



A View From the Bridge

A trolleybus crosses Palace Bridge over the frozen River Neva at sunset with the Academy of Arts seen in the background. March 1 is the first official day of spring in Russia, and Maslenitsa (Shrovetide) celebrations this week will culminate at parks around the city Sunday with the burning of effigies representing winter.

ALEXANDER BELENKY / SPT

LOCAL NEWS

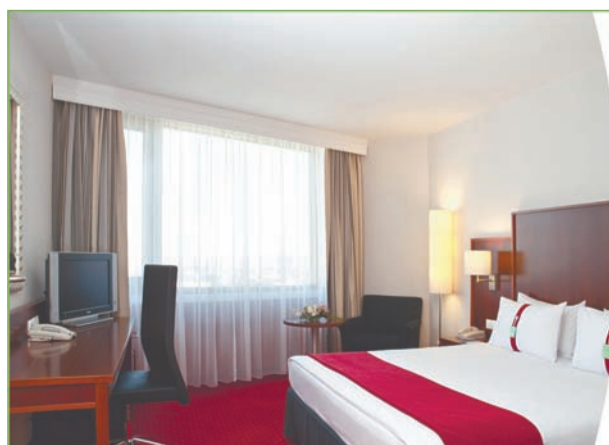
Petersburg Wins Russian Cities Rating

Quality of life in St. Petersburg ranked above Moscow and in 68th place among the world's largest cities. [Page 3](#)

FEATURE

Gorbachev Slams Modern Russia

Former Soviet leader reflects on the past and present ahead of his 80th birthday. [Page 10](#)



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University Refuses to Report On Students' Politics

By Sergey Chernov
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

St. Petersburg State University, the city's top higher educational institution, has refused to provide prosecutors with information about its students' political activities amid controversy and protests, although earlier several faculties had started to collect the information following orders from Nikolai Kaledin, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs. Critics said that such actions were illegal, contradicting both the constitution and the federal privacy law.

On Feb. 15, Kaledin ordered the heads of faculties to provide information about students who either belonged to "unofficial youth groups of an extremist nature" or were "subject to administrative punishment for participating in unauthorized public events" as soon as possible. In his memorandum he referred to a letter from the prosecutor's office of the central district dated Feb. 7.

The term "extremist" has been criticized for being vague and frequently applied to any pressure group or political opposition activist. The orders did not explain what "unofficial youth groups of an extremist nature" were.

At least one faculty asked their students to write reports stating whether they comply or not and submit them to the offices. The university's Graduate School of Management went even further, asking students to report not only about themselves, but also about their acquaintances.

On Monday, after a small picket in which a group of students stood holding posters with slogans such as "Prosecutors! The University Is Not the Place for Police Raids" near one of the entrances to the university, a meeting of the academic board was held during which Rector Nikolai Kropachyov condemned the practice and said that the people responsible for organizing it would be punished.

"I think such inquiries to the university have little to do with the law, which the rector actually confirmed after our



Students protest at the university Monday against requests to report on their political activities. The GSOM even wanted students to report on each other.



demo — it's a pity that he didn't do so before," said Viktor Vorobyov, spokesman for the university's student council.

The psychology faculty's senior teacher, Vladimir Volokhonsky, compared the situation to the Milgram experiment into obedience to authority, when "people followed meaningless orders, often even without thinking what they were doing."

"I am ashamed for the university that such things have started happening here; even if it did not last long, the fact that it has become possible makes me sad," he said.

Two letters from different prosecutor's offices came to the university in early February. As Ilya Dementyev, Vice-Rector for Innovative Development Projects, revealed Monday in a video posted on Grani-tv.ru, the letter

from the prosecutor's office of the Vasileostrovsky district was answered promptly by Kropachyov, who said that the university's activities did not include collecting data about whether students belong to such groups.

But the letter from the prosecutor's office of the central district ended up on the desk of Kaledin, who ordered vice-rectors in charge of faculties to collect the data.

"Some vice-rectors took it as yet another meaningless piece of paper to be put somewhere far away or replied to unintelligibly," Volokhonsky said.

"But Valery Katkalo, for example, a vice-rector in charge of geology and management, took it seriously and ordered his subordinates to collect data about the students in the form of stupid notes stating that they were not extremists."

According to Volokhonsky, at the meeting of the academic board on Monday, Kropachyov pronounced a "ten-minute, heartfelt" speech saying that students should be treated with respect so that mutual respect could be expected from them in the future. On the same day, Kropachyov wrote an answer to the prosecutor's office of the Vasileostrovsky district stating that collecting political information "is not and I am sure will never be within the competence of educational institutions."

While St. Petersburg State University refused to provide data about its students, it is very likely that similar letters from prosecutor's offices were sent to other higher educational institutions that might have chosen to cooperate with the prosecutors.

"Perhaps we are approaching the point when all this will end one way or another; the state bodies that send such strange messages are not up to it," Volokhonsky said.

"Who in their right mind would demand that schools provide lists of students who have been subject to administrative penalties, especially if the schools don't collect such data? What do they mean by "unofficial groups" — goths or punks? Collecting information about political views contradicts the federal privacy law, which means that the prosecutor's offices are incompetent if they cannot act within the framework of the law."

Yelena Ordynskaya, press officer of the St. Petersburg Prosecutor's Office, declined to comment when called Tuesday.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The Art of Protest

By Philip Parker
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Regular readers of this newspaper will be aware that St. Petersburg has a small but extremely active protest movement, ready to take to the streets in all kinds of weather and brave rotten treatment by the authorities in order to make themselves heard. Recently, it has been the destruction of historic buildings and infringement of the constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of assembly that have brought out the greatest numbers of disgruntled activists on the streets of St. Petersburg, but protests rarely make it beyond the local news. A group of artists, however, may be changing that trend.

Voyna, the Petersburg-based "art-group" responsible for some of last year's most scandalous protests, were back in the headlines this week. On Thursday, two members of the group, Leonid Nikolayev and Oleg Vorotnikov, were released from the city's infamous Kresty Prison on bail of 300,000 rubles (\$10,000). They had been held since November for their alleged part in an event called "Palace Revolution," which took place on Sept. 6, 2010 and involved flipping police cars onto their roofs on streets near Palace Square. At a press conference Saturday, the pair talked of the friendships they had made while incar-



Local gay rights activists have appealed to the European Court of Human Rights.

cerated, their plans for a new event based on their experience, and (presumably ironically) their delight with prison conditions.

News web site Fontanka.ru had earlier reported that Nikolayev would soon be working as a sales manager at Poryadok Slov, an independent bookstore in the city, to meet the terms of his bail. He will also be appealing his arrest at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. His appeal rests on the grounds that he was held for more

than 48 hours before he was officially arrested, and on a second claim that his incarceration was "groundless." A date has yet to be set for the trial of the two artists for "hooliganism," an offense with a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the organizers of the Innovatsiya All-Russian contemporary art competition announced that Voyna's other headline-grabbing 2010 event, the drawing of an enormous phallus on Liteiny Bridge in front of the St. Petersburg headquar-

ters of the FSB, had been removed from the shortlist of nominations. The members of the competition's expert committee who nominated the work had apparently not gained the group's permission to do so, and the organizers had received no answer from Alexei Pultser-Sarno, Voyna's "ideologist," to their requests for "visual documentation" of the work. Earlier, Pultser-Sarno had said in an interview that the competition was funded "with money from mafia authorities, who throw it like a handout into the artists' trough," which may have seemed like answer enough.

The organizers may have been surprised, then, that Pultser-Sarno and the group reacted so heatedly to news that the nomination had been rescinded. But, on his web site on Sunday, the latter declared that: "The repressive act of removing the Voyna group from the award brings shame on the [organizers] and the Ministry of Culture." Back the group went into the headlines, and this time not just in Russia.

And then, just to make sure the group's public profile didn't dip, they organized another event on Tuesday, March 1, in which female members of the group were videoed making sometimes violent efforts to kiss female police officers on St. Petersburg's metro. Speaking to Fontanka.ru, one of the

activists claimed that the police officers were more shocked by the gender aspect of the attack than by criminality, and were thus not quick enough to respond, so "all the activists are currently safe, in the underground." The video showed that one officer was at least quick enough to get in a powerful right hook, however.

Also appealing to Strasbourg this week were activists from Ravnopraviye ("Equal rights"), a local LGBT organization that is lodging an official complaint against the Russian authorities for their refusal to allow a gay pride event in St. Petersburg. Their request to hold the event on June 26, 2010 was turned down by the Committee on Legality, Enforcement, and Order, and their appeal was rejected by the Smolninsky District Court and City Court of St. Petersburg. In a separate case, however, the group's requests to hold pickets on the same day in four districts of St. Petersburg were rejected by district administrations, but these decisions were declared illegal by all four district courts to which Ravnopraviye appealed.

It will take some time for the decision to come through from Strasbourg, but the plaintiffs hope that it will be another small step toward a better legal climate for minorities in St. Petersburg.

Petersburg Rated Russia's Best City for Living

By Galina Stolyarova

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Russia's "second capital" has made the grade. For the first time in many years, St. Petersburg finds itself ahead of Moscow, and in a rating that is not for "criminal capital" or "most polluted city" status (the fields in which the city, fairly or not, has reigned for a number of years).

In its freshly released quality-of-life index, the influential U.K. research agency, Economist Intelligence Unit, chose St. Petersburg as the city with the best quality of life anywhere in Russia.

While the city's real position in the ratings was 68 out of 140 of the world's largest cities, far below nearby Helsinki (no. 6), or Vienna (no. 3), Paris (no. 16), Toronto (no. 4) or Osaka (no. 12), it was still two places above the Russian capital.

The experts who compiled the ratings evaluated residents' economic, social and personal well-being based on 30 major criteria. These include GDP per capita, security, employment, health care standards, transport infrastructure, the level of environmental pollution and divorce rates.

Canada's Vancouver holds the first position in the rating, while Zimbabwe's Harare is at the bottom of the list.

City Hall welcomed the rating's results. Yevgeny Yelin, head of Smolny's Committee for Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade, could not help complimenting himself and his counterparts on what he clearly believes is a good job.

"St. Petersburg is a comfortable and attractive place in which to live, do business, study and relax. Its prime position is no coincidence, it is well-deserved," Yelin told reporters this week.

Not everyone in town is so sure. The rating sparked a fierce debate that has



A mother struggles to get her child's pram down the steps at a children's clinic.

already cost a plum job for a talk show host, who likened St. Petersburg Governor Valentina Matviyenko to Adolf Hitler in his on-air comments on Monday on Vesti FM.

Apparently astonished by the rating's results, the host, Dmitry Gubin, gleefully poured malice over the subject, branding St. Petersburg "the hole of a rural loo instead of the window to Europe," and accusing Matviyenko of "continuing Hitler's business because she is destroying the city."

Within a few hours of the end of the show, the host was informed that he had been fired for what his bosses have described as an "impermissible on-air style." (See article on page 5.)

What does sound amazing to the report's critics is that St. Petersburg is not ranked so very far from London, which was ranked 57th, or New York, placed at 56th position.

The local blogosphere has exploded with scathing commentary, in which deaths from falling ice, hazing in the



Locals have complained about the city's poor record on snow and ice clearance.

army and the corridors of dilapidated hospitals featured prominently.

"How on earth can you objectively assess the level of healthcare in St. Petersburg, where conditions vary drastically in both the private sector and state hospitals alike?" wrote one blogger. "I do not need to look at the ratings. As someone who has been to a state clinic, I can testify that it is pure hell, with hardly any medication available, and the manner of many of the staff borders on sadism."

"One thought that comes to mind almost immediately is what hell life has become in other cities if ours is considered best," said Maria Matskevich, a leading researcher with the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. "Another thing is the sources that the experts have used. For example, to assess the level of water pollution, anyone would automatically contact Vodokanal, our sewage and water treatment

monopolist. If you listen to them and go with them to test the water when it comes out from the water treatment plant, you get a rosy picture. However, if you go with Greenpeace to test the local rivers for pollution, or ring the bell of a randomly chosen apartment in town to test the water in their sink, the results would be devastatingly different."

On a more philosophical note, Matskevich was sad to note the high emotional degree of the debate surrounding the ratings, complete with the firing of a commentator.

"After all, this is just one of many ratings. You can learn from it or you can ignore it, but indulging in fervent discussion — which is essentially about "are we better than our bigger brother" after all — just betrays the deep dissatisfaction of local residents both with the provincial status of their city and the living standards, too," Matskevich said.

Concert Aims to Defend Site of 'Onegin' Premiere

By Sergey Chernov

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

A classical music concert will be held in March to draw attention to the plight of another endangered historic building in the city center known as the Abaza Mansion, after Alexander Abaza (1821-1895), a statesman and one-time minister of finance who lived there from the 1840s until the 1917 revolution.

In 2007, City Hall handed over the building to developer Fontanka-Otel, which is planning to demolish the building to make space for a 250-room hotel with an underground parking lot.

Located at number 23 on the Fontanka embankment, the Abaza Mansion was built in 1790. In the 1870s and 80s, the building saw musical evenings held by Abaza's wife, singer Yulia Abaza, during one of which Pyotr Tchaikovsky's opera "Yevgeny Onegin" was premiered. The evenings' famous visitors included Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Last month, 117 descendants of Abaza, members of their families and members of the Russian Assembly of the Nobility from around the world wrote a letter to President Dmitry Medvedev asking him to prevent the demolition.

The petitioners suggested that a music museum could be established in the building, but called for the building to be saved even if the plans to build a hotel cannot be canceled.

"In Paris, Rome, Amsterdam and other European cities, they realized a long time ago that a hotel in an ancient mansion in the center is no less attractive to tourists than a modern building without history," they wrote.

"It is pleasant and prestigious for people to stay in a small hotel with authentic 18th-century walls, and they

don't need an underground parking lot at all. There is no doubt that this understanding will come to St. Petersburg as well. However, it will be an unacceptable loss if the mansion of Abaza's glorious family does not survive until those times."

The planned demolition also endangers three historic buildings surrounding the Abaza Mansion, the petitioners said.

According to Living City coordinator Pyotr Zabiorkhin, the preservationist group is focusing on the Abaza Mansion because it is the most valuable and significant of the endangered buildings, but demolitions are also planned on Gorokhovaya Ulitsa and Ilya Sovetskaya Ulitsa.

Living City runs a continuously expanding register of more than 100 historic buildings in the city that have been destroyed since City Governor Valentina Matviyenko took office in 2003. Last month, the 19th-century Literary House at 68 Nevsky Prospekt was demolished, despite protests, complaints and lawsuits.

In the wake of the recent demolitions, a major preservationist rally, the March for the Preservation of St. Petersburg, has been scheduled for April 4.

Held since 2007, the rally focused on Gazprom's planned Okhta Center skyscraper until the plans were discarded late last year. This year's rally will highlight a broad range of subjects, from demolitions to utilities issues.

The concert in defense of the Abaza Mansion is due to take place at the Kochneva House at 41 Fontanka at 4 p.m. on March 7. Works by Tchaikovsky will be performed. Tickets can be ordered by calling +7 962 700 2216.

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Putin's Favorite Selected as Olympic Mascot

By Alexander Bratersky
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — A snowboarding leopard backed by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has been selected as one of three official mascots for the 2014 Sochi Olympics, trouncing a popular blue frog that made organizers shudder and a cartoon saw favored by bloggers as a symbol of Olympic corruption.

Leopard was chosen together with Polar Bear and a white Bunny on Saturday at the conclusion of a much-touted telephone and online vote of more than 1 million people, organizers said. The three swept more than 60 percent of the total vote, which started Feb. 7.

Two other contestants, Ray of Light and Snowflake, were named symbols of the Sochi Paralympics.

Criticism about the winners erupted almost immediately, with the creator of the mascot for the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics complaining that his work had been stolen and Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy mocking all the mascots.

Speculation also circulated that the contest had been rigged.

The most popular mascot, with 28 percent of the vote, was Leopard, which Putin called a “mighty, fast and beautiful” animal in a meeting with students in Sochi just hours ahead of the announcement on Saturday, Interfax reported.

The bear mascot was the favorite of President Dmitry Medvedev, Ekho Moskvyy radio reported, citing Federation Council Speaker Sergei Mironov. The last name “Medvedev” stems from the word “bear.”

With more than 1 million callers, the televised poll was the largest since the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow, organizers said.

Voters got to choose from 11 finalists selected by a professional jury headed by Channel One television's chief, Konstantin Ernst.

The finalists were pared down from the first round of 24,000-plus submissions that was open to everyone.



The winning Sochi Winter Olympics mascots, clockwise from top left: Ray of Light and Snowflake, Leopard, Bunny and Polar Bear.

Among the more notable entrants that gained popularity in the blogosphere was “Pila,” or “Saw,” which poked fun at the rampant corruption that critics expect to plague Olympic construction. In Russian, stealing state money is described literally as “sawing the budget.”

Another contender was “Stakasha,” whose name derives from the word for “glass” and satirizes stereotypical Russian alcoholism.

Both Pila and Stakasha fell out of the race early on, but another unexpected contestant lingered much longer — “Zoich,” a psychedelic blue frog with a ski stick in its mouth that led online voting for weeks.

Eventually, the professional jury simply refused to include Zoich, whom designer Yegor Zhigun based on the character “Hypnotoad” from the U.S. cartoon series “Futurama,” on the list

of finalists. The decision was in line with selection rules but de-facto voided the purpose of online voting.

“Zoich was absolutely out of consideration,” a source within the Russian Olympic Committee told The St. Petersburg Times on Sunday. “It was very depressing.”

“The mascot should symbolize Russia, but imagine the impression people around the world would have when

they looked at this blue toad?” said the source, who asked not to be identified because she was not authorized to speak to the media.

Another finalist, Ded Moroz, Russia's answer to Santa Claus, was removed before the vote's closing because Russia would have lost the copyright for it to the International Olympic Committee had it won.

The decision to have several mascots is not unheard of; the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics had five patrons.

Organizers denied any link between Putin's endorsement and the outcome of the public vote, but observers were not so sure.

Putin's choice “influenced the public's choice, willingly or not,” opposition politician Georgy Bovt said by telephone.

“If he said the symbol would be Leopard, it would be Leopard,” said Kiril Andreyev, a member of the boy band Ivanushki International.

He added that Putin's selection had “good taste,” but said he personally had rooted for a robin mascot that failed to score in the finals.

Political analyst Dmitry Oreshkin told Ekho Moskvyy that the vote was a test of public loyalty, and he hinted that the outcome might have been rigged.

Medvedev's favorite took some flak from a different side, with Viktor Chizhikov, creator of the 1980 mascot, a brown bear, calling Polar Bear a ripoff.

“Everything about this bear is swiped from my artwork — the eyes, the nose, the mouth, the smile — though everything's distorted,” Chizhikov said on Ekho Moskvyy.

He added sourly that all the Sochi submissions were “unprofessional.”

Zhirinovskiy, who serves as a Duma deputy speaker, complained that the mascots would not bring any luck to the games, Interfax reported.

“The bear is the dumbest animal,” he said, “the leopard is bloodthirsty, and the hare a coward who always runs away.”

Medvedev Dismisses Leaders of 2 Regions

By Natalia Krainova and Alexandra Odynova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — President Dmitry Medvedev has fired two regional leaders in a surprise move that hints of a Kremlin housecleaning aimed at ditching underperformers before December's State Duma elections.

The leaders of Kamchatka in the Far East and Karachayevo-Cherkessia in the restive North Caucasus submitted their resignations without explanation to Medvedev — a practice widely viewed as a formality that allows an outgoing official to save face.

Kamchatka Governor Alexei Kuzmitsky was the first to go, with Medvedev approving his resignation on Friday, while Karachayevo-Cherkessia leader Boris Ebzeyev followed suit Saturday, apparently as punishment for quarreling with the local elite.

Kuzmitsky was temporarily replaced by Vladimir Ilyukhin, the region's chief federal inspector, while Rashid Temrezov, 34, a local lawmaker with the ruling United Russia party, was made the acting leader of Karachayevo-Cherkessia, the Kremlin said.

Neither Ebzeyev, 61, nor Kuzmitsky, 43, commented on their resignations over the weekend.

Unidentified Kremlin sources in separate comments to Russian news agencies linked their dismissals to be- low-par work.

Kuzmitsky “failed to use the existing possibilities” to develop Kamchatka, in part because of his poor knowledge of the region, a source told RIA-Novosti on Friday.

Ebzeyev was removed because he failed to boost Karachayevo-Cherkessia's economic and social development, Interfax reported Saturday, also citing a Kremlin source.

Alexei Titkov, a regional analyst with the Institute of Regional Politics, said Medvedev was targeting “weak governors” in preparation for the upcoming Duma vote and the 2012 presidential election.

Former Kamchatka Governor Mikhail Mashkovtsev told The St. Petersburg Times that Kuzmitsky had failed to deal with the region's health care and communal services and improve dilapidated housing.

“Everything was handed over to unqualified experts and set adrift,” Mashkovtsev said by telephone, in a reference to several reshuffles in the regional administration.

Nikolai Petrov, a regional analyst with the Carnegie Moscow Center, said Kuzmitsky was not fit for the job because of his poor knowledge of the region and a lack of public support.

Kuzmitsky, a Kemerovo region native, completed his higher education in St. Petersburg and worked in finance at various state and private companies in Moscow and St. Petersburg before

moving to Kamchatka in 2005 to serve as deputy governor on orders from then-President Vladimir Putin, according to the official Kamchatka web site. Putin appointed him governor in 2007.

Kuzmitsky's prospects of staying had looked bleak for months, after he was scolded by Putin, now the prime minister, in August and Medvedev in September.

Putin and Medvedev complained that he had failed to speed up the resettlement of people living in rundown buildings in the earthquake-prone region, a program that the federal government injected 3.5 billion rubles (\$115 million) into in 2008.

About 65 percent of the population of the region's capital, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, or 80,000 people, need to be relocated from dilapidated housing, but the regional relocation program covers only 4,000 people, said Boris Kagarlitsky, director of the Institute of Globalization Studies.

In an article published in Nezavisimaya Gazeta on Friday, Kagarlitsky also criticized Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky for having a large budget deficit and the region for offering low wages to state employees.

Former Governor Mashkovtsev described Kuzmitsky as a person with a “big ego” and “inability to accept criticism,” adding that Kuzmitsky had asked him several times how to govern but never followed the advice.

Police Given New Authority To Close Down Internet Sites

By Alexandra Odynova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — A new police law coming into force Tuesday will give officers the right to take down web sites without a court order, media reported — although industry representatives said police can already do that under existing legislation.

The police's right is mentioned in a report on intellectual piracy submitted last Tuesday by the Economic Development Ministry to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, which is preparing its own annual piracy survey, Vedomosti reported Monday on its web site.

The ministry report, first leaked on the Marker.ru news web site, lists the police's right to shut down web sites among measures intended to help crack down on copyright infringement.

The police law provides officers with “an instrument to terminate the activity of Internet resources that infringe on Russian and international copyright law, which was previously possible only with the judicial order or during investigation,” the ministry said in the report.

The actual police legislation does not mention web sites, but contains vague wording that authorizes the police to order any organization to change

or stop operations that contribute to criminal activity in any way.

Repeated calls to a ministry spokesman went unanswered Monday, but an industry representative said the new law offered no surprises.

