SOVIET LIFE

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE USSR

TRANSPOLAR ICE ODYSSEY

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SOVIET LIFE

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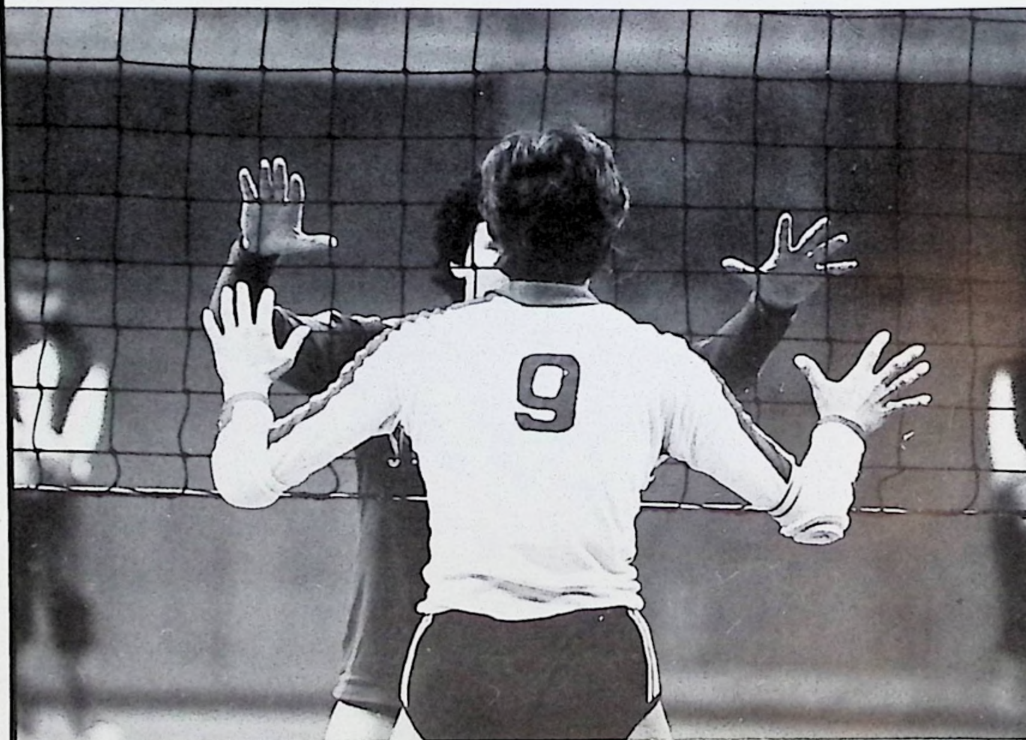

64 Award-winning photographer Igor Utkin catches those humorous moments in sports with the flick of his camera.

Front Cover: Members of the joint Soviet-Canadian polar expedition welcome an AN-74 transport plane bringing supplies of foodstuffs, medicines, newspapers and mail from well-wishers. Inset: Hello, Canada! *Photographs by Vladimir Chistyakov*

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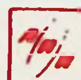

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The inclusion of "Letters to the Editor" is a welcome addition to SOVIET LIFE, and I hope that you will include articles on some of the interesting subjects suggested by the writers. I also hope you will *not* adopt the suggestions about changing your style and approach. To add an American editor/censor to glitz up the magazine or to repeat American misconceptions about the USSR to reinforce U.S. stereotypes about your country is ridiculous.

Part of these complaints stem, I think, from the different ways in which Soviets and Americans express themselves. Soviets often speak in generalizations, and Americans, with the exception of politicians, speak in specifics. I, for one, would not have you attempt to change this because learning to understand what you mean through your own mode of expression is important to our over-all understanding. The way you express yourselves is a part of your culture, and we must learn to understand you the way you are.

Furthermore, any sensible person will understand that SOVIET LIFE attempts to show Soviets as they see themselves—surely one of the values of the magazine. We already know how Americans see Soviets. We have plenty of publications printed here that tell us.

We also should expect that SOVIET LIFE will put the best light on the USSR. I assume AMERICA, SOVIET LIFE's counterpart, does the same for this country. Readers of each will understand that the articles are written through the prism of each country's cultural pride and must be taken with a grain of salt.

Keep SOVIET LIFE a reflection of the USSR. If you Americanize it, there won't be any point in my reading it.

Joline Bettendorf
Belmont, California

I wish to express my regret in seeing the cover picture of your May issue of SOVIET LIFE. This group of musicians called Hitting the Target, which you say is very popular in the Soviet Union with many television viewers, typifies those Western brothers of the early sixties and up to present day who are synonymous with drug addiction.

I have no excuse for all those responsible in the Soviet Union for letting this Western plague invade your socialist system and the failure of your system to teach your youth what is good, creative and sane for the mind and soul of the growing young.

I know from my own experience because I have four sons, who were born in the era of rock 'n' roll. I also know that mature persons despise rock music and yet we seem complacent about it.

Pasquale De Angelis
Rochester, New York

Many readers have written in to say how much they like your correspondence column. I too like it. It gives me the chance to see how much my fellow readers are learning about the USSR.

I have some comments on the letters printed in your June issue.

Ms. Rita E. Bell of Chicago, Illinois, writes in the second letter of your "Letters to the Editor" column that she was ". . . very pleased to read . . . that the USSR has completely eradicated all traces of discrimination against women from its laws." She then goes on to complain about the frequency of male articles, both in grammar and in content of your magazine. Did she not say she was happy about the eradication of discrimination against women in the eyes of the law? Yes. But this is not the law, *this* is journalism. (By the way, her two paragraphs stating these things weren't even thematically connected!) I think she missed the point, which brings me to my comment: All in all I believe this magazine tries to honestly educate its readership about different aspects of life in the USSR, but *how much* and *on what level* your readers understand is quite another issue.

Next, I must address the letter of Mr. Jerry Jensen of Bloomington, Minnesota. His letter contains some helpful suggestions for improving the layout of your magazine.

In Mr. Jensen's last paragraph, he asks very politely ". . . to reduce the amount of space taken up by interview/copies of addresses and such that relate to leaders, bureaucrats and academicians." Is the title of this magazine not SOVIET LIFE? This magazine's raison d'être is to present a spectrum of Soviet life to American readers in the interests of furthering Soviet-American understanding. Is the furor in your press all for nothing?!? I should hope not. The political decisions and plans announced in your press affect everyone everywhere, and this information should be directly disseminated, shouldn't it?

Hannah White
Kansas City, Kansas

This is intended as a productive response to your article, *From Washington to Moscow: Summing Up.* In my opinion, I can only appreciate the USA by appreciating the USSR. So, it is necessary to see both for what they are and not for what I might like them to be.

My home is not a democracy. It is the republic that taught the French how to make a republic. We elect a government that goes to Washington, D.C., to do as it pleases—subject to pressure from those who own and those who elect. Very many citizens here wish to live what we call the "American dream," which is a wish by those who do not own enough to do so. Culturally, it comes from the fact that most people are members of families that have owned small farms. Now, the era of the "family farm" is dead, but the dream lives on.

Seemingly, the USSR is also not a democracy. However, beyond that comment I am obviously not very qualified to comment, except to say that you may now see why Marx took the position on the Second American Revolution (1860-1865). If the citizens more actively share in the life of the nation, it can be a more healthy nation. Perhaps, the more you might learn from us, the more we can learn from you.

Relations between the governments of the USA and the USSR are different from those between the citizens. People with no or bad leadership are capable of being MORE reactionary than those who are simply pragmatic. Fearful leaders and citizens are most capable of monstrous actions.

Lenin and Thomas Paine did not have time to be afraid. Neither needed to be anything but realistic. There are many more republics to be built in order that our children may have democracy.

Jim Krahn
Minneapolis, Minnesota

As a subscriber to SOVIET LIFE, I wish to commend you and your staff for the high quality of the articles in the magazine. Your efforts to write about and illustrate the diverse peoples and places of the Soviet Union have not gone unnoticed.

Your supplement "USSR-USA Summit," which was mailed to me, was also appreciated. I feel very positive about the new policies in your country and thank you for your efforts in that direction.

Eugene Harrig
Fort Worth, Texas

EDITOR'S NOTES

LATELY we've been receiving a lot more letters from readers. Many of them praise our past issues, particularly the July issue, which covered the millennium of the Russian Orthodox Church. Of course, we've gotten critical letters too.

"The July issue is disappointing," writes Maurice E. Connor of California. His main objection is that the articles and reports on the millennium of the baptism of Russia fail to say anything about the persecution of the Church by the Soviet state. In his opinion, this is at variance with the spirit of *glasnost* to which our magazine is committed.

We can't agree with you on that, Mr. Connor. On page 39 of the July issue, Mikhail Gorbachev admitted that during the years of Soviet Government the state did not always treat the Church and believers the way they should have been treated. This idea is present in other stories too.

Stories in this issue—*Conflict* and *Portrait of a Family*—describe the difficulties of achieving greater democracy in production and the concerns of ordinary medium-income Soviet families. These stories make no attempt at glossing over things.

Actually, our own attitude toward the magazine is quite critical. Looking at the composition of this issue, we realize that, perhaps, we have made some miscalculations. Should we have given the transpolar Soviet-Canadian expedition such broad coverage? Was it really such an outstanding accomplishment? After all, the times of Robert Peary have long since passed. Yet, I cannot forget the image of Mr. Connor's paralyzed fellow-Californian, who traveled to the North Pole with his family to greet the expedition there (see photograph on page 4). Now there's a man to do a story about.

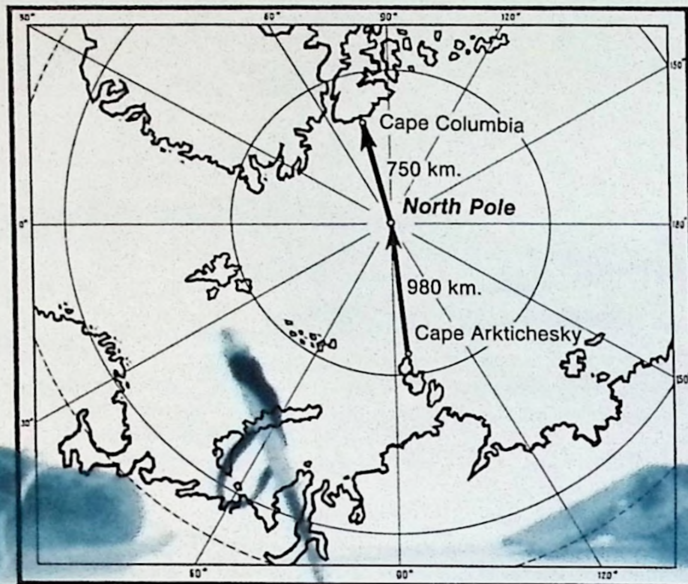
One more self-critical remark. The articles on Soviet higher education in this issue lack a report on student self-government. We'll have to fill in that gap in one of our coming issues.

In conclusion, I would like to mention a very interesting letter from James Proctor Brown, III, an assistant professor of history at Norfolk State University. After some very thorough genealogical research, Mr. Brown has concluded that one of his distant relatives, Richard Warren (a passenger on the Mayflower), is a descendant of Prince Vladimir of Kiev, who introduced Christianity in Russia. And that same Richard Warren, in turn, is related to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Amazing, isn't it? Could it be true? Yes, humankind is indivisible, and no man is an island.

Robert Tsfasman

90 DAYS OVER THE ICE

By Alexander Tropkin
Photographs by Vladimir Chistyakov

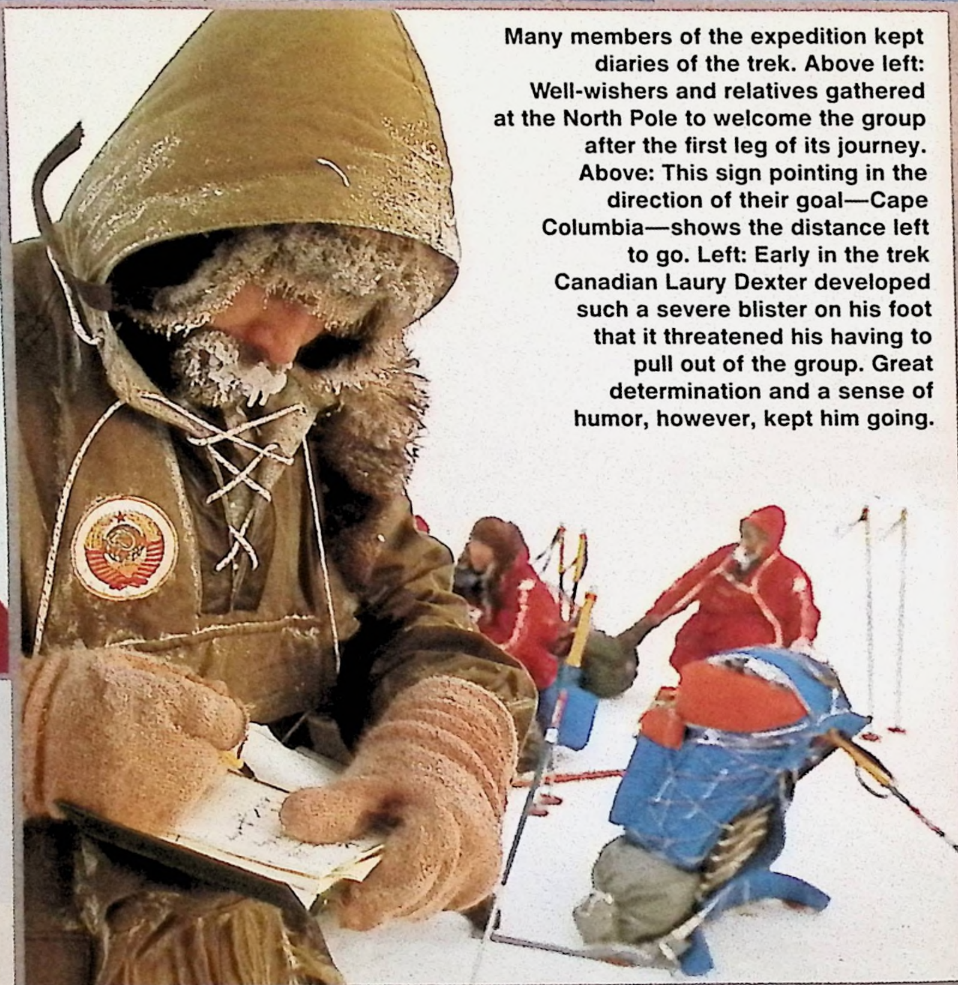


A joint Soviet-Canadian polar ski expedition started out early this past March from Cape Arktichesky on the Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago in the extreme Far North of the USSR. The group's 1,800-kilometer journey took it over the drifting ice of the Arctic Ocean, across the North Pole, to Cape Columbia in Canada. The expedition completed the trek in 90 days, 10 days ahead of schedule.

The expedition consisted of 13 members. This number seems to be a challenge to the Arctic, which is known to have cooled the enthusiasm of many a brave explorer. Who were these courageous men, and what were they out to prove?

Four of them were Canadians. Richard Weber, an engineer from Ottawa, and Laury Dexter, a minister from the little town of Ford Smith, are experienced polar explorers. Weber has "stormed" the pole twice already, while Dexter lived for a number of years among the Eskimos, the native inhabitants of the Canadian North. But it was the first polar expedition for physician Max Burton and office worker Chris Holloway. Their participation in the expedition was decided only three days before the start, after strenuous training near Dixon, the Soviet polar settlement.

There were no beginners among the nine Soviet members. All of them had been either to the North Pole in 1979 or to the ▶



Many members of the expedition kept diaries of the trek. Above left: Well-wishers and relatives gathered at the North Pole to welcome the group after the first leg of its journey. Above: This sign pointing in the direction of their goal—Cape Columbia—shows the distance left to go. Left: Early in the trek Canadian Laury Dexter developed such a severe blister on his foot that it threatened his having to pull out of the group. Great determination and a sense of humor, however, kept him going.

Soviet Vasili Shishkarev was the group's radio operator and navigator. Far left: One American well-wisher, a paraplegic from California, traveled a long way with his family to cheer on the skiers.

Pole of Relative Inaccessibility in 1986, or had participated in long ski treks in the pitch dark of polar night. However, their fanatical dedication to the Arctic is a hobby, and each one continues in his own line of work. Engineers, technicians, mathematicians, a biologist, a physician and even a professional artist were among the group. The artist was Fyodor Konyukhov from Nakhodka, a port town in the Soviet Far East.

Dmitri Shparo, assistant professor at the Moscow Institute of Steel and Alloys, is a recognized leader and inspirer of many polar expeditions. His name, which often appears in newspapers and magazines, has stirred readers' imaginations for many years. No sooner is Shparo back from a risky passage to the Arctic then he is again full of plans and hopes for a new, even more interesting and challenging expedition. Before starting out on the ski expedition to Canada via the North Pole, Shparo told me that the Soviet group had been preparing for it for the past 10 years.

For 10 years they had accumulated experience, calculated the optimal physical loads and diet, and tested gear and radio equipment made especially for use in polar conditions. Most important, they were trying to develop a group whose personalities were completely compatible. Time was their ally, and those most suited for the job were found.

The same was true of the Canadians, only their preparation time was compressed. In the beginning 34 Canadians showed interest in the adventure. Six months ago, after arduous training in the Tien Shan Mountains in the Soviet Union and on Baffin Island in Canada, only two remained—Weber and Dexter. Burton and Holloway joined the group at the very last minute.

Final preparations for the expedition started about 18 months ago, after the excitement about the Shparo group's visit to the Pole of Relative Inaccessibility had died down. The thought of a new expedition to the Arctic sounded very attractive, but where was the money to conduct it supposed to come from?

When the idea was made public by Shparo's permanent sponsor, *Komsomolskaya pravda*, various organizations and enterprises decided to lend their support, including Sputnik, the international youth travel bureau; Elektronika, a watch factory in Minsk, Byelorussia; VIZIR, a cooperative in Moldavia; and the Institute of Biological Physics of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, among other Soviet research centers and industrial enterprises. Many of the new sponsors had special reasons for rendering assistance. The Byelorussian watchmakers, for instance, wanted to put their state-of-the-art models of electronic watches to the test under extreme conditions, while the Siberian scientists proposed that the Soviet explorers conduct psychological adaptation experiments with their Canadian counterparts.

The idea for the unique ski trek also drew interest abroad, and several foreign firms—McDonald's, Nikon and Bradley—came to the expedition's aid. The red suits of the Soviet-Canadian expedition bore the trademarks of these three firms. In addition, a "Polar Bridge" account was opened at the State Bank of the USSR for donations made by the public at large. Curiously, a group of Soviet women working at the Novaya Zarya Perfume Factory was the first to send in a postal money order for the account. Eventually enough money was raised to buy the necessary equipment, gear and provisions.

Speaking of provisions, what did the men eat during the long arctic expedition? Their food was not fancy, of course, but incredibly nourishing. They ate cottage cheese and ham, butter, bacon, chocolate, cereals and biscuits and drank coffee, for a total of more than 7,000 calories a day for each man.

The Canadians took some of their own food along, which, undoubtedly, was added to the common stock. Everyone took turns cooking, but Alexander Belyayev, the chef, did his best to make the menu as varied and as tasty as possible. We journalists wanted to know how the group managed to squeeze all the food into backpacks.

"We wouldn't have been able to move with such a load on our backs," said Belyayev. "The expedition got the greater part of its food supply from the sky: Four containers dropped from airplanes on Soviet territory and two on Canadian. In addition to the food, the expedition received new batteries for its radios, correspondence and skis."

It was a good thing that the very first "gift from the sky" included a pair of skis because three skis were broken on the first lap of the passage, and the men had only one spare pair. Since the backpacks weighed from 40 to 42 kilograms, any additional weight was a luxury that the men could ill afford.

Could the expedition cover the route between the two continents without any outside help? Without care packages from the sky and constant radio monitoring? In short, could it rely on its own resources? Shparo was very frank in speaking about his early concerns.

"We couldn't have coped with such a difficult task, just as the last U.S.-Canadian polar expedition, led by Bill Steeger, could ▶

With packs on their backs,
the Soviet and Canadian skiers
moved in single file,
one after the other,
across the white expanses
of the Arctic. By the time
this photograph was taken,
the group had already
covered most of the trip.

not have managed without the air support and assistance it received. But I do believe that such a daring and risky venture will one day be possible without outside help. Very well-trained, brave fellows will do it someday. How I envy them!"

Such an honest admission does not belittle the significance of Shparo's latest expedition, the purpose of which was somewhat different. The Canadian minister, the indefatigable Dexter, characterized it as follows: "It is most important for us to prove that we are capable of operating as a team, men from different countries representing different political systems. There is nothing more important than cooperation, mutual assistance and teamwork."

Dexter had many occasions to see the truth of his words. He had hardly covered 50 miles before he developed a terrible blister that impeded the group's progress. Dr. Mikhail Malakhov took care of the injury, while the rest of the group relieved him of his heavy backpack. This touched Dexter very deeply.

The mishap with Dexter was minor, but a broken ski, not to mention a broken leg, would be a completely different story. With the temperature at 40 degrees below zero centigrade, nothing would be simpler than to fall into a crack in the ice and get drenched in freezing water or get frostbite on your hands and face. Then what?

"Our first-aid kit was stocked for any emergency," said Dr. Burton. "Misha and I could even have performed an appendectomy, if the need had arisen. I'm very happy, though, that I was not the only doctor on the expedition, so I always could consult a more experienced colleague."

Dr. Malakhov added that they could turn for advice and assistance to an entire research center—the Institute of Medical and Biological Research in Moscow, which studies the state of health of the cosmonauts. Their short-wave radio station can link them, via a communications satellite, with any specialist at the institute.

Additional skiers were placed on standby in case one or several members of the expedition had to be evacuated. For that purpose, helicopters were ready to take off at a moment's notice at the air strips in Dixon and on Sredny Island in the Kara Sea. The pilots were the first to learn the weather conditions on the route, the velocity of the ice drift, and so on. Therefore, the expedition was well insured against almost all emergencies.

The expedition had two radio buoys from the international COSPAS-SARSAT system, which indicated the exact location

Continued on page 35

EUROPE: DIVERSE AND UNITED

By Vadim Nekrasov

THESE DAYS when the world is seeking answers to burning, complicated questions that are directly related to the survival of humankind, major international issues cannot be solved without Europe, with its rich historical experience and its intellectual and socioeconomic potential.

This is an obvious fact, and it is the focus of attention of the foreign policy strategy pursued by the USSR and other Warsaw Treaty countries. Parallel with efforts to deepen Soviet-American dialogue, we are making detailed proposals to promote an atmosphere of neighborly relations, confidence and cooperation in Europe. At the recent Warsaw meeting of the Political Consultative Committee, the Warsaw Treaty countries set forth a whole program of measures to lower the level of military confrontation in Europe. This program is consonant with the plans for drastic reduction in the nuclear potentials of the USSR and the United States.

The unique historical experience of the European nations, which helps them to plan their own future and facilitate constructive processes all over the world, is explained by the fact that Europe's peoples and cultures have always clashed and intermingled. To this day Europe, populated by about 700 million people, remains a contradictory entity politically, economically and militarily. But for all the differences in social systems, national features and ways of life, we cannot ignore the common traits that unite Europe. Europe's own, peculiarly European, identity stems from its nations' long-standing coexistence. Their historical destinies have been closely linked for centuries, and their cultures have never ceased to influence one another. European countries have always maintained cooperation in the most varied fields. Researchers emphasize that great developments in the arts, science and philosophy have never been confined by national boundaries in Europe. Like conflicts in intellectual life—disputes among different schools of philosophy, religious movements and social trends—they acquired international dimensions, and diversity was accompanied by interaction rather than isolation.

There is a darker side here, too. It is no accident that Europe, the citadel of capitalism in the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century, was the main theater of two world wars, which shattered and ruined almost all of the European countries. After nazi Germany unleashed World War II, the fiercer and more devastating of the two world wars, some people thought that the European nations would lose their leading role in international affairs.

Of course, Europe's global influence was bound to be weakened by its split into military-political blocs at the initiative of the Western leaders of the time, who were alarmed by the socialist option of the Eastern Europeans. Europe was being prepared for the role of a "new theater of hostilities" in a new global conflict. The concentration of modern combat hardware, suicidal for all humankind, was the highest in Europe.

But subsequent events proved these pessimistic views of Europe's future to be wrong. In the decades following the tragic 1940s, the European nations—without exception—have managed to reveal a potential for mutual understanding. This is partly due to the nations' historical community, which survives despite all barriers and a legacy of cultivated enmity. Realistically-minded politicians in both the West and the East have addressed themselves to precisely this factor in order to prevent a deepening of the split and to avert the growing risk of nuclear disaster. French leader General Charles de Gaulle stressed the community of the old world with the slogan, "From the Atlantic to the Urals."

The fast-growing popularity of this slogan in the 1960s demonstrated the failure of the cold war to suppress the awareness of historical and cultural unity in the European mind. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and its Final Act, signed by the participating states in 1975, was a spectacular achievement. A new approach to ensuring peace in Europe had now taken shape.

Before the October 1917 Revolution, Russia was usually included in the list of European countries. During the period between the two world wars many Western authors wrote about Europe as if it were separate from the Soviet Union. After 1945 other Eastern states were dropped from the list, and the border of Europe was all but moved to the Elbe River.

All this can be attributed to "confused thinking." But doesn't this change of terms betray quite definite political likes and dislikes?

This "confused thinking" has one more aspect. Sometimes Europe is opposed to the two great powers—the Soviet Union and the United States. But this "opposition" is lopsided. The talk about the need for Europe to disassociate itself from both superpowers is designed to justify the efforts to block Soviet, but by no means U.S., participation in Pan-European affairs.

Many other attempts are being made to alienate the Soviet Union and socialism in general from Europe. But socialism is inalienable from the European political experience, and socialist philosophy has long been part of the European tradition. Indeed, was Marxism imported by Europe from the outside? Its sources lie in English political economy, French socialism and German philosophy. Contrary to what some Western scholars imply, Marxism is not some kind of a sectarian doctrine that emerged far from the main road of civilization's advance.

Here's an important point. A sine qua non of neighborly European cooperation remains the recognition of the immutability of the following principle: The choice of a social road is the sovereign right of every nation, without outside interference.

Realism is striking root in international relations. Fundamentally new opportunities for cooperation in countering nuclear and ecological threats and preserving the cultural and intellectual values accumulated over the centuries have been opened by *perestroika* in the USSR and the processes of renewal in other socialist states. The new political thinking introduced by the Soviet Union in international affairs invigorates a search for peace whereby every nation would preserve its philosophical, political and ideological views, and its own way of life.

The concept of a "new European home," set forth by the USSR in the context of the new political thinking, rests on exactly these ideas. This is what Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, said about its humanitarian foundation, in Prague in April 1987: "The notion of a 'common European home' primarily implies the recognition of a certain integrity, although the matter deals with states belonging to different social systems and taking part in opposing military-political blocs."

The gist of the concept is as follows: The European countries represent a certain community geographically, politically, economically and culturally. This unified outlook can and must be used for the benefit of the European nations according to their current requirements, with due regard for the potentials and achievements of science, technology and culture, and on the basis of the humanitarian and moral potential that both Eastern and Western Europe have accumulated in the postwar period. Recognition of such a sense of community implies that "a common European home" should be built by the concerted effort of all the European states and the broadest range of political movements, and that the only foundations that can support it are the ideas of equality, neighborly relations and cooperation.

The Soviet concept has nothing to do with wishful thinking. It maps out practical ways of advancing to European security—a priority task in ensuring the survival of nations. Needless to say, it can only be solved once and for all if the continuity of disarmament—nuclear, chemical and conventional—is ensured. The socialist countries have come up with a platform for talks on cuts in armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe, a proposal to hold a meeting of all European states so as to translate words into deeds, and a plan for establishing a NATO-Warsaw Treaty center to reduce the danger of war.

In the past, every step in the European process was an uphill fight and took a long time. Now that real disarmament has been launched, but has not yet been made irreversible, utmost intensification of the joint efforts and good will are necessary to keep this process going, to make security even stronger. Objectively assessing the current situation in Europe, the socialist countries are ready to look for mutually acceptable solutions to all urgent problems together with their Western partners.

Courtesy of the newspaper *Pravda*

WHAT SMITH THINKS OF IVANOV

Edgar Cheporov, correspondent for Novosti Press Agency, talks with Dr. Jonathan Sanders of CBS News about the recent Nineteenth All-Union Conference of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Sanders, formerly of Columbia University's Harriman Institute for Advanced Studies, is the author of many works on the USSR. The interview, slightly abridged, is reprinted from the Soviet weekly *New Times*.

Q: In the United States, as in the West as a whole, our party conference has often been referred to as "four days that shook the world." That phrase is obviously intended to evoke certain associations, isn't it?
A: It is. In my view, the Nineteenth Party Conference was a turning point in Soviet history. I would compare its purport with that of the October Revolution. We have witnessed an obvious advance in your political awareness.

The most important thing about the conference was, I think, the atmosphere of openness and frankness that prevailed at it. This atmosphere cannot but have an effect on the future of *perestroika*. The argument between Yegor Ligachev and Boris Yeltsin, the speeches by Leonid Abalkin and those who opposed his position, these were all certainly in the interests of *perestroika*.

Q: You speak of the possibility of airing different points of view, but the conference went further than that, reaching consensus on the principal issues.
A: There is no doubt about that, but today's consensus is different and creative. It is not to be compared with the former "unanimity." This is precisely why pluralism is assuming special importance today. What matters is that people now know that the process of democratization has begun, and new approaches are a reality.

Q: The conference reflected a new level of democratic development in Soviet society. How is this level manifested, to your mind?
A: In the mature conduct by your society of its domestic and international affairs. Previously, in Stalin's day and for a long time afterward, people were afraid of everything. Now this fear is dying, almost dead. When Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev came out into Red Square together, that was the funeral of the cold war. The party conference has buried the legacy of Stalinism, the legacy of the period of stagnation.

Q: One point at the conference was the necessity of abandoning heavy-handed administrative methods. How far have we advanced toward this goal, do you think?
A: The old methods are definitely out, but the new methods are having a hard time establishing themselves. In the economy, people are being given a chance to do business on their own, and the peasants' alienation from the land has been denounced as inadmissible. The idea of the current experiment is to find alternative answers to complex questions. Society is taking a different approach to the solution of its problems and trying various methods of coping with them. With regard to the socialist countries, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that there are many ways of attaining socialist ideals.

Q: It was pointed out at the conference that the braking mechanism is very real and not to be disregarded. The task of dismantling this mechanism must now be addressed. How would you comment on the methods the USSR is using to accomplish this?
A: It was decided at the conference that the Soviets are to play the major role in this matter. The slogan "All power to the Soviets" is enjoying a revival. Under the new conditions, the active participation of the Soviets is bound to counteract the braking process.

Gorbachev's ideas to reduce the party apparatus make up a very creative and bold approach. If realized, it constitutes a real break with the past. Empowering the local Soviets has great potential, although the thoroughness of this reform is undercut by the proposal to merge the function of the local party's first secretary with that of the chairperson of the local Soviet. It seems that the conference accepted the proposal not because the delegates understood it or were in favor of it, but because their acceptance gave the impression of confidence in Gorbachev.

