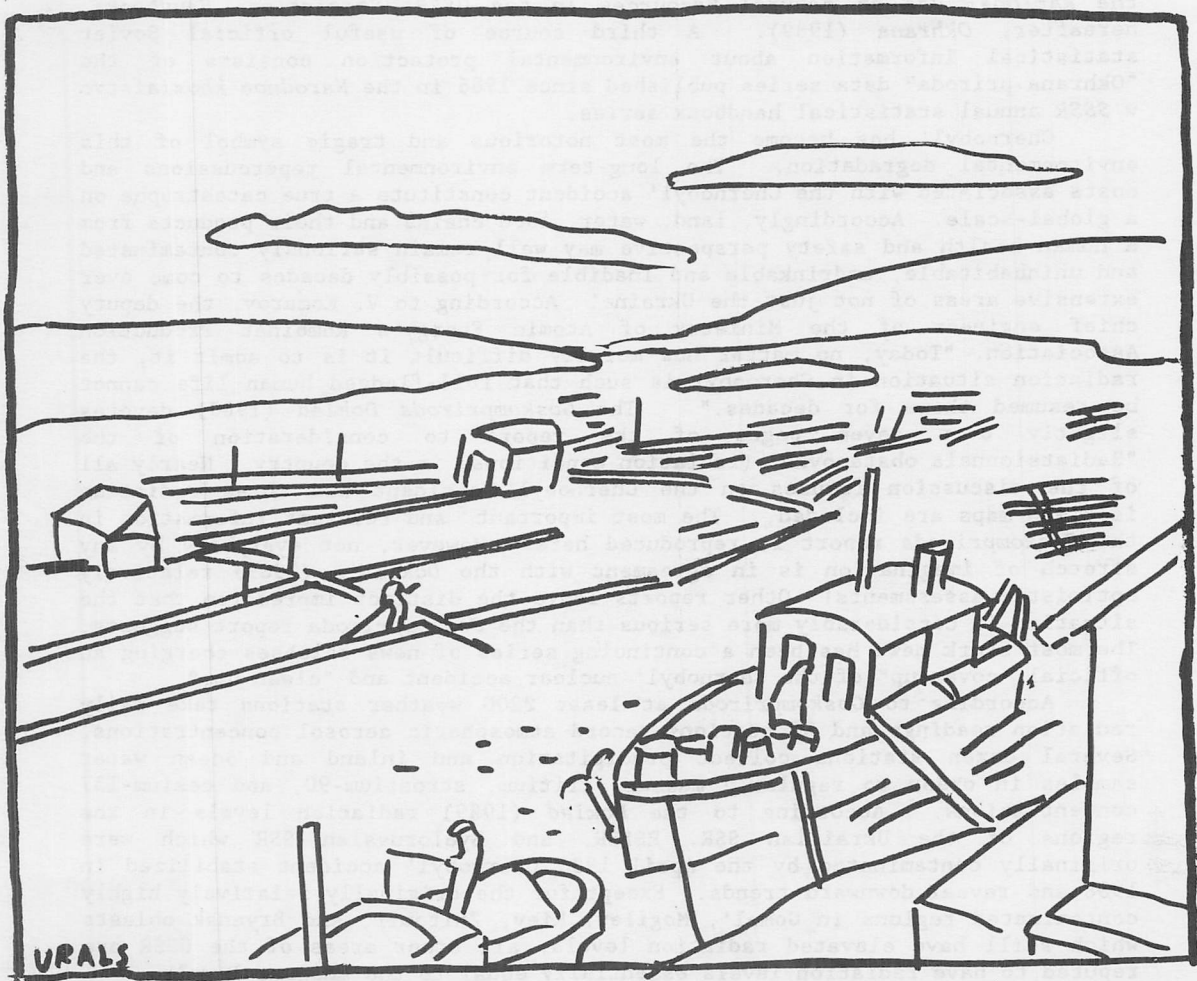


REEU NEWSLETTER

SPRING / SUMMER 1991



Chernobyl': A Glimpse At the Human & Environmental Consequences¹
Craig ZumBrunnen, Professor of Geography

