a Spanish mixed breed mustang and his successes in distance races gained them special invitations to the race.

Since this movie is based on a true story, the director tried to give an understanding of the real Frank Hopkins. He was a U.S. Cavalry dispatch rider who unknowingly delivered the orders for the massacre at Wounded Knee. Hopkins sees the one-sided massacre by the U.S. Cavalry. Half Native American and Caucasian, the movie tells of his inner battle with the possibilities of what would have happened if he had let others around him know who he truly was. His father was a military man and his mother was a Sioux Indian.

The race becomes a battle for survival, honor, and newfound dignity. When the Arab envoy finds Hopkins and Hidalgo, they are in Wild Bill's Wild West Show. Hopkins is a drunk trying to hide from his past and deny himself a future.

This is only one of the many obstacles along the way. Some other interesting obstacles are locusts, boiling quicksand, the heat and a sandstorm that reminds you of The Mummy.

Omar Sharif plays one of the most elegant parts as Sheikh Rigadh, the finest most honorable Arabian horse breeder and head of the Bedouin race. He sends an envoy to the United States to invite Hidalgo to race.

The movie takes a temporary turn once the cowboy is halfway through the race. Should Al-Hattal, Rigadh's horse win the race, Rigadh will give his daughter Jazira (Zuleikha Robinson) to the jockey, Prince Bin Al Reeh (Said Taghmaoui). Jazira, in the meantime, is tired of hiding her face from men. She is a woman of her own mind, before her time or country.

Jazira is kidnapped along with the royal breeding manual. Rigadh asks for Hopkins to rescue Jazira, which will save Hopkins manhood from being removed. To make things more difficult, Jazira is a little troublemaker, sneaking into tents where she does not belong. As this point, the movie segues into Hopkins saving the day with his six-shooter and the princess's bodyguard as a partner. He races across rooftops, pulling an Indiana Jones fist.

This movie is rated PG-13 for adventure violence and some mild sexual innuendo.

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As far as you want to go!
FESCO trades peace and profits with Port of Tacoma

Results take more than a handshake is between President Bush and President Putin

by Carmela Amador

Trade exchanges are necessary to ensure peaceful American and Russian relations via profits, trust made by way of successful shipments, and the global- lization of essential goods.

By creating a global market through business rela- tionships, both America and Russia succeed in exchange of peace and prof- its.

FESCO steamship lines do business with American ports to export natural resources and import a variety of American consumer goods in break bulk containers.

Transactions such as these call for commit- ment and trust. Far Eastern Shipping Company, FESCO, has found such in trade with the Port of Tacoma in Washington, WA.

"We take good care of FESCO here," says Susan Beckland, director of Trade Services at the Port of Tacoma. "It results in a strong relationship and trust."

Since 1976 its relationship with the U.S. has been off and on until politics stopped using a trade as a contingency of peace. In 1980, an embargo blocking Russian trade to the U.S. became the result of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. Trade rela- tions were then at a standstill until 1995 when Russia and the U.S. made the decision to value trade and profit over as that had been brought about by an invasion that was long over.

FESCO ships started to trickle back into the Port of Tacoma until the banks crashed as a result of the Russian transition from commu- nism to democracy. In 2002 Beckland and other Russian correspon- dents with FESCO began to see regular shipments.

President Putin made this because oil investments at Sakhalin Island brought enough capital to make trade relations persistent. Last year FESCO brought just under $1 million to the $72 million imported to the city of Tacoma.

FESCO is a 124-year-old steamship line that helped set the globalization foundation. Now the company trades with some of the world's best ports. "The SA-15 ice cutters come into our waterway bringing aluminum from Russia," says Beckland. The aluminum that Russia ships across the Arctic is taken from the Port of Tacoma for processing in Olympia, WA. To maintain good trade relations with Russia, a representative from the Port of Tacoma is stationed in Vladivostok.

"The transnational relationship also creates jobs in both Russian and America," says Beckland. In trading with the U.S. ports, FESCO is affected by unionization and labor costs. The union it works with is the ILWU, International Longshore Worker's Union.

Trade between the U.S. and Russia stimulates profits, resulting in jobs for these workers and Russian longshore- men at FESCO's headquarters in Vladivostok.

Trade between FESCO and the Port of Tacoma results in peace from jobs, profits, and economic gain.

Many people ignored their civic duty by not voting the election dis- trict because the result was predetermined. Only about 64 percent of eligible voters turned out, including official statistics. About 6 percent of voters chose the candidate against all because there were no real opponents against Putin. When he made the government resign. "This presidential campaign looks like a placebo (vote without a choice)." The real elections disappeared. Russia has no tradition of TV-debates. The candidates have a right not to participate in TV-debates. Imagine that someone in the United States refused to debate. It will be a great scandal," Assistant Professor of Periodical Press Chair Ludmila Romanovskaya said.

