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## Journalist / The Ledger 2003

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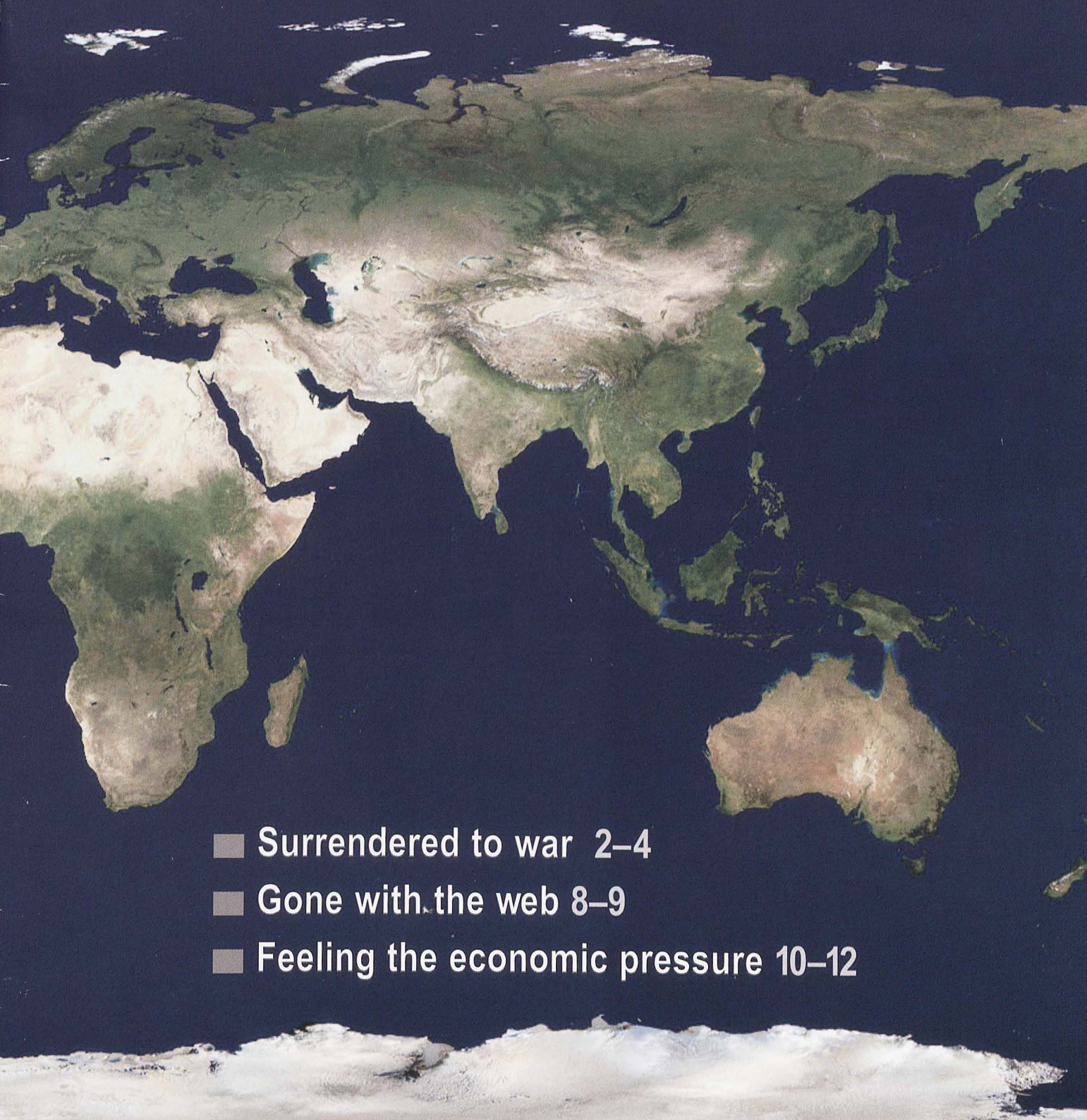


Special Edition

MARCH 2003

# Journalist / The Ledger

JOINT PROJECT of the DPT. of JOURNALISM, MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY and UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON, TACOMA



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## Editor's welcome

Moscow State University and the University of Washington, Tacoma have joined forces in producing this issue of the Journalist and The Ledger. UWT students Tolena Mahlum and Karie Anderson traveled to Russia to work closely with the MSU newspaper staff at the Department of Journalism.

We had only four days to produce this diverse and interesting newspaper for students and faculty on both campuses. For the purposes of time limits, both sets of journalists were instructed to follow the limitations of press required in their own countries.

We were brought together with the help of MSU's Deputy of Creative Work, Dr. Maria Loukina, and UWT instructors Dr. Bill Richardson and Dr. Chris Demaske. Bill is the founding director of the Interdisciplinary Arts and Science program at UWT, and Chris is a professor in communication.

With the successful completion of the first joint newspaper production between the two universities, a life-long connection has been made for the hope of future projects such as this and we hope that media in both of our countries will obtain new journalists free from false stereotypes.

**Regards,**  
Tolena Mahlum and Marla Schoor

МГУ и Университет штата Вашингтон (UWT) объединили усилия в совместном проекте по выпуску номера газеты "Журналист"/The Ledger. Американские студентки Толена Малум и Кэри Андерсон приехали в Россию для тесной работы с российскими коллегами на факультете журналистики.

У нас было всего четыре дня для выпуска этого интересного и неоднозначного номера. Будучи ограниченными во времени, мы придерживались определенных газетных стандартов, принятых в наших странах.

Этой газете не было бы без поддержки зам.декана по творческой работе доц. Марии Лукиной, преподавателей UWT доктора Билла Ричардсона и доктора Крис Демаске. Билл был организатором Interdisciplinary Arts and Science program (объединенной программы гуманитарных, точных и естественных наук в UWT), Крис - профессор по массовой коммуникации.

Мы надеемся, что завершение первого совместного проекта между университетами послужит началом долгого сотрудничества и заложит основу для новых проектов. Мы так же верим, что в наших странах теперь появятся журналисты, статьи которых будут лишены ложных стереотипов.

С уважением,  
Толена Малум и Мария Щур

## Staff reveals Iraq perspectives

*There's one short story by Ray Bradbury about a man who works at the waste dumpsters in the suburbs and is called one day to his director's office who shares the news about the coming nuclear war. The worker is ordered to get ready for collecting human bodies from the streets with his truck. He returns home horrified and tells his wife about this bright future awaiting the city. They both silently eat dinner and go to bed. But while falling asleep the man suddenly realizes that the only thought knocking at his head is what would be the best way to stack the bodies in the truck to pile up as many as possible for one ride!..*

*We felt it was important to say what our opinion on the Iraq issue is. And we want our voices to be heard because we do care.*

In my opinion now it's too early to judge what the war with Iraq will bring and whether it is necessary in general. Also it is difficult to tell whether or not weapons of mass defeat exist in the territory of Iraq.

However, even if they do exist it will be so difficult to prove for the United States, because the world community has already adjusted to the fact that the U.S. is going to forge the results.

The most frightening thing in this situation is feebleness and the inconsistency of the United Nations which was initially created solely for the maintenance of stability in the world. Now we can only hope that the problem will be resolved with the least losses for both sides and that it wouldn't render influence on today's system of international law and relations.

**ANTON MANIASHIN**

To me this war in Iraq is not about bombing the cities - it's more that we have become so used to being shot at. We turn the TV on and watch violence in the news, we switch to a different channel and find some movie about terrorists, walk out into the street and some maniac runs into our neighbor with his car.

Blood and tragedy all around makes us grief-proof, and it lets the war step into our back-yard and shoot us from behind. That's how I see this Iraqi conflict - we made it possible, not some president or hidden chemical weapons since we started protesting only when troops were already boarding the vessels to go East. Is there a way to change it?

Frankly speaking, I don't know, but I do feel there is still a chance.

**MARIA SCHOOR**

Recently it seemed that the second world war was the last serious conflict that mankind could allow. All the second half of the 20th century, humanity struggled against the new war that could lead the world to self-destruction. Every military conflict - Afghanistan, Kuwait, Palestine, Bosnia - was expected to become the beginning of the third world war. We were scared - the politics were carrying out their will. But we have never been so close to the tragedy as we are today. Great Britain, Turkey and even Australia are already involved in the war. Israel and Iran are afraid of bombing attacks. Other countries, including the ones protesting, can become parties of war at any minute. What would be the result of this war if society would remember to use common sense and the military actions did not go outside of the Iraqi territory? After the war is over, the American corporations will receive oil and oil-producing countries will be amidst economic crisis. The world, on behalf of the UNO, will prove their own weakness and the people of Iraq will sustain long years of occupation and chaos. And the world will once again feel defenseless of malicious desire.

**ELENA RACHEVA**



It's too late to protest my disgust for the war in Iraq. The bombing and killing has already begun. People will die violently and painfully, while others will become decorated heroes.

Living in a highly advanced world where ways of the past have simply become ways of the past, war too should be left for the history books instead of our present and future.

Aside from the death and destruction, war ultimately creates and feeds cultural divisions and the war in Iraq will be no different.

One thing for certain is that generations to come will be left responsible for mending the wounds remaining from the war in Iraq. Wounds throbbing of hate, disgust, guilt, regret, prejudice, division, greed and suffering.

**KARIE ANDERSON**

Of course, I agree with those who say that this war isn't necessary and could be avoided. There are a lot of opinions on the topic of why President Bush needs the war - beginning with the shortage of petroleum and finishing with the version about Saddam's neutralization. I don't answer such questions myself because the only person that knows the real answer is Mr Bush. I want peace in the world because it will give an opportunity for mothers not to lose their sons, for sisters not to lose their brothers and for wives not to lose their husbands.

**RAFAEL SAAKOV**

War is about hatred, conflict, death and suffering. While war seems to be a necessary solution in the minds of many, I have a hard time justifying all of the lives that will be lost in the many battles that are to come. The media is littered with images of bombs exploding and soldiers falling, all for something that I feel could have been avoided. So soon after Sept. 11 were people beginning to recover from the violent images and the nervous twitches... just in time to prepare themselves for the next tragedy. That's what war is to me. A tragedy with no ending.