Existing legislation already allows law enforcement agencies to close down a web site without a court order, Diana Dymolazova, a spokeswoman for Agava hosting company, said by e-mail.

She said she referred to the federal law on communication, which allows the shutdown of web sites on the written order of a senior official of an investigative body.

Agava has received orders to close down web sites in the past, and complied, Dymolazova said, adding that the requests usually referred to pornography, including pictures depicting minors.

“In most cases we deal with well-motivated requests, so clients rarely complain about the unlawful closure of their web sites,” she said.

“We don't think that the new law will change the situation significantly,” she said.

But she said more trouble might arise if police targeted sites with allegedly pirated goods instead of pornography.

Talk Show Host Claims Politics Led to Dismissal

By Natalya Krainova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — A talk show host who lost his job on state radio after likening St. Petersburg Governor Valentina Matviyenko to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler stood by his on-air comments Monday, telling The St. Petersburg Times that a groundswell of support for him showed the public was “fed up” with the authorities.

The dismissal may raise new fears about free speech in a country where the state holds a tight monopoly on national media.

Dmitry Gubin, host of a three-hour morning show on Vesti FM, said he told listeners on Friday that Matviyenko was “continuing Hitler’s business because she is destroying the city.”

Gubin, who had returned

to Moscow after a visit to St. Petersburg earlier in the week, also accused Matviyenko of failing to maintain the city “in a decent condition.”

Two hours after his show ended, one of his superiors informed him that he had been fired, Gubin said by telephone. He declined to identify the superior.

Anatoly Kuzichev, Vesti FM’s general producer, said by telephone that Gubin was fired for “impermissible on-air style.”

Many Vesti FM journalists use critical rhetoric, he said, but they speak more politely.

Asked what Gubin had said that particularly angered station management, he pinpointed Gubin’s description of St. Petersburg as “the

hole of a rural loo instead of the window to Europe” and his remark, “Sieg Heil, dear Valentina Ivanovna [Matviyenko].”

Kuzichev refused to say who decided to fire Gubin.

A request for comment left with a secretary at Matviyenko’s press office went unanswered Monday.

A video record of his Friday show was not available on the radio station’s web site Monday, and a blogger wrote where it formerly had been posted that the show had been edited.

Gubin has made two posts on his

LiveJournal blog about his dismissal and received more than 1,000 comments, most of them sympathetic.

“The uproar provoked by my case shows that the people are

fed up and they are using my case as a mouthpiece to express their discontent,” Gubin said.

On his blog, he wrote that St. Petersburg is “dirt,” has “no sidewalks” and is covered in the “[expletive] of road works.”

“Housewifely governor-woman, wipe up your household,” Gubin wrote to Matviyenko.

Gubin, 46, who had hosted the show from late August, said he had criticized Matviyenko on previous shows. He said station management had warned him a couple times against “cursing” at the governor and asked him to “use constructive criticism.”

“Is it possible to constructively criticize Adolf?” Gubin retorted on his blog over the weekend.

Gubin also accused Matviyenko of failing to maintain the city ‘in a decent condition.’

Kremlin Rolls Out Do-It-All Card

By Olga Razumovskaya
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — Imagine a piece of plastic that gets you a doctor’s appointment, pays your bills, allows you to rent a car or buy a plane ticket and even get Moscow registration faster than the sham ads in the Moscow metro.

President Dmitry Medvedev promised Monday that three years from now all Russians will have this magic card.

He gave the government till May to make final calculations of the funds necessary to introduce the universal electronic card, or UEC, for all citizens and urged banks to not take advantage of card users at the meeting of the commission on modernization and technological development of the economy Monday.

The UEC, which will be a kind of Swiss army knife of plastic cards and serve as a combination of a state electronic ID, driver’s license, car insurance and migration cards among other possible perks, should be available to Russians by 2014, according to the federal law.

The project to create the new e-card could cost the government as much 150 billion rubles (\$5.2 billion) to 170 billion rubles (\$5.9 billion), Economic Development Minister Elvira Nabiullina told reporters at the modernization commission meeting.

The project will have spanned five years, and the cost of card issuance alone will be 40 billion rubles, which puts the cost of one card at 265 rubles (\$9), Nabiullina said.

The minister promised that all investments in the card would be matched by savings as the new e-card

will replace the Russian version of social security cards.

While the card offers an almost infinite number of benefits, the list of them is still to be determined, and most other details of the project are still to be worked out.

Banks, for one, are not sure whether they will benefit from this innovation.

German Gref, chief executive of state-run Sberbank, which is one of the three banks that will help finance the card’s development, said banks have so far been reluctant to provide funds for the project because it’s “of little interest” commercially, Bloomberg reported.

Another danger of introducing such a card is the potential for identity fraud, which often plagues countries that have introduced systems of electronic identification and rely heavily on cards similar to the UEC, experts say.

This is especially the case in Western countries, said Timur Aitov, executive director at the Association of Russian Banks. “Until recently, we have had nothing to steal,” he said.

But introducing a card that would hold comprehensive data on citizens could put them at high risk of identity theft.

Medvedev confessed that, to date, the government has not found a good answer to the question of protecting its citizens’ data and he admitted that personal information often circulates on the Internet.

But “on its own, protection of such information should not be an obstacle to making the decision to issue cards,” Medvedev said.

The fact that the card will use a foreign chip should also not stand in the

way of the project taking off as soon as possible, Medvedev said.

“[We] will not wait till we create our own chip, otherwise it will never be made,” the president said.

While Medvedev promised that the new card “will improve the lives of tens of millions of people” by cutting through the red tape and allowing Russians to do everything from paying their gas bills to making a doctor’s appointment online, experts see ample potential for the card to turn from a magic wand into a weapon that can be used against its owner through fraud and identity theft.

Cases of fraud involving plastic debit and credit cards in Russia, according to experts, run as high as 1 percent to 1.5 percent of all cards, and not all of them are reported.

Banks, too, will have to weigh potential dangers, Aitov said.

“While it’s natural for a bank to want to promote itself and get new clients, they must keep the cost in mind,” he said.

New risks will be brought upon by many “untrustworthy” clients who have never owned a debit or credit card before coming on board, making transactions they have no financial backing for, Aitov said.

To add to banks’ headaches, Medvedev encouraged the government to think about how to regulate tariffs on transactions for commercial and state services, which are controlled by banks.

“If citizens will incur high expenses for making a transaction, this will look really bad,” he said. “This is why all who will be servicing these cards, all major banks must understand that this is, after all, a social mission and not a source of substantial income.”



The public is beginning to react to rising food and utility prices more sharply than it did just a few months ago.

Polls Track Dissent Rising With Prices

By Mikhail Malykhin
VEDOMOSTI

MOSCOW — Prices are rising quickly and, in February, every second person (49 percent) was dissatisfied and ready to participate in a protest, according to a Public Opinion Foundation survey of 3,000 people from 204 towns on Feb. 19-20.

As recently as December, that figure was only a third (32 percent).

In response to the question, “If next Sunday, there were to be a meeting, demonstration or protest where you live, would you take part?” 24 percent said yes. In December, only 16 percent said they would; in January, 18 percent.

The number of Russians who felt their financial situation worsen went from 28 percent to 34 percent over the month. The number of those expecting their finances to improve fell

from 26 percent to 17 percent. Only 18 percent were proud of their personal savings (20 percent in January), and almost one-third acknowledged that their savings were shrinking.

In late February, 96 percent of Russians felt a rise in prices for basic foods, goods and services (versus 86 percent in December), according to the Public Opinion Foundation. More than four-fifths had no doubt that the inflation would continue.

According to a VTsIOM survey of 1,600 people from 138 towns, 80 percent of Russians view inflation as very high. The No. 1 factor was rising costs of utilities, noted by 81 percent of respondents. “The February inflation estimates were some of the most negative over the entire period of record,” VTsIOM analysts said. Such a critical level was also felt in June-July 2008 (78 to 81 percent).

Sixty percent of respondents said the prices of goods they usually buy increased 15 to 25 percent on average. About 13 percent said prices have more than doubled. Another 16 percent saw a 5 to 10 percent increase in the price of basic goods. No one felt that prices remained the same or decreased.

The rising cost of utilities was felt the most, according to 81 percent of respondents. Also noted were rising prices for fruits and vegetables, as well as meat and meat products (68 and 64 percent). More than half of respondents saw serious increases in the cost of milk and dairy products (57 percent) and gasoline (56 percent). For bread, 43 percent noted a slight price increase.

According to the State Statistics Service, from the beginning of the year until Feb. 21, inflation amounted to 3.1 percent, compared with 2.4 percent during the same period a year ago.

Justice Ministry Pledges Clearer Rules for NGOs

By Alexander Bratersky
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — The Justice Ministry, notorious for refusing registration to anti-Kremlin groups, has promised clearer registration rules for nongovernmental organizations and called for increased public control over prisons.

NGOs should be guaranteed “qualified and lawful decisions” when applying for registration, Justice Minister Alexander Kononov said Monday at a round table dedicated to his ministry’s 2010 work and plans for this year. “This is also very important on the eve of national [State Duma] and presidential elections,” he said.

He did not identify any groups that had failed to obtain registration.

His ministry has denied registration to all prominent opposition leaders seeking to establish parties to run for the Duma, including Eduard Limonov, Sergei Udaltsov and the liberal quadrumvirate of Mikhail Kasyanov, Vladimir Milov, Boris Nemtsov and Vladimir Ryzhkov.

Kononov said refusals often have to do with the “corruption factor.” He did not elaborate.

“We shouldn’t split hairs but should react properly,” he said.

More than 71,000 registration requests were submitted to the ministry in 2010 by NGOs, religious groups and political parties, the ministry said in a statement Monday. It said the number of requests grew 18.5 percent year

on year, but did not specify how many were approved.

Speaking on the prison system, Kononov said “civil society’s control over the penitentiary system should be more widespread.”

He said groups comprising businesspeople, public figures and clergy should have a say on which convicts get released on parole — currently a corruption-ridden practice believed to allow prison officials to rake in huge bribes.

Deputy Justice Minister Alexander Smirnov said the ministry was collaborating with the Health and Social Development Ministry to allow ill inmates to be admitted into hospitals outside the prison system.

The ministry is reforming the prison health care system after the death of Hermitage Capital lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who died of health problems in pretrial detention in 2009.

The Prosecutor General’s Office reported last week that 4,423 people died in custody last year, a 9 percent increase from 2009, Gazeta.ru reported.

Among the Justice Ministry’s other activities last year, it examined 3,700 bills and found corruption loopholes in 4 percent of them and ordered the deportation of about 5,000 foreigners, many of whom were released after serving prison sentences.

The ministry was also involved in the defense of cases filed against Russia in the European Court of Human Rights, submitting about 1,300 memorandums with the Strasbourg-based court.



The palace was built for Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich, grandson of Nicholas I, in 1885 by Maximilian von Messmacher.

Royal Palace Sold to Unknown Firm

By Nadezhda Zaitseva and Anatoly Tyomkin

VEDOMOSTI

St. Petersburg's Property Fund on Friday sold the Palace of Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich located at 8 Admiralteiskaya embankment at a starting price of 520 million rubles (\$18 million).

There were two bids in the auction, and the successful buyer was a company named Palace of Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich. Representatives of the company declined to comment after the auction.

The palace measures 5,030.5 square meters and includes a wing on Chernomorsky Pereulok of 3,135.9 square meters. The property, which is registered as a monument of federal importance, has been leased until 2049 to Severo-Zapadnaya Finansovaya Gruppya (Northwest Financial Group) for a rent of 3.3 million rubles (\$114,600) per month. The property can be used for business and social purposes, and as a residence.

The entrepreneur Alexander Bronshtein, a beneficiary of SZFG, is behind the buyers, according to two of Bronshtein's acquaintances. According to data from the Unified State Register of

Legal Entities, the buying company was registered at 8 Admiralteiskaya embankment on Feb. 10, and its only founder is Mavlida Aminova, who in 2003 was general director of Pikalyovsky Cement. That company was then a subsidiary of Mettallurg, of which Bronshtein was one of the beneficiaries.

Bronshtein and his partners — Alexei Shmargunenko and Mikhail Shlossberg — sold Volgogradsky Aluminum, Volkhovsky Aluminum and Pikalyovsky Alumina Factories to Sual. Then, in 2005, they sold Pikalyovsky Cement to Inteko for \$35 million.

Bronshtein and Aminova were unavailable for comment.

Mikhail Malakhov, general director of SZFG, insists that neither his company nor any organization connected to it were involved in the auction. The tenant, he says, has no intention of vacating the property. According to SPARK-Interfax, SZFG belongs to Romtrade Holdings.

SZFG subleases the property. According to Malakhov, the rental rate is 700 rubles (\$24.30) per square meter per month for the space on Chernomorsky Pereulok, and about 1,500 ru-

bles (\$28.80) for the space on Admiralteiskaya embankment. Since 2001, SZFG has invested about \$5 million in the property, he said.

This is not the first time the property has been up for sale. In November last year, a starting price of 700 million rubles (\$24.3 million) was announced, but the auction was abandoned. According to a representative of the Property Fund, there was only one bid.

The buyer acquired the building for a little more than \$2,000 per square meter, although the price for similar buildings can easily reach \$4,000 or \$5,000 per square meter, said Vladimir Sergunin, director of the investment department of Colliers International in St. Petersburg. The price was affected by the long-term rental agreement, otherwise City Hall could have sold the lot for twice as much, as the property is in a very attractive location, he said.

Sergunin said he believed that the optimal use for such a building was as an elite apartment building or hotel. If it is possible to adapt the building for use as a hotel or residential building, its price could rise to \$10,000 to \$15,000 per square meter, said Sergunin.

Foreign Investment Falling in Petersburg

By Alla Tokareva and Anatoly Tyomkin

VEDOMOSTI

Foreign investment in St. Petersburg's economy has fallen for the third year running. The construction industry has suffered most, while food manufacturing has seen growth of 11.5 percent.

In 2010, foreign investors injected \$5.2 billion into the city, 5 percent less than 2009, according to the Committee for Investment and Strategic Planning, citing figures from Petrostat. Investment has been decreasing since 2008, when it fell by 6 percent. In 2009, there was a further 7-percent drop.

Foreign direct investment was down 55 percent to \$538.1 million, of which \$408.8 million was made up of contributions to the charter capital of Russian subsidiaries (30 percent lower). Loans from parent companies were down 80 percent to \$127 million. According to preliminary data from the Ministry of Finance, foreign direct investment in Russia was one-and-a-half times lower last year, at between \$12 billion and \$14 billion. St. Petersburg's share of overall foreign direct investment fell from 21.7 percent to 10.3 percent, while the share of loans rose from 75.8 percent to 89.6 percent. The volume of trade credit dropped by 21 percent to \$1.8 billion, while other loans rose by 53 percent to \$2.8 billion.

The largest fall was in investment in construction — by 80 percent. Foreign developers in St. Petersburg are mostly concerned with commercial property, which has yet to recover from the crisis, notes Mikhail Vosiyanov, general director of YuIT-Lentek. Investment is needed at the launch of new projects, of which there weren't any last year, he added.

Oleg Barkov, general director of Hansa SPb Development, estimates the number of companies with foreign capital in the residential construction industry at 5 to 7 percent, and at 20 percent in commercial developments. By his estimate, investment in commercial property stayed at the same level as in the previous year, twice as low as in 2008. Last year turned out to be harder than 2009, when ongoing projects that could not feasibly be aban-

doned were being completed and there was still hope of a quick recovery in the economy. By 2010, that hope had been lost, said Barkov.

Investment in food production, however, rose by 11.5 percent. This was influenced by the traditionally high trade credits from Belarus for import deliveries of Belarussian produce to Russia, says Dmitry Kumanovsky, head of the analytical division of Lenmontazhstroy. Moreover, Danone has created a unified supply chain with its new asset, Unimilk, which has a factory in St. Petersburg, Kumanovsky said. France and Belarus lead the list for foreign direct investment, with 34.3 percent and 11.6 percent respectively.

The volume of investment in vehicle manufacturing was affected by deferred consumer demand, the launch of the Hyundai factory and a second shift at Nissan's plant, and also by the opening of components manufacturing plants, which have reduced reliance on imports, said Kumanovsky. Last year saw the main share of the investment into the opening of the Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Rus factory, with the company pumping roughly \$500 million into the project, a spokesperson said.

The Leningrad Oblast has fared considerably worse than the city, with foreign investment totaling \$637 million, half as much as in 2009, according to Petrostat. Foreign direct investment in the region increased by 14 percent to \$381 million, while loans fell by a factor of six to \$150 million. In 2009, foreign investment rose by 30 percent in comparison with 2008.

2010 saw the launch in the region of Gestamp's pressing plant (\$60 million investment), Atria's meat processing plant (70 million euros), and H+H's aircrete systems manufacturing plant (40 million euros). The main investments in these factories were made in 2009, however.

Looking forward, Denis Demin, head of the analytical division at BFA, predicted that foreign direct investment this year is unlikely to reach the level of 2009, as after the completion of major projects initiated before the crisis foreign companies will be more circumspect concerning long-term spending.

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Marriott International Wins Tender for Pulkovo Hotel

By Nadezhda Zaitseva and Alla Tokareva

VEDOMOSTI

Northern Capital Gateway, the consortium managing Pulkovo airport, has chosen an operator for the hotel at the airport, and is now negotiating the conditions of the management agreement, according to Andrei Fedorov, head of the company's external communications department. He did not, however, reveal the name of the winner.

Vedomosti has learned from two sources with links to the airport that Marriott International is the chosen operator. They say that there is a preliminary agreement, but no contract has yet been signed. A source at Marriott confirmed that negotiations with Northern Capital Gateway concerning the opening of a hotel were underway at an early stage. Consultants at Astera are also aware that the choice has fallen to Marriott. The contract for managing a 200-room hotel will be signed in the course of the year, said a representative of Cushman & Wakefield.

None of these sources could say under which brand the hotel would operate. Marriott has three hotels in St. Petersburg — two Courtyards and one Renaissance.

Northern Capital Gateway, a consortium consisting of VTB, Fraport, and Greek concern Copelouzou, won the city government's competition to reconstruct Pulkovo, promising to invest 1.2 billion euros in the project. By 2013, the company is obliged to build a hotel at the airport measuring 13,800 square meters, with a direct connection to the terminal.

Probably the hotel at Pulkovo will be under the Courtyard brand, said Alexander Voloshin, head of investment consulting at Astera, and Yelena Ignaty, managing partner at GIA Priority.

The area around Pulkovo has great potential, and the new project has no reason to fear competition, said Anastasiya Kruchinina, of Avielen, which this year is preparing to open a 294-room Crowne Plaza at the Pulkovo-3 development.

Advertising on Nevsky Faces Stricter Rules

By Nadezhda Zaitseva and Yelena Dombrova

VEDOMOSTI

St. Petersburg's Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture has produced new rules for Nevsky Prospekt and the surrounding area that will forbid rooftop advertising. As well as banners and billboards, the rules dictate the color and decoration of facades and the design of outdoor cafes.

According to the city's chief architect, Yury Mityurev, the rules are necessary due to the negative effect of banners and advertising constructions on the visual perception of St. Petersburg's main street. He says that new advertising will be approved according to the rules from May 2010. Advertising that has already been approved will not be reviewed, but contracts will not be extended.

The stipulations of the new rules are still not clear, said the general director of Newsoutdoor's St. Petersburg branch, Vladimir Ryabovol.



Putin and Europe Vie Over Pipeline Supplies

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and the president of the European Commission President, Jose Manuel Barroso, on Thursday clashed over EU plans to stop suppliers of oil or gas from directly managing pipelines — a move that threatens to hit Gazprom.

Putin said the plans could hurt his country's enterprises and likened them to "property confiscation."

But the EC president said the new energy framework was in line with World Trade Organization rules and would affect foreign and domestic companies alike.

Barroso said the so-called third energy package was "nondiscriminatory" and he ruled out any changes. For Europe, "this is now approved legislation," Barroso said at a news conference. "It applies to Russian companies as it applies to Norwegian companies ... and it applies to European companies," he added.

The third energy package, which takes effect next month, aims to boost competition in the European gas market by separating gas production from pipeline management to prevent one company from controlling the entire supply chain in a country.

The package gives EU member states three options on how to deal with companies that both export gas to the EU and own a pipeline. The most drastic option would force a gas producer to sell its pipeline — a route only Lithuania has chosen so far.

A second option — picked by most countries — forces a gas producer to transfer the management of a pipeline to an independent entity, but allows them to continue owning it.

Under a third option, a gas producer could hold on to the pipeline, but would have to allow other companies to use it according to objective guidelines.

At the beginning of the news conference, which concluded a meeting between the European Commission and Russian government officials, Putin set out the stakes of EU-Russian relations. "Russian energy is the basis of European prosperity," he said.

Putin said the new plans would raise energy prices in the EU, as pipeline management would have to be handled by several smaller companies that would push up transportation tariffs to be profitable.

Europe is Russia's biggest market for gas, but Moscow has been concerned about Brussels' plans to diversify away from its supplies. Many EU countries, including all Baltic states, Slovakia and Finland, get all their gas from Russia, which in the past has cut off supplies amid disputes over pricing.

Despite Putin's belligerent tone, Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko appeared more conciliatory. "We do not object to the right of Europe to regulate its energy markets as it wants," Shmatko told journalists after the news conference, adding that he still sees some room for compromise.

"The process [of implementation of the energy package] has not been finished yet," he said, referring to Lithuania's decision to go for the most stringent option in the package.

Because the Lithuanian market is quite small, Gazprom might have a hard time getting a fair price for its pipeline if it is forced to sell.



A shopper examines cut-price clothing at Apraksin Dvor, a central St. Petersburg market home to a number of small traders. ALEXANDER BELENKY / SPT

New Tax Hampers Small Businesses

By Khristina Narizhnaya

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — Entrepreneurs worry that small business faces a dismal future after an increase in taxes and utilities at the start of this year.

"It's a sad situation," Russian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises president Alexander Ioffe said at the National Institute of Systematic Research of Enterprise Problems' fifth annual forum. "We are moving backwards, we should be crying."

Many businesses are struggling to afford the 8-percentage-point social tax hike, from 26 to 34 percent, that went into effect Jan. 1. On top of the tax increase, the cost of utilities has gone up with inflation.

Marzhanat Ibragimova, chairwoman of the enterprise council of Kizlyar, a small city in the republic of Dagestan, said 70 percent of local businesses have shut down since the beginning of the year because they cannot pay the tax.

"Everybody is closing. We don't make enough profit," Ibragimova said. "Our young people are not working."

Other regions face a similar fate. Several bakeries have shut down, and more are slated to close in the Amur region, head of the region's enterprise council Oksana Stepanova said.

Russia has about 1.2 million small enterprises for a population of 142 million and an area of 17.1 million square kilometers. Small business provides about 20 percent of the country's gross domestic income. This number has stayed roughly the same for nearly 20 years.

Russia's neighbor Poland has about 27 percent of Russia's population, yet there are 4 million small businesses from which the country receives more than 60 percent of its GDP.

The increased tax seems to go against the government's rhetoric about developing small business.

The federal budget sets aside 2 billion rubles (\$69 million) a year for small business development, and each region is supposed to provide additional financing. But only a small portion of business owners actually get the money. Financing for small business in Moscow has been frozen since January.

One reason many businesses don't get government help is a lack of information about services, institute vice president Maxim Gromov said.

