

Thanks to RJR Nabisco, Inc.

Teacher Witnesses What Russian Life Is Like

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — "Everyone in this country is always saying 'We've got to be as good as the Russians. We've got to be as good as the Russians.' So I've always wondered: Are the Russians really that great?"

The woman asking the question is Bobby Robinson, a social studies teacher at Carver High School.

This month, Robinson is getting the chance to witness first-hand what Russian life has to offer — thanks to a grant from RJR Nabisco, Inc.

Robinson is one of 15 teachers selected to participate in this year's RJR Nabisco Fellowship Program, which annually provides \$30,000 for teachers in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools to participate in professional development programs during the summer months. This is the 28th consecutive year the company has sponsored the program.

Robinson's trip to the Soviet Union, arranged through the Soviet-American Conference on Comparative Education, is something she has yearned to do since she read a book about the Russian revolution while in graduate school.

"I'm very excited," Robinson says. "I'll be going to several places. Moscow, of course. And I'll be going to Leningrad, and a province in Lithuania — a small city called Vilnius."

She'll also be spending a few days in Kishinev, the



WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Bobby Robinson, a social studies teacher at Carver High School, is one of 15 Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school teachers who are participating in special educational programs this summer thanks to a \$30,000 annual fellowship awarded to the school system by RJR Nabisco, Inc. Robinson's share of the fellowship money is taking her to the Soviet Union to study Russian art, architecture and culture.

capital city of the Moldavian Republic in southwestern Russia.

"I'm going to visit a collective farm and attend one of the Russian ballets," she says. "One of the things they're really into is folk art, so I'll have two days to look at folk art and its influence on Russian culture."

"She'll also get the chance to indulge one of her passions — visiting medieval castles.

"I'm really interested in that part, because in 1975 I had a Reynolds fellowship and I spent six weeks in Europe. Now I'm interested in seeing how the castles in a communist country compare to those I saw in Europe.

"I'm really into architecture," she notes. "I think architecture tells a lot about culture."

When she returns to school in the fall, Robinson intends to treat her students and colleagues to an old back-to-school theme — but with a new twist. This time it will be the teacher telling, "How I Spent My Summer Vacation."

She should have a lot to tell.

"Another thing that we'll be doing that seems interesting is seeing an exhibit of economic and scientific achievement — sort of like a Russian world's fair," she says. "That's in Moscow.

NAACP

From Page 5

footholds gained by many blacks in the fields of public relations, community relations and personnel jobs are dwindling, sending a disproportionate number of blacks scrambling for the few positions, some have managed to break through a maze of middle management jobs into fundamental line positions at major corporations. While no one knows exactly how many blacks have gained leading positions in both public and private corporations in this climate, their success might suggest ways to avoid "the falling ax."

Those who have managed to capture line positions say their success stems largely from fundamental career paths, often started more than 20 years ago in some instances.

"Those who have positioned themselves in sales, marketing, strategic planning and other jobs where profits and loss responsibilities are part of

their jobs, can survive if they are creative and understand the rules of the corporation they work for," said Johnson. "Anyone else is considered excess baggage."

Among those interviewed by *Crisis*, some "made it" with private corporations, even without college degrees while others have advanced degrees and are still fine tuning excellent educations. While superior educations may play a role in entry level jobs, it doesn't appear to be a factor in high-level management where experience and traceable track record translate into promotions and new responsibilities.

And despite a pre-occupation some corporate players have with internal politics, it, too, doesn't appear to weigh heavily in promoting executives into leadership positions, some executives said.

Each agreed that line jobs where you are either involved in manufacturing, finance or sales are essential but not necessarily the only factors. While a number of blacks who have lost their jobs in recent years were employed

in personnel jobs, for example, "there are key positions in personnel which are vital," Johnson said. "If you're outside of those areas, you're just a sideline player, support staff."

It's hard to come from public relations or personnel and rise to the head of a company," said one man who has held several senior positions with major appliance corporations. "There are no CEO's who climbed up to lead any company that I know of who started in personnel and stayed on that track for long," he said. He did not want to be fully identified.

As one executive from Los Angeles said, "The bottom line is still the bottom line. This is what corporations are concerned with and what ultimately counts in business," he said.

"If your job can't be measured, you are expendable. It really has nothing to do with race. If you believe you aren't being promoted merely because of race — and that does happen — you're working for the wrong corporation anyway. Move on."

CHURCH

From Page 6

There will be a Birthday Banquet for the Rev. A.J. Thompson Saturday, July 25, at 6:00 p.m. in the Zion Methodist Dining Hall, 2108 Revere Street. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4 for children. For more information, call Mamie Lewis at 647-6982 after 5:00 p.m. Rev. A.J. Thompson is the pastor of the Zion Temple Baptist Church, 2180 Revere Street.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churches are urged to send their services and program announcements, typewritten, to the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Church Reporter, Mary Wilson, at 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104. Articles must be mailed or delivered to the above location no later than Monday noon of each week.

"The Russians like to parade their achievements, and I'm interested in seeing what they will consider their greatest achievement in science."

Robinson says she's thankful for the RJR Nabisco program. "It's an excellent fellowship," she says. "It's a tremendous opportunity for the teachers in Forsyth County. Reynolds has been very generous to us, and none of the other major school systems in North Carolina have anything like it."

She adds that the program benefits teachers and students alike. She cites an example from her 1975 fellowship in Europe.

"After the trip, I had slides to show my students of the places, and I could talk to them better because I had been there," she says.

"Students feel more in tune when you say, 'We're going to talk about Rome, but let me show you what Rome was like in '75,'" she adds. "I still use those slides. Then we look at the Roman Empire 2,000 years ago.

See TEACHER, Page 11

BA HA'I

877-0377

Petals of McRoy



Petals of McRoy

Your Full Service Flower Shop

Weddings, Parties, Etc.

Fresh Flowers

Silks

Plants

Trees

Wedding Rentals

Arch & Baskets

Owner: Freddie McRoy

Manager: JoAnn Johnson

1020 West Owens L.V. Nev. 89102

Phone 702-647-1087