**TOLENA MAHLUM**

### Journalist/The Ledger

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

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# UWT leaders speak out about war coverage

Displaying Saddam Hussein as the ultimate villain, a recent American television advertisement aired presenting the message "support our troops."

The contradictory messages of war propaganda and the media's underlying role of objectivity can make it difficult to determine if the media is really reporting the news from their non-biased government watchdog chair.

"I think it's clear that the media is tied very closely to the federal government's propaganda campaign," said Brooke Bower, vice president of the Associated Students of the University of Washington, Tacoma. "My concerns here are that regardless of the true threat to America Saddam Hussein may be, I think it is very typical of the U.S. government to pin all the world problems and every danger that may threaten America to a specific icon or figure. This is a ploy to whip up support for American aggression."

The advertisement ultimately urged viewers to support the American troops in their mission to change the Iraqi regime.

"I don't believe the real prob-

lem is that Americans won't support the men and women being sent to the Persian Gulf region; it has very little to do with Americans not supporting these people," Bower said. "The true issue is that Americans don't support this act of preemptive aggression initiated by the federal government."

Claiming that the average American citizen looks to television and newspapers for the truth, Bower explained the bias created through the media limits the flow of ideas for readers and viewers.

"If Americans cannot expect to receive a clear understanding of the issues or if they are only hearing one side, the side the bias intends the public to hear, then how can anyone make clear judgments as to what to stand up for," Bower said.

Although skeptical of the political bias in the media, Bower said she trusts that she is hearing part of the story, but the media only breaks the surface of an issue for her.

"If I'm interested in a true understanding of the issue, then I

search global newspapers and media sources. In all of the rhetoric, when it's compared, the truth usually will surface," Bower said.

Like Bower, other individuals seek supplemental media outside of the mainstream American media including ASUWT Senator Mark Dodson.

***"I think its clear that the media is tied very closely to the federal government's propaganda campaign."***

**Brooke Bower**

"For the most part, most of the information that I obtain about world affairs comes from foreign media sources, most notably France, Canada, England, and Australia," Dodson said. "Voices from the left are almost unheard from in the U.S., with the exception of the growing independent media within America, which does give these opinions their due time."

Feeding his media diet through the Internet, Dodson says the Internet is a convenient way for getting the other side of the story while mainstream media misses the mark in balanced coverage.

"It's not that they're lying per se, but that they are not telling the entire truth, or they skip over the relevant details in order to make the piece easily understandable to the general public, who are assumed to be blithering idiots," Dodson said.

Although Dodson maintains that the media voices from the left are almost never heard in American mainstream media, others feel the media in general has been and still is tilted towards left ideals.

"The media clearly still slants left in the mainstream, but with

**KARIE ANDERSON**

strong conservative alternatives emerging such as FOX News, which dominates cable news, the topic is in the public debate and is starting to neutralize the bias somewhat," said Scott Juergens, president of the College Republicans, a UWT student organization.

While recognizing political bias within the coverage of war in media, Juergens said that the presence of bias is improving.

"An example of this recently was an anti-war rally in San Francisco where it was reported that there were 200,000 protesters, and a typically liberal San Francisco paper took an aerial photo and concluded there were only 65,000. The correction might not have been made 10 years ago," Juergens said.

Commenting on the existence or non-existence of ethics in American mainstream journalists today, Juergens discussed a recent televised interview with Saddam Hussein.

"I really questioned Dan Rather when he gave an interview to Saddam Hussein with an absolute lack of control," Juergens said. "No serious journalist would accept restrictions like that from our own president, so I believe Rather was wrong to create an accommodative standard for the enemy."

Despite clear division as to whether the media is left or right, liberal or conservative, what is apparent is that many perceive political bias either way is present in American media accounts of war coverage.

With the war in Iraq unfolding in front of our eyes, it is expected that this war will be covered more than any other war. Whether the citizens feel that it is a left or right account of the conflict, many students say that facts will be left out or undiscovered.





**Official reports about the military conflict in Chechnya are similar, like twins. A moderate regret about destruction, the obligatory optimism about restoration of the destroyed cities, the similar pictures of new buildings near the ruins, statistics of losses and the patriotic story about victories of the Russian army.**

# CHECHNYA: ROAD BLOCKS ON INFORMATION

ELENA RACHEVA

## Troubled times

The First Chechen war was named "actions for the restoration of the law and order", and it lasted from 1994 to 1996. At that time, the state mechanism of providing mass media with military information had only begun developing. There were neither serious obstacles in the access to the information, nor the mechanisms of maintenance with it. There was minimal information in the official Russian reports. Different militaries and governmental departments demanded different accreditation, and there were only journalists themselves who answered for their own safety.

According to the Russian Center of Extreme Journalism, during the whole first Chechen war there were 20 journalists killed and another 36 wounded. 174 were detained - 90 percent of them by the Russian militaries. No one was punished for the crimes against the journalists.

As Oleg Panfilova, the head of the Center of Extreme Journalism says, the Russian authorities offered a private compromise to the journalists: We (capacities) do not limit your work, do not enter censorship or forbid to attend the Chechen Republic. And you (journalists) go further, find the common language with militaries and do not complain about us.

## Informational blockage

The peace agreement in Chechnya was signed in August of 1996. Since that time, the new policy of the republic - both social and informational - has begun developing. From gorges and mountains, battles have found their way to TV-screens and pages of newspapers.

As the war practice goes, the republic was taken in a ring of information blockade. State structures have shut down the access to the whole information about the first war. In 1996, the famous Russian magazine "Ogonyok" has tried to find out how many Russian



soldiers were killed and wounded, as well as how many people became refugees. The magazine has sent inquiries to all power ministries, but no answers were received.

On the 21st of September, 1997, the President of Chechen Republic, Aslan Maskhaov, declared that "there are the attempts to place Chechnya on the terms of information isolation". The dates about the life of the post-war country have ceased to go outside.

Since that time, all Chechen mass-media were obliged to receive the license. Some oppositional journalists were arrested. According to the dates of The Center of Extreme Journalism, 23 people were kidnapped.

In an interview to the newspaper "The Moscow News" on July 10, 2001, the secretary of the Security Council of the Chechnya Rudnick Dudaev said that inhabitants of the country should receive newspapers even though they did not, and they should have access to all broadcasting, even though it was blocked by mufflers.

### The half-truths or the half-lies?

Only in the first months of the second military campaign (October 1999), journalists were able to work in the territory of Chechnya without any restrictions. According to the famous Russian newspaper "Kommersant", soon the chief of the Joint Staff Anatoly Kvashnin had personally forbidden to let correspondence of non-governmental media in Mozdok, a part of Chechnya. All military officials were prohibited to communicate with journalists without the press-services.

However, the main ways to limit the access to the information were developed even in the first Chechen campaign.

More than a hundred journalists had their equipment and records illegally withdrawn. Oleg Orlov said that he has seen, many times, the soldiers from blockhouses who took away video and audio records from the journalists without any explanations just as fast as they found them. Almost always military men were in masks, which made it impossible to find them later and return the equipment. Not in any cases were the guilty military men punished - even if their names were known.

Besides, after the kidnappings and murders of several journalists, many of their colleagues ceased to use constitutional law to get access to information. As Michael Metelitsa, TV-cameramen in Chechnya, says,

the guns of Chechen soldier or a sign "Mines" on the fields along the roads limits movement of film crews better than any accreditation.

Nowadays every journalist working in Chechnya can officially travel through the country only under an escort of the press-services. According to Vladimir Voronov, the military correspondent of the magazine "The New Time", if you are going in the governmental Jeep, it is extremely difficult to talk to anybody, except the officials and soldiers, specifically prepared for interviews. This is true also to see any indicative shows with explosions of petards and rockets.

The same demonstration performances is the main contents of the informational lense of the press-services.

### Idealistic Chechnya

The first information shot was made simultaneously with the take-off of aircraft. On the first day of war, Russian President Vladimir Putin's order established the Russian information center for the gathering of military information. But the shot quickly appeared to be single, and the dates about the war did not seem to be truthful.

As Oleg Orlov tells, according to the official dates in a Chechen village Tsosen-Jurt carried out a large antiterrorist operation, with more than 40 insurgents killed. When representatives of "Memorial" came to the place of events, they discovered that the large victory of the Russian armies consisted of the neutralization of four rebels.

There was widespread misinformation in the official news during the years of war about the deaths and injuries of extremists leaders. They appeared with an enviable regularity, however their refutations were made by the killed rebels themselves.

But the most popular is the announcement of the end of the war. As Oleg Panfilov said on June 26, 2000, the commander of the Russian armies, Gennady Troshev, declared that "in the territory of the Chechen Republic war is completed", as well as aviation impacts. In the same day, a news agency "Interfaks" informed people that "today the fighting aircraft has made 11-12 take-off of planes ... and more than 30 starts of helicopters".

The essence of an official information policy has expressed Valery Manilov, the assistant chief of the Military Staff. According to the newspaper "Kommersant", at the meeting of military press-services he has told

that it is necessary "to work as the real professionals: speak a lot, but tell nothing".

### Common sense and sensibility

In Oleg Orlov's opinion, it's possible to receive trustworthy information about a Chechen conflict. But one needs two things for that. First - to work without the official journalistic accreditation. And second - to have an opportunity to publish the truth. It is difficult to say what would be stronger - fear of a journalist to appear unarmed on a war field - or the fear of his editor to tell truth on the pages of his edition.

There is not so much Russian media, which usually ventures to do this. Qualitative newspaper "Novaya Gazeta" regularly, almost in each number, publishes articles of Anna Politkovskaya, the most famous Russian war correspondent. She is one of the few journalists who tells the readers about the life of the peace inhabitation and problems of refugees. Each of her articles causes reactions both by readers and authorities. The journalist was detained and arrested several times. Now, Politkovskaya uses personal connections for travelling through Chechnya, which gives her an opportunity to receive much more informa-

tion than any of the official journalists.