The true or "operational" glasnost' era, indeed, can be linked directly to the various events surrounding the Chernobyl' nuclear power accident and its aftermath. Since the Chernobyl' spring of 1986, increasing glasnost' candor has led to the publication of numerous hard-hitting, investigative reports and scientific investigations and debates across a broad spectrum of environmental/ecological problems throughout the entire USSR. This report draws upon two such important recent official Soviet glasnost' publications which contain previously unavailable environmental and natural resource management data: *Doklad sostoianie prirodnoi sredy v SSSR v 1988 godu* (Report on the State of the Environment in the USSR in 1988, hereafter, *Doklad* (1989)) and *Okhrana okruzhaiushchei sredy i rational'noe ispol'zovanie prirodykh resursov v SSSR: statisticheskii sbornik* (Protection of the Environment and the Rational Use of Natural Resources in the USSR: Statistical Handbook), hereafter, *Okhrana* (1989). A third source of useful official Soviet statistical information about environmental protection consists of the "Okhrana priroda" data series published since 1986 in the *Narodnoe khoziaistvo v SSSR* annual statistical handbook series.

Chernobyl' has become the most notorious and tragic symbol of this environmental degradation. The long-term environmental repercussions and costs associated with the Chernobyl' accident constitute a true catastrophe on a global-scale. Accordingly, land, water, food chains and their products from a human health and safety perspective may well remain seriously contaminated and uninhabitable, undrinkable and inedible for possibly decades to come over extensive areas of not just the Ukraine. According to V. Komarov, the deputy chief engineer of the Ministry of Atomic Energy's Kombinat Production Association, "Today, no matter how morally difficult it is to admit it, the radiation situation in Chernobyl is such that full-fledged human life cannot be resumed there for decades." The *Goskompriroda Doklad* (1989) devotes slightly over seven pages of the report to consideration of the "Radiatsionnaia obstanovka" (radiation conditions) in the country. Nearly all of the discussion focuses on the Chernobyl' accident and three radiation isopleth maps are included. The most important and relevant information in the *Goskompriroda* report is reproduced here. However, not everybody by any stretch of imagination is in agreement with the *Doklad's* (1989) relatively optimistic assessments! Other reports leave the distinct impression that the situation is considerably more serious than the *Goskompriroda* report suggests. The most stark news has been a continuing series of news releases charging an official "cover-up" of the Chernobyl' nuclear accident and "clean-up."

According to *Goskompriroda* at least 2200 weather stations take daily radiation readings and 80 stations record atmospheric aerosol concentrations. Several dozen stations collect precipitation and inland and ocean water samples in order to regularly measure tritium, strontium-90, and cesium-137 concentrations. According to the *Doklad* (1989) radiation levels in the regions of the Ukrainian SSR, RSFSR, and Byelorussian SSR which were originally contaminated by the April 1986 Chernobyl' accident stabilized in 1988 and reveal downward trends. Except for the originally relatively highly contaminated regions in Gomel', Mogilev, Kiev, Zhitomir, and Bryansk oblasts which still have elevated radiation levels, all other areas of the USSR are reputed to have radiation levels essentially equal to the ambient levels.

Nonetheless, in the above five regions the radioactive contamination over substantial areas still remains a severe technical, ecological, political and social problem. Briefly reviewing the events of April 1986, the radioactive cloud of particles released by the explosions and fire at Chernobyl' spread in a westerly direction, producing narrow bands of contamination across the terrain. By April 26 and 27 the radioactive material moved as a plume in a northwesterly direction which shifted to an east by northeast trajectory by April 28-29. Finally, by April 29 and 30 the plume's trajectory again shifted, this time to a south by southeast. Although the majority of the radioactive particles were precipitated during the first 4-5 days after the event, "hot" spots continued to develop throughout the month of May, 1986. The total estimated quantity of radioactive emissions from Chernobyl' is still controversial. The State Committee on Hydrometeorology and the Environment's official estimate of the total Chernobyl' emissions of 50 million curies has been challenged by an estimate of 1 billion curies made by specialists of the All-Union Atomic Power Station Research Institute, and other estimates range up to 6.4 billion curies.

Extensive areas have been impacted by the Chernobyl' accident. In the first few days after the event approximately 200,000 km² had radiation readings above 0.2 mr/hr (milliroentgens/hour). For comparison, natural background radiation levels in Kiev, for example, are reported to be 0.014 mr/hr. The data in Table 1 below adapted from tables provided by Yuri A. Izrael, Chairman of the USSR State Committee on Hydrometeorology, and originally published in Pravda, April 17, 1990, are quite disturbing given the extensive areas with high levels of contamination from which people were not evacuated!

Table 1. Areas Contaminated with Cesium-137 from Chernobyl Accident (in square kilometers).