Perestroika calls for, and is creating, I think, leaders and a rank and file of a new breed. They are not supposed to wait for instructions, but to act on their own. Initiative is not to be punishable. It is only under these conditions that *perestroika* will win.

You can't create a "socialism with a human face," as Mikhail Gorbachev put it, without a free and creative approach to the restructuring of political, economic and public life in the USSR. This will not adversely affect the socialist principles your society rests upon. On the contrary, there will be more socialism, as an apt phrase current in your country goes. This will be a rational and real socialism.

Q: What would you say about the results of the conference?
A: Neither the comparative "liberals" nor "conservatives" won at the Nineteenth Party Conference. Neither enjoyed a great victory; neither suffered a major defeat. Moderates, those who want reforms, *perestroika* without genuine *glasnost* and democratization, those who want reform by decree from on high, made a very strong showing. Those comfortable with the heavy-handed administrative methods implemented under Stalin and continued in modified ways by his heirs lost considerably. Those embracing the great falsification perpetrated on the Soviet people by Stalinist tellers of untruths suffered heavy losses. Those who preferred to cast the truth into the black hole of oblivion, rather than to recognize that the great achievements of Stalin's reign—industrialization and victory over nazi Germany—were built over the mass graves of millions of Stalin's innocent victims, including many good, thoughtful party members, lost mightily.

Gorbachev proved to be the real winner. He won because he demonstrated adroit political skills, the ability to utilize his considerable diplomatic talent to draw the "liberals" and the "moderates" toward each other. Because he acted as an effective arbitrator, his standing increased. Gorbachev showed himself to be a thoroughly modern Marxist. His reforms are revolutionary. The conference clearly gave Gorbachev a mandate to lead the party. However, it was a mandate with important qualifications, the most important of which stresses the urgent need to give greater priority to reversing the deterioration of living standards, to put more meat on the table, to provide more consumer goods. Rationing still exists; prices have risen; there are shortages. It reminded Gorbachev that the working class as well as the intelligentsia knows that "you can't eat ideas." But these qualifications do not detract from Gorbachev's victory. Gorbachev was the central figure of the conference; he showed himself to be a democratic leader letting many different views be heard. He displayed no annoyance. He is guiding the party into a new era, into the turbulent waters of a new political culture. His concluding speech made an extraordinary impact. He called for consolidation, for a joint effort toward *perestroika*.

Q: While the conference was in session, you were in Moscow as a consultant to CBS. What do you think of the standard of *glasnost* manifested during the debates? Under what conditions did Western newspeople work?
A: There were at least two significant conferences—one "on the air," the other "on the ground." The conference that was shown on the television news program "Vremya" provided an insight into *glasnost* in action, gave the "liberals" a victory and significantly changed the political culture. The "liberals" have made a psychological breakthrough and can now rally. The corruption, ineffectiveness and parasitism of the "Brezhnev era" are disapproved of even by the present "conservatives," who, nevertheless, want order imposed from above, who fear genuine democratization and real *glasnost*. They each had their moments of public expression, thanks to television.

However, this beautiful flight stopped short of soaring to world standards because officials barred impartial observers from the world press. Their exclusion from the hall was a symptom of the continued fear of the press, of stereotyped thinking.

The party conference became superimposed, so to speak, on the events of the recent summit. The conference reaffirmed and imparted still greater depth to the ideas voiced at the summit. People in the West appreciated this. Had Western correspondents been granted more favorable treatment, the coverage of the conference would have been fuller and its influence on the world still greater. As a scholar concerned with Soviet problems and a TV network consultant, I would certainly have preferred to watch the conference firsthand, not only through the medium of the "Vremya" program.

Nevertheless, our American audience did follow its progress. Why were Americans interested? John Smith, our American Ivanov, is not very well versed in the history of the USSR and has a rather vague idea of the present there. But now he has woken up to the falsity of the old anti-Soviet clichés. He has come to realize that George Orwell's world is not the world of the Soviet Union. For our Smith, all this means an end to the cold war. It matters a lot to him that Ivan Ivanov has turned his back on Stalinism, democratizing his society and stimulating its economic growth. Smith finds it easier, more interesting and more promising to deal with that kind of Ivanov, who is no longer to be feared and who invites cooperation.

Team leader Yevgeni Sorochenkov: "My men voted for 7 hours 50 minutes. Physical work is hard. Ten extra minutes will mean more exhaustion, not more efficiency."

Caster Yuri Grachev: "Of course there should be more rest days—but we can't afford them now. The factory's in trouble and we're responsible for it."

CONFLICT

WHEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT DON'T AGREE

By Mikhail Ovcharov
Photographs by Anatoli Khrupov

Adjuster Alexander Olenichev: "I am for the eight-hour workday with eight working Saturdays. We all need more days off to spend with our kids or in the garden."

Above and top: In the Yaroslav Motor Works test plant. Left: The city's Autodiesel firm.

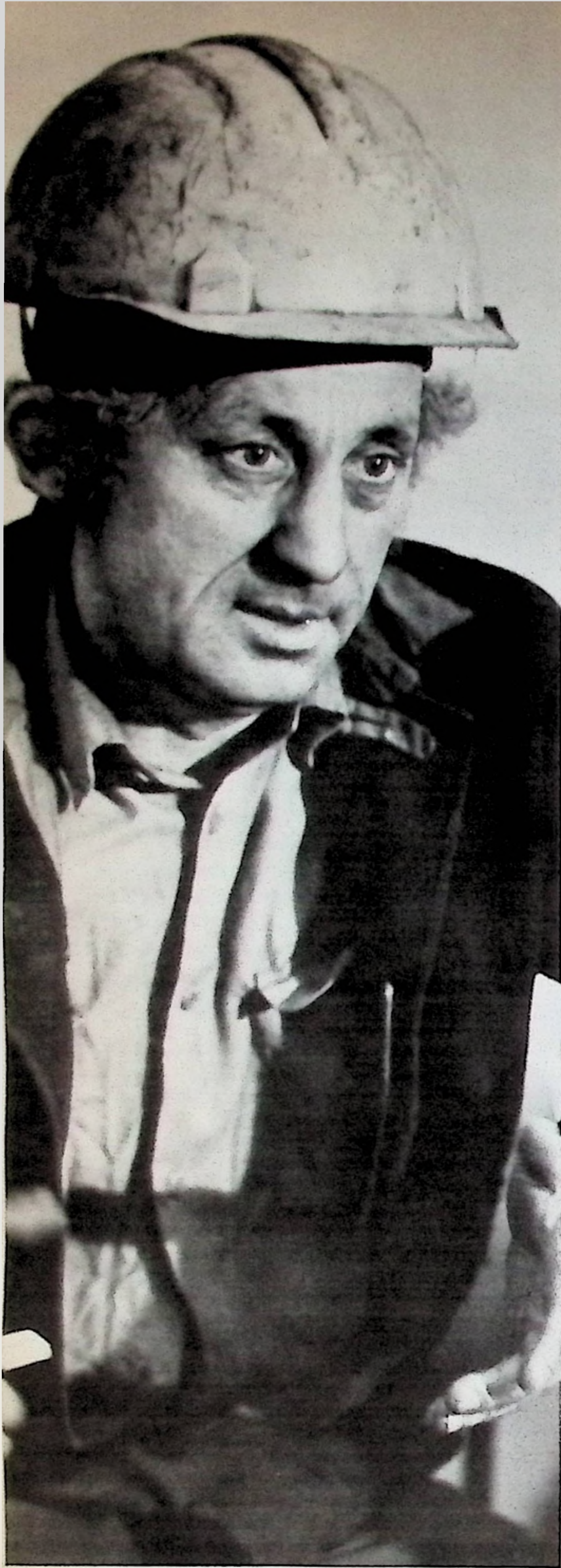
The first shift was over at 3:20 P.M. on Friday, December 11, 1987. At that moment the first banner appeared over a private car parked in the square opposite the Yaroslavl Motor Works: "EVERYONE TO THE DEMONSTRATION!" An excited group of 60 or so had formed in front of the management offices, close to the gates.

Curious faces appeared in the windows of trams and buses passing by as men and women picketed the square with handwritten signs: *PERESTROIKA, GLASNOST* AND AN EIGHT-HOUR WORKDAY. The first two demands were par for the course, but the part about the eight-hour day was a little surprising: Were we back in the nineteenth century?

Soviet legislation stipulates a 41-hour working week. Five eight-hour workdays equal 40 hours, so every eight weeks Soviet citizens work one extra day. Working Saturdays are generally referred to, with a touch of wry humor, as Black Sabbaths. The actual length of the workdays and the number of working Saturdays depend on the scale and volume of production. They are determined annually by the management of an enterprise and are then approved by the trade union committee. Labor issues arise only on extremely rare occasions.

Everything had gone smoothly at the Yaroslavl Motor Works too, until the end of 1987. But when the management of the firm Autodiesel, of which the Yaroslavl Motor Works is a subsidiary, drew up the 1988 production schedule, it decided on 7-hour, 50-minute workdays, plus 15 working Saturdays. The workers advanced a counterdemand: eight hour workdays and only eight working Saturdays.

The demonstrators were quiet and orderly, but from time to time they loudly chanted: "Doletsky! Doletsky!" calling for the Autodiesel director general. ▶



Lev Makarov, caster: "Self-government and control by the workers will ensure quality and efficiency."

Designer Alexander Chernikov: "Job engineering doesn't work; this is the source of all our problems."

A worker thinks the problem over.

"Doletsky's on a business trip in Moscow. Due back tomorrow," a boss announced from the office balcony. Excited talk and gesticulations went on a bit longer. Then the demonstrators packed up their banners and placards and dispersed.

The next day was a Black Sabbath. At quarter to four in the afternoon, a crowd gathered again on the same spot. This time there were 300 people or more. They carried the same placards as the day before, and again shouted for Doletsky.

Through a spokesperson, Vitali Doletsky declined to come out, but he suggested that the staff elect 10 delegates for a conversation in his office. A storm of indignation arose. Doletsky relented and invited everyone to the big conference room. That was better.

The room was packed; every aisle was crowded with workers who hadn't managed to get seats. But the conversation got off to a rocky start and never managed to right itself.

Microphone in hand, Doletsky explained why the eight-hour workday wasn't feasible with the multiple-shift system.

"That's your problem," a voice boomed from the audience.

"But if we don't meet our quotas, you'll have to take a wage cut—where's the money going to come from?"

"Your problem," the voice repeated.

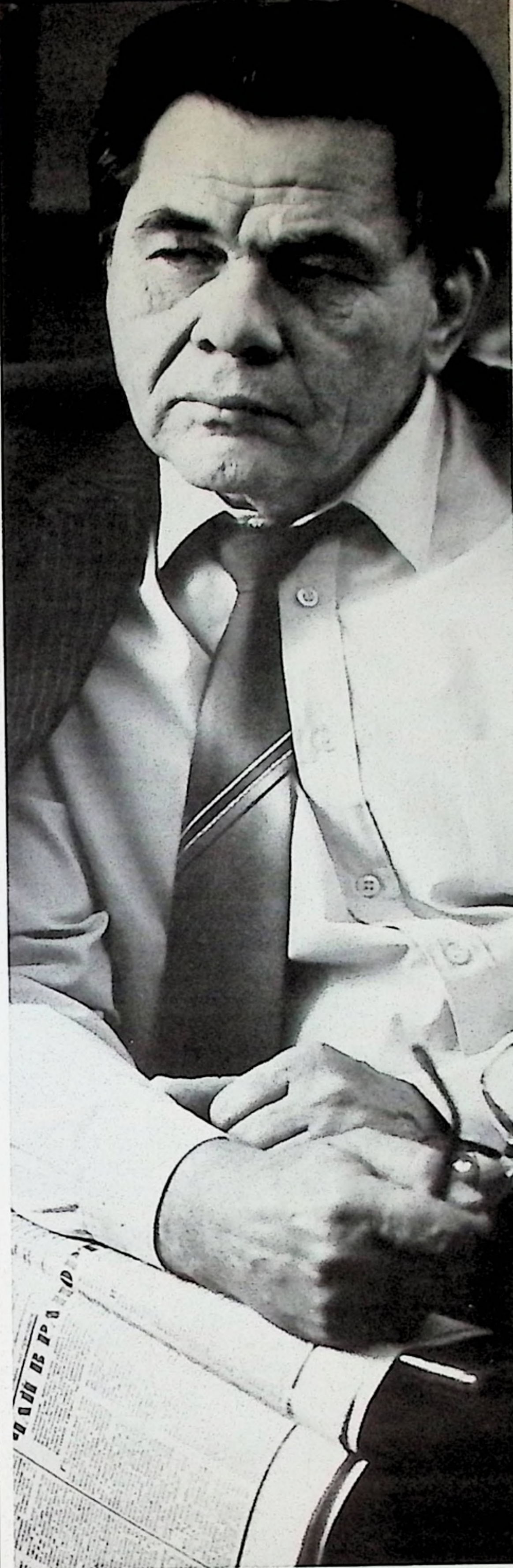
Everyone turned to look at Lev Makarov, a shop-floor worker and the staff's unofficial leader—a well-loved one, judging by the ovation that greeted his every word. Strangely, Doletsky had never met him before.

The boss tried to speak, but the crowd drowned out his voice. The abortive dialogue ended with his vague promise to think over the staff's demands and eventually to come up with an answer.

Why this explosive indignation? the bosses asked themselves. After all, there had been Black Sabbaths the previous year and the year before that, stretching back for many years—but they had never inspired demonstrations, only a little grumbling in the staff lounges. Everyone knew that the bosses would get their way, no matter what the workers said.

But before the 1988 schedule was drawn up, management decided to introduce the spirit of *glasnost* into the procedure by having the proposed

The computer center at the plant.


General director Vitali Doletsky: "People want to know what the future holds. We'll work it out together."

Mikhail Karyanov's team from the experimental shop discuss the issues.

schedule discussed at workers meetings. In most of the 60 meetings that took place, the workers voted unanimously that the workday be prolonged to eight hours, with only eight working Saturdays.

All 60 groups submitted their minutes to the management, but there the democratic effort ended. The minutes somehow ended up "buried" and, inaccurately informed about the referendum, the Staff Council adopted the management's version of the schedule. Only one member voted against it.

What was the point of meeting in the first place? Why did they set out boxes in the shops to collect our proposals? And what on earth happened to those proposals? The resentment built to a climax on December 11, the Friday we described at the beginning of this story.

On Tuesday, December 15, the factory's party committee gathered to discuss the situation. Director General Doletsky set the tone: "Management let the initiative slip out of its hands. Unforgivable! Eight working Saturdays aren't enough; we won't be able to meet our quotas. So we've some persuading to do, and quickly."

Georgi Zakharov, First Secretary of the Dzerzhinsky District Party Committee, took the floor: "We aren't used to free debates or democracy in general. That's why the situation is so involved. The same old patterns all over again! And once again, everything's up to the manager. See the manager-worker gap?"

After a heated discussion, it was decided to convene a workers conference the next Friday, a week after the unrest had so spectacularly come to the surface. Every shop and department was to elect one delegate to represent every 60 workers. The conference was to settle the work schedule once and for all.

By Wednesday, December 16, everyone's position was clear. Although the sides had arrived at a parliamentary tone, they remained as adamant as before.

Why, you may ask, was Doletsky so dead set on those 10 miserable minutes? Why not just add them to the workday and be done with it?

The management's argument was this: One can easily waste 10 minutes every day, but those same 10-minute periods add up to seven extra work-

Continued on page 62

DISCUSSING SOVIET SCHOOL REFORM

Gennadi Yagodin, chairman of the newly established USSR State Committee for Education, is interviewed by Ella Maximova and Irina Prelovskaya about the current reform of higher education in the USSR.

Q: Lack of continuity and interdepartmental communication has made it difficult to organize education. Preschool and secondary education were the responsibility of one ministry, vocational training of another and higher education of still another. Each ministry followed its own rules. In what way will the work of your committee be different from the work of the disbanded ministries? Or will your committee merely combine their functions, thereby becoming a federation of several departments?

A: The plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, held last February, pointed out most emphatically that society is not satisfied with the scope and rate of change in the educational system. For a long time we attempted to patch up the educational system, adjusting it to meet immediate needs. That did not work. We need, first and foremost, a modern concept for the development of education, taking into consideration the long-term needs of society.

To begin with, we must formulate a clear picture of secondary education. Secondly, we need to establish continuity between all levels of schooling and make advanced training part of a life-long education.

The committee will determine a single policy and strategy for education.

Q: Why is it so important to elaborate a single policy for education now?

A: The scientific and technological revolution calls for a continuous renovation of knowledge. In order to ensure an unending education, at least two conditions are essential: a sound foundation, that is, the knowledge of the basic natural and social laws, and society's continued respect for knowledge and those who have it.

One shortcoming of higher education frequently singled out for criticism is the inability of graduate students to communicate. I believe this is not really that serious, for it is a skill that comes with practice. But professional incompetence is a real problem.

A state commission that inspected the work of a medical institute in Ufa, Bashkiria, established that half of its graduates, when asked to make a very simple diagnosis, failed to do so. Students at a teacher's college in Przhevalsk, Kirghizia, made an average of 17 to 20 mistakes in a dictation intended for the eighth grade. Although such outrageous examples are rare, their existence is a source of grave concern. The roots of the problem must be sought in the school, where the cultural standard of the citizens is being formed.

Q: What are the changes planned for the schools?

A: There should be different types of secondary schools. Those who choose a career in the fields of physics, mathematics or engineering should be able to go to schools whose curriculums emphasize the natural sciences; those who are thinking of majoring in history or geography should attend schools specializing in these subjects, and so on. It is important that people develop their capabilities and inclinations. In other words, the school should give people a choice. The standard school curriculum is oriented to students with average abilities, in order to give them a certain amount of general knowledge that was considered necessary for them to continue their education at a higher level. That impairs the quality of secondary education. What is more, the first 10 years of school come to be thought of as only a step on the way to higher education, which is wrong. While elaborating the concept of basic education, we want to keep the teenager's own interests and possibilities very much in mind.

Schools at all levels should free themselves from years-old bureaucratic bondage and petty regulation by fiat and exercise the right to involve creative attitudes in the teaching process.

Q: These concepts, problems and goals form a strategy. But there are urgent problems whose solution cannot wait. Who will be solving them?

A: The committee receives many letters, telegrams and telephone calls. People are so used to the bureaucratic practices of the past, when any initiative, any innovation, suggestion, experiment or method first had to be adopted "at the top." The bureaucratic system undermined teachers' authority, keeping them dependent on the educational administration. But the teacher is the one who educates the new generations and inculcates in them moral principles and civic attitudes.

We are determined to break this system. The educational process should be governed by those who teach and educate.

Q: How do you think this can be achieved?

A: Through *glasnost* and democracy. Education is an institution in which society has the decisive word. The election of the leaders in education at all levels and control over their activities by the public, open discussion and the vital role of public opinion are essential conditions for success. Something has already been accomplished in this direction. The presidents of universities are now elected for a term of five years by secret ballot, and their activities are reviewed periodically. The principles of forming a school's governing councils have been changed: The president has the right to appoint half of its members; the other half are elected—a quarter by the teachers and the remaining quarter by the students. I am sure students will play an active role in the councils.

Q: As we know from the letters we receive, not everyone has welcomed student participation in evaluating teachers' work.

A: That's true. Under the new rules, every teacher's contract is brought up for review every five years. Obviously, most teachers will be re-elected. But the possibility of replacement is very important. Students work on the commissions that evaluate the teacher's work. What is more, at the end of each academic year, after the exams are over, students take part in a project called "Teachers Through the Eyes of Students." The project has a strong influence on the teaching process. I strongly disagree with those who claim that students cannot make an adequate judgment of their teachers. From my personal experience, I don't know a single instance when students were wrong. Another argument against the project is that it is done anonymously and is therefore underhanded. But that's not so for the simple reason that it is aimed at improving the quality of the teaching process, in which the "anonymous" participants have the greatest interest.

Q: We have always been afraid of students dropping out, fearing that a reduction in the number of students will require a reduction in the teaching staff. How can a school weed out the unqualified first-year students who always seem to surface in each class no matter how objective and how tough the entrance exams might be?

A: We conducted an experiment last year. All first-year students had to take a new exam. Seventeen per cent of them failed the exam in Moscow, 19 per cent in Leningrad and 85 per cent in Central Asia. You will agree that it is rather hard to get rid of four-fifths of an entire incoming class. Nevertheless, we will resolutely weed out unqualified students in the very first years at the university. The old practice of allowing students who did not pass all the exams to continue studying the next semester will be stopped, especially since the number of teachers no longer depends on the number of students. Stricter demands should be made of every student.

Q: When the first Soviet sputnik was launched, the whole world wrote about the advantages of the Soviet educational system. Have we lost the leading edge in the training of specialists?

A: As for specialists in the so-called elite professions, their level is in no way below world standards. Our country is still rich in talent. We do lag behind other countries in training specialists for the mass trades. This is a large problem.

Q: Some say we're training too many engineers and not enough skilled workers. What can you say in this regard?

A: If we begin training truly competent engineers, economists and other specialists, we will need fewer workers. Today's shortage of hands is the result of poor management and economic decisions. Our expenditures for the output of a unit of production are higher than in any other industrialized country. We need educated, competent and independent executives to make our economic mechanism work. This is why the solution of educational problems is a matter of such prime importance. Fully aware of its responsibility, our committee is getting down to this important work.

Courtesy of the newspaper *Izvestia*

HOW CULTURED ARE SOVIET STUDENTS?

Yuri Afanasyev, a prominent historian and journalist, president of the Moscow Institute of History and Archives and a delegate to the Nineteenth Party Conference, is interviewed by Ariadna Nikolenko.

Q: Do you think Soviet undergraduates are really cultured?
A: First I would like to discuss the humanities and the way they are taught at our institutes since this is what I deal with. I think the level of knowledge that a person attains to a certain extent is a reflection of his or her culture. Certain things in the humanities deserve to be praised but others cause me a great deal of anxiety.

Our institute graduates archivists. These people should revere all primary sources, witnesses of bygone days. In this context the ability to read a text, to analyze and to comment upon it is essential. So the knowledge of foreign languages comes to the fore. And that's what I'm concerned about.

It should be noted that before the Revolution, humanities students knew both Greek and Latin, which were taught in the schools. Regrettably, today few people in the country even know Old Russian, the language of our ancestors.

At our institute, we are trying to make up for the blunders of the past. Last year we formed our first group to study Latin and Greek. We plan to improve our classes in Old Russian too.

I am positive that besides ancient languages an archivist must know at least one modern European language. I would say that high school graduates have a poor knowledge of foreign languages. At the institute we allocate a mere 300 hours for language studies, though we know perfectly well that a minimum of 1,000 hours is needed to have a good command of a language. So far we have been producing mostly unilingual specialists.

Besides studying our own history, I think it is necessary for our historians to be well acquainted with cultural trends and ideas around the world. I have to admit that we have room for improvement in that area as well. Now we are trying to revamp the curriculum so that students can study world philosophy as it developed, and not only Marxism-Leninism. Otherwise, we'll produce lopsided specialists.

We're living in turbulent times. To be up-to-date, we should closely follow all the current publications. This should also be taken into account by students of history.

Q: Do studehts know all these things?
A: As I've already said, foreign languages and cultural trends in the West are still our weak points. As for interesting Soviet publications, I'd say that things are looking up, at least at our institute.

For example, we offer a series of lectures, "Humanity's Social Memory," which should help to fill in the gaps in students' knowledge. Well-known scholars in the humanities, linguists, philosophers, historians from research institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences are invited to lecture at our institute. We also host talks by American historians and scholars.

Then there's our staging of so-called "historical trials," that is, trials of eminent political figures of all times, dating to antiquity. We have defendants in the dock, witnesses, prosecutors and defense lawyers wearing period clothing. These events are trials in form but in essence they are dialogues between different generations. In my view, this enhances the student's outlook. I don't want to make hasty statements and say that all our students are cultured people. Far from it.

Q: You're speaking about your institute, aren't you?
A: That's only natural. I know even more than I want to about what our students are interested in, what their problems are and what ideas they espouse.

I'd like to tell you a little more about our "Humanity's Social Memory" lectures. Really brilliant and prominent scholars—like Sergei Averintsev, historian and expert on culture, and Vyacheslav Ivanov, linguist—were invited to talk. At first mainly professors attended the lectures. Then more and more students started to come gradually. From the topics under discussion, you might expect the lecture halls to be crammed with students. Alas . . .

It wouldn't be right to judge the students' cultural level from the number of students who attended the lectures. In the nineteenth century lecture halls were overcrowded when eminent scholars spoke. Lectures are not the only source of information now. We have the mass media and books at our disposal.

Q: So we can't make a clear-cut estimate of students' culture, can we?
A: I wouldn't say they lack culture. Far from it. I think their cultural level is somewhat specific and typical of the times. And we should understand that. The number of young people interested in today's politics is increasing with every day. In a bid to comprehend modern developments, they use all their knowledge. On the eve of the Nineteenth Party Conference I went to meetings of informal youth associations two Sundays in a row. Young people from many schools (and elsewhere) were engaged in working out a political platform and suggesting methods for solving the pressing problems of our society. It was a kind of recommendation for the party forum.

In my view, this is a positive phenomenon. The level of culture should not be judged by the amount and level of knowledge alone, but rather by the ability to apply this knowledge for the benefit of society. In this context, the youth associations' activity is rather indicative.

Quite recently I met the leader of the Bukharin Political Youth Club in Naberezhniye Chelny (on the Volga). He told me that meetings and discussions are old news for their club. Now they are engaged in elaborating a clear political stance on all *perestroika* issues. They study hard not only to enrich their knowledge, but also to contribute to *perestroika* by their practical deeds.

Q: For years people were discouraged from thinking over and analyzing events. Do you see any changes for the better, especially with young people?
A: Yes, there are some. But it's a painstaking process. Take our textbooks, for example. You won't find any analysis or food for thought in them. They dictate, give orders as to what you should know and think and how you should view and assess certain events. It's an order. There's no alternative.

The press, literature, cinema and theater have revealed to us the seamier side of our past and present, so totally different from the way it was portrayed by official sources. So young people's interest in politics is growing. They are now putting forward bold and original ideas. Unfortunately, our schools and institutes have made no contribution so far to this spontaneous process—it's been prompted by life itself. So the educational system is lagging behind. Yet it should be the other way around. Higher education should encourage the natural curiosity of the young to ask questions, their incessant search for answers to life's questions.

Q: What do you think higher education should do to encourage that search?
A: First, we must get rid of the notion of education as a set of ironclad dictates, and the notion that students have nothing to contribute. We should learn to treat youth as our equals and not as inferiors, and it's high time we stopped saying how irreproachable we are.

Second, older people must not claim to know all the answers.

Third, all textbooks must be reviewed and become more democratic, stirring curiosity in students, fostering civic pride in them, rather than giving orders and imposing certain views on them.

It is also essential to know our opponents' point of view. By opponents I mean scholars and journalists with ideological beliefs other than ours. This is also a problem for us. We still fear and distrust all that is not our kin.

We reduce our national and ideological traditions mainly to revolutionary-democratic traditions, which is a narrow-minded approach. Our textbooks are silent about any parallel or opposing trends. In the long run we come up with a distorted picture, which breeds maximalism. "Those who are not with us are against us" is a stereotype on which many generations were brought up.

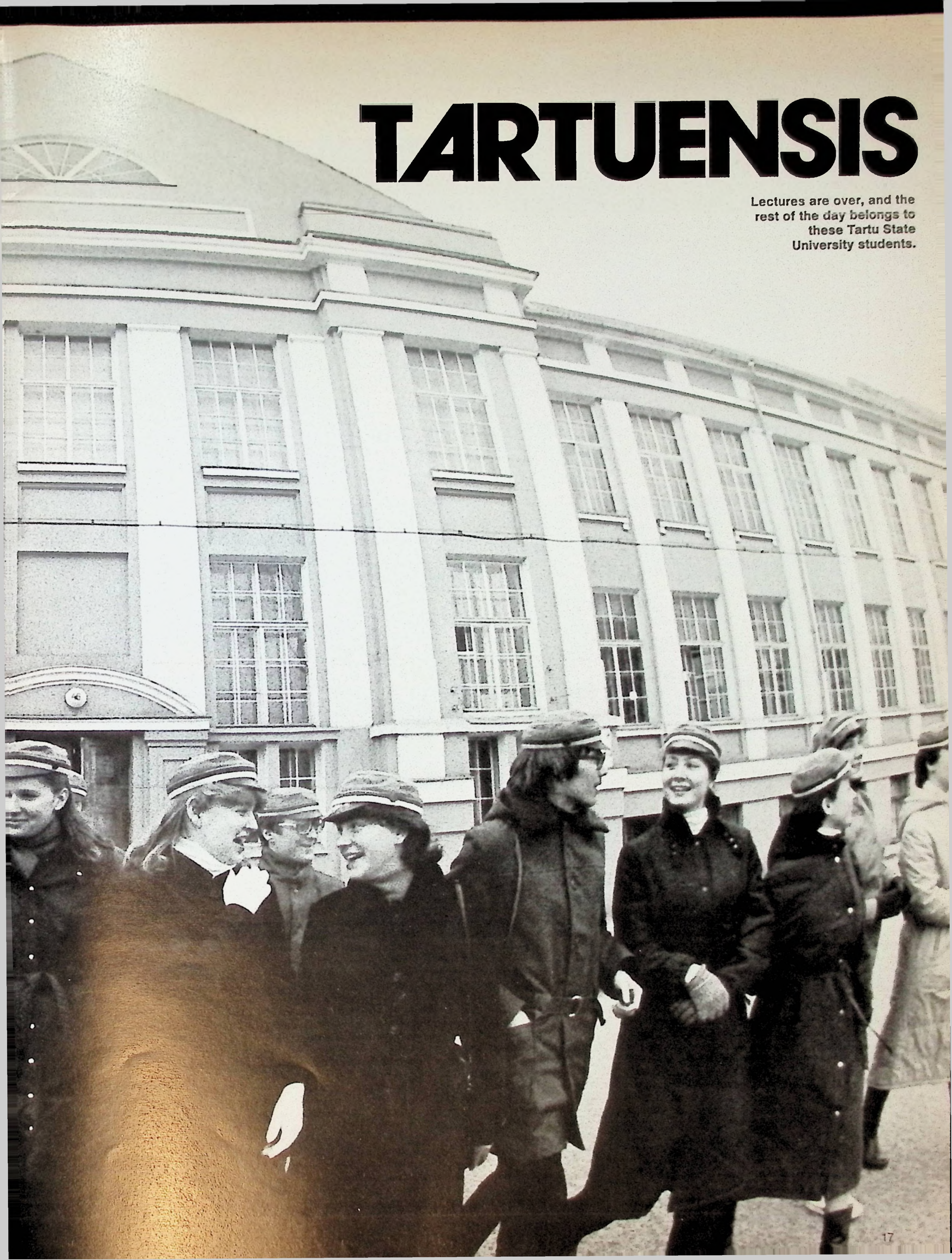
Tolerance toward other people's opinions is also indicative of one's own culture. To be more precise, it is an essential condition. Unfortunately we have always lacked tolerance.

In conclusion we should work hard to remove barriers to a revival of morality among young people and society as a whole.