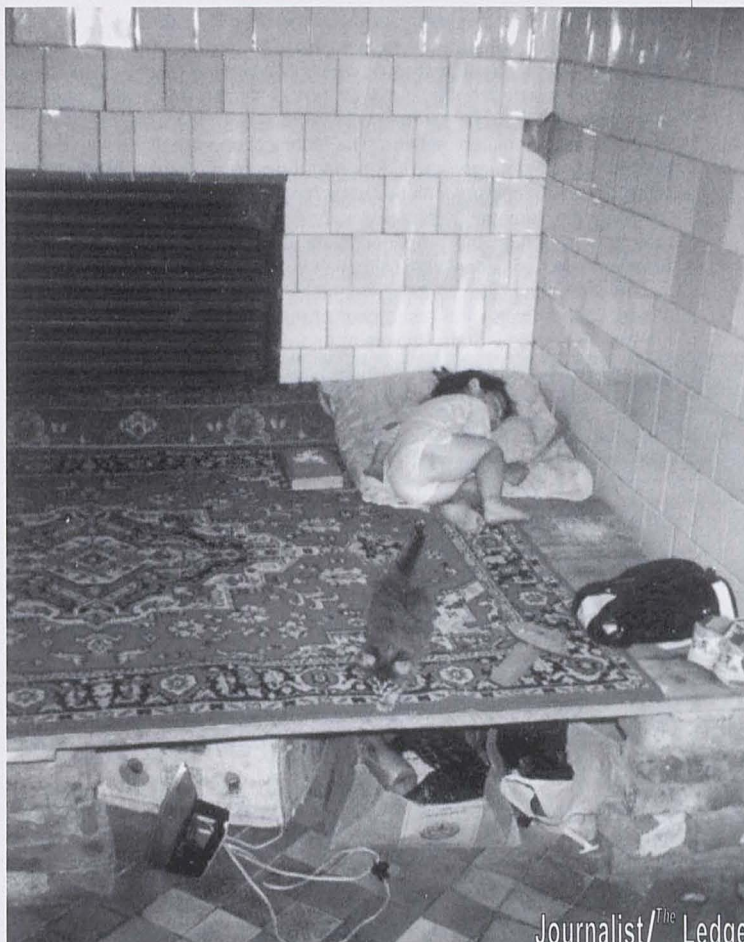
The human rights center "Memorial" gather and publish information about Chechen war and gives legal help to Chechen inhabitants. The Independent Center of Extreme Journalism regularly gathers facts about the war conflict and studies infringements of rights of journalists who work in the war conflicts.

Sometimes editors limit news about Chechen war by their own principles. In the opinion of Vladislav Shurygin, an observer of the pro-communistic newspaper "Zavtra", the main war concepts are "we" and "another", therefore objectivity can not exist and publishing the truth could be harmful and dangerous.

Frequently the Russians themselves do not need the information on a way of military actions. They don't want to know about murders in peaceful villages, nor about crimes of federal troops or horrors of a refugees life.

Naturally, the war in Chechnya is going on and interest in the war is fading. News of battles are leaving the front pages of newspapers and moving to the end of the TV-news.

The end of the war can become an event, but it is still not expected yet.





RAFAEL SAAKOV

Society needs fast results,  
TV produces results every minute!



# WAR AS A TV-ACT

## Vietnam and its lessons

For the last three years, since the beginning of my studying at the faculty of journalism of Moscow State University, I've learned much about American television. Today my idea about it is rather contradictory because of the many discrepancies taking place on TV in America. While the most significant changes have taken place in TV journalism, it is also the most problematic area of mainstream U.S. media.

The greatest attention of an audience is when the regular news drops out of coverage during the time of military conflicts, when millions people take a seat by their TV screens with the desire to learn the latest news from the front of military actions. The technical opportunity to report from the "hot spots" emerged in USA during the war in Vietnam in the 1950-60's of the 20th century with the occurrence of portable TV cameras.

"Then the Pentagon, which had authorized journalists for work in a military zone, pursued the propaganda purpose - having shown as easily American army will cope with a situation in Vietnam to make the American society, first of all elite, which gave means for realization of military operations, support war, - the researcher of the American TV, the senior lecturer of the Moscow State University Andrey Raskin says. -

"In the beginning all went on according to how the Pentagon planned, and then, as other countries began to be involved in the conflict, it became clear that there was nothing simple in this conflict and the more the USA had coordinated this campaign, the more negative images began to appear on TV screens.

Reports began to vary in tone, and, as a result, instead of supporting this campaign, society on the contrary began to interfere with its realization and marches of protest began to be carried out. Thus, the TV involuntarily has played a specific role in the forming of anti-war moods".

## CNN's strength

Since the war in Vietnam, practically all confrontations have been covered on American TV channels, but it is clear that in each conflict Americans approached the covering of events from ideological positions. Proceeding to the end of 1980's, the system of sharing the World from two divisions, USSR and USA, had broken up. The covering of conflicts began to become new reference points, and the main news bulletin of America - CNN- was born.

The first born television child of Ted Turner, CNN, is unique in its round-the-clock news, whether it be political commentary, sports, business news, culture or style. When the channel had appeared for the first

time, it was designated to have a short life, but the project appeared durable and lasting. In 1991 the broadcasting company NNN got stronger after its 11 years of existence and turned into a powerful information resource - the only channel that was allowed to leave satellite aeriels directly over Baghdad to carry out their live translations. It was a new world in TV development - signals transmitted through satellites, presenting an opportunity for covering military actions in a mode of real time.

The secret was simple: the effective bombardments of Iraq shown on CNN became possible due to American journalists being notified beforehand by the government about approaching events in order for them to occupy the front lines of battle to cover shootings on roofs or high-altitude buildings. It was the biggest step in showing war developing in front of our eyes in the whole world, when elements of war were shown for domestic viewing.

Further, in autumn of 2001, the USA announced the beginning of the conflict in Afghanistan not only to journalists as it was in Baghdad, but also to the whole world, similar to announcements of the Olympic Games. The first bombs over Afghanistan burst in air and war became a completely televised event termed as "action" not "war". It is noticed that even many American politicians began to use the terms more pertinent to Hollywood and the world of show business.

Senior lecturer Raskin comments: "The reason of such a change is that the character of the world recognition varies: if earlier we corresponded more to documentary cinema, we were concerned certain actions turned into events, now to involve the big audience you "brush" conflicts to make them look brighter. It is also necessary not to forget that for the last decade such a powerful direction appeared with the development of computer games.

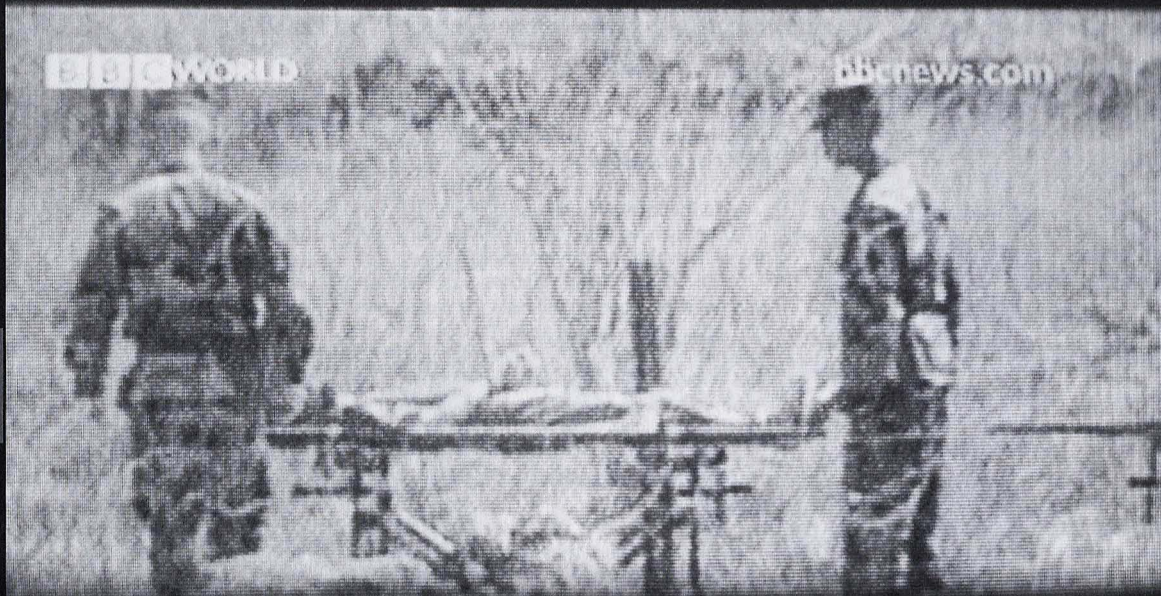
"Today, many people try to "destroy" Iraq virtually. The elements and psychology of these virtual wars will influence certainly on those military men who until the conflict played these games, and further they will try to transfer them on the real ground."

## Role of the journalist during war

It is considered that new conflicts, such as the development in Iraq, can't last a lot of time because if they become long the steadfast attention of the public will be lost. The broadcasting company CNN has even declared prior to the beginning of war that they needed to allocate 25 million dollars of their budget for the covering of war in Iraq. It is a big budget, but it is clear that it is not designated for a long conflict - a maximum two or three months.

The explanation of this fact is that society today lives for such high





speeds and wants the war to begin today and finish tomorrow. If Americans manage to carry out the operation in Iraq as well as they did it in the 1991 "Desert Storm", maybe this campaign can be recognized positively though it withdraws us from the concept of a peaceful way of human society.