The Economic Development Ministry has offered electronic registration of land, online maps and other services on its web site since the beginning of this year. The Federal Anti-Monopoly Service has increased its web presence in an effort to stop government agencies from outsourcing their services to private firms for kickbacks.

Nongovernmental institutions also provide information services to accelerate small business growth. The U.S. Russia Center for Entrepreneurship trains business leaders, and the National Institute of Systematic Research of Enterprise Problems conducts research on small business. Corruption is another major hurdle for companies.

For example, the list of fire safety requirements is very long and almost impossible to fulfill. Most companies pay unofficial fines to get approved.

Another issue is securing credit. Business owners complain about high interest or unaffordable kickbacks.

Aeroflot to Settle Compensation Claims After Ice

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — Aeroflot is ready to settle 50 compensation claims from passengers left stranded by the transport collapse at Sheremetyevo Airport in December, a lawyer for claimants said Monday.

Aeroflot's offer of vouchers in exchange for missed and delayed flights to all passengers has been criticized for not equaling the full value of a ticket, and for creating a tax liability for the recipient.

Lawyer Sergei Zhorin, representing 50 individual claims against the airline amounting to 10 million rubles (\$345,000), said he received a letter on Friday inviting him to submit a register of claims in preparation for an out-of-court settlement.

"We're pleased at Aeroflot's move, but we submitted these claims over a month ago and they've only responded now," Zhorin said Monday.

About 20,000 air travelers were stranded at Moscow's Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo airports between Dec. 26 and 29 as a result of freezing rain.

Passengers vented anger at being left without food, information or support at Aeroflot's Sheremetyevo hub.

The lawyer said he would not cancel any of the lawsuits until an agreement on compensation has been reached.

Zhorin said he had received a similar response from Transaero about claims his clients have made against the Domodedovo-based airline.

Pirate Software Puts Profits Under Pressure

By Olga Razumovskaya

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — Small and medium-sized companies may be overlooking potential business risks from using unlicensed software, which may add up to as much as \$40,000 in damages a year, the latest study done for Microsoft by the International Data Corporation, or IDC, suggests.

Small and medium-sized businesses are accustomed to linking the use of pirated software with exclusively legal responsibility, which, though relatively rare, can be quite harsh in Russia (fines and possible imprisonment), but they often overlook the financial losses they may incur from using such software.

The authors of the study surveyed 401 IT managers in small to medium-sized companies with computer parks of anywhere between 10 and 250 personal computers in five districts of Russia.

Companies that use 80 percent or more unlicensed software on their computers are 30 percent more likely to experience a costly break in their workflow because of a critical failure of software installed on their computers.



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VEB Eyes Far East Fund For Investment

By Irina Filatova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has given state development bank Vneshekonombank until May to set up a fund that would finance investment in the remote Far East region, saying that potential projects are worth \$3 billion.

The fund, first mentioned by Putin in December, marks the government's determination to focus VEB efforts on some of the country's most depressed regions. VEB recently created a similar fund for the explosive North Caucasus.

Putin also approved a \$1.6 billion loan to a company in Tatarstan that wants to order a fertilizer plant from a Mitsubishi-led consortium. Most of the funding will come from Japanese banks, VEB chief Vladimir Dmitriyev said.

Speaking about the Far East fund, Putin said VEB was considering projects worth 88 billion rubles (\$3 billion). He didn't elaborate on the projects and it was unclear whether VEB would look for partners when investing through the fund.

"I am sure that all plans that have been outlined will be implemented," Putin told VEB's board, which he chairs, last week.

The fund would also cover the Lake Baikal area.

Putin said in December that the region had interesting investment opportunities in energy, metals, timber and fishing industries.

VEB has already extended loans in the region. Last year, it handed out 3 billion rubles to finance construction of a timber processing plant in the Khabarovsk region. It also lent 2.3 billion rubles for upgrading the Knevichi airport near Vladivostok as part of preparations to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in 2012.

The fertilizer plant in Tatarstan will supply domestic farmers and export its products to the other former Soviet republics, Europe and Asia, Putin said. VEB and a state-owned investment fund of Tatarstan will have control in the Ammiak — or Ammonia — company that ordered the plant, Dmitriyev told reporters after the board meeting.

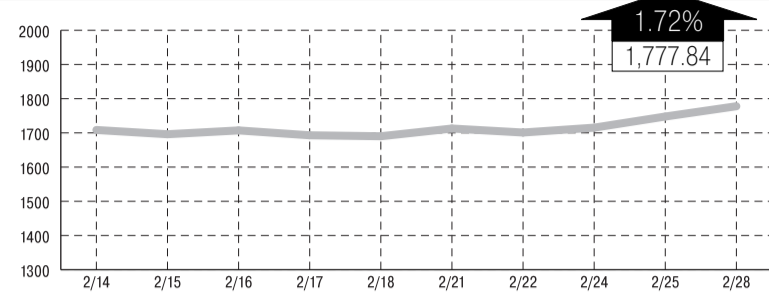
Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Sojitz Corporation and China National Chemical Engineering Corporation signed a contract late last year to build the plant, one of the largest of its type in the world.

Dmitriyev also said VEB was "ready" to provide financing, if need be, for the joint venture between Sollers and Ford that the automakers announced a fortnight ago.

He added that there were no formal agreements on the issue yet.

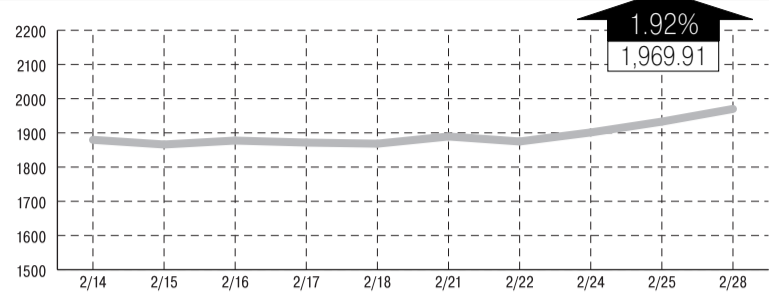
RUSSIAN MARKETS

MICEX INDEX (COMPOSITE OF TOP 30 STOCKS)



Source: MICEX

RTS INDEX (COMPOSITE OF TOP 50 STOCKS)



Source: RTS

MICEX SECTOR INDEXES

	CLOSE	CHANGE, %	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
MICEX Index	1,777.84	1.72	1,788.74	1,194.92
MICEX10 Index	4,100.58	1.68	4,229.92	2,841.82
MICEX Oil & Gas	3,375.08	2.00	3,379.49	2,198.01
MICEX Power	3,209.21	1.63	3,519.47	2,575.12
MICEX Telecommunication	2,531.23	1.36	2,567.62	1,784.52
MICEX Metals & Mining	5,706.39	1.70	6,178.50	3,766.22
MICEX Manufacturing	2,843.11	1.42	3,054.11	1,604.12
MICEX Large Cap	2,871.59	1.88	2,880.73	1,932.63
MICEX Mid Cap	3,191.65	1.18	3,337.25	2,242.85

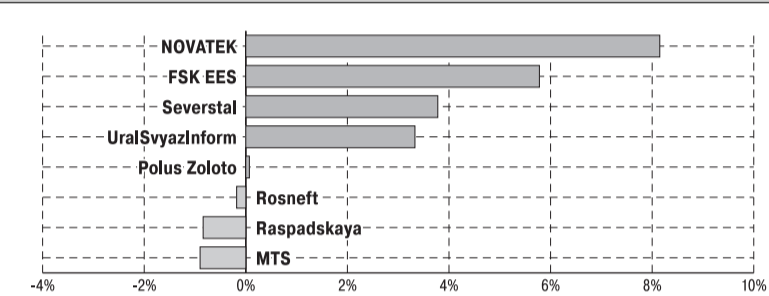
Source: MICEX

RTS SECTOR INDEXES

	CLOSE	CHANGE, %	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
RTS Index	1,969.91	1.92	1,969.91	1,226.57
RTS2 Index	2,324.70	1.41	2,340.78	1,560.41
RTS Oil & Gas Index	235.39	1.74	235.39	146.90
RTS Consumer & Retail Index	443.74	1.04	453.53	259.71
RTS Metals & Mining Index	368.86	2.17	378.44	226.54
RTS Industrial Index	239.26	0.26	244.20	136.41
RTS Electric Utilities Index	276.29	2.02	299.05	220.88
RTS Telecom Index	292.48	0.59	292.55	183.24
RTS Finances Index	492.80	2.17	496.30	298.51

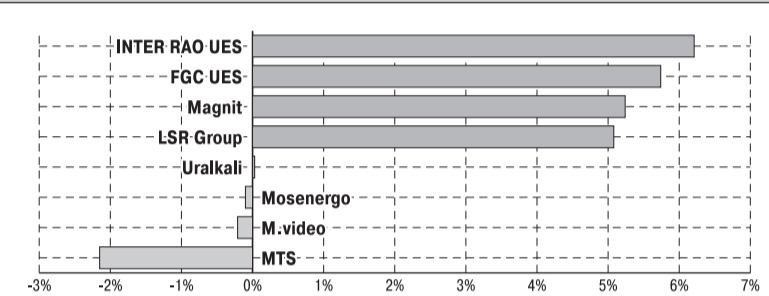
Source: RTS

MICEX INDEX WINNERS & LOSERS



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RTS INDEX WINNERS & LOSERS



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Seneca

MICEX

TOP 30 (BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION)					
	CLOSE, RUB	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, MLN RUB	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
AFK Sistema	29.8730	1.26	78.13	35.8600	24.6030
Baltika	1,454.9900	2.18	29.15	1,791.9900	775.0000
Bank Moskovy	1,184.0000	-0.37	2.12	1,398.9900	822.0000
FSK EES	0.4210	5.78	1,286.76	0.4810	0.2890
Gazprom	210.7100	0.67	17,090.96	216.6500	142.0900
Gazprom neft	156.1500	1.65	146.10	170.9500	101.0000
Holding MRSK	4.9750	0.89	128.42	5.7910	2.8330
LUKOIL	2,038.0300	1.60	6,051.38	2,047.9900	1,400.0100
Magnit	3,789.9900	2.57	37.34	4,495.9900	1,905.0000
Mechel	908.0000	0.89	75.67	989.9500	555.0000
MMK	32.1130	2.70	173.63	38.0000	20.8050
MTS	247.2500	-0.90	549.25	276.9800	217.0000
NLMK	131.5000	2.65	201.34	151.2000	79.5000
NorNickel GMK	6,993.0000	1.97	5,309.81	7,700.0000	4,350.0000
NOVATEK	385.0000	8.15	194.51	385.0000	167.1100
OGK-4	2.6300	2.61	63.71	3.3500	1.7020
Polus Zoloto	1,693.1000	0.07	330.92	1,997.0000	1,222.6800
Polymetal	550.0000	1.41	235.12	749.9500	279.7800
Raspadskaya	224.4900	-0.84	301.75	240.0000	114.5100
Rosneft	271.6800	-0.18	4,398.73	276.2000	179.5000
RusGidro	1.4780	0.54	630.81	1.8570	1.2740
Sberbank	102.1000	1.75	18,198.82	110.9500	63.8100
Severstal	548.9900	3.78	1,552.89	598.5800	294.3600
Silvinit	29,630.0000	0.44	57.34	31,700.0000	14,724.7800
Surgut	33.2300	0.46	1,072.64	36.1750	24.4600
Tatneft-3	173.9900	1.01	367.28	175.7500	119.6200
TNK-BP Holding	87.2200	-0.19	37.08	N/A	N/A
Uralkali	234.0000	0.71	946.38	239.8100	93.3000
VTB	0.1012	2.64	7,396.23	0.1114	0.0657
WBDF	3,713.0000	-0.32	254.22	3,998.9400	1,225.0000

MOST-TRADED OTHER STOCKS

	CLOSE, RUB	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, MLN RUB	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
Aeroflot	73.1800	2.71	89.70	87.5000	53.0100
Akron	1,359.0000	1.04	108.20	1,433.7700	712.0000
Apteki 36,6	104.7000	0.20	42.36	200.0000	74.0900
ARMADA	445.0000	1.10	136.94	469.9700	141.8600
INTER RAO EES	0.0432	2.13	648.60	0.0677	0.0393
M.video	273.0000	-0.37	52.77	299.0000	120.0100
MosEnrg	3.0300	1.58	71.27	4.2200	2.7100
OGK-1	1.0920	0.55	121.02	1.5400	0.9330
OGK-2	1.5600	2.03	84.75	2.0500	1.0190
OGK-3	1.4400	1.55	41.12	2.2730	1.3300
OGK-6	1.3340	0.98	713.70	1.7600	0.7500
PIK	144.4900	1.90	793.95	176.9600	95.7100
Rostelecom	155.0500	1.01	111.80	186.7900	95.1300
Rostelecom (pref)	89.0000	-0.16	87.78	111.5000	62.5000
Sberbank (pref)	70.7000	2.11	1,916.80	78.7700	50.3400
SibirTelekom	2.9730	8.11	63.00	2.9730	1.4090
Surgut (pref)	17.0990	1.96	548.35	17.9850	11.6930
Transneft (pref)	40,900.0000	2.38	1,276.14	42,300.0200	23,505.3300

Source: MICEX

RTS

TOP 30 (BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION)					
	CLOSE, \$	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, \$ MLN	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
FGC UES	0.01350	0.00	0.000	0.01500	0.00920
Baltika Breweries	48.00000	9.09	0.137	50.00000	29.25000
Bank of Moscow	40.00000	0.00	0.000	40.00000	32.00000
Bashneft	53.25000	0.00	0.000	53.25000	27.30000
Gazprom	7.20000	0.00	0.000	7.40000	4.55000
Gazprom Neft	5.15000	0.00	0.000	5.57200	3.50000
IDGC Holding	0.17500	2.94	0.035	0.18750	0.10270

RTS (CONTINUED)

	CLOSE, \$	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, \$ MLN	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
LUKOil	70.61000	1.96	0.735	70.61000	45.10000
MMK	1.07500	0.00	0.000	1.10500	0.72600
MTS	8.75000	0.00	0.000	9.35000	7.35000
Magnit	130.50000	5.24	0.215	145.72344	65.20000
Mechel	31.00000	4.20	0.092	31.00000	19.25000
Norisk Nickel	234.00000	0.00	0.000	257.00000	141.00000
Novatek	10.80000	0.00	0.000	10.97000	5.46000
Novolipetsk Steel	4.15000	0.00	0.000	4.53000	2.60000
TNK-BP Holding	3.03000	1.00	0.956	3.20000	2.70000
Polymetal	18.95000	4.41	0.041	18.95000	9.50000
Polyus Gold	56.80000	0.00	0.000	61.75000	40.50000
Raspadskaya	7.72000	2.25	1.154	7.91000	3.86000
Rosneft	9.48498	4.81	0.032	9.48498	6.00000
RusHydro	0.05150	0.00	0.000	0.06210	0.04280
Sberbank	3.54000	3.51	8.542	3.70000	2.04000
Sberbank, RDR	17.05000	0.83	0.340	17.18000	14.45000
Severstal	19.00000	8.11	0.062	19.63010	9.65000
Silvinit	975.00000	0.00	0.000	975.00000	498.00000
Sistema	1.02000	2.00	0.102	1.06000	0.81000
Surgutneftegaz	1.17000	0.00	0.000	1.17000	0.80000
Tatneft	5.97364	0.06	1.595	6.04000	4.06000
Uralkali	7.50000	0.00	0.000	7.85000	3.12000
VTB	0.00344	1.18	0.043	0.00370	0.00230

RTS STANDARD MOST-TRADED STOCKS

	CLOSE, \$	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, \$ MLN	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
Aeroflot	2.50000	1.21	0.088	2.72000	1.76000
Ashinsky Metal Works	0.60000	-3.23	0.030	0.62000	0.38500
Bashneft (pref)	38.00000	0.66	0.064	38.00000	17.25000
Dalsvyaz	4.80000	-3.03	0.120	4.95000	2.72500
INTER RAO UES	0.00154	6.21	0.015	0.00230	0.00130
M.video	9.40000	-0.21	0.188	9.86000	4.60000
Mosenergo	0.10270	-0.10	0.282	0.1430	



City's Homeless Population Fights to Keep Warm

By Galina Stolyarova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Every night during the colder months of the year, more than 100 homeless people appear at the doorway of a local charity seeking an overnight refuge.

The charity, Nochlezhka, can host only half of that number, and two heated tents to shelter the city's homeless people can each accommodate another couple of dozen guests.

Viktoria Ryzhova, a spokeswoman for Nochlezhka, estimates there are about 8,000 homeless people in St. Petersburg, but statistics vary dramatically. "Every day, between 3,000 and 30,000 people are forced to spend the night on the streets," she said.

All of St. Petersburg's night shelters combined can only accommodate about 200 people, Ryzhova said. City Governor Valentina Matviyenko has promised to encourage the opening of shelters in every neighborhood in the city, but progress has been slow.

Nochlezhka is currently the driving force behind a campaign aimed at distributing warm clothes and toiletries among the city's homeless. On Feb. 23 — the Defenders of the Fatherland national holiday — the charity presented local homeless people with gifts collected from the city's residents that included warm socks, scarves and winter clothes, as well as chocolate and coffee.

On Feb. 28, the local charity shops Spasibo and Khoroshop — the latter of which gives its proceeds to the homeless charity — organized the distribution of used clothes that had been donated to the shops.

"These clothes are perfectly wearable, but we felt they would not sell very quickly, so we decided to just give them away," said a volunteer who worked on the project.

"Nochlezhka does such a great and useful thing," said Olga Nikolayeva, a local housewife. "My husband and I are religious, and we regularly take used clothes to the church and leave them there for those in need, but most of our friends are not religious, and they say they would feel awkward go-



Homeless people shelter in a heated tent set up by Nochlezhka on the embankment of the Obvodny Canal. ALEXANDER BELENKY / SPT



Volunteers gave gifts to homeless people as temperatures plunged last week. ALEXANDER BELENKY / SPT

course of the winter, Nochlezhka campaigned among local residents, asking them not to throw out the homeless.

"Just imagine how unfortunate and miserable they are, and what a struggle life has become for them," Ryzhova said. "Kicking the homeless out into the cold when it is minus 25 degrees [Celsius] outside and there are not enough shelters is inhuman."

But such campaigns have had little success in a city where crime rates and personal safety concerns are high and security standards in most apartment buildings are less than basic.

"We had homeless people coming and going in our basement for more than five years," said Nadezhda Kuzmina, who lives on Varshavskaya Ulitsa in the southwest of the city.

"The stairs reeked of urine and feces, and they [the homeless people] would often be drunk. We have a small child in our family, and this is not the sort of picture you want your kids to face on a daily basis."

"On one occasion, the local authorities even sent a lorry up here to pack up all the rubbish and take it away. But it wasn't until we put an intercom system on the entrance and several huge locks on the basement door that we got rid of the vagrants," Kuzmina said. "Kicking them out took so much time and such a huge effort that we are not having them back."

City Hall's attitude toward homeless people was well-illustrated by a recent statement made by Matviyenko.

Amid an avalanche of criticism over casualties caused by snow and ice this winter, Matviyenko did not go as far as admitting that the entire system of clearing the city of snow and icicles needs an overhaul. Instead, she suggested recruiting homeless people to clear roofs.

Clearing snow and ice from the roofs of tall buildings in a large city requires the right equipment, sufficient training and physically fit workers. Most would agree that it is a task for which Russia's frail and emaciated homeless are unsuited.

ing to a church, so they just end up throwing things away."

Activists say far more money is needed to set up more heated shelters to help the city's thousands of homeless people, and, more importantly, to restore homeless people's documents and integrate them back into society.

The police do not issue figures on the number of homeless people who freeze to death every year on the streets of St. Petersburg, but according to Nochlezhka, at least 82 people died in the city from exposure last winter, and a further 100 people sustained severe injuries, some of which necessitated amputations.

Many homeless people seek refuge in the basements and attics of apartment buildings, but the installation of code locks and intercom systems is making this increasingly difficult. During the

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Gorbachev at 80: Russia an 'Imitation' of Democracy

By Vladimir Isachenkov
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Approaching his 80th birthday, Mikhail Gorbachev jokes about his age but frowns when he speaks of Russia sliding back into Soviet authoritarian ways he thought he defeated.

For much of the nearly 20 years since the Soviet Union collapsed under his leadership, Gorbachev has been something of a dim figure in his homeland, mostly staying out of public view despite being lauded in the West.

These days, Gorbachev, who turns 80 on Wednesday, is becoming more visible and outspoken, even recently doling out harsh criticism of Vladimir Putin — as painful memories over the anxiety and suffering that followed the U.S.S.R.'s disintegration grow fainter.

Although his legacy remains controversial, Gorbachev is at last getting some recognition as an elder statesman, including a large photo exhibition on his years in power, displayed in a prestigious hall just outside the walls of the Kremlin that he once ruled.

And despite his years, he still shows the vigor and humor that captivated the world after a long series of sickly and tongue-tied Soviet leaders.

"I don't believe I'm 80 and didn't hope I'd make it (this far) — but I'm not going into physiological details here," he joked at a recent news conference.

But his remarks on Russia's current politics were pointed. He described the country as an "imitation" of democracy where parliament and courts lack independence from the government and the main pro-Kremlin party is a "bad copy" of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev, whose attempts to reform the Soviet system led instead to its death, says many of his democratic achievements have been reversed — and could not hide his contempt for the current leadership.

"Incredible conceit!" he snaps when asked about Prime Minister Putin and his protege, President Dmitry Medvedev, saying they will decide between them who should run for president in Russia's March 2012 presidential vote.

Gorbachev accuses Putin, who was president from 2000 to 2008, of taking the country back to the times of a one-party state, manipulating elections, media-censorship and a crackdown on dissent. Gorbachev said his own attempt to found a political party failed when a Kremlin aide bluntly told him that authorities wouldn't register it.



Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, pictured talking to journalists during a news conference in Moscow in February, is due to turn 80 on March 2.

Recalling his push for liberalization of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev said he understood that it would erode his own authority but launched the reforms because the country desperately needed change.

"I could have enjoyed being in power like other politicians had done before me and are doing now," he said in a recent interview with the liberal Novaya Gazeta newspaper, which he co-owns. "But ... I felt an enormous and impatient public demand for changes."

Gorbachev was 54 when he took the helm as the General Secretary of the Communist Party in March 1985, his relatively young age and open manner contrasting sharply with his predecessors.

A month after his appointment, he announced sweeping political and economic reforms that were enthusiastically greeted by people striving for a change after decades of repressive Soviet rule.

He allowed dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov to return home from internal exile, quickly launched disarmament talks with the West, signing a 1987

deal to cut an entire class of nuclear missiles with President Ronald Reagan, and ended the war in Afghanistan.

But while he quickly became an icon in the West, his popularity at home took a nose-dive under the impact of hasty and ill-fated domestic reforms. His attempt to limit alcohol consumption was marred by excesses, and he failed to deliver on his promises to raise living standards.

The one area where Gorbachev quickly succeeded was his campaign of glasnost or openness, which allowed the media to criticize authorities and expose the crimes of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Changes continued in avalanche. In 1989, Gorbachev championed the first relatively free parliamentary elections in which many Kremlin critics won seats, and he didn't stop protest movements from driving out Communist regimes across Eastern Europe.

