

# Peak Out on Media-MOST Raid

ly linked, in the eyes of the community, with attempts to the traditions of agitprop and sorship. We propose to the at he consider the opinion of stic community in forming inet.

ess a vote of "no confi- ne acting Prosecutor Gen- ur Ustinov, who is not en- bservance of law in Russia, st in his toleration of many f freedom of information. to members of the Federa- l that his candidacy not be should it be put forward by t of the Russian Federation. nouncement has been niously at a meeting of the of the Russian Union of on May 12, 2000.

stafaya Arifdzhanov,

bertovna Aslamazyan, s agency

Vladimir Nikolayevich Sungorkin,  
Komsomolskaya Pravda  
Yulian Stanislavovich Lukasik,  
Megapolis-kontinent  
Viktor Grigoryevich Loshak,  
Moskovskiy Novosti  
Anatoly Grigoryevich Lysenko,  
Roskniga  
Igor Yevgenyevich Malashenko,  
Media-MOST  
Gennady Petrovich Maltsev,  
Zhurnalists magazine  
Dmitry Alexandrovich Murzin,  
Vremya MN  
Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov,  
Novaya Gazeta  
Igor Georgiyevich Kovler,  
Vyorsty  
Mikhail Fyodorovich Nenashev,  
Russkaya Kniga  
Olga Vyacheslavovna Nikulina,  
Union of Distributors of Print  
Publications  
Leonid Antonovich Rechitsky,  
RUJ

Igor Alexandrovich Yakovenko,  
RUJ  
Yegor Vladimirovich Yakovlev,  
Obshchaya Gazeta

## Obstacles to Healing

In response to "Deaf Boy Given Every-  
thing But a U.S. Visa," May 4.

Editor,

Your newspaper ran a front-page story on Kolya, a Russian boy stricken blind and deaf at the age of 2, producing a mixed bag of reactions from many of your readers, including me. On the one hand, it evoked sympathy for the boy and his family, and, on the other hand, outrage against a morally bankrupt embassy and Russia's few stingy rich.

It was disturbing to learn that, in spite of Kolya's sponsors in America, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow didn't grant him and his mother, Irina Kuznetsova, entry visas that would have enabled the boy to undergo his cochlear implant surgery in

ica by Native Americans!

What happened to Kolya is a manifestation of the growing arrogance of America today as a nation. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow only typifies and amplifies that arrogance, oblivious of the fact that mankind's history is cluttered with the ruins of great civilizations whose destruction was caused by such a vice. It was indeed this arrogance, and not the fear of their staying in the United States, that deprived Kolya an entry visa to seek quality medical care in Indiana.

But Kolya's situation was also worsened by the moral indifference of some of his own few rich compatriots who are accused of having impoverished him and 150 million other Russians through massive theft. It would have been a benevolent act if any of these scoundrels had volunteered to pay for his surgery in Indiana or here in Russia. In either St. Petersburg or Moscow, where it can also be done. Painfully, none of these notorious household names like Berezovsky, Abramovich, Chubais and others could play some sort of Robin Hood to poor little Kolya, who had to seek help in Slovakia. Kolya's case is one of several that has exposed the cold-heartedness of Russia's nouveaux riche, who, desperate to guard their ill-gotten wealth, have become insensitive to human suffering.

Emmanuel Conteh, Moscow

## Extended Family

In response to "Grateful Contributor Bids Adieu to Readers," April 28.

Editor,

Through the years, The Moscow Times has become a daily part of many living in Moscow. I was very disappointed to see Juliet Butler's last installment of "Growing Pains." It, too, has become part of my life and, I'm sure, the lives of many other readers.

The column offered a unique opportunity to look inside the life of a family with a configuration that many of us also share: one between cultures. Ms. Butler has great insight due to her many years here and has the ability to capture the essence of growing up.

In a way, we all are growing up with her kids — because we all grow and adapt to this culture. In the final analysis, the author has made her stories about her family a metaphor for this country's growing pains into adulthood. And I want to know what will happen with the kids. Bring back the *skazka*.

Jason Eskenazi, Moscow

## DEAR READERS:

Dear Editor:

Something on your mind? Write The Moscow Times a letter.

We welcome letters to the editor and we will be publishing them prominently in this space. You can send your letter to Opinion Page Editor Suzanne Thompson by e-mail to [thompson@imedia.ru](mailto:thompson@imedia.ru); by fax to (7095) 937-3393 or 937-3394; or by post to The Moscow Times, Ulitsa Pravdy, Dom 24, 125124 Moscow, Russia. (If you are writing from abroad, send it to The Moscow Times, c/o IPS, 666 5th Avenue, Suite 572, New York NY, 10103).

Write in English or Russian. Praise the government or slam the media. Write a lot or write just a little. All we ask is that you sign the letter, and tell us how we can get in touch with you to check that it's really you.

We do edit letters, mostly for spelling and grammar, to bring transliterations in line and for other nitpicky moments. In some cases we also are forced to cut letters to make them fit a space — though we try to take care not to distort or water down the writer's point.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Oleg Maximovich Poptsov,  
TV Tsentr  
Oleg Valentinovich Panfilov,  
RUJ  
Alexei Kirillovich Simonov,  
Glasnost Defense Foundation  
Leonid Yevgenyevich Chizhov,  
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Alexander Nikolayevich Chumikov,  
International Press Club  
Marat Vasilyevich Shishigin,  
Association of Book Publishers  
Alexander Yakovlevich Shkolnik,  
Small Press League  
Mikhail Alexandrovich Fedotov,  
RUJ

Indiana.

This inhumane action by the U.S. Embassy tells the depth of moral decadence into which it has sunk in recent times. It also exposes the historical amnesia from which many Americans — especially those of European descent — suffer. Many have even forgotten that their ancestors who left Europe in droves to settle in America were immigrants themselves. One wonders how U.S. Embassy officials who refused Kolya and his mother entry visas would react if their ancestors, while seeking to flee the cold, hunger and poverty in Europe, had been denied entry into Amer-



TTN



Sheraton Palace  
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The Moscow Times

The Moscow Times, TTN Professional Association (Transnational Taxation Network), Financiers Guild and the Sheraton Hotel welcome you to participate in the Financiers' Club Seminar to be held on 23-24 May 2000 at the Sheraton Palace Hotel from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. Seminar conducted in English and Russian (interpreting provided).

INTERNATIONAL TAX PLANNING AND OFFSHORE ASSETS MANAGEMENT