	Contamination Range (curies per square km.) 5-15			Contamination Range (curies per square km.) 15-40			Contamination Range (curies per square km.) 40+		
	Total Area	Excluding Evacuated Zones	Evacuated Zones	Total Area	Excluding Evacuated Zones	Evacuated Zones	Total Area	Excluding Evacuated Zones	Evacuated Zones
Republics									
USSR Total	17,880	17,130	750	7,090	6,050	1,040	3,100	1,670	1,430
Ukrainian SSR	1,960	540	1420	820	350	470	640	200	440
Belorussian SSR	10,160	9,830	330	4,210	3,640	570	2,150	1,160	990
RSFSR	5,760	5,760	0	2,060	2,060	0	310	310	0

Source: Adapted from Yu. A. Izrael, "Chernobyl-1990," CDSP, Vol. XLII, No. 18 (June 6, 1990), pp. 8-9.

About 10,190 km² have been contaminated with cesium-137 level about 15 Ci/km² or higher. Excluding the resettlement zone about 640 populated centers and over 230,000 people were located in this cesium-137 contaminated zone. This table clearly reveals that the Byelorussian SSR was the region most negatively impacted by radiation fallout from Chernobyl'. A map compiled by the USSR Supreme Soviet Commission on Ecology and the Rational Use of

Resources, plotting areas of intensive radiation contamination (defined as 40 curies/km² or more) indicates that the bulk of the contamination extended northward from Chernobyl' into the Byelorussian SSR. Inspection of the last three columns of Table 1 disturbingly shows that more than half of these high contamination zones lie outside of the evacuation zone. About four million people are said to be living in areas contaminated by fallout (levels not specified). Over two million of these are in Byelorussian SSR, or 20 percent of its population. Some 12 million hectares or approximately 15 percent of the combined territory of the Ukraine and Byelorussian SSR are being specifically monitored for high radiation levels. Iodine-131 deposition and air pollution was registered in the following regions of European USSR during May 1986: in Byelorussian SSR at Brest, Grodno, Minsk, and Mogilev; in the Baltic region at Vil'nius, Kaliningrad, Klaypeda, and Riga; in the Ukraine at Kiev, Krivoy Rog, Zaporozh'ye, Donetsk, L'vov, Poltava, Rovno, Vinnitsa, and Ivano-Frankovsk. Goskompriroda's report claims these iodine-131 levels were short-lived and posed no health danger. Aerial reconnaissance of radiation levels in the European USSR identified several other contamination zones in addition to the primary zone of high radiation surrounding Chernobyl'. These zones are as follows: west of the primary zone in the vicinity of Pinsk and Rovno; south of the primary zone near Belaya Tserkov' and Kanev; southwest of the primary zone around Ivano-Frankovsk; northeast of the primary zone at the junction of Mogilev, Gomel' and Bryansk oblasts; south of Orel; around Plavsk south of Tula; and subsequent zones along the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland; far to the north in the Kola Peninsula; and in the Caucasus.

One of the major concerns has been radioactive contamination of water resources, especially in the string of Dnepr reservoirs. The Pripyat' river basin clearly had high radioactive contamination levels. Goskompriroda claims that β -activity in the Kiev reservoir's water during the first two months after the accident ranged between $1-6 \times 10^{-9}$ Ci/l, within the standard (10^{-8} Ci/l). Downstream in the Kremenchug reservoir the strontium-90 concentration levels in May 1986 was about 5×10^{-12} Ci/l only about one-hundredth of the MPC. Testing of bottom sample sediments from the various Dnepr reservoirs in mid-May 1986 not surprisingly revealed a steep monotonic decline in radiation levels downstream, diminishing by a factor of tens and hundredths for specimens from the southern Kiev reservoir and Kanev reservoir compared to the bottom deposits in the Kiev reservoir near the mouth of the Pripyat' River. Again, according to the Goskompriroda report the measured radionuclides in Ukrainian waterways have been below the expected and modelled levels. In a more recent account, however, A. Volkov, head of the Institute of Land Reclamation's Laboratory for Problems of the Polesye Lowland is quoted as claiming:

The Pripyat has been virtually ruined, and along with it the entire Pripyat Basin, 122,000 square kilometers in all--it can be used only as an ecological reserve. Today, the waters of the Pripyat and the Sozh and of their tributaries, the Nevsich, Iput, Besyad, Braginka, Kolpita and Pokot, are carrying radioactive silt into the Dnepr. The Kiev Reservoir is gradually turning into a 'time bomb.' The water is clean, but all the silt 'glows,' and there is already 60 million tons of it. The entire cascade of power stations on the Dnepr (sic), right down to the Black Sea, is seriously threatened. And 40 million people live in this region!