"People began to concern to war easily, - thinks A.Raskin, - Enough time has already passed from great events of the last century, and all horrors began to be erased from the memory, that's why the world wants something new. The role of the journalist in such a situation grows twice: he should manage how to protect the world and find certain ways of informing society. Certainly, all situations can't be simulated beforehand, but TV is a universal remedy, and each journalist is an individual. From here we understand that the journalist should follow the certain logic of events which occur to rely more on his own intuition than on the tastes of an audience, and try to give an objective picture of current events, following their morals and ethics."

A special character of American TV is its organizational structure and the principals of private ownership, where advertising is the fundamental concern. Huge incomes of advertising make TV a business that is considered practically the most profitable branch of USA's economy. "Advertising on American TV is part of an establishment, - says the director of the Centre of Rights and Mass-Media at the faculty of journalism of Moscow State University Andrey Rihter. -

"And, the advertisers are various corporations which to some extent are connected to the government. These corporations frequently dictate conditions to TV-channels, not wishing the image of their corporation to be somehow suffered from the covering of this or that problem by this or that channel."

In conditions of the military conflict this problem becomes even more actually, because depending on what kind of policy (governmental or oppositional) will the channel accept, advertisers will decide how to act. For example, there is a paradoxical situation on the Fox-News channel today: the owner is Rupert Murdoch and the information policy is determined by the cousin of President Bush. Therefore, it's clear that this channel is ignoring public opinion and replacing it with the President's policy.

### Talks about war

Lots of people spoke against the war within the last month: Nobel Prize winners, writers, actors, directors and other figures of Hollywood who have acted out through protests on their own "stage" during the delivery of the Oscars'. The political weight of such statements become insignificant to government because they don't make an impression. Moreover, pacifistic

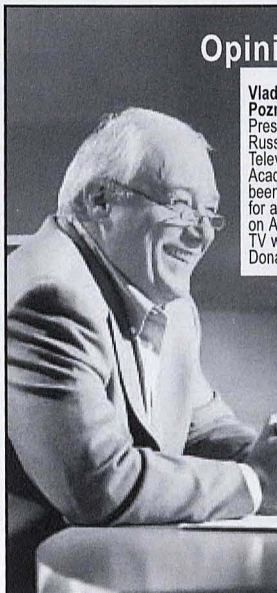
activity has revealed the true attitude of the US government and their allies through the freedom of speech. Ignoring public opinion is half of the big troubles - American media has also started to operate through means of self-censorship.

In the beginning of February the first lady of USA, Laura Bush, cancelled a poetic symposium to which she had invited talented poets of the country. Explaining her step, she declared that some of the visitors were going to use the symposium to criticize the policy of her husband. Laura Bush said that she didn't want to transform literary expression into a political forum. As a reaction to this, the poets declared February 12, the date when the symposium supposed to be held, the "Day of Poetry Against War."

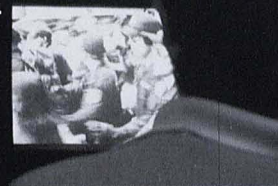
Another occurrence happened on the ceremony of delivering the Grammy Awards where the broadcasting company CBS promised to disconnect microphones of those who would start to express their view on the conflict in Iraq. As a result of the American executives, rapper Eminem only wished he could bid peace to the whole World. In addition, Sheryl Crow's guitar's belt had an inscription that read "Say No! to War".

### Opinion

**Vladimir Pozner**, President of Russian Television Academy, had been working for a long time on American TV with Phil Donahue

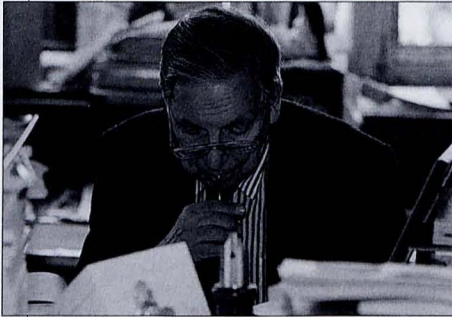


Covering military conflict, the American TV adheres to the certain policy of what is possible to give on air and what is impossible. From times of war in Vietnam, the American government officials have a structure of dealing with journalists. They enter some control in the submission of information and in its search, in the certain places journalists are not supposed to go. And, in general, as one clever person said, there is a war which shows CNN, there is a war which shows Al Jazeera, and there is simply a real War.





# Internet lacking credibility



VYACHESLAV KOCHETKOV

Professor Zassoursky, the Dean of MSU Department of Journalism talking about censorship on the World Wide Web.

**– Professor Zassoursky, are you satisfied with the quality of information on the Internet?**

– Internet is a free space, like a street. On the street you can read a newspaper from a tray [credible information source] or you can read an inscription on a fence [flyers posted by unknown sources]. In this sense, the Internet is a means of democracy.

Now there are about 600 million Internet users, so the fence inscriptions are increasing. The main thing is to choose that site which is trustworthy. The most reliable sites seem to be

those produced by mass media and various scientific organizations.

**– Is the Internet a means of democracy, not of anarchy? Nowadays, anybody can do anything he wants on the Internet.**

– Of course I agree that the vast number of Internet sites leads to difficulties in finding credible information, but despite this problem, the Internet allows people to express their opinions and to read the ideas and opinions of others. Another problem is that the environment on the Internet should be filled with information, not rubbish. The ecology of the Internet is a serious problem, and it is impossible to solve it by means of prohibition.

**– Do you mean that censorship is impossible in the Internet?**

– I think, yes, if we want the Internet to remain open to everybody. If it becomes closed, it will cease to exist. We can reach an agreement to make some filters for information on the Internet. For example, we can decide not to allow child pornography or to forbid using the Internet for terrorism. There are few examples like this, but all these examples of restrictions show that the Internet needs some definite rules of behavior.

**– These rules – what should they look like?**

– In my opinion, the main requirement for everybody who creates matter in the Internet should be putting an address on the material. If you build a site, then the Internet user should know that it is really yours. And knowing you, we can judge about the quality of your information.

A couple of dozens of years ago in Afghanistan there weren't marked streets and houses. People said, "This house is situated behind the second hill in the third row." Now streets are named — "The Second Mountainous Street," "The Third Under Mountainous Street." Likewise in the Internet. You should know whom the person is, to whom you are talking and where he is living. And all of these experiments, when a ten-year-old boy pretends to be an old man on the Internet, it is funny, but it doesn't make joy.

**– Is it technically possible to make this address requirement?**

– I think, yes. All these things go through providers and so the problem could be solved by them if they choose to.

YEVGENIYA DULO

## Public Announcement

The three campuses of the University of Washington will be undergoing a decennial accreditation visit by representatives of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and Universities, Commission on Colleges and Universities, on April 9, 10, and 11. The University's Self-Study is available in full at [www.washington.edu/about/accreditation](http://www.washington.edu/about/accreditation). Copies of the accreditation self-study have been placed at the reference desks at both the Suzzallo and Odegaard Libraries on the University of Washington campuses.

The University of Washington has been continually accredited by the Commission since 1918. The standards against which the University is validated can be found at <http://www.nwccu.org/>.

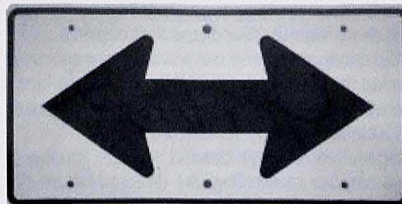
The University invites public comment to its self-study. An email address has been set up to receive public comment [accredit@u.washington.edu](mailto:accredit@u.washington.edu). All comments will be provided in full to the Commission. Alternately, the public is invited to submit comments directly to the Commission at its headquarters:

Commission on Colleges and Universities  
Northwest Association of Schools and of Colleges and Universities  
8060 165th Avenue, N.E.  
Suite 100  
Redmond, WA 98052





# UNNECESSARY BLOCKING: FOUNDATION SAYS CENSORWARE NEEDS TO GO



**TOLENA MAHLUM**

The Internet has become a routine part of life for most people in the United States. Vast amounts of information await people of all ages in cyberspace; however, this has raised concern among parents, teachers and government officials. As a result, many types of software, called censorware, have been developed as an attempt to filter out negative images on the World Wide Web.

Since the passage of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) in 2001, schools and libraries receiving federal funds for Internet access are required to install filtering and blocking software into their computers. This software has been created to safeguard children from pornographic images online; however, some organizations, including the American Library Association, are claiming that this software is a violation of their first amendment rights.

"Most vendors [of censorware] allow schools to pick and choose which categories they wish to block," said Lars Kongslem, associate editor of the Electronic School Online. "But none permit educators to view the full list of blocked sites."

Popular types of censorware include CYBERSitter, cyber patrol, Net Nanny, BESS, Smart Filter and SafeSurf.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation questions whether the American Government's priorities are straight when it comes to the monitoring of electronic mass media.

The EFF says that viewing Playboy.com should be the least of the government's worries, when there are so many other "dangerous" activities that Americans participate in on a day-to-day basis.

The EFF states that its mission is, "Working to protect our fundamental rights regardless of technology; to educate the press, policymakers and the general public about civil liberties issues related to technology; and to act as a defender of those liberties."

Their Web site informs viewers about censorware and why they think it is wrong.

The EFF says that this software blocks not only the "bad" information from reaching the viewers, but it also blocks other sites that should not be filtered out. Groups such as Amnesty International, a human rights organization, and the National Organization for women are being blocked by the censorware.

"Schools have no way of knowing whether a particular site is blocked — or why — without trying a site and seeing what happens," said Kongslem. "This is an important limitation, many educators say, because vendors often incorrectly categorize sites."

Recent studies by the General Accounting Office and the House Committee on Government Reform state that parents might not be understanding how much porn is available on everyday services through the Internet.

"Seemingly innocent searches for files containing images of popular cartoon characters, singers and actors produce thousands of graphic pornographic images including child pornography," said Thomas Davis III (R-Va), a representative in the United States government.

With the filtering and blocking software in place, the EFF claims that the World Wide Web is transformed from being a vastly open space full of valuable information to a limited amount of space with not all of the options.

"Part of learning about the Internet is running into the occasional porn site," said Dana Allen, a senior at Western Washington University in northern Washington State. "I think that it's going to happen whether they have software for it or not. I would rather know what all of my options are than risk having something valuable [like Amnesty International] blocked."