We must get rid of the notion of education as a set of ironclad dictates, and the notion that students have nothing to contribute. We should learn to treat youth as our equals not as inferiors, and it's high time we stopped saying how irreproachable we are.

ALMA MATER

By Enn Kreem
Photograph by Boris Kaufman



TARTUENSIS

Lectures are over, and the rest of the day belongs to these Tartu State University students.

The current educational reform has put two dozen Soviet universities on the priority development list.

"Priority development means that, by the year 1995, these schools are to achieve a level corresponding to the modern demands of higher education. Our university is on the list. Its research laboratories will be supplied with modern equipment, and provisions will be made to improve every facet of student life," says Academician Arnold Koop, rector of Tartu State University.

"Our university prepares specialists mostly for Estonia. It is a very prestigious school with a good teaching staff."

Tartu State University was founded in 1632. Ever since then the life of the city has been vitally connected with the students. Even in today's Tartu, a developed industrial city with a population of about 100,000, it is the students who define its image. True, there are more students in Tartu now than before: In addition to the university, the Estonian Agricultural Academy and many schools for music, medicine and art are located in the city.

A museum, opened at Tartu State University in honor of its 350th anniversary, traces the history of student life there. Until the mid-nineteenth century, duels between students, including many that ended fatally, were the biggest problem of the university administration. Only a radical revision of the Code of Honor made it possible first to restrict and then to put an end to the duels. The territory of the university was inviolable. The police could not arrest students on campus, even if they had disturbed the peace in town. Only the university had the authority to punish a student. Usually the offender was committed to a punishment room, which was situated on the top floor of the main building. There students undergoing punishment whiled away the time by writing verse or drawing caricatures. The 150-year-old graffiti is still on the ceiling of that room.

Those who violated the university's rules were also confined to the punishment room. The code contained many rules, some of which seem very funny to modern students. For instance, students were not allowed to smoke long pipes because they were considered unsafe; nor were they allowed to gallop their horses in the streets of the city because "it frightens the ladies and disturbs traffic."

Out of 1,500 university students, slightly more than 1,000 were members of the nobility, clergy and merchant class, while the remainder were middle-class urbanites and farmers.

New students were admitted on the eve of every semester. A curriculum of classes was displayed on the blackboard in the main building. Students signed up for the classes of their choice, paid the required sum of money and kept the receipts in the passes they were issued.

The administration did not care how many lectures students attended or when they took their exams, as long as the money was paid. Usually students attended classes for four or five years. But many young people took classes at the university for 10 years or more. This was particularly true of those who, under the will of their relatives, continued to receive financial support as long as they studied at the university.

Tuition was free for talented young people who could not afford the university's high costs, and some even received stipends. Nevertheless, the number of poor students was insignificant in the large university population.

Until 1890, the students were taught in German and later in Russian. Since December 1, 1920, they have been taught in the Estonian language.

The years of the Second World War and the German occupation were difficult for the Alma Mater Tartuensis. Its main building was used as the headquarters of the German command. The occupation authorities canceled many classes, and even banned entire disciplines.

Before leaving Tartu, the Germans intended to take the most valuable parts of the library and other collections of the university with them. However, the university professors managed to save most of these treasures. But the nazi-appointed rector, Edgar Kant, persuaded the university treasurer to give him a unique collection of gold, silver and platinum coins, with which he fled to Sweden. In spite of repeated requests, the coins have not been returned to the university.

Today's Tartu State University is very different from what it used to be, both in its principles of teaching and in the social composition of its students. As in the rest of the country, tuition is free here, and an overwhelming majority of students get monthly stipends and live in dormitories.

According to statistics, Tartu State University is quite a successful school. But although the statistics take into account the teachers' academic qualifications and the sufficiency of the school's facilities, they cannot evaluate the quality of education. And it is the need for improvement in this area that led to the current restructuring effort at the university.

As Rector Koop points out, restructuring the teaching process in order to make it conform to the current demands is the main task today. It is necessary to introduce more progressive methods of teaching, thereby enhancing the quality of student work. The work of the teaching staff should be maximally effective, while students should have greater opportunities for creative and independent endeavors.

Tartu State University is conducting an experiment: The number of obligatory subjects is being reduced, and the more gifted students are offered individual training programs. The experiment, which began at the university's schools of law, economics and mathematics, has produced promising results.

The university is more than just a school of future specialists. It is also a research center and must concern itself with all the ensuing problems inherent in such an institution. The most important of these is the development of experimental laboratories and enterprises at which local scientists can apply their ideas. The scientific potential of the university has noticeably increased over the past decade. Studies are under way now to put it to maximal use.

One-fifth of the students who enrolled in the university last fall had received straight As or As and Bs in high school. Nearly three-quarters of the students are young women; 80 per cent are graduates of schools where classes are taught in Estonian; and 20 per cent are from Russian schools. There are representatives of 30 nationalities among the university students.

The most popular meeting place among Tartu State University students is under the black clock, located in the main building, above the blackboard mentioned earlier.

Another board lists various part-time job opportunities for students: The local post office invites prospective workers; the Tartu factory that produces nonalcoholic beverages offers positions on their conveyer lines (somebody underlined with a red pencil that the wages are fairly high). There are job opportunities on the campus as well.

Under the black clock I met with Raul Siimut, deputy chairman of the university Komsomol committee, and Priit Berens, a student who was elected deputy dean of the school of economics. We talked about student self-government.

"Self-government is designed to break the wall that divides the students and the administration and to ensure their closer cooperation," says Siimut. "Not long ago we elected student members to the university research councils. It was a multi-candidate election. Under the latest rules students should make up at least one-fourth of the university's main council and research councils. We have grounds to say that student self-government has proved its authority in everything we do. Do you agree, Priit?"

"I think you are right," Berens says. "As a student deputy dean, I am concerned primarily with the teaching process. I am a sort of liaison officer between the students and the dean: I make suggestions on the timetable of lectures and take part in the work of the commission that grants stipends. Under a new law on stipends, which has just been adopted, straight-A students get a 50 per cent bonus on the average stipend, and A and B students get a 25 per cent bonus."

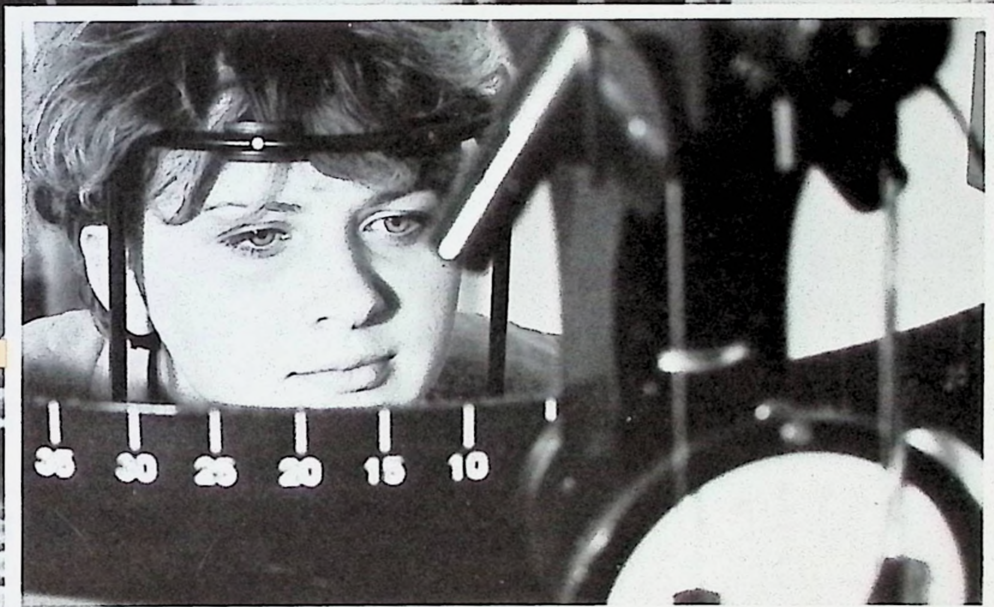
"Still, it is difficult to live on a stipend alone," Siimut interrupts. "That is why we try to find summer jobs for those students who want to make extra money. Our local student construction team, created 25 years ago, works in the countryside and in the city. The wages are pretty high, and our work is very useful. The activities of the student construction team are also based on self-government.

"Many students want to have part-time jobs all year round. They can apply to the university's employment bureau, which is in close contact with local plants and factories. Vacancies are listed on the board under the black clock."

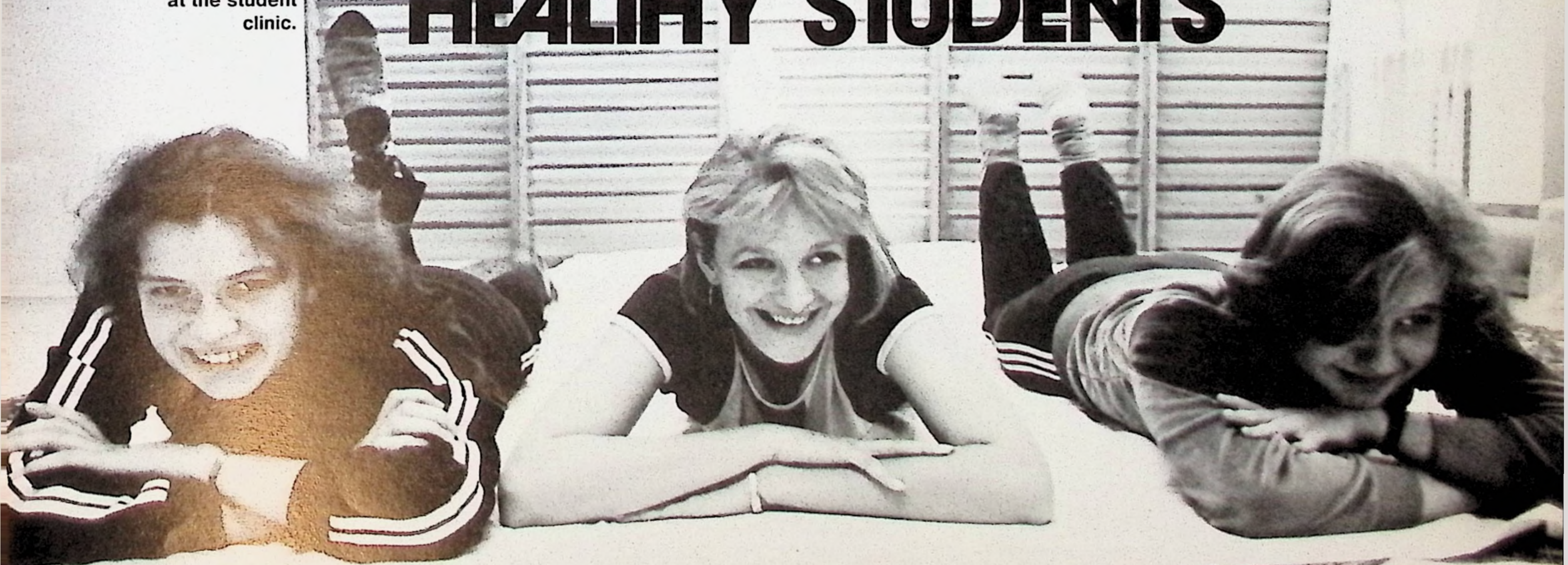
"Although a ninth dormitory was opened on the eve of this academic year, that did not solve the housing problem," continues Berens. "Many students want a room in a dormitory, which costs 22 rubles a year—half the amount of the monthly stipend. It is much more expensive to rent a room downtown. The students themselves distribute the dormitory spaces, which is only fair: They know better than the administration who most needs a place to live and who can afford to wait."

The *perestroika* process is affecting every aspect of life at Alma Mater Tartuensis. The old university is reacting quickly to current and prospective developments.

Top to bottom: Training on simulators. A student of the Byelorussian Polytechnic Institute at the eye specialist's office. A therapeutic gymnastics class at the student clinic.



HEALTHY STUDENTS



NEED DOCTORS TOO

By Natalya Buldyk
Photographs by Yevgeni Koktysh

My 15-year-old neighbor, Zhenya Veselov, has just passed his entrance exams to the Minsk Polytechnic Vocational School. He was puzzled when the first thing that was required of him was a visit to the clinic.

When Zhenya's mother, upset by the unexpected and very thorough medical checkup that her healthy son had to undergo, asked the school's administration what the trouble was, she was told that all the students went through such a checkup once a year. Moreover, she was told that until her son graduated from school, he was to be observed by specialists at the city's Clinic No. 33, which was built specifically for students in higher education.

The students spend three years in vocational school and five years at an institute. Was it worthwhile to build a special clinic for such a fluctuating group of people? Moreover, the age of the patients ranges from 15 to 22, which is by all standards the healthiest period in life.

"That is an erroneous and even harmful point of view," said Tamara Mironova, the assistant chief physician of the clinic. "Young people require medical care as much as old folks because it is so much easier to prevent illness than it is to cure it. That is why we spend 50 per cent of our time and effort on disease prevention. Besides, the notion that students are all robust is also quite wrong. We discover ailments in one out of every 10 young people. In most cases, the disease is only in its initial stage. That is precisely when a timely diagnosis is half the cure. If it were not for the student clinic, the illness might not have been discovered until much later. Young people are very careless about their health."

Until recently the students in Minsk were registered at the clinic that served the district where the school was located. Because of their busy schedules, the students would only go to the doctor when they felt really ill.

Meanwhile, it was becoming increasingly obvious that students, whose numbers in Minsk were growing all the time, needed special medical care. Many of them, especially those who lived in dormitories, ate irregularly and on the run, overloaded themselves with studies and dressed lightly even in the coldest weather. This resulted in gastrointestinal disorders, neurocirculatory instability, colds and tonsillitis. It was clear that the students needed a medical institution of their own—not one that would treat them only when they were ill, but one that would teach them to take care of their health. So three years ago the city's higher educational establishments allotted one and a half million rubles to build Clinic No. 33.

The clinic operates on a full schedule throughout the week, so that everyone can see a doctor at a convenient time. Some students have classes in the first half of the day, others study in the afternoon and evening, and there are even classes on Saturdays. That is why the clinic is open from 8 A.M. till 9 P.M., and on Sundays a sick student can see the doctor on duty and undergo the necessary physical therapy.

Incidentally, the physiotherapy department is the largest, occupying two stories. It has many baths and showers, and facilities for electrotherapy, thermotherapy, light treatment, acupuncture and massage.

Dr. Mironova said that the student's clinic is one of the most fully equipped in Minsk. The building, too, is spacious and never seems crowded, though the doctors can see up to 2,000 patients every day.

Whenever a student wants to see a therapist, surgeon, neuropathologist or dentist, he or she has to make an appointment. If the patient feels too sick to get up, a doctor will make a house call. Additionally, large institutes and dormitories have first-aid clinics where an ailing student can be treated immediately for a headache, a slight cold or other troubles.

The clinic is responsible for the health of 80,000 young men and women studying in the city's 12 institutes and 14 vocational schools. This was the plan for the ideal setup: At the beginning of each academic year, the first year students would undergo compulsory medical checkups. Those who pass the physical would only visit the doctor when they fall ill or are scheduled for their annual checkup.

Those having symptoms of some disorder would be registered for special care and prescribed the necessary course of treatment under the supervision of a special doctor. These students would undergo checkups two or three times a year and, if necessary, prescribed a second course of treatment.

"In practice it is far more complicated," the doctors told me. "Being young and frivolous, some of the students neglect to see us when they should. We send them post cards inviting them to come for their regular checkup, try to find them in their dorms and are sometimes forced to appeal to the rector's office for assistance. Sometimes it takes an order from the rector to get students to the doctor."

"We never thought we would have to cope with problems like the food in student cafeterias," said Dr. Mironova. "The quality of the cooking is substandard in some of them. Even the academic timetable became part of our responsibility. We have to make sure that nobody gets overloaded and that there is enough time between lectures to allow the students to have lunch and rest."

All that means extra work for the doctors, but the results are highly satisfactory. Last year alone, 1,747 students had completely recovered from their various ailments, and their names were removed from the register of students who are kept under medical surveillance.

There has never been an instance when anyone has complained about the doctors' "interfering in other people's business." On the contrary, the rectors of the schools even get together for a special session from time to time to discuss problems of health. The latest of these sessions was devoted to AIDS—that is, the need to test students for the disease.

"The rectors gave us their support," continued Dr. Mironova, "and helped us deliver a series of lectures during which we had very candid talks with the young people. Frankly, we were a bit nervous, since we weren't sure whether they would understand the importance of being tested. Our worries proved to be needless. More than 1,500 students have already passed these tests voluntarily, and we did not find a single case of AIDS. We are in no rush to make final conclusions though, and we are now thinking of a number of preventive measures.

There was one problem the clinic's administrators nearly overlooked. They reasoned that since there are few married women students, a gynecologist would not have much to do. So when the clinic opened, there was only one gynecologist on the staff.

"Today we have six specialists, and we need more," said Dr. Sofia Shabeko, chief of the gynecology department. "We had not taken extramarital relations into consideration on the one hand, and the ignorance of the young people on the other. Regrettably, students are getting practically no sex education either at home or at school. As a result, they are unaware of the most elementary things, such as contraception. We have to make up for lost time and arrange special consultations for the young people."

"What if your advice comes too late?" I asked.

"We try to dissuade young women from having abortions, and sometimes we encourage them to marry. We talk to their boyfriends, their parents and even the institute's administration, persuading the latter to let the newlyweds have a separate room in the dorm and to arrange for the baby to be put into a nursery. By the way, I have stood godmother to several children, and I must say, though the going is tough for the young mothers sometimes, they are very happy."

I met several more specialists at the clinic and soon understood that most of them use medicinal preparations as seldom as possible. They prescribe exercise and sports, believing that these are the best remedies in most cases. And, of course, a proper daily routine and food abounding in vitamins are part of the cure. Some dormitories in large institutes even have special health-building facilities, where young people susceptible to colds and other illnesses take the necessary preventive procedures after lectures.

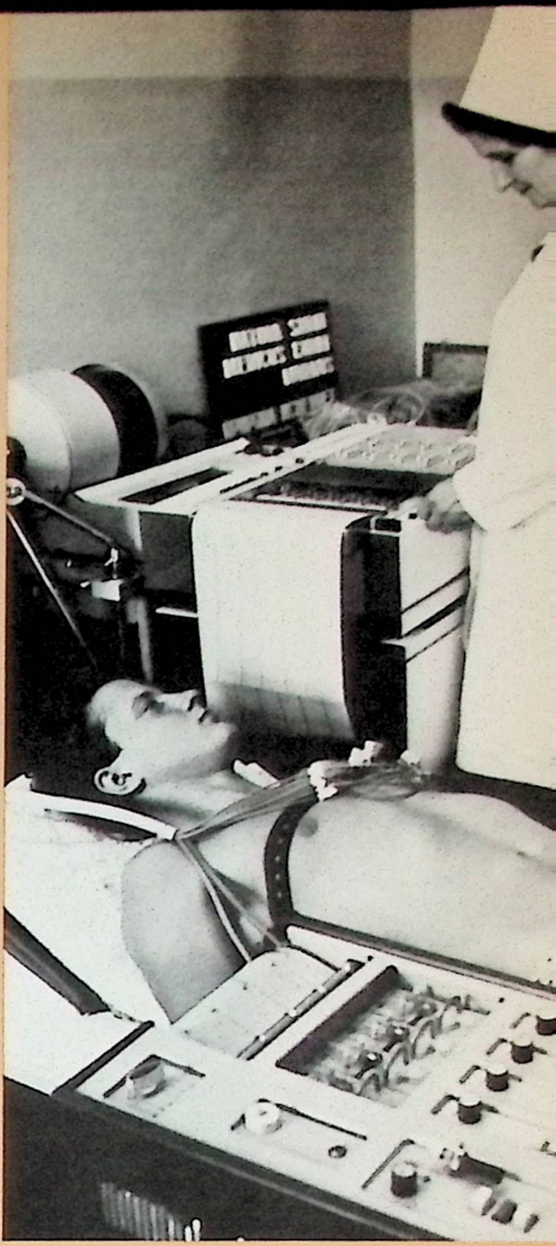
Though there can be no doubt about the benefit of the disease prevention facilities, they are situated in town, with its noise and bustle, and they lack such an excellent medicine as fresh air. Therefore, some institutes—the Byelorussian University, the Institute of National Economy and the pedagogic institute—have built their health facilities out of town. There is also an intraschool health-building center not far from Minsk, which is financed jointly by several institutes. Every year it accommodates up to 5,000 young men and women.

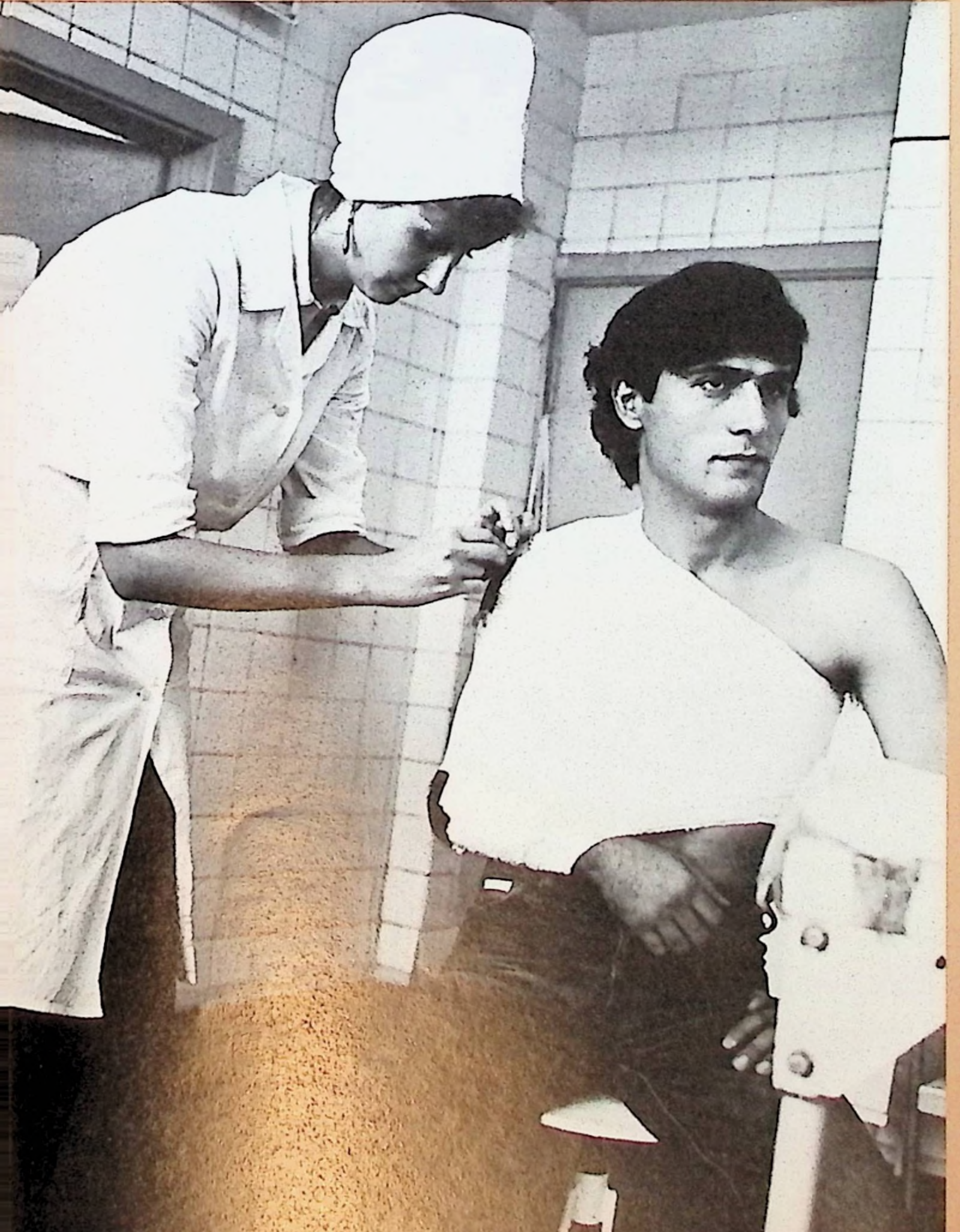
The health center is situated in a beautiful spot, on the bank of a reservoir close to a pine forest. Every morning and afternoon a specially chartered bus takes the students to and from the lectures.

Do the students like it here?

"Of course," smiled Eleonora Borisenok, a 19-year-old student of the Minsk Radio-Engineering Institute. "I came here for the first time last year. I was prescribed 'fresh air' after I had been ill with tonsillitis. And for a whole year after that, I never once had a cold. That's why I decided to come here again, to build up my resistance. Staying here is very inexpensive for us: We pay only 22 rubles for 24 days; the full cost is 120 rubles."

Facing page, clockwise from top left: Hydrotherapy at the clinic. Another approach to therapeutic gymnastics. Dr. Lyudmila Lukashevich in the cardiology room. The facilities for remedial exercise are frequently in use. At the surgeon's office.





WITH A SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED BY A KOLKHOZ

By Tatyana Solovyova

by Igor Zenin

While Tatyana Verlan studies at the Kishinev Polytechnic Institute, her expenses are subsidized by her collective farm.

Tatyana Verlan got up earlier than usual that day, at the very crack of dawn. Sleep had been evading her lately. She called to her sleepy dog and went outside. The scene that greeted her was one she'd known since childhood: the familiar street lined with one-story houses, the old village well. The village of Tei, Moldavia, was sorely in need of reconstruction. One of its immediate needs was a department store, so that the villagers would not have to travel all the way to town for clothes and shoes. And this vacant lot, she thought, would be a good place for a movie theater.

Such thoughts had occupied Tatyana's mind for a long time. A third year student at the Kishinev Polytechnic Institute (Kishinev is the capital of Moldavia), she is studying to be a construction engineer. So she also scrutinizes the new buildings in the village with a critical eye. For example, the multistory buildings, exactly like the ones they build in urban areas, look so terribly out of place in the old village. No one had given a thought to how these structures would fit into Tei's rural landscape.

Tatyana (Tanya, for short) went back into the house to work on her sketches.

For a long time her mother had not wanted Tanya to enroll in the construction department. Yevdokiya Verlan had taught high school physics for 27 years, and she thought that construction was not a woman's work. She believed that her elder daughters had chosen the right professions: Anya was an accountant and Valya, an economist. But the youngest insisted on becoming a builder.

Before Tanya left for the capital, she was invited to the collective farm office for a talk.

The chairman, Pankrat Pali, was intrigued by her unexpected choice of profession. Unlike her parents, he liked the idea that Tanya wanted to become a builder; there was a shortage of professional builders in the village.

Pali had his own reasons for arranging this interview. He wanted to find out what Tanya planned to do after she graduated—whether she intended to return to the village or if she was anxious to move to the city. In the long run, perhaps the girl would marry and then it would be good-by to the village.

"Oh, no," protested Tanya, "I'm waiting for my boyfriend to come back from the army. We went to school together, and he also plans to go to the institute. We are going to return to the village after we graduate."

"Well, that's different," said the farm chairman with relief. "If you pass the entrance exams, the collective farm will grant you a scholarship. I hope you'll be a credit to us."

Tatyana Verlan, like most of the 15 girls and boys from Tei who study at various institutes in Moldavia, had no idea where the collective farm gets the money to pay their stipends. Students tend to take them for granted, not caring where the money comes from. But I think it is an interesting question worthy of investigation.

Every farm has a special fund for the training of personnel, which is taken out of its profits—usually about five to eight per cent. For obvious reasons, the profits in farming are not always stable and depend on many factors. That is why the amount of money available for training young specialists fluctuates constantly. But even in the worst of times, the farm management tries to maintain as high a balance as possible in the trust so that it can send young villagers to school.

The system of payment is very simple. After each examination period—that is, twice a year—students send in their results to the farm's accounting office. Students with bad grades are not granted a stipend for the next semester; diligent ones who have made good progress get their full allowance. Incidentally, a collective farm stipend is 15 per cent higher than the ordinary state stipend. Tanya, for instance, gets 60 rubles a month.

To receive a collective farm scholarship, a student must agree to work for three years after graduation in his or her home village. But life sometimes upsets this simple setup. It happens once in a while that for one reason or another (marriage, for instance), a graduate goes to work on another farm, in which case the farm that has paid the young person's way through school suffers a loss. But this loss is refunded, at least in the material sense, by the farm for which the young specialist has gone to work.

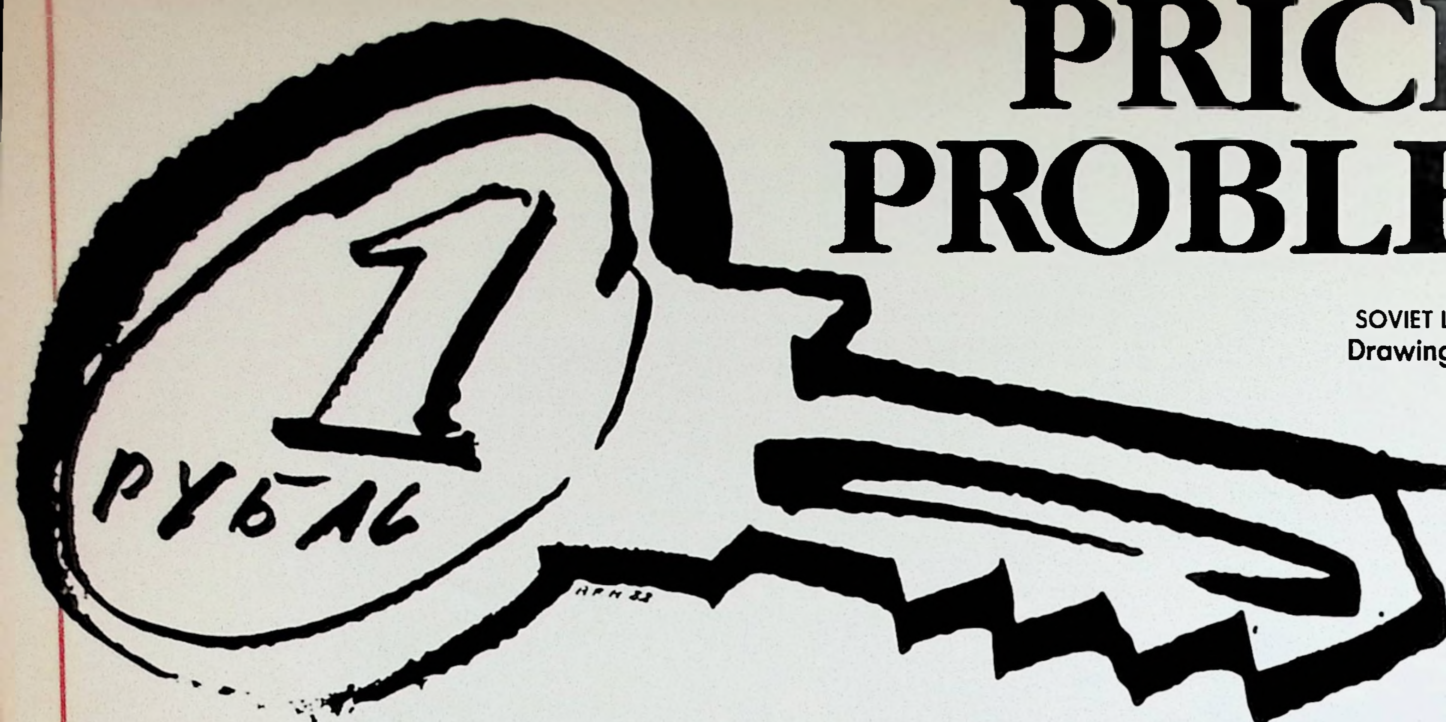
Every Saturday Anya and Valya come from Tiraspol with their husbands and children to visit their parents in Tei. Tanya comes from Kishinev. The whole family sits down to a generous dinner in the Verlans' large, pleasant home. They talk about anything and everything under the sun. The father, Saveli Verlan, often recalls the war. It took a toll of almost all the men in the family. Tanya's grandfather was listed as missing, her uncle was killed in action, and the duties of head of the family fell on the shoulders of 10-year-old Saveli. The then collective farm manager gave him a job in the dairy farm.