Two other problems give me no rest. ...All the timber in the affected districts is radioactive. It cannot be used for furniture, for construction, or even for firewood. And the peat 'glows,' too. Where are people going to get fuel?

The so-called 'burial grounds' simply horrify me. I have not seen a single one built according to all the rules--with concrete walls, with a concrete roof. As a rule, they are large pits the walls and bottoms of which are covered with polyethylene film. After two or three years, groundwater will wash unimpeded over the radioactive waste and flow into the rivers and lakes.

Several times I have been in the 'dead zone,' which has been turned into a dump where everything is heaped--equipment, clothing, furniture. The homes that have been abandoned there without supervision 'glow' like candles. The fires that break out there in overly dry peat bogs aggravate the tragedy. Smoke carries the radiation great distances.²

The human impact on residents in the vicinity of Chernobyl' and those involved in the "clean up" has been tremendous and is unending. Just in the first few days after the accident over 500 people were hospitalized in Moscow and Kiev with suspected radiation sickness. In addition to the three people killed in the initial explosion, 28 of the acute radiation sickness cases soon resulted in fatalities. Supposedly, extensive measurements were made immediately which served as the basis for evacuation decisions, decisions which have been widely and extensively criticized as being too little, too late. People residing in areas enclosed by isolines above 5 mr/hr were evacuated. Children and pregnant women were temporarily resettled if the radiation measurements exceeded the 3-5 mr/hr figure which was used to delineate the on-going monitoring zone. In the first year, 186 population centers with 116,000 inhabitants were evacuated from the resettlement zone. Of these evacuees 90,000 were from 75 Ukrainian population nodes, 25,000 were from 107 Byelorussian centers, and 1,000 were from 4 populated areas of the RRSR. Fourteen Belorussian and two Ukrainian villages were undergoing "re-evacuation" when the *Doklad* (1989) was being drafted and approximately ten additional settlements in the southern region of the 30 km radius resettlement zone supposedly were safe for return settlement. However, in October 1989, *Pravda* printed a story claiming that the Byelorussian SSR alone needs to relocate 100,000 people at a price of 17 billion rubles or 7 billion rubles more than the entire republic's annual budget. This staggering task and its cost have prompted republic officials to make international appeals for assistance.

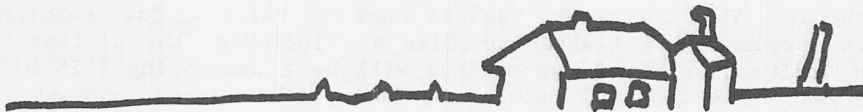
Official figures reveal the lost power, clean up, and relocation costs had amounted to over eight billion rubles by early 1988, of which 900 million was paid out in various forms of compensation and benefits, four billion in direct costs of the accident, and 540 million were from citizen contributions. Other reports indicate that the direct losses alone tallied four billion. In early May 1990 The Soviet Parliament voted to allocate \$26 billion to aid the victims of Chernobyl' through evacuations, better benefits to the soldiers and workers involved in the cleanup, and more thorough medical checkups. A Ukrainian Deputy, Yuri Shcherbak, reckons when the value of lost farmland and agricultural production and water supplies are included, the ultimate total direct and indirect costs of the cleanup will be a staggering \$415 billion. As of mid-year 1988, 696,000 people who have either lived, worked or are

living in this "special zone" or are currently living in contaminated territory had undergone necessary associated medical examination. The Chairman of the Byelorussian Children's Fund reported that in September 1987, the USSR Council of Ministers transferred from the Chernobyl' Charity Account No. 904 over 65.8 million rubles in individual people's donations to the Ministry of Atomic Energy to compensate it for the Chernobyl' accident rather than dispensing the money to the human victims of the accident. In October 1989 the USSR Fund for Social Inventions made a 100,000 ruble donation to set up a new public organization, the Chernobyl' Alliance, to monitor the safety at existing atomic power plants through a commission of independent experts.