All candidates except Khakamad and Glagov didn't seem able to compete. The only reason Sergey Mironov participated was to not spoil the elections. "I will vote for Putin; I support him," he said. Ivan Ribkin was a project of Russian oligarch Platon Elmin (Boris Berzovskiy). "This project didn't work well because there was a problem with a comptant (the story about the 5-day disappearance of the former candidate - Journalist) We got farce as a result," told our correspondent Ludmila Romanovskaya. We didn't even mention Malishkin, the guard of V. Zhirinovsky, who was something like a clown among other candidates.

Elena Khakamad tried to destroy the calmness. She accused the Central Election Commission about the advertisement of the president elections as being the same as the one of the United Russia at the previous Duma elections. This fact has only one explanation. The same advertisers made this advertisement. During the Duma elections campaign, Putin backed the United Russia and this explains how the advertisement was a reminder to vote for Putin.

"I want to assure you and promise that, in the next four years, I will work just as hard, do everything in my power to have the entire government work just as intensively," Putin told reporters. This is a key quote that explains the whole course of the next four years. What did he mean? It is the environ- ment of the power or just the improvement of all democratic institutions? Only time will tell.

"Many people ignored their civic duty by not voting the election dist- rict because the result was predetermined. Only about 64 percent of eligible voters turned out, according to official statistics. About 6 per- cent of voters chose the candidate against all because there were no real opponents against Putin."
National character blends with stereotypes

The World according to America

The Russian language under attack

Russian media criticizes Putin's reelection

during the last twenty years, many words from other languages, especially America's English language, have filled Russian media. Specifying really worry about this process may change the entire Russian language. It was debated some time ago that it is necessary to transfer all American words into Russian language. So, it was necessary to write "motorcycle" instead of "bulldozer," game of soccer teams name "a meeting" but not "a match," "story" instead of "report." Even the "camembert" cheese at this time has been renamed into "camahlemb." Today, almost no one can argue with the fact that American words are really necessary in an everyday life in Russia. Modern, political, economic and cultural conditions have forced this stage. The words begin to fall outside the limits of the professional environment and to be used in press, radio, television, as well as in public speech of politicians and businessmen.

The attitude to Americanisms

The Council of Russia has recently proposed a bill concerning the status of the "great and mighty Russian language." This bill includes sanctions for the misuse of the native language in mass media. Clearly, the Council understands that the tv anchor during a live telecast may use some of the nonsensical language. Even in reading prepared text, it is still possible to occasionally make a mistake. However, this bill to some degree may be unnecessary, as Russian media may find themselves needing to self-monitor due to public opinion. Complaints of mass-media from audience members become more apparent and are frequently justified. Their major complaint is that these Americanisms cut an ear. They complain that there is a glut of Americanisms, an abundance of slang, and even abusive, lexicon.

The best criteria for adding an American word to the language may be the overall usefulness of that particular word. For example, technological advancements in the world bring with them their own terminology. These terms cannot be separated from the technology itself. Today, an actual word such as "internet" is impossible to separate from the realities of a modern life. Or, for example, the American term "online" is a hard word to match in the Russian language. On the other hand, if there is a Russian word that can be used effectively, then that is the word that should be used. Using someone's words, certainly allows journalists to appear clever, but frequently this use of Americanisms by Russian journalists is not justified.

So what would be the best way for Russia to deal with the problem of Americanisms? Perhaps, the French could offer a solution. In France, a struggle against words from other languages has waged for a long time. After lengthy and thoughtful debate, the French have developed a penalty system for language offenders.

For example, for the use of a non-native word in an official transfer or document, the author will be fined up to 10 thousand francs given the condition that in the French language, there is an equivalent of this term. In France, Americanisms are not forbidden, but this system is done to keep the usage down to a minimum. Of course, it is impossible to reach absolute success, but the steps taken by the French are worth respect.
Russians say that a man has to plant a tree, build a house and bring up a son. In reality, he needs to do all this and find a good wife, bring up children, be a good husband and to be a good father as well. In addition, he must help his parents and do many other things. This is a lot, but maybe not so much over the course of his lifetime.

On the other hand, a woman finds herself speeding through life. A Russian lifetime gives her some education and helps her get children before her biological clock expires. Don't forget she also needs to find a pretty good guy.

These time crunches give people little time to make the right decisions.

Dasha Osina

By the time Stuart Loory, an American, met Nina Kudriavtseva Kostolovets, she had become an experienced journalist and his children had grown up. Nina Kudriavtseva finished her career as a dancer at the Bolshoi Theatre and became the artistic director of the international ballet program while bringing up a son.