Saveli worked on the farm for 30 years. There is no doubt that Tanya takes after her father in her love for the land. On the other hand, she loves life in the town no less—she enjoys going to the theater and exhibitions at the art museum. She follows the latest fashions too. Life is unpredictable, and it's hard to say whether the family's love for the village will gain the upper hand in Tanya's life.

But her sketches for Tei's reconstruction are still hanging in her room, and she makes alterations on them each time she comes home to visit.

Clockwise from left: Back home on vacation. On the farm with her father, Saveli Verlan. With collective farm chairman Pankrat Pali.

PRICING PROBLEMS



By Vladimir Gurevich
SOVIET LIFE Economics Commentator
Drawing by Alexander Arkhutik

THE PENDING price reform tops the list of *perestroika* problems requiring immediate attention. Retail prices are the most controversial.

However sensitive, the job must be tackled. Mikhail Gorbachev told the Nineteenth Party Conference: Without price reform, the economic reform as a whole cannot succeed.

Current Soviet prices date back to the late 1920s, when the economy was ruled by injunction. The prevailing view was that prices could be imposed from above. "Stability" was considered the most important goal.

But stability was just what was lacking, and not only on the market. Real-life economic processes forced the state to raise prices to meet specific needs. Prices became, frankly, artificial. A glass of soda water cost more than a gallon of gasoline.

Piecemeal efforts will not suffice: We need a complete overhaul of our finances. The pricing mechanism needs to be rebuilt. This is no easy task. Arbitrary pricing must be scrapped; supply and demand will find an equilibrium.

Centralized pricing is not to be discarded altogether, but its domain will be dramatically cut. Today the country produces 25 million different items; prices for 23 million of them are set by the state. That will change.

Most economists believe centralized prices should cover only basic fuels, building and raw materials, state-procured farm produce and key services. The rest are to be contract and market prices. Contract prices can be capped or floating.

Some limitations are inevitable: The Soviet market is highly monopolized. Producer freedom must cede to consumer freedom of choice. Otherwise producers will dictate prices again.

The reform program's wholesale, procurement and retail phases will span two years. These reforms are built to last. Past price reforms soon fizzled out, leaving the public bitter: Though prices were changed, an outmoded pricing mechanism and economic management system remained intact.

The current reforms are vastly different. They will do away with practices that cripple some producers by setting price ceilings too low to cover costs, and guarantee others profit regardless of performance. State subsidies were introduced to overcome the problem. Subsidies ate up 20 per cent of the budget, and they failed. Producers did not have to worry about the market at all.

Cost/price ratios will change first in the processing and fuel industries. Fuel prices are so low today that it is not cost-effective for enterprises to conserve raw materials. Cheap raw materials have distorted export patterns.

Some food prices are also kept far below their actual cost. The difference is paid by the state. The results of this system often border on the absurd. A farmer sells meat to the state for a procurement price, that is twice the price at which it would be sold in the stores. Feeding livestock with subsidized bread is cheaper than buying fodder.

On the other hand, the prices for many consumer goods are astronomical. The profits go back into the budget and are used to subsidize foodstuffs—a vicious circle.

The price reform will stop this nonsense.

Another important point is that domestic prices will be brought in line with the world market, allowing the Soviet ruble to become fully convertible.

Soviet consumers are alarmed by plans to abolish food subsidies worth the equivalent of 100 billion dollars a year. Ordinary Soviet people view subsidies as a potent symbol of social justice. Few understand that well-paid people benefit more from subsidies because they consume more.

Yet the abolition of subsidies will send food retail prices up. How will that affect people's standard of living?

Higher food prices can be compensated for with no loss to the average citizen. Prices of consumer goods can be cut, and the interest rates on savings accounts raised. Still, direct monetary compensation is central: Wages and pensions are to rise, and bonuses for children and housewives will be instituted. The state will give the 100-billion-ruble savings back to the nation. The national budget will gain nothing and lose nothing. Yet economic relations will be sound, prices being the same for producer and consumer alike.

Some economists are apprehensive lest the reform hike prices and stop at that. This is exactly what happened 25 years ago. No compensation was offered. Since then the "consumer basket" has become twice as expensive. There are also fears the bureaucracy will misconstrue the announced policy for full compensation.

There are many doubts: Will the people willfully restrict their diet even after getting bonuses? Will cooperative prices go up? And even—will there be a general price rise including the goods not covered by compensation?

One main argument against the reform is that our agricultural losses have been too high. If we start by cutting these losses, rather than by boosting prices, we will be able to make do without subsidies. The problem here is that to make subsidies redundant, the losses would have to be cut by half, which will take a lot of time. Many economists say command methods of administration and the bloated managerial machinery are to blame for the losses. The new prices, they say, will serve to maintain the mammoth bureaucratic structure rather than to satisfy the urgent needs of production.

There is an issue apart from food prices—affordable goods for children and retired people. Current subsidies are inefficient; inexpensive, quality goods for children and people of advanced age are becoming less available. What we need here is an incentive for producers and the trade.

Nevertheless, a price reform remains a high-priority concern. The question is how soon it can be implemented.

Perestroika has introduced profound changes in culture, ideology and foreign policy, but so far it has left the material sphere untouched. Each step to benefit the people's welfare will provide tangible political chances for a successful price reform.

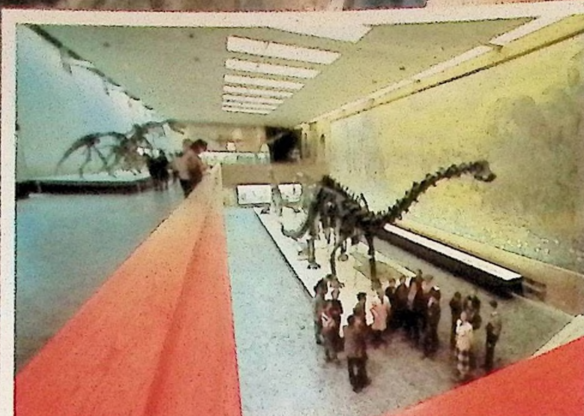
Agriculture is where we can expect the most important breakthrough. While it is unlikely that we'll see a dramatic reduction of losses overnight, supply of foodstuffs should easily meet demand within two or three years. The policy of leasing land and machinery to farmers and of entering into family farming contracts should make the price reform less painful.

Five options for the reform had been advanced by the summer of 1988. None have proved satisfactory. And Mikhail Gorbachev has confirmed that any price reform would be examined first by the nation.

Let's Go See the Dinosaurs

By Vladimir Zhegallo
Photographs by Victor Reznikov

The dinosaur hall is the most popular in the paleontology museum. Above: Some prehistoric bird left its imprint on this piece of basalt.



Soviet paleontologists have gathered an extensive collection of skeletons over the past 40 years.

Dinosaur eggs discovered in the Gobi Desert. Below: *Life's Tree*, a decorative panel in the museum.

"The stones of the past are the steps into the future."
Nikolai K. Rerikh

In the southwest corner of Moscow stand several buildings of red brick, with massive walls and rounded towers, reminiscent of old architecture. These buildings house the new Orlov Paleontological Museum of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Inside, besides the many fossils of extinct animals, there are also a few living beings—associates of the museum. I am one of the latter and am here to tell you about our museum.

I am sure you will be interested in hearing about the extinct plants and animals, about paleontologists and the evolution of life on earth. I am so sure of that because there is often a line of up to a hundred people who are eager to buy tickets to the museum, despite the distance from downtown. I also know that paleontology evokes great interest abroad. Ten years ago we took some of our exhibits to Japan, where three million people visited the museum in 10 months.

The museum was named after Academician Yuri Orlov, a scientist who did the nearly impossible. He devoted the last 15 years of his life, a period of high productivity for a natural scientist, not to research, but to organizing the construction of a new museum building, a thankless job which occupies all of one's time and energy. Only those who love science more than their own scientific accomplishments are capable of doing such things.

It took several generations of scientists over 250 years to assemble the museum's formidable collection. The old building—the former stables of an eighteenth century country estate—could not hold all our paleontological treasures. Now all those who wish to can see them in the new building.

On display here are the imprints of the first multicellular animals that lived 700 million years ago and had no hard skeletons. They do not resemble any animal living today because they belong to species of organisms that have no modern analogues. Even for a paleontologist, who is used to all kinds of strange things, seeing these imprints is like traveling to another planet. The first multicellular creatures are a subject of great interest among paleontologists all over the world. Mikhail Fedonkin, a colleague of mine, recently went to the United States to discuss the origin of multicellular animals with American and other foreign scientists. They brought up the question of an evolutionary connection between those ancient animals and the living beings discovered by American oceanologists about 10 years ago in the deep-water oases of life not far from the Galápagos Islands.

Let's go on. We haven't yet seen the first four-footed animals with six, instead of five toes, which were discovered by a young researcher, Oleg Lebedev, some 400 kilometers south of Moscow. We haven't seen the mammal-like reptiles that were ancestors of mammals. We haven't seen the skeletons of pareiasauria, each of which is eight feet long and has a large skull with warty or hornlike protuberances. It is among these strange remains that I always feel most confident and protected. A paleontologist often feels a need to justify him- or herself when dealing with those who finance his research. In the eyes of a bureaucrat, anybody who studies something that disappeared thousands of years ago looks as if he or she is trying to satisfy his curiosity at the expense of the state.

Maybe the pareiasauria will help me justify the financing of paleontological research. Their skeletons were discovered by Professor Vladimir Amalitsky in 1899 on the banks of the Severnaya Dvina. The excavation work cost 50,000 gold rubles. Several dozen skeletons were discovered, each valued at 4,000 pounds sterling, early in the twentieth century. So paleontology also brings a profit, considering that the skeletons of these monsters are infinitely more valuable today.

There is a special section in the museum devoted to dinosaurs. The collection was amassed by Soviet paleontologists over the past 40 years in Soviet Central Asia, Mongolia and China.

The major exhibits—the skeletons of duckbilled dinosaurs and of tyrannosaurs, the largest land predator of all times—were found in Mongolia by Ivan Yefremov's expedition. Yefremov was also a popular Soviet science-fiction writer. One of his novels, *The Nebula of Andromeda*, has been translated into 35 languages, including English. He was a remarkable man.

Paleontologist Yefremov traversed a path that was typical of a serious natural scientist, from studying the regularities of evolution on earth to meditating about the future of humankind. We would like our visitors to traverse the same path and try to understand the "Yefremov phenomenon."

The farther we go through the museum, the closer we come to the contemporary period. A natural question arises: What's next? Here are the fossils of animals that lived from 7 to 10 million years ago. If ever a paradise existed, it was at that time. The variety of vertebrate animals had never been so rich or their number so great.

The moderately warm and humid climate on most land surfaces provided numerous animals with plenty of food. But about six million years ago, the climate changed so radically that the Mediterranean dried up completely. Animals started dying off at a rate that made the extinction of dinosaurs look like a trifle. Nearly 70 per cent of the types of mammals in Europe and North America at the time became extinct.

Several hundred thousand years later, the diversity of fauna was gradually restored as the biosphere healed its wounds. But it failed to recuperate completely because at the same time (hundreds of thousands of years is a short span of time for paleontologists) two major events occurred—the Ice Age began and Homo sapiens appeared. The climatic stress and anthropogenic activities began to destroy the existing natural communities.

The power of the human mind has enabled people to inhabit the entire planet, something that other species failed to do. Today there are about 30 people per square kilometer of land (or 10, if we count the ocean's surface). It has become clear that the planet's existing resources are not manna from heaven, which comes in the necessary quantity and at the right moment. It has become equally clear that not a single species can live in an environment poisoned by its wastes. The present strategy of humankind is at an impasse.

Two things should be kept in mind. First of all, with the appearance of humankind, there also appeared a new sphere apart from the already existing ones, such as atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and others. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Vladimir Vernadsky called it the noosphere. In that sphere, the human mind acts as a planetary and even a cosmic force.

Second, structurally and historically the noosphere is connected with all other spheres of earth and especially with the biosphere. That means that the human mind is not omnipotent. The basics of future strategy are seen in an old paradox: Can Mohammed create a stone that he is unable to lift? Yes, because he is omnipotent. But he will not do it because he is omniscient and has a powerful mind. Whether we like it or not, our freedom is surely guaranteed by necessity.

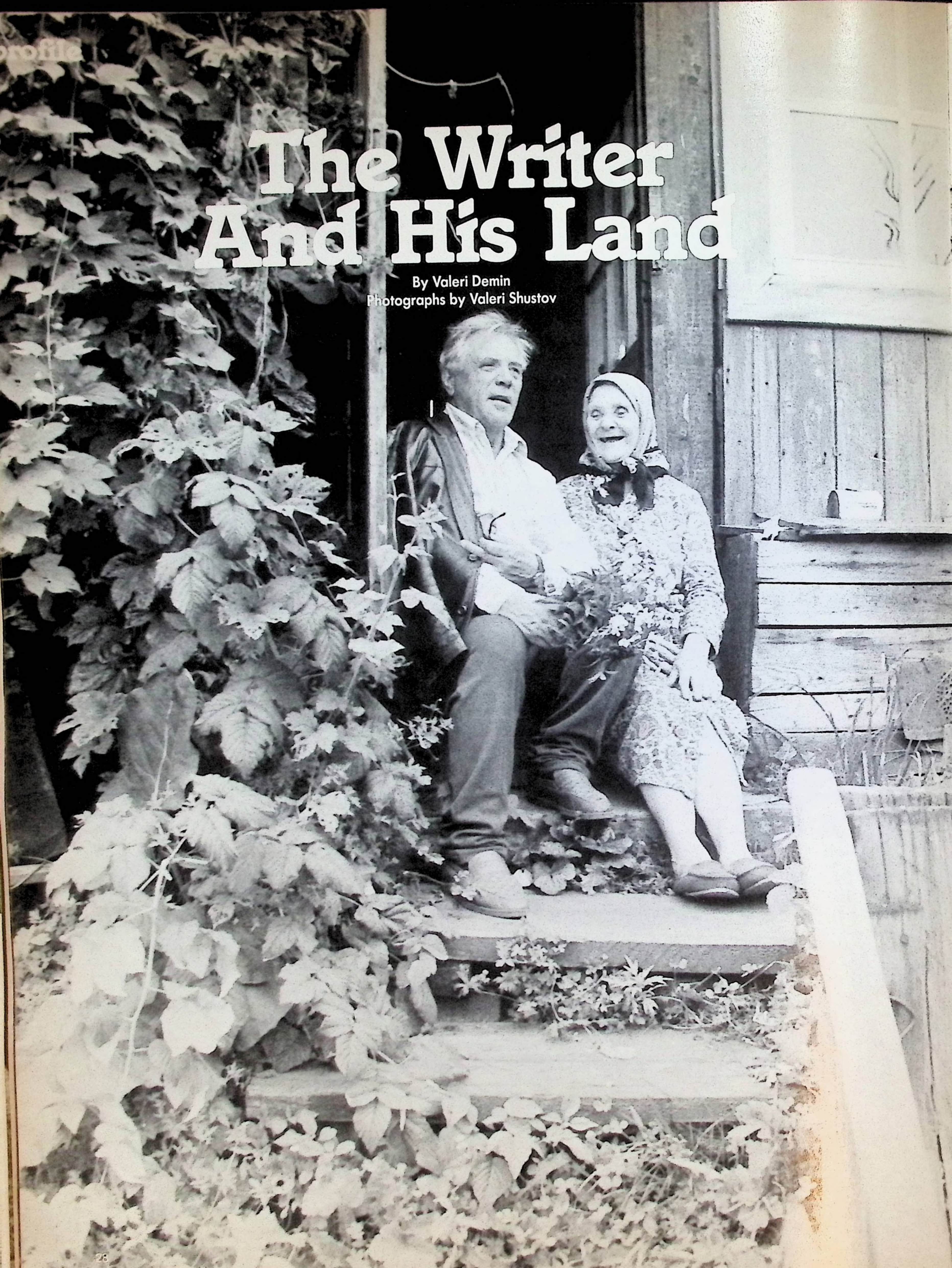
We have three possible strategies. First, we can proceed from the assumption that the biosphere has already played the role of the placenta in the mind, and we can replace it with an artificial life-support system; second, we can sophisticate our technologies and isolate the production of the goods we need from the biosphere, take antipollution measures and turn the earth into a preserve or a national park; third, we can find a way to use the biosphere and other spheres of earth without destroying them or their interconnections, and repair the damage already inflicted through oversight.

To make the right choice, we should learn the lessons of history, in this case, the history of life on earth. Paleontologists have analyzed many strategies used by various organisms. I could tell you about many crises, including ecological catastrophes, which this planet has experienced. Paleontologists have a certain advantage over biologists because the former can analyze the results of nature's "experiments" that have already been staged. It is much safer than experimenting with our planet now—we have no other planet to live on.

I am not saying that paleontology alone can solve our ecological problems. But paleontology is essential for solving them. And even if the only thing we manage to do is to help people realize the vital necessity for a new thinking, that is, global pride, it will mean that our efforts have not been wasted and that our museum is of value to humankind. ■

The Writer And His Land

By Valeri Demin
Photographs by Valeri Shustov



"Not a mighty roaring flame, just a meek hearth fire is warming my life. I'm grateful to it just as I'm grateful to the long-suffering paper on which I write. And I want to ask the forests that are no more to forgive me: They died to be turned into the paper on which I doggedly try to preserve in words the beauty of those forests, vales and mountains. Spurred on by my gift, I write to purify my soul and to help others become a little better and more merciful."
Victor Astafiev

Facing page: Victor Astafiev with Aunt Augusta on her front porch. "Though poor as a church mouse, Aunt Augusta drew the whole big family like a magnet. I loved her as no one else." (The Last Bow, *1957-1977) Above: Ovsyanka, Astafiev's native village.*

The Soviet community is drawn to its cultural roots—suffice it to mention the public campaigns to preserve Leo Tolstoy's Yasnaya Polyana estate or Pushkin's Boldino and Mikhailovskoye. The fascination with memorial places is fairly new. It's difficult to picture, for instance, Tolstoy taking a tour of the Pushkin family estates.

Few nineteenth century authors focused on their native communities in their writings. Now, that trend dominates our literature because of, or perhaps despite, the leveling off of local specificities as the population migrates. Our hearts and minds opposed cultural centralization, planned or spontaneous, and Soviet literature was sure to reflect the trend.

Now, as the Soviet community reappraises its economic, cultural and moral values, the writers who have sustained contacts with their home and, through these contacts feel tied to the nation as a whole, are the people's favorites. These writers love their native region: Valentin Rasputin, the Angara and Baikal country in the heart of Siberia; Vasil Bykov, the Byelorussian woodland; Chinghiz Aitmatov, a Kirghiz, Lake Issyk-Kul. Victor Astafiev, a Siberian, loves his mighty Yenisei River.

I began this essay with strange trepidation. Describing one's impressions of a visit to a major writer is undoubtedly a challenge. I could do well without these complications and merely feed you facts and figures—some biographical data, a few personal touches and publishing statistics. But Astafiev's work deserves in-depth, personal attention.

My editor pressed me to work on: "Why aren't you through yet? Well, well—just don't make a mess of it! Astafiev's a grand figure. And please, make do without our slushy Russian sentimentality. Make it a piece of good muscular, informative prose, the way they like it in the West. Got it?"

Well, I couldn't present Astafiev's gushing Russianness in muscular, informative prose: His writing is too sincere and spontaneous for that approach. He opens his soul to the reader in quite a different way than, say, the ironical exhibitionist Henry Miller, or the proud and vulnerable Vladimir Nabokov, who conceals his pain behind a virtuoso style.

Astafiev's confessions aren't like that. He doesn't seek to enrich his reader with his understanding of the world: He wants to give back to the world what belongs to it, plus the joy or sorrow it evokes in his heart. Open to the world, he doesn't differentiate between man and nature, between his world perception and that of the entire nation. He writes and lives in the midst of people; truth and conscience are his vehicles.

Eager to portray life as the precious kaleidoscope of characters and events it is, Astafiev never follows a clear-cut plot. His books are chains of digressions, first describing a chance idea or a landscape once seen, then retelling a funny or tragic episode. His logic follows a stream of consciousness. The critics who fail to appreciate it reproach him for careless composition and excessive dependence on his material. They have missed the most important characteristic: his palpitating heart, which he opens to us as Pushkin did in his time. They don't hear his sermon in the Dostoyevskian vein.

Astafiev's frank and unfettered narrations follow the tradition of Russian artistic prose and are confessional in spirit.

"I don't curse or reproach anyone. I only thank the Maker for giving me the joy of inspiration and for his help that allowed me, amid temptations, to follow the behest of Konstantin Batyushkov, a dashing officer and radiant poet to live the way you write, and write the way you live."

Astafiev's works are unique because his life is unique. The sequence of his life, traced in his writings, has become a national documentary epic. Equal in its singularity to the fate of his people, his life is sublime.

I drew up a list that shows the dates of his books and the episodes from his life on which they are based:

The Last Bow (1957-1977). Childhood and adolescence in Ovsyanka village, 15 kilometers from Krasnoyarsk. Exploring the Yenisei and Mana rivers.

The Pass (1958-1959). Flight from a vicious stepmother. Wandering in Igarka, a town situated in the permafrost zone.

An Ode to the Russian Kitchen Garden (1972). Vocational school. Work on the railroad in Krasnoyarsk. Volunteering for the front. Igarka Orphanage.

The Theft (1961-1965). Three and a half years at the front.

The Shepherd and the Shepherdess (1967-1974). Love affair in the trenches.

Falling Stars (1960-1972). A wounded soldier falling in love with a hospital nurse.

Notches (1975, still being enlarged to this day) and *Queenfish:* (1972-1975). Krasnoyarsk revisited. Buying a house in Ovsyanka, and mixing with the villagers.

A Sad Detective Story (1982-1985). The life of a budding writer; an old topic combined with current problems.

A series of short stories and a book of lyrical miniatures (collected over the years). Life in the Urals and in Vologda, a town in the northern part of the European Russian Federation.

It took only three weeks, an astonishingly quick time for a Soviet firm, for a *A Sad Detective Story* to be published. It was a huge literary and social sensation. "Astafiev presents us with a ▶

slice of life—a life crying with pain. As you read it, you want to throw the book away, to close your eyes—anything not to know it all. But you can't! "You can't be awakened to the horrible truth of this life without being painfully shocked," a reviewer wrote. In the past two years the book has been reprinted several times. Yet the millions of copies in print are not enough, and the book is still in great demand in libraries. *A Sad Detective Story* is exactly what our community wants: the cry of pain from a repentant nation.

As I prepared to visit Astafiev in Siberia, I reread some of his books. I marked the passages that I thought were taken from life unamended, such as the description of the spot on the Yenisei bank where the young hero's mother is found, drowned; the bitter narration of how he almost freezes to death as he is going to Aunt Augusta's place to say good-by before leaving for the front; the description of that aunt, and many others.

Aunt Augusta turns out to be a real-life character, who is still alive. The spot on the Yenisei exists as described, where 50 years ago, a rafter discovered a woman's corpse. Spotting a gold ring on her finger, he gave a furtive look around, and . . .

Victor Astafiev took us to that spot. It is called Shalunya's Bull, just like in his book. He also took us to the village cemetery, where we saw the names we knew so well from his stories inscribed on headstones: Lydia Potylitsina, Ilya Potylitsin and Yekaterina Potylitsina. I stood there, in the cemetery, feeling bereaved. I felt that I knew those people like my own kith and kin—yet I felt robbed because I had never known them in the flesh. You'd feel the same if you saw a gravestone inscribed "Prince Hamlet" or "Anna Karenina."

The authenticity of Astafiev's books is amazing. No less amazing is his natural charm. He is spontaneous and communicative to the utmost, full of warmth and well-wishing, and we enjoyed every moment of the week we spent with him. We visited him at his home in the Academic Township, a district in Krasnoyarsk. He introduced us to his wife, Maria, who is often described as the Anna Dostoyevskaya of Soviet literature, meaning the writer's ideal wife.

We spent two days with Astafiev in Ovsyanka, his native village, and three days in a boat, going up the Yenisei. We went fishing, ate tasty fish soup we cooked ourselves, washing it down with vodka that was no less delicious. We played chess, gathered Siberian pine nuts and talked nonstop. The stories he told us—now sad, now funny.

I loved every moment of it! But I never got up the nerve to start the interview I had come for. I never asked him the questions I had prepared beforehand.

But the visit explained to me why the wise intellectual, the writer whom all revere, prefers simple pastimes like angling, spinning yarns, watching soccer matches on television (he is a passionate fan and rare expert on the subject). And soon I understood something else—why he takes his blood pressure every morning and night.

Two days after we left Astafiev, Irina, his only daughter, died of a heart attack in her Vologda home. She was only 37.

I have a tape at home on which I recorded a fragment of his address to a readers' conference a week before Irina died. I shall quote it here, as it refers to her:

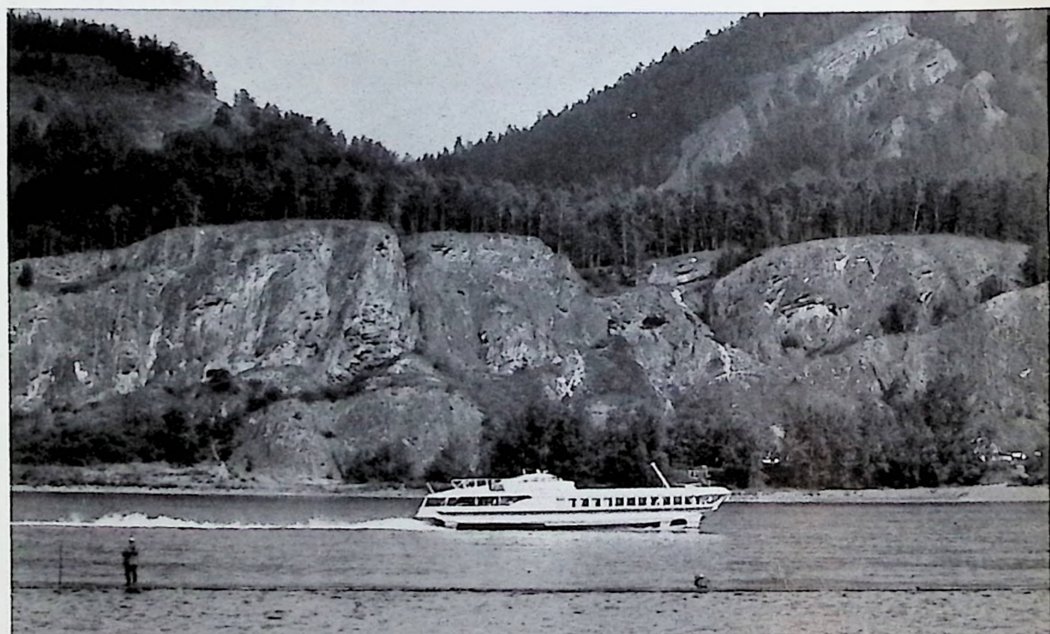
"I have a little habit of scratching my nose with my finger. I have always had this habit, and when I was a metalworker, my nose was always smudged. When my daughter was 14 or 15, my uncouth ways caused her great embarrassment. 'Dad, don't scratch your nose all the time when you are on television,' she constantly chided me. 'Well,' I replied, 'your mother says she loves me because of my smudgy nose.'

"Please, don't idealize me. This is how I am, sinful and smudgy-nosed. My life has not been a bed of roses, and I'm probably guilty of every sin there is to commit. I used to route and organize railroad cars—a good trade. But I lost that job, when I lost the sight in my right eye after being wounded on the Dnieper in the war. After I was demobilized, I took a job at a foundry—a hell of a job. I came down with tuberculosis there. By some miracle, I became a district newspaper reporter, the first brainy job I ever had. I was great at telling well-meaning lies. I spent five years there, and became quite an expert. I dictated editorials to the typists off the top of my head. That was something!

"That's how it was. Not that I blame only myself, for the whole nation had similar ways. True, it's a challenge to retain one's human dignity in the world the way it is now.

"I recently spoke about conscience for two and a half hours on television. Millions listened, and I received several bags of mail shortly after. This seems to mean that we all badly need a clear conscience. We need more dignity—and the more things spiritual the better." ■

Below: A Yenisei landscape. Bottom: Writers Victor Astafiev and Valentin Rasputin (right), meeting with their readers in Irkutsk. Facing page: The writer spends some of his happiest moments on the banks of the Yenisei River. Inset: The author, whose talent is recognized as rare and unequaled in contemporary literature.



NATURE PRESERVE BEYOND THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

By Leonid Stashkevich
Director, Wrangel Island Wildlife Preserve
Photographs by Alexander Muravin

Several years ago the Soviet Union established a national wildlife preserve in the extreme northeastern part of the country. The Wrangel Island Wildlife Preserve is dedicated to conserving the unique flora and fauna of the arctic region.

Even on a summer day ice-floes drift in Long Strait. Below, left to right: Polar owls are born in nests of down. The Pacific eider blends easily with the terrain. In the spring, walruses appear near the island. The workers on the preserve have modern means of transportation, such as this helicopter, at their disposal. Every year hundreds of polar bear cubs are born in the deep snow dens on the island.

Since seasons do not change in the usual way in the Arctic, Wrangel Island is covered with snow for 10 months of the year. Below: During the short polar summer, the tundra becomes a sea of grass and flowers.

Wrangel Island, named after Ferdinand Petrovich Wrangel, the Russian seafarer whose expedition discovered it in 1823, lies in the extreme northeastern part of the Soviet Union, on the conventional border between the East Siberian and the Chukchi seas. Surrounded by drifting ice fields, the small island looks more like an iceberg than habitable terrain. The world's northernmost nature preserve is situated there.

Inaccessible and forbidding, the island remained uninhabited for almost a century until a small Chukchi and Eskimo community arrived there in 1926 by sea. Georgi Ushakov, a prominent Soviet arctic explorer, who commanded the expedition, stayed there to lead the pioneer crew.

Ushakovskoye township is still the only settlement on the island, a flock of white houses on the coast of Rogers Bay, clinging to a hill. The silvery cup of a satellite dish rises high above the buildings—a symbol of contemporaneity in this godforsaken nook. It allows the local community to watch national television programs via communications satellites.