Censorware is designed to filter out the porn

sites more than anything else; however, according to Allen, the porn sites are as much of a part of the Internet today as downloads and advertisements are.

Software sharing sites, such as music downloads, have become very popular for people of all ages, and are at high risk for porn.

Kazaa is currently leading the market for information sharing, namely music downloads, however the GAO says that when they tried looking up names such as "Britney" or "Pokemon," more than 55 percent of the search findings revealed some sort of pornography.

Rep. Henry A. Waxman, (D-Calif), said that the file sharing programs such as Napster or Kazaa are the worst for porn because the filtering software, such as censorware, can not adequately work within these types of programs.

"On the web, you generally need a credit card to access hard-core adult videos," he said, "But on file sharing programs it's all free."

"I don't want my teenagers running into porn on the Internet," said James Roberts, a resident of Tacoma, Washington. "I don't even let them use the computer at home for email because I get horrible images in my inbox."

The recording industry has indicated that 41 percent of music downloads are by children ages 12 to 18. With programs such as Kazaa

being downloaded more than 200 million times to computers across the globe, young children have increased access to the world of Internet porn, regardless of the censorware.

Despite CIPA's attempts to install censorware for the protection of children, it has been brought before the U.S. Supreme Court for a hearing this month. In

May, 2002, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled that CIPA is unconstitutional because the censorware both under-blocks and over-blocks information.





# POLITICS DRIVING ECONOMIC REFORMS JOURNALISTS

ANTON MANIASHIN

GALINA TISCHENKO

It's been ten years running that Russian mass media has been changing a lot. They have experienced an intensive course of development. The main mistake with state policy was the inability to define its own strategy regarding the media market where there was unlimited freedom of press.

The business community was the main source financing the development of Russian media and we came up with a strong instrument of political and economical influence.

Legislative lacunae doesn't provide for the protection of mass media from the direct pressure of the owner and as a result they completely lose interest in social needs and problems.

The Counselor of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the media group "Vechernyaya Moskva," Evening Moscow, Dmitry Murzin gives his opinion on the issue, «Sometimes newspapers simply change their face following the new owner and it is the direct influence of the capital on the content of the paper.

"It all depends on the mission of the financial group in charge of the newspaper. If the owner uses the press as a political instrument the stories would be surely biased with the journalists being told what to write. The only way the reporter can get freedom is when the newspaper is the only business of the owner."

Sergey Smirnov, the reporter of the TVS news program, tends to agree with Murzin. He believes that the media market is run by certain groups, the owners of mass media in our case, have specific means of influence that protect and stand for the interests of the owner.

"The more the corporation is involved in politics, the more pressure mass media suffers from it."

The columnist of the business weekly magazine "Russian Focus," Evgeniya Pismennaya, stated that the stories are often sent for approval to the advertiser rather than to the founder or publisher.

For example, in Vremia MN there was a time when the paper had a contract with the State Transport Department and journalists were forced to write only positive articles about the railway reform. When the contract expired the management allowed them to write unfavorable news about it.



“

**Dmitry Murzin**  
newspaper manager



Being a historical optimist I'd say we are looking into unbiased press in the nearest future. It's going to become more of the main business for the owner and the publisher will be forced to give freedom to journalists in order for the public to believe in every story and article while feeling the information is trustworthy.

“

**Ivan Gogolev**  
reporter



I work with certain persons in certain companies so I try to support good business relations with them. Traditionally, I prefer to call up the company and ask their opinion, and in turn I will not be refused from some exclusive information. I believe, journalists in Russia act similarly. We don't display primitive pragmatism, but we always construct the relations from a mutual understanding.



# ECONOMIC PRESSURE FOR JOURNALISTS

ANNA TOLOKONNIKOVA

NATALIA VYALKINA



The owner of the newspaper has the same influence on the staff. Murzin says that no Russian magazine or newspaper would dare to run an unfavorable story about the company it belongs to even when it has every right to do so. Needless to say, there have been cases of the opposite. The Financial Times gives open critique of the Pearson's group, its owner.

But the chief-editor of the daily newspaper, Izvestia, Mikhail Kozhokin, said in the interview for Russian Focus magazine: "Have you ever read in Financial Times something negative about The Pearson's group or something negative about Washington D.C. stories in the Washington Post? It's absolutely impossible! So, if I read something bad about The Pearson's Group I will believe that the freedom of speech does exist. Journalists should know that the newspaper has its own ethical rules and they shouldn't say that the freedom of speech is being violated because of their editorial policy."

The Russian press has some examples of this as well. Smirnov mentioned the case when TVS ran a negative story about Roman Abramovich being one of the main stock-holders of TVS channel when he bought the large oil company.

Information agencies solved the problem of freedom of speech differently than other sources of mass media. The staff correspondent of the Petroleum Information Agency, Ivan Gogolev, said that the main difference between news agencies and other mass media was that information agencies expound facts without analysis or comments.

"It promotes the idea of objectivity in the news and somewhat reflects the existing independence. We are always in a position to refer to the exact source, but sure, we give the company a chance to comment on reported information. Ultimately, our style is to show events and information from the maximum points of view. Background depends on the correspondent: whether he will give neutral background or, for example, remind the reader about a recent conflict directly connected with activity of the reported company," Gogolev elaborates.

“

Evgeniya Pismennaya  
columnist



A lot of staff-reporters and officers don't know who really controls the magazine and we are never informed about the magazine's financial sources. I don't know any examples of somebody giving orders to journalists on how they must write a specific opinion about the company.

“

Sergey Smirnov  
reporter



In fact, we have documents limiting the power of the owner. According to the newspaper charter, the chief-editor is elected by the staff members and the director who is in charge of the financial part of the business is appointed by the stock-holders. Thus, we get a normal division of labor.



# Financial pressures

## *changing today's newsroom*

KARIE ANDERSON

Breaking news is hitting the newspaper stands, airwaves and the World Wide Web every second of every day around the globe. Along with the increasing demand for the news now, the job of the journalist has evolved.

Amongst political pressure, media conglomeration, advertising-dependent companies and slow economic times, delivering news to the masses is becoming increasingly difficult to do.

"I haven't noticed much of a change over the last two or three years. Budgets are tight but at the same time the demand for news has been overwhelming during that same period," said Rob Artigo, a Seattle, Washington radio news reporter for 710 KIRO AM. "The effect of that is, news rooms need quality reporters. They can't just rely on some national service."

Where the individual journalist really feels the economic crunch set down by management is through the lack of available resources, staff and overtime. In many organizations, overtime is something everybody is required to avoid.

"For example, if overtime is required, then it better be an important story," Artigo said. "You don't want to spend a lot of money just for a feature-type story when you know you will have to use those overtime hours for breaking news, war coverage or something vital to the community."

According to Artigo, jobs in the media are a high demand, but companies can't afford to keep big staffs while vital local news is becoming more recognizably important.

"The bottom line is that I can go 'above and beyond' covering a special project, but I do that because I love the job and will do it on my own free time," Artigo said. "Keep in mind that even in good economic times this is true."



Many U.S. newsrooms, largely dependant on advertising for survival, are being forced to cut staff and hours.

**"Large media companies are so driven by the bottom line, if you don't produce a certain level of ratings and, thus, a certain level of revenues, you won't last long in this business."**

Dori Monson

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As with most media businesses in America today, newsrooms are being asked to do more with less.

"We are expected to compete with a daily newspaper in our coverage area with a decrease in staff and a freeze on resources," said Lyn Iverson, editor of The Puyallup Herald newspaper, a publication outside of the Seattle area. "The result is staff members stretched to their limits."

As a small weekly newspaper with seven employees, including the receptionist and the editor, Iverson said the difficulty is that most of the employees are new to their careers.

"Add to the mix that community weeklies are generally springboards to bigger newspapers, we deal with

a high turnover rate annually which is something that results in time lost to interviewing, hiring and training with remaining staff taking on yet more duties to cover all the papers' beats,"

Iverson said.

At The Puyallup Herald, each staff member has a minimum of two beats, while most have three areas to cover. During the recent economic downturns such as the one experienced in this country after Sept. 11, the company requested that the newspaper not immediately fill positions-even while reporters had recently moved on to other jobs. In addition, the small newspaper has seen a dramatic drop in their advertising department, resulting in less

pages for reporters to fill.

"Balancing the mission of a weekly community paper of providing readers with in-depth coverage of their communities, we cover five, in less space with fewer people continues to be a challenge we struggle with," Iverson said.

Predicting an increase in economic pressures over time, Iverson said her gut feeling is that it will take 5-10 years for the country to get back on its feet economically.

Although The Puyallup Herald newspaper and many others like it feel the economic pressure in regards to staffing and resources, some claim they do not experience economic pressure that discourages or promotes writing or reporting on specific topics.

"I don't really feel any economic pressure in the sense that I am prevented from doing stories because of pressure from advertisers or am told to do stories that benefit advertisers," said Peter Callaghan, columnist for The News Tribune. "There is no such pressure that I am aware of. It may happen at other papers, just none I've worked for."

Callaghan claimed it is hard to serve the public's interests with a lack of staff but that is a result of the weak financial state of advertising and the need for publishers of newspapers to please stockholders with revenue and earnings.

"The quickest way to more staffing is to sell more papers and sell more advertising," said Callaghan. "I suppose there could be subtle pressure, therefore, to please advertisers by going soft on them. But I don't think, and studies agree, that such coverage would increase circulation."

Although many American pub-

lishers attempt to "educate" the newsroom staff as to the economic realities of the industry, Callaghan said there is still a strong culture that demands a firewall between the journalists and the business side of advertising and circulation.

"The firewall serves a good purpose," Callaghan said. "The pressure to break it down is being met with equal pressure to keep it standing. If anything, there is pressure to be more entertaining, to replace hard news with soft news. But that is felt far more on TV than in newspapers."