Then Gorbachev also began losing his grip on power, facing attacks by the Communist old guard, who were accusing him of betrayal, and from liberals

complaining that his reforms were not moving fast enough.

Ethnic conflicts, which had been ruthlessly suppressed by Soviet rulers over decades, flared up and secessionist movements spread quickly across all 15 Soviet republics. An attempt to free prices and ease centralized controls over the economy emptied shelves and fueled inflation, and a badly planned money reform added to public dismay.

The rising tensions culminated in the botched August 1991 hardline coup that briefly ousted Gorbachev and precipitated the Soviet collapse. Gorbachev resigned as Soviet President on Christmas Day 1991 after several leaders of republics declared the Soviet Union extinct.

Many praise Gorbachev for not resorting to military force to stay in power.

"He faced a dilemma: he could only preserve the Soviet Union by spilling a lot of blood, and he didn't do that," Liliya Shevtsova, an expert with Carnegie Endowment's Moscow center, wrote in a commentary. "Gorbachev

killed a Soviet leader in himself even before the Soviet collapse."

Gorbachev doesn't regret launching the reforms that eventually cost him his job. "I only can be grateful to destiny for giving me the opportunities that I had," he said in a TV interview.

He still feels bitter about his mistakes — admitting that he underestimated his foes when he left for a seaside vacation days before the planned signing of a crucial agreement that could have saved the Soviet Union. Emboldened by his absence, hard-liners in the Soviet leadership launched the coup.

"I shouldn't have left, it was exactly what they wanted," he said last week. Asked what he can't forgive, he answered with a terse "betrayal."

Gorbachev was reviled at home for years after he lost power, as many held him responsible for the Soviet collapse and the economic meltdown that cost most of the population their lifetime savings. It was his wife Raisa's death of leukemia in 1999 that melted many hearts, softening the public attitude to Gorbachev.

BusinessLunchGuide

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Kremlin's Plan to Prevent a Facebook Revolution

By Andrei Soldatov

Recent events in the Arab world have sparked renewed optimism with online social networks. Many in the West are now convinced that Internet technology can create something previously impossible under authoritarian states — a strong opposition that can seize power through either elections or street demonstrations.

But how directly the Internet influenced these events is highly debatable. Many of the Western politicians who hold Twitter in high esteem are, in fact, captives of Cold War thinking, sociologist Evgeny Morozov argues in his recently released book “Net Delusion.” These politicians continue to believe that democracy will prevail whenever the people beyond the Iron Curtain gain access to free information. They point out that the Soviet Union collapsed soon after copiers and faxes appeared and information began freely circulating here.

The problem, however, is that nobody has proved a cause-effect correlation between fax machines and the Soviet collapse.

For 20 years now the global democratization process has stalled, and the West has feverishly sought a new technological gadget — a new fax machine — to free the citizens of authoritarian states. The flaw in this thinking is that many authoritarian states no longer prohibit their citizens from traveling abroad, and people who want uncensored information can usually find ways to obtain it.

Nonetheless, leading Western media outlets can't stop glorifying the Internet and social networks as the new tools for empowering grassroots resistance movements. This point is not lost on the notoriously suspicious Kremlin, which is convinced that the West has found a new means for advancing its interests after the color revolutions of



the mid-2000s. Since then, the argument goes, the opposition is much more capable of orchestrating a regime change thanks to Twitter technology.

What's more, even weak or poorly organized opposition forces are capable of effecting regime change if their arsenals include Twitter and Facebook. As President Dmitry Medvedev said last week in Vladikavkaz: “Let's face the truth. They have been preparing such a scenario for us, and now they will try even harder to implement it.”

Medvedev's reaction shows that the Kremlin is taking the threat very seriously. The question now is how the authorities will respond if similar protests erupt in Russia. The siloviki and the

presidential administration are the two agencies capable of responding to any Internet-based threat of revolution.

The Federal Security Service and Interior Ministry have demonstrated several times in recent years which approach they believe is best — registering every single Internet user to identify “extremists” and bring criminal charges against them.

That is precisely how the FSB and Interior Ministry reacted to the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt — by proposing Criminal Code amendments that would have made the owners of online social networks responsible for all content posted on their sites. Apparently, the idea is not to incriminate the owners of Facebook and Vkon-

takte of extremism personally, but to force them to pass responsibility on to individual users by requiring each to sign a contract that includes their passport information.

At the same time, the siloviki do not want to run special Internet-based operations in fear of leaving a trail. For example, when Russian nationalist hackers attacked Estonian government web sites in 2007, they left no evidence that might incriminate the Kremlin in the affair, forcing the Estonians to disavow their accusations of state involvement. Regarding computer attacks, it is preferable to maintain a safe distance from the scene of the crime.

Meanwhile, the presidential administration has traditionally preferred

more adventurous methods. A couple years ago, the Kremlin opened its own “school of bloggers,” and although the school was supposedly later shut down, the same initiative was taken up by the regions.

This project was organized by the Foundation for Effective Policy, a think tank run by Kremlin-friendly political analyst Gleb Pavlovsky. Judging by the courses it offers — such as “Velvet Revolutions: A Warning” — the group is charged with a single overriding task: to resist the “subversive activity” of the West.

The head of United Russia's political department, Alexei Chadayev, controls funding to the Kremlin school of bloggers. In February, he published an article in the *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* in which he wrote that “the 2011 State Duma elections will be the first in the history of our country in which the Internet-based campaign will be of equal or greater importance than the campaign in the traditional mass media.”

As mass unrest continues to shake authoritarian states in North Africa and the Middle East, the siloviki are pushing for the registration of social network users and waiting to pounce on anyone posting an extremist message and the Kremlin is funding pro-government bloggers. This will inevitably be interpreted by analysts as a new political battle between the government against the opposition.

Meanwhile, Russia's 40 million Internet users — the country's middle class and most active segment of the population — have shown remarkably little interest in this political struggle. This means that the Kremlin's battle to prevent an imminent Facebook revolution will remain largely virtual.

Andrei Soldatov is an intelligence analyst at Agentura.ru and co-author of “The New Nobility: The Restoration of Russia's Security State” and “The Enduring Legacy of the KGB.”

The St. Petersburg Times

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www.spimes.ru

Editor: Christopher Gordon. Designer: Irina Rogova

OOO Neva Media Учредитель и издатель –
OOO “Нева Медиа”

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Mass media registration certificate number ПИ № ФС2-8918 of November 30, 2007, issued by the Directorate of the Federal Service for the monitoring of compliance with legislation in the sphere of mass communications and the preservation of cultural heritage of the North-West Federal District. Свидетельство о регистрации средства массовой информации ПИ № ФС2-8918 от 30 ноября 2007 года, выдано Управлением Федеральной службы по надзору за соблюдением законодательства в сфере массовых коммуникаций и охране культурного наследия по Северо-Западному федеральному округу.

Распространяется бесплатно.

Address: 190000, Russia, St. Petersburg, 4 Konnogvardeyskiy boulevard,
Entrance 7, 3rd floor.
Telephone/Fax: (7-812) 325-60-80.

Адрес редакции: 190000, Конногвардейский бульвар, д. 4, лит. А, подъезд 7, этаж 3

Internet: <http://www.spimes.ru>

The St. Petersburg Times is a free publication.

R U S S I A N U N O R T H O D O X

Another Fine Mess

By Galina Stolyarova

President Dmitry Medvedev is the driving force behind a new scheme to crack down on corruption. According to a statement from the Kremlin, it goes like this:

“Russia's criminal code will set the fine for commercial bribery, the giving and taking of bribes, or the facilitating of bribes, at up to 100 times the size of the bribe.”

Fines for noncommercial corruption will be slightly lower, but none will be less than 70 times the inducement offered or paid.

Problem solved.

Except that the bill leaves plenty of escape routes: an intermediary in a corruption deal can escape punishment if they “actively cooperate with the investigation,” and both middlemen and those caught offering or paying a bribe can avoid punishment if they “prove that blackmail or pressure took place.”

Based on this approach to graft, a Russian blogger has constructed what he describes as a bribery calculator. Someone looking to pay off an official can enter the size of the planned inducement, whether or not a middleman will be required, the intended recipient of the money, and the type of service desired (for example, turning a blind eye to a certain offense). When all the boxes have been filled in, the exact amount of the fine and the length of prison sentence, if applicable, appear at the bottom. If the

payer doesn't like the look of the penalties, they can lower their sights, make some adjustments, and try again.

The bill is apparently the result of several months' work by a team of experts, but it has become a laughingstock before even reaching the statute books.

The fines that would result would be massively higher than those typically imposed at present. In the bill, the maximum fine is 500 million rubles (\$17 million). So suppose a woman running a small shop offers a bribe of \$500 to a local official to stop him from destroying her business on some technicality. The fine could go as high as \$50,000. The fact that an ordinary person would never be able to pay such a fine without selling their home or business does not seem to have occurred to Medvedev or his experts.

Like previous anti-corruption schemes, this one looks destined to fail because it does not attack the causes of graft.

The scale of corruption in Russia is such that top government officials are said to receive bribes running to millions of dollars. But most bribes in Russia are paid to doctors, police officers, and teachers, who can typically expect \$10 to \$1,000 at a time for doing someone a favor.

Importantly, the system of corruption in Russia survives partly because the authorities and politicians lack the



Galina Stolyarova

will to change it, and partly because it has the support of ordinary people. But bribery also lives on because public services are so inadequate.

Here is a sad story of how it works. A family I know used to pride themselves on having never paid a bribe. Until last year. The family's oldest member, an 86-year-old woman, had a sudden stomach-ache and dizziness.

Her relatives called a public ambulance, which took more than two hours to arrive. By the time it did, the sick woman was feeling better. When the crew learned that her condition had improved, they left.

Less than an hour later the woman relapsed, became much worse, and was in great pain.

This time the granddaughter called a private ambulance, which arrived in less than 15 minutes. The team examined the grandmother and suggested an operation might be required. It was clear she had to go to hospital. Then the medic spoke up.

It was a Friday night, he pointed out, “and if we don't arrange for something, your granny will be placed in a corridor and forgotten about until Monday morning — if she lasts until then,” he said.

“But I know a doctor at a state hospital very near you. He could come at once and look after her. It would come to about 15,000 rubles [\$500]. I

can assure you this man is a very good doctor and the lady would be safe.”

The family did not hesitate. The bribe was paid, the doctor came, and the woman was given expert treatment. The family has shrugged off their hatred of corruption and now they even think back with gratitude to the private medic who found a solution.

So how would Medvedev's penalties work in a case like that? It's clear that in a life or death situation most of us would risk even a hundredfold fine.

As for corrupt doctors, teachers, or police officers, the risk of professional disqualification would be a much more efficient tool than an astronomical penalty. Unless they belonged to the privileged elite, a ban from their profession would destroy them financially.

To combat the multimillion dollar corruption deals in the highest echelons, Russia should take the UN Convention Against Corruption seriously and adopt legislation to oblige public servants to explain any striking gulf between the size of their salaries and the value of their assets.

To reduce graft we need to start at the top. Only when people see that those who make and enforce the laws are serious about it is there any chance of arresting the cancer of corruption that spreads through every level of our society.

A full version of this commentary is available at Transitions Online, an award-winning analytical online magazine covering Eastern Europe and CIS countries, at www.tol.org.

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THE CREAM OF MADRID'S PRADO MUSEUM IS CURRENTLY ON SHOW AT THE STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM AS PART OF THE YEAR OF SPAIN IN RUSSIA. SEE **PAGE 16.**

CHERNOV'S CHOICE

The ongoing revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa have spawned, unsurprisingly, some powerful and inspiring music.

Singer/songwriter **Yusuf Islam**, formerly known as Cat Stevens and currently recording simply as Yusuf, recorded "My People," a song inspired by protests in Egypt, in a Berlin studio last week. Portions were shown on Al Jazeera television.

"My people, see them coming now / Can't you hear them shout [...] / Stop stealing from my people / Stop pointing guns at my people," goes the song.

Previously, Islam had used his web site to invite people from around the world to contribute their voices to the chorus via the Internet.

U.K. band **Asian Dub Foundation** released its album "A History of Now" when the revolution was only starting to unfold in Egypt and had no time to include anything on the subject.

But an unknown person took the title song, set a montage of photos and videos from Egypt and Tunisia to it and uploaded it to YouTube.

"The song itself is about information overload, but its rhythm and sound seemed to go very well with the images and thus the song's meaning was changed. I love that!" the group's guitarist, Chandrasonic, told Links magazine last week.

The Israeli musician **Noy Aloshe** made a hit out of Muammar Gaddafi's speech last week in which the Libyan dictator threatened his opponents, i.e. the people of Libya.

Dressed in a typically attention-grabbing outfit, Gaddafi lifts his arms and repeats the words "Zenga zenga" in the video. The word means "alley" and was taken from Gaddafi's vow to fight "inch by inch, home by home, alley by alley."

With upbeat music borrowed from a Pitbull and T-Pain track titled "Hey Baby," the video has become an instant hit with the Libyan opposition, reports say, and with many people around the world. Uploaded on Feb. 22, the day of Gaddafi's speech, the video had garnered more than 1,150,000 views early this week.

From Egypt came "Sout Al Horeya" (The Sound of Freedom) by singer/musician **Amir Eid**, accompanied by a video made on Tahrir Square in Cairo before the fall of president Hosni Mubarak that features singing protesters. The song has attracted more than 1,101,000 views on YouTube.

There is also a great rap on the Internet by a performer who is as yet unknown. The rap is known on YouTube as "The Egyptian Revolution Official Rap Song."

Moscow-based rapper **Noize MC**, performing in the city this week, may not yet have any songs about revolutions, but he is known for his powerful protest songs (see interview, this page).

Other notable concerts coming up include **Zorge**, the new band formed by former Tequilajazzz singer/songwriter Yevgeny Fyodorov, that will take place at Fish Fabrique Nouvelle on Monday, March 7. This is the band's second concert in the city and the first featuring the full, four-member lineup.

— By Sergey Chernov

Rap rebel

Outspoken rapper Noize MC speaks to The St. Petersburg Times ahead of a local gig.

By Sergey Chernov
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Russian rapper Noize MC, who has been in the limelight during the past year for his songs protesting the impunity of top officials and police lawlessness, and for the ten-day prison sentence he served in a Volgograd detention center, was rewarded for his efforts last week.

The Moscow radio station Serebryany Dozhd presented him with a 500-gram silver bar Friday as the prize "For Public Protest against the Lawless Behavior of the Authorities."

Held at a Moscow restaurant, the annual awards ceremony's audience comprised Russia's rich and famous, while the party's highlight was, in keeping with tradition, 25 kilograms of black caviar brought into the room for the event.

Speaking after receiving his award, Noize MC, whose real name is Ivan Alexeyev, said that he considered rejecting it, but then thought that such a gesture would be interpreted by his critics as a PR stunt.

"Of course, it's strange to receive awards for things like that," Alexeyev said in a phone interview with The St. Petersburg Times.

"I didn't fully understand where I was going and what it would be like. The awards ceremony was quite swanky and didn't correspond to what they were giving me the award for."

On the positive side, Alexeyev said he saw Artyom Troitsky, the irreverent Moscow music critic and an ardent supporter of Noize MC, at the ceremony after not seeing him for months, and met Alexei Navalny, a celebrated anti-corruption campaigner who was dubbed "Russia's Erin Brockovich" by Time Magazine.

The Moscow-based Alexeyev, who turns 26 on March 9, believes that hip-hop has replaced rock music as an outlet for social protest and expressing a personal stance.

"It's right and natural, in my view," he said. "What [could do it] if not hip-hop? This is almost the only music genre where attention is paid to lyrics at the moment, and I don't see what else could occupy its place. As for rock, we should accept that it has fizzled out already."

Alexeyev, who started out in a punk band in Belgorod and plays electric guitar with his current band, also called Noize MC, has not rejected rock music entirely, incorporating rock elements and instrumentation, sometimes inviting criticism from hip-hop purists.

"Rock's drive and energy are great, I miss that in pop music," he said.

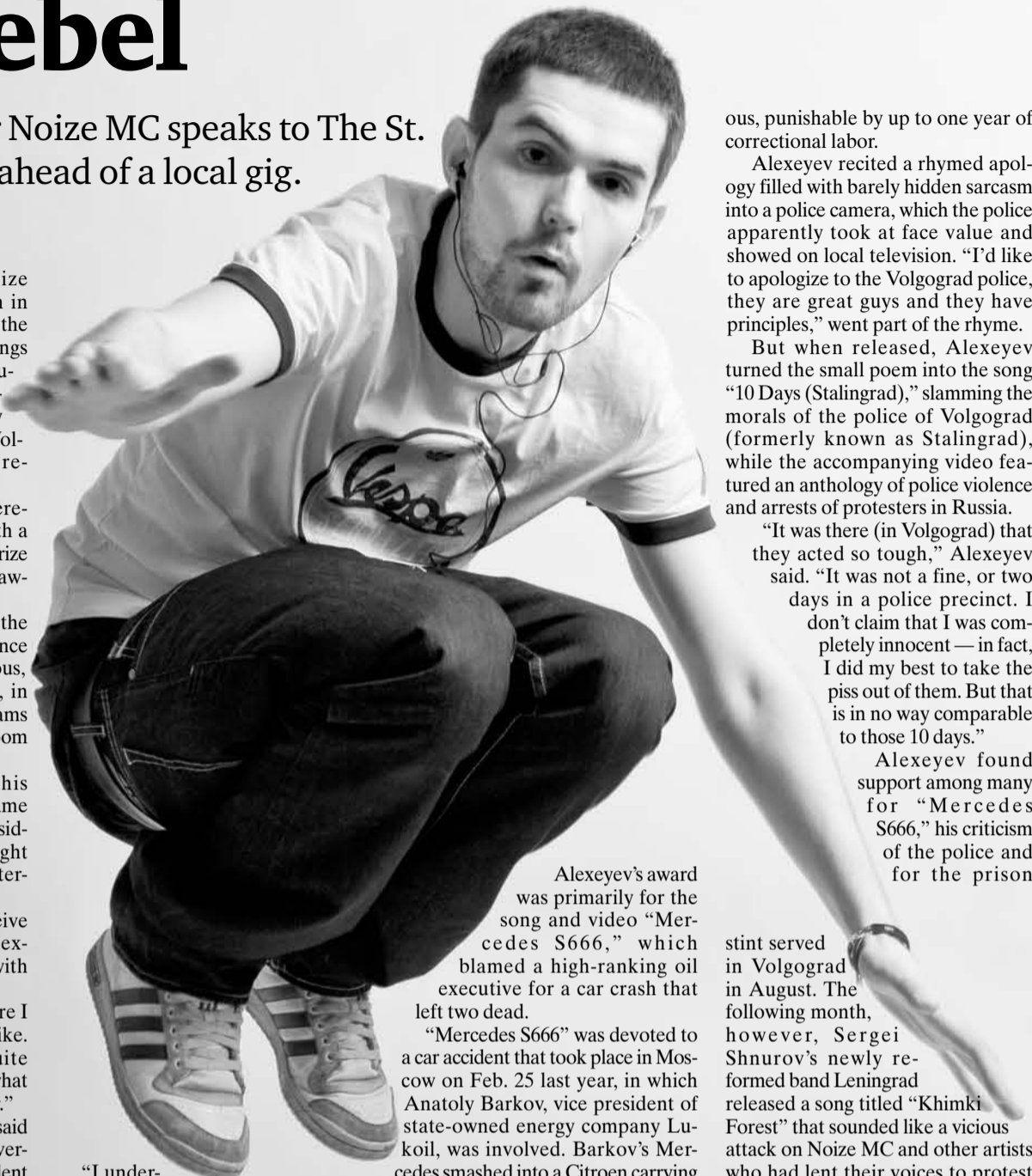
"But a message in rock music has become a rare phenomenon in the past 20 years, with few exceptions."

Alexeyev's early idols were Nirvana.

"I loved Nirvana when I was a kid and remain a devoted fan," he said. "I've read 300,000 books about Kurt Cobain and the entire band."

His other influences included bands that blended hip-hop and rock, such as Clawfinger, Rage Against the Machine and Limp Bizkit, as well as rappers Cypress Hill, Eminem, Nas and Tupac.

"As far as rappers are concerned, I have always preferred the approach of bands such as Beastie Boys and Run DMC when it was high-energy and upbeat music, this is what inspires me on the level of ideas," he said.



Alexeyev's award

was primarily for the song and video "Mercedes S666," which blamed a high-ranking oil executive for a car crash that left two dead.

"Mercedes S666" was devoted to a car accident that took place in Moscow on Feb. 25 last year, in which Anatoly Barkov, vice president of state-owned energy company Lukoil, was involved. Barkov's Mercedes smashed into a Citroen carrying two women, who were both killed.

Although witnesses said that it was Barkov's Mercedes that crossed over into oncoming traffic in an apparent attempt to overtake a traffic jam, the police were quick to put the blame on the other driver, while recordings of surveillance cameras promptly disappeared.

In the video, Barkov was depicted as a modern-day Satan and compared to Major Denis Yevsyukov, a police chief who went on a shooting spree in Moscow, killing three and injuring seven, in April 2009.

Alexeyev said he wrote the song and in such a way because one of the women killed in the crash, Olga Alexandrina, was the sister of his friend and frequent collaborator, hip-hop vocalist Staisha, whose real name is Anastasia Alexandrina.

But Alexeyev's social stance can be traced to his earlier songs such as "Skinhead Girl," which spoofed Nazi skinheads, or "Smoke Bamboo," which criticized the unlawful behavior of the police.

"It's very easy to fall into some banalities, but I have always written about what disturbed and hurt me. It doesn't matter how popular I am, how many people listen to me, whatever."

"For instance, the infamous song 'Smoke Bamboo,' which created problems for us in Volgograd, was written a long time ago, in 2004 or 2005. We played it in the street, on the Arbat [in Moscow], when we were totally unknown."

That song, along with remarks about policemen who had harassed the musicians during an open-air concert in Volgograd, landed Alexeyev in jail for 10 days while his wife was giving birth to their first child in Moscow.

While in prison, he said he was pressed to apologize under the threat that his minor offense could be changed into something more seri-

ous, punishable by up to one year of correctional labor.

Alexeyev recited a rhymed apology filled with barely hidden sarcasm into a police camera, which the police apparently took at face value and showed on local television. "I'd like to apologize to the Volgograd police, they are great guys and they have principles," went part of the rhyme.

But when released, Alexeyev turned the small poem into the song "10 Days (Stalingrad)," slamming the morals of the police of Volgograd (formerly known as Stalingrad), while the accompanying video featured an anthology of police violence and arrests of protesters in Russia.

"It was there (in Volgograd) that they acted so tough," Alexeyev said. "It was not a fine, or two days in a police precinct. I don't claim that I was completely innocent — in fact, I did my best to take the piss out of them. But that is in no way comparable to those 10 days."

Alexeyev found support among many for "Mercedes S666," his criticism of the police and for the prison

stint served in Volgograd in August. The following month, however, Sergei Shnurov's newly reformed band Leningrad released a song titled "Khimki Forest" that sounded like a vicious attack on Noize MC and other artists who had lent their voices to protest movements.

Citing "Mercedes S666" and making sarcastic mention of bad cops, Shnurov's song suggested that protest was paid well in terms of concert ticket sales. Alexeyev promptly responded with an angry song that dismissed Shnurov as a "dinosaur from the 1990s."

