



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Michele Miller (left) gave a party in her home last week for the students who made the Soviet trip. Here, she shares a moment with Jennifer Zbytowski. Both are 17 and students at Farmington High.



Russian women sit in front of a Soviet store, as photographed by student and tourist Michele Miller. Farmington High students visited five cities on their 15-day Soviet tour in June.

By Casey Hane
staff writer

The Russian people were warm, helpful, but the food in their country wasn't so hot.

The mostly teenage group of Farmington-area visitors arrived in the Soviet Union and ate a meal of tongue — a Russian delicacy. "One person thought it was beef and ate it," said one of the visitors. "Then they told us what it was. I don't think anybody ate it after that."

And the Soviet version of french fries "didn't taste at all the same," she added.

New food was just one of the cultural differences experienced by a group of 25 Farmington High School students and four chaperones who spent 15 days this summer touring the Soviet cities of Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Prague and the capital, Moscow.

Many were students from an International Relations class at Farmington High.

THE STUDENTS met recently at Michele Miller's house in Farmington Hills to share memories and look at pictures. "It was pretty much what I expected, but a lot better," said Miller. "I always pictured it (the Soviet Union) as cold."

Experiences varied from staying in the Cosmos Hotel — the largest and finest hotel in the Soviet Union — to living in huts with ground-level pit toilets in an Odessa camp.

Bottled water was virtually not drinkable, there were no public drinking fountains, and bottled pop was not always available.

It definitely wasn't home, but students said, overall, they enjoyed the experience.

Rhonda Troutman said she would concentrate on specific geographic areas if she visited again. "I'd go back... but not all at once like that," Troutman said. "You don't expect it all."

Another student, Jennifer Stump, said she enjoyed walking and browsing in shops and, from a historical perspective, enjoyed Red

A Soviet view

Teens enjoy summer trip to Russia

Square in Moscow. "Nothing was so different that you felt out of place," she said. "I want to go back, definitely."

OTHER STUDENTS said they wanted to get out of the cities and see more of the Soviet countryside and its people.

The student summer trip was prompted by a 1987 visit to the United States by a delegation from the Soviet city of Minsk. Students and members of the community met with these visitors at Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus, and asked questions through translators.

Jerry Young helped coordinate

the Minsk visit to the Farmington area and was a chaperone on this summer's trip. The International Relations teacher at Farmington High said he would like to see such a trip develop into a permanent exchange program.

Young said he would like to go back, but he doesn't know if he would go as soon as next year. He viewed this trip as a cultural exchange.

"We got a wide taste of the Soviet cities and of Soviet life," he added.

YOUNG TOOK an informal survey of the students, which drew positive responses from the trav-

elers about their overseas trip.

• "I hadn't realized how much they are like Americans and also their great interest in world peace," said one. "They are much warmer than they are portrayed by the west."

• "I had a great time and I don't regret coming," said another. "It was an experience of a lifetime. Now when people talk about the USSR, with false ideas and aspects, we can put them straight because we have had the inside look."

The high school trip was coordinated through the American-Soviet Friendship Society, the same group that sponsored last year's trip for Minsk residents.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington High School students Tim Alsop, 16, (left) and Mike Embury, 17, look over photos they took while in the Soviet Union in June.

County reviews safety policies after fatality

By Casey Hane
staff writer

The Oakland County Road Commission will review its safety policy following a fatal accident in Farmington Hills last week.

The accident involved an OCR truck parked in the intersection of Farmington Road and 13 Mile, where employees were changing bulbs in a traffic signal.

Although the commission is "not anticipating any immediate changes," deputy managing director William Fognini said the OCR policy is being reviewed. "I have asked our risk management committee to look at and review this."

Last Tuesday morning, a car driven by LeRoy Brown, 36, of Detroit was traveling east on 13 Mile when it hit the OCR truck, pushing it out of the intersection. Brown was pronounced dead at Botsford General

'This safety issue is our number-one concern for the public and our employees too. Safety is really our business.'

