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NEWS

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gidlund
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AN IRON CURTAIN COUNTRY RESIDENT LOOKS AT THE TREASURE STATE

"Montana is sprawling and beautiful, but not 'bigger than life' as Hollywood movies would have one believe," says Nado Ostijic, the University of Montana's first student from behind the Iron Curtain.

Ostijic, a 25-year old graduate assistant in chemistry from Yugoslavia, says the United States might be the victim of too great an effort by movie makers.

He was disappointed with the Rocky Mountains when he flew over them on his way to Missoula last September. "From the pictures I had seen at home, I thought they were much bigger than the Alps. They're pretty, but they're just mountains."

He finds girls here different from Yugoslav women. "They're really not too concerned about their dress here in Montana. But perhaps I've been spoiled by the women in Zagreb where they are 'chic' and quite fashion conscious."

He has found one American woman whom he does not regard as "typical", however. He has been dating Ruth Ward, a UM junior from Missoula majoring in anthropology. "I'm amazed," says Ostijic, "to find how much we have in common despite our countries' different traditions and culture and the different environments under which we were raised."

Ostijic is impressed by the warmth and friendliness of most Americans he has met, especially his host family, Rev. and Mrs. W.C. Hassler of Missoula. He has been accepted very well, he says, and has made friends with many Americans as well as other foreign students.

Missoula residents are especially friendly, according to Ostijic, but he wonders if this is characteristic of small town residents and a product of "western hospitality" or typical of all Americans. He is frank to admit that his first-hand knowledge of

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the United States is limited, for he spent only one day in the country before flying to Missoula.

Ostijic hopes to increase his knowledge of this country, however, and is looking for a job that he can work during part of next summer to finance a sight-seeing trip before school resumes in the fall.

He is paying for his own education by working as a teaching assistant in chemistry at the University; instructing two freshman classes a week. For this he is paid \$200 a month. Most of the money, he says, is used for tuition, books and living expenses.

He would like to earn enough money to buy an automobile, for he finds the lack of public transportation in Missoula a hindrance to exploration and dating. It's also difficult to get to the ski slopes to practice his favorite sport.

"I found it very strange the first few days," says Ostijic. "When I go walking in Missoula, I sometimes find I'm the only one on the street. Back home we see a normal amount of cars passing, but also a lot of pedestrians. Here there are none."

He arrived in Missoula with \$30 since his government allowed him to take only \$100 when he left. A three-week trip on a semi-cargo ship and a one-day stay in New York took the balance. Fortunately, Ostijic says, he paid for his transportation before he left home and the University Financial Aid office advanced him enough money to "settle in" at UM.

Ostijic came to the Missoula campus in response to an advertisement in the "Chemical Engineering News." He intends to complete at UM his studies for a Master of Science in chemistry, then he will spend some time traveling through the United States and Canada before choosing a school where he will study for a Ph.D.

Contrasting student life in Yugoslavia and the United States, Ostijic says the most striking difference is that in Yugoslavia a student is not as "controlled" by tests and papers. Yugoslav college students are, for the most part, on their own and competence in a field of study is largely an individual matter.

He finds the situation quite different at UM, where the more regimented programs are definitely advantageous to a "lazy" student, as he describes himself. However,

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he thinks the level of performance is about the same for Yugoslav and American students.

Ostijic is pleased that he chose to attend the University of Montana, for he believes it easier to adjust to a new school and a new country in a small town. He corresponds with a countryman attending school in Seattle and Ostijic believes that a larger city offers a student too many distractions.

His plans?

They are much like the plans of any young man of 25. He relishes his freedom to travel, to meet people and to learn, and Ostijic intends to take full advantage of his opportunities.

He dreams of wandering until he is in his forties before settling down to teaching in Yugoslavia. It is only through meeting people of all nationalities, and working, and gathering experience, he says, that a man can be an effective professor.

Nado Ostijic intends to be one.