

# Soviets stage friendly invasion at UNL

By Lisa Donovan  
Senior Reporter

A cultural exchange between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Thursday revealed that the new "glasnost" or openness policy of the Soviet government has reached the stage.

Soviet set designer Vladimir Makushenko and Soviet costume designer Olga Tradovskaya from the Armolova Theater in Moscow toured the UNL campus under the guidance of Soviet emigrant Larry Kaushansky, assistant professor of scenic design in the department of theater arts and dance. Kaushansky interpreted for the couple.

The Soviets, who came to UNL under the auspices of the Visiting Scholars program, also spent the day visiting with professors and students and gave a presentation about Soviet scenic design.

According to Kaushansky, he didn't want the visit to be just artistically centered. He said it should be an educational experience overall.

The couple had lunch with university officials and professors from the political science, modern languages and theater departments.

The conversation revolved around the arts and how they have changed along with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's new policies of "perestroika" and new openness.

One of the reforms Gorbachev implemented freed Soviet theaters from government control. Makushenko made a circle with his thumb and index finger, smiled and said, "That's OK" in English.

Now that the government has stopped its censorship, that also means less government money, Makushenko said.

"Before, the theater got money from the government and the theaters were empty," he said, "and now they don't have much money and full audiences."

The difference is made up in ticket sales, he said, but the profits must be

returned to the government.

The openness has spurred a lot of creativity among Soviet youth, Makushenko said. Many young people are starting to write plays, he said, but the plays are not very good.

The Soviet students study American drama. Among their favorites are Arthur Miller, Virginia Wolfe and Tennessee Williams, Makushenko said.

Kaushansky said, "The Soviets like American drama."

**"Here in the U.S.,  
your mind is open-  
it's supposed to be  
open because  
your own initiative  
built this country."  
-- Kaushansky**

At 2:30 p.m., the Soviet visitors

presented a slide show to about 50 students and professors in the Howell Theater lobby.

After the introductions, Kaushansky presented Makushenko and Tradovskaya with pins of the American and Soviet flags.

"I am part of the community," Makushenko said as he patted his pin.

The thrust of the presentation was to show Makushenko's scenic designs and the work of other Soviet designers.

However, questions soon had the discussion straying from the topic at hand.

Makushenko talked about the art education he received in the Soviet Union. Soviet scenic designers go to post-secondary school for five years, then to the university for five years. Only from the third year do the students begin specializing, he said.

Before that time, students study world art history, drawing and other subjects that relate to the arts.

"If you are good, you can go for 10 years," he said. If not, "you can

forget it for the rest of your life."

A student asked if the Russian set designers have any limits in their budgets.

"Limit is limit, everywhere," Kaushansky responded with a laugh.

Makushenko said there are limits to a budget, and sometimes Soviet budgets are less than American budgets. Also, sometimes the perfect materials aren't always available to build a set.

"Sometimes they're blessed in this budget, sometimes they go over. People everywhere is the same," he said, and the audience laughed.

The limits, however, make Soviet designers "more creative and more tricky, I will say," Makushenko said through Kaushansky's interpretation.

The original idea for the exchange came from Kaushansky, along with a little help from connections in Minneapolis and the financial assistance of the theater department, the College of Arts and Sciences and the

See RUSSIANS on 11

## Neihardt residents celebrate history

By Janet McAllister  
Staff Reporter

Get out the love beads, poodle skirts and zoot suits, and journey back in time at Neihardt Residence Center's "Memories Are Made Of This" celebration tonight.

The Neihardt Historical Preservation Committee is putting on an evening of dining and dancing to celebrate the more than 50 years of the residence hall's history.

Jay Noble, chairman of the committee, said the group is seeking historical landmark status for Neihardt. "Memories Are Made of This" is an opportunity to increase public awareness of the goal. The committee is showing students what life was like when the residence hall was first built.

To accomplish that, dinner will be served in the Blue TV Lounge, which was the dining room until Cather and

Pound were built. The original china for the dining room was found in storage and will be used, along with the original dining room furniture.