Just as newspapers need to sell advertising and circulation, broadcasting companies need to get ratings to ensure their livelihood in the industry. The fast growing demand is for media professionals to be entertaining, therefore receiving ratings that consequently sell advertising.

"Large media companies are so driven by the bottom line, if you don't produce a certain level of ratings and, thus, a certain level of revenues, you won't last long in this business," said Dori Monson, a radio personality on 710 KIRO AM.

Quarterly results of earnings are blamed for giving new journalists a much shorter chance of surviving in the industry. Companies are quick to let radio hosts go if ratings are not produced.

"I think companies used to be more patient with the development of talent," Monson said. "They would sacrifice short term ratings to give someone the chance to grow into the job. Now, because of the quarterly pressures of driving earnings, they have a much shorter horizon. If a host doesn't produce results right away, they will not be given much of a chance to grow their audience."



# FACES OF THE FUTURE

If you could change one thing about the world today, what would it be?



**Varvara Kagberova**  
Newspaper group, MSU  
Second year



*"People's mentality. I want people to become more kindly. But I'm sure that it's possible only by using magic power."*



**Julie Warden-Gregory**  
IAS-Public Action, UWT  
Masters Student



*"American Poverty. The cutting of philanthropy faith-based initiatives."*



**Rebecca Denton**  
IAS-Arts, Media & Culture, UWT  
Senior



*"I don't think I could limit myself to just one. I guess it would be the perception that money rather than people solve problems and incite change for the better."*



**Emil Rabinovich**  
TV group, MSU  
First year



*"I want people to do what they want, but not what they must. I also want it to be summer all year long."*



**Sergey Borisov**  
TV group, MSU  
Third year



*"I think that it is necessary to change the overall attitude towards life. People need to think more about their soul."*



**Brian Peebles**  
Social Welfare, UWT  
Junior



*"Structure of the schools to support kids with issues like drugs and alcohol. A complete restructuring so that they can address the needs of the kids."*



**Joey Iwo**  
IAS-Politics & Values, UWT  
Senior



*"Peace and no war. For the fact that I think we're in a world where we're working on fear in other countries rather than focusing on ourselves. We need to study more on Iraq."*



**Yakov Plotkin**  
TV group, MSU  
Fourth year



*"I want to change the educational system in Russia so foreign students can come to our country, and all people can travel around the world without any visa's."*



**Alyona Zhukova**  
TV group, MSU  
Third year



*"I want to change the world economical system for all less developed countries to become more developed. I also want to stop the war in Iraq."*



**Kandace Wolf**  
Nursing Administration  
Masters Student



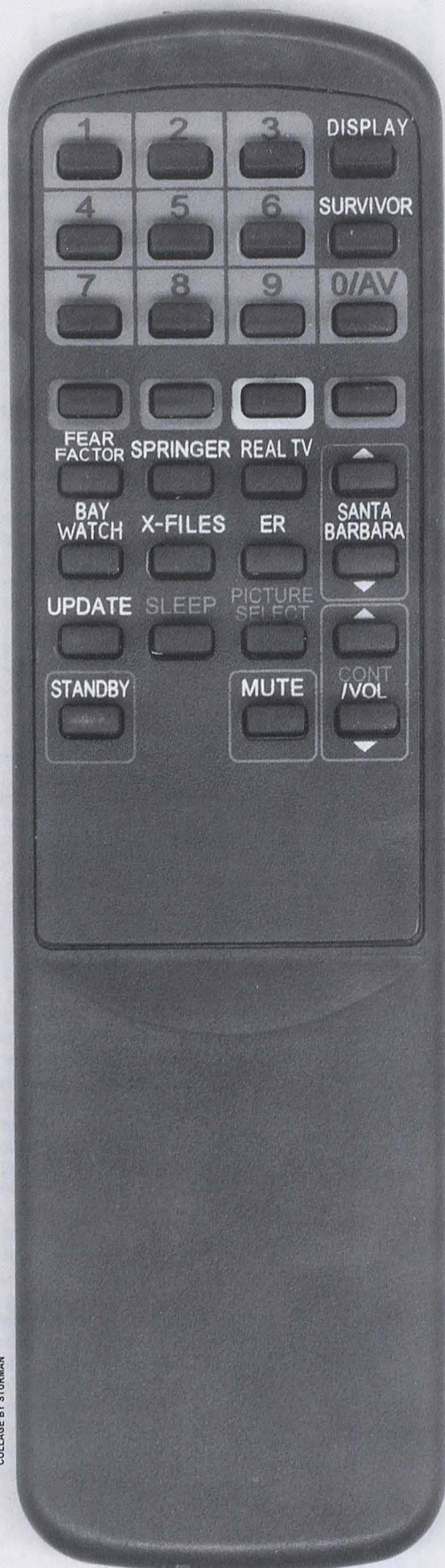
*"Materialistic Society. There is too much greed. Our kids and family situations have really gone down the tubes. We're losing sight of our true values."*

NATALIA VYALKINA  
KARIE ANDERSON

ANNA TOLOKONNIKOVA  
TOLENA MAHLUM



# TELEVISION:



COLLAGE BY STURMAN

We live today in the Communication Era. Mass media have become the only form of cultural design. It is clear that mass media mold our minds, and our activities are greatly determined by mass media's influence. So far it's bearable, unless being under such an influence leads to violence and injustice.

## NATALIA VARENTSOVA

The information boom, which has become a reality for the last five years in Russia, has introduced us to the global information society. Finally, the former Soviet media system has given up its place to the Western one. But the pill we have swallowed has not appeared to be a wonder-working sure remedy. Post-soviet mass media, in many respects, are of the same kind as their precursors, especially television with its prevailing networks existing purely for entertainment.

When freedom of speech was established, the viewer gaining access to information also was enabled to watch foreign television products. Russian TV channels were immediately infested with American TV shows and Brazilian soap-operas, which led to a substantial decline in informational programming. Audiences for trivial and superficial TV shows increased steadily year after year and TV authorities started aiming mostly at the broader public. Ever since, Russian TV cannot be considered as a main news source. It has changed into entertainment with no one having noticed.

According to the Gallup Media studies in January, 2003, one hundred best television pro-

grams not according to genre, channel and watching time, news programs appeared to take the fourth, twenty, first and fourth place. In Soviet times and in the beginning of the 1990's they achieved only leading positions. One still gives its due to the First Channel news programme "Vremia" ("Time"), watching it Friday prime-time.

It is a sort of a habit and has practically annihilated the desire to meet one's informational needs.

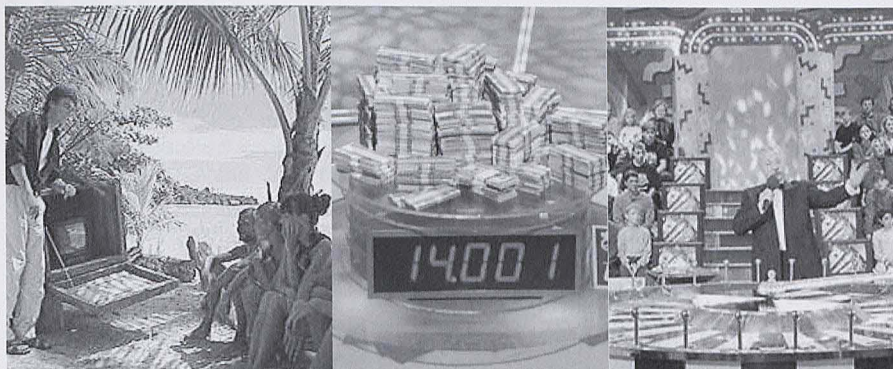
Other channel news programmes are less popular and cede public acknowledgement to the so-called "survivor-shows" "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?", "Wheel of Fortune", to comedian shows "Joke After Joke", "LaughPanorama" and to Russian talk-shows "Wait for me", "Great Laundry", and "My Family" based on foreign prototypes.

Funny enough but the political talk-show entitled "The Freedom of Speech" where burning political, economical and cultural questions are discussed is not among the top fifty and takes only the 93rd position.

The variety of Russian TV channels provided by broadcasting networks is rather illusive and deceptive since only four or five of them offer news-blocks. STS, TNT and REN-TV offers everything but the news and allure the audience by



# A NEWS SOURCE OR ENTERTAINMENT



Russian versions of the American shows Survivor, Who wants to be a Millionaire, and Wheel of

translating films, all kinds of TV-shows and soap-operas. Moreover, those who keep calling themselves informational channels proceed to reduce the number of daily news-blocks without making the remaining longer.

No wonder television is transformed into entertainment today. Having launched the Western media system we have grafted all of its pests. And, according to The Economist, it greatly suffers from them. Despite the September 11th events in lower Manhattan and Washington D.C., American news-blocks are still mostly devoted to local rumours.

The Russian Daily Newspaper The Moscow Times put in November, 2001, some letters written by American residents where the latters criticized local mass media. Nick Dale from Dover, New Hampshire, expressed his low opinion of American media stating that information was on-hold with the Government.

"Our government has made it impossible to voice your opinion, if you don't agree, without being stoned in public", he says. "There isn't any open discussion in any news forum. It seems 99 percent of television media and cable only show what they are told to. No truth is being told to us.

Information is being withheld and only one side is being told. We have the right to know what's going on the home front and abroad. We are in dark on both fronts. But I want the option to see so I can make up my own mind".

The variety of entertaining TV shows compensate the lack of information and even try to hide it. The Economist depicts ordinary TV Monday evening enumerating a great number of shows proposed: eccentric "reality TV" shows which are represented on both NBC and ABC in both "Fear Factor" and "The Chair". The comedy show "Everybody loves Raymond" on CBS and all sorts of sport games and old classic movies on NBC, Sundance Channel, Turner Classic Movies and HBO add to the list of entertainment.

The USA Today gave an official position on TV by its columnist John Omicinski in his October, 2001, issue: "Responsible TV journalism has gone with the greats". Omicinski believes America's worst enemy after the September 11 attacks was "neither the Taliban of Afghanistan nor Osama bin Laden's al-Qa'eda network" but American TV which was "driving plenty of impressionable, fearful people to nervous distraction". He reproaches the TV network for broadcast-

ing too much news about the terror acts, anthrax contracted and so browbeating the sensitive Americans.