Several press reports claim that significant numbers of deaths by radiation sickness and that elevated levels of spontaneous abortions, stillborns, and birth defects have occurred in the affected areas. Some Soviet observers claim the direct radiation fatalities from Chernobyl' now total around 300. The 1988 Soviet documental film, *Mikrofon* (Microphone) contains graphic footage documenting the effects of radiation on children, and especially, many grotesque examples of major birth defects. Physicians addressing a conference at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., in April 1990 admitted that 150,000 people were suffering from thyroid ailments linked to their exposure to radioactive iodine, a claim which clearly undercuts the above cited *Doklad* (1989) assertion that the radioactive iodine releases were too low to cause any health problems. A Minsk hospital reports that the number of cases of childhood leukemia deaths which they are seeing has increased from a rate of one or two deaths per year to one to two deaths per week. Childhood leukemia rates from parts of the Ukraine are also being reported as two to four times the norm. Given the incubation time for radiation linked diseases, especially carcinomas, it may be well into the next century before the final toll of Chernobyl' can be known.

Finally, nuclear power itself may well be a casualty of the Chernobyl' accident. For example, in addition to all the newly published concerns about impending energy shortages, there are even more strongly voiced concerns about nuclear safety. So far a number of partially completed and planned nuclear stations have been halted indefinitely, including the proposed Crimean station, a facility at Odessa, and in March 1990 the Ukrainian Republic Supreme Soviet passed a resolution calling for the shutting down of the Chernobyl' stations, in stages, by 1995, and for halting the further expansion of the Khmel'nitskiy, Rovno and other nuclear power plants located in the Ukraine.

1. This Report is based on a paper presented at the IV International Conference on the Ukraine, Harvard University, September 6-8, 1990.
2. N. Matukovsky, "Catastrophe.--What the Lessons of Chernobyl Teach," CDSP, Vol. XLII, No. 13 (May 2, 1990), pp. 1-4.



FOR TEACHERS

Teachers' Workshop

On Saturday, April 13, the Russian and East European Studies Program will host one of the Jackson School's *Second Saturday Teachers Workshops* entitled "The Great Awakening: the Transformation of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe." In the morning, Professors Daniel Chirot and Herbert Ellison will speak on the recent dramatic changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. An afternoon presentation by Dr. Lawrence Lerner, will concentrate on teaching materials. Among the handouts will be: (1) a guide to our Outreach Center's holdings; (2) bibliographies of recent publications on the Soviet Union and East Europe compiled for high school teachers; and (3) a catalogue of REEU-oriented films that can be rented from the Educational Media Service here on campus. Selections from the excellent BBC and Hedrick Smith PBS series on the Soviet Union will be shown (both fully described in our last newsletter). Those who cannot attend the workshop but would like to receive these materials are invited to call us at 543-4852; we will be happy to send them to you. For registration information, call UW Extension at 206-543-2310.

Eastern Washington Workshop: Bringing International Studies into K-12 Curriculum

JSIS' Outreach Programs, in collaboration with the Washington State Council for Social Studies (WSCSS), and Central Washington University are offering a late afternoon workshop for K-12 teachers on Tuesday, April 23, 4:00-9:00 p.m. It will be held at Central Washington University's campus in Ellensburg (Yakima Room, Student Union Building).

The workshop is designed to provide information, ideas, and "teacher-tested" materials that can be used in presenting international studies topics. There will be presentations on Canada, Russia and East Europe, and Africa, particularly South Africa, as well as world literature, Asian art, and the environment. A fee of \$15 will cover workshop registration, a Mexican dinner, and handouts. Please pre-register by April 18. There will be no walk-in registrations on the day of the workshop. For more information, call Betsy Goolian at (206) 543-5995 (M-F 8-2:00).

American-Soviet Teacher Exchange Program Washington Hosts Russian Delegation in April