I am called Lee Hills Professor in Free-Press Studies at the School of Journalism, Columbia and a lecturer at State University College. I graduated from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York.

By the end of the 1990s, the director of the international correspondent of the New York Herald Tribune in Moscow.

It was the beginning of an immersion into Russian culture and society. By the end, in 2004, I was living in Moscow and off for ten years, this led him to propose to Nina Kudriavtseva. I talk about the American cultural and intercultural marriage and large families.

Nina makes the first move

How did you meet?

Well, it's an interesting story. Of course, I met her during the time. In the early 1990s, I was working for Ted Turner (founder of CNN) and when he came to Russia, I had to make all of his arrangements for his trip, to make sure that his schedule is properly filled. He was on a trip to Moscow in 1993. I had one evening open when nothing had been planned.

I called a friend of mine, who was also my Russian teacher. She also worked for Ted Turner. She knew the cultural life in the city very well. I asked her if she had any ideas. She said, well, that night there would be a performance of opera Faust at the Bolshoi Theatre. I said, good, we'll take Ted and Jane Fonda to "Faust" and I hung up. I was in the United States at that time and then all of the sudden I thought, shouldn't we've get the Tsars' Box?

So, I called my friend back and said, Linda, it's time to get them to the Tsars' Box. She called me back and told me that Ted and Jane Fonda are huge fans of the Bolshoi. We booked the Tsars' Box which seats 24 people. They were mostly Russians (Ted at that time was interested in studying the Russian soul — which was a big sport at that time). We invited the head of the Olympic committee and his deputies, people from Gorbachev and government officials.

There is a big oval shaped room behind the box, and you can have a little reception in there. So, during the intermission we served champagne and caviar for 24 people. The Bolshoi sent representatives to the reception. And that's when Nina Kudriavtseva and I met.

That is how you got acquainted. So you talked a little bit...

"We talked a little bit and the next day she wanted to talk to Ted and Jane, because the Bolshoi had been closed for renovation (repair)."

The Bolshoi was thinking about moving the entire company to some place else in the world to be able to hold the company together. They were afraid that if they just closed the theatre, all the dancers, the maestros and the singers would just disappear.

Did you go to the Bolshoi theatre because your friend gave you the advice to get? Had you been to the Bolshoi before? Or was it your first time at that theatre?

"I was attending the Bolshoi Theatre in 1964 — long before I knew Nina. When I went to the Bolshoi previously, people like Maya Plisetskaya were dancing. I saw her do many dances many times. Yuri Grigorovich is now married to Natasha Bessmertnova and in the 1960s she in a very bright star at the Bolshoi. So, I now know her as the wife of Grigorovich, who is a friend of Nina and a friend of mine as well. And his wife is my friend as well, so seeing all the time is my friend as well."

Was NinaKudriavtseva dancing with you?

"No. She stopped dancing in the early 1980s. She became an executive. Her title was director of repertory. The reason that she was responsible for scheduling all the times at the theatre. She scheduled the opera, the ballets, and how each performance was performed. Just about everything at the theatre had to be arranged by her."

Was she dancing in the corps de ballet while you were there?

"She was in the chorus line. It means she was not a principle ballerina."

But did you ever see her dancing?

"I never saw her dancing!"

How did you start your acquaintance?

"She arranged the meeting with Ted Turner and Jane Fonda the next day. So she came to the hotel for the Tsars' Box and we waited for Ted and Jane. After that, we talked and she invited me a few weeks later her birthday party. I went to her birthday party at her mother's house."

Welcome to the USA

We got married in Russia or in the USA?

"We did not get married until 1995. We were going to get married in the United States, but we had to go to Russia. Our wedding was in the 12th or 13th year. She is a translator of English and she speaks the language?"

we were married in the United States. Did she have any problems coming to the USA?

"She had been to the United States many times before she had danced in the U.S. with the Bolshoi."

(There were no problems coming to the United States, but it is an interesting fact that after the marriage Loory and Nikolaevna moved to a little town in Missouri. The choice of the town is interesting because of Looey's acceptance of a job at one of the oldest school of journalism in the world, located in Columbia, MO.)

Nina Kudriavtseva only needed a telephone and a computer for her job.

What did her family think about her moving to the US and having an American husband?

"I think you have to ask her that. I think her family had any life with this at all. Her mother is a distinguished woman in her own right. She is a translator of English fiction, not just American Russian. Two years ago she won a major award from The Russian-American Cultural Relations Foundation and this was an award that had previously been given by Mikhail Gorbachev and Mislaftov Rostropovitch. She was the third winner of this award of her work. She has translated books like "Gone with the Wind."

Did you find your family think about Russian women. It's popular nowadays to have a Russian wife but it was 16 years ago?