According to Omicinski, even NBC's Tom Brokaw and CBS's Dan Rather are implicated in this "fear-mongering". He considers their TV interview as a performance of two looking haggard and drawn actors who aim "to detail the horror of their near-death experience".

In sum, Omicinski is sure that "TV has covered America during this war as if it were a foreign country to which it owes no loyalty except as news hawks or passport-holders". He also does not approve of the setting out of Afghanistan campaign as "not need-to-know information" might be uncovered.

All these items make me agree with Edward Herman. In the book "The Real Terror Network. Terrorism in Fact and Propaganda", Herman indicates mass media as a part of the state authority structure.

Thus the network is prejudiced against the same objects as the latter is. It participates in the system by keeping silent on some points. And TV, being changed in entertainment, has the same reasons.

## The most famous Americans In Russia

Every newspaper nowadays has its own popularity charts: political, musical and others. We didn't want to lag behind, so we made our chart - of the most popular Americans in Russia. Popular - not necessarily loved, but more often talked of. After long disputes with the Russian half of our team, the following ratings have topped the charts.



In first place, unanimously, is the President of the USA, **George Bush**, whose surname can be heard both in the underground and at bus stop or in shops. Though it is impossible to tell, he is probably not as popular as Bill Clinton was during his presidential period. Positive judgements about Bush can be heard mostly from Russian females.



After the President, the second most popular American among Russians is the richest person in the world, **Bill Gates**. We are interested in discussing whether the founder of the Microsoft corporation's income has decreased or increased since last year.



In third place is **Britney Spears**. From her very first hit "Baby One More Time", she conquered the hearts of pop music fans. With each new song or clip, Britney became more and more popular among the Russians. The youth shared in the masses of fans who were glad to hear about her breakup with Justin Timberlake, and those who were disappointed about the wedding that wouldn't be.



**Monica Lewinsky** is still a popular figure in Russia, as she is becoming the heroine of many jokes. She is in fourth place on our chart. The story of her affair with Bill Clinton has become so popular that Lewinsky could safely come to Russia without fearing that she would be unrecognized.



Actor **Leonardo DiCaprio**, whose portraits hang in the rooms of millions of Russian girls, finishes the list of the top-five Americans in Russia. His leading role in "Titanic" has put him on a pedestal for the list of foreign actors. In all of Russia, about 20 fan clubs operate for DiCaprio.

Rafael Saakov





TOLENA MAHLUM

# FREE PRESS

## *becoming global*

While the press in Russia is making tracks on its way to becoming free, I asked some American professors at the University of Washington, Tacoma to

comment on what it means in the U.S. to have a free press system in place.

Dr. Charles Emlet, assistant professor in social work, said that there is a down side to the free press in the United States.

"I think that it's important for all countries to have a free press assuming that there's a certain amount of integrity with the press." Emlet explained that what is printed needs to be substantiated, otherwise it does not serve any justice.

"I am annoyed at how much they [the media] sensationalize and, in some ways, edit what we watch."

Meg Smith, publications manager of The Ledger, said that in America the press gets to do its job as the watchdog of the government. "There are no laws that infringe upon our abilities to inform the public."

She added that if all countries were able to have a free press, the lines of communication would be open for the exchange of information.

John Peterson, professor in mass communication, said that the freedom of the press in America is set up to encourage significant contribution from investigative and editorial journalists. "We have come to rely on [the free press] as a key element in accomplishing fairness and openness."

Professor Peterson added that he feels that freedom of the press is important for all countries to have. However, he said that each country will develop its own version of that freedom. "Not all models of freedom will be identical to the United States' model."

### MAJOR PHASES FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN RUSSIA

#### 1985-1989

Publicity became a privilege for the media. This was granted by the authorities in Russia.

#### 1990-1993

The creation of a legal basis for free media was reluctantly permitted by the authorities in Russia.

#### 1994-1995

Media empires formed with the participation of the authorities.

#### 1996-1998

Media was starting to be used by the Russian authorities for campaigns.

#### 1999-2001

The crash of rebellious media empires and liquidation of self-regulated independent media entities was inspired by authorities.

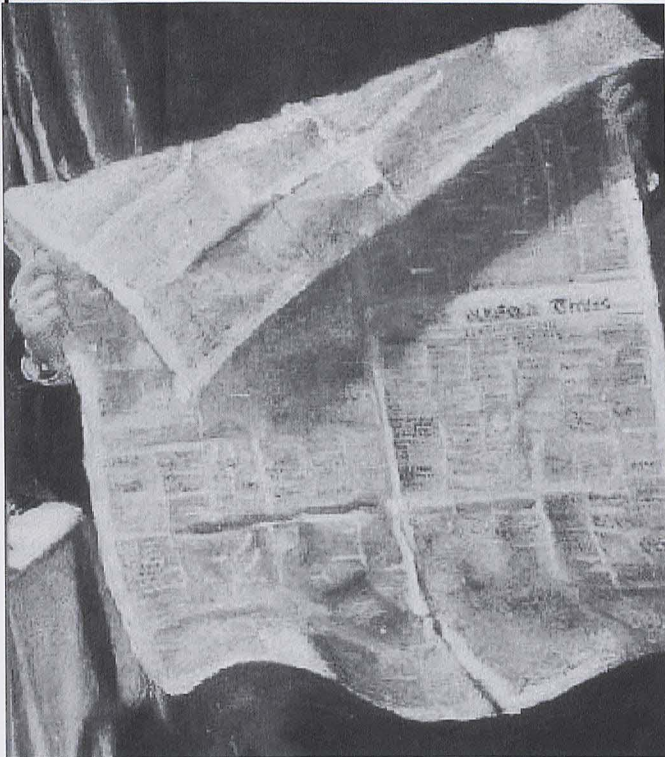
#### 2002

With participation of the loyal media empires, the forming of the media market controlled by authorities began.

### INDICATORS THAT RUSSIAN MEDIA IS MAKING A TRANSITION TO A FREE PRESS

- State broadcast companies are transforming into public broadcasting organizations.
- The integration of domestic media into transnational media corporations.
- The denationalization and privatization of enterprises forming material and a technological basis for the production of media output.
- The growth of the advertising market to a level, which is minimally sufficient, to ensure self-repayment of media output.
- The adoption and introduction of legislative measures to prevent media monopolies and to ensure media transparency and editorial independence.
- The formation of a stable, authoritative and capable of interaction structures.
- The disappearance of state-owned media.
- The synchronization of social and economic processes in the media with NATO and EU member countries.





# Do We TRUST THE MEDIA?

*Russian author gives his opinion on cultural differences*

**YEVGENIYA DULO**

Americans do not trust the mass media. That's what they say. But despite this claim, almost every person in the USA sits every day in front of the TV and watches CNN news. As for Russians, various opinion polls show that people in Russia in whole trust the media. But why? How can we explain this difference? Popular Russian writer Victor Erofejev, investigator of Russian reality and Russian character, thinks that the reason for this difference is in our cultural mentality.

Erofejev explained that words in Russia have historically played a very important and powerful role in constructing reality. He said, "Probably, never and nowhere else has it played such role. We not only trust words, we feel like they create reality".

It is this historical relationship with words in Russia that may explain why Russians tend to trust the media more than Americans.

According to Erofejev, words have always held a sacred place in Russian culture. "In earlier times, the word of the monarch was sacred; it had a meaning of law. In the West and in America, the word wasn't so authoritative. Abroad, private person's lives were always more free, so people could always make jokes about authorities, not agree with them."

In Russia, people had some ability to critique the government, but it was very weak, he explained. "Bearers of this word were holy fools. They were few, that's why words spoken against authorities weren't so popular among Russian people.

"In the Russian mind, there was a kind of law that if you infringed on this sacred monarch's word, you were not our man, you were a stranger. We had in Russia the idea of "man of Holy Rus", later "soviet man". If you told something wrong, you would be sentenced to death.

And, because of such a strict attitude to saying words, people believed them."

As time progressed, the Russian relationship to the word became somewhat muddled because of the advent of mass media. Erofejev explained, "Russians were confused. This newspaper told them one thing and that told them another. They were frightened by the word. It was such a kind of fear that they trembled, trembled before the word as they would before a loaded gun.

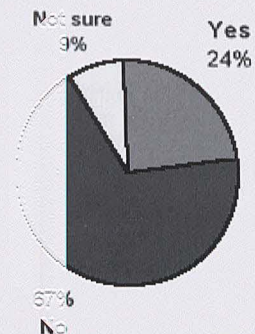
"Trust towards words was kept because people could choose which sources of information they believed. After the Rebuilding, people bought "Moskovskiy Komsomolets" newspaper because it reported on the first page that everything in our world was bad. It reflected the peoples' attitudes to life. And, looking at this newspaper, they said to themselves: "Oh, that's right. I'm thinking in the same way".

It is interesting, that after the Rebuilding "Moskovskiy Komsomolets" (it was a name of a youth communist organization) couldn't even change its name because this word-title was sacred. Change the name and the phenomenon will change, it will become another newspaper," Erofejev said. "Nobody will believe."

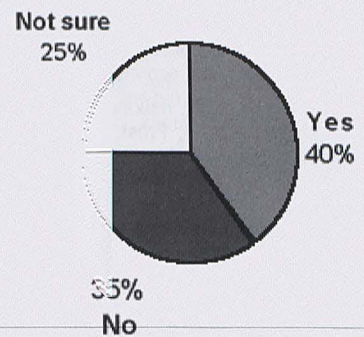
This difference in the relationship between the word and the cultures in the USA and Russia accounts for the difference in the trust levels of the press in the respective countries.

Despite American polls, Erofejev believes that citizens in Europe and America actually do put trust in their mass media. "I don't think that in Europe and America they don't trust mass media. Mass consciousness always is seeking on what it can lean on. There are certain definite newspapers and magazines in the United States that people trust. For example, The New York Times - the newspaper that I publish in - people read it because mostly it rings true to them."