— William Fognini
deputy managing director of OCR

Hospital at 11:21 a.m., little more than an hour after the accident.

The Farmington Hills Police traffic division is still investigating the accident but had no further information to release Friday, a spokesman said.

According to Fognini, witnesses at the scene said there was no sign of skid marks, and the OCR truck was well marked.

"The strobe lights, headlights and coning around the vehicles has worked for many years," he said.

And OCR employees have a list of safety issues they should be aware of on the job.

One rule, being strapped in to the bucket of the truck, may have saved the life of the employee injured in the accident, Fognini said. On impact, the man was thrown from the bucket, but did not fall to the ground because he was buckled in. He was treated for minor injuries.

The large strobe lights used by the road commission were in place last Tuesday and "can be easily seen in the daytime," Fognini added.

"This safety issue is our number-one concern," he said, "for the public and our employees too. Safety is really our business."

The accident marked the third fatal accident to occur in Farmington Hills in the past two weeks.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

3 CARS DAMAGED

Three autos were damaged as someone attempted to steal them in the lot of a Farmington business July 20-21, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

The incident, which occurred at Craggs Cabinet, 30966 Grand River, caused some \$400 in damage. A license plate was also stolen from one car. A fourth auto involved in the incident was not damaged, police said.

GARAGE FIRE

About \$1,000 in damage was caused by a fire in a garage eave in a residence on Old Franklin Drive July 16. Firefighters found the fire in the garage wall when they responded to a smoke investigation. Cause of the fire was determined to be exposure to excessive heat, which ignited materials in the ga-

rage wall, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

THEFTS REPORTED

A scooter valued at \$50 was reported stolen from an area along Orchard Street near Grove July 14-18.

A microwave valued at \$175 was reported stolen from Holiday Inn, 38123 10 Mile July 19-20.

Jewelry and a 10-speed bicycle valued at \$275 were reported stolen from a residence on Tuck July 20.

A motorcycle valued at \$1,200 was reported stolen from a residential garage on Glouster Circle July 21.

A 10-speed bicycle valued at \$214 was reported stolen from JR's Bar & Grill, 30859 10 Mile July 20.

A brief case valued at \$300 was reported stolen from Mr. Sports, 30860 Orchard Lake Road July 21.

Three spotted car wheels valued at \$180 were reported stolen from the Old Orchard Theatre July 16.

A revolver, shotgun and rifle valued at \$1,500 were reported stolen from a residence on Springbrook July 21.

New date for jazz concert

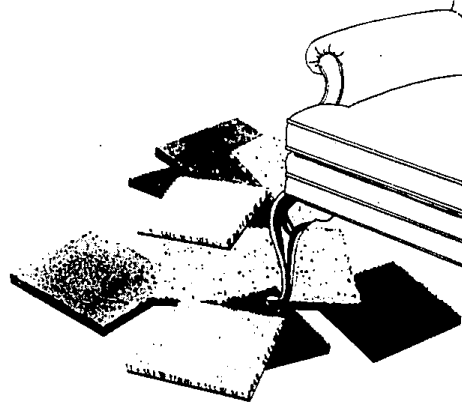
Friday, July 29

The much-needed rain that fell on July 16 was welcome to everyone with parched lawns and stressed trees and to the farmers. However, the festival sponsors, the Chamber of Commerce, wished it could have held off just a couple of hours longer. The rain caused the cancellation of the final jazz band to play that night, J.C. Heard.

A makeup concert is planned for Friday, July 29, at Heritage Park at the Showmobile at 7:30 p.m.

The chamber hopes the concert will be attended by all that were expected at the originally scheduled time. There is no charge for the concert, which will be held at Heritage Park on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

J.C. Heard heads a well-known jazz group who have played many times in the Detroit Metropolitan area. He has a devoted following, from a hoped that his listeners will take this opportunity to come and hear him.



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