"No. She speaks English and she is also fluent in French. Her mother's translation turned into what we call a double translation. She convinced Nina and Nina's son to translate. So, people who translate together, live together. Nina has translated books from French into Russian. Her son Leonid has also done some translating from English into Russian."

When he live with you?

"No. He is 43 and he lives here in Moscow."

Do your children know something about Russia and Russian culture?

"My children lived here when they were very young. When we came the first time, our children came along with us. My daughter went to deteki (kindergarten) for two years. One of my sons went to deteki and for one year. My other son went to a pioneer camp. So, they know a little bit about Russia."

Do you have a cultural balance in your family or does one culture dominate?

"I think we have a good cultural balance."

What Russian cooking do you like?

"Generally I like food. I like everything that Nina cooks."

Does she have any special dishes?

"No. I don't think so. Generally she really likes cooking. I do a lot of cooking also."

A successful woman with a computer and a telephone

What does she do now?

"Well, she left the Bolshoi and moved to the U.S. in 1997. There is a program here in Moscow. It is called Benois de la Danse. It is an interna­tional prize has become a bit. Arseniy, the son of Regina Nikiforova and Nina is the artistic director of this program. The director of the program is Nina. The Inter­national Dance Association of Benois de la Danse. She has been a Russian, but he had a French name. He lived in St. Petersburg. He was a stage designer at Mariinski opera and ballet. This prize was named after him. The prize is now in 12th or 13th year. She is the artis­tic director of the program. The International Dance Association of Benois de la Danse. She has been a Russian, but he had a French name. He lived in St. Petersburg. He was a stage designer at Mariinski opera and ballet. This prize was named after him. The prize is now in 12th or 13th year. She is the artis­tic director of the program. The International Dance Association of Benois de la Danse. She has been a Russian, but he had a French name. He lived in St. Petersburg. He was a stage designer at Mariinski opera and ballet. This prize was named after him. The prize is now in 12th or 13th year.

So, she has to travel around the world to make the prize and she has to invite them all to Moscow and make the arrangements for them to come. She then takes care of all the artistic parts of the program, including planning the program. So that's really a full-time job for her.

Dr: But when she moved to the US, she didn't have a job. What did she do when she came to America?

Lt: She had no job at the Bolshoi, but she still had this work for the Benois de la Danse.

Before she came to the US, she worked five or six years for this program. With a computer and tele­phone, you can work anywhere now.

By the time Stuart Loory and Nina Nikolaevna met each other they both were very close to the opposite culture. Professor Loory, who had been living in the USSR before, was half-Russian. Nina Nikolaevna visited United States many times for her work and her children's lives have always been interesting.

Stuart Loory worked for the newspaper, in which Karl Marks a well-known economist and philosopher who had worked, and also worked with Ted Turner, a founder of CNN.

Nina Nikolaevna is a friend of Bessmertnova, a ballerina who went to Russia, but she still had this work for the Benois de la Danse.

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Russian student unites with American culture

Rafael Saakov

"America - complicated, paradoxical, bullheaded, shy, cruel, boisterous, unspeakably dear, and very beautiful." These words belong to one of America's greatest writers of the XX century John Steinbeck. I would add to his statement that America is a populated country with friendly people. I know this because in the fall of last year I had the pleasure of traveling to America and working with many Americans in Tacoma, Washington.

In this article, I want to sum up all of the details of the period I stayed in Tacoma (I was writing something like a diary) and to show how many people helped us to make our trip interesting and unforgettable.

Myself and three others from MSU left Moscow early Monday morning on November 17 and arrived at Sea-Tac airport (called so because of the location between Seattle and Tacoma - two of the biggest cities in Washington state) on the same Monday morning. The reason is the time zone; so we were flying back into the past.

In the airport Bill Richardson and Chris Demaske - known for their Mos­cow visit in March 2003 - met us and took us to the University of Washington, Tacoma to meet Vicky Carmela, UWV Chancellor. We didn't speak a lot because we were tired from the flight, but we really enjoyed the conversation.

Then, while we were waiting for our host families, Bill took us on a trip around the University.

The glass sculpture created by Seattle's artist Dale Chihuly in the library made a big impression on us. (Later dur­ing our stay, Bill and Chris took us to the Tacoma Museum of Glass, where we saw lots of other Chihuly art exhibits).

Soon, I met my American hosts - Natasha from Khabarovsk. On our way to her home, we spoke a lot about both Russia and America. She has lived in Tacoma with her husband Sandy and son Sasha for more than ten years. Almost every day I woke up at 6:30 a.m. (in Moscow it is unreal for me) and would go to play tennis with Sandy.

Even though he always won, it was really cool because in Moscow I have no time to play my favorite game. A very professional player, Sandy cultivates sports to his son - Sasha swims, studies karate and, of course, plays tennis.

