

## Capital College Students to Spend Spring Break in Russia

By Thalia Cook

A few of our fellow students are going to have a very exciting experience over the term break, an experience many of us will only dream about in our lifetime. What are they going to do? They are going to go to Russia!

Dr. Nechemias said that the trip was organized by the Citizen Exchange Council. It is to promote exchange between students of like educational majors, and also for teachers with teachers. It is a way to foster contact with each other.

There are going to be fourteen students going as well as seven independent people. A mother and son are going. You know the mother as Jeanette Brinker, our SGA president. She says that one reason she is going is to learn about the SGA of Russian colleges and what some of the women's issues are in Russia.

A mother who has put three daughters through Penn State is taking advantage of the trip. Another person is active with the Boy Scouts and hopes to get information on Russian Boy Scouts. David Shieler, who has experience as a correspondent to Russia for the New York Times, will be going. You can see that there are people from a variety of backgrounds going on the trip.

Dr. Nechemias said there will be tours of some of Russia's major attractions, such as Leningrad and Moscow. Also, they will have free time to do what they want. Did you know that there is a ski jump in the center of Moscow? Wouldn't that



be something, to say you skied in the center of Moscow!

There are a variety of memorabilia items they will be able to bring back. A few things like antiques, works of art, anything gold or books before a certain date are not allowed to be taken out of the country.

Nick Roslevege says that he is going to Russia because the country interests him for many reasons. One in particular is that he comes from Russian descent.

Kay Trebatoski said, "Russian studies are of interest to me and I hope to observe their school system."

I can hardly wait to talk to them when they return. Imagine all of the exciting experiences they will be able to tell us about. Oh, by the way, if any of you going on the trip can spare twenty dollars until you come back, please bring me a matricas. Thank you.

## Basketball Season Winds Down

By Mike Camilli

Well, the college basketball season is drawing to a close--a sure sign that spring is just around the corner. It's been an exciting year with some great upsets. Michigan beat Iowa; Notre Dame beat North Carolina; Michigan beat Syracuse. There was also some exciting basketball being played on our own campus. Penn State at Harrisburg compiled a 10-10 record so far this year, with one more regular season game to be played as of this printing.

The team's .500 record is really pretty amazing when you consider that the team was made up entirely of first year players. Coach Brian Gauger was very pleased with the season so far and said that this season will probably provide a base for much improvement in the basketball program in upcoming years.

The team's victories this season included two over

Mid-Atlantic Conference teams and the first victory over Alvernia in the history of this school. One of the keys to their success this season was the even distribution of talent on the team. It made them hard to defend because it kept their opponents from being able to key on one particular player.

Capital College is seeded third for the Keystone Athletic Conference Tournament. The tournament will be held February 20-21 at Neumann College.



## Handicapped Student Evaluates Campus

By Michele Hart

Stairs, most people never give stairs a second thought. They are just the means used to go from level to level of a building. To a handicapped person, however, stairs are an obstacle--a part of everyday challenges.

Trevor Townsend, a business major in his first semester at Capital College is hoping to find a way to ease the problems faced by the disabled on campus. Townsend knows firsthand what it is like for the handicapped because of his cerebral palsy and his need for crutches to move around.

"This (campus) is accessible to me, but for someone in a wheelchair it may not be," Townsend said. "I look out not only for myself, but also for benefits for other people."

On the whole, Penn State, Harrisburg serves its handicapped students adequately, in Townsend's opinion, but more could be done. One of his suggestions is that a map be made of campus showing the locations of ramps, automatic doors, and accessible restrooms.

"That (information) should be given to every disabled person on campus, along with a list of names and numbers of helpful people," he said.

Townsend is hoping to form a group or a club to provide the handicapped on campus with a forum for voicing their problems. "I feel it could address the needs of the disabled," Townsend said.

"If a club were started it would open the campus to a whole other group of people," he continued. So far, though, he's run into a problem getting the group started because of scheduling conflicts with the other handicapped students.

The idea of an advocacy group for the disabled is not a new one to the campus. According to the Health Center nurse, Jean Kresge, another student had tried to start a group, but nothing ever came of it. Kresge is hopeful that this time something will happen.

"I really think they need this," she said. Besides having four students in wheelchairs, and Townsend, Kresge said there are many other handicapped on campus, including those who are temporarily disabled, who could be helped by the proposed group.

"There are so many different ways that a person can be handicapped," Kresge said, and many ways that a group could help them. She feels that this type of group could also serve as a support network for the handicapped.

"Many handicapped people like to think of themselves as independent, but they might think that they can help others," she said.

Kresge does feel that the staff here does all that is possible to assist the handicapped. "We do everything we can, and if we have to accommodate them we try," she said.

Sometimes, though, being helpful isn't enough. "There's influence in numbers

and the staff can't do it all. We need some help from the (handicapped) students. That's important," Kresge added.

Kresge said she'd be willing to help out with the group if it does get started, and believes that many on staff would also be willing to help. She believes that Townsend will be the person most likely to follow through on the idea of a group. "A handicapped person may be able to get this moving more quickly and relate better," she said.

Irregardless of whether or not the group gets started, Townsend and Kresge agree that parking is posing an immediate problem for this campus' disabled. Although there are enough spaces for handicapped parking; with the recent bad weather there have been

problems with icy spaces or others taking the slots.

Parking is the biggest problem; when the handicapped are made to feel handicapped," Kresge said. Both are working to remedy the situation, and both are working to solve other problems.

Townsend has already pulled one victory for the disabled (as well as for other students) by getting hand baskets placed in the bookstore. He noticed the obvious problem we he tried to buy his books at the beginning of the semester. He was not able to carry his books and use his crutches at the same time.

"You can't carry in book bags, so what is a person supposed to use? Luckily I bought my books at the beginning of the semester and it

wasn't crowded, so a lady was able to help me," he said.

Townsend is hopeful that the group will get off the ground, but if it doesn't he has an alternate plan. "If there isn't a group or club--then we need a voice in student government, a representative for the disabled," he said.

Either way, while he is here, and with the help of Jean Kresge, Townsend is hoping to make a difference for all of Penn State Harrisburg's handicapped students.



## DISABILITY SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

Several students have expressed an interest in establishing a new support group at PSU, Harrisburg. We would be very interested in establishing a group of students, faculty and staff from the campus who may have concerns or special needs concerning their disabilities or disabilities of family or friends. This support group would gather either on a personal basis or perhaps converse by telephone in the event schedules do not match. Although you personally may not need additional services or need support, you

perhaps could be an individual to help others find ways to make their lives easier.

If you do have a disability and you have learned to cope with it and have overcome obstacles, certainly you could be a strength for the group. If you have a disability and have some problems, the group could help you learn to cope with situations and to overcome the barriers you may encounter. The group also could work as a unit to make any needed changes not only within the university but also perhaps with some of the state

regulations.

We are very interested in getting this group organized. If anyone is interested in becoming associated with such a group, please contact Dave Doaty, Room 200, Olmsted Building, 948-6017.

We perceive this group doing a number of things. This can include guest speakers from the State, University Park, or a multitude of other areas. The group really would go in the direction that it would determine to be the most useful and most productive. The group can only be as successful as you make it.