

Tour Group Encounters Worsening Conditions In Moscow

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Communist Party headquarters. Ironically, until a few months ago, it would have been unthinkable to even visit, much less sit, in the chambers where hardliners had sat for three generations plotting their strategy in strictest secrecy, according to officials.

"The devil has lived here for many years," said Rubin, in reference to the death of the communist system.

The group visited farms, an experimental station, and an ag equipment test facility. They were given a firsthand view of the deteriorating food conditions in the new Soviet commonwealth.

Hosted by Oleg S. Marchenko, head of the Soviet department for agricultural mechanization, the group was posed with the question — how can the new commonwealth feed the masses of its people, according to Marchenko, especially in the large cities where gardens are not available?

According to Marchenko, the ability to process and distribute food has deteriorated to the point of nonexistence. Government officials desire to see American farmers share technology, and even more importantly, to receive

teaching by example with the Russia farmers, who are more aggressive and would desire to operate independently in an enterprising setting.

In the 120-mile region of Moscow, say officials, there are more than 17 million people. Numerous lines of people were seen waiting to receive milk, meat, cheese, and any other staples.

Group members reported that not one restaurant was observed to be open for business in Moscow because of severe food shortages.

The bottom line is, said Marchenko, if you see a food line, get in it, because there is something there worth having.

The group senses a "searching for spiritual direction, a reaching for something or someone to hold onto as most other 'secure' things around them continue to shake and crumble."

Officials say that most Russians are concerned only with survival, despite the years-long oppression. As long as workers are working, from what the group observed, nothing else matters. Proficiency is of little consideration.

The group visited a mill and feed processing facility which produced a maximum 2,300 tons of

animal feed in a 24-hour day. No truck delivery of feed was offered, so all 480 employees were involved in the internal processing. Farm trucks, most in the 6-10 ton size, were lined up and waiting to load the feed, which must be ordered 10 to 45 days in advance.

In the Moscow region, wheat, hay, forage beets, potatoes, carrots, and cabbage were produced.

The short growing season prohibits the growth of corn for ear harvest.

The meals which the group was served in the university included cabbage and bread in every case, and potatoes, meat, and tea in most. Drinking water is rarely if ever served. And, unlike past visits, even brand-name American soft drinks were nonexistent.

PDPP Names Dupuis Director, Adds Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — With many expanding programs and activities, the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program (PDPP) has enlarged its staff and reorganized assignments to provide a more efficient promotion program.

Specifically, Elizabeth Dupuis has been named communications director and Nadine Houck has recently been hired to take on the position of promotions specialist.

"Due to the creation of new directions, we wanted to increase our staff size to accommodate our work load," said Brian Ross, PDPP program manager. "Nadine will be a valuable asset to our program and

Betsy has already been forging the communications leadership within our program."

In her new responsibilities, Dupuis will be charged with directing all communications activities of the program. These include the production of the PDPP's annual newsletter, press relations and brochure development. She will also be the coordinator of the PDPP's consumer promotions activities which include the PDPP's special June and July promotions.

Dupuis, a graduate of Penn State University, joined the PDPP in January 1989 as a promotions specialist. Prior to joining the PDPP,

"There is not one bottle in all of Moscow," said one Russian.

Another indication of the growing difficulty in Russia to purchase foreign goods is the country's sorely devalued currency. Under the present system, many Russians receive the equivalent of \$5 U.S. dollars per month from the government, while prices for goods continue to skyrocket.

she worked with the American Society for Engineering Education as a federal liaison.

A native of Centre County, Dupuis was a former county Dairy Princess and owner of Jersey cattle.