"I have always been sympathetic to the man and we have many mutual friends who said he liked our first album," he said, adding that he was very familiar with Shnurov's entire body of work.

"I thought that we might get acquainted, do something together, and then a pile of crap like that comes from him. Of course I was upset and depressed by it. I would not have reacted as strongly as I did if it had been a musician who I thought was crap from the beginning..."

"But Sergei keeps denying he was alluding to anybody, which is a very strange position."

Alexeyev withdrew from the outdoor concert-cum-meeting headlined by DDT's Yury Shevchuk in defense of the Khimki Forest in Moscow in August when he found out that it was co-organized by an oppositional political movement.

"I don't take part in any political movements, I speak on behalf of myself and am not going to stand under anybody's flags," he said.

"I am trying to keep as far as possible from politics as such. An important thing is that my protest is not political, but social. I don't care much who is left wing and who is right wing, there are things that I dislike actively, and I speak out about them."

Noize MC will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 4 at Glavclub, 2 Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 905 7555. Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya / Ploshchad Alexandra Nevskogo.

Building the backdrop

A new exhibition focuses on the architecture of past and future theater buildings in St. Petersburg.

By Olga Khrustaleva
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

St. Petersburg has always had a special relationship with both theater and architecture. In a city where every second building in the center is an architectural masterpiece, the theater, which has always been a popular field of interest and activity among the aristocracy and thinking elite, is an integral aspect of the cultural capital.

With a great many of its best known buildings designed by Italian and French architects, St. Petersburg has a reputation as the most European of all Russian cities.

It is symbolic that the centerpiece of the exhibition is the “theater of the future,” as the organizers describe it. The Palace of Dance, an apex of the European Embankment project, is set to spring up on the site of the Applied Chemistry Institute between the Tyuchkov and Birzhevoi bridges on the Petrograd Side of the city by 2017. The Palace of Dance project will include a permanent stage for the Boris Eifman Ballet Theater. A model of this 21st-century theater occupies a central position in one of the museum’s rooms.

Yelena Gerasova hit the mark when she wrote in Kommersant newspaper that “the exhibition, bringing together four centuries of Petersburg theatrical architecture, could have become a hit



The exhibition covers centuries of theater history in St. Petersburg.



A model of a theater interior.



A model of an imperial theater.

on any museum’s showbill.” It could have, if the organizers were not so desperate in their desire to fit the “theater of the future” into centuries-old St. Pe-

tersburg architectural traditions. The attempt is certainly laudable, but faced with past experience of bitter discrepancies between projects and reality,

people were inevitably suspicious about how the model corresponds to the real theater that should be seen in 2017. After being assured that it will not differ from its model, the audience at the exhibition’s preview breathed a sigh of relief.

The exhibition itself is somewhat eclectic. It purportedly aims to investigate the formation of theatrical architecture in Petersburg, showing what changes theatrical exteriors and interiors underwent during several epochs. And the project succeeds in this to a certain extent, covering not just architecture, but raising up the curtain a little further into the theatrical past. The exhibits, many of which are borrowed from different city museums, are distinctive and unique — original sketches by Carlo Rossi, architect of the Alexandriinsky Theater, or theater models dating back to the 18th century.

Costumes, playbills and old photographs share the exhibition space with models and drawings. There is even an installation showing Soviet-era press cuttings, which give visitors a hint of how it was to be a writer or indeed simply a thinker at those times.

“Vainkop persistently directed his readers toward decadent Western bourgeois music ideals,” one newspaper wrote about the Russian scholar and musicologist Yulian Vainkop (1901 to 1974). “He worshipped his idol Stravinsky despite everything, totally ig-

norning the issue of the ideological and political image of this dedicated cosmopolitan. In Vainkop’s servile and slimy boos, Stravinsky is glorified as a ‘genius’ and ‘master of the epoch.’”

Theater has always been about more than pure entertainment. It’s a litmus test of any era, rendering the mood of society with all the nuances and subtle gestures of a good actor. Equally, theatrical architecture is not only about constructing a stately building. It should be impressive and noticeable, yet still fit well into its surroundings. St. Petersburg architects in centuries past were undeniably successful in their task. The legendary imperial stages — the Mariinsky, Alexandriinsky and Mikhailovsky theaters — and the State Philharmonic are among city landmarks known far beyond Russia’s borders. It is only to be hoped that contemporary architects will maintain this noble tradition.

The exhibition is certainly fertile soil for inquisitive minds, raising more questions than it gives answers. But with the curtain raised even a little bit, visitors can sneak into this magic theatrical world and complete the picture in their minds.

The exhibition “Theatrical Architecture” runs through April 3 at the St. Petersburg Theatrical and Musical Art Museum, 6 Ploshchad Ostrovskogo. Tel: 310 1029. www.theatremuseum.ru

the word’s worth

Foul-Mouthed and Filthy

By Michele A. Berdy

Скверный: nasty, ill-tempered, foul, filthy, grim

What do these five words have in common: скверный, скаредный, скуной, скудный and скудоумный? They are all adjectives, all begin with “ск,” and all describe something nasty or meager. Are they all related? That was a trick question. Some are, some aren’t. But it does seem that the initial hiss and kick of “ск” evoke decidedly yucky associations among Russians.

Скверный (nasty), which originally meant “unclean,” is the most versatile adjective in the “ск-” pack. It can mean gloomy, immoral, mean-tempered or miserable. Скверная погода is foul weather. But скверный анекдот is usually a nasty joke or story — the kind that makes you wince, not smile.

If someone is said to have скверный характер, he is ill-tempered and nasty. But if your significant other admits to suffering from скверное настроение, it means he’s in the doldrums. If he further admits to committing скверный поступок, it means he has done something particularly disgraceful and deserves his glum mood.

Скверно пахнет means that something smells bad — filthy, rotten, putrid bad. This phrase can also be used figuratively when describing something suspicious or dubious. Скверно пахнет эта история, если она правда (That story sounds fishy if it’s true).

Скаредный is related etymologically to скверный and originally referred to excrement. Today, however, it refers to someone who is cheap — which is apparently pretty crappy in the Russian scale of values. Раз в неделю её скаредный муж отсчитывает рубли на щи (Once a week, her cheap-skate husband counts out rubles for cabbage soup).

Since Russians prize generosity, скуной (stingy, scant) is also at the bottom of the Russian values scale. Most

of the time it is used to describe a stingy person: Скупой платит дважды (A miser pays twice).

But a miser can be stingy in things other than money. For example, someone can be скупой на похвалу (begrudging praise) or скупой на слова (taciturn; literally, “stingy with words”).

But скупой can also be used to describe something that is the result of stinginess, as it were. For example, a short media release might be скуное сообщение (an uninformative piece).

Скудный describes a pitifully small amount of something. If you have скудные средства существования, you’re living on a shoestring (literally, “meager means of existence”). Your empty purse and скудная диета (poor diet) is a result of the скудное жалование (pittance) paid to you by your скупой начальник (tightwad boss). And when you ask for the company’s financials, you will probably be given скудная информация (scant information).

Скудный can also cross the line from meager to poor and wretched. In the countryside, скудное хозяйство might be a wretched little farm.

Скудный is often used to describe a paucity of knowledge or intelligence. If someone asks for your expert opinion on a subject you know little about, you can say: Вот и всё моё очень скудное знание (That’s the sum total of my extremely limited knowledge).

This might indicate that you lack intellectual breadth, in which case your friend might say about you: Он скуден умом (literally, “he is poor in brains”). This has been turned into the word скудоумный, which describes someone whose knowledge base is narrow. Он не глупый, но он скудоумный (He’s not stupid, but he’s limited.) Which is certainly скупая похвала (faint praise).

Michele A. Berdy, a Moscow-based translator and interpreter, is author of “The Russian Word’s Worth” (Glas), a collection of her columns.

Farce and reality combined

British film ‘Four Lions’ takes a brave approach to terrorism.

By Nick Dowson
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

In the wake of the bombing at Moscow’s Domodedovo Airport that killed 36 people, Chris Morris’ film “Four Lions,” a comedy about Yorkshire suicide bombings, might seem to be the last film you would want to open in Russian cinemas.

Yet three Moscow cinemas went ahead with screenings of the film within days of the bombing last month, with 35MM cinema showing the premiere just hours after the tragedy, and the film is now showing at Dom Kino in St. Petersburg.

“The premiere was unfortunate timing. It is a difficult time for us,” said Nadya Kotova, director of programming at 35MM cinema in Moscow. “If you watch it, you will understand that it’s a good movie, about people, not just about terrorists and terrorism.”

The film follows a group of five idiotic “jihadis” as they try to plan a terror attack. Descending quickly into farce, Morris shows their mixed-up ideas and slapstick arguments as they blow themselves up, but achieve little else.

The would-be terrorists’ arguments are more confused and nihilist than fundamentalist, and the viewer comes to feel almost sorry for them for the pain they inflict on themselves through their warped ideas.

Roman Krupnov, PR director of Pioner movie theater in Moscow, said the cinema thought seriously about canceling screenings of the film, but was unable to because the film’s distributor, Ruscico, would not cancel the release of the film. “We have a contract with them. We had no way of canceling it. I think it’s a good film, with good humor, but the wrong time to show it because of the terrorist act,” Krupnov said. “We understand that some people might be upset.”



The jihadis dress for an attempted bombing at the London Marathon.

Yury Pivovarov, PR director at distributor Ruscico, told The St. Petersburg Times that when the bombing at Domodedovo happened it was too late to cancel the premiere at 35MM and that Ruscico was constrained by various commitments to its partners.

“This terrible coincidence shows that terrorism is also a major issue for our country as well as Britain,” he said. “It’s not the case that you have to be afraid and cancel everything. We did, however, refrain from much of our advertising and a few important articles about the film after the events at Domodedovo.”

“Four Lions’ is a very courageous response to terrorist events, in the U.K. and around the world. Though the filmmakers satirize suicide bombers and all the hysteria around terrorism, the sidesplitting jokes are contrasted with the gravity of the really terrible events described in the film. The film is not as flippant as it might seem at first.”

The film was also the choice for a showing by KinoKlub, an independent cinema club in Moscow set up

by F5 magazine that staged a discussion of the film afterwards.

Olga Papernaya, artistic director of KinoKlub, admitted that “here we aren’t yet ready to talk about the problem at the level that Chris Morris proposes.”

Indeed, the debate did not discuss suicide bombing attacks in Russia in any depth at all. When one of the invited participants, journalist Nazim Nadirov, attempted to talk about what he saw as the causes of terrorism, moderators complained that he was going off topic.

“The Ingush were deported from their homes during World War II and were never given back the rights to them. No one has apologized to them,” he said before being cut off. He then walked out of the debate.

Police have identified Magomed Yevloyev from Ingushetia as the bomber at Domodedovo.

“Four Lions” is showing through March 10 at Dom Kino, 12 Karavannaya Ulitsa. Tel: 314 5614. www.domkino.spb.ru.

The Hermitage wears Prado

Some of Spain's most treasured works of art can now be seen at the State Hermitage Museum.

By Irina Titova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

An unprecedented itinerant exhibition from Madrid's Prado Museum opened at the State Hermitage Museum last week, marking the year of Spain in Russia and of Russia in Spain.

The exhibition was opened by President Dmitry Medvedev and Spanish King Juan Carlos, who came to the city on an official visit to launch the year of his country in Russia.

"Our people love the culture and art of Spain and there is no doubt they'll be delighted to expand their knowledge of it," Medvedev said.

Mikhail Piotrovsky, director of the Hermitage Museum, described the exhibition as "a historic event" for the Hermitage and said he was "very thankful that an exhibition of such high quality has arrived at the museum."

"At this exhibition, every picture is a masterpiece," Piotrovsky said at a press conference devoted to the opening of the exhibition Friday.

Miguel Sugasa, director of the Prado, said the museum was inspired to bring the exhibition to Russia after Medvedev visited the Prado in Madrid two years ago and expressed enthusiastic praise about the museum's collection.

"At this exhibition, we have tried to present not only the quality but also the diversity of the [Prado's] collection, including works by Western European and Spanish artists, and pieces from the Renaissance era," Sugasa said.

The exhibition features more than sixty canvases from the 15th to 19th centuries by Western European artists with a focus on the Spanish, Italian and Flemish schools. The artists featured include Hieronymus Bosch, Raphael, Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck, El Greco, Diego Velazquez, Francisco Goya, Titian and many others.

Titian's masterpiece "Venus and Cupid with an Organist," which pictures a musician playing at Venus's feet



More than sixty canvases by artists including Velazquez, Goya, Titian and Bosch have been lent to the Hermitage.

while contemplating the naked goddess, who is distracted by Cupid, is one of the works that has been brought from Madrid for the exhibition.

Some specialists consider the piece to be a straightforward erotic work, while others see its character as allegories of the senses of sight and hearing as the means for achieving knowledge of beauty and harmony.

Another canvas by Alonso Sanchez Coello depicts two girls of eight and nine years old — the much loved daughters of King Philip II of Spain. The artist painted the portraits of the Infantes in keeping with standard court portrait practices, with both of them wearing similar sumptuous clothing and wearing a detached expression.

Caravaggio's work "David with the Head of Goliath" features the Israelite shepherd boy defeating the Philistine giant Goliath. The artist's work is marked by his traditional use of strong contrasts of shade and by a dramatic approach to the subject matter.

Many of the canvases from the Prado were bought by or created under the order of Spanish kings. Among them are also "Portrait of an Unknown Man" by Durer, "Holy Family with the Lamb" by Raphael, "Charles V Standing with His Dog" by Titian, three portraits by Velazquez, two still lifes by Luis Melendez, and portraits of almost all the Spanish monarchs to whom Prado owes its fame.

Like the Russian tsars, the Spanish kings were known for their love of art. The royal passion for collecting art and

recognizing prominent talents helped to compile the Prado's collection.

King Carlos V and his son Philip II, for example, were the main patrons of Titian. Philip's passion for Dutch art explains why most of Bosch's works are located in Madrid. Philip IV, the most sophisticated connoisseur of all the Spanish kings, made Velazquez his court artist, and also patronized Rubens and Jusepe de Ribera.

Carlos III invited Anton Raphael Mengs to work at his court, while his son and heir Carlos IV appointed Goya "the first artist of the king."

Ferdinand VII, depicted on Goya's canvases as prince and later as monarch, was also a collector and patron of art. It was he who made the decision to found the Royal Art and Sculpture

Museum that later became known as the Prado Museum. The museum opened on Nov. 19, 1819.

The museum got its full name of Prado de San Geronimo due to its location in the district of the same name.

After the Revolution of 1868, the royal museum was nationalized and its official name changed to the National Prado Museum. The museum's collection embraces the works from the 11th through to the 20th century.

French poet and art critic Theophile Gautier called the Prado "a museum of artists rather than a museum of art" because the museum has collections of individual artists that are unparalleled in volume: The museum has about 40 canvases by Titian, 90 works by Rubens, 50 pictures by Velazquez and 140 canvases by Goya as well as 1,000 drawings and engravings by the court painter.

Visitors to the Hermitage can buy separate tickets to the exhibition, which will stay open for additional evening hours to allow people to visit it after work.

The Hermitage is set to host a number of other Spanish exhibitions later this year, including one devoted to Baroque art of Andalusia that is set to open in June.

The dialogue between the museums will continue at the Prado Museum, which will showcase works of art from the Hermitage from Nov. 8 this year through March 26, 2012, at an exhibition titled "Hermitage Treasures."

Piotrovsky said the Hermitage would take some of its most valuable exponents to Madrid, including Scythian gold and works by Titian, El Greco, Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley and Pablo Picasso, as well as Kazimir Malevich's iconic painting "Black Square."

"Prado at the Hermitage" runs through May 29 in the Nikolayevsky Hall of the State Hermitage Museum, 34 Dvortsovaya Naberezhnaya. Tel: 571 3420. www.hermitagemuseum.org.

in the spotlight

The Race to Become a Mother

By Anna Malpas

In MTV Russia's new reality show, "I'm Having a Baby," four teenage girls are expecting their first babies, with varying degrees of support from parents, boyfriends and husbands.

The girls, aged 17 and 18, vary from a few months pregnant to being on the verge of giving birth.

There's sensible Nastya, 18, who works as a children's entertainer at a tropical-themed resort in the Moscow region. She says she has been ready to be a mother since she was 14 and did not panic at all when she found out the news. Her boyfriend, Danila, is another matter. He lies in bed, skip-

ping work, an ashtray propped on his stomach.

"I feel like Danila himself is a child," Nastya complains.

The couple has managed to rear a rat in a cage, but Nastya points out to Danila that a baby will be more complex, since it won't be able to survive on a monthly bag of food that costs 45 rubles.

In the case of Ksenia, 18, it's pretty clear that her long-suffering mother will have to take on most of the care. Ksenia, whose face is peppered with piercings, shouts at her boyfriend Kirill for dropping his used teabags on the floor, while he argues that picking them up is "not man's work."

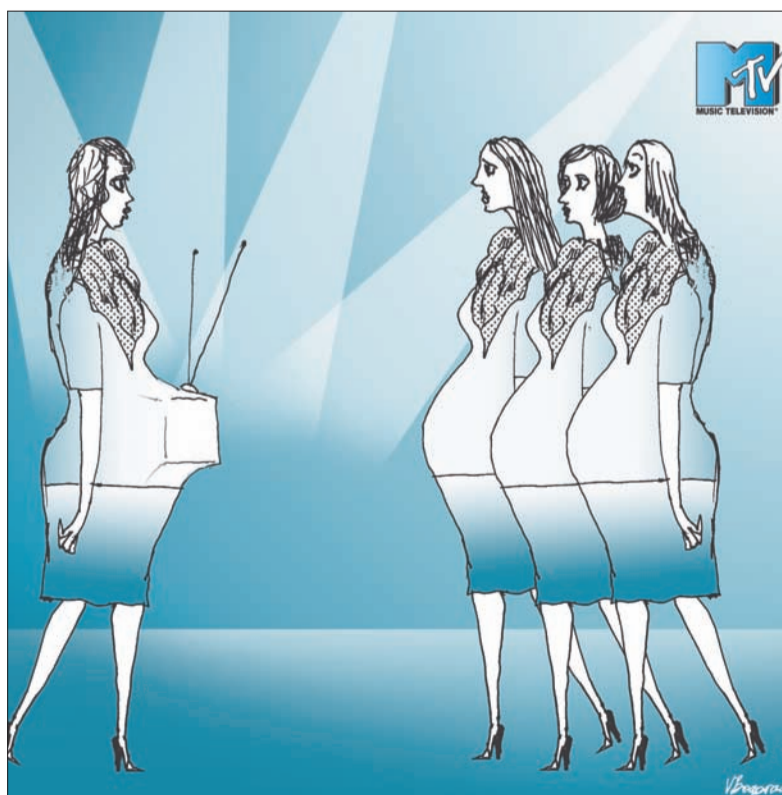
Kirill explains that the couple, living with Ksenia's parents, "did not use condoms on principle."

When the couple decides to say it with a shared tattoo, Kirill gets the word "true" and Ksenia gets "love," although they manage to bicker even under the needle.

At one point, the camera shows Ksenia smoking a roll-up, a shocking moment that goes without any comment.

Even more shocking is the story of Vika from Abkhazia. She is 17, while her journalist husband, Anton, is 30. He was crowned the "best journalist in Abkhazia," the voice-over says.

Vika has a beautiful childlike face, but her bump is enormous. She goes in



for her first ever ultrasound test — her husband explains that the move and her lack of Russian citizenship means that she hasn't had a single test, even though they have been in Moscow for eight months.

Even more disturbingly, she mentions that Anton "stole" her as a bride when she was younger than 15. Getting married was illegal, but anything is possible in Abkhazia, she adds, smiling shyly.

They are living with Anton's parents, who hardly bother to hide their disapproval and desire for them to live separately. His mother calls Vika a "child" who does not understand love, as she lies in bed, miserably, suffering from pains.

The most settled of the girls, Antonina is a calm blonde, living in her own comfortable apartment with her chef husband. Having a baby was a logical step in her family, the voice-over says, since her mom was the same age. A very youthful grandmother-to-be while still in her 30s, her mom says that all her friends are laughing at the idea.

The show has a somewhat different flavor from MTV's "Teen Mom," which is very much aimed at showing unwanted pregnancies and teaching life lessons about using contraception. That's probably because in Russia, having a baby young does not necessarily mark you out as a member of an underclass. One word I did not hear on the show was "accident." It sounded as if all the babies were planned in some sense.

Describing all the girls' relationships as stable might be pushing it, but they had someone at their side and it was pretty obvious that parents were ready to leap in with childcare, housing and food — even if some of the girls did not seem particularly appreciative.

The unanswered question really was why they were in such a rush.

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HOW TO USE THE LISTINGS:

Dates and times are correct at the time of publication, but last-minute changes are not infrequent, so it's best to check using the phone numbers at the end of each entry or consult local directories. Unless otherwise stated, stage events start at 7 p.m. All stage shows and films are in Russian unless noted.

STAGES

wednesday, march 2

ballet

A Michel Fokine and Yury Smekalov Evening Fokine's ballets "Petrushka" and "Presentiment of Spring." Music by Igor Stravinsky and Anatoly Lyadov. *Mariinsky Theater*

Romeo and Juliet Shakespeare's tragedy set to Prokofiev's searing score with staging by Nikolai Boyarchikov. *Mikhailovsky Theater*

opera
PREMIERE! La Boheme Yury Alexandrov stages Puccini's opera set in the Latin Quarter of Paris, tracing the interwoven romances of a poet-painter, musician and philosopher. *St. Petersburg Opera*

concert
Chamber Music Russian Concert Orchestra. Art director and main conductor Vladimir Popov. Soloist Larisa Yudina (soprano). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

thursday, march 3

opera

PREMIERE! L'Elisir d'Amore Laurent Pelly stages Donizetti's comic masterpiece about a travelling quack who dupes a whole village into believing that his cheap wine is an infallible way to make anyone they want fall in love with them. Conductor Luciano Di Martino. *Mariinsky Theater*

Un Ballo in Maschera Andris Freibergs stages Verdi's opera loosely based on the assassination of King Gustav III of Sweden at a masked ball. Musical director and conductor: Peter Feranec. *Mikhailovsky Theater*

concert

Chamber Music. Bach in Russian! The Terem Quartet presents its new albums "MyBACH" and "Russian Schubert." *Cappella Chamber Music* Schumann, Mahler, Schoenberg. Soloists Alexander Richter, Nikita Novoselsky (both - violin), Alexei Koptev (viola), Natalia Baikova (cello), Igor Yeliseyev (contrabass), Alisa Bratslavskaya (piano). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

friday, march 4

ballet

Cinderella Sergei Prokofiev's 1945 score, based on the timeless children's tale, gets adult treatment by Russia's top choreographer, Alexei Ratmansky. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert

Choral Music Leningrad Naval Base Admiralty Wind Orchestra. Art director and conductor Valentin Lyashenko. Glinka choral college boys' choir. Conductor Vasily Grachev. *Cappella*

Choral Music Orthodox prayers and traditional songs arranged by Sergei Zharov. Bolschoi Don Kosaken (Austria). Art director and conductor Petr Khudiyakov. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall, 8 p.m.*

Vocal Music Part of the 7th "Maslenitsa" (Shrovetide) festival. Fomin, Bulakhov, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Listov, Shishkin. Soloists Vasily Gerello (baritone), Marina Mishuk (piano). *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov*

Chamber Music Bach, Vivaldi, Bizet, Handel. Youth Orchestra Ars Ensemble. Art director and main conductor Arsen Yenileyev. Soloists Olesya Tertychnaya (flute), Artem Trofimenko, Artem Isayev (both - oboe), Ruslan Palanitsky (fagot), Andrei Mikhailovsky (clarinet), Iliya Ilyin, Vasily Nikitin (both - English horn). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

saturday, march 5

ballet

Le Corsaire Marius Petipa's ballet based on Byron's tragic poem, featuring eclectic music by Cesare Pugni, Leo Delibes, Richard Drigo and Adolphe Adam. *Mikhailovsky Theater*

opera

Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute) Alain Maratrat directs Mozart's opera about wisdom and love. *Mariinsky Theater, Concert Hall, 12 a.m.*

The Tale of Tsar Saltan Andrei Petrov stages an opera by Rimsky-Korsakov based on Pushkin's tale about a tsar and his lost son who becomes the king of a magical island. *Mariinsky Theater*

Yevgeny Onegin Stanislav Gaudasinsky stages Tchaikovsky's opera based on



Andrei Bykov will give a free concert at the Varshavsky Express retail and entertainment complex at 7 p.m. on March 2 as part of the Art Voyage charity project.

