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KAPLAN RULES



Michelle Paulman/DN

Jess Hansen, a UNL graduate, shows off a Russian doll of Bill Clinton with former presidents inside. Hansen, who spent nine months in Russia on an internship, said Russians congratulated him when Clinton won the election because of "the peaceful change of power."

UNL grad experiences Russia

Internship gives business major new perspective

By Becky Becher
 Staff Reporter

Jess Hansen, who graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln last May, says he appreciates having ice in his pop.

Hansen recently returned from a trip where if he wanted iced drinks, he had to scrape the ice off the ground.

Hansen traveled to Russia for an internship in international business. He served as an intermediary between a Russian business firm and potential Western partners.

Hansen said warm pop was not the only difference he noticed between Russia and the United States.

Hansen lived in Moscow for nine months. During that time he observed the different social, economic and government influences on Russian life.

Hansen said his reasons for going to Russia were varied. He was there because of his internship, but his primary reason for going was to observe the social and business environment of Russia.

"This is the economists' last fron-

tier," he said. "Russia is changing from a socialist to a market economy, and it is very fascinating to observe this while it happens."

Businesses come and go in Russia as a result of the dynamic business environment, he said. In fact, the company that Hansen worked for, Broker House, closed and moved to the United States.

The business closed a month before Hansen was to return home, leaving him with no job.

This gave Hansen a chance to discover the Russian soul. He said the people were very pessimistic.

"Their history is as black as coal," he said. "There has never been a time in their history when they had it good. They went from one crisis to another. They weren't jolly when I got there and their moods went from bad to worse while I was there."

Hansen said the mood of the Russian people was a result of broken promises.

"They feel Yeltsin failed them. He didn't deliver one thing he promised," Hansen said. "But it is not all his fault."

Hansen said the Russian people saw Parliament and Yeltsin in a struggle for power. They did not see any accomplishments coming from this struggle.

"The people are apathetic and don't care anymore," he said.

Hansen said a strong leader was needed in Russia to carry out reforms successfully and keep the country together.

He said the April 25 referendum might be the catalyst for the emergence of a strong leader. The referendum will offer the Russian people a chance to rate Yeltsin's job.

"If this vote goes for Yeltsin," Hansen said, "he will emerge as a strong leader to push reforms forward."

Hansen said if Russia did not get a strong leader, Russia could break apart and the question of power would be confused even more.

Hansen said Russians respected the smooth transition of power that took place in the United States.

"I actually had Russians come up and congratulate me when Clinton became president," he said. "It wasn't because Clinton won the election but because of the peaceful change of power."

"We have a constitution that works, and we live in a stable democracy," Hansen said.

Hansen said he appreciated the democracy he lived in. This appreciation and his experiences in Russia have made Hansen thankful for more than handy ice, he said.

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Battery-operated car, efficient lighting featured at ecology fair

By Matthew Grant
 Staff Reporter

Visions of what the future might be like could be seen at an "eco-fair" to celebrate Earth Day 1993 outside of the Nebraska Union Thursday.

The fair's theme was "Stand Up For What You Stand On." It was sponsored by Ecology Now and the Environmental Resource Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

At booths set up around Broyhill Fountain, students saw demonstrations of new inventions, picked up leaflets, ate "not" dogs and listened to three local bands.

A 1980 Pontiac modified to run on 20 batteries was one of the fair's main showpieces. The car, developed by Paul Wood, costs 1 cent per mile to run and can be driven at speeds of up to 65 miles per hour for between 20 to 40 miles, said Galen Wray, chairman of the Earth Day planning committee.

"The electric car was amazing," said Jeff Vincent, a sophomore broadcasting major who attended the fair. "It didn't make any noise at all."

Wood converted the car to run on batteries himself, Wray said. Wood has two electrically powered cars to sell, Wray said. The price: \$9,000.

Another invention for the environment was on display at the Ecology Now booth. Energy-efficient lighting

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People should consider the environment in their daily actions.

— Wray
 chairman of the Earth Day
 planning committee

is a project being developed by Jeff Riggert, a UNL student, said Kimberly Haskett at the booth.

The lights that were on display use 25 percent less energy than standard lights and last 10 times longer, Haskett said. As a result, they are soon going to be installed in the union, she said.

Wray said the purpose of Earth Day and the fair was to raise general awareness of the environment in people's lives.

"People should consider the environment in their daily actions," Wray said.

He said students should get involved in recycling projects or donate money to environment groups to help fund their projects.

At the Nebraska Vegetarian Society booth, traditional meat dishes prepared with a meat substitute were on sale. The society wanted to show people that, even for those who love the taste of meat in foods such as hot

dogs or sloppy joes, there are substitutes available, Ken Gobber, a member of the society, said.

The "not" dog was sold for \$1.

Gobber said many people tried them and that he had noticed more interested in vegetarian foods even among non-vegetarians recently.

Cutting down on meat consumption would benefit the health of the planet as well as the individual, Gobber said, as large areas of land are being destroyed through grazing when they could be used to grow crops.

"We need to change emphasis on farms to grow more grains for people instead of growing grains for animals," he said.

Other organizations with booths at the fair were UNL Outdoor Adventure, the Environmental Resource Center, Nebraskans for Peace, the UNL Wildlife Club and Citizen Action.

Citizen Action provides jobs nationwide for college students to work on legislative campaigns for recycling, wind and solar energy and safe drinking water, said Walt Bleich, the executive director of Lincoln's Citizen Action chapter.

"We get about 50 percent of our summer employees from students," Bleich said. "This is a way to get in direct contact with them."

"Plus, we believe in Earth Day."