

THE PRAGUE POST

The Prague Post, February 6, page A2

'New political asylum law aims to stem abuse'

Before reading:

What is a refugee? What countries do they usually come from? Why do they usually leave their home-country? What are they expecting in the countries they are travelling to? Have you ever seen a refugee camp?

Do you think that it is easy to get refugee status?

Does the Czech Republic welcome foreigners who want to work here? Do you know what formalities they have to go through?

Questions after reading:

1. When did the new asylum law take effect? Why did the government change it?
2. What is new about this law? Compare the new and old asylum laws. (use information from the whole article)
3. Why were the changes necessary, according to the government?
4. What do the critics of the law say about it? (use information from the whole article)
5. How many people applied for asylum in 1998 and in 2001?
6. Who made up a majority of asylum seekers?
7. How many actually obtained refugee status last year?
8. How is state financial aid limited?
9. How many times can the claimants apply for asylum?
10. What are the ministry's expectations?

Vocabulary:

to overhaul – opravit, předělat
to curb – omezit, kontrolovat, udržovat
v mezích
abuse – zneužití
to streamline – upravit, zjednodušit
claimant – žadatel, uchazeč o (to)
to quadruple – znásobit se čtyřmi
amendment – pozměňovací návrh,
 doplněk zákona (zlepšení, oprava)
bid – ucházení se, úsilí
merits – práv. skutková podstata

The Prague Post, February 13, page A1

'Olympic hockey fever to burn late'

Before reading:

What is the biggest sport event taking place these days? Where is it? Did you see the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games? Describe it to classmates who did not see it.

What is the mission of the Olympic Games? Find information about its history.

What is your favorite winter sport? Is your sport included in the Olympic Games? Do you watch it on television? Who are your favorites? Are you an ardent fan? What do you do when you cheer?

What have been the biggest Czech sport successes so far?



Questions after reading:

1. Is Ms. Hronová a big hockey fan? What about her husband?
2. How did the Czechs cheer on the Czech hockey team four years ago?
3. What problems are the Czech fans facing watching this year's Olympics on television?
4. How is Mr. Hehl going to watch the tournaments? What does he think about Czech self-esteem?
5. What does Mr. Grulich think about Czech ice-hockey?

Vocabulary:

ardent – nadšen, vášniv
to be pumped up – bít nadšen
to rib – utahovat si (z), dělat si šoufky (z)
banter – škádlení, žertování
bleary-eyed – mající kalné (uslzené) oči
pinnacle – vrchol, vrcholek
pal – hovor, kamarád, kolega
nail-biter – kousání nehtů (nervózní)

Activity:

For each lesson prepare a report from the Winter Olympic Games (results, interesting moments, controversies, etc.)

The Prague Post, February 13, page B6

'Music from the heart'

Before reading:

Do you like classical music? Do you play any musical instruments? Who is your favorite classical music composer? What do you know about Antonín Dvořák?

When do you listen to music? What feelings do you have when listening to music? Think about words that describe music. Describe your feelings and the images in your mind when listening to music.

Questions after reading:

1. What program did the Manhattan String Quartet begin?
2. What is the purpose of their workshops?
3. Who are the participants?
4. What does Mr. Lewis say about the MSQ's mission?
5. Say more about MSQ's other activities and performances.
6. Describe the way some of the musicians behave.
7. Describe the "network" of amateur musicians.

Vocabulary:

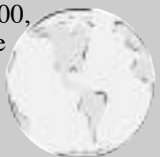
to coach – připravovat, školit
slew – moře, fůra, spousta
accolade – pocta, chvála
to cajole – přemluvit, přimět
to prod – pobízet
to sway – kolébat
rapture – vytržení, extáze
startling – překvapiv
to soar – vznášet se
to tackle – pustit se do

Activity:

Listen to music you like and draw your feelings on paper. Then listen to music you do not like and draw your feelings again.

ESSAY CONTEST: WORLD CITIZENSHIP

Send your essay (min 500, max 700 words) to the address of the Prague Post Endowment Fund: (Štěpánská 20, 110 00 Praha 1) by April 1, 2002. The best essay will be awarded a prize - a Sony CD walkman!



LESSON PLAN: Thinking about globalization

What is "globalization"?

The Encarta Encyclopedia defines globalization as: "Globalization, integration and democratization of the world's culture, economy, and infrastructure through transnational investment, rapid proliferation of communication and information technologies, and the impacts of free-market forces on local, regional and national economies."

Do you agree with this definition? Why? Why not?

