

# Mark shares his concerns about the Soviet Union

by Mark Owens

I think the Soviet Union should stick with communism and give up this perestroika stuff. Why? Because it's not good for them.

If you've been following events in the Land of Fur Hats and Vodka, you know about the recent mass sightings of space aliens and Elvis there. It's sort of scary to read that Tass, the official news agency of the Soviet Union, is publishing reports of huge space creatures with tiny heads.

I think they've been consulting a few too many copies of fine investigative publications like the *National Enquirer* and the *Evening Carnage*. The next thing you know Tass headlines will announce "Vodka cures cancer," "Ten exercises you can do in line to reduce flabby thighs while waiting for toilet paper," and "Mikhail Gorbachev's former life as an exotic fan dancer/female

mud wrestler."

If they're going to import examples of journalism from the West, I'd rather see something

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along the lines of the New York Times, the Washington Post, or at least the Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh.

I guess I'm just worried that they're going to pick up a lot of bad habits from us, like oat bran.

Oat bran is, despite published scientific reports, not good for you.

# The Missing Pieces

There's the exercise/diet craze everyone seems caught up in, which doesn't do much except sentence you to wear \$300 workout suits and eat lettuce once a day.

Television is another thing that concerns me. I'm very frightened as to what the Russians would think of quality shows like "Pee Wee's Playhouse," "Beach Patrol" and "Joanie loves Chachi."

There's also televangelism (Jim and Tammy Bakker - 'nuff said?), professional sports where athletes are paid more in a week than teachers are in a year and media that can at times be more destructive than Hurricane Hugo.

Don't get me wrong. There's a lot of things that we should give to the Russians, like the Constitution, capitalism, VCR's, Trek bicycles and cinnamon Pop Tarts.

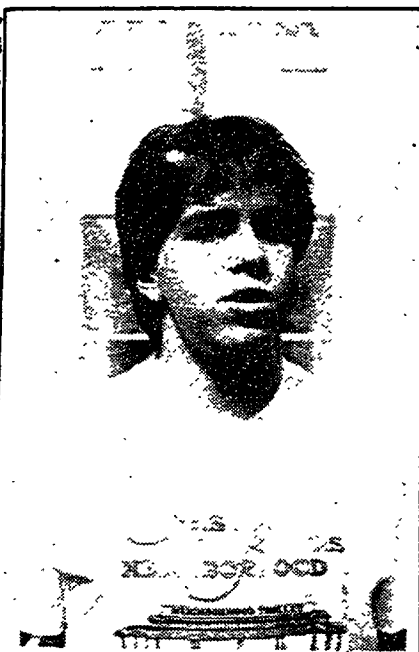
I just wonder at times if everything in the West is so much better than anything in the East. Maybe the average Soviet would be better off waiting in line for groceries than in a supermarket line with a jar of Herring Party Snacks, reading the latest tabloid stories about the HUD scandal, the S&L bail out, the deficit and President Bush being the love child of Gilligan and Madonna.

a lot and have huge eyeballs and teeth bigger than your head. You don't want to look like that, do you? I didn't think so. Besides, you have to eat approximately two metric tons of oat bran before you get any benefit from it, so not only will you look like a horse, but be as big as one too.

Another thing that worries me are supermarkets, where you can buy things like Herring Party Snacks. I kid you not. I was looking for Cheez-Whiz and I came across these little herrings in a jar, staring at me as it to say "Help me!"

I had this incredible urge to wrench open the jar and free the poor souls with a cry of "Be free little herrings!", but I figured the large muscular stock boy behind me wouldn't take kindly to little slimy fish being tossed all over his floor.

In fact, there's a lot of things that I'd feel guilty about having the Russians learn from us.



Mark Owens

Look at horses. They eat oat bran all the time and I don't think they're any better off. They snort

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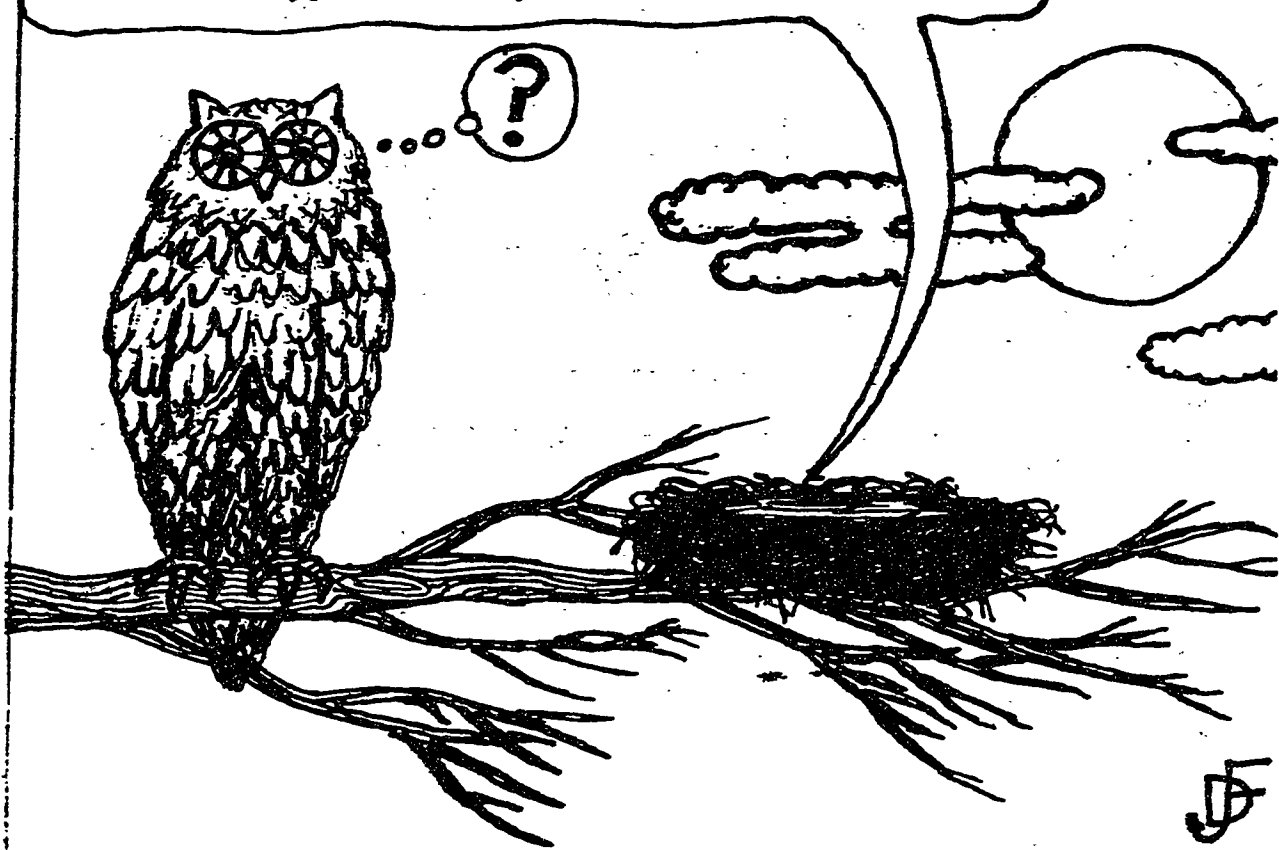
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