Pushkin's novel in verse. Choreography by Nikolai Dolgushin. *Mikhailovsky Theater*
La Traviata Yury Alexandrov stages Verdi's classic about a consumptive courtesan and her lover, and how their relationship is destroyed by the hypocritical morals of 19th-century society. *St. Petersburg Opera*

concert

Symphony Music Part of the 7th "Maslenitsa" (Shrovetide) festival. Glinka, Shchedrin, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev. *Mariinsky Theater Symphony Orchestra*. Conductor Valery Gergiev. Soloist Alina Ibragimova (violin). *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov, 8 p.m.*

Symphony Music Schubert, Hoffmeister. Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. Conductor Leo Kremer (Germany). Soloist Artyom Chirkov (contrabass). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

Vocal Music Mozart, Bellini, Verdi, Puccini, Strauss, Kalman, Legar, Lowe, Lloyd. Soloist Maria Ludko (soprano), Dmitry Chasovitin (piano). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall Oksana Svergun Organ Recital* Bach, Bruns, Duprez, Franck. *Maltiyskaya Cappella, 26 Sadovaya Ul. Tel. 498 0669*

Symphony Music Russian-European Musical Festival. European jazz, Shilkoper, Gaivoronsky. *St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra*. Conductors Mikhail Leontyev, Maxim Valkov. Soloists Igor Feodorov (clarinet), Arcady Shilkoper (horn, English horn, Germany), Andrei Ivanov (contrabass), Mikhail Ivanov (piano), Vladimir Volkov (contrabass), Vyacheslav Gaivoronsky (piano). *Cappella*

sunday, march 6

ballet

The Nutcracker Tchaikovsky's Christmas classic, revitalized by Kirill Simonov's choreography and direction, as well as sets by renowned contemporary artist Mikhail Shemyakin. *Mariinsky Theater, 2 p.m., 7 p.m.*
Swan Lake The Theater of Russian Ballet performs Tchaikovsky's romantic classic. *Hermitage Theater*

opera

The Rape of Lucretia Benjamin Britten's 1946 tragic chamber opera is a shocking early Christian tale, but can also be viewed as a metaphor for wider brutality and inhumanity. *St. Petersburg Opera*
Tosca Stanislav Gaudasinsky's production of Puccini's powerful opera about love, death, jealousy, murder and suicide. *Mikhailovsky Theater*

concert

Symphony Music Part of the 7th "Maslenitsa" (Shrovetide) festival. Wagner. *Mariinsky Theater Symphony Orchestra*. Conductor Gavriel Heine (U.S.). *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov, 12 a.m.*

Vocal Music Liszt, Bach. Soloists Vladimir Miller (basso), Yury Semenov (organ). *Maltiyskaya Cappella, 26 Sadovaya Ul. Tel. 498 0669, 3 p.m.*

Symphony Music Tchaikovsky, Dunayevsky, Gavrillin. *St. Petersburg Governor Orchestra*. Art director and conductor Stanislav Gorkovenko. Soloist Olesya Petrova (mezzo-soprano). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall, 7 p.m.*

Vocal Music Debussy, Mussorgsky, Grieg, Haydn. Philharmonic Academy Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Vladimir Altschuler. Soloist Maria Ludko (soprano). Narrator Irina Stepanova. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall, 3 p.m.*

Choral Music Caccini, Pergolesi, Franck, Gershwin, Chesnokov, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky. *St. Petersburg Boys' Choir. Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory Theater, Small Hall, 3 p.m.*

Piano Recital Elisso Virsaladze. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*
The Enchanted Music of Fairytales Kronverk brass ensemble. Art director Iliya Kuznetsov. *Cappella, 3 p.m.*

monday, march 7

ballet

PREMIERE! Laurencia Staged by Mikhail Messerer. Vakhtang Chabukiani choreographs the legendary ballet based on Lope de Vega's play "Fuenteovejuna," about a group of villagers who take revenge on an abusive commander. Music by Alexander Krein. *Mikhailovsky Theater*

Sleeping Beauty Tchaikovsky's classic based on the tale by Charles Perrault. Choreographed by Marius Petipa. *Hermitage Theater*

opera

Sadko Alexei Stepanyuk's staging of Rimsky-Korsakov's opera-bylina in seven scenes about a poor fisherman who falls in love with a sea princess. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert

Only Mozart... Mozart. The Moscow Virtuosi Chamber orchestra. Art director and conductor Vladimir Spivakov. The Moscow State Chamber Choir. Art director Vladimir Minin. Soloists Konstantin Shamray (piano). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

The Gold of the Silver Age. Literary-musical evening Agnivitsev, Cherny, Blok, Nabokov, Gumilev, Bryusov, Pasternak, Mikhail Chernyak and the "Monplaisir" string quartet. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall, 3 p.m.*

Ragna Schirmer Piano Recital (Germany) Handel, Brahms. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall, 7 p.m.*

Alina Ibragimova Violin Recital Bach, Biber, Bartok. *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov*
Orthodox Music Academy Minsky Svyato-Yelisavetinsky Monastery Festive Choir. *Cappella*

tuesday, march 8

ballet

PREMIERE! Laurencia Staged by Mikhail Messerer. Vakhtang Chabukiani choreographs the legendary ballet based on Lope de Vega's play "Fuenteovejuna," about a group of villagers who take revenge on an abusive commander. Music by Alexander Krein. *Mikhailovsky Theater*

opera

Ariadne auf Naxos After his successful productions of "La Traviata" and "Samson et Dalila" at the Mariinsky, the French director Charles Roubaud stages Richard Strauss' theatrical opera of 1912, which examines contrasting philosophies about the nature of love. *Mariinsky Theater, Concert Hall*

Carmen Alexei Stepanyuk stages Georges Bizet's opera about the tempestuous relationship between a gypsy girl and a soldier. *Mariinsky Theater*

Cinderella Olga Mukartova stages Boris Asafiev's children's opera based on the tale by Charles Perrault. *Mikhailovsky Theater, 1 p.m.*

concert

Poetry Evening Pushkin, Lermontov, Tyutchev, Akhmatova, Tsvetaeva. Readers Vasily Lanovi, Alexei Kuznetsov. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*



Retro reveling

Dom Byta
12 Razezhaya Ulitsa
Tel: 975 5599
Open noon till 6 a.m.
(7 a.m. Friday and Saturday.)
Menu in Russian
Dinner for two without alcohol 2,170 rubles (\$75)

By Shura Collinson
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
Dom Byta has been wildly popular with the city's movers and shakers since it opened late last year. Opened by the same brains as those behind the floating bar Lastochka, which lived its ephemeral life in the summer of 2009, it was an instant hit with the all-night-bar-loving crowd of well-off *tusovshchiki* who so faithfully partied away that summer on Lastochka.

A *dom byta* in the Soviet Union was a department store offering practical household goods and services such as laundry, dry cleaning, key-cutting and much more. It seems that at some point in the '70s, a conscious effort was made to make such stores as homogenous as possible, as they are inevitably large, glass-fronted metal and concrete edifices with a distinctly Soviet feel to them. It is on the first floor of one such building (downstairs from the defunct music venue

A2) that the Dom Byta cafe-bar is located.

The bar's name and location are referenced in the 70s-style interior, which is dominated by a long bar covered in 3-D eggshell-blue tiles. The same snazzy tiles adorn two large pillars behind the bar, and six disco balls of varying sizes hanging from the ceiling complete the effect, which is, overall, one of a larger, more upscale version of Datscha — perhaps a sort of Datscha for those who have outgrown the boisterous little bar on Dumskaya Ulitsa.

During the daytime, Dom Byta functions as a sparsely populated chilled-out cafe popular with solitary MacBook Pro-users and mixed parties of young people. Only the security guard sitting between the inner and outer door, a smashed pane in the latter (the result of a Saturday-night brawl) and the chrome-coated DJ booth are evidence of the hugely popular all-night parties hosted by the bar by night.

The stratum of clientele Dom Byta is targeting is evident in the drinks prices: 290 rubles (\$10) for a half-liter of imported beer (no Russian beer here) and 1,550 rubles (\$54) for the cheapest bottle of wine. Even tee-totalers are not safe from the

painful prices — a fruit smoothie costs even more than a Belgian beer, at 310 rubles (\$10.70), while a pot of tea costs a criminal 230 rubles (\$8). Admittedly, the latter may arrive in a charmingly worn and quaint retro tea set, but that is not enough to offset the added insult of a separate charge for milk (30 rubles, \$1).

Fortunately for both diners and Dom Byta's survival prospects, the food is priced more reasonably, and is, on the whole, worth every kopeck. Though food has been served here for some time, only recently was a full menu formalized, incorporating a refreshing choice of dishes from all over the world, including Mexico, India and Thailand — thus ensuring a far larger than usual range of vegetarian options — as well as some home-grown favorites.

From the more exotic choices offered by the menu came salad with Tandoori chicken (360 rubles, \$12.40) and Palak Paneer with rice (320 rubles, \$11). The former was a lucky dip of deep-fried goat's cheese and devastatingly moreish pieces of chicken served on a bed of crisp lettuce, sesame seeds and raisins, set off by a zingy dressing of yoghurt, fresh mint and lemon. The Palak Paneer was in a different league however, and lacked any real flavor, despite demonstrable

evidence of coriander, cumin seeds and fine strips of chili peppers.

Pumpkin soup (320 rubles, \$11), in contrast, had been given a most welcome Thai twist in the form of a generous sloshing of coconut milk and pesto made from coriander. The result was a soup exploding with flavor and perfect for warming — and filling — up on a damp winter's day.

A more familiar soup, *borshch* (240 rubles, \$8.30) was served with garlic *grenki* (fried black bread) and was an outstanding specimen of what this soup should be, with its rich, slightly sweet flavor, vibrant pink color, generous separate portion of sour cream and fine strips of tender beef.

Dom Byta's wait staff are clad in practical blue pinafores in another reference to the bar's name, and the service itself was not without a (presumably unintentional) Soviet hitch. A Spanish omelette (270 rubles, \$9.30) was such a long time in following the previous dishes that it was no longer really desired by the time it came. Fortunately, it was another winner — light and fluffy, and livened up with some marinated bell peppers and a side serving of arugula and cherry tomatoes — which, together with a 10-percent discount offered by our waitress on her own initiative, saved the day.

Boogie Nights THE GUIDE:

Decent food is always a bonus at the city's late-night music bars and clubs.

Kompot
\$ wi-fi
Kompot may well have provided some inspiration for Dom Byta, with its funky, 70s-style interior, but this quirky DJ-bar and cafe is rendered cozier than the latter thanks to a multitude of weird and wonderful furnishings. The menu is vegetarian-friendly and internationally flavored, with top-notch hummous among the treats on offer, along with Caucasian dishes — and all at enjoyably democratic prices. 10 Ulitsa Zhukovskogo. Tel: 719 6542

Griboedov Hill
\$
The glass extension to veteran bunker club Griboedov not only offers great views during both White Nights and winter alike to a background of quality live music. It also boasts some of the best and cheapest club grub in town. Dishes are mostly Russian and European, with once again, a refreshingly broad range of vegetarian options. A vastly superior way to beat the late-night munchies than a fast-food pit stop, and (almost) guaranteed to fuel another hour or two of partying. 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa Tel: 764 4355

Helsinki Bar
\$
This new DJ-bar-cum-restaurant on Vasilyevsky Island has already established itself as a venue for after-parties and word-of-mouth acoustic gigs. The menu has, unsurprisingly, a distinctive Finnish flavor and includes several dishes built around reindeer meat. 31 Kadetskaya Liniya. Tel: 995 1995



Hailing from Kharkiv, Ukraine, indie pop band Pur:Pur, which describes its music as 'Kharkiv minimalism,' will perform at Zal Ozhidaniya on Sunday, March 6.

NEB **The Meantraitors/Stringbeans** Psychobilly. *Orlandina*, 3 *Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa*. Tel. +7 921 961 1911. 8 p.m.
Everything Is Made in China Post-rock, indie rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Leningrad Dixieland Band Jazz dancing. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Ars Nova Jazz classica. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall (Ellington Hall)*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 8 p.m.
Suvorov Blues Band and Mikhail Chernov Blues. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 *Shpalernaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.
Blues Clan Blues. *Street Life*, 6 2-aya *Krasnoarmeiskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 575 0545. 9 p.m.

sunday, march 6

rock, etc.
Metal Ladies Day Acts t.b.c. *Arctica*, 38 *Ulitsa Beringa*. Tel. 952 4696. 4 p.m.
Yury Morozov Memorial Concert Acts t.b.c. *Avrora Concert Hall*, *St. Petersburg Hotel*, 5/2 *Pirogovskaya Naberezhnaya*. Tel. 907 1917. 8 p.m.
Jonathan Livingstone/Malenky Prints/Kot-Marli/Parovoz do Kuby Rock, reggae. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 *Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo*. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8:30 p.m.
Veter Vsem Folk rock. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.

NEB **Spitfire** Ska punk. *Flat*, 28 *Sadovaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 310 0098, 955 7409. 7 p.m.
Conus *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
NEB **Girugamesh** Visual kei, rock. *Glavclub*, 2 *Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 905 7555. 8 p.m.
Obmorok I Mama Pop. *Griboyedov*, 2A *Voronezhskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 9 p.m.
Alina Orlova Indie pop. *Kosmonavt*, 24 *Bronnitskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 922 1300. 8 p.m.
Nomera Rock. *Manhattan*, 90 *Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki*. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Vibrasphere/Alexander Daf/Pepelaz A.B./Buran 40 Electronica. *The Place*, 47 *Ulitsa Marshala Govorova*. Tel. 331 9631. 11 p.m.

NEB **Pur:Pur** Indie pop. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 *Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala*. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.
Half Dub Theory Trip hop, lounge, downtempo. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.
Chart Dozen Korol i Shut, Okean Elzi, Alisa, U-Piter, Lyapis Trubetskoi, Pilot, Nochniye Snaipery, Kukryniksy. Rock, pop rock. *Yubileiny Sports Complex*, 18 *Ulitsa Dobrolyubova*. Tel. 498 6033. 6 p.m.

jazz & blues
Big Blues Revival Blues. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Viktoria Urusova and Her Band Jazz songs. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall (Ellington Hall)*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 8 p.m.
Andrei Kondakov Electric Project Fusion, jazz rock. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 *Shpalernaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

monday, march 7

rock, etc.
Viking Mosh Fest Ease of Disgust, Taking Your Last Chance, Genocide of Prescription, Born to Suffer, Banana Heads, For the Sky, Kadjo. *Arctica*, 38 *Ulitsa Beringa*. Tel. 952 4696. 4 p.m.
Coffin Wheels/Monakhov Band Surf. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 *Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo*. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8:30 p.m.
NEB **Kolibri/ZhYuK** Indie pop. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
NEB **Zorge** Art rock. *Fish Fabrique (Nouvelle)*, 53 *Ligovsky Prospekt*. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.

Atanore GEZ-21 (*Gallery of Experimental Sound*), 53 *Ligovsky Prospekt*. Tel. 764 5258. 8 p.m.
Marsel Pop rock. *Kosmonavt*, 24 *Bronnitskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 922 1300. 8 p.m.
Mukhomory Punk, alternative. *Manhattan*, 90 *Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki*. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Moi Rakety Vverkh Post-rock. *Orlandina*, 3 *Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa*. Tel. +7 921 961 1911. 8 p.m.
Bro Sound Reggae. *Shum*, 45 5-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 946 8969. 7 p.m.
NEB **Nina Karlsson** Indie pop. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 *Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala*. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.
Pi-Gusli/Chao Bella Funk rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

friday, march 4

rock, etc.
NEB **Simon Patterson** Acoustic. *Anglia British Bookshop*, 38 *Fontanka*. Tel. 579 8284. 7 p.m.
New Apocalypse Inner Missing, Fear Of Insomnia, Solerrain, Sopor, Metal. *Arctica*, 38 *Ulitsa Beringa*. Tel. 952 4696. 6 p.m.
Kniga Dzhunglei/Zoya *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.

iamthemorning Acoustic. *GEZ-21 (Gallery of Experimental Sound)*, 53 *Ligovsky Prospekt*. Tel. 764 5258. 8 p.m.
NEB **Noize MC** Hip-hop. *Glavclub*, 2 *Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 905 7555. 8 p.m.
Vityok Hip-hop. *Griboyedov*, 2A *Voronezhskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 8 p.m.
Rock 'n' Girls Covers. *Jaggar*, 2 *Ploshchad Konstitutsii*. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Rvi Mekha Orkestr Rock. *Manhattan*, 90 *Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki*. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Air Strike/Pi-Gusli/Shaptiboi Mod, 7 *Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova*. Tel. 712 0734. 8 p.m.

Vasily K. Acoustic. *Orlandina*, 3 *Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa*. Tel. +7 921 961 1911. 8 p.m.
Lyuk/Half Dub Theory Electronica. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 *Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala*. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.
Vse Ruchki Vpravo/Morekorabli Punk rock, alternative. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Alexei Kanunnikov Jazz Band Jazz dancing. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Karamazovs Bossa nova. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 *Shpalernaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.
Honky Tonky Elvis Presley covers. *Street Life*, 6 2-aya *Krasnoarmeiskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 575 0545. 9 p.m.

saturday, march 5

rock, etc.
Hard Rock Attack Acts t.b.c. *Arctica*, 38 *Ulitsa Beringa*. Tel. 952 4696. 5 p.m.
Saigon Party Acts t.b.c. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 *Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo*. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8:30 p.m.
Polynya Art rock, folk rock. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
Ned Hoper GEZ-21 (*Gallery of Experimental Sound*), 53 *Ligovsky Prospekt*. Tel. 764 5258. 8 p.m.
NEB **Corvus Corax** Medieval, metal. *Glavclub*, 2 *Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 905 7555. 8 p.m.
S.O.K. Pop rock, reggae. *Griboyedov*, 2A *Voronezhskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 8 p.m.
James Bond Covers. *Jaggar*, 2 *Ploshchad Konstitutsii*. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Proyekt Olimpiisky Punk, alternative. *Manhattan*, 90 *Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki*. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Recipient 13/Lost in Alaska/Genocide of Prescription Metal. Mod, 7 *Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova*. Tel. 712 0734. 7 p.m.

"Everything Will Be Alright!" festive concert Vivaldi, Dunayevsky, Dinicu, Monti, Gagliano, Fossen, Otero, Piazzolla. *Remolin Ensemble*. *Shostakovich Philharmonic*, *Maly Hall*

wednesday, march 9

ballet
Romeo and Juliet Prokofiev's adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy about feuding families and young love. Choreography by Leonid Lavrovsky. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert
Choral Music Sviridov. *Mariinsky Theater* Choir. Principal Chorus Master and Conductor Andrei Petrenko. *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall*, 37 *Ul. Dekabristov*
Jubilee Evening Brahms, Franck. Soloists Natalia Sokolova (violin), Yelena Dyakova (piano), Ilya Kozlov (violin), Alexei Bogorad (viola), Sergei Chernyadiev (cello). *Shostakovich Philharmonic*, *Maly Hall*

GIGS

wednesday, march 2

rock, etc.
Kilimanjaro Pop rock. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 *Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo*. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8:30 p.m.
Kruglougolnik Jazz rock, funk. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
BMB Bon Jovi covers. *Jaggar*, 2 *Ploshchad Konstitutsii*. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Acoustic Acts t.b.c. *Manhattan*, 90 *Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki*. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Otava Yo/Belorybitsa Folk. *Shum*, 45 5-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 946 8969. 7 p.m.

Sindrom Vnezapnoi Smerti Momentalnogo/Minus Odin Alternative electronic rock, modern rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Valley of the Blessed Gennady Golshtein, David Goloschchynok, Yana Radion, et al. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Igra v Klassiki Crossover. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 *Shpalernaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

thursday, march 3

rock, etc.
Drakon/Pomelo/Religiya Nol Rock. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 *Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo*. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8 p.m.
Akademiya Stranstvii Art rock. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
Helavisa Folk. *Kosmonavt*, 24 *Bronnitskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 922 1300. 8 p.m.
New Apocalypse Acts t.b.c. *Manhattan*, 90 *Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki*. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Felicity Indie rock. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 *Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala*. Tel. 333 1069. 6:30 p.m.
Snork25/Kosmopop2/Uoki-Toki 8bit, lo-fi. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Elvira Trafova and Pyotr Kornev Band Jazz classics. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Volkovtrio Art rock. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 *Shpalernaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.



German 'medieval metal' band Corvus Corax, which blends heavy metal with medieval folk music using authentic medieval instruments, will perform at Glavclub on Saturday, March 5.



Indie-pop band Brazzaville, founded in L.A. by David Brown (above) will present its album 'Pillow From Home' at Zal Ozhidaniya at 8 p.m. on March 8.

jazz & blues
Easy Winners Ragtime Band Jazz dancing. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Igor Balakirev Quartet Pop jazz. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 *Shpalernaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

tuesday, march 8

rock, etc.
The First Breath of Spring Acts t.b.c. Metal. *Arctica*, 38 *Ulitsa Beringa*. Tel. 952 4696. 5 p.m.
Ellis Band Pop rock. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 *Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo*. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8:30 p.m.
Old Horned Sheep Folk rock. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.

Teni Svobody Rock. *Flat*, 28 *Sadovaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 310 0098, 955 7409. 7 p.m.
Mara Rock. *Glavclub*, 2 *Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 905 7555. 8 p.m.
Zakhar Mai *Manhattan*, 90 *Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki*. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
NEB **Messer Chups** Surf. Mod, 7 *Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova*. Tel. 712 0734. 7 p.m.