Globalization was not an issue 300 years ago. Why is it an issue now? When did the process of globalization begin? Is it a new thing?

Think back through history. Do you agree with the two pieces of information, written below?

Many years ago people lived in tribes. Then they started living in villages and towns. Later it was cities and then states. People are living in bigger and bigger communities.

Globalization began during the era of colonization (19th century) when major European powers began to setting up colonies all over the world. Places like Africa, India, Canada and Australia became the property of European nations, thereby bringing their ideas, beliefs and way of living to new people and places. This colonization was usually forced.

One One of the effects of globalization is that the world is getting smaller. Obviously the world isn't getting physically smaller, so what does the above statement mean? How is the world getting smaller? **Think about the development of industry (the industrial revolution), communication, transportation, etc. How have these things changed over the past 300 years? What effects have these developments produced?** Look at the pictures on this page (both from: The Promise of World Peace, Centre for Integrative Studies).

Think about what Globalization means. What issues are involved in the debate over globalization?

Is it about wealthy countries versus poorer countries? Is it about who has access to health care and food? Is it about issues like poverty, armed conflicts or wars, trade and business, employment opportunities technology and the environment?

Is it responsibility for our planet?

In groups discuss the positive and negative aspects of globalization.



World in:



1950's 1960's 1980's



Shrinking of our planet by man's increased travel and communication speeds around the globe

Make a list of several of the world's problems. What are the reasons for them? Discuss them in class.

Did you have "injustice" and "disunity of people and nations" on your list? Think about what is just for people, nations and countries of the world. Do all people, nations and countries have the same opportunities, responsibilities and rights? If no, then what are the reasons behind this imbalance? Can you think of any solutions? What is the reason for this injustice, inequality and disunity? Can justice and unity be achieved? How?

Who is responsible for the state of the world? Is it politicians? Is it all people? Is it you?

Choose one person (a politician, an ecologist, a scientist, etc.) and decide whether he/she thinks and plans for the short-term or the long-term future. Does he/she consider sustainable development and the fact that the future generations also want to live on a healthy planet in peace?

In what situations do we hear the term "globalization?" Who is using the term? Are they talking about it in a positive or negative way?

The term globalization is used frequently during the meetings of The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). **Find out what the main activities of these organizations are? What is their mission? Why are people protesting against these organizations and those like them? Find out more about anti-globalization groups. What are their complaints and what are their solutions?**

Compare both sides of the argument

We often hear that it is essential that people change their way of thinking. Do you think this is true? If so, how does humanity need to change its way of thinking? **What or who could change people's minds?** Could it be political leaders, celebrities, spirituality, materialism, religion, ecologists, moral principles?

Think about the money that is spent by governments worldwide. What is the majority of money spent on? Is it the environment, education, health and social care, military, protection of human rights, development of renewable energy, global protection?

Find out how much money is spent on each of the above mentioned points. Do you think that it is divided justly? Would you change anything if you could?

"There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew." – Marshall McLuhan

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." – Bahá'u'lláh



STORY TIME: The Wheedle on the Needle

The following story is related to problems of sprawl, overpopulation and noise pollution. What do you think about these problems? Discuss them in class.

In the last issue of *Newspapers in Education* you read about life in the U.S.A. and about a weird creature called the Sasquatch. Here is a story about its baby:

Wheedle was a fat, happy creature who lived in the Northwest before any people had arrived. But one day, a ship full of men landed and started clearing the woods and building the city of Seattle. The problem for the Wheedle was that as they worked, they whistled, and whistling noises hurt the Wheedle's ears. He couldn't get any sleep and started becoming irritable.

He tried stealing the men's tools, he tried scaring them away, but nothing worked. Finally, he decided he would have to move away from the bay so that he wouldn't hear the people whistling anymore. He finally settled on the top of Mt. Rainier, since he couldn't hear anybody whistling from there. He fell asleep,

and slept so soundly that his big red nose blinked on and off.

He slept for many years, until one day he suddenly awoke to discover that the human population has increased and they had built practically right up to the edge of the mountain. And he could now hear them whistling again.

After some grumbling, the Wheedle got an idea. He found a very large sack, and from the top of the mountain, reached up and filled it with as many clouds as it could hold. He then went back to the source of all the noise - Seattle. The Wheedle climbed to the top of the Space Needle, pulled the clouds out of his bag, and threw them into the sky so that it would rain all around the Needle. With their lips wet from all the rain, the people couldn't whistle and the Wheedle had some peace and quiet again.

