

# Measles cases hit spring break spot; Crickets: A study aid?

**Want a small pet? Here's one that's sure to drive your roommate crazy**

Saginaw, Mich. (CPS) — Need some luck during finals week?

No problem—buy a cricket.

J'Aimee Products has just introduced its "Little Chirper" cricket cage — complete with cricket food, feeding dishes, grass carpeting and an "informative booklet that includes a sex chart to assist in identifying the sex of your pet cricket."

The company quotes Charles Dickens: "To have a cricket on the hearth is the luckiest thing in all the world."

To have a cricket in a dorm room works just as well, they say—and some might argue that the cricket's chirping may work better than caffeine or

over-the-counter "stay awake" drugs for those who need to pull an all-nighter.

The cages cost less than \$10 and crickets cost about 10 cents at most pet stores.

## Corpus Christi spot hit by measles

Corpus Christi, Texas (CPS) — Texas health officials are urging students planning to arrive in Corpus Christi for spring break to get vaccinated for measles before they arrive.

Since January, the Corpus Christi-Nueces County Public Health Department has confirmed 191 measles cases.

Meanwhile, 150,000 students are expected to hit the Gulf Coast beaches in the next few weeks.

Officials recommend all

students coming to the area to be vaccinated immediately since it takes two weeks for the vaccine to take effect.

## Council of Independent Colleges proposes faculty exchange

Washington, (CPS) — The Council of Independent Colleges has announced a new grant-funded program that it says will help both build new relationships between historically black and predominantly white schools and promote multicultural education.

The grant program involves pairing two schools and exchanging faculty and administrators. The exchange program is part of the council's Enhancing Black College Leadership



program. More than \$100,000 in grant money was awarded for exchanges in February.

"We think that the format of our exchanges — of pairing one institution with one other institution — can really make a difference in new cooperative programs and idea sharing," Council President Allen P. Splete said.

"We will consider the pro-

gram a success by the contribution it makes, however modest, to better multicultural understanding."

A total of 18 grants will be awarded in areas from biology to dance. The approved exchanges involve schools in North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Texas and Iowa.

# Russian folksters grace campus with groovy style

by Karen Splawn

The thaw in relations between what was the Soviet Union and the United States seemed to melt even faster when Russian group Limpopo played on the Valerie Pida Plaza Thursday.

Comprised of four men, the group charmed students and faculty alike, not with electric guitars or synthesizers, but instead by playing acoustic guitars, a bass, balalykas (Russian string instruments) and a slide trombone.

Limpopo, who live in Venice, Calif., played a mix of songs from their homeland, along with slightly warped versions of "Twist and Shout" and "Tutti Frutti."

"Now we're going to play an old Russian gypsy song," said bass player Oleg Bernov. "Although Americans claim it as an old American gypsy song, it's Cuban-Chinese, okay?"

The song turned out to be "Those Were the Days," sung in Russian.

"Russians are capitalists, so we accept donations," Bernov

said, pointing to an open guitar case, which wasn't full of rubles.

Igor Yuzov, who plays acoustic guitars and jingle bells, said the band grew up listening to the Beatles and Rolling Stones.

However, "You grow up listening to Russian folk music. It's in your spirit, just as Texans like country," said Yuri Fedorko, who plays accordion and does some fancy aerobic footwork for the crowd.

Yuzov said he likes folkie Tracy Chapman and the Stones, while Fedorko fancies Phil Collins, Peter Gabriel and "environmental music."

Fedorko and Yuzov met at Lenin Teacher's Training College. Later on, they teamed up with Bernov and Igor Khramov, slide trumpet player and the only one ever to take music lessons.

Limpopo has been in the United States for a year, where they recorded a song for a compilation album. For his part, Fedorko, a Siberia native, wants to live in Venice Beach and learn to surf.

Because of the traumatic

changes going on in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Yuzov said he probably won't return there for another year or so.

"I support the changes, but they are really tough," he added. "There is real chaos."

Russian leader Boris Yeltsen reminds Yuzov of a czar (Yuzov prefers former president Mikhail Gorbachev). Those in charge now, he said, "were former communists, but they just changed their faces."

No matter how difficult the situation is though, Yuzov said he never wants to see a return of the old, stifling Soviet society. "There is a new spirit of freedom," he explained. "Before, you were afraid to talk."

Surprisingly enough, Yuzov said, it's American college students, and not Russians, who work harder in school. "We (had) an image of Americans partying all the time, but when we came here, (we discovered) it's kind of quiet," he said.

"To me, maybe it's a mistake, but people are the same," Fedorko said.



photo by Rob Weidenfeld

Yuri Fedorko, who specializes in accordion and aerobics for the Russian group Limpopo, performed at Pida Plaza Thursday.

## The Rebel Yell

The Rebel Yell is the student newspaper of UNLV. It is published by Nifty Nickel, Inc. every Tuesday and Thursday during the school year except holidays.

Opinions expressed within these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the UNLV student body or faculty.

Comments, questions, complaints or letters to the editor may be sent to: The Rebel Yell - STS, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas NV 89154; or delivered to The Rebel Yell offices in Room 302 of the Moyer Student Union (third floor). Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words. The Rebel Yell reserves the right to edit all submissions as necessary.

The Rebel Yell Offices: (702) 739-3478, 3479 and 3878.  
Display Advertising: 739-3889.

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