Krasnaya Plesen *Orlandina*, 3 *Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 331 9631. 11 p.m.
Oleg Garkusha and Sergei Letov *The Place*, 47 *Ulitsa Marshala Govorova*. Tel. 331 9631. 11 p.m.
NEB **Brazzaville** Pop rock. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 *Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala*. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.
Stereo Liza Rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya *Sovetskaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Leningrad Dixieland Band Jazz dancing. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Kvadrat Jazz Club: Jam Session Mainstream. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall (Ellington Hall)*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 8 p.m.
Chizhik Jazz Quartet Crossover jazz. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 *Shpalernaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

wednesday, march 9

rock, etc.
ChK Fest Acts t.b.c. Rock. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 *Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo*. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8 p.m.
Nazarychev Experimental. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 *Ulitsa Pestelya*. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Konstantin Maminov and Electric Blue Quintet Saxophone night. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 *Zagorodny Prospekt*. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Bart Modern jazz. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 *Shpalernaya Ulitsa*. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

SCREENS

127 Hours (2010, U.S.-U.K.) Danny Boyle's thriller starring James Franco, Kate Mara and Amber Tamblyn. *Avrora*, *Crystal Palace*, *Khudozhestvenny*, *Mirage Cinema*, *PIK*.

NEW! **The Adjustment Bureau** (2011, U.S.) George Nolfi's thriller starring Matt Damon, Natalie Carter and Jon Stewart. *Crystal Palace*, *Mirage Cinema*. Starts March 3.

NEW! **Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son** (2011, U.S.) John Whitesell's comedy starring Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson and Jessica Lucas. *Crystal Palace*, *Khudozhestvenny*, *PIK*.

NEW! **Biutiful** (2010, Mexico-Spain) Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's drama starring Javier Bardem and Maricel Alvarez. *Avrora*, *Khudozhestvenny*, *PIK*, *Rodina*.

Black Swan (2010, U.S.) Darren Aronofsky's drama starring Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis and Vincent Cassel. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Pik, Rodina.*

Burlesque (2010, U.S.) Steve Antin's musical starring Cher and Christina Aguilera. *Avrora (In English with Russian subtitles), Mirage Cinema.*

The Eagle (2011, U.K.-U.S.) Kevin Macdonald's historical adventure film starring Channing Tatum, Denis O'Hare and Julian Lewis Jones. *Crystal Palace, Mirage Cinema, Pik.*

NEW! The Fighter (2010, U.S.) David O. Russell's sports drama starring Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale and Amy Adams. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Dom Kino, Khudozhestvenny, Neva, Pik.*

Four Lions (2010, U.K.) Christopher Morris's comedy/drama starring Kayvan Novak, Nigel Lindsay and Riz Ahmed. *Dom Kino.*

NEW! Drive Angry 3D (2011, U.S.) Patrick Lussier's action comedy starring Nicolas Cage, Amber Heard and William Fichtner. *Crystal Palace, Mirage Cinema, Jam Hall. Starts March 3.*

Gigola (2010, France) Laure Charpentier's film starring Lou Doillon, Marie Kremer and Thierry Lhermitte. *Dom Kino.*

Gnomeo & Juliet (2011, U.K.-U.S.) Kelly Asbury's animated comedy. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik.*

The Green Hornet (2011, U.S.) Michel Gondry's action comedy starring Seth Rogen, Jay Chou and Cameron Diaz. *Khudozhestvenny.*

Happy End (Les derniers jours du monde) (2009, France-Spain-Taiwan) Arnaud Larrieu and Jean-Marie Larrieu's sci-fi drama starring Mathieu Amalric, Karin Viard and Catherine Frot. *Dom Kino.*

How Do You Know (2010, U.S.) James L. Brooks's comedy/drama starring Reese Witherspoon, Paul Rudd and Owen Wilson. *Pik.*

NEW! I Am Number Four (2011, U.S.) D.J. Caruso's sci-fi action thriller starring Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant and Teresa Palmer. *Crystal Palace, Jam Hall, Khudozhestvenny, Kolizei, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik.*

NEW! The King's Speech (2010, U.K.-Australia-U.S.) Tom Hooper's historical drama starring Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter and Derek Jacobi. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Jam Hall, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Pik.*

NEW! The Last Circus (Balada triste de trompeta) (2010, Spain-France) Alex de la Iglesia's comedy-drama starring Santiago Segura and Antonio de la Torre. *Avrora, Dom Kino, Khudozhestvenny, Pik.*

London Boulevard (2010, U.S.-U.K.) William Monahan's crime drama starring Keira Knightley, Colin Farrell and Stephen Graham. *Pik.*

Loose Cannons (Mine vaganti) (2010, Italy) Ferzan Ozpetek's comedy/drama starring Riccardo Scamarcio and Nicole Grimaudo. *Dom Kino.*

NEW! Lovey-Dovey 3 (Lyubov Morkov 3) (2011, Russia) Sergei Ginzburg's comedy starring Kristina Orbakaitė, Gosha Kutsenko and Denis Paramonov. *Crystal Palace, Jam Hall. Starts March 3.*

The Milk of Sorrow (La teta asustada) (2009, Spain-Peru) Claudia Llosa's drama starring Magaly Solier, Susi Sanchez. *Dom Kino.*

Mr. Nobody (2009, Canada-Belgium-France-Germany) Jaco Van Dormael's fantasy film starring Jared Leto, Diane Kruger and Sarah Polley. *Dom Kino.*

NEW! Nine (2009, U.S.-Italy) Rob Marshall's musical drama starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard and Penelope Cruz. *Avrora, Mirage Cinema. Starts March 3.*

NEW! No Strings Attached (2011, U.S.) Ivan Reitman's romantic comedy starring Natalie Portman, Ashton Kutcher and Kevin Kline. *Crystal Palace, Mirage Cinema. Starts March 3.*

Norwegian Wood (Noruwei no mori) (2010, Japan) Anh Hung Tran's love drama starring Rinko Kikuchi, Ken'ichi Matsuyama and Kiko Mizuhara. *Dom Kino.*

Sanctum (2010, U.S.-Australia) Alister Grierson's adventure film starring Richard

Roxburgh, Ioan Gruffudd and Rhys Wakefield. *Mirage Cinema, Pik.*

NEW! Slove (2011, Russia-Germany-U.S.) Jurgen Staal's action thriller starring Alexei Chadov, Andrei Chadov and Pavel Derevyanko. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Pik.*

Three Warriors and the Shamakhan Tzaritsa (Tri Bogatyrya i Shamakhanskaya Tzaritsa) (2011, Russia) Sergei Glezin's animated fantasy film. *Pik.*

NEW! Tomorrow, When the War Began (2010, Australia-U.S.) Stuart Beattie's teen adventure movie starring Caitlin Stasey, Rachel Hurd-Wood and Lincoln Lewis. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Pik.*

Tricksters (Vykrutasy) (2011, Russia) Levan Gabriadze's romantic comedy starring Milla Jovovich, Konstantin Khabensky and Ivan Urgant. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik.*

True Grit (2010, U.S.) Ethan Coen and Joel Coen's Western film starring Jeff Bridges, Hailee Steinfeld and Matt Damon. *Khudozhestvenny.*

Unknown (2011, Japan-Canada-U.S.-U.K.-Germany-France) Jaume Collet-Serra's thriller starring Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger and January Jones. *Crystal Palace, Jam Hall, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Pik.*

You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger (2010, U.S.-Spain) Woody Allen's romantic comedy starring Gemma Jones, Pauline Collins and Anthony Hopkins. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema.*

MUSEUMS

ACADEMY OF ARTS MUSEUM (The Scientific-Research Museum of the Academy of Arts) 17 Universitetskaya Nab. Tel. 323 6496, 323 3578 M. Vasileostrovskaya. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NEW! German Yegoshin. Painting. *March 4 through March 27*
Viktor Yamsshikov. Painting. *February 17 through April 3*

ANNA AKHMATOVA MUSEUM AT THE FOUNTAIN HOUSE 34 Fontanka River, entrance from 53 Liteiny Pr. M. Gostiny Dvor, Mayakovskaya. Tel. 272 2211. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and the last Wednesday of every month. www.akhmatova.spb.ru
NEW! Veterans. What Is War Like? Objects, photo, installation. *February 28 through May 8*

ARTILLERY MUSEUM (Military Historical Museum of Artillery and Engineers) 7 Alexandrovsky Park, M. Gorkovskaya, tel. 232 0296, 238 0704, Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed last Thursday of each Month

Artillery – Not Only the Roar of the Gun, but Science Too. Rare manuscripts from the 16th to first half of the 19th century. *November 19 – closing date to be confirmed.*
Fortresses of northwest Russia. Graphics. *January 21 through April 15*
Her Majesty's Sappers. Painting, drawing and lithography dedicated to the feats of military engineers from the 18th – early 20th centuries. Exhibits include sculptures, rare objects, manuscripts and documents. *January 21 through April 15*



One of a collection of work by eminent Lithuanian photographers titled 'Dialogue of Generation' on display from March 5 at the Karl Bulla Photosalon.



A stage decoration from the opera 'The Snow Maiden' is one of the items currently on show at the Rimsky-Korsakov Apartment Museum as part of an exhibition devoted to the 130th anniversary of the composer's much loved opera.

ALEXANDER BLOK APARTMENT MUSEUM 57 Ul. Dekabristov Ul., M. Sadovaya, Sennaya. Tel. 713 8631. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesday.

ISAAK BRODSKY APARTMENT MUSEUM 3 Pl. Iskusstv. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314 3658. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday

CITY SCULPTURE MUSEUM Exhibition Hall 179/2a Nevsky Prospekt. Entrance through Chernoretskogo Pereulok. Tel. 274 2635, 274 2579, 274 3860. Daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thursday, Friday.

DERZHAVIN MUSEUM 118 Nab. Reki Fontanki. M. Technologicheskyy Institut, Sennaya, Sadovaya. Tel. 713 0717, 570 6511
NEW! Patchwork Entertainment. Decorative art. *February 28 through March 30*
Alexander Deryabin. Painting. *February 20 through March 20*

DOLL MUSEUM 8 Kamskaya Ulitsa, M. Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 327 7224, 321 7869. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday 10.00 – master-class in making dolls.
NEW! Honor and Glory of the Motherland. Objects, decorative art. *February 22 through December 31*

Bears of Russia. Antique and collectable teddy bears. *February 7 through April 10*
Covered With Beads. Fashion models of Barbie dolls: Galina Simonova. *January 17 through March 13*

DOSTOEVSKY APARTMENT MUSEUM 5/2 Kuznechny Pereulok, M. Vladimirskaia. Tel. 571 4031. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and last Wednesday of each month.

KIROV APARTMENT MUSEUM 26/28 Kamennostrovsky Prospekt. M. Gorkovskaya, Petrogradskaya. Tel. 346 0217. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday

KUNSTKAMERA 3 Universitetskaya Nab. Tel. 328 1412. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and the last Thursday of each month. www.kunstkamera.ru

HEROIC DEFENDERS OF LENINGRAD MUSEUM MONUMENT PLOSHCHAD POBEDY. M. Moskovskaya. Tel. 371 2951, 373 6563. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed last Tuesday of each month.

NEW! Steps to Victory: Sergei Larenkov. Photo collage. *February 23 through May 10*

HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY MUSEUM 23 Professora Popova Ul. Tel. 346 1950. Daily 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday.

HISTORY OF THE POLITICAL POLICE MUSEUM. 6 Admiralteisky Prospekt. M. Gostiny Dvor, Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 312 2742. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Saturday, Sunday.
NEW! Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence in the U.S.S.R. from the 1940s to the 1990s. Objects, photo, documents. *February 28 through August 31*

NEW! From World War II to the Cold War. 1940-1990s. Objects, photo. *February 25 through March 31*

HISTORY OF RELIGION MUSEUM 14/5 Pochtamskaya. M. Nevsky Prospekt, Sennaya, Sadovaya. Tel. 571 0495, 314 5838. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday.

HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM PETER & PAUL FORTRESS. M. Gorkovskaya. Tel. 230 0329. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wednesday. www.spbkrepost.ru
Permanent Collection The St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, housing the graves of most of the Romanov dynasty; History of the Mint; Museum of Old Petersburg; and more. Exhibits are housed in various locations in the Peter and Paul Fortress.

The History of the Trubetsky Bastion Prison 1872-1921. The Peter and Paul Fortress was Imperial St. Petersburg's main jail and this exhibition tells the story of the famous revolutionaries and opponents of the Tsar who were imprisoned there.
The Peter and Paul Cathedral and the Great Princely Necropolis of the House of Romanov The story of the last resting place of the Romanov Dynasty from Peter the Great to Nicholas II, who was finally reinterred here in 1998.

HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM 7/9 Universitetskaya Naberezhnaya. Entrance from Mendeleyevskaya Liniya. Tel. 328 9683

HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM: Rumyantsev Mansion 44 Angliiskaya Naberezhnaya. M. Vasileostrovskaya, Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 571 7544. Daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Wednesday and the last Tuesday of each month.

MILITARY MEDICINE MUSEUM 2 Lazaretny Pereulok. M. Pushkinskaya. Tel. 315 5358, 315 7287. Daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed at weekends

MUSIC MUSEUM AT THE SHEREMETEV PALACE 34 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Tel. 272 4441. Wednesday through Sunday 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed last Wednesday of each month. By prior appointment only.

VLADIMIR NABOKOV APARTMENT MUSEUM 47 Bolshaya Morskaya. Tel. 315 4713,

717 4502. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday. www.nabokovmuseum.org
NEW! Structures: Boris Shapovalov. Painting, objects. *February 23 through March 15*

NIKOLAI NEKRASOV APARTMENT MUSEUM 36 Liteiny Prospekt. M. Chernyshevskaya. Tel. 272 0165. Daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesday and the last Friday of each month.
The Code of Painting is Color: Polina Kudelkina. Painting. *February 19 through March 19*

POLITICAL HISTORY OF RUSSIA MUSEUM 2/4 Ul. Kulibysheva, M. Gorkovskaya. Tel. 233 7052. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thursday.
The Polish Path in Karelian History. The fate of Polish immigrants and prisoners of war, and history of their life in the Russian North. Photo, objects. *February 11 through March 2*

POPOV CENTRAL MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATIONS 3 Pochtamsky Pereulok. Tel. 323 9718. Daily 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday and the last Thursday of each month. www.rustelecom-museum.ru
The History of the Postal Service in Russia. Permanent exposition.

PUSHKIN APARTMENT MUSEUM 12 Nab. Reki Moika. Tel: 571 3801. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesday. www.peterlink.ru/spb/pushkin/
NEW! Poetry in the Pocket: Alexander Deryabin. Objects, decorative art, photo. *February 25 through March 17*

Rimsky-Korsakov Apartment Museum 28 Zagorodny Prospekt, Courtyard. M. Dostoyevskaya. Tel. 713 3208, 315 3975. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday and last Friday of each month.
NEW! The Snow Maiden. Dedicated to 130 years of the Rimsky-Korsakov opera. Objects, decorative art. *February 26 through May 26*

NIKOLAI ROERICH APARTMENT MUSEUM 1 Line 18, V.O. Daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday. Tel. 325 4413. www.roerich.spb.ru
If Not For the War... Painting, installation. *January 27 through March 6*

RUSSIAN ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM 4/1 Inzhenernaya Ul. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 313 4421. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and the last Friday of each month.
NEW! Caucasus Weaponry from the Private Collections of the Past and Present. Installation. *March 4 through April 3*

SIGMUND FREUD MUSEUM OF DREAMS 18a Bolshoi Prospekt of Petrogradskaya Side. M. Sportivnaya. Tel. 235 2929. Tuesday and Sunday 12 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SMOLNY HISTORICAL MEMORIAL MUSEUM 3 Ploshchad Rastrelli. Tel: 314 2168. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment, groups only. Friday, 3 p.m. open to individual visitors.

ST. PETERSBURG AVANT-GARDE MUSEUM (Mikhail Matyushin Apartment) 10 Professora Popova Ul. M. Petrogradskaya. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Wednesday



Objects fitted with minute video cameras used by the Soviet secret services form part of a new exhibition devoted to the KGB from the 1940s through the 1990s at the History of the Political Police Museum. The exhibition runs through Aug. 31.

ALEXANDER BELEWY / SPIT

NEW! Transgeometry of Memory: Sergei Kovalsky. Painting. February 11 through April 26

Group CoRN. 1930. Mikhail Matyushin and Pupils. Installation, objects. November 12 through March 30

STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM

34 Dvortsovaya Naberezhnaya. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 571 3420, 571 3465. Daily, 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday.

www.hermitagemuseum.org/html_En/index.html
Permanent Collection Three million items in six buildings along the Neva and around Palace Square. Unless otherwise stated, temporary exhibitions are displayed in the Winter Palace, the museum's main building.

NEW! Prado at the Hermitage. The best of the classic collection of the Prado Museum in Madrid. Painting. February 26 through May 29

NEW! Thomas de Thomon. Works from the Hermitage Collection. Architecture, graphics. February 22 through May 29

The Glass Beaded Salon. Presentation of panels from the Chinese Palace in Oranienbaum, restored at the Hermitage Museum. Halls 169-173 of the Winter Palace. December 8 through March 20

Presentation of a bronze arm with a Roman two-headed eagle (1st century A.D.) from the Archaeological Museum in Alicante (Spain). Part of the "Masterpieces of the world's museums at the Hermitage" cycle. St. George's Hall. December 9 through March 9

STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM:

MENSHIKOV PALACE
15 Universitetskaya Nab. M. Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 323 1112. Daily, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. A branch of the State Hermitage Museum.

STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM:

GENERAL STAFF BUILDING
Daily, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 10:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday.
Museum of The Guards. A permanent addition to the Hermitage in the General Staff Building.

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM

2 Inzhenernaya Ul. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314 3448, 595 4248. Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesday. www.rusmuseum.ru/eng

Permanent Collection The world's finest and most extensive collection of works by Russian artists, from 12th-century icons to some of the latest movements in contemporary art exhibited in the Mikhailovsky Palace and in associated buildings listed below.

Chosen by Clio. Heroes and Villains of Russian History. Repin, Surikov, Nesterov, Serov, Makovsky, Vasnetsov. Painting, graphics, sculpture. December 8 through April 17

Saints of the Russian Land. Icon painting, decorative art, objects. December 8 through April 30

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM: MARBLE PALACE
5/1 Millionnaya Ul. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 312 9196. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Tuesday. A branch of the State Russian Museum.

NEW! Existential Alchemy: Rafa Forteza. Installation. February 24 through March 27

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM:

MIKHAILOVSKY (ENGINEERS') CASTLE

2 Sadovaya Ulitsa. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 313 4112. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Tuesday. A branch of the State Russian Museum.
Grigory Gagarin. Dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the artist's birth. Painting, graphics. December 23 through March 27

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM:

STROGANOV PALACE

17 Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 571 2360. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Tuesday. A branch of the State Russian Museum.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL ART MUSEUM

6 Ostrovskogo Pl. Tel. 315 5243. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Tuesday.

NEW! Theater Architecture of St. Petersburg. Objects, installation, graphics. February 19 through April 3

TOY MUSEUM

32 Nab. Reki Karpovki. Entrance from Vsevolod Vishnevsky Ul. M. Petrogradskaya, Chkalovskaya. Tel. 234 4312. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and last Tuesday of the month.

GALLERIES

AL GALLERY

76 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713 3534
info@album-gallery.org; www.album-gallery.ru
Proselok: Iliia Orlov. Painting. February 18 through March 15

AMBASSADOR GALLERY

5-7 Prospekt Rimskogo-Korsakova. M. Sennaya Plushchad. Tel. +7 906 256 2117. Daily 1 a.m. to 7 p.m. www.wix.com/GalleryAmbassador/Gallery-Ambassador
NEW! Renat Shamsutdinov. Painting. March 4 through May 1

ANNA NOVA

28 Zhukovskogo Ul., tel. 275-9762. Tuesday - Saturday 12 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Folding Screens: Yury Alexandrov. Opening January 21. Closing date to be confirmed.
NEW! Severstal: Stas Bags. Installation, painting. March 4 through April 8

ARKA

6 Bolshaya Morskaya, M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 312-4012. Daily 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ART CENTER PUSHKINSKAYA 10

Galleries open from 3 p.m. through 7 p.m. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Entrance at 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. <http://en.p-10.ru/>
Art-Liga Gallery Open Saturday 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Life Will Never End. Photo. February 12 through March 13

Navicula Artis gallery Tel. 764-5371, Wednesday-Sunday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

New Academy of Fine Arts Museum
Room 405. Tel. 272-8222. Saturday 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Timur Novikov. Installation. January 15 through March 13

Nonconformist Art Museum

Floor 4. Tel. 764-5371. Wednesday through Sunday 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. www.nonmuseum.ru/

International "Poetry-Art" Visual Poetry Festival. Graphics, videoart, performance. February 12 through March 13

"Improvisation." Exhibition of work by contemporary art school graduates. Painting, graphics. February 12 through March 13

St. Petersburg Archive and Library of Independent Art Tel. 272-8222. Monday and Saturday 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

FOTOImage Office 1. Tel. 764-5371. Saturday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

GEZ-21 Outbuilding B, 3 Floor. Tel. 764-5258, Daily 3 p.m. to midnight.

Kino-FOT-703 Office 703. Tel. 764-5353.
Art-Project "Parnik" Open Wednesday-Sunday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

NEW! The Throne of the Drawing-pin: Andrei Chezhin. Objects. February 19 through March 17

The Door Floor 3. Wednesday through Sunday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

ART. OBJECT

13 Oranienbaumskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 498-0625. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
NEW! Damascus Gate: Irina Razumovskaya. Painting, objects. February 22 through March 12

ART RE.FLEX

5 Bakunina Ul. Tel. 332 3343. Daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. www.artreflex.ru

NEW! In the Reflection: Robert Gettich (Germany). Painting. February 25 through March 30

The Intention in the Convergence: Olga Golos. Light installations. February 6 through March 3

ARTISTS UNION OF RUSSIA EXHIBITION CENTER

38 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul. Tel. 314 3060. Daily, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

BLUE ROOM

38 Bolshaya Morskaya. Daily 12 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tel. 553 5009

BOOK AND GRAPHICS CENTER

55 Liteiny Prospekt. M. Mayakovskaya. Tel. 272 9535. Daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
NEW! The Magic of Silk Threads. Decorative art. March 1 through March 9

BOREY

58 Liteiny Prospekt. M. Vladimirskaaya, Mayakovskaya. Tel. 273 3693. Tuesday - Saturday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
NEW! Collection from the Era of Change. Painting. Gleb Bogomolov, Mikhail Shpagin, Sergei Dobrotvorskoy, Vladimir Opara and others. March 1 through March 5

NEW! Place of Residence: Olga Shonova. Photos about the contemporary life of ex-Gulag prisoners. February 22 through March 5

BULTHAUP. GALLERY OF DESIGN

2 Bolshaya Konyushennaya, Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday - Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

D-137 GALLERY

12 Zvenigorodskaya Ul. 3 Floor. M. Pushkinskaya. Tel. +7 981-687-6051. Thursday - Saturday 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., www.d137.ru

NEW! Americanism. Painting, sculpture, installation. February 25 through March 19

DIDI ART GALLERY

62 Bolshoi Prospekt of V.O., M. Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 320-7357. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sunday.
NEW! Georgy Agapov. Painting. February 25 through March 22

DK GAZA CONCERT HALL

72 Prospekt Stachek. M. Kirovsky Zavod. Tel. 783-3278

DMITRY SEMENOV GALLERY

63/19 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 12 a.m. to 8 p.m., or by appointment; call 164 5323.