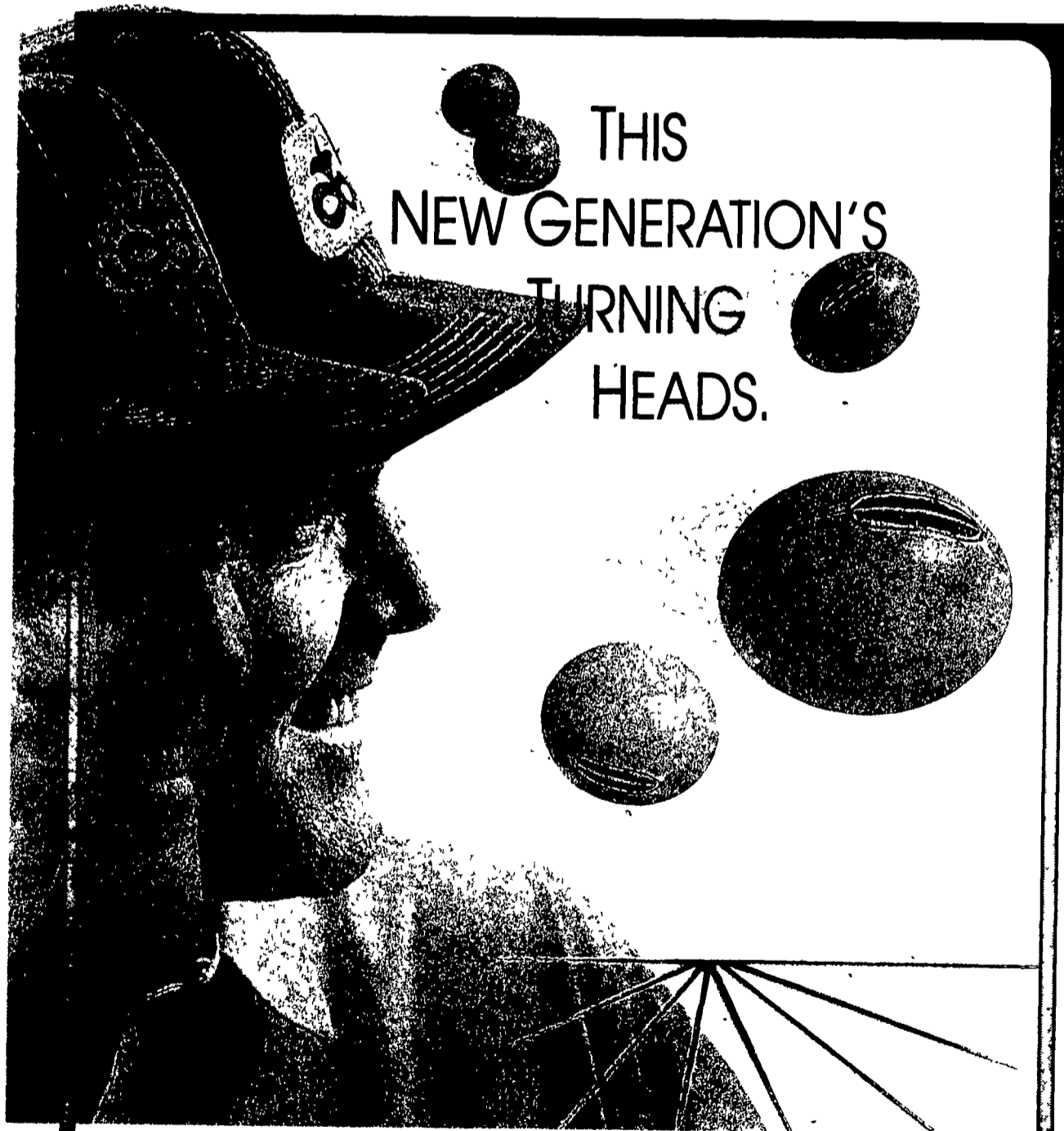
As promotions specialist, Houck will be responsible for coordinating all of the PDPP's local promotion efforts. In addition, she will be conducting the PDPP's industry relations activities, including functions at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, breed association meetings, dairy cooperative meetings, and other industry-related events.

Houck, the daughter of Huntingdon County Holstein breeders, comes to the PDPP from R/K Agri-Service Inc. in Lancaster.

She graduated in December 1990 from Penn State University with a degree in agricultural business management. While at Penn State, she was employed as a senior student research assistant at the USDA Regional Pasture Research Laboratory.

A member of the National Agri-Marketing Association, Houck also spent one summer as an undergraduate research intern with the Queen's University of Belfast in Northern Ireland, where she assisted in forage and animal research.

Most recently, Houck completed a marketing research project for the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.



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