The next day there was a welcome party organized by the Associated Students of the University of Washington, Tacoma (the campus stu­dent government). It was at this party that we met everybody who was going to work on the joint newspaper project - Marques, Josh, Alex, Carmela, Deb, Meg, Monique and others.

In my mind, we became friends right when we met first. A very big and superb surprise for us was seeing Tatiana and Karle, our friends/colleagues from the first meeting in Moscow. They had grad­uated in the summer and have been working since that time, but came to campus especially to see us.

After the welcome party, we visited the program of the Japanese Day, but we couldn't stay there for a long because of the pre-Thanksgiving Day party. Monique, the then News Editor of the Ledger, cooked Thanksgiving dinner for us because we were visiting just one week before.

American's celebrate their annual Thanksgiving holiday. It was something unbelievable - I ate so many tasty things including turkey, of course, that I could­n't even hold my camera. (My camera would irritate everyone by the end of our journey).

The next day we were invited to Professor Dave Secord's house for an Indian dinner. The dinner with Alaskan Bear was excellent. As you see, I ate a lot in America. So, it didn't play tennis every day with Sandy, my parents and friends wouldn't recognize me when I came home.

Dave and his wife Amy are a very nice couple. They are such interesting interlocutors that we spoke till late evening, until Marques and Alex came and we drove to the Regal Cinema the­atre.

We saw the movie Kill Bill. Volume one and laughed a lot. It was so funny to see how Uma Thurman beats so many people with such cruelty that we could­n't come round for a long time after the film ended.

On Thursday, our American hosts planned a visit to the main newspaper of Tacoma - The Tacoma News Tribune. We took part in the editorial planning meeting and then talked with editor-in-chief David Zeek and his executive edi­tors. We learned a lot about the American publishing model.

The first thing we learned is that nei­ther the paper, nor the correspondents, are dependent on government approval. And, of course, we were surprised by the huge territory which the newspaper occupies - it's even bigger than the terri­tory of many Moscow capital newspa­pers.

Then, I went with Marques to his work - he works with children who love him very much. He shows them their favorite films and plays different games with them. Marques also likes his work, possibly just as much as he likes basketball.

I have dreamt of attending an NBA match and Marques answered my wish by tak­ing me to a Seattle Sonics game.

On my next trip to Seattle and Tacoma, I want to visit the space needle and, of course, I want to go out to some American nightclubs (I could not enter the clubs because American drinking age limit is 21 years old and I am only 20).

You know, I saw the USA in the way I was supposed to see the country. I have wanted to visit America ever since childhood and I learned a lot about the country long before I got the chance to visit it. That's why I think I wasn't surprised when I got there.

But, I can single out two things that very much surprised me: 1) that lots of students attend their classes and 2) that every student drives a car. It's now interesting to see how many differences will Marques and Carmela, who came to Moscow to make this issue, find out in Russian culture and Russian journalism.

Maybe I forgot to cover some facts in this article, but I will never forget the honour all of our American friends have done to us.

I want to offer a special thank you to the people who were with us all of those days. You made every one of our wishes come true and we are very thankful to you!

And, finally, thanks of thanks and hugs to everyone who is reading this article now.

The Journalist

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This issue is a joint project of The Ledger and The Journalist.

It was produced in Moscow, Russia at Moscow State University

Photo by Carmela Amador

Madonna and Jesus mural in a Red Square Cathedral

Photo by Simon Nekhoroshkin

Dr. Chris Demaske, Carmela Amador, and Marques Hunter in Red Square Mall

Photo by Carmela Amador

Statue across from our hotel, The Ukraina

Photo by Carmela Amador

The Kremlin in Red Square

Photo by Carmela Amador

Photo by Carmela Amador
Russia fights terrorist ideals in concert

Simon Nekhoroshkin

Celebrities and musicians came together to pay tribute to the victims of the terrorist bombing that wounded and killed so many on Feb. 6 in the Moscow Metro. 

The House of Composers housed the charity event called “To Live and to Remember” hosted by the Moscow Union of Composers. The Union invited celebrities to take part in the evening of mourning and to display support for Russia’s tragic loss.

Both the musicians and the celebrities gave their time and money as charity to benefit the families who had lost their loved ones.

The master of ceremonies were famous Russian actors Natalya Verli and Vyacheslav Shulyakov.

“We must always remember about terrorism, the problem that has already spread all over the world. And we should not forget about the people who suffered throughout,” said Alexander Amslov, the doctor of psychology and professor of the Moscow State University.

“The society must consolidate itself before the danger of world terrorism. And our concert shows that art has no fear before the face of the enemy and it will always serve people.”

A suicide-terrorist blew up the subway car when the train was driving to the Pavilzhskaya station.