The people of Seattle weren't too happy about this, so the mayor went to the top of the Space Needle to see if he could get the Wheedle to stop the rain. The Wheedle explained his problem, and the mayor

came up with an idea. He gathered all the sail makers in Seattle together and they sewed together a giant pair of earmuffs, which the mayor presented to the Wheedle the next day. "The Wheedle placed them over his ears, and smiled for the first time in years." In appreciation, the Wheedle gathered up all the clouds, put them back in his bag, and fell fast asleep - and once again, his big red nose began to blink.

There's a Wheedle
On the Needle
I know just what
You're thinking
But if you look up
Late at night
You'll see
His red nose blinking



(Adapted from 'Serendipity Books' by Stephen Cosgrove)

Vocabulary:

sprawl – rozťahování, růst měst

to whistle – pískat

to grumble – reptat, bručet

earmuffs – klapky na uši

WHAT'S LIFE LIKE IN the U.S.A.? (Part 2)

In 2001, *Dáša Pikhartová* from Prague spent a semester studying at University of New Orleans in Louisiana. Afterward, she spent the summer working for the National Park Service at North Cascades National Park in Washington State.

What are the main differences you noticed between studying in the U.S.A. and in the Czech Republic?

The main difference is that I was in the masters program there and there were fewer people in the program, so it was easier to get to know all the people. Also, we had about 90 pages of materials to read - each week, and that is different from in the Czech Republic. Here you get the literature and you have to read it for yourself and no one is really interested whether you've gotten through each week, in each class. But in the US, we discussed each lesson and the lesson was quite long. It was once a week for three hours and we discussed the reading each class.

Also, there were a lot of international students. We had a student from Japan and there were two Czech students, including myself, an Austrian student and a Turkish student. A lot of my colleagues were much older than me -- in their 40's or 50's -- so that was really different too.

I took one class in the bachelor's program and it was really easy, I have to say. I think there is a big difference between the level of the bachelor's program and the master's program.

Other than academics, what differences did you notice between university life in the U.S.A. and in the Czech Republic?

Um, well the main difference is that our university in the Czech Republic doesn't have a campus. In the US, we lived on campus but in the Czech Republic, the buildings are scattered around. The good thing in the US is that you can take courses in different fields. You have to get credits in arts and sciences and that's what we don't have in the Czech Republic. I think it's a good thing to study different courses because you meet more people and you're not so focused from the beginning. You just get to learn a lot more, I'd say, in a way, because you don't specialize from the very beginning, which is a good thing.

What about food in America?

That's a good question. I got a scholarship and it included room and board and a meal card. I didn't get the money so I couldn't cook for myself. I had a meal card so I was totally dependent on the local cafeteria. I got pretty used to American food. I only had a hamburger once during the whole semester but usually ate stuff like fried chicken and beans with butter and a lot of it was really greasy but really good and the portions were so huge. You just get used to it. If you only have the meal card, what can you do? I also got used to eating pancakes every morning. At first I started with one pancake and just a drop of syrup and I thought it was too sweet and I couldn't eat anymore. By the end of the semester, I ate three pancakes every morning with lots of syrup. I got spoiled, totally spoiled. I liked the food. I really liked it.

Is it true that Americans are fat?

No, I don't think so. No, it's not true; it's not true because the Americans that you

meet over here are not. But I think it might be a special sort of Americans because those that decide to travel just can't be too fat because they wouldn't fit in the seats on the plane. Americans that I met in Washington State were a special sort of people. I worked for the park service and everyone there had to walk a lot.

But in Louisiana, even though I put on some weight, I was still relatively slim.



Space Needle, Seattle

CZENGLISH? NO!

Do/Make

Decide if the following words match with "to do" or "to make":

- a mistake
- homework
- noise
- tea
- ones hair
- an announcement
- excuse
- a comment
- the shopping
- money

Correct answers:

- to make a mistake
- to do homework
- to make noise
- to make tea
- to do ones hair
- to make an announcement
- to make an excuse
- to make a comment
- to do the shopping
- to make money

TECHNOLOGY AND TELEVISION

It seems that these days you can get just about anything on television. With things like cable and satellite, the world continues to get smaller as people have increased access to information. In many places in the world, things like cable and satellite television have become the standard for most households. Many people have access to 70 different channels, carrying programming that is as diverse as the people watching it. In some cases, people who subscribe to satellite television have as many as 1000 stations to choose from. Few of these people can complain that there is nothing to watch on TV.