DOM KINO

12 Karavannaya Ul. Tel. 314-0638. Daily 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.domkino.spb.ru

ERARTA MUSEUM

2, 29th Line of Vasilevsky Island, lit. A. M. Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 324-0809. Daily 12 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Wednesday. www.erarta.com

FINNISH INSTITUTE IN ST. PETERSBURG

64 Ligovsky Prospekt, 4 Floor, tel. 325-3205, Daily 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.instfin.sp.ru

GLASS GALLERY

1/28 Lomonosova Ul. M. Sadovaya, Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 312-2214. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

GUILD OF MASTERS

82 Nevsky Prospekt. M. Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 279-0979. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Poetry in Color: Yevgeny Vasilyev. Painting. February 10 through March 10

IFA EXHIBITION HALL

60 Nevsky Prospekt, tel. 717-0315. Daily 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday

JULY 12 GALLERY

100 Nab. Kanala Griboedova. M. Sennaya, Sadovaya. Tel. 954-0459. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., www.12-july.ru

NEW! Selected Works: Grigory Molchanov. Objects, sculpture, painting. February 25 through March 31

KARL BULLA PHOTOSALON

54 Nevsky Prospekt, 3 floor, tel. 312-2080

KGALLERY

Nab. Reki Fontanki 24, M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 273 0056.

KREMLIN GALLERY

3 Telezhny boulevard. M. Plushchad Vosstaniya, Plushchad Alexandra Nevskogo. Tel. 640-2401, 640-6829. www.kremlingallery.ru

KVADRAT

28 Kuibysheva Ulitsa, M. Gorkovskaya. Tel. 232 1238. Wednesday through Saturday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SERGEI KURYOKHIN CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

93 Sredny Prospekt, V.O. Tel. 322 4223. Daily 12 a.m. to 12 p.m. www.kuryokhin.ru

LAZAREV GALLERY

6 Line of Vasilevskaya Island, 5/5. Tel. +7 921 945 6810. M. Vasileostrovskaya. www.ivan-slavinsky.com

NEW! Discovered Space: Mikhail Shvartsman. Paintings from private collections and the artist's family. March 4 through April 17

LOFT-PROJECT ETAZHI

74 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 339 9836. Daily 12 a.m. to 10 p.m.

ZH8/Lzhe: Oleg Kotelnikov. Analytical art. 11 painted vinyl snowflakes, music. February 16 through March 21

BACKSTAGE 3rd Floor. Tel. +7 911 236 8160. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday.

FOTOWALL

Townverslibre: Natali Arefyeva. Photo. Through April 5

FORMULA GALLERY

GLOBUS 4th floor.

MANEZH CENTRAL EXHIBITION HALL

1 Isaakiyevskaya Pl. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314 8859. Daily, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Thursday

MANEZH CENTRAL EXHIBITION HALL, SMALL HALL

103 Nab. Canala Griboedova. Tel. 312 2243

MANSARD OF ARTISTS

7 Pushkarskaya Ul. Tel. 230 9150. Daily 12 a.m. to 8 p.m. www.sneg-su

MART GALLERY

35 Ul. Marata. Tel. 710 8835, 315 2768. M. Vladimirskaaya, Dostoyevskaya. Daily 12 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday

Yelena Skinder. Decorative art, graphics. February 17 through March 12

MARINA GISICH GALLERY

121 Nab. Reki Fontanki, tel. 314 4380. Daily, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday. Open by prior appointment.

MAYAKOVSKY LIBRARY

46 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Entrance through the courtyard.

NEW! Fine Union of Friends. Nikita Fomin, Irina Birulya, Ludmila Tabolina, Nikita Yavein and others. Objects, graphics, sculpture, photo, painting. March 2 through March 12

THE MIKHAIL SHEMYAKIN FUND

11 Sadovaya Ul. M. Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 310 2514. Tuesday - Thursday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MITKI. MUSEUM OF THE ART UNION.

36/38 Marata Ul., apartment 120. Saturday 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MOKHOVAYA 18 GALLERY

M. Chernyshevskaya. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday. Tel. 275 3383. www.gm18.ru

On Their Own in Wonderland: Yelena Bazanova. Painting. February 18 through March 5

MONTMARTRE ART GALLERY

33 Nab. Kanala Griboedova. Daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday. Tel. 571 5517. monmartr-2007@mail.ru

NEW MUSEUM GALLERY

29 6th Line of Vasilevsky Island. Tel. 323 5090. M. Vasileostrovskaya. www.novymuseum.ru

New Sculpture: Chaos and Structure. Anatoly Osmolovsky, Vitali Pushnitsky, Khaim Sokol, Anya Zhelud, Ivan Plush and others. Objects, sculpture, installation. February 11 through March 20

Aslan Chekhoyev Collection. Mikhail Shvartsman, Alexei Belyayev-Gintovt, Anatoly Yamukumb, Anatoly Osmolovsky, Dmitry Gutov and others. Painting. February 11 through March 20

PETERSBURG ARTISTS' MUSEUM-EXHIBITION CENTER

1 Glinski Ulitsa. Tel. 314 0609. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday, www.piter-art.com

PHOTODEPARTMENT GALLERY

32 Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314 5925, +7 901 301 7994. M. Gostiny Dvor. www.fotodepartment.ru
NEW! Adaptation: Alexander Tikhonov. Photo. February 19 through March 13

PRO ARTE PETER & PAUL FORTRESS

Nevskaya Kurtina, left side. Tel. 233 0553, 233 0040 www.proarte.ru

RAKHMANINOV ART WAY

5 Kazanskaya Ulitsa, Second Courtyard, tel. 312 9558. Daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
NEW! Alexander Dymnikov. Photo. February 18 through March 22

ROSPHOTO STATE CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

60 Nevsky Prospekt. M. Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 318 4737, 318 6133; 314 1214 (branch at 35 Bolshaya Morskaya). Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed at weekends. www.ncprf.org
The Density of Silence. Frank Dituri and Elio Ciol (Italy). Photo. February 11 to April 10
Contemporary St. Petersburg Pictorialism. Photo. February 2 through April 3

SPANISH CENTER EXHIBITION HALL

7 Rubinshteina Ul. M. Dostoyevskaya. Daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.), 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at weekends. Tel. 325 8470. www.icsanpetersburgo.com
Third International Spanish Center Photo Competition. Photo. February 12 through March 5

TRETYAKOV GALLERY

2 Pionerskaya Ul., M. Pionerskaya, Sportivnaya. Tel. 233 1007. Tuesday through Friday 12 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
NEW! My Dear-Deer-Deer Old House: Dzovinar Bekaryan. Painting, graphics. March 1 through March 30

ZOOM CAFÉ-CLUB

22 Gorokhovaya Ul., tel. 972 1805. Daily, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

100 OF OUR OWN

39 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 275 9363. Daily 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Tuesday.

CLUBS AND VENUES

ROCK, ETC.

ArcticA
A rock venue mostly featuring heavy metal concerts.
38 Ulitsa Beringa. Metro Primorskaya
Tel: 952 4696
www.arctica-club.spb.ru

Avrora
A new concert venue located at the St. Petersburg hotel.
5/2 Pirogovskaya Naberezhnaya.
Metro Ploshchad Lenina
Tel: 907 1917
www.avrora-zal.ru

Cheshire Cat
A new, third location for the underground club. Singers/songwriters and lesser known rock bands.
32 Zagorodny Prospekt
Metro Vladimirskaia/Dostoyevskaya
Tel: 575 6151
www.catartclub.ru

Chinese Pilot Jao Da
A local branch of the notorious Moscow underground rock club, which also has a branch in Montenegro. Seva Gakkel of Akvarium rock band and TaMtAm club fame is the venue's art director. Live rock, jazz and electronic music.
7 Ulitsa Pestelya
Metro Gostiny Dvor/Chernyshevskaya
Tel: 273 7487; +7 (911) 751 8339
www.spb.jao-da.com

Fish Fabrique
One of the oldest surviving local music clubs has expanded and now also has a larger room called Fabrique Nouvelle which hosts concerts and film screenings.
53 Ligovsky Prospekt
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 764-4857
www.fishfabrique.spb.ru

Fiat
A small underground rock club.
28 Sadovaya Ulitsa
Metro Sennaya Ploshchad
Tel: 310 0098, 955 7409
www.fiat-club.ru

GEZ-21
Part of Pushkinskaya 10 alternative art center. Mostly experimental and improvised music, some rock and electronic acts. A very limited selection at the bar.
53 Ligovsky Prospekt
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 764-5258, 764-5263
www.tac.spb.ru

Glavclub
A larger venue for big Russian and international rock and hip-hop bands.
2 Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 905 7555
www.glavclub.com

Griboyedov
Located in a former bomb shelter, Griboyedov is one of the oldest and most respected local clubs, with live concerts in the evenings and DJ sets at nights. Griboyedov Hill is a more recently opened restaurant on top of the bunker, where concerts are also held.
2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ligovsky Prospekt
Tel: 764 4355, 973 7273
www.griboyedovclub.ru

Jagger
A rock music club and a brewery. Mostly cover bands.
2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii
Metro Moskovskaya
Tel: 923 1292
www.jaggerclub.ru

Kosmonavt
A larger concert venue launched by the team behind the now-defunct A2. Pete Doherty played here.
24 Bronnitskaya Ulitsa
Tel: 922 1300
www.kosmonavt.su

Manhattan
A rock club with a restaurant and billiards.
90 Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki
Metro Pushkinskaya/Zvenigorodskaya
Tel: 713 1945
www.manhattanclub.ru



St. Petersburg's own jazz-influenced indie pop singer/band Nina Karlsson, whose debut album 'I Deny' came out last October, will perform at Zal Ozhidaniya on Monday, March 7.

Mod
A new location for the popular youth-oriented bar. Live concerts and DJ sets. Enter through the courtyard.
7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
Tel: 712 0734
www.modclub.info

Money Honey
A rockabilly club with a fixed schedule of cover bands. More diverse bands perform upstairs.
28 Sadovaya Ulitsa
Metro Gostiny Dvor
Tel: 310 0549
www.money-honey.ru

Orlandina
Yet another new location for the rock club, five minutes from the old one. Metal, rock, alternative.
3 Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa
Metro Petrogradskaya
Tel: 958 3888
www.orlandina.ru

Pir.O.G.I. on Fontanka
A branch of the hip Moscow network of restaurants with live concerts and art events launched last summer. A dining room and a bar with performances by bands and DJs.
40 Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki
Tel: 275 3558
www.piterogi.ru

Shum
A new addition to the club scene, perfect for live rock concerts.
45 5-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: +7 (921) 946 8969
http://shumclub.ru

Zal Ozhidaniya
A rock and pop concert venue. Part of Varshavsky Express retail and entertainment complex located in the former railroad station building.
118 Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala
Metro Baltiiskaya
Tel: 333 1069
www.clubzal.com

Zoccolo
An underground rock club managed by the people from the now-closed Moloko club.

Punk, indie, alternative and some experimental electronica.
2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 274 9467
www.zoccolo.ru

JAZZ

Jazz Philharmonic Hall
The oldest local jazz venue directed by local jazz patriarch David Goloshchyokin. Ellington Hall is a bar located in the upstairs area with a stage used for smaller concerts.
Mainstream, Latin jazz, blues.
27 Zagorodny Prospekt
Metro Vladimirskaia/Dostoyevskaya
Tel: 764 8565
www.jazz-hall.spb.ru

JFC Jazz Club
A smaller jazz club that operates daily.
33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa
Metro Chernyshevskaya
Tel: 272 9850
www.jfc.spb.ru

The Other Side
A bar and restaurant with jazz and blues concerts at weekends. A popular expat hangout.
1 Bolshaya Konyushennaya Ulitsa
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
Tel: 312 9554

Street Life
A pop-jazz club and restaurant.
6 2-ya Krasnoarmeiskaya Ulitsa
Metro Tekhnologichesky Institut
Tel: 575 0545
www.street-life.spb.ru

DJ BARS

Datscha
A notorious DJ bar, popular with students and expats.
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
9 Dumskaya Ulitsa

Dusche
An art bar launched by several members of rock band Leningrad.
DJs, fashion shows, occasional concerts.
Metro Ligovsky Prospekt

50 Ligovsky Prospekt
(Korpus 6)
Tel: 610 1990

Fidel
A DJ bar next to Datscha.
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
9 Dumskaya Ulitsa

HelsinkiBar
A new art bar celebrates St. Petersburg's northern neighbor. DJs, poetry readings.
31 Kadetskaya Liniya
Metro Vasileostrovskaya
Tel: 995-1-995
www.helsinkiBar.ru

Radiobaby
A DJ bar launched by the Achtung Baby team.
7 Kazanskaya Ulitsa,
in the courtyard
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
www.radiobaby.com

Siny Pushkin
An art bar conceived by Sergei Shnurov and Ivan Ushkov.
DJs, occasional concerts.
43/12 Khersonskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ploshchad Aleksandra Nevskogo
Tel: +7 (953) 347 6676
www.spushkin.ru

Stirka
A launderette bar.
DJs, small live concerts.
26 Kazanskaya Ulitsa
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
Tel: 314 5371
http://40gradusov.ru

GAY

Central Station
The city's premier gay club.
1/28 Ulitsa Lomonosova
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
Tel: 312 36 00
www.centralstation.ru

The Club
A recently opened gay club.
17 Shcherbakov Pereulok
Metro Vladimirskaia
Tel: 912 11 69
www.the-club.fm

Cabaret
The city's oldest gay bar, much loved for its shows.
181 Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala
Metro Baltiiskaya
Tel: 575 4512
www.cabarespb.ru

Golubaya Ustritsa
A self-described "trash" gay club, close to Central Station.
1 Lomonosova Ulitsa
www.boyster.ru

CONCERT HALLS & SPORT ARENAS

Ice Palace
1A Prospekt Pyatiletok
Metro Prospekt Bolshevikov
Tel: 718 6620
www.newarena.spb.ru

Lensoviet Palace of Culture
42 Kamennostrovsky Prospekt
Metro Petrogradskaya
Tel: 346 04 38
www.lensoveta.ru/

Music Hall
4 Alexandrovskiy Sad
Metro Chernyshevskaya
Tel: 232 9201
www.musicHall.spb.ru

Oktyabrsky Concert Hall
6 Ligovsky Prospekt
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 275 1300
www.bkz.ru

Peterburgsky Sports and Concert Complex
8 Prospekt Yuriya Gagarina
Metro Park Pobedy
Tel: 388 1211, 378 1710
www.spbckk.ru

Yubileiny Sports Complex
18 Ulitsa Dobrolyubova
Metro Sportivnaya
Tel: 498 6033
www.yubi.ru

Please send updates and listings to Sergey Chernov, chernov@sptimes.ru

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City center. From 1,500 rub. www.tour.ru/rental_apartments_st_petersburg_en.php?economics=050 Tel.: +7-812-970-33-34

ROOM WANTED

Foreigner seeking room for rent from owner. Evgenia +7-921-389-18-89

1-ROOM APARTMENT

Nevsky Pr./Fontanka River Clean. Cozy. Quiet. 25,000 rub./month. Evgenia +7-921-389-18-89

Kuibysheva Ul. Comfortable 1-bedroom newly renovated apartment. Natural furnishings, convenient layout, secured building. First time rent. 60 sq.m. 60,000 rub/month. Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z2092

Zakharievskaya Ul. Building after reconstruction, stylish furnished apartment. Total area: 120 sq.m. One bedroom and large lounge (50 sq.m.), modern fully fitted kitchen (27 sq.m.), air conditioners, concierge. For details contact Olga. Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

82 Moskovsky Pr. 1-bedroom apartment. Top-grade light apartment in a brand-new building. This beautifully interior-designed home benefits from modern and stylish fixtures and fittings. All necessary household equip-



K-KESKUS Apartments FOR RENT in the center

+7 812 9672283
k-keskus@mail.ru



CT Investments real estate

Property rent and sales
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+7-921-963-74-54
www.ctinvestments.ru

ment, convenient lay-out, guarded area. 60,000 rub/month. Penny Lane Realty. Tel.: +7-812-326-26-26, +7-911-732-28-82. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1469

2-ROOM APARTMENT

Malaya Sadovaya Ul. Stylish design. Evgenia +7-921-389-18-89

Italianskaya Ul. Two-bedroom apartment in a prestigious building with concierge. Total area: 100 sq.m. Fully fitted, furnished. For details contact Olga. Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

Nevsky Pr. One-bedroom apartment just after renovation, modern and comfortable. Living room with a fireplace, panoramic view onto Nevsky and Palace Square. Tel.: +7-921-937-75-33, e-mail: k-keskus@mail.ru Konstantin / "K-KESKUS".

Bolshaya Morskaya Ul. 2-bedroom apartment, modern renovation, 100 sq.m., kitchen combined with lounge, street entrance with intercom system. 55,000 rub/month. For details contact Olga. Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

Paradnaya Ul. New prestigious complex, newly renovated cozy apartment decorated in the Western style. Two bedrooms, kitchen combined with lounge, fitted, furnished, parking, security. For details contact Olga. Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

92 Moika Emb. Modern 1-bedroom apartment with a view on Moika River. Fully furnished and equipped with all necessary household appli-



Griboedova Emb., 97

Riverside apartment with unique interior from French designer in "Paris chic" style. Splendid water view of Lion Bridge and Griboedov channel. 3d Floor. Special layout: 4 separate zones. Total area 240 sq.m. 4 bedrooms, 2 separate living rooms (49+18 sq.m.), dining room (24 sq.m.), kitchen, 2 dressing rooms, cabinet, 5 bathrooms, balcony. Separate studio apartment for staff or guests. Security, water purification and air-conditioning systems. Fully furnished and equipped. Locked courtyard with 2 parking places. Tel.: 959-59-60, +7-921-959-59-60; e-mail: fransvetiana@mail.ru

ances. Modern design, parking. Total area: 45 sq.m. 50,000 rub/month. Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1484

Voznesensky Pr. Comfortable 2-level apartment with two bedrooms, in the city center in a brand-new building. Guarded area, underground parking, all necessary appliances. Total area: 110 sq.m. 110,000 rub/month. Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1920

Morskaya Emb. Comfortable 2-bedroom apartment on Vasilevsky Island, 10-min. drive to the city center. Brand new secured building, guarded parking. Never lived-in condition. Total area: 110 sq.m. 90,000 rub/month. Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z2061

Kuibysheva Ul. 2-bedroom apartment on Petrograd Side near Gorkovskaya metro station. Beautifully designed home benefiting from modern and stylish fixtures and fittings. Secured parking, first time rent. 78 sq.m. 70,000 rub/month. Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z2089

3-ROOM APARTMENT

Robespiera Emb. Newly renovated apartment, total area: 140 sq.m., three bedrooms, two bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, quiet, secure entrance. For details contact Olga. Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru



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Furshtatskaya Ul. High level of renovation, furnished. Total area: 200 sq.m. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, sauna, fully fitted kitchen, balcony, secure entrance, parking. For details contact Olga. Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

23 Griboedova Emb. 3-min. walk to Nevsky Pr. and metro, 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two full bathrooms, windows overlook the canal and Kazansky Cathedral. Fully furnished and equipped. Tel.: +7-921-937-75-33, e-mail: k-keskus@mail.ru Konstantin / "K-KESKUS".

Millionnaya Ul. Close to Field of Mars. Total area: 160 sq.m. Newly renovated to Western standards, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, has a secure entrance from the courtyard with concierge and parking. 150,000 rub/month. For details contact Olga. Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

10 Karpovka River New elite building by M. Petrogradskaya. Stylish, fully furnished, well-equipped. 4th floor. Total area: 100 sq.m. Two bedrooms, kitchen-dining room (41 sq.m.), two bathrooms, balcony and loggia with a nice view. Underground parking. 80,000 rub/month. Tel.: +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com

1 Fontanka River Inside Mikhailovskiy Garden and near Summer Garden. Total area: 167 sq.m. Two bedrooms, sitting room (55 sq.m.), kitchen and two bathrooms. Balcony. Magnificent view of Mikhailovskiy castle and greenery. Fully furnished and equipped. Parking place in a garage. Tel.: +7-921-957-07-63, +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com



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22-24 Nevsky Pr. Quiet and comfortable. Top 6th floor (lift). Total area: 114 sq.m. Two bedrooms, kitchen-sitting room, two bathrooms. Wonderful view: windows overlook greenery and church. Renovated staircase. Secure entrance from pedestrian precinct. Parking available. 80,000 rub/month. Tel.: +7-921-957-07-63, +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com

25 Fontanka River Splendid view of Fontanka river and Anichkov bridge. 4th floor (lift). Total area: 120 sq.m. Two bedrooms (14+14 sq.m.), sitting room (42 sq.m.), hall, kitchen (14 sq.m.) and three bathrooms. Balcony. Fully furnished and equipped. Very beautiful staircase. Entrance from the embankment. Concierge. Guarded parking. Tel.: +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com

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64 Moika River Newly renovated, spacious, modern. Total area: 230 sq.m. European standard, two bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, parking, concierge. For details contact Olga. Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

Moika River. Close to Nevsky Pr. Total area: 100 sq.m. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious living room with open fireplace, modern-style, very light. Great view of water. Renovated entrance, parking in the closed courtyard. Photos available. Tel.: +7-921-937-75-33 Konstantin / "K-KESKUS".

55 Fontanka River Light and spacious. 5-min. walk to Nevsky Prospect. 5th floor (lift). Wonderful view of Fontanka river. Total area: 120 sq.m. Two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen-dining room (30 sq.m.) and two bathrooms. Furnished and well-equipped. Secure entrance. Parking in a locked courtyard. 80,000 rubles per month. Tel.: +7-921-957-0763, +7-921-992-1522, 325-3838, NEVSKYPROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com

5-ROOM APARTMENT

4 Millionnaya Ul. 2nd floor. Freshly renovated. Well-furnished and equipped. Total area: 127 sq.m. Three bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen-dining room, laundry-room and two bathrooms. Guarded parking in the courtyard. 150,000 rub/month. Tel.: +7-921-903-20-34, +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com

6-ROOM APARTMENT

64 Moika River Close to St. Isaac's Square. 230 sqm. Just after renovation. 4 bedrooms, spacious living room (50 sq.m.), 3 full bathrooms. Stylish and elegant, furnished, equipped. Secured front door from embankment, parking in the courtyard. Tel.: +7-921-937-75-33, e-mail: k-keskus@mail.ru Irina / "K-KESKUS".

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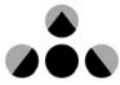
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A solitary fisherman sits on the frozen River Neva, while in the background, a man walks across the river toward the Peter and Paul Fortress. Walking on the ice is not safe or encouraged.



ALEXANDER AKSAKOV / SPT

Nursery school children dressed in reflective clothing for road safety issues play in the garden on Ploshchad Iskusstv, where their nursery school is located.



ALEXANDER BELENKY / SPT

President Dmitry Medvedev meets with King Juan Carlos of Spain on the first day of the king's visit to St. Petersburg last Friday.



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Finnish veteran Esko Sarkinen (l) and his Russian counterpart Nikolai Grachev meet at the opening of an exhibition devoted to the Winter War titled 'Veterans. What is War Like?' at the Anna Akhmatova Museum on Monday.

Military cadets march past a poster erroneously depicting a Chinese fighter jet alongside Russian artillery on the Defenders of the Fatherland Day public holiday on Feb. 23.



ALEXANDER BELENKY / SPT