About 40 people were killed and about 100 wounded as a result of the attack.

Concerts like “To Live and to Remember” cannot fight the terrorism itself, but can give the idea of a goal. They can boost the moral of the international community to feel less threatened by terrorism.

Election 2004

Little Tsakhes wins the landslide in the first tour

Arseniy Proudnikov

At 9 p.m., Alexander Veshnyakov, head of Central Elections Commission, CIK, announced the results of Russia’s presidential election. Vladimir Putin led the election race with 66.5 percent.

Putin’s victory was an unexpected gift from Tatarstan, Chechyna, Dagestan and Bashkortostan. Countrys where Mr. Putin won 97.98 percent of the vote.

CIK officials were full of enthusiasm all night long from the poll results.

One of the Moscow State University students, who was affiliated with the inof-agency Rosbalt, was thrown out of the building by CIK officials because he left a sheet that said “reserved” on his computer.

Everything would have been fine if Rosbalt had not been a National Bolshevik party leaflet, which contained things like, “Russia without Putin & I’ll keep up the elections.” This student served as an example of the Russian “democracy”.

Also that evening, Kharitonov Nikola Mikhailovich, the male opponent to Putin, said that people will trust Putin only half of a year or a year.

It was clear he wasn’t sure in his own words. Maybe he lacks charisma, which is the priority of our president.

His majesty Nikolai Mikhailovich, like a first-class pupil repeated his statement over and over for the media coverage.

Irina Hakamada, Russia’s female presidential candidate, was expected to come to the democratic media, but never came. Instead of the media coverage, she chose to observe the process of counting votes from an alternative center.

Back in CIK’s apartment 1300 reporters from 44 countries got what they expected. At 11 p.m. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin had 68.8 percent.

Local authorities began using sophisticated methods to ensure votes for Putin — they started giving theatre tickets and portraits of Putin to voters.

Si. Petersburg officials distributed free disco tickets to young voters in effort to make them take part in Putin’s victory. As a result, the God of stability got about 75 percent of the vote.

After midnight, the historical complex of The Manege caught fire.

Reports said that MSU, the journalism school across the street, was also likely to catch fire.

Nearby journalists looked very scared, yet governmental officials joked about MSU burning down, not caring one way or the other if it did.

The great fire was covered mainly by the NTV correspondents, which were reporting live even hours.

The governmental Russia channel showed the footage of burning Manege twice, while they were broadcasting Putin’s overwhelming results and his speech during the press conference in his campaign headquarters.

How strange it is to watch the president ensure the prosperity and stability of Russia on one screen, while an apocalyptic scene was happening on another screen.

During Putin’s performance the NTV journalists mocked Putin while the pro-Kremlin RTR staff kept silence and tried not to smile.

Hakamada got about 7 percent in Moscow-city & conquered the second place, at least it’s better than nothing, right? But in the long run it only amounted to 3.9 percent of the vote.

At 10 a.m. the Themis-serviceman, who seemed to be very sleepy, but full of enthusiasm, announced that the candidate Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, the big V.V.P. won the presidential throne. God bless Mr. Putin!
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April 8, 2004

UWT speaks out:

Students at the University of Washington, Tacoma voice their opinion about the Iraq War and the presence of U.S. Coalition forces stationed in Iraq.

"Steven Cahill: Bad idea."

"Trevor Kidd: Word to that."

"Marlone Hansen: Imperialism at it's utmost."

"Brent Biggs: I hope for a safe & speedy return for my friends that are in Iraq."

"Marjaret Rzymowska: It attempts to assert America's conquering spirit."

MSU speaks out:

A year has passed since the American troops invaded Iraq. In this joint issue of The Journalist, we have decided to ask the journalism students the following question: "Has your opinion about the war in Iraq changed this past year?"

"Alexander Mizoukaev
My opinion about the situation in Iraq hasn't changed. The main reason American military invaded Iraq was to find weapons of mass destruction, but to overthrow the regime of Saddam Hussein. Also, the Americans wanted to get Iraq's oil fields. There is nothing bad in that but the Americans should have told the world about their genuine intentions instead of concocting ridiculous justifications."

"Alexander Malakhov
The war started because the United States wanted to control Iraqi oil. The Prime Minister of Great Britain Tony Blair indirectly confirmed it when he said "we need to find weapons of mass destruction"."

"Natasha Fursuva
When the war began, I was against it. I thought it wasn't really necessary. The American actions in the war were performed like a real game. It was evident that the Americans wouldn't find any evidence of weapons of mass destruction. I understand that Americans invaded because they didn't merely need a restoration of democracy. I am still against this war. But, I also think that the Americans have made a big mistake when they invaded Iraq. They will stay there for a long time and will have many problems with the terrorist rebels."