When there is this much choice, competition is fierce between networks. Everyone wants to have the best show on TV, so that they can have the most viewers on a given night. Advertisers pay huge amounts of money to have their ads shown during these TV shows, so the television producers do their best to ensure that their shows are worthy of being watched. Because of this, sometimes, there is a lot of good television on at the same time. In the past, people had to choose between shows, but now electronics developers have found a way to solve the problem of choice. The solution is called the Digital Video Recorder.

The Digital Video Recorder (DVR) is an integrated satellite receiver and recording device that allows consumers to program and record all content that the satellite provider airs. The DVR stores content in two different ways. The recorder can store up to 30 hours of digital programming on its 40 gigabyte hard drive. It also has something called a "soft buffer", which stores up to an hour worth of television. The buffer records what the viewer is currently watching and allows the viewer to pause and instantly replay sections of live programs. This means you could pause a program to answer the phone or get a snack. The DVR can also be programmed to skip commercials.

Another system that has been developed for television viewers is called Replay TV. ReplayTV is the first networked Digital Video Recorder. This system is connected to both a satellite television system and Internet based home computer network. With ReplayTV you can also pause, replay and skip commercials, and you can play live television in slow motion. Since the system is connected to a computer, viewers can use almost any kind of digital media on their television. If you have digital photos you can you arrange a digital slide show on your TV. There is also an incredible amount of storage on this machine. It is offered in models 40, 80, 160 or 320 hours of storage. In essence, you could tape your favorite series every time it is on and not have to

delete it. This system also works with Macintosh computers.

This all sounds very exciting, but there are some legal issues involved. Last November, the company that produces ReplayTV, SonicBlue, was hit with three separate lawsuits from movie studios, television networks and media conglomerates. Each suit argues that Replay TV negates the advertising market that the media companies rely on. It also enables people to share films and television shows illegally.



Video cassette recorders tape programs and people who use them to record television programs are forced to either watch or fast-forward through commercials. With ReplayTV, the system doesn't actually capture the commercials so consumers can choose to never have to deal with them. The system also comes with a file-sharing feature, which allows people to share recorded shows with 15 friends who also have the ReplayTV system. Industry experts predict that the number of American households with DVR systems will grow from 800,000 to 42 million by 2006.

It seems, however, that the fears of the multimedia conglomerates are slightly unfounded. TiVo, an American DVR provider has discovered that the most often repeated items are actually commercials, not the selected moments of the programs. In a study done during the American Football Finals (The Superbowl), TiVo monitored 10,000 of its 28,000 subscribers, and discovered that while the instant replay feature was used 44 times on average per household, the most replayed events were not plays made during the game, but instead the very expensive ads shown during breaks in play. The new Pepsi ads featuring Britney Spears were the most frequently replayed items.

Exercise 1

If you were in control of television programming, what kinds of shows would you have on the air? Do these shows exist now? Are they Czech shows or foreign shows?

Think of an idea for a television show. Who would the principle actors be? What kind of show would it be? A drama? Action? Science Fiction? Plan the story line for the first episode? What network would carry it?

Exercise 2

Imagine that you are an advertising executive. Choose a product that you use or encounter every day. Think of an advertising campaign. Who is your target audience? What characteristics of the product will you use to sell it? Imagine the television commercials for your product. Will they be clever or serious? What character-

istics will your ad share with your favorite commercials?

Vocabulary:

buffer – nárazník
networked – síťov
conglomerate – složen
to negate – popírat

SPUSA CONTEST

The Society of Friends of the U.S.A. (SPUSA) is a non-profit organization, organizing a following contest:

The topic is "THE STRANGER". You can choose to write an essay, short story, film script, etc. Entries will be judged on originality and quality of thought, rather than on grammatical perfection.

Contest Rules:

All entries must be written in English on a typewriter or computer and must relate to the topic "The Stranger". The expected length is 300 words for elementary school, 500 for secondary school, and 600 for university-level students. Each entry must include the following information: the contestant's name, date of birth, address, telephone number and school. We also ask you to tell us where you heard about the Writing Contest.

All entries must be sent to SPUSA Education Center, Rytířská 10, Praha 1, and postmarked no later than March 15, 2002. Info on 02/2421 0813, spusa@mbox.vol.cz

Prizes: two month-long English courses in Great Britain, two places in the Prague Summer Program in Creative Writing at Charles University, books, walkmans, etc.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



International School of Prague

SONY

KPMG

Coca-Cola



SHIC SKINN

AVX



COPY GENERAL