Waiters will be serving a roast beef dinner typical of the meals served in the 1930s and '40s.

The dance will start at 8 p.m. with big band music. Then at 9 p.m. there will be a lip sync contest complete with nostalgic prizes such as vintage Coke bottles, old copies of Life magazine and a hula hoop. The one rule is that any music used must be pre-1970. After the lip sync contest, '50s and '60s music will be played until midnight.

Noble said that he knows girls in Neihardt whose mothers and grandmothers lived in the residence hall.

"We want to make sure that fourth and fifth generations in those families get to stay here," he said.

Until 1983, the Office of University Housing hadn't done much to the

building. Then they went on a "modernizing spree" of "ripping things out" and changing things, Noble said. No one is sure why, because the maintenance staff and the residence directors support the restoration of the building.

Noble said University Housing can keep modernizing because all they have to do is wait two or three years and all the residents are gone.

"They've lost sight of making people feel at home," Noble said, "which is why many features of the building were originally put in by the students who helped design the building."

The committee wants to restore these original design features, he said.

The celebration is open to the public. The dance is free and reservations are needed for the dinner. The cost is \$5.35, or a Vali-dine card.



Andy Manhart and John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

## Students liven rooms in creative ways

By Thomas Kiefer  
Staff Reporter

The drab of a plain residence hall or greek house room can depress inhabitants, especially during the drab of winter.

A few posters or personal artifacts can help spruce it up, but ruins against damage restrain stu-

dents from serious restructuring.

As a result, a few University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have employed some creative decorating techniques to enliven their rooms while avoiding destruction.

The residents of 703 Cather Hall, Bill Muth and Doug Doerr, have turned their room into something personal.

"We wallpapered with aluminum foil and gave the ceiling texture with black plastic, like a giant Hefty bag," Doerr said.

"We did it to be different," Muth added. "The walls and ceiling are too drab."

"It livens things up. Light blue is too depressing," Muth said.

Todd Yilk of 408 Harper took a

different approach. Yilk said he has hung a bunch of string in his room along with some purple Christmas lights on a branch and a Russian flag.

"The rooms with their brick walls look kind of anonymous, and I wanted to give it my own personal expression," he said.

Rod Shultz, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, also puts a lot of effort into decorating his room.

To add style to his room, Shultz stained the lofts, hung wallpaper and installed a ceiling fan. He said he also has 30 to 35 plants, two Oriental paper lamps under each loft, blue Christmas lights and a white Formica table in the middle of the room.

**'The girls like it'**

--Schultz

"I like a classy looking place, so I decorated it this way," Shultz said. "Last semester it was all black. I wanted something nice. This room does what I need, plus the girls like it."

Interior decorating does have restrictions for some campus residents. Michelle Wolfe, treasurer of Kappa Delta sorority, said sorority members can spice up a room as long as they don't damage anything.

"They can decorate it however

they want, but they can't put any holes in the walls, or hang any heavy things," she said.

Such restrictions are similar in the residence halls, according to Joe Antczak, student assistant on 7th floor of Cather Hall.

"The walls or woodwork cannot be marred or punctured in any way," he said. "Lofts and other nocturnal paraphernalia must be free-standing."

Shirley Niemeyer, an associate professor in the College of Home Economics, advised students to watch the colors they use to brighten a room.

"Color defines space, can influence mood and suggest function and temperature," she said.

The color to use "depends upon the function one wants to create." Color also "can change apparent size. Smaller rooms will look more spacious when decorated with a single, soft color with strong colors for accents," she said.

Campus rooms also can have acoustic problems, she said.

"Using soft, porous furnishings on the floor," can reduce the problem, Niemeyer said. "These can deaden the sound."

"People find it comforting to surround themselves with objects from their personal past -- with such things like photos of family, farm and so on. It's easier to become attracted to a room we've helped decorate ourselves. Objects create a sense of place, a focal point of activity."



David Frana/Daily Nebraskan

Bill Muth, Scott Ahl and Doug Doerr watch television in a Cather Hall room.