

Panel discusses Russia

By Jackie Gubeno

The Miami Student

Miami University will host a prestigious panel of experts and a two-day working symposium on the Russian environment this weekend.

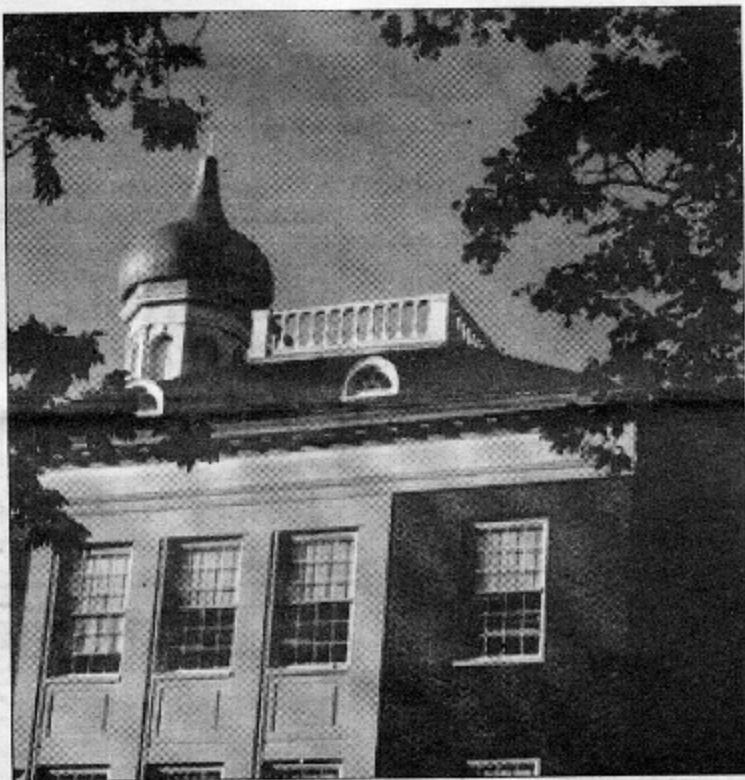
Collaboratively sponsored by the Institute of Environmental Sciences (IES), the Department of Geography, the Department of International Studies, and the

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HAVIGHURST
POST-DOCTORAL
FELLOW**

Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, the event will revolve around active discussion of the ecological issues currently facing the former U.S. rival.

According to Gene Willeke, director of IES and one of the symposium's organizers, scheduled topics include nuclear waste storage, deforestation,



JEFF BLATNIK/The Miami Student

Harrison Hall takes on the look of the Kremlin as Miami hosts a symposium to address ecological issues faces by modern Russia. Some topics that will be addressed include storage of nuclear waste and deforestation.

water resources and protection of wildlife preserves.

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of interest in its natural resources,” said Havighurst Post-Doctoral Fellow Susan

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Crate, who has been traveling to Russia since 1987. She said that many of Russia's resources are in danger of abuse, including their natural ports, mineral deposits, timber and oil. Furthermore, the land itself is in jeopardy, as other industrialized nations look to exploit Russia's vast terrain as repositories for spent nuclear waste.

According to Crate, the symposium will also discuss environmental security, a two-pronged concept regarding the maintenance of a healthy, sustainable environment while dealing with complex nuclear safety issues.

Crate will not only attend the symposium, but she will be involved in its development of an "American University Agenda," a look at what the American academic community can do about these problems.

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According to Willeke, a number of renowned environmental specialists will give keynote addresses, including Greenpeace Russia's Alexsei Yaroshenko, an expert on the condition of Russian forests. Also, the president of Ecojuris, an organization that deals with the implementation of environmental legislation, Vera Mischenko, will speak, among other "top people in Russia."

While the symposium, which is funded by the Havighurst Center, will focus on issues facing Russia particularly, Willeke said that they are "applicable to the entire developing world."

Crate agreed that the sympo-

sium gives Miami a good opportunity to exchange ideas on the international level.

"You discover a common humanness through international exchange," she said. "People just like us are facing issues just like we are."

Participation is free to Miami students and faculty, who are encouraged to attend.

The symposium opened at 9 a.m. today at the Shriver Center. In addition to keynote addresses, contributed papers addressing the issues will be presented and discussed. The event is scheduled to conclude around 5 p.m. Saturday.