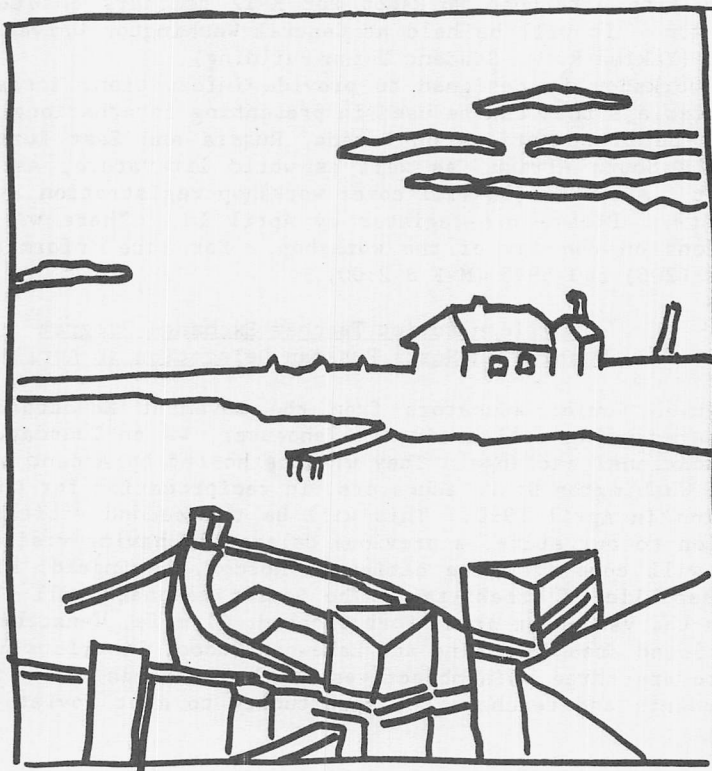
Nineteen Soviet educators from the movement Educators for Peace and Mutual Understanding will arrive in Vancouver, WA on Tuesday, April 23 for a 14-day educational exchange. They will be hosted by Accent on Understanding, a group of Washington State educators, in reciprocation for their visit to the Soviet Union in April 1990. This will be the second visit from the Russian organization to our state, a previous delegation having visited in 1989. The delegates will come from the cities of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, and from the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Soviet teachers will observe and teach classes in the Vancouver area, Port Orchard, Olympia, Wenatchee, Brewster, and the Puget Sound area (Highline and Lakewood School Districts and Mt. Vernon).

There are three main objectives of the exchange. One is to give Washington students and teachers the opportunity to meet Soviet people directly,

to learn first-hand about their culture, history and lives through presentations and question and answer sessions. The second is to allow Soviets to experience American family life by living with their teacher counterparts and participating in community and cultural events. Third, to encourage more Washington educators to become involved in this and similar efforts for greater international awareness in our schools, among our students and teachers.

Accent on Understanding has a four year exchange agreement with Educators for Peace and Understanding. The final year of this first agreement is 1992 when a delegation of Washington state educators will be hosted in the Soviet Union. A proposal to continue the agreement in 2-year segments will be discussed when the Soviet delegation is in Washington this year. The exchanges are on a "non-currency" basis, which means each hosting organization handles the expenses for the foreign delegation when they are in the host country. Therefore, fundraising is a critical component of the exchange preparation. A total of \$27,000 has been raised in the past 9 months in Washington state for the upcoming exchange.

Information concerning the events of the 1991 exchange as well as applications for participation in the 1992 American delegation can be obtained by writing: Nancy Holmes (Chair), Accent on Understanding, 3714 SE Buckingham Drive, Port Orchard, WA 98366; phone: 876-7335 (work) or 871-3654 (home).



Tatyana Tolstaya Visits UW

On February 4, Tatyana Tolstaya, one of the most widely read and revered Russian writers in the Soviet Union today, delivered a delightful and thought-provoking talk on the current state of Soviet culture and literature. Having among her ancestors two of Russia's greatest novelists -- Leo Tolstoy and Alexei Tolstoy -- and a reputation based on her literary accomplishments, she plainly fears no man. The ease and abandon with which she passes judgment, coupled with her biting wit, seems guaranteed to win admirers and enemies.

In sum, she holds that Soviet culture has been deteriorating for quite a while, and that perestroika, far from clearing the way for artistic expression, is probably contributing to the degradation. Not only is it a technical (economic) problem of no paper (due to rationing), but on the spiritual side, there is no one capable of writing. Nor is there anything to write about. Constant flux in society may be the material of great journalism, but it is bad for art. It is like trying to hold a pen steady and organize one's thoughts in the middle of a whirlwind. You can't see where you are; there's no perspective. One simply must wait for the spinning to stop.

The Soviet genre of the day is apocalyptic literature--gloom and doom. She described a typical story, perhaps named "Wings." The story runs: Perestroika has come to an end, anarchy reigns, everything must be obtained on coupons. A strange disease is spreading, wherein people's backs begin to itch and wings sprout. When your time is upon you, you are bound to fly to where the wings take you. There is no flying back.

Timur Kibirov (sp?) she feels is one of the country's best poets today. His poems are made of quotations taken from Soviet slogans or songs--from the mass culture everyone knows--juxtaposed to convey new meaning. You feel this is your culture, but what a mess has been made of it, and there is no way to put it right. The poems are about destruction, the end. They are very emotional and very beautiful, "like the howling of a dog when its owner dies."