You won't experience a familiar change of seasons in the Arctic. The warmest period, which doesn't at all resemble our summer, lasts three months, with temperatures hovering slightly above zero centigrade. White silence reigns for the remainder of the year, with hurricanes, blizzards and severe frost. Birds and beasts leave the island for that time. The few who remain can't show their faces outside.

As is the case in high latitudes, the Wrangel Island flora is extremely poor because of the thin soil layer, the frost and terrific winds that carry ice crystals in winter. So tundra plants are small and cling to the ground. Flowering plants are varied, however—most have small white or purple blossoms. Experts have identified several hundred species here, about 30 per cent of which qualify as rare.

The first settlers on the island hunted walrus, polar bear and fox, and went on expeditions for mammoth ivory. Before the preserve was established, hundreds of bearskins and thousands of fox pelts were taken from here to the continent, as well as many tons of walrus and mammoth ivory. These animals, fortunately, are no longer hunted on the island. Polar bears and walruses, numerous in the arctic some years ago, are on the verge of extinction because of extensive hunting and water pollution. They are listed as endangered species in the Red Data Book. The Wrangel Island Wildlife Preserve was set up to protect these species and other animals, and we now hope that the danger is past for many precious representatives of polar wildlife.

When the long arctic night envelops the island, and the ice in the long strait glows softly like marble in the starlight, we often see a picture of unmatched beauty: The velvety sky suddenly lights up with the Aurora Borealis. Northern Lights cover the sky like a multicolored luminous carpet. Its majesty sets hearts aglow.

Life goes on in that stern season, too. Tiny lemmings take refuge in burrows in the snow. They can't go out even for a moment: After only a few minutes in the open, the little creatures die of exposure. Polar foxes migrate across the frozen strait to the Chukchi Peninsula. Because of protective measures, their population on Wrangel Island has skyrocketed—lucky for the Chukchi hunters who track them on the continent. But hunting is, naturally, regulated according to patterns that zoologists established after they studied the arctic wildlife in its natural habitat.

A herd of musk-oxen roams the northwestern extremity of the island, the little river delta and the slopes of nameless hills. The strong and hardy animals used to populate the vast expanses of Europe and Northern Asia. Now they are extant only in the barren plains of Greenland and the extreme northeast of Canada. They became so rare that their very name disappeared from many languages. Late in the eighteenth century, naturalists renamed the animal "ovibos" (from the Latin *"ovis"*, sheep, and *"bos"*, ox). These unique survivors of the Ice Age came to be known under a coined compound name, as if they were hybridized for experiment's sake.

The current domestication effort promises that musk-oxen will some day live in many northern households. Several years after a musk-oxen farm was started in Unalakleet, Alaska, over 20 settlements in the arctic areas of Alaska and the Aleutians were keeping musk-oxen and sporting first-class garments knitted from their wool.

After Soviet experts visited the Unalakleet farm, herds of musk-oxen were taken to Wrangel Island, where they adapted immediately—as did the reindeer, which reproduced like rabbits. Their vast population threatened the natural balance of local flora and fauna; their hooves trampled out the delicate grass and moss, and stomped on nests of wild geese. In fact, reindeer destroyed our country's last colony of polar geese. Matters improved somewhat with the establishment of the preserve. Now zoologists have a free hand in regulating the reindeer population, which is kept at 1,500 head, the optimum level.

Wrangel Island well deserves its nickname of Bear Cub Nursery. As winter sets in, female polar bears come in droves from the frozen seas to dig snow dens, where they give birth to their litters. When their cubs gain strength, they take them back to the icy expanses of the Arctic Ocean. Every year, about 500 bear cubs leave the island, following their shaggy mothers. The peace and quiet of the breeding grounds is vital for the upkeep of the bear population.

When the north wind starts to blow, blizzards sweep across the ground. Ominous-looking clouds form to hide the luxurious Northern Lights, and the island becomes lost in a swirling white veil for days on end. ■

90 DAYS

Continued from page 7

of the group and could have been used in case of emergency. If anything unforeseen had occurred, the SOS signals would have immediately been received in several countries, which would have, naturally, come to the rescue.

Also, I heard many people living and working in the North express their willingness to render assistance to the brave group of 13. This attitude is typical of those living in the Arctic, and elsewhere. For instance, the chiefs of the Antonov Design Office in Kiev lent their latest AN-74 transport plane to the expedition free of charge. This experimental jet dropped containers of food and equipment for the expedition over the course of two months.

The explorers themselves described the details of the expedition when they returned. But I'll never forget the day when the construction of the Soviet-Canadian "polar bridge" was launched.

The festive farewell scene had an aura of romance in the last rays of the short arctic day. Multicolored flares shot skyward, people gave last minute instructions, and reporters and photographers busily bustled about. The men seemed focused on the task at hand and did not say much. To all appearances, they were already on their difficult trek toward their distant goal. At that solemn moment, Reverend Dexter expressed his thoughts in the following words:

"Every man must believe in something. Some believe in a political system; others, in money. I believe in God. People must also believe in each other. This faith will help humanity overcome all barriers."

After that the baker's dozen, in handsome red suits with huge packs on their backs, separated from the friends and relatives who had gathered to see them off, and set their course northward. Unhurriedly they laid a ski track, evading the meters-high hummocks, cracks and snowdrifts, and were soon stretched out like a chain, one after the other. From a helicopter it looked like a little dark line drawn by an uncertain hand on the boundless, snow-white sheet of the Arctic Ocean.

From the scanty reports gleaned from the group's radio station, we soon learned that progress was difficult. The ocean seemed to be putting spokes in the wheel of the expedition—it either raised inaccessible walls of ice in the way or split the ice to reveal black chasms of water. The men were already using inflated rubber dinghies, and the first signs of frostbite had appeared on their faces. In the daytime the temperature was 48 degrees below zero centigrade with wind, and 55 degrees below zero at night. Even so, the group was approaching its goal by almost 20 kilometers every day.

Finally the skiers reached the North Pole, having successfully completed half of their journey. Their faces were not only tired, but severely wind-beaten. Small wonder, for when recalling the most difficult days of the journey, Shparo said, "I will never forget the first days after the start. The temperature dropped to minus 50 degrees centigrade. To tell you the truth, I was on the verge of despair."

The skiers were greeted at the pole by celebrations, balloons, flags and a team of experts from Moscow's Research Institute of Biomedical Problems. After carefully examining the members of the expedition, the doctors allowed all of them to continue the journey. Numerous gifts and piles of cables and letters awaited the courageous men, more letters than they could possibly read. There were also pleasant surprises. Dexter had certainly not expected to see his wife at the North Pole.

But most of the participants thought that the shower of attention, speeches and friendly smiles that they received at the Pole was premature. The second half of the difficult odyssey still lay ahead.

The second half was characterized not by frosts but by treacherous spring ice. Many parts of the ocean were free of ice, so the men frequently had to use inflatable rafts instead of skies, and they had to maneuver from one safe area to another.

Nevertheless, the expedition completed its polar bridge ahead of time—in 90, instead of the scheduled 100 days—when it reached a small island near Cape Columbia. On the island the men found a pyramid of stones built around a can containing dozens of notes from participants in earlier abortive ski expeditions to the North Pole from Canada. That was when they finally realized the significance of what they had accomplished. The first Soviet-Canadian transcontinental expedition proved to be extremely successful.

Back in Moscow, Shparo was asked about his greatest wish after the expedition was over. "To return home, to have a nice cup of tea and to sleep for a month." ■

LEAVING FOR THE YESHIVA

By Vladimir Mizhiritsky
Photograph by Nabi Utarbekov

Where do aspiring young ministers and priests go to study theology in the Soviet Union? The Russian Orthodox Church runs two theological academies and three seminaries. Seventh Day Adventists initiated correspondence courses last year, and Evangelical Christian Baptists offer Bible study courses. The Roman Catholic Church has greatly expanded student enrollment at its interdiocesan seminary in Kaunas, Lithuania, and its seminary in Riga, Latvia. The Georgian Orthodox Church and the Armenian Apostolic Church, as well as various Protestant denominations in the Baltic republics, have their own educational institutions.

Opportunities exist for other believers too. Muslims have several educational choices, Uzbekistan's Mir-i-Arab Madrassah in Bukhara and Imam al-Bukhari Muslim Institute in Tashkent being the most prominent.

As for Judaism, the Moscow Choral Synagogue has a yeshiva attached. The course of study takes three to five years, after which graduates are qualified as hazzanim (cantors), Torah readers or schachters (kosher butchers). Those intending to become ordained rabbis are sent to the Budapest Theological Seminary in Hungary. Many Soviet rabbis are among its alumni.

Avrekh Kaziev, 35, serves as rabbi in one of Tashkent's four synagogues. Below: Kaziev with Isaac Abramov (center), a community elder. Facing page: The Kaziev family likes to stroll around the city on a spring Sunday.

That night, the Kaziev home was crowded. Avrekh, a non-ordained rabbi at one of Tashkent's four synagogues, was leaving for the Budapest yeshiva. His many friends and relatives reverently greeted Isaac Abramov, religious community elder, who had come to see the young rabbi off.

"Avrekh is the gem of our community. There is no shortage of young people with degrees among the Bukhara Jews who live on Chkalov Street, where our synagogue is. But this young man will be the only one with a higher theological education," the elder told me. The rabbi's parents were inundated with effusive praise of their son.

Before retirement, Avrekh's father, Ilya, had been a shop-floor worker at a shoe factory and his mother, Istam, a shop assistant. Avrekh did not follow in their footsteps. He enrolled at the university in his native Tashkent, the Uzbek capital, and got a degree in geography, graduating at the top of his class. The brilliant student later began postgraduate work in demography and was well through his candidate's thesis when he made the decision to become a rabbi.

Mazol, his schoolteacher wife, knew her husband's piety and wasn't surprised at his decision. Not that she was too happy about it. "It's a little old-fashioned to be a rabbi," she winced.

Coming from an orthodox family that reverently observes all customs and practices, Avrekh owes his religious education to his grandfather, an erudite talmudist, who also taught his grandson to read and write Hebrew. Avrekh inherited his grandfather's rich theological library, and he studied it thoroughly.

"The atmosphere I grew up in certainly influenced me. I went to the synagogue regularly and saw that most of the people conducting the worship were of advanced age. Who would succeed them? I wondered. One day, I heard a voice inside me saying, 'I'll be the man,'" Avrekh says.

His religious zeal moved the congregation, and it sent Avrekh to study at the Moscow yeshiva. He received a scholarship from the yeshiva, and another from the Tashkent synagogal community.

When Mazol took a teaching job in Moscow, the family was quite well-off. Ian Yahiel went to school, and little Iana Esther to a day-care center.

"There were some other students from Uzbekistan in my class and many from the Ukraine, Moldavia and the Caucasus. The yeshiva did a lot to cultivate my mind, and being in Moscow did, too," Avrekh reminisces.

He graduated with honors in 1986 with a schachter's certificate and another that allowed him to perform rabbinical duties.

Avrekh's congregation consists of Bukhara Jews, also known as Central Asian Jews. Jewish settlement in Central Asia started in the early Middle Ages. References to the community in European documents date from as early as the twelfth century. Most local Jews were subjects of the feudal Bukhara Emirate. They remained staunch followers of Judaism but borrowed widely from the ways and customs of the indigenous population. To this day Bukhara Jews speak a Tajik dialect. They adopted the doira and the ghijak as their folk instruments, and they are still played at Jewish weddings. "There are Central Asian touches even to the way the Torah is recited, and many other local features characterize the synagogal liturgy," Avrekh said.

Rabbi Kaziev looks boyish at 35, especially at home, in his blue jeans and checkered shirt. The Kazievs have a nice home of their own in a district where Bukhara Jews have lived from time immemorial. A jack-of-all-trades, Avrekh plastered the walls and decorated the house single-handedly. He makes the family's car and house repairs, and is a good tailor.

"Avrekh will be in Hungary for several years. Won't it be hard for you here on your own, with two children?" I asked Mazol.

"Of course," she replied. "I rely on him in all things, big and small. But we're a very close family, and I hope my relatives and in-laws will help. Avrekh has two sisters. Galina's an architect, and Bella, a medical nurse. I have four brothers—a musician, a computer engineer, a factory shop manager, and a top-notch shoemaker.

"We Bukhara Jews are like that: We love our relatives, and we stick together. Old-fashioned, you might say—but it gives you a sense of security." ■

LANDSCAPES PAINTED ON GLASS

By Narciss Kocherezhko
Photographs by Igor Kostin

Though the art of glass painting dates back to Hellenic times, it had its heyday in the nineteenth century in the Carpathian Mountains of the Ukraine. Contemporary artist Vitali Sivak is continuing the tradition, creating original works which are noted for their technical perfection and artistic sophistication.

Horse Thieves. Below, left to right: Going to the Fai

AMATEUR ARTIST Vitali Sivak lives in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. Over the past 10 years many exhibits of his paintings on glass have been held at home and abroad. Sivak grew up in the village of Barsuki, north of Odessa. His house stood on a plateau over which crossed the medieval route connecting the Central Ukraine with the salt mines in the South. Ukrainian, Moldavian and Gypsy tales and legends flourished in the village. Pottery was the primary occupation of the villagers. For years the picturesque scenery of the region—tall haystacks in summer and autumn, giant snowdrifts in winter, and a dark oak grove on the horizon—inspired Sivak's work.

As a young boy, Sivak loved art. He painted winter landscapes and copied the classics. A glass painting done by a local artist particularly caught his fancy.

A true passion for art developed when Sivak left the village to study in Odessa. Later he studied law at ▸

Collecting Sunflowers. Below, left to right: *Winter Games* and *St. John's Holiday*.

Above: *The Old Man's Song*.

Kiev State University, but his main love never waned. Sivak preferred scenes of folk life, especially illustrations of Taras Shevchenko's poems. Chagall, Gauguin, Rousseau and Van Gogh became his idols.

The artist painted on canvas until 1969, when he stumbled across an album of Yugoslavian primitive paintings done on glass. The album was mesmerizing, and he became eager to try his hand at something along the same lines. Years of searching followed, culminating in his first truly original work—the 1977 portrait of his son.

Sivak depicts his passing moods on glass, though the end product usually is a far cry from his initial idea. Trees are his favorite subject; the human figure is rarely the main focus of his pictures. Exquisite in composition, the paintings have a pronounced decorative quality. The artist's colors seldom reflect reality. Even when he paints a real-life landscape, such as in his *Andreyev Slope* or *Architect Street*, he alters the appearance and position of the buildings, turning a common scene into part of his own unique world. ■

TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION IN NAGORNY KARABAKH

By Dmitri Ostalsky

THE DRAMATIC events in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, otherwise known as Nagorny Karabakh, have attracted attention both in the Soviet Union and abroad. Perhaps many people in the United States too—especially those of Armenian descent—followed with anxiety the developments in Nagorny Karabakh, in Armenia and in Azerbaijan (the region is a constituent part of Azerbaijan although its population is predominantly Armenian). These events revealed a tangled mass of problems that are connected with interethnic relations.

Can we regard the problems surrounding Nagorny Karabakh as solved? If not, what are the ways to resolve them? This was the central focus of journalists and others attending Novosti Press Agency's Moscow briefing, "Blank Spots of History: Nagorny Karabakh and *Glasnost*."

"Now that the emotional peak is past, it is time for reason to prevail," said Eduard Rozental, a Novosti political analyst, as he introduced participants in the briefing: economist Yevgeni Ambartsumov, a Moscow-born Armenian who makes his home in the Soviet capital; and Chinghiz Guseinov, a well-known Azerbaijanian author, who, as he has said, belongs to a people who measure the greatness of a person by his ability to critically assess himself and his people.

The fact that an Armenian and an Azerbaijanian sat down together at the same table to discuss the issue of Nagorny Karabakh with journalists and each other was evidence that the atmosphere surrounding the issue was changing.

Ambartsumov expressed the opinion that the decision made by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet not to change the administrative and territorial status of Nagorny Karabakh was not final, if only for the reason that nothing ever is final.

"At present," he said, "the Soviet of Nationalities [one of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet] has set up a commission to consider all questions and proposals connected with the problem of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In turn, the commission has formed five subcommissions, one of which will consider the region's territorial status. In my view, this is consonant with Mikhail Gorbachev's statement that not a single matter can be considered solved once and for all. I think that is a very sound approach."

In Ambartsumov's view, granting Nagorny Karabakh the status of an autonomous republic (as a part of Azerbaijan) would be a promising step. Unlike an autonomous region, an autonomous republic has its own constitution that it itself adopts.

"I don't know how everything would be," said Ambartsumov. "It's up to the people, to the legislative bodies of the future republic, to decide—if such a republic is set up. But I wouldn't rule out the possibility that it might proclaim in its constitution special relations with the Armenian Constituent Republic by virtue of the fact that most of the population living in Nagorny Karabakh is Armenian.

"The resolution adopted by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on July 18 criticized the violations of the constitutional rights of people living in Nagorny Karabakh. I find this very significant, as was the call to ensure that every person, whatever his or her nationality, should feel a full-fledged citizen in any region of the country. Also of tremendous importance was the arrival in Nagorny Karabakh of Arkadi Volsky, a representative of the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Now, unlike in the past, Armenia, as a republic representing the Armenian people, is taking part in solving all matters connected with Nagorny Karabakh."

Volsky, a member and a department head of the CPSU Central Committee and a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet, served as an assistant to General Secretary Yuri Andropov. Volsky recently took up his new duties. According to Ambartsumov, Volsky's guiding principle is that all problems be discussed with the residents of Nagorny Karabakh. The autonomous region now has a council of directors, which includes heads of Nagorny Karabakh's major enterprises and secretaries of party organizations. The council meets weekly, and nothing can be decided without its approval, according to Volsky. How long Volsky will remain in his new capacity will depend on the situation. Only time will tell.

What specific measures are being undertaken to restore social justice with respect to the people living in Nagorny Karabakh? The point is that the autonomous region clearly lacks the production capacity to absorb the sums—400 million rubles—allocated to it by the central government. Besides, the population and the region's authorities feared that these sums might fail to reach Nagorny Karabakh and remain in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. This had happened before.

Now Armenian organizations are also reaping the benefits of these allocations. All new structures in the regional center of Stepanakert, such as an air terminal, some apartment complexes and a road linking Stepanakert with Armenia, will be designed and built by Armenian architects and builders.

What are the main problems today?

"The main question is the normalization of relations between the Armenian and Azerbaijanian peoples," believes Guseinov. "This is a lengthy process that requires tact, mutual respect and a desire to meet each other half way."

While recognizing that events in Sumgait this past February, which led to casualties among the Armenians, will remain a shameful episode in the history of the Azerbaijanian people, Guseinov called upon Azerbaijanians and Armenians to exercise mutual tolerance.

"If relations between our peoples continue to be aggravated, then Armenians in Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanians in Armenia will find it more and more difficult to live together. One must realize this," he said.

Nor should it be forgotten that many Azerbaijanians came to the aid of Armenians in Sumgait, on occasion putting their own life at risk.

"In condemning the recent events in Sumgait," said Guseinov, "I want to emphasize that discussion of the tragedy is not always directed at finding the facts. Some things were obviously done to incite. For example, among the photographs purporting to testify to the violence against Armenians that occurred in Sumgait, there was one depicting an old Armenian sitting in front of a grave bearing seven crosses. From the dates on the crosses it would appear that children were among the victims. But investigations make it quite clear that no one under the age of 20 was killed."

In Guseinov's opinion, only corrupt groups in both republics, whose tranquil existence is threatened by *perestroika*, could benefit from fomenting interethnic strife.

"To be sure, the most sensible solution," declared Guseinov, "which has not, to our great regret, materialized, will come when uncompromising attitudes give way to a healthy atmosphere, with a good measure of self-criticism on both sides."

"The fact that the venues of some of the Sumgait cases have been changed to courts in the Russian Federation, which guarantees their unbiased consideration, I believe, meets the interests of Armenians," added Rozental. "Personally, I don't doubt that the punishment will be very severe. This will become one of the guarantees that what has happened will never happen again."

What complicates the situation, believes Guseinov, is the fact that the Armenians and the Azerbaijanians accuse each other of distorting history when discussing the historical claims on the territory of Nagorny Karabakh. The Armenian and Azerbaijan press both quote the same documents, but the texts are different, as are the conclusions.

"I read Azerbaijanian historians," said Guseinov. "Everything is very convincing, with references to facts and documents. I read Armenian historians—they also write very convincingly. Wherein lies the truth? I think the disputes going on within our two republics should be brought to the nationwide level. I suggest that a discussion be held, that we listen to all sides of the argument, and that we decide who is right and who is wrong."

Guseinov's idea was taken up by Rozental.

"Over the years of voluntarism, stagnation and the personality cult, we forgot how to solve our problems through the normal democratic process," he stressed. "The main thing about the nationalities issue, if we proceed from socialist principles, is equality of all nations, large and small, and respect for mutual interests and specific features."

IF IT ISN'T HYPNOSIS, WHAT IS IT?

By Valentin Shcherbachev
Ukrainian TV News Analyst
Photographs by Sergei Kivrin

"Your attention, please," he began. "Look me in the eyes, Lyuba." In a calm and measured voice, he told Grabovskaya that she would remain fully aware of everything but feel as if someone else, not she, were on the operating table.

Medical nurse Lyubov Grabovskaya, mother of two, will have a tumor removed.

While millions of spellbound viewers all over the country watched, a surgical patient was anesthetized over the air waves. Ukrainian psychotherapist Anatoli Kashpirovsky administered the anesthesia from over a thousand kilometers away.

I covered the nationwide television broadcast from the operating room of the Kiev Radiology and Cancer Institute. The patient was Lyubov Grabovskaya, 39, a medical nurse and the mother of two. She had come to the institute to have a tumor in her breast removed. Dr. Vladimir Korolyov, one of the Ukraine's most prominent surgeons, was to conduct the unusual operation.

Kashpirovsky was to act as anesthetist from the Ostankino Television Studio in Moscow. His unconventional method was chosen because the patient was allergic to painkillers.

"He's nothing but a quack," I heard somebody whisper from the corner, where an emergency anesthesiology team was waiting. The surgeon looked apprehensive, too. The patient was the only person who looked serene and optimistic. "It'll be O.K.," she assured Dr. Korolyov. Kashpirovsky had prepared her well for the ordeal.

The psychotherapist's face finally appeared on the huge television screen. The patient was given earphones to listen to his voice.

"Your attention, please," he began. "Look me in the eyes, Lyuba." In a calm and measured voice, he told Grabovskaya that she would remain fully aware of everything but feel as if someone else, not she, were on the operating table.

Some minutes later, Kashpirovsky announced that the patient was completely anesthetized. A tense moment followed. Dr. Korolyov stood at the patient's side reluctant to proceed. At last, he made the incision, and the operation proceeded like any other. The tumor was excised and sent to the laboratory for analysis. Twenty minutes after the operation had begun, it was over. Throughout the procedure, the patient talked calmly with Korolyov and Kashpirovsky.

Many people, especially physicians, think that all psychotherapists are charlatans. Kashpirovsky, from the Ukrainian town of Vinnitsa, encountered stiff resistance when he announced that his method worked with neuroses, ulcers, asthma and obesity, and could be used as a form of surgical anesthesia.

No local doctor agreed to test his radical new method, so Kashpirovsky turned to surgeons in Kiev. When I learned about his discoveries, I became his ardent supporter and did my best to provide them with ample television coverage. Together we arrived at the idea of the long-distance anesthetic suggestion.

This was not a publicity gimmick—Kashpirovsky was searching for a way to help many patients at a time. Television seems perfectly designed for this purpose.

Seven million Soviet children suffer from impaired bladder control, an annoying and potentially psychologically damaging complaint, which Kashpirovsky cures quickly and brilliantly. Telecasts and videotapes could make his sessions available to every little patient who needed them. Stuttering and asthma could also be treated in the same way.

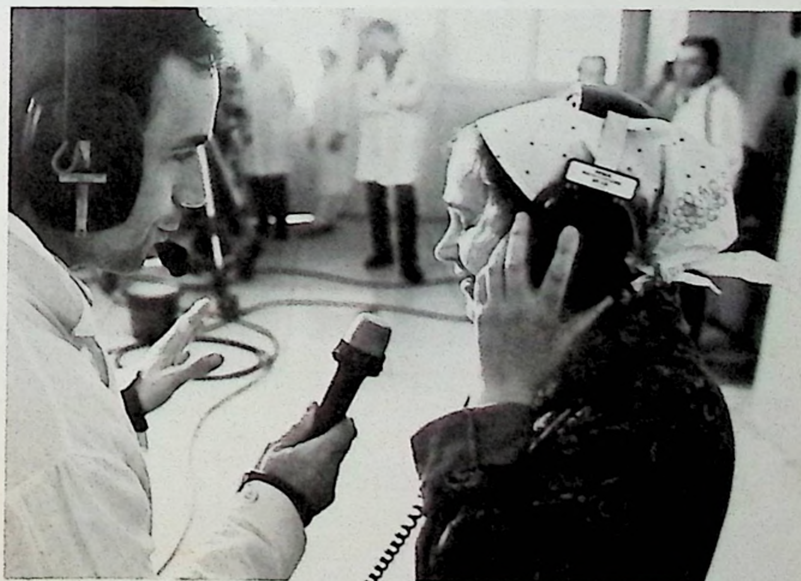
"What I do isn't hypnosis. I hypnotize patients only in exceptional cases. I don't think it's moral to induce new psychological and other suggestions in a person without his or her knowledge and consent," Kashpirovsky says.

If it isn't hypnosis, then what is the Kashpirovsky suggestion?

The doctor offers the following explanation: "Verbal and visual information suggestions can stimulate the human body to synthesize complex organic compounds far more effectively than the most advanced medicinal painkillers can. The body is the best of all possible pharmacies. It produces hundreds of curative and protective substances, many still unknown to science.

"Of course, you have heard about traumatic shock, an immediate response to unbearable pain. And you must have heard stories of people who have jumped over fences many times their own height or lifted unbelievable weights when aware of mortal danger. All of these instances support my hypothesis that under extreme conditions, the body produces stimulants or narcotic substances. Pharmacology will take a giant leap forward when we have identified those substances and studied them well enough to start to manufacture them on an industrial scale," he explains.

Kashpirovsky is continuing his research into anesthetic suggestion. A month after the Grabovskaya operation, he assisted in an operation in Vinnitsa, his home town, by keeping his hand on the patient's forehead and talking to her while major surgery was performed on her legs. Soon he will try his method during a craniotomy. ■



Before the operation, the patient and the author of this article speak from Kiev with the anesthetist in Moscow.

THE SECRET OF YOUR HEALTH IS SIMPLE, SAYS THE WIZARD

By Inna Zhukova
Photographs by Victor Chernov

Checking out a patient. Above: Deryabin speaks to the students of the Disease Prevention and Health Improvement courses at the Plekhanov Institute of National Economy.

Above: The Soviet equestrian team horses are frequently treated by the doctor. Facing page: This woman seeks the unusual help of Alexander Deryabin, whose philosophy of organic healing is gaining much respect.

There has been a marked increase in the popularity of the lectures and discussions given by Alexander Deryabin. They attract members of Moscow University's Science Club, white-collar workers from the Academy of Foreign Trade, specialists from the veterinary academy, medical institutes, and so on. Interest in Deryabin's work has continued for quite some time; his discussions are so popular that they sometimes last as long as five or six hours. Special seminars are being organized to study and employ Deryabin's unusual system of disease prevention and general fitness.

This is certainly an odd development for Muscovites, who are well versed in all the current fitness formulas, ranging from jogging to aerobics and fasting.

So what is behind Deryabin's continued appeal, and why do people of so many ages and professions believe in him? Is it yet another fad, his charisma or a real answer to people's needs?

I can only recount what I have personally seen, heard and tried.

"Look at us: We never get sick, but grow healthier and younger all the time." This is what Deryabin says to every audience, pointing to his healthy, vigorous and smart-looking assistants.

Looking at Deryabin himself, who is 196 centimeters tall, weighs 95 kilograms and can easily straighten out a horseshoe, one can hardly believe that 12 years ago he was considered hopelessly ill.

Deryabin was born on Victory Day, May 9, 1945, and he grew up during the years of postwar devastation and hunger. The Deryabins lived at that time in the southern Russian city of Shakhty, near Rostov. His father, who had fought in the war, died when Deryabin was 15-years old. The teenager had to work in a mine and could only go to school in the evening. That was when he developed a liking for Greco-Roman wrestling. By the time he was 18, he was certified as a Master of Sport. Then, suddenly, he was stricken with cardiac failure and shortly afterward by a deforming osteochondrosis. He quit wrestling and gave himself up to the doctors.

Deryabin began to develop his previously unrecognized musical talent and was admitted to one of the best music schools in the USSR, the Gnesin's Musical Pedagogic Institute in Moscow. The student singer was invited to be a background vocalist with the Bolshoi Theater. But then, during a regular health checkup, doctors spotted active tuberculosis in his right lung. There followed long years of treatment, endless hospital visits, kilograms of drugs and intensive diets (at times his weight exceeded 120 kilograms). He also tried different methods of self-treatment. Nevertheless, the doctors began to insist on removing the lung, a procedure that, even with a favorable outcome, would leave him a permanent invalid.

That was when Deryabin first heard of a Moscow healer Vitali Karavayev, who was ignored by official medicine. He was rumored to have unearthed the secrets of Atlantis, to possess the secret of life and the elixir of immortality.

Karavayev agreed to see Deryabin but warned him: "Remember, I do not treat people. I simply help them master their own organism and mobilize its defenses—in other words, make it treat and cure itself." Although that sounded quite unusual, Deryabin took his word for it and began Karavayev's system.

For several decades Karavayev had painstakingly studied the folk medicine of different cultures, focusing on the most rational methods of treatment. Drawing on this information, he created a comprehensive health-building system with specific recommendations concerning diet, the use of herbs, respiration, general hygiene and psychoregulation. "The secret of my Atlantis," he once told Deryabin, "is humankind itself and its latent capabilities."

In two years Deryabin's diseases had disappeared, but the two men continued to work together. Deryabin helped Karavayev refine his system and took part in his experiments with herbs. After the death of his teacher in 1985, Deryabin took over the job.

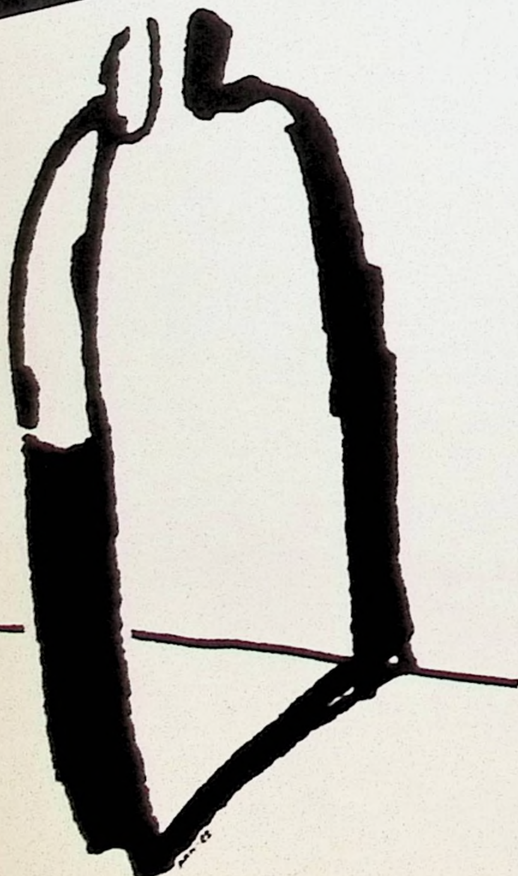
Deryabin came to Karavayev when he had exhausted the resources of formal medicine and had been declared hopeless by the medical profession. People in similar situations are coming to him today.