"Sabir Gasanov
I think the same as I did a year ago. The war started by the United States to seize the Iraqi oil. I am against this war and I am against all wars. A normal man respects his belief should consider an alternative besides war."

"Lena Tikhonova
My attitude about the Iraq war hasn't changed a bit. From the very beginning, my attitude was negative and it's still negative. The Americans started the war in Iraq against oil, not to find weapons of mass destruction. And now it's quite clear to everyone. The Americans told the entire world incorrect facts about the chemical weapons in Iraq. But as time passed, I believe these facts turned out to be false. I don't understand these kinds of international relationships."

The interviews and photographs by Carmela Amador

Chronicles of Iraq

19.03.2003. Coalition forces cross the Iraqi border. War has begun. British and American bombers start to attack Baghdad and other cities. Airports of Basra are captured by the AIC.

05.03.2003. Iraqi forces are trying to drive AIC forces from Basra's suburbs.

06.03.2003. US President George W. Bush declares that war in Iraq is far from over. Weapons of mass destruction are not found. Saddam Hussein refuses to testify. U.S. President George W. Bush declares that American forces will stay in Iraq till 06.04.2004.

16.03.2003. Iraqi military forces fully mobilize. The Iraqi government divides the country into four military divisions under the command of the President Saddam Hussein.

18.03.2003. U.S. President George W. Bush requires that Saddam Hussein surrenders in 48 hours. Otherwise, Anti-Iraqi Coalition (AIC) military forces start the war.

11.04.2003. This day is crucial for the war. Baghdad is taken by the AIC forces. Saddam Hussein is not captured.

He retreats with the rest of his bodyguards. American Marines are preparing to assault Kirkuk and Mosul.

17.04.2003. All main cities are under the coalition control. AIC forces hunt down the remnants of the Iraqi army. Hussein is still hiding. Establishment of new Iraqi government begins.

05.05.2003. Situation in Iraq slowly stabilizes. All cities are regularly patrolled by the coalition forces. Police units of Iraqi volunteers are formed. Iraqi rebels continue to resist and sabotage attacks on American forces remain consistent.

12.05.2003. On the 14 of December, Saddam Hussein captured by American special forces. It is the main event in the War in Iraq. It did not make rebels surrender.

01.04.2004 - 03.04.2004. This time period is the one year anniversary of the Iraqi War. Situation in Iraq is still very tense.

Weapons of mass destruction are not found. Saddam Hussein refuses to testify. U.S. President George W. Bush declares that American forces will stay in Iraq till 06.04.2004.

- Andrew Rots
Media manipulating voter opinion

Marques Hunter

The ongoing presidential campaign in America seems largely controlled by the media, glorifying what one candidate has done and criticizing what he has failed to do.

According to the nonpartisan candidate John Kerry, President Bush has not done a good job.

Kerry says that Bush has provided major tax cuts for the wealthy, while the middle class has been promised to provide relief to middle class Americans.

He also notes that Bush is using the middle class as a scapegoat when the middle class has been denied proper medical benefits.

Moreover, according to Kerry, Bush will lead America into a budgetary crisis of $5.3 trillion during the next decade. These are all assertions that in no way can be true.

So, what does this mean?

Can either of the two political juggernauts in America trust the American people to make their own decisions?

I think it's necessary that both Kerry and Bush debate who will be a better president.

But this may not sway a voter one way or the other. I think the media's influence on the public to believe either Bush or Kerry will be the deciding factor.

And, I think the negative tone of the current advertisements in America may have the opposite effect on the public who have no confidence in the Bush or Kerry's political platforms.

Because nobody is clever enough to satisfy each and every person in America. Who will win the presidential election by highlighting key points of either Bush's or Kerry's political platforms.

Living in an on and off Orange Alert culture is getting old. We need a consistent leadership that will listen to all classes of people and their issues.

When a presidential candidate like John Kerry hopes on a stage and makes promises regarding the things America has lacked for the last three and a half years, listen.

Listen to his words and think about the future of such a valuable and honorable country under the leadership of one of its veterans. A change is coming to America, says Kerry at the end of every campaign rally.

Russia in our words:

Two UWT students on their journalism experience in Moscow

The thought of graduating this June used to make me feel like I'm almost finished with my education. I was grateful that it was finally over.

Traveling to Moscow, Russia seemed like an opportunity this spring break helped me realize that my learning, in many capacities, is far from over.

I went to Moscow with students from the Moscow State University journalism department to help me arrive at that conclusion.

The students worked with production during production were bright, but sometimes it was a little difficult to translate words.

Going to Moscow, Russia has provided me with a better global understanding of people and the small differences among us.

The experience at Moscow State University was fantastic.

Although being in Moscow for six days was a dramatic change from American culture, I knew that MSU really made us feel at home.