**Do You trust mass-media most of time?**



United States



Russia

**Victor Erofejev**, a well-known novelist, bears the same surname as Venedict Erofejev — another famous Russian writer, the author of "Moskva - Petushki". Among his most famous works are "Russian beauty", "Living with idiot", "Terrible trial", "Men", "God X" and many articles. The majority of Erofejev's novels and stories are translated in 27 foreign languages. One story, "Living with idiot", was written as an opera by Alfred Shnitke and produced as a film by Alexander Rogozhkin. Thinking about Russian character, Mr. Erofejev has created several works about vodka and other national phenomenons. All of these are entered in his book "The Encyclopaedia of the Russian Soul".



# Baby Sophia

## MAKES LONG JOURNEY HOME

KARIE ANDERSON

*The new playroom was finished, complete with a big red barn painted on the wall. The nursery was decorated and fully stocked. Practically every room in the house had been cleaned from top to bottom and repainted. Everything was in place for little Sophia to come home.*

"That's got to be the hardest part. My child is over there and I'm ready over here," said Erin Frost, a Washington State resident, who officially adopted 2-year-old Sophia this last winter.

There was nothing left to do except for wait. Frost had already met Sophia at an orphanage in Komsomolsk-na-Amure, Russia, and had decided to adopt her, but she had to wait for a court date to be set for her to be approved by Russian authorities to take Sophia out of the country. The process from the time she met Sophia till the time she took her home Christmas Eve, Sophia's birthday, took 14 weeks.

"It's extremely emotional. You know it is going to be, but it's that unknown," Frost said. "With pregnancy you know in nine months you are going to have a child. With adoption you just don't know."

Beginning the adoption process in October, national adoption month, of 2001, Frost attended an adoption conference at Overlake Medical Hospital so she could be connected with the right people to help her figure out where and how to get everything underway.

"I have always thought of adoption, and I am at a great point in my life," Frost said.

Although single, Frost, a Financial Planner for Nordstrom's, explained that she has been stable and secure for quite some time and was absolutely ready to have a child.

"There are so many children in this world. I don't have to give birth to love a child," Frost said. "Having Sophia, I don't think I could have done any better."

Before beginning the selection process, Frost and her mother, who also lives with her, both went through detailed background checks and were fingerprinted. In addition, Frost was thoroughly investigated and interviewed to determine if she would be a good mother including home inspections.

"It's everyone's fear, the white glove test," Frost said.

After going through all of the legal and governmental steps, Frost was finally eligible to wait for a referral from the adoption agency. That's when she eventually ended up in Komsomolsk-na-Amure to meet Sophia.

"She was in a really good orphanage and they took really good care of her," said Frost. "It was a clean place, they had toys."

Living in an orphanage with about 80 other children, Frost said the women who took care of Sophia were absolutely wonderful.

"Sophia has adapted extremely well," Frost said. "I think she has adjusted so well because of those ladies."

After waiting weeks for a Russian court date, Frost claims that when she came back to the orphanage to finally take Sophia home it appeared the little girl was upset with her for leaving her after the first visit.

**"I just want her to keep developing and keep growing and to continue to be the incredible little girl she is."**

Erin Frost

Frost and Sophia are just one of many families being joined through international adoption. Data from the U.S. Department of State indicate there were 19,237 foreign born children adopted by Americans in 2001. This is a three-fold increase from 6,536 in 1992. Overall, Russia was the greatest source for inter-country adoptions, followed by China, Guatemala, Romania, Vietnam, India, Ukraine and Cambodia.

Frost says her overall experience in Russia was a great journey because of the people she met along the way.

"I would go back again. The people I was surrounded by were warm and caring," said Frost. "I think they were sad to see her go out



of the country."

Although psychologists and sociologists warn adoptive parents about displacement disorders and overstimulation in children recently adopted, Frost claims she hasn't seen any negative symptoms in Sophia from the move.

"Music is her ultimate favorite thing to do," Frost said. "She's hit a real growth spurt in climbing."

Although it has only been a little over three months, Frost says Sophia already looks bigger compared to when she first got off the plane. In addition to improvements in her motor skills, Sophia has gained at least five pounds.

"Now she really eats child size portions," Frost said after commenting about how much she ate when she first came home.

Amazed at how much time it really takes to care for little Sophia, Frost said

she is enjoying seeing the world through a child's eyes.

"It's been incredible. I can't remember not having her," Frost said.

Dreading going back to work, Frost said Sophia will be watched by Grandma Gretchen partly and a structured daycare partly. Frost said what her mother taught her about self-empowerment would be an important aspect of life she would want to teach Sophia.

"You can really do what ever you want. I want Sophia to feel empowered," she said as Sophia climbed her toy box and told us what sound the monkey makes—"Ohh, Ohh."

According to the International Adoption Organization, costs for adoption can range from a low of \$12,000 to a high of \$30,000, although most inter-country adoptions average between \$15,000 and \$20,000. The waiting time for inter-country adoption, including the home study and Immigration and Naturalization Services approval process, can take from one to three years.

Different countries have different regulations when it comes to allowing children to be adopted by people from other countries. However one thing is always asked. What is best for the individual child?

"I just want her to keep developing and keep growing and to continue to be the incredible little girl she is," Frost said.





# Two newspapers meet as strangers, LEAVE AS FRIENDS



“Coming to Russia has been a wonderful experience within itself, but I got to experience something extra. The opportunity to work with the students from the department of journalism, MSU has been an extraordinary experience I will always remember. I will remember how much the students taught me about team work, Russian culture, professionalism and communication. The staff taught me how much everybody's opinion counts and how important it is to stick to your values. Although I learned more Russian than I ever imagined I would, I was amazed at the students ability to read, write and speak English. Despite all language and cultural differences, we have all transformed into friends. What I will remember most of all about the project is the new friends I have made across the globe in Moscow.”

**KARIE ANDERSON**

“The idea of Journalist/the Ledger project was very successful. The proof is in your hands, but I want to reveal the background of this issue. Until the day when the delegation from Tacoma appeared at our Department, we worried whether they would be able to come. Could the war that started one day before Karie, Tolena, Chris and Bill should have arrived ruin our plans? But it didn't become an obstacle on the way towards making this joint paper - and it is the victory of the MSU Dpt. of Journalism and UWT. In addition, I want to say that I was really very happy to spend this week with such a pleasant Russian-American team. We now have lots of memories that made us closer to each other, and made us a real TEAM. I hope, no, I'm sure that we'll meet again in the future. Soon. Congratulations to everybody who took part in this project.”

**RAFAEL SAAKOV**

“People's attitudes and lives are moulded by their experiences and the lessons that they choose to take with them. The short amount of time that I have spent with my Russian colleagues has taught me many valuable lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life - I am certainly not the same person now that I was before.

Russia has taught me what it feels like to be completely out of my element. I came here with absolutely no knowledge of the culture, country or the language. I have learned the value of true communication. Even though Americans feel like they are good communicators, you can not test your skill until you have been through an experience similar to mine. It is frustrating and difficult, yet enriching at the same time.

The students at Moscow State University have taken us in with open arms. During a time when the world seems so uncertain, it is amazing that complete strangers have been so kind and understanding. I will never forget the students at MSU and I will carry with me this experience for the rest of my life.”

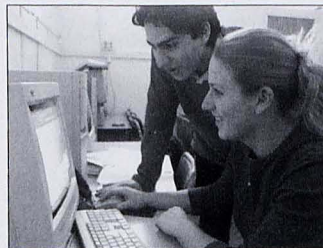
**TOLENA MAHLUM**



“I'm very happy to take part in joint project because it's a great experience for me. I learned the differences between producing a newspaper in Russia and in the U.S. During our work we were discussing the questions, which are connecting with the model of our newspaper and other important things. I'm glad that we found common ground.

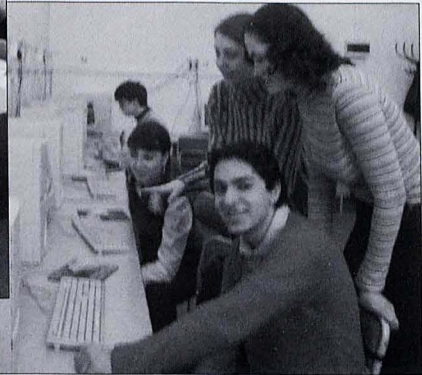
The most exciting thing was going to the circus. We saw dancing goats, cats twirling fire, dogs and other animals. I know Bill liked the girl who could change her dresses very quickly. I believe Karie and Tolena liked it too. It doesn't matter what country you live in because you can always find a way to connect with people. We were able to talk with the girls about anything we wanted to. We have had good results from talking to each other. I hope we will see our American friends again.”

**GALYA TISCHENKO**



“Frankly speaking, I don't really know what to say about this experience. It's like visiting a new country you've read so much about: it seems that you know where to turn on the next corner following the map but there's a child playing and a dog barking that were not mentioned in the guide-book and it makes the journey more exciting. And I'd like to thank everyone for the terrific effort and the wonderful result - both Russians and our American colleagues we've grown to become good friends with. Come back soon!”

**MARIA SCHOOR**



“Foreign people often say that Russians drink vodka from morning till night and that bears walk along the streets of Moscow. We are often surprised about that opinion. But we usually believe when somebody tells us such stupid things about America. Now I understand that I had absolutely false views about the US and their people. Our project helped me to delete that opinion.

Our communication gave me the things that we can't read in the books. Americans told us a lot about life in their country and I know what is really interesting to me. Besides it was very good practice in English, which we can't get from the Internet.

Americans have always been openhearted and ready to help others. But their joyfulness only helped them to work more and harder than us. Russians should study how to respond to American life. You should never be so serious and run to the other side of the street when somebody smiles at you. Try to be happy too.”

**ANNA TOLOKONNIKOVA**

## We would like to thank

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