I want to mention just a few cases from Deryabin's practice. I have met with all of these people and with their doctors. Some of them asked me not to disclose their names, whereas others insisted that I give their full names and jobs.

Irina S., 27, introduced me to her fiancé when they came to Deryabin's apartment in the center of old Moscow from a remote residential district. Today Irina is practically healthy, although three years ago "a computer tomogram done at the oncological center," says her doctor, neuropathologist Vladimir Androsov, "showed a metastatic tumor in the brain, which was so large that it had caused paralysis of the right side and loss of speech. The young woman's mental state was extremely disordered. She was diagnosed as incurable. In desperation, her parents appealed to Deryabin for help. He used the entire Karavayev system in her treatment. In six months Irina started walking again and regained her speech. Only some consequences of the paralysis remained, and they are now being dealt with by means of remedial gymnastics and massage. So if I was skeptical about Deryabin's system in the beginning," Androsov continues, "today I believe that it deserves a most careful study and application. It is like a life preserver that can be thrown to anyone who needs it."

I also spoke with Lyudmila Bitkova, a senior nurse at the Moscow Clinical Hospital No. 4. We met her at one of the ▶

Right: Vivaton was born in this small kitchen in the doctor's old Moscow home. Below: The Karavayev-Deryabin diet is demonstrated on a television program. Bottom: Deryabin found this pigeon dying in the street and nursed it back to health.



regular seminars conducted by Deryabin. "Four years ago I was struck by an active form of scleroderma. I was appalled by the dense, diseased spots on my skin. As a nurse, I knew that scleroderma was incurable and could only be sent into remission. I underwent eight courses of conservative therapy, including three as an inpatient. Antibiotics did not help, and I was about to start a hormonal treatment. Then, at the beginning of December 1987, I attended a lecture by Deryabin where he spoke of the possibility of recovering from scleroderma. I accepted his system at once, without any reservations. In about four months my skin grew soft and elastic, although there were still some traces of pigmentation. I feel no physical discomfort, work at full capacity and can attend to the household chores and the children again. The feeling of doom is totally gone."

Yekaterina Lychagina, a retired woman living near Moscow, showed me a scar from a trophic ulcer which had healed in just three months (all that remained on the reddish but otherwise smooth skin was a scar about three centimeters long). With Nina Trifonova, 42, a stomach ulcer healed over in about 20 days.

There are many such examples, but let us now turn to the problem of the rejuvenation of the organism.

I looked at a two-year-old photograph of the artist Yevgenia M., taken when she was 50 years old. In the photo her face is that of an aging woman. The same woman now looks like a completely different person—she has lost 36 kilograms and looks 10 years younger.

Or take the even more striking example of Deryabin's assistant, Irina Bogdanova. A Master of Sports in gymnastics, Irina quit professional sports several years ago and went into research. The change in her way of life caused an unwelcome reaction: She started gaining weight, and a cobweb of fine wrinkles had covered her face by the time she was 32. "After four months of the system everything was back to normal. It was as if I had grown a new skin," says Irina. "I no longer need make-up or lotions and have a remarkable feeling of harmony inside. I think that the system must be used not when disease has set in, but prophylactically, so as to prevent disease before it starts. My 10-year-old son is already a dedicated follower."

Many of Deryabin's followers have cured themselves of baldness and gray hair, some of them have grown taller by two to five centimeters, and all of them report that their skin has become lighter and fresher.

Artist Yevgenia M. in May 1986 (left) and after treatment on the Karavayev-Deryabin system in November 1987 (right).

I expect incredulity on the part of many readers. "This cannot be true," is what they will say. But it can, and I have seen it with my own eyes. I have also read a few of the 500 letters Deryabin receives every month, in which people thank him for the cure. The interesting thing is that he has never seen most of those people—they have just followed his system.

And yet, has there not been an element of chance in all those cures mentioned above?

I ask Deryabin to explain his notion of the universal principle of treating various disorders.

"The old maxim 'Your health is in your hands' should be understood literally. There will never be a cure-all, as there will never be a perpetual motion machine, and people must realize this. The road to oneself lies only through oneself.

"Just like my teacher, I repeat that I do not treat people in the strict medical sense of the word, but I insist that it is possible to teach a person to mobilize all the resources of the organism for a self-cure.

"There is a regularity about convalescence and rejuvenation, which proceeds from the very working mechanism of all components of the comprehensive system.

"In his own time Karavayev concentrated on the biochemical composition of the blood, concluding that many physiological dysfunctions stem from an imbalance in its acid-alkaline composition—mostly toward acidosis and more rarely toward alkalosis. As in all other things, one must strive to see the golden mean.

"To normalize the acid-alkaline balance, special herbs are used. Depending on the biochemical blood count, various compositions are made up of herbs approved by the USSR Ministry of Health and freely sold in pharmacies. The rich selection of microelements in those compositions, proven by experiments in nature's laboratory, could have been specially programmed to combat various diseases. Statistics show that from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century herbs accounted for 85 per cent of doctors' prescriptions; but now, in 80 cases out of 100, doctors prescribe medicines based on chemical compounds, although their negative side effects are becoming increasingly worrisome.

"An important role in the stabilization of normal blood is assigned to proper eating patterns. This should not be seen as another faddish diet. As medical practitioners, we suggest a physiologically grounded eating system to restore damaged cells and maintain their structures in normal conditions.

"Our diet, practiced by thousands of people, demonstrates a remarkable health-building effect. I have been sticking to it myself for about 10 years and can tell you that I feel stronger and fresher now, at 43, than I did in my twenties. For months at a time I sleep just two or three hours a day, with no negative effect on my work capacity.

"Equally simple and logical," Deryabin concludes, "are the other components of our fitness system."

Here is just one of the many comments on the Karavayev-Deryabin system, made by Moscow University Professor V. A. Yegorov, Doctor of Physical and Mathematic Sciences and Lenin Prize winner. "One property that distinguishes this system from the others is that any of its recommendations can be easily followed. Its proliferation will gradually eliminate such problems as alcohol abuse, drug addiction and smoking. I strongly recommend a detailed study of the system—especially by physicians—and its broad application throughout the USSR."

Earlier this year Deryabin patented an herbal preparation called Vivaton. Biochemical tests have shown that Vivaton improves the blood composition, enhances the body's immunity, has a strengthening effect on the nervous system, has no side effects and is nontoxic. These properties allow its extensive use in the treatment of a wide variety of diseases.

Vivaton attracted the interest of specialists from the USSR State Committee for Agriculture and Related Industries. After careful verification, the Center of Scientific and Technical Documentation issued the conclusion that the preparation had no analogues in the world. Vivaton preparations containing biologically active agents have demonstrated a 99 per cent rate of success in treating mastitis, wounds, skin ulcers, diarrhea and other diseases in vegetarian animals. What's more, the length of treatment, compared with that of traditional methods, has been much shorter. Cows treated with Vivaton have shown a marked increase in lactation and good gains in weight, but, most importantly, the treatment has proved to involve none of the toxic discharges into the organism that are inevitable with the use of antibiotics.

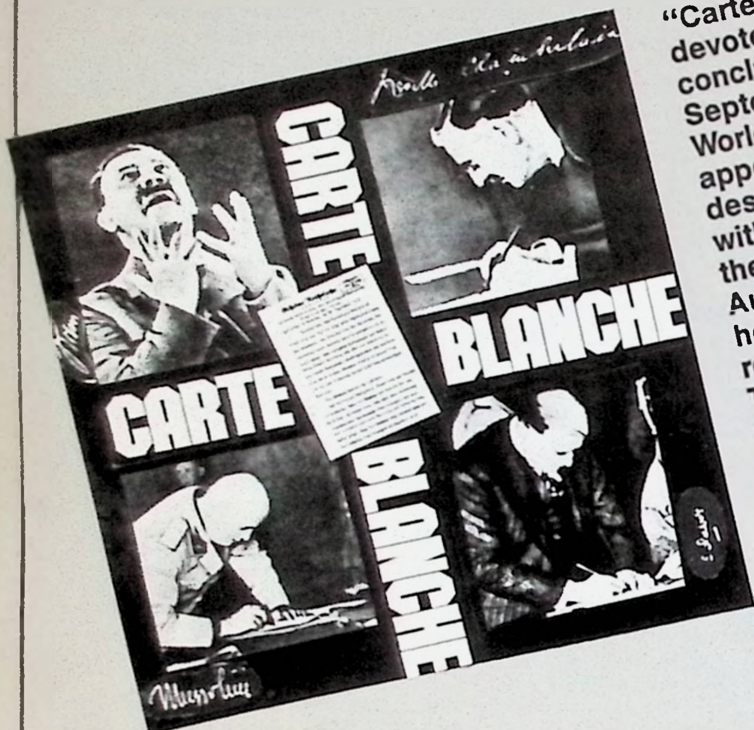
The reaction of farming experts to the invention has been immediate. After the very first experiments, and especially publications in the press and TV reports, Deryabin started receiving orders for Vivaton and propositions for the organization of model factory farms where absolutely healthy livestock would help turn out absolutely clean meat and dairy products.

A short time ago the Moscow City Council decided to establish a cooperative under the same name, Vivaton, which will turn out and market the preparation. Deryabin, who is the chairman of the cooperative, hopes that it will be a profitable business, which will enable him to establish a subsidiary of the parent firm: an educational center advertising healthy life and eating habits.

Is this all a dream? No, it is a reality, insists Deryabin. Without doubt or fear, he resolutely proceeds toward his goal. Once he said that he considered it lucky that Vivaton, originally meant for human patients, had been claimed by livestock breeders. In that connection, I recalled the following wisdom of our ancestors: "Luck favors the worthy." ■

THE FLOWER IN THE NETTLE

By Pyotr Mikhailov



"Carte Blanche" is a historical trilogy devoted to the events leading up to and the conclusion of the Munich agreement in September 1938, the prologue to the Second World War. Part I, "The Python's Feast," appeared in the March issue of SOVIET LIFE. It describes Hitler's preparations for the Anschluss with Austria, and the Soviet reaction toward the first act of nazi aggression. Part II, "The Augurs," published in our June issue, describes how Czechoslovakia and the European powers reacted to the aggression against Czechoslovakia. The end of Part II mentions Hitler's meeting with Czechoslovakia's "führer," Konrad Henlein, on September 1, 1938, when the Nazis decided to demand the immediate transfer of the Sudetenland to nazi Germany. Part III, "The Flower in the Nettle," the concluding article of the trilogy, deals with that period of history.

". . . Out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety."
William Shakespeare, *Henry IV*.

Neville Chamberlain made his first airplane flight when aviation was in its thirty-fifth year, and he was in his seventieth. If the Prime Minister of a great power dared get into a plane for the first time to fly across half of Europe on the eve of his seventieth birthday, there must have been extraordinary reasons for him to do so. And so it was when, in the wee hours of September 15, 1938, Chamberlain flew to Munich for talks with the nazi Führer. On that day he could not even have imagined that during the two weeks that followed he would have to make two more flights to Germany. Chamberlain hardly thought that the agreement he would sign after his third flight would become a prologue to World War II or that one of the nazi leaders would call this agreement a "death sentence for the British Empire."

Right after the meeting between Hitler and Czechoslovakia's "führer," Konrad Henlein, the French Government asked Moscow if the USSR would help Czechoslovakia in the event of aggression on the part of Germany. The following day the Soviet Government confirmed its intention to honor the commitments of its treaty with Czechoslovakia. Since the Soviet Union did not have a common border with Czechoslovakia, Moscow proposed that the League of Nations exert influence on Poland and Rumania to allow Soviet troops access to Czechoslovakia across their territory.

Not stopping with mere assurances, the Soviet Union moved 30 rifle divisions to its western border, and concentrated 246 bombers and 302 fighters in the Byelorussian and Kiev special military districts, which were the closest to Czechoslovakia. So, when on September 8 the American Ambassador to France, William Bullitt, asked French Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet whether the Soviet Union was really concentrating large military forces on the Rumanian border, the latter—having been informed by Moscow—gave an affirmative answer.

However, at a time when the Soviet Union was preparing its air and ground units for combat to help Czechoslovakia, London was preoccupied with very different ideas. On September 7, Geoffrey Dawson, editor in chief of the *Times*, published an article recommending that the Czechoslovakian government give over the Sudetenland to Germany. By cutting off this area populated by foreigners, Czechoslovakia would become a more homogenous state, he reasoned.

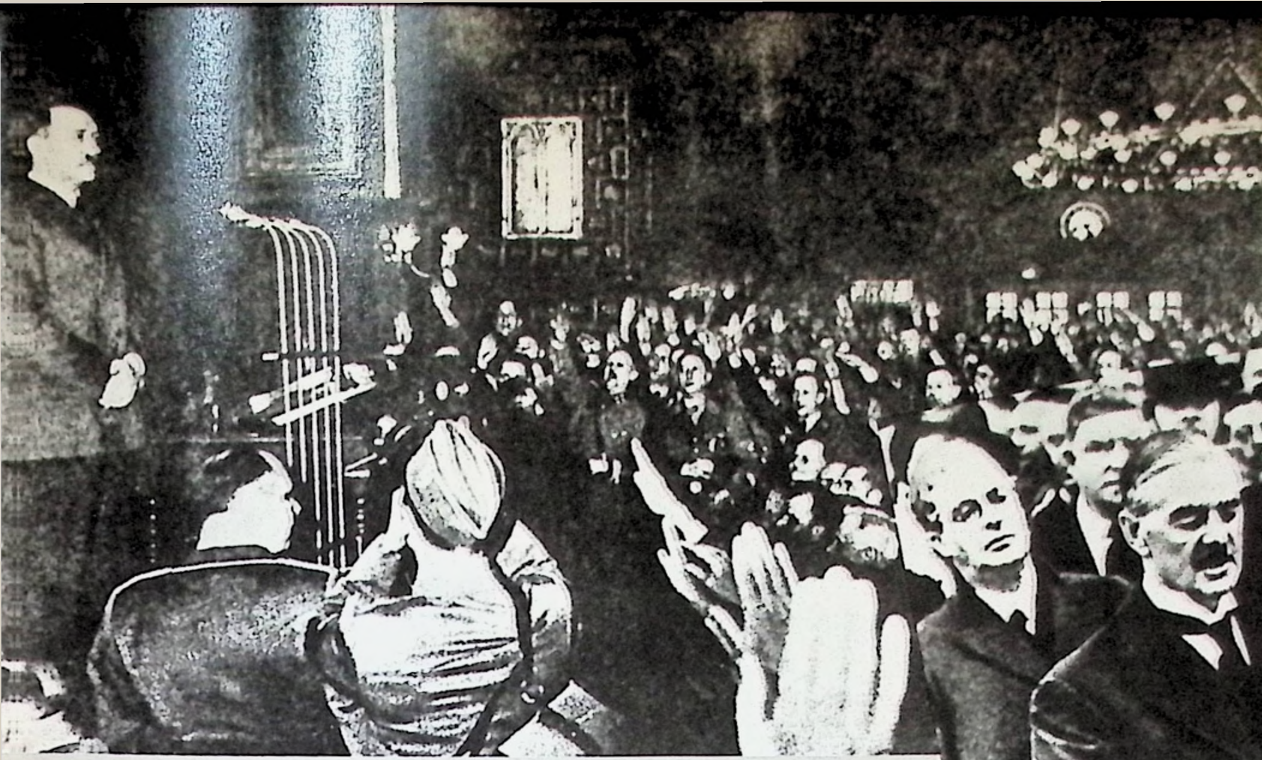
It is not surprising in this context that the nazi congress in Nuremberg on September 12 lashed out openly at Czechoslovakia. Hitler asserted that the Sudeten Germans have the right to self-determination and assured them that they were neither abandoned nor left without arms. To reassure a Europe already scared by the Anschluss with Austria and to show them against whom the might of the Third Reich was directed, the Führer accused Czechoslovakia of being the center of a communist threat. This was a signal. The following day, September 13, Henlein's men provoked bloody clashes in the areas bordering on Germany and presented the Prague government with a six-hour ultimatum: They demanded that the state of emergency in the Sudetenland be abrogated, Czechoslovakian troops be withdrawn from it and local bodies be charged with upholding order.

In the latter half of the same day, London received an alarming cable from the British Ambassador to Germany, Neville Henderson. The Ambassador warned that if the Czechoslovakian Government did not accept the ultimatum, war would be inevitable. Urging that not a minute be wasted, Henderson advised reassuring those in Great Britain who would qualify London's actions as a disgraceful surrender to German threats. No doubt this can be explained by our unflagging commitment to the principle of self-determination, he wrote.

Indicatively, on the same day the Czechoslovakian envoy in Moscow, Zdeněk Fierlinger, reported to Prague: "The Soviet Union counters a policy of interference and concession with a policy of vigorous rebuff."

Plan *Zet*

It was difficult to surprise Hitler, a cynical politician and adventure-seeker. But, as he himself admitted, the cable he received from London on September 14, really took him aback. Chamberlain wrote that, in view of



Hitler speaks at Berlin's sports palace on the eve of the Munich conference. Below: Chamberlain on his return from Munich.

Demonstrations for national independence in Prague. Above: Winston Churchill examines one of the first street barricades in Great Britain in 1940.

the critical situation, he was ready to seek a peaceful solution with Hitler immediately, adding that he would take a plane to Germany the following day. The Führer replied that he would be glad to meet with the British Prime Minister.

So everything seemed to indicate to Great Britain and the rest of the world that the conflict in Czechoslovakia and the threat of nazi Germany's interference there had prompted the British Prime Minister to go to the nazi Führer with an olive branch of peace. However, a document found in Chamberlain's files 30 years later revealed the fact that he had not gone to see the nazi Führer because he was concerned over the destiny of Czechoslovakia or peace in Central Europe.

This document was compiled by Chamberlain's adviser Horace Wilson on August 30, 1938. It stated that there existed a plan, code-named Plan *Zet*, which should be brought to the knowledge only of the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Sir Neville Henderson and Horace Wilson himself. This plan should only be put into effect under certain circumstances. Success of the plan, if implemented, depended on complete surprise, and for this reason secrecy was of the utmost importance, the document read.

A memo that Wilson prepared for Henderson the following day made it clear that a visitor from London was supposed to go to Berlin. According to the memo, the British Ambassador to Germany, after being told that Plan *Zet* was being put into effect, was to find out where Hitler was at the given moment. It followed from the document that the diplomat from London was supposed to arrive in Berlin quite unexpectedly. Why? So that the Führer wouldn't be able to dodge the meeting, as he did in 1935 by refusing to receive the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Viscount John Simon, on the pretext of indisposition.

In a word, preparations for the British Prime Minister's visit to Hitler were launched at the end of August 1938. Why? Chamberlain himself explained at that time in a letter that, were the plan enacted, it might bring about a drastic change in the international situation. However, the real goal of Plan *Zet* would become clear only on September 30.

For Chamberlain, this goal had been the chief motive for sending his cable to Hitler. Upon meeting Hitler, Chamberlain told him that Great Britain was not interested in the Sudeten German issue. But for the rest of the world, a desire to settle this issue was a fine excuse for Chamberlain's visit to the man who evoked such fear and hatred in Europe.

The Road to Hell . . .

Having received an answer from the Führer, Chamberlain did not waste any time. A lively crowd welcomed him on September 15 at Easton Airport, where his flight was to depart for Germany. The planned meeting with Hitler inspired the British with hope for peace. Aware of this, Chamberlain poured more oil on the flames. In a conversation with German Chargé d'Affaires in London Theodor Kordt, he said that he hoped to promote peace by his talks with Hitler.

Chamberlain broadcast a short statement over the radio, expressing his hopes for success. He said that the aspiration of his every policy was peace, and the fact that Hitler readily accepted his proposal raised his expectation for a successful visit. Reporting the departure of the Prime Minister for Berlin, Kordt stated: "The friendly trend is indisputable."

The visit began in Munich; from there the British were taken by train to Berchtesgaden. Characteristically, Hitler decided to subject Chamberlain and the other guests to psychological conditioning. During their three-hour journey, they watched with alarm as trains bearing troops and materiel sped past. From Berchtesgaden they were brought by car to Hitler's alpine villa in Berghof.

The talks lasted for three hours. Hitler demanded complete self-determination for the three million Sudeten Germans, meaning their unification with the nazi Reich. "Were the demands of Germany limited to the transfer of three million Sudeten Germans?" asked Chamberlain hopefully.

But Hitler would not have been himself without playing the anti-Soviet card. His answer was this: No, Germany will not feel safe until the Soviet-Czechoslovakian treaty is eliminated. ▶

German troops in Paris on June 14, 1940.
Below: General Keitel leaving the Munich conference.

On March 15, 1939, the Wermacht's first motorized divisions enter Prague. Above: Warsaw is destroyed after the nazi invasion of Poland on September 1. Below: The original Munich agreement.

Geheime Reichssache

Abkommen

zwischen Deutschland, dem Vereinigten Königreich, Frankreich und Italien, getroffen in München, am 29. September 1938.

Deutschland, das Vereinigte Königreich, Frankreich und Italien sind unter Berücksichtigung des Abkommens, das hinsichtlich der Abtretung des sudetendeutschen Gebiets bereits grundsätzlich erzielt wurde, über folgende Bedingungen und Modalitäten dieser Abtretung und über die danach zu ergreifenden Massnahmen übereingekommen und erklären sich durch dieses Abkommen einzeln verantwortlich für die zur Sicherung seiner Erfüllung notwendigen Schritte.

1.) Die Räumung beginnt am 1.Oktober.

2.) Das Vereinigte Königreich, Frankreich und Italien vereinbaren, dass die Räumung des Gebiets bis zum 10.Oktober vollzogen wird, und zwar ohne Zerstörung irgendwelcher bestehender Einrichtungen, und dass die Tschechoslowakische Regierung die Verantwortung dafür trägt, dass die Räumung ohne Beschädigung der bezeichneten Einrichtungen durchgeführt wird.

\- 2 -

3.) Die Modalitäten der Räumung werden im Einzelnen durch einen internationalen Ausschuss festgelegt, der sich aus Vertretern Deutschlands, des Vereinigten Königreichs, Frankreichs, Italiens und der Tschechoslowakei zusammensetzt.

4.) Die etappenweise Besetzung des vorwiegend deutschen Gebietes durch deutsche Truppen beginnt am 1.Oktober. Die vier auf der anliegenden Karte bezeichneten Gebietsabschnitte werden in folgender Reihenfolge durch deutsche Truppen besetzt:

Der mit I bezeichnete Gebietsabschnitt am 1.und 2.Oktober, der mit II bezeichnete Gebietsabschnitt am 2. und 3.Oktober, der mit III bezeichnete Gebietsabschnitt am 3.,4.und 5.Oktober, der mit IV bezeichnete Gebietsabschnitt am 6. und 7.Oktober.

Das restliche Gebiet vorwiegend deutschen Charakters wird unverzüglich von dem obenerwähnten internationalen Ausschuss festgestellt und bis zum 10.Oktober durch deutsche Truppen besetzt werden.

5.)

\- 3 -

Der in § 3 erwähnte internationale Ausschuss wird die Gebiete bestimmen, in denen eine Volksabstimmung stattfinden soll. Diese Gebiete werden bis zum Abschluss der Volksabstimmung durch internationale Formationen besetzt werden. Der gleiche Ausschuss wird die Modalitäten festlegen, unter denen die Volksabstimmung durchgeführt werden soll, wobei die Modalitäten der Saarabstimmung als Grundlage zu betrachten sind. Der Ausschuss wird ebenfalls den Tag festsetzen, an dem die Volksabstimmung stattfindet; dieser Tag darf jedoch nicht später als Ende November liegen.

Die endgültige Festlegung der Grenzen wird durch den internationalen Ausschuss vorgenommen werden. Dieser Ausschuss ist berechtigt, den vier Mächten Deutschland, dem Vereinigten Königreich, Frankreich und Italien in bestimmten Ausnahmefällen geringfügige Abweichungen von der streng ethnographischen Bestimmung der ohne Volksabstimmung zu übertragenden Zonen zu empfehlen.

\- 4 -

7.) Es wird ein Optionsrecht für den Übertritt in die abgetretenen Gebiete und für den Austritt aus ihnen vorgesehen. Die Option muss innerhalb von sechs Monaten vom Zeitpunkt des Abschlusses dieses Abkommens an ausgeübt werden. Ein deutsch-tschechoslowakischer Ausschuss wird die Einzelheiten der Option bestimmen, Verfahren zur Erleichterung des Austausches der Bevölkerung erwägen und grundsätzliche Fragen klären, die sich aus diesem Austausch ergeben.

8.) Die Tschechoslowakische Regierung wird innerhalb einer Frist von vier Wochen vom Tage des Abschlusses dieses Abkommens an alle Sudetendeutschen aus ihren militärischen und polizeilichen Verbänden entlassen, die diese Entlassung wünschen. Innerhalb derselben Frist wird die Tschechoslowakische Regierung sudetendeutsche Gefangene entlassen, die wegen politischer Delikte Freiheitsstrafen verbüssen.

München, den 29. September 1938.

Suppose the situation were changed in the following way, suggested Chamberlain: Czechoslovakia would no longer be obliged to help Russia if the latter were attacked. On the other hand, Czechoslovakia, or, say Belgium, would be denied the possibility of getting aid from Russia or any other country . . . would Germany's doubts as regards the role of Czechoslovakia be removed? Hitler replied that if the Sudeten Germans and the Sudetenland were incorporated into the Reich, and if, after that, the Hungarian, Polish and Slovak minorities seceded from Czechoslovakia, so little of the country would be left that the Czechoslovakian issue would simply cease to exist.

Referring to the need to advise the French of this conversation, Chamberlain proposed another meeting in a couple of days and left for London.

Saving from the "Reds" by Selling Czechoslovakia

On the day Chamberlain was talking with Hitler, Soviet Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Potemkin reiterated to Czechoslovakian envoy Zdeněk Fierlinger in Moscow that the USSR was entirely resolved to help Czechoslovakia with all available means, which the latter reported to Prague.

Meanwhile, Soviet Chargé d'Affaires Georgi Astakhov reported from Berlin to Moscow about the visit paid to him by his Czechoslovakian counterpart, M. Subert, who declared that "peace will be preserved, but Czechoslovakia will be sold." Telling Astakhov that the British had decided to support the referendum, which Prague considered unacceptable, Subert said: "The British justify this by saying that the position of the USSR in the event of war is vague and even less determined than that of France."

But not only the British were bluffing. During his visit to British Ambassador Henderson, General Field Marshal Hermann Göring started hurling threats at Great Britain. "If Britain begins a war against Germany, it will be difficult to predict the outcome," he said. "But one thing is clear—not many Czechs will survive this war, and little will be left of London before it ends." For obvious reasons, the Ambassador hastened to inform London of Göring's opinion.

On September 17 the Czechoslovakian issue was discussed at 10 Downing Street. It was clear from what was said at this session of the

British cabinet that Hitler had not been weaving the thread of a "Soviet menace" into the fabric of his diplomacy in vain. Speaking on the risk of a world war, Marquis Lawrence Zetland said that such a war would destroy the current world order, ushering in something new that would probably be similar to the ideals of those who now controlled the destiny of Russia.

Minister for Coordination of Defense Thomas Inskip spoke in the same vein. After Chamberlain proposed that Great Britain accept the principle of self-determination of the Sudeten Germans, Inskip said that any war might lead to changes in the European situation that would not be pleasant for anyone except Moscow and the Bolsheviks. There were people who doubted the validity of this approach. Lord Privy Seal de la Warr said that accepting Hitler's demands would be dishonest with regard to Czechoslovakia, and disgraceful for Great Britain. But, in the final analysis, the cabinet endorsed the principle of self-determination.

On the following day the results of the meeting in Berchtesgaden were discussed with French Prime Minister Édouard Daladier and Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet, who had arrived in London. The discussion resulted in Great Britain and France insisting that Czechoslovakia accept Hitler's demands on the transfer of the Sudetenland to Germany and cancel the treaty with the USSR. The Czechoslovakian Government was to give its reply as soon as possible, since Chamberlain's meeting with Hitler was slated for September 22.

The Prague Drama

On September 20 Czechoslovakian President Eduard Beneš asked the Soviet Government whether or not the USSR would render immediate and effective aid to his country. At 7 P.M. on the same day the Soviet plenipotentiary representative in Prague, Sergei Alexandrovsky, having failed to gain an audience with President Beneš [who was preoccupied with a session of his cabinet] contacted him by phone and conveyed the positive answer of the Soviet Government. On the same day Prague refused to comply with the demands of Great Britain and France.

However, at 2 A.M. on September 21 Beneš was awakened to meet with British and French envoys Basil Newton and Victor de Lacroix. This was their fifth visit that day. On behalf of their governments, both demanded immediate and unconditional surrender of Czechoslovakia. If the Czechs united with the Russians, a war might turn into a crusade against the Bolsheviks, in which case the governments of Great Britain and France would find it difficult to remain on the sidelines, they said. In other words, Czechoslovakia was being told to commit suicide.

Several hours later Czechoslovakian Foreign Minister Hamil Krofta handed to Newton and de Lacroix the Prague Government's reply on its readiness to surrender. A report published in this connection read: "... the European crisis has become too serious, and so our friends advised us to buy freedom and peace with sacrifice since they could not help us themselves ... The President of the Republic and our Government were unable to do anything else for we were left single-handed."

But the Czechs knew they had a real friend and were coming to the Soviet mission. Sergei Alexandrovsky was working round the clock. He received Czech delegations throughout the night of September 21-22 until 4 A.M. The Soviet envoy assured the delegates that the USSR was ready to help the Czechoslovakian Republic. Of course, this task was complicated by the refusal of France, but the USSR would find a way to help Czechoslovakia if it were attacked and had to defend itself, the envoy said.

These were not mere words. On the following day, September 22, Kamil Krofta asked the Soviet Government to relay a stern warning to Poland, which had concentrated its troops on the Czechoslovakian border. The Soviet Government immediately made a statement to the Polish Government, saying that if Polish troops crossed the Czechoslovakian border, the Soviet-Polish nonaggression treaty would be denounced forthwith.

On the same day Alexandrovsky reported to Moscow: "Dramatic scenes are taking place in Prague. Our mission is surrounded by a police cordon. The crowds are singing the national anthem, and literally crying with tears. They are placing their hopes on Soviet aid, and call for defense in their speeches."

Meanwhile, on that day Hitler and Chamberlain discussed the fate of Czechoslovakia once again, this time in the German city of Godesberg. Telling the Führer about his efforts, Chamberlain stressed that everything had been done to comply with the wishes Hitler had expressed at the previous meeting.

Having conveyed to the British Prime Minister his "sincere gratitude" for these efforts, Hitler said that it was no longer possible to support Chamberlain's plan. Now Czechoslovakia should meet the territorial claims of Hungary and Poland, a country with which Germany had friendly relations, he explained.