The Russian people have essentially been tricked by Gorbachev. He drew upon a few noble sounding phrases from Russian history and appropriated them to his regime, with great success for a while as no one could figure out what he was talking about. The intelligentsia liked the sound of the words; the common people are always eager to grasp new slogans; the military complex was stupified as always. In short, the people were duped. Now, however, they are figuring it out, with accompanying anger and outrage. And despair. They long to go away somewhere, say no to their whole life, grow wings.

Glasnost is not a boon to artistic creation. The greatest art is born of struggle. An entire art form was lost when artists no longer had to convey messages obliquely, but could speak directly. The Taganka Theatre, for example, was famous for sending disguised political messages. Its day has passed.

The Russian ballet and theatre, once the most renowned and respected in the world, have long since lost their integrity. Where once their pupils were the country's most talented, by the '70s these groups had compromised their honesty by admitting the (mediocre) children of the privileged and giving them the star roles. The arts lost out, and, of course, the country lost out.

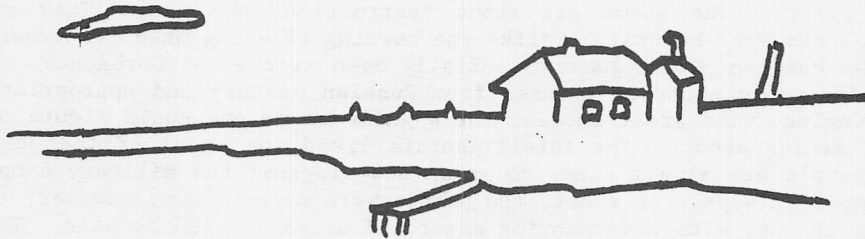
Tolstaya talked about her generation. Born in 1951, she was part of a generation whose philosophy was to lay low. Stay at the bottom or close to the bottom, do some simple job that doesn't make claims on you mentally or

emotionally, and make your free time your life. She lived this way for years, working a couple days a week at a publishing house; a friend got a position as a caretaker. They spent their time reading, exchanging books and ideas. An underground culture, they believed themselves the cream of society. After twenty years, when they were allowed out, they created practically nothing. It was a shocking revelation when they turned out unable to create. When somebody stays locked in a room for too long, she speculates, he loses his connectedness with society. He has nothing to say.

She has no respect for Soviet awards for writing, no desire to please the authorities. "How can anyone accept Soviet awards! You have to share such awards with killers!"

When asked about herself as a woman writer, she rejected the identification. The greatest portrait of a woman in literature (Anna Karenina) was, after all, created by a man. One is a writer, simply, not even a human writer because one could put oneself into the role of, say, a dog and write from that perspective. The goal of identification, the truth of life lies in putting oneself in the position of Soul, Being, not in localizing.

In this way, she refuses to glorify the claims of Soviet nationalities today to their particularity. She sees such notions as divisive, self-deluding, and pretentious. But she fears humanity is too committed to its own sense of superiority for groups to relinquish cherished notions of specialness. "The things people imagine about themselves!" Universalism, she says, is much more important than "tiny" distinctions such as woman/man, plumber/writer. Differences are not healthy. "Let them pass."



UZBEK NEWS

Connections to Tajikistan

In February 1991 the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization was honored by the visit of two distinguished scholars from Tajikistan. Akba Tursuenov, Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Tajik Academy of Sciences, and Parvona Yamshid, Professor of Linguistics and Cultural History, Tajikistan State University, Dushanbe.

Their university and community appearances around the country were organized by Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak of the Near Eastern Department, on behalf of the Foundation for Iranian Studies (Washington, D.C.). The Department signed an agreement of cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Tajik Academy of Sciences. Professor Karimi-Hakkak will be lecturing and teaching in Dushanbe during Autumn Quarter 1991.

Summer Institute in Soviet Central Asian Languages

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization announces a Summer Institute in Central Asian Languages, June 24 - August 23, 1991.

In addition to the annual Summer Uzbek Language program (first and second year), intensive first year Kazakh and Tajik will be taught with the assistance of a number of native speakers. The program will also enjoy the participation of notable writers, poets and scholars from Soviet Central Asia. Among them will be: Pirimiql Qodirov, historian, writer and member of the Uzbek Parliament; Muhammad Ali, poet and novelist, Director of the Translation Center at the Uzbek Writers' Union, from Alma-Ata; Rahmanqul Berdibaev, scholar, writer, and environmentalist, from Dushanbe; Bozor Sobir, poet and member of the Tajik Parliament. The Tajik course will be conducted by the well-known Iranist, Leonard Herzenberg, Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad.