Their attitudes in helping us get around Metro, the (term for subway) trolley and the bus showed us that they were willing to make a special contribution to our experience in their country.

While in Moscow, the cultural experience was one I will never forget. It will be impossible to forget the mass transit system that is so remarkably useful to students and people in Moscow. I will never forget how interesting the Russian culture is.

Moscow is a city with beautiful historical architecture.

Our own hotel was one of seven identical towers built by Joseph Stalin during that period.

Dasha, one of the students working with us, would defer to her peers in Russian for her own translating.

"Excuse me for speaking in Russian again," Dasha said to me.

"Excuse me for my English, and my lack of Russian," I said back to her with a laugh.

This short exchange of words, one with an American accent and one with a Russian accent, stuck with me after the trip. It's funny, how sometimes you can't learn in a classroom what you can learn in a short conversation with another student on the other side of the world.

This trip to Moscow taught me how much I don't know about the people of Russia, their rich culture and intriguing history.

The students guided us around Moscow knew the history and told us in detail about what was going on in their government and introduced me to some very interesting foods.

Their fast vocation impressed me greatly, yet I felt cheated with my meager American education. The Russian government has much more money than ours, yet do our education is so much poorer.

The students at MSU were far beyond where I was in my second year of college in maturity and knowledge of the world around them.

The students at MSU were so well educated, patient, and introduced me to their country without the rose-colored glasses, but instead with appreciation and respect for the city in its entirety.

To Maria, the students at The Journalist, and Raphaël, thank you for so many life-enhancing experiences during such a short trip. I learned so much about Russia, all of you.

To Dr. Chris Demaske, thank you for your teaching, letting me fall on my face every once in a while, and laughing at me when I accidentally ate raw bacon.

To the students reading this issue, your learning will never rest unless you let it.

Carmela Amador

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Kerry righting what Bush has wronged

Carmela Amador

A government made by the people for the people should give the people of America choices.

Or at least more choices than choosing between health care and groceries.

Democratic candidate Senator John Kerry is promising to ease this tension of choices by a redistribution of tax relief in his presidential campaign to ensure that the people of America will be able to afford a healthcare provider and still make ends meet.

Kerry is assuring Americans that they will be able to afford the same health care plan that is available to elected officials in Congress and the administration.

To make this possible Kerry is distributing tax reliefs more effectively by giving them to the middle class, the upper class, and the lower class.

Senator Kerry would like to see a tax break for the middle class so that families can afford college, a visit to the doctor, and the groceries.

Social services, such as healthcare, have been cut and a due to tax relief President George W. Bush approved in 2001 that gave a tax breaks to the upper class, the middle and lower classes were taken away in proportions, and the upper classes have much more money than ours, but, we will, do.

In addition, it is important for a president to be elected that actually listens to the people that voted for him.

What is the point of freedom of speech if you are not heard? Some people may call it leadership when a president goes to war despite the protests of millions of American people.

On the other hand, some may call it a dictatorship.

The question Americans have to ask themselves is whether they want to lead a country, or allow the executive board to dictate choices for them.

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April 8, 2004

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Most Americans wouldn't dare strolling into the heart of Moscow with hordes of people. But University of Washington, Tacoma (UWT) Professor Bill Richardson enjoys talking to the people and noticing the small differences between American and Russian people.

Richardson is a professor of history and international studies and department chair in the Interdisciplinary Arts and Science program at UWT.

As a scholar, he has conducted research at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. Last year, he flew to Moscow with two students and one faculty from UWT to initiate the first collaboration between UWT and Moscow State University (MSU) journalism students.

Richardson speaks Russian, German, French and Spanish. He has visited Russia more than 10 times.

Since the collapse of communism in 1991, Russia has undergone political change. This, according to Richardson, has allowed the Russian people to feel more comfortable because they have individual freedom. "People are willing to tell the truth now, whereas before they were telling something that the government wanted them to say," Richardson said.

He first visited Moscow in 1982 when he was a graduate student studying the history of Russia. According to Richardson, when communism was in power, people were fearful and would rarely invite him to their apartments. Since the rise of democracy, he says, everything is different in terms of the interpersonal interactions of the Russian people.

"In the '90s, you get a whole different understanding of society and the individual," Richardson said.

Having spent a considerable amount of time in Russia, Richardson notices many of the little differences between Americans and Russians. He says that people in Russia talk differently because of the snow and ice on the ground. He notes that people in Russia have much more serious looks on their faces, versus Americans who smile more often.

Although the Russians may not smile as much, they value their families much more than Americans.

"One of the things I like about the Russians is that they have a very strong family support unit," Richardson said. "And, it's not just your immediate family. It's your friends and the people you work with. Russians are much closer to their family and rely on each other a lot more."