Chamberlain's face grew purple with outrage, wrote Hitler's personal interpreter, Dr. Schmidt, in the minutes of the meeting. This was not surprising: Chamberlain, as he said himself, had put his entire political career at stake, and this was his reward. After his first trip to Germany he had been applauded by all of Great Britain, said the annoyed Prime Minister. He lamented that now certain circles in Great Britain were reproaching him for having sold and betrayed Czechoslovakia, for having surrendered to dictators, and so on. When he left Great Britain that morning he was literally hissed at, Chamberlain complained.

The following day, the talks were no easier. Hitler gave an ultimatum, which he called a memo, demanding that the Czechs evacuate their troops and citizens from the vital areas of the Sudetenland between September 26 and 28. After a painful conversation, Hitler postponed the deadline for the end of the evacuation until October 1. Chamberlain brought this news to London, where he submitted Hitler's memo to Czechoslovakian envoy Jan Masaryk.

The British Prime Minister's weekend was anything but calm. First he had to face the indignation of his irreconcilable opponent Winston Churchill. Talking with a Reuter's correspondent, Churchill warned against the illusion that one could ensure security by throwing a small country to the wolves. Even on Sunday Chamberlain was not left in peace. On that day, September 25, Masaryk handed him the reply of the Czechoslovakian Government, which read: "In effect, this is the kind of ultimatum which is usually presented to a defeated nation ... our national and economic independence will automatically disappear with the adoption of Hitler's plan." In short, the Prague government considered Hitler's memo to be absolutely unacceptable.

On September 26 a letter from Chamberlain reached Berlin. In it he proposed a conference on the Czechoslovakian issue. Three hours after receiving this letter, the Führer spoke in Berlin's sports palace. He was furious: "If the Sudetenland is not given over to Germany by October 1, I, Hitler, will go fight as the first soldier against Czechoslovakia." Emotions were running so high that when he mentioned the name of President Beneš, the crowd howled: "Hang him!" In the morning Hitler, Göring and Neurath were already discussing the mobilization of troops.

The events of September 28 in Moscow and London showed once again that the Soviet and British positions on the threat to Czechoslovakia were poles apart. Soviet People's Commissar for Defense, Kliment Voroshilov, reported to the government readiness to dispatch to Czechoslovakia 548 combat planes attached to eight aviation regiments. On the same day Chamberlain spoke at the emergency session in the House of Commons. At a time when he was persuading those present that, after Czechoslovakia, Germany would have no claims in Europe, he was handed a letter. Looking through it, he said that Hitler had invited him to meet in Munich the following morning. This statement was met with applause.

Having flown for the third time in his life, Chamberlain landed in Munich. A conference attended by Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain and Daladier began at 12:45 on September 29. In his opening speech Hitler said that he had made up his mind to bring his troops into the Sudetenland on October 1, no matter what. Nobody objected. Then Hitler mounted his hobbyhorse. Tied by the treaty with the USSR, Czechoslovakia had become the bolshevik outpost in Europe, he claimed, adding that those who demanded its defense were facilitating the collapse of the existing order in Europe.

The conference lasted the whole day. Under the Mussolini-proposed draft agreement, Czechoslovakia was to evacuate and transfer to Germany all areas bordering on Germany, not only the Sudetenland, but also the regions bordering on Austria, which had been absorbed by Germany. The draft stressed the need to settle the questions of the Polish and Hungarian minorities in Czechoslovakia, which implied the cessation of several other regions to Poland and Hungary.

All these questions were discussed without representatives from Czechoslovakia, who were invited to the conference hall at 1:30 A.M. on September 30, after the agreement had been signed. Talking with the Czechoslovak envoy in Germany, Wojtech Mastny, Chamberlain did not even try to suppress his yawns. Reporting on his trip to Munich, Hubert Masaryk from the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry recalled later on: "We were told in a rather rough tone, and, besides, by a Frenchman, that this is a sentence without the right of appeal and room for any amendments."

Before his departure from Munich, Chamberlain visited Hitler and signed a joint declaration: We, the German Führer, the Imperial Chancellor and the British Prime Minister ... have agreed that the question of British-German relations is of primary importance for both countries and for the rest of Europe. We believe that the agreement signed yesterday evening, just like the Anglo-German maritime agreement, symbolizes the will of our nations never to fight against each other. So, Plan *Zet* was crowned with success.

Landing at Croydon, Chamberlain addressed his compatriots with a famous optimistic speech. He proclaimed "Peace for a lifetime." Euphoric from the success of his mission, he cited the following words from Shakespeare "... out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety."

Stung by the Nettle

On learning about the Munich agreement, President Beneš asked Soviet envoy Alexandrovsky to find out what attitude the USSR would adopt toward the continued struggle or surrender of Czechoslovakia. He wanted an answer by 8 or 9 P.M. Moscow time. Alexandrovsky's cable came to Moscow at 5 P.M. on September 30 and was still being decoded when a second cable came from Prague. It read: "Beneš no longer insists on an answer to his last question because the government has already decided to accept all terms. The occupation of the Sudetenland by German troops will begin in the morning."

In less than six months, nazi troops dismembered and occupied the whole of Czechoslovakia. On September 1, 1939, Hitler unleashed World War II. In June 1940, his soldiers entered Paris. Two months later Luftwaffe planes began bombing Great Britain. All in all, they dropped 60,000 tons of bombs on that country, killing and wounding 86,000 people. The flower plucked from the nettle became as bare as a dandelion with the first winds of war. Europe was increasingly stung by the nettle. The carte blanche given to nazi Germany cost the world 55 million lives, 20 million of them in the Soviet Union.

The Bayevs are a typical Soviet family: two incomes, two children, a one-bedroom apartment. Here they are at work and at home, coping with everyday crises and dreaming about the future.

PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY

By Vitali Tretyakov
Photographs by Pavel Kassin

When the whole family has a day off, the Bayevs often take long bicycle rides together.

meet the Bayevs. . .

Sergei Bayev, 34, works as a weaving-loom adjuster at the Shcherbakov Silk Mills in Moscow. He has a secondary technical education and is a member of the Communist Party. His wife Tatyana, 35, was trained as a paramedic. She now works as a laboratory assistant at the Research Institute of Biomedical Problems, also located in Moscow. The Bayevs have two sons, Misha, 10, and Seryozha, 8. The family lives in Skhodnya, 30 kilometers from Moscow.

Tatyana earns 140 rubles a month; Sergei earns 300. This means that the family's total income comes to 440 rubles a month, or an average of 110 rubles per person.

What do these numbers mean? Do the Bayevs make a relatively decent living? In 1986, 34 per cent of all Soviet citizens had between 100 and 150 rubles per month at their disposal. Thirty-five per cent had less than 100 rubles. Today the average cost of living per family member per month is 80 rubles. In families with three children, it is 60 rubles. A couple without children needs a minimum of 100 rubles per person.

Although today the Bayevs' income totals 440 rubles a month, during the last three years it was only 305 rubles. While

The Bayevs try not to economize on food, but they still avoid buying costly delicatessen items. Above: Friends and neighbors say that both boys have good manners and are unspoiled.

Sergei was going to technical school, he worked as a senior foreman, making only 165 rubles a month. "During those three years," says Tatyana, "there was never enough money." They didn't make a single major purchase. That's why Sergei, after getting his diploma, went back to work as an adjuster.

The Bayevs have a 2,000-ruble nest egg. The money is being saved to buy furniture when the Bayevs receive their new, two-bedroom apartment.

Twelve years ago, Tatyana's starting salary was 90 rubles a month—later it increased to 120 and now is 140. As a lab assistant, Tatyana already earns about as much as she ever will. The top salary for her job is 160 rubles—20 more than she currently makes. Sergei, on the other hand, could increase his monthly earnings to 500 or 600 rubles if he worked overtime.

Sergei believes that he would have to make between 2,000 and 2,500 rubles a month to take care of his family properly. Then the family could take a vacation every year at a resort in the South, which costs at least 1,500 rubles for a family of four, according to Sergei's calculations. They'd be able to buy everything the family needs, and Tatyana could stop working.

"That will never happen," says Tatyana. Sergei acknowledges that the dream is in fact unrealistic.

Tatyana and Sergei are both hard-working and like what they do. Though Tatyana doesn't see prospects for further promotions at her institute, she wouldn't want to stop working even if Sergei made a lot more than he does now. On the other hand, she would love to work only part-time.

The Bayevs try not to economize on food. But they do avoid buying things that are above the average state prices, like expensive delicatessen items and sausage sold at cooperatives.

They buy most of their food in Moscow. Tatyana usually comes home from work with armloads of groceries. Sergei takes advantage of the food orders at his place of work. The essentials are available in Skhodnya—milk, sugar, butter and bread. Other items, such as meat, fish, vegetables and fruit, are easier to obtain in the capital.

Though everything in the Bayev household isn't new, their apartment is neat and clean. They have a small black-and-white television set, a 25-year-old refrigerator that Tatyana's parents gave them, all the necessary furniture and a tape recorder (Sergei is a Beatles fan). The tape recorder was purchased with money the family got from selling Tatyana's winter coat, another present from her parents.

The Bayevs have a washing machine (only bed linen gets sent to the laundry), four bicycles and four pairs of skis, one pair of which Tatyana used as a child.

"We don't need much," says Tatyana. "Neither we nor the children are spoiled. Sergei and I have only one pair of boots each."

Several years ago Tatyana bought herself a quilted down coat for 200 rubles—money Sergei earned working overtime. She bought it and an Alaskan jacket for her elder son from a private citizen, not in a store.

Sergei's commute into Moscow every day takes at least an hour and 10 minutes. The journey is made up of three stages: the walk to the station, the train ride to the city, then the bus the rest of the way. Tatyana's commute is 40 minutes long. She walks to the station, takes the train into town and then, because the bus comes too infrequently, walks 20 more minutes to work. In the winter she practically runs! Still, Tatyana and Sergei believe that they are better off than many of their neighbors, whose commutes into Moscow are longer. Their children can walk to school, which is only a stone's throw away from home.

One of the reasons Tatyana values her job is that she can stay home with the children if they get sick. Her supervisor never begrudges her time off to care for the boys. Tatyana remembers one time in particular when she was home for a long time. When Misha and Seryozha were very small, both had a mild but unpleasant skin disease. The doctors, including those at a paid clinic in Moscow, couldn't help them. Their only advice was to take the boys south in summer—and the Bayevs weren't financially able to do that.

Having Tatyana's parents living close by is an enormous help. Tatyana doesn't have to worry at work, knowing that the boys will go home to their grandmother, who will feed them dinner. Then they can play outdoors. Skhodnya is a quiet town so there is nothing to worry about. When Tatyana gets home, the boys start their homework.

Both boys impressed me as being well-mannered and unspoiled. Misha had studied at the local music school for two years. But because the family couldn't afford a piano—there wouldn't have been any place to put it anyway—the music lessons had to be dropped.

Tatyana would love to have one more child—if she could be sure it would be a girl.

Sergei's work schedule, both the shifts and his days off, varies from week to week. Whenever the whole family is home on a Saturday or Sunday, they often go off together on skis or on bikes. Every year Tatyana has 24 working days off, and Sergei gets 18. They take their vacations at different times. One or the other of them goes with the children to visit Sergei's mother in another suburb of Moscow or to see other relatives.

Before the children were born, Tatyana and Sergei often spent evenings at the theater or the ballet. Now they never go to the theater and rarely visit friends.

I ask, "If you could send the boys to camp for two or three months, what would you do?"

"We'd start—excuse my frankness—living as normal married people. You know, that's a problem in a tiny apartment with growing children. We'd invite people over, go to the theater in Moscow and just live a little for ourselves," says Tatyana.

Housing is a sensitive and complicated subject for the family. "We'll get a new apartment, and then everything else will fall into place," Sergei claims. At the mention of the apartment, Tatyana becomes nervous. ▶

The four Bayevs are registered in a one-bedroom apartment with 31 square meters of floor space not counting the kitchen, bathroom and hallways. Tatyana's 85-year-old grandmother, her sister and her niece are also registered in the same apartment. But seven people couldn't possibly manage in such small quarters, so they rented an additional, one-bedroom apartment for 50 rubles a month.

When Tatyana's parents got their new apartment with 18 square meters of floor space, they offered it to their daughter and her husband, who decided to move in. Conditions were still crowded, but at least only four of them were living together. Tatyana's parents took the other, larger apartment.

Having less than five square meters per person, the Bayevs are on priority waiting lists at the local executive committee and at Sergei's work to receive new housing. Sergei has been promised a two-bedroom apartment. But if anything should happen to Tatyana's grandmother, the Bayevs will lose their "priority" status on the housing lists, in which case it could be years before they get new housing.

I ask a tactless question: "Why don't you buy a cooperative apartment?"

Tatyana gives a sardonic laugh and answers, "We don't have rich parents who can pay the first installment for us."

Though the Bayevs work in Moscow and live close by, they don't consider themselves Muscovites. Tatyana isn't especially fond of her native Skhodnya, a former summer colony, which is now distinguished only by its beautiful countryside and two major enterprises. Still, she wouldn't want to move anywhere else.

"I've lived here for 12 years," says Sergei. "I'm used to it, but I don't think of Skhodnya as my home town. I grew up in Naro-Fominsk. My mother still lives there."

"So here we are, 35 years old. We've both worked most of our lives—Sergei since he was 15 and I since I got out of school. But, so far, what do we have to show for it? Not an apartment, not furniture, none of the good things in life," Tatyana sums up.

"It's all right. Don't worry," Sergei reassures her, with characteristic optimism. "We'll get everything."

the experts say. . .

Are the Bayevs a family in need? Do they need help from society? If so, what kind of help? We asked various experts.

Irina Gerasimova, Candidate of Science (Economics), Central Economic Mathematical Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences: The Bayevs are a typical family—typical in terms of educational background, of how much husband and wife currently earn and how much more they can expect to earn in the future. His salary could double—up to 600 rubles. Her salary will increase by a maximum of 16 to 17 per cent.

The Bayevs' standard of living is above average. But what do they have, in fact? Four pairs of skis and four bicycles, a pair of boots each for husband and wife, the necessary furniture and a tape recorder. And this is not at the beginning of their professional lives or at the beginning of their life together, but after 12 years of marriage. Yet Sergei is a skilled worker and Tatyana a specialist with a degree from a technical college. They are very thrifty, hardworking and not afraid of hard times.

Witness Sergei's going back to school. For three years the family sacrificed. But Sergei's education, though paid for by the state, did not pay off. Sergei returned to a blue-collar job. Why do we encourage people to study when we pay specialists with diplomas less than laborers?

Then there is the housing problem. The Bayevs' concerns do not seem terribly pressing to the local Soviet. But the Bayevs helped elect this Soviet. Where is the organization that must, under the Constitution, protect the family, defend its rights and help it fulfill its obligations?

The family must have the right to plan and shape its own, unique way of life. What we need is to break the mechanisms of social administration that are geared to the individual and ignore the family as a unit.

Alexander Antonov, economist: One aim of the current reform is to maintain the standard of living of all families and to raise the standard of living of those with the lowest incomes.

The Bayevs are an average-income family. Therefore, they will not be the first to be compensated, for instance, if food prices, which are now low because of state subsidies, are raised. After all, we have low-income families who consume four times less meat than families with average or above-average incomes. Low-income families should receive the highest compensation if prices are reformed.

With the price reform, in all probability, the prices of particularly expensive goods will be lowered. This will benefit the Bayevs, in addition to the compensation that they will receive, especially for the children, if the food prices go up. But the principal gain should be in the improvement of the economy, which will provide incentives for producing more food and consumer goods. This in turn will bring about a gradual lowering of prices. The real, unsubsidized food prices in state-owned stores will exert substantial pressure to force down the now high prices in cooperative market trade.

Lastly, the anticipated price reform should give those who want to work conscientiously a chance to earn more. Sergei Bayev is that kind of person. So the reform, if it is successful, should help him earn the 2,000 rubles a month he dreams about.

Oleg Slavutsky, deputy chairman of the Economics Department, State Committee of the USSR on Labor and Social Issues: New systems of management have now been introduced in most branches of the economy. A major socioeconomic undertaking has been implemented since 1987—raising wages according to the wage fund earned by the work collectives. We now have the necessary conditions to make wages strictly dependent on the quantity and quality of labor and production, and to eliminate unnecessary wage "ceilings."

Earning several times one's current salary, as Sergei wants to do, would, of course, require doing several times the work. Moreover, the whole enterprise should improve its performance uniformly: Sergei's earnings depend on what the collective as a whole produces. Lastly, Sergei and Tatyana can get second jobs, in a cooperative, for instance.

Leonid Gordon, Doctor of Science (History), Institute of the International Labor Movement of the USSR Academy of Sciences: Sergei and Tatyana Bayev are right to find their family's material circumstances unsatisfactory. I believe that they are fairly typical in this respect.

Even in the late 1970s, when the cost of living was less, at least 200 rubles per month per family member was considered necessary to cover a family's reasonable expenses. So the desire of any family with children to earn 1,000-1,500 rubles a month is not excessive but rational. The Bayevs' dissatisfaction with their housing conditions is also justified.

I find the Bayevs' pessimism about, and tolerance toward, their circumstances alarming. If we want to advance socialism, tolerance must be replaced with active intolerance of everything that hinders us from making our life better and more prosperous. Why do the Bayevs consider it unlikely that they—conscientious and skilled workers—will be able to earn 2,000 rubles a month? Why do they accept the bureaucratic regulations for housing exchange and domicile registration as unavoidable obstacles in the way of getting a new apartment? Why didn't the Bayevs fight to repeal these regulations?

It has been shown that profound economic reforms, replacing the administrative command system with full cost accounting, can soon raise the socialist economy to a level where a 2,000-ruble monthly salary and a good-sized apartment will be the norm for every family.

But the same experience indicates that deep economic reforms in socialist society are mainly successful when the party and state leadership draws on the active support of the people. Otherwise the departmental apparatus, seeking consciously or otherwise to retain its position, rejects the reforms.

Today, for example, the implementation of the Law on State Enterprise is being foiled by state orders determined by government bodies, which effectively deprive the enterprises of independence and their workers of the chance to earn more. But if the director is joined by an active and independent council of the work collective in opposing bureaucratic interests, if this council is not afraid to openly contradict the ministry, if it refuses to comply with unlawful instructions and turns to the workers for support—then, and only then, will the situation change.

Therefore, the Bayevs' future depends on how actively they help promote democracy in society. On whether they take advantage of elections, strive to revitalize the trade unions and support healthy social and political initiatives.

Sergei Bayev is a member of the Communist Party. Democratization of inner-party life depends on the stand Sergei takes in the party organization and that taken by his comrades. ■

To Save Life on Earth

By Otar Chiladze

Most nations that have survived to this day have traveled a long and tortuous path of spiritual improvement under the blows of fate. And every national history resembles another to some extent—but only to some extent.

If we paraphrase Leo Tolstoy's famous dictum, we can say that every nation is happy in its own way. Each has its own means to survive the centuries. As I see it, in resistance to time lies that inexplicable heavenly boon that enables us to say proudly, "I'm French. I'm German. I'm Finnish. I'm Indian."

I am Georgian. What distinguishes Georgians from other nationalities is our artistic attitude toward life around us. The Georgian will put on a show to conceal his suffering from others and himself. He hates to look weak and poor. Those who don't know us Georgians may think us excessively cheerful—but one wise Georgian has called us "the children of tragedy."

Let's not discuss the statement, true though it may be. I don't know whether it is good or bad to have descended from the tragic Muses. It's much more interesting to look at what has changed in our ethnic character—what we have preserved over millennia and what we have discarded, never to return.

Nothing stays still, said Heraclitus, but so many things change at the same time that it is difficult for the eye to discern evolution. As to ethnic character, I make bold to say it is immutable. An ethnic entity changes with social patterns and natural conditions, but its soul remains the same. Nations rise and fall, grow rich and poor. Ethnic tastes change, too: Beauty or ugliness, high or low stature, become prevalent. Yet Americans will forever remain Americans, Russians will be Russians, and we Georgians will always be what we are.

Evolution is not alien to ethnic character. Some elements are added to it, while others recede into the background with time. But details do not alter the whole. They blend into it to stay forever.

If you can perceive a change in national character with the naked eye, that nation is moribund. It is dragging on, no longer able to produce spiritual values that alone prove its vitality. There is no creation without a unique world view, a nation's holy of holies, a reflection of its mission and a promise of its immortality.

From time immemorial, humankind has pondered life, death and eternity. To preserve the gift of life is its main concern. Anguish born of death feeds our fear and doubt. Today these are more oppressive than ever, for humankind is closer than ever to the brink of the precipice called nothingness. Stored for centuries, spiritual treasures are squandered in desperation.

It is easier to destroy than to create—especially now, when we possess more instruments of destruction than ever before. Pain and patience go hand in hand with creation. Creation demands endless sacrifice, while destruction is the friend of earthly delights—a false friend that brings pleasure to the point of frenzy.

Mass culture, the enemy of the individual, offers us pleasure galore. But with every passing pleasure, the divine light bequeathed by our forebears grows dim in our souls.

As one contemporary American composer once said, "A concert is not a sermon." We don't need art works to offer us ready-made solutions. We need culture and knowledge to arrive at our own solutions. We can resist any vice if our intellect is strong enough to analyze it. Take contemporary music. We may accuse it of being a bad influence on young people. But music is music, and no music is bad in itself—we just fail sometimes to form proper attitudes toward it. So we have only ourselves to blame if it does prove a bad influence.

The major task for the school and the family, the community and society as a whole is to foster everything that is connected with a budding life and that which determines its future. Our character, our attitudes and our mental outlook are formed in childhood. A solid core takes shape in our soul to give us will power, to put our tastes and volition in order, and to establish our attitudes toward, let's say, mass culture.

If you have that core inside you, you will stop and think before you select a television program or, if there's nothing interesting on, open a book instead. If that well-pondered choice is your usual practice, you are well-bred and ready to face life.

Today traditions are acquiring special importance. It is essential to take a correct view of traditions and to revive them. All too often traditions become ossified. We kill it with our reverence. Traditions—keepers of our identity—pertain to the future no less than to the past. They give life purpose. They give us faith and ideals. Every people's culture rests on traditions, and anything that directly contradicts its ethnic cultural principles is seen to threaten morality.

The classics, especially the classics of music, make us aware of our national identity. They prove to us that once art is severed from its ethnic roots, it will never produce universal values. It will grow morbid flowers instead.

To preserve the sacred boon of life is our duty —sublime, yet how difficult! But if humanity is doomed to perish, I'd prefer instant death in nuclear flames to slow degradation.

Life, our most cherished possession, does not belong to us alone. We share it with generations past and generations to come. Life preserves our joys and sorrows for eternity.

Life may be cruel, but then, there is compassion, generosity and self-sacrifice. Good and bad go hand in hand. Don't close your eyes to the ugly: Only the person who dares to view it will find beauty.

Throughout the centuries, people have complained of a decline in morality. They have bewailed coarsened womanhood and effeminate manhood. Ethnic entities change with time and circumstances, and so does humankind. This is not to say that the person who seemed to be the epitome of decency yesterday will be the villain tomorrow. What I mean is that our moral yardsticks change: A nineteenth-century rowdy would seem quite the gentleman compared with today's toughie—yet his contemporaries took him for what he was.

We can't blame the order of things for everything we dislike. Evolution moves forward, and species change a thousand times. Humans are unique: They provide a testing-ground of evolution like any other animal: At first their sole function was to perpetuate life through reproduction. But unlike other creatures in the organic world, humans have been endowed with social awareness. So our species acquired responsibility.

Nowadays fear and dismay obsess humankind. Leaf through any newspaper of whatever political persuasion or country and you will see my point. For the first time, we face total destruction. A speculative premise, a politician's shallow threat can become a horrible reality—a bloodcurdling realization.

Fear undermines our faith in humankind and in the future. Yet, what would we be without faith? We owe it to faith in the human race that we live on in this world, probed a thousand times and still unfathomed. We feel obliged to live as long as we have faith. Life understood as duty is the source of endurance, patience, forgiveness and other noble characteristics. Conscious, dutiful being is the only possible way to live—vegetating is not enough. Yet vegetating is the lot of the person who casts off faith. Betrayal of faith amounts to a betrayal of our forebears and offspring alike—but the traitor never realizes it, laboring under the illusion that he is doing away with delusion. The soul declines and disintegrates. Meanwhile, the soul, like the soil, is subject to erosion.

I see spiritual erosion as the most dangerous sickness humankind has ever known. Its symptoms are especially evident nowadays, but the trouble is as old as the human race. Luckily, it never attacks a patient unless the person succumbs to it. Again, we have only ourselves to blame when we betray the humane, the sublime in our soul.

Many dangers threaten humankind. War is one of them. Herodotus said only a madman could prefer war to peace. But ever since his lifetime, there has been hardly a day war was not raging in at least one corner of the globe. War destroys the harmony in nature and in our life. In wartime, parents bury their children, a tragedy that Herodotus saw as the ultimate injustice. But Herodotus had no idea of the scope that today's war would have. And the more we talk about war, the more power it has over our mentality.

War destroys the personality and breeds monsters in human form. It takes less time to prepare another war than it does to humanize the monster—if that is possible at all. We can raise a church or museum from ruins. But people who witness that destruction have something precious destroyed in their soul. They lose hope in what is sacred and inviolable in this world. That's the most horrible evil of war.

Faith and tradition alone can renew hope. While tradition is the obstacle in the way of aggressive evil, faith is the tiny window through which fresh air penetrates the dungeon in which humanity languishes—the air bringing us sweet remembrance of sunlit skies. Oh, for somebody to find that window in pitch darkness!

Any of us may be that somebody, to remind others that simple good is great, and all else is nothing compared to it. Humanity has always had merciless enemies, just as it has them now. But if the mere existence of an enemy makes the human race scorn the memory of the dead, hate the young children, degrade women, throw knowledge aside and destroy the family, such a human race is not worthy to live. Let it stupefy itself with drugs and degeneration.

When we Georgians feasted in olden times, we toasted not only our near and dear but also our enemies (we always had enough to spare). We praised them for keeping us fit and alert.

Let us not allow our enemies to put us to shame. We humans are the only creatures in the universe whom Providence endowed with reason and dignity. We must measure up to the honor bestowed on us—a difficult mission. ■

Otar Chiladze (b. 1933), poet and prose writer, enjoys renown not only in his native Georgia but throughout Russia. Chiladze's first novel, A Man Went Walking (1973), concerns Georgia's prehistoric past, the time of the Argonauts. And Anyone Who Meets Me takes us back to the 1860s. In Chiladze's latest endeavor, An Iron Theater, the action begins in 1878 and ends during World War I. He wrote the above essay especially for SOVIET LIFE.

BOSTON
making music and friendship

By Ariadna Nikolenko
Photographs by Stan Grossfield

More than once I have written about Soviet and American people getting together to transact business, and to discuss scientific and cultural matters, or simply out of human interest. But until this spring, I had never had occasion to cover as important an event as the Soviet-American "Making Music Together" festival in Boston. Not because I had been unlucky till then; it's just that the history of Soviet-American cultural relations had to that point never seen such an ambitious project.

Highlights of the festival included the joint production of Rodion Shchedrin's opera *Dead Souls*; the Bolshoi ballets *Anna Karenina*, *The Lady with a Dog*, *The Sea Gull*, *Les Sylphides* and *Sketches*; the concerts of the works of modern Soviet composers; vocal evenings of Russian classical music; and performances by students of the Moscow Conservatory.

The festival had another, no less important, aspect. Someone—the French writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, it seems to me—said that human contact was the greatest of luxuries in our modern world. The Boston festival was not only a festival of music; it was a festival of contact between people living on opposite sides of the ocean. The motto "Making Music Together" sounded more like "Making Music and Friendship Together."

Two years had gone by since the day that Sarah Caldwell, artistic director of the Opera Company of Boston, and Rodion Shchedrin, Soviet composer and public figure, first discussed the idea of this big exchange, and the day Seiji Ozawa, chief conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, raised his baton at Tremont Temple, and the musicians of our two countries played the national anthem of the Soviet Union.

During those two years the idea of the festival went through phases of enthusiasm and decline, and almost perished under the weight of financial difficulties. But in the long run, the combined efforts of the enthusiasts, the good will of both sides, the atmosphere of new political thinking and the readjustment of Soviet society enabled 260 Soviet musicians to go to Boston. Together with their American counterparts, they gave 100 concerts.

At the opening of the festival, Yuri Melentiev, Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, spoke of the similarities between the two countries. "Great minds of Russia and America have stressed that there are no two countries more alike than ours. Above all, this likeness finds expression in music," he said. "Boston is a major cultural center of the United States. We are now launching an event that will have great significance for both our cultures."

Dead Souls

It would be difficult to single out the high point of the festival's varied and colorful program. If I had to choose, though, I would name Rodion Shchedrin's opera *Dead Souls*, based on the novel by the great nineteenth century writer Nikolai Gogol.

Produced by Boris Pokrovsky at the Bolshoi seven years ago, the opera was staged in Boston by soloist Alexei Maslennikov, who also performed in the production. Many of the parts were sung by American singers. It is not easy to make a character from another epoch and another part of the world come to life on the operatic stage. Gogol's characters are especially hard to portray, since they are usually social and symbolic archetypes. But the Americans coped beautifully. During rehearsals, Sarah Reese gradually turned into a simpering, affected Russian lady of the manor. Chester Ludgin looked especially imposing in the dress uniform of Chief of Police. Richard Crist of the Metropolitan Opera turned into a weak-willed Russian landowner. All of them were grateful to Igor Wienner, the Bolshoi concertmaster who worked with them day and night.

The American chorus simply outdid itself. It worked hard under Bolshoi choirmaster Stanislav Lykov, overcoming the difficulties of the score and learning the tongue-twisting Russian text by heart in an amazingly short time.

The month-long rehearsal period, in contrast to the tightly packed schedule of the festival proper, was punctuated with short intervals of free time. Everyone took advantage of these intervals to interact. We attended Episcopal Mass at the Church of the Advent, lunched with our new friends and surveyed Boston from the height of the Prudential Building, the city's tallest building. Every suggestion the hosts made was greeted with enthusiasm by the visitors.

Speaking to a correspondent, chorister Alexandra Suchoti said: "We have been mostly interested in comparing lifestyles and professional working conditions. The Russians simply couldn't understand that the state didn't pay for my education. They are amazed that we all have full-time jobs."

Said Dimitri Toscas, Opera Company of Boston chorister: "It seems to me that one Russian singer summed up the differences between the two cultures very trenchantly: He said that in the Soviet Union they don't have as much as we have here. But they know exactly what they do have and what they are entitled to, like a place to live and a place to work."

Rehearsals over, the chorus gave a dinner in honor of the outwardly stern and inexorable concertmaster, whose softheartedness the women in the ensemble had immediately guessed. In a Stetson hat that had been presented to him ("the first cowboy among concertmasters and the first concertmaster among cowboys," as someone joked) and hardly able to conceal his emotion, Wienner proposed a toast to friendship and creative contacts. Many people had tears in their eyes.

After some last-minute preparations, the opera was off to a good start with charismatic Bolshoi soloist Igor Morozov as Chichikov, rolling out on the stage in a carriage. The cast was comprised of well-known Soviet singers Galina Borisova, Alexander Dedik, Boris Morozov and Nina Gaponova and American singers whose names filled the newspapers the next day.

Maya—the Undying Swan

An American critic, citing the fact that humankind started to move before it started to sing, declared that the festival should open with a ballet. The choice was something of a problem: Was it to be ballet or opera? If it was to be a ballet, which one? The pastel-toned *Lady with a Dog* or ▶

The Soviet-
American
festival
orchestra.
Solo flutist
Alexander
Korneyev

Nina Ananishvili and Andris Liepa dancing "Moods," a modern pas de deux with music by Rodion Shchedrin. Choreography by Valentin Yelizariev.

the fiery *Carmen*? The tragic *Anna Karenina* or the refined *Sea Gull*? Though the program included other ballets, these were the productions that audiences were most eager to see. And no wonder—in these ballets would dance the legendary Maya Plisetskaya, the Bolshoi Ballet superstar who also did the choreography. Here are some excerpts from the American press: "Plisetskaya has amazed audiences in her varied roles." "Brilliancy undimmed." "No female dancer made classical dancing as exciting as Ms. Plisetskaya." "Boston message to Plisetskaya: 'Bravissimo.'"

One vivid point in the festival was an evening dedicated to Plisetskaya, at which Mikhail Baryshnikov read a message of greeting from Nancy and Ronald Reagan, appreciating Plisetskaya's skill. After that he danced "Apollo," as choreographed by George Balanchine, and an improvisation to the theme of Frank Sinatra's songs.

The American press noted that the fact that Baryshnikov and other emigré artists from the USSR took part in the Boston festival was another manifestation of the new democratic spirit of Soviet society.

The brilliant Plisetskaya evening ended with an ovation for the dancer's performance of *The Dying Swan* by Camille Saint-Saëns, which may well be called her autograph. "Maya—resolutely an undying swan," summed up one Boston paper.

The young ballet partners Nina Ananishvili and Andris Liepa were a special hit. "The gracious, graceful Princess and the Golden Boy of the Bolshoi," one paper called them.

Composers

"I write music because I can't help writing it." That was how Moscow composer Karen Khachaturyan answered the question put to him at his profile concert: "How do you write music? On commission?"

Ten Soviet composers were honored with special concerts devoted to their work. The first part of these evenings consisted of a performance of the composers' works, and during the second half the composer answered questions from the audience. The concerts were arranged differently each time. For instance, the profile concert of Georgian composer Givi Kancheli included videotape fragments of his opera *Music for the Living*, and two plays for which he wrote the music—*Richard III* and *King Lear*—which were staged at the Rustaveli Theater in Tbilisi.

Students of the Moscow and New England conservatories. Inset: Moscow Conservatory student Svetlana Stepchenko examines American Jim Sichko's collection of gift badges.

"How do you become a composer in the USSR? Who attends symphony concerts? Is American music played in the Soviet Union? The questions asked Karen Khachaturyan were repeated at profile concerts of Leningrad composer Andrei Petrov, Turkmen composer Chara Nuriyev, Lithuanian composer Vytautas Laurušias, and others, all introduced by Soviet musicologist Lev Ghinsburg.

It is hard to say who enjoyed the greatest success. But it seems to me the music critics singled out Rodion Shchedrin, Alfred Shnitke and Sofia Gubaidulina.

Shnitke's *Requiem*, performed at the Holy Cross Cathedral by the Soviet-American festival orchestra under the direction of Sarah Caldwell, was called "a work of great beauty, sadness and profundity," by the American critic Ellen Pfeiffer.

"This is the happiest day of my life," said Sofia Gubaidulina the day that the Boston Symphony Orchestra performed her Concerto for Violin and Orchestra (Offeratorium).

Violist Yuri Bashmet, violinist Sergei Stadler, conductors Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, Alexander Lazarev and Jansug Kakhidze were great favorites of the public.

Students

"All of us were the citizens of one country—music." This is how New England Conservatory president Laurence Lesser summed up the Moscow Conservatory students' one-month stay in New England.

"You worked very hard. When we visit you, please don't make us work like that," he added jokingly.

It is true that the days of the students who represented the Moscow Conservatory at the festival were packed with rehearsals in the festival orchestras, in quartets and quintets played together with American students, radio performances, classes with American professors, interviews with reporters (who showed special inter- ▶

est in the young talents from Moscow) and, of course, concerts, concerts and more concerts. "Many of the young participants in the festival will be the celebrities of the next generation," wrote well-known Boston critic, Richard Dyer.

Despite the packed schedule, merrymaking, conversations, ice cream parties and dancing went on late into the night on the eighth floor of the conservatory dorm. There was a truly vast difference between the guarded meeting (when the appearance of the Moscow students evoked among the Americans the surprised whisper: "Look, they've got baggage like us!") and the farewell, accompanied by hugs and tears. A note reading, "To my wonderful Soviet friends! I will miss you. Love and tears. Jim Sichko, *Khlopets*," hung on the bulletin board next to the timetable of concerts and rehearsals.

"*Khlopets*" is the Ukrainian word for "guy," and that's what the Soviet boys called the American student Jim Sichko. Sichko is from Texas, and he took all the souvenirs and presents his new friends gave him to his home in Orange, where his mother ordered a big glass showcase to be made for them. In this way, Sichko's home became a small museum of Soviet and American friendship for his numerous friends and neighbors.

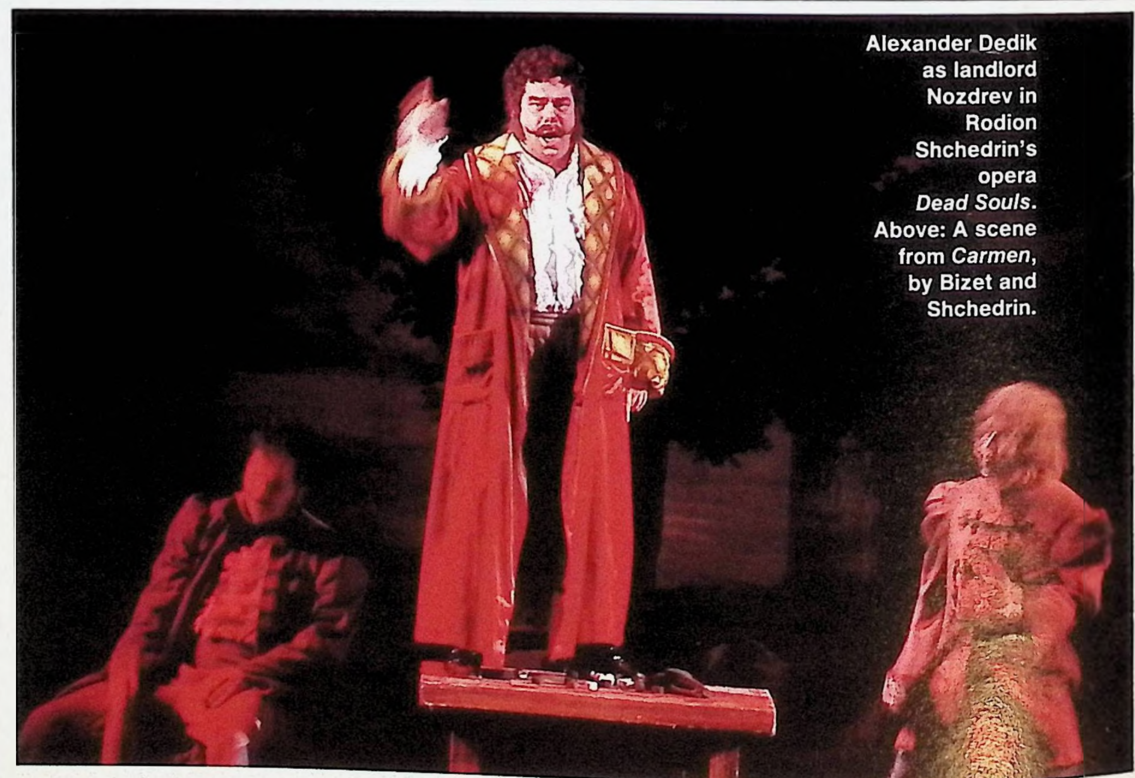
Morse Hamilton, teacher at the New England Conservatory, believes that his students' increasing interest in the USSR is a direct result of the Boston festival. In the coming academic year, Morse is going to arrange an optional course called "The Russian Image," and many students are already planning to attend.

I have given only a very short account of what took place in Boston. Jim Morgan, assistant director of the organizing committee for liaison with the press, declared that the festival had "surpassed all expectations."

It was gratifying to hear George Higgins, another employee of the committee, say in a private conversation: "The festival confirmed that everything in art coming from the Soviet Union is of the best quality."

As for us, we will remember Boston not only as a center of the musical and spiritual culture of the United States, but also as a city of fine, congenial people. We will not forget the hospitality of Ted and Cara, the children of Senator Edward Kennedy, who received us at their ranch; the cordiality of Mrs. Jaffe's home; the concern for us displayed by singer Julia and her husband Sarkis Zarounian—it's impossible to enumerate all the nice people who made us feel welcome.

This fall the "Making Music Together" festival entered its second phase, when American musicians came to Moscow and saw for themselves how great is the Soviet interest in the talent and culture of the American people.



Alexander Dedik as landlord Nozdrev in Rodion Shchedrin's opera *Dead Souls*. Above: A scene from *Carmen*, by Bizet and Shchedrin.

Legendary Bolshoi prima ballerina Maya Plisetskaya receives a storm of applause after performing Saint-Saëns's *Dying Swan* at the concert given in her honor.

CONFLICT

Continued from page 13

ing Saturdays per year. And that means seven extra days' of production.

Says Makarov: "When we say we want an eight-hour workday, we mean a good busy shift, with not a moment wasted. At this point stoppages take up an average of nine per cent of an entire shift. An eight-hour workday would motivate the bosses to make better use of the time and to intensify the work. They haven't lifted a finger to do it. They hang everything on the working weekends—what a copout! You talk about thrift, wages, full profit-and-loss accounting structures—but our company has lost six million rubles on defective products alone. The shop floor hasn't felt the new economic ways in the slightest, but that's what's going to have to start happening. Every one of us must feel enough like the owner of the company to want to save money. That's what the economic reform is about. It's a challenge, sure, but we've got to start."

The conference was duly held on Friday, December 18. The conference hall was packed, though only 660 out of the 692 delegates were present.

The 27 presidium members took their seats on stage. Doletsky had a sore throat, so his deputy took the floor to put forward the management's position.

It was clear from the very first speeches that the workers' proposed schedule was running into more opposition than the management's, at least among the speakers.

"I could easily find a job at a factory where Black Sabbaths are unheard of. But it would pay less, so I don't care about the weekends. What's all this squabbling about? You've all come to this plant of your own free will. The windbags who want to demonstrate nonstop can leave any time at all. We'll get along fine without them," said Nikolai Deineko, team leader at the motor assembly and testing shop, and an ardent partisan of the 15 working Saturdays.

"But we've got to figure something out if so many people are dissatisfied," objected technical inspector Nikolai Poprykin, to loud applause. "There might well be other arrangements besides the two proposed here. We'll waste the extra 10 minutes, you say? But what if we don't? A lot can be done in those 10 minutes every day.

"Now there's a social undercurrent to this issue that's clear to everybody. Many people associate our eight-hour workday question with the integrity of the whole *perestroika* effort. If we vote for the 7 hours and 50 minutes so dear to our management, a great deal of credibility will be lost. And then we can just forget about meeting our quotas. What we have here is a clash of two approaches: Should we meet our plan targets at the expense of our social conditions or by implementing new technology and improving our discipline?"

Eighteen speeches took over four hours. The exhausted audience demanded that the debates be stopped, though only half of the registered speakers had taken the floor.

Two tables were put on the stage for the newly elected commission to count the votes. The chairman asked that all in favor of the management's schedule pass their green cards forward. In no time, a large pile had appeared on one of the tables. The opposition's turn came next. The pile on the other table seemed to be smaller. The tally proved it: 359 votes for 15 working Saturdays, and 296 against.

The front rows reacted with irresolute applause. Poprykin must have been right: The bosses and the trade union committee had pressured the workers before the conference. If the proponents of the eight-hour workday had had an equal chance, the results would have been different, he said.

Lev Makarov left his seat at the presidium table and came up to the microphone to make another proposal: The factory would switch over to the eight-hour pattern in 1989. A loud murmur of approval was heard from the audience. The proposal was put to a vote—and unanimously approved. Another proposal, to eventually do away with working Saturdays altogether, was also passed smoothly.

The bosses had scored a Pyrrhic victory, judging from their morose expressions. The workers had merely made a concession and would clearly be more insistent in their demands a year later. The losers, on the other hand, looked triumphant: They had forced the management to listen to them and considered their defeat an honorable one. Woe to the vanquished? Hmmm.

Now Doletsky took the microphone—never mind his sore throat: "Our plant has existed for 70 years. Now, for the first time, its affairs are being settled not by a party or trade union conference, but by a conference of worker-activists. Democratic reform is difficult. We are like babies taking their first toddling steps. But we have to make responsible decisions from the beginning. We have the whole staff to think about—why, the whole country! This is just the start."

It turned out that Nikolai Deineko had voted for the management's schedule after all. When Bill Keller of the *New York Times* visited the factory a few days later, he asked him why.

"You see, we aren't ready for the arrangement we want. Even if we have our 15 working Saturdays, we'll have to test two motors more per shift this year than we did last year. It's tough. But not everybody agrees with me—a lot of people still support the eight-hour idea."

"Why, do you think?"

"Because they need more free time, especially the young workers who have no families or financial problems yet. We told the bosses straight out—enough is enough. So we'll get our eight working Saturdays later on; but we can't afford them just yet." ■

Courtesy of the newspaper *Izvestia*

1,000 YEARS OF RUSSIAN CHRISTIANITY

A Landmark Event

The millennium of Christianity in Russia was celebrated for two weeks in the Soviet Union. The festivities began in Moscow but involved other cities as well. Believers and nonbelievers participated in this landmark in the country's history and culture.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Roots of the Problem

Teenage crime is the subject of an article in the November issue that focuses on youth in Byelorussia. In the context of *glasnost*, the Byelorussian press published a series of articles on the problem, what causes it and the ways to solve it.

ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

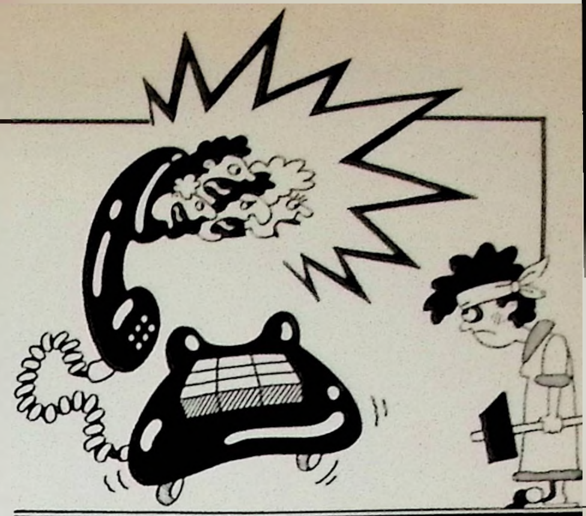
A Broad View

A block of articles on ecology features a discussion of Soviet conservation policies, a man who had dedicated his literary talent and mastery of photography to the cause of environmental protection and a visit to wildlife preserves across the USSR (could they be environmental paradises?).

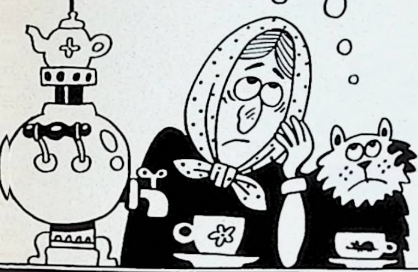
COMING SOON

Intourist Invites You To Visit the USSR

LET'S MAKE A DEAL



By Darya Nikolayeva
Drawings by Valeri Bochkov



THE RINGING of the telephone jolted me out of my early morning sleep. My heart skipped a beat: What could have happened? Who could be calling so early? Perhaps it was my parents? The voice of a stranger immediately calmed me down.

"Hello, I'm calling about the apartment. Does it have a balcony?" a man's voice asked.

"No, it doesn't," I answered, but before I could express my surprise at such an odd question, I heard: "Thank you. I'm sorry, but I'm not interested."

"He's not interested!" I snorted, nestling back into my pillow. I was puzzled. Why would anyone want to talk about my apartment?

Before I had time to figure it all out, the phone rang again. This time it was a pleasant female voice on the other end of the line describing the advantages and disadvantages of two separate apartments. "One is practically in the very center of the city, on Plyuschikha Street. It's in an old building, but it has just had major repairs. Its ceilings are 4.5 meters high [almost 15 feet], which, as you know, is rare nowadays. The second apartment is an ordinary cooperative unit situated in Yasenevo."

The idea of high ceilings is appealing, and, I agree, Yasenevo is far from the city center, about 20 kilometers. Yet why should I have to be thinking of such things at seven o'clock in the morning?

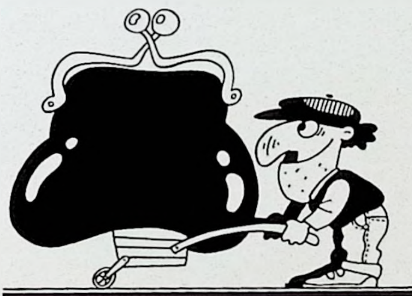
I put this question to the woman at the other end of the line. She replied in some surprise: "Didn't you place an ad in the *Apartment Exchange Bulletin*?"

I assured her that I certainly had not and politely hung up the receiver. Almost immediately another would-be exchanger was telling me that my windows were facing the "wrong way." Suddenly it dawned on me that someone had mistakenly placed our telephone number in an apartment exchange ad.

It was Wednesday, one of the two days of the week that the *Exchange Bulletin* comes out, and so far only the early apartment hunters had called. The main barrage was still to come.

When they learned about the situation, the rest of the family suddenly remembered urgent business that had to be taken care of, while I remained at home, having the day off for a Saturday that I had worked. I was left to face the nine million Muscovites, each of whom seemed eager to exchange apartments with me.

By coincidence, the apartment that the absent-minded ad-placer was offering to exchange had three bedrooms, just like ours. What he or she was looking for was a two-bedroom and a one-bedroom apartment not far from each other in exchange for the three-bedroom.



All day long the telephone kept ringing. At any other time I simply would have gone out somewhere, but as it was, I thought it'd be a good experience for me and might even come in handy if the need should ever arise. The point is that my daughter, Tatyana, and her husband, Dmitri—we call him Dima for short—are expecting their first child. Right now they are living with Dima's parents; but, they should really have a place of their own. The state has promised every family its own apartment by the year 2000, but Tatyana and Dima don't stand a chance of getting one soon because their family is too small and they are neither war veterans nor front-ranking workers. And according to our present standards, they are not in dire need. They could buy a cooperative apartment, but perhaps the most feasible solution would be for us to exchange our large, three-bedroom apartment for two smaller ones—a two-bedroom for my husband, my son and me, and a one-bedroom for Tatyana, Dima and the new baby.

I'd tell the callers that they had the wrong number, but none of them seemed to care, and they'd keep on talking.

After listening to what all of the callers had to say, I could only conclude that the demand for apartment exchange is huge and that all of us are in approximately the same boat—that is, while none of us is living in a slum and we all have an adequate roof over our heads, none of us is living in a luxury apartment either.

Well, I thought to myself, perhaps we *should* start considering an exchange. In reality, the whole procedure turned out to be far more complicated than I had first imagined when I spoke to the people on the phone.

At the Apartment Exchange Office—a state-run organization that assists people who want to exchange—I felt sorry for the staff, who seemed inundated with requests. That's natural, since up to 100,000 Muscovites exchange apartments every year.

A little while later, however, my feelings became less charitable when I learned that some of these selfsame "poor, overworked" office people were supplying valuable information on apartment exchanges to "underground" brokers. I realize I have no right to suspect anyone; however, criminal charges are brought against members of the staff, and they are clapped behind bars too often to simply be a matter of statistics to me.

In the beginning I thought, What could be wrong about the broker acting as middleman in such a complicated business and charging a reasonable fee for the service of locating a suitable exchange? But I learned that these people are not interested in "ordinary" exchanges, which, as they told me, "can easily be accomplished through placing an ad in the *Exchange Bulletin*." One man I definitely knew to be a broker lifted the veil of mystery just a bit.

He told me that he'd be more interested in finding an apartment for sale. I was outraged.

Selling an apartment that the state has provided free of charge is downright speculation and illegal to boot.But what strikes me as even more immoral is that the brokers are capitalizing on other people's misfortune.

Really, who in their right mind would ever agree to sell their home out from under themselves? Some hopeless alcoholic, perhaps, or some cold and calculating offspring foreseeing the approaching demise of their aged parents? How else could an ordinary office worker procure three apartments—a one-bedroom for herself and the other two for her close relatives?

To make a long story short, I quickly rejected the idea of engaging a broker and decided to place an ad in the *Exchange Bulletin*. However, the concept of an equitable brokerage continued to occupy my thoughts. I spoiled many an evening meal telling my family about how well the business could be organized. When I got all wound up for the umpteenth time, my son, Igor, solemnly announced:

"Forget it, Mom. It's already been done. There's a new cooperative named Poisk. It's compiling a data bank and will help look for a suitable exchange for you. If it doesn't find anything in six months, you get your money back."

"Really," I said, swallowing my inventor's pride. "Maybe I'll stop by there tomorrow."

GREAT SPORTS MOMENTS

Photographs by Igor Utkin

Like many former athletes, Igor Utkin, 45, has gained some weight since retiring from sports. But he is still quick on his feet. He is also energetic, ambitious and confident, constantly in search of that evasive "right moment."

At the prestigious International Worldpressphoto-88 exhibition, the TASS photographer won top awards for two of his snapshots. He received a Gold Eye for his sports photograph *Frog Pirouette* and a gold medal for his *We Shall Overcome*.

The first photo, published in the August 1988 issue of SOVIET LIFE, is a riveting shot of a woman gymnast in flight. The second photo was snapped at a European track and field event for blind athletes and shows a blind competitor running with his guide. The picture embodies the immense power of the human will.

"I'm not looking for effect in my sports shots," says Utkin. "I go for the drama—or the comedy—of human passions, human characters. Once I saw a Polish documentary on a bicycle race that lasted several days. The whole film was about the very last racer. I think that was a great idea. A very unexpected approach."

Utkin himself used to participate in bicycle marathon races. He never placed last and was even champion of the Russian Federation in a 100-meter team event. But he quit big-time sports when he was 22 because he felt he should learn to do something more serious, something that would keep him occupied and interested the rest of his life. Photography turned out to be it.

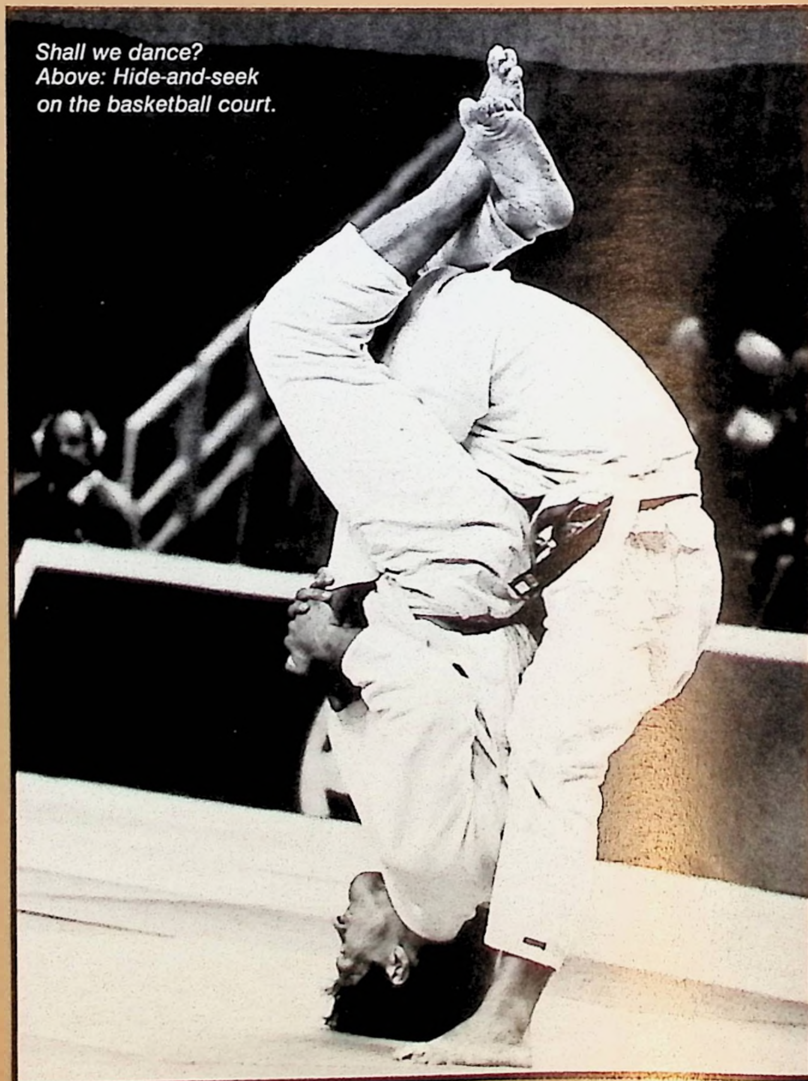
Utkin got himself a job as an assistant in the photo lab at Novosti Press Agency, which he kept for 10 years. During that time, he started taking pictures.

In the 1960s, Novosti was known as the place where the crème de la crème of Soviet photography worked. Sports photography was no exception. So it came as a thunderbolt when a completely unknown lab assistant named Igor Utkin captured a Worldpressphoto gold medal for his photo-essay *Volleyball*.

The medal brought a lot of joy to many others. One of the happiest was Abram Shterenberg, Utkin's mentor and the godfather of Soviet photojournalism, who recorded several decades of Soviet history and culture on film.

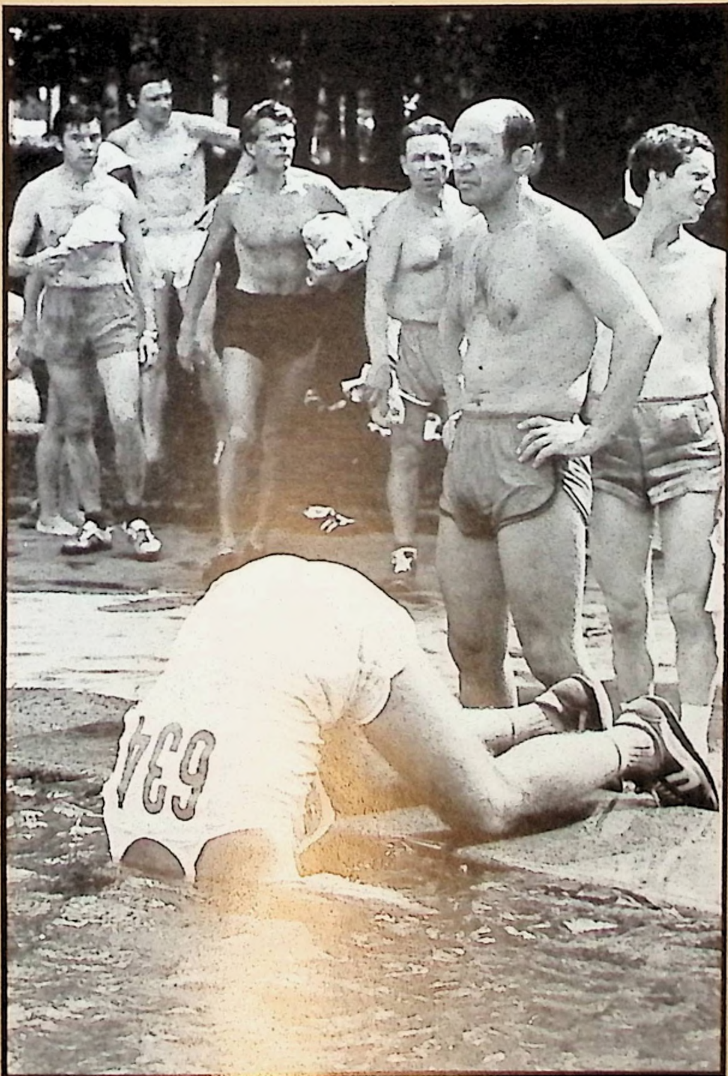
"I've always been very ambitious, ever since my days as an athlete," recalls Utkin. "But I owe much of my success to Abram Shterenberg. When it came to taking portraits and seeing deeply into people, he was the best."

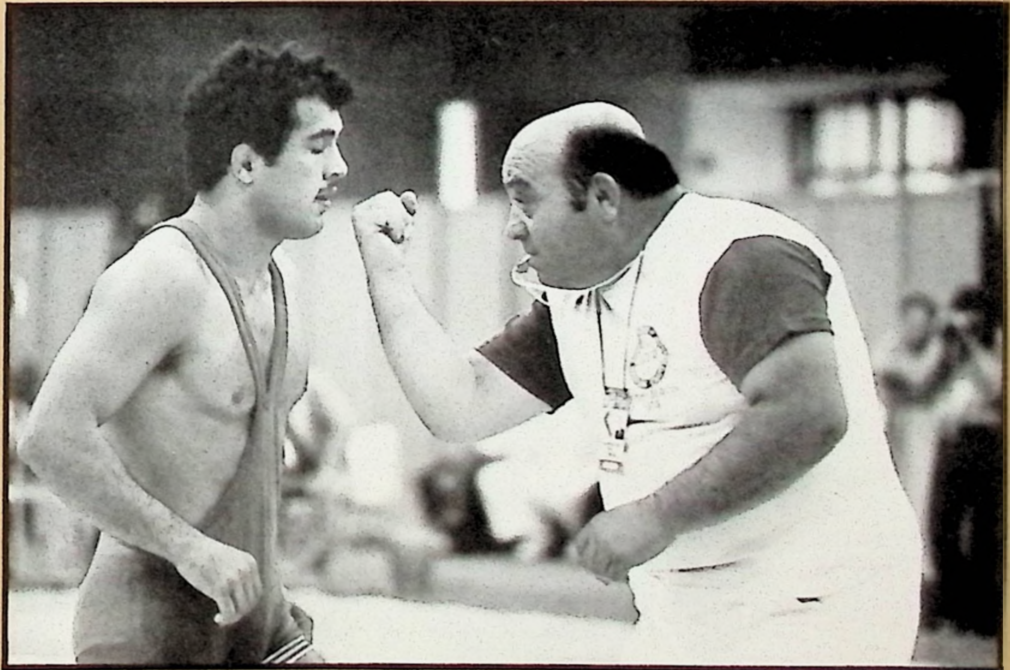
Over his career, Utkin has won about a hundred different awards. Almost all of them are for sports photos. On these two pages are a sampling of Utkin's works with their unexpected touch of humor. To "grab" the right moment, to create pictures like these, is the signature of a real pro. ■



Shall we dance?
Above: Hide-and-seek on the basketball court.

Where'd ya go?





Above: Now, see this!
Left: The photographer and his "third eye."
Far left: Marathon men.

Photographs by Igor Utkin