A rich cultural program consisting of lectures, performances of Central Asian dance and music, and an exhibition of work by an Uzbek painter, Shahm Mahmud Muhammadjonov, who revived the ancient art of miniature painting will be part of the Summer Institute. The Institute has been partially funded by the Joint Committee on Soviet Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. Fellowships are available for Uzbek, Kazakh, and Tajik. Deadline for fellowship application is May 15, 1991. Contact Ilse D. Girtautas, Chair, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, Tel. (206) 543-6928. For a Summer Quarter Bulletin and enrollment application, call (206) 543-2320 or 1-(800) 543-2320.

Central Asian Miniature Paintings

"Dragons, Heroes, and Lovers: Revival of Miniature Painting Traditions in Uzbekistan and Iran."

The Wing Luke Museum, together with the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, the Center for Humanities, the Middle East and the Russian and East European Programs of the Jackson School of International Studies, and the School of Art at the University of Washington proudly announce an Exhibition of Miniature Paintings from the eastern parts of the Islamic world, featuring the work of two living master-artists, Shahm Mahmud Muhammadjonov of Tashkent and Mohammad Bagher Aghamiri of Tehran. The exhibition will take place at the Wing Luke Museum from September 5-October 20, 1991. The museum is located at 407 Seventh Avenue South, in Seattle, telephone: (206) 623-5124.

A workshop, conducted at the University of Washington School of Art, Monday, August 26, 1991, will present our two artists in action. They will arrive in Seattle at the beginning of August and will be present for the opening ceremonies of the exhibition.

In addition to the University and Museum sponsors, two community groups joined in sponsoring this exhibition: Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Committee and the Association of Iranians in Washington State.

Establishing Russian Programs at the UW in the 1950s & 60's

Donald W. Treadgold, Professor, REEU

Russian studies began as study of all aspects of civilization of a country, like classics (i.e., study of ancient Greece and Rome). There had been Sinologists or Indologists, terms applied to scholars of rarefied attainments, but who had no defined discipline in the contemporary sense. The word Russology was seldom if ever used but might have been when people were around such as Ivar Spector (UW) and Edward Parry (Colgate). Spector, whose doctorate was in Semitics, was hired by UW to teach English composition in 1931, later came to teach Russian language, literature, history under the rubric of "civilization," and in 1946 inaugurated biweekly Soviet Press Translations, carefully selected and accurately translated, which was however overwhelmed a few years later by the competition of the much larger and more ambitious Current Digest of the Soviet Press, the creation of Leo Gruliov. It is an item of oral tradition at the UW that the Yudin collection, the nucleus of today's great Library of Congress collection of Slavic materials, was offered to our library after the October Revolution but was declined on the grounds that few were much interested in Russia. However, much later, in the 1950's, we managed to build one of the premier Russian and East European collections in the country, in which researchers have found items not available in Widener or the Library of Congress.

A new era began in 1939 when George E. Taylor, a British China scholar and truly gifted administrator, was brought to UW to head a Far Eastern Institute which soon became Far Eastern and Russian. Two new men joined the Russian faculty in 1948: William Ballis, political scientist recently with naval attaché's office in Moscow, and Victor Erlich, Polish refugee just finishing dissertation in Russian literature at Columbia, a third in 1949: I, having just finished doctorate in Russian history at Oxford; in 1955 W.A. Douglas Jackson with Ph D in geography from Maryland; 1957 John Reshetar replaced Ballis, who went to Michigan. In 1947 and 1949 respectively there arrived two men whose fame was worldwide in their fields and whose secondary interests included the USSR: Nikolai Nikolaevich Poppe, former academician of USSR Academy of Sciences and world's greatest specialist in Mongolian studies, today still alive and active at age 93, and Karl August Wittfogel, who died in New York a couple of years ago at age 91, who has been called the last great German system-builder. In 1950's appointing a faculty member was a relatively informal affair. Of course no affirmative action, but WASPs were rare; at one point a count of faculty revealed only 4 US-born people, 2 of them WASPs (I was one) and the other 2 Nisei; there was only one woman, but at that time there were very few women indeed who had Ph. D.'s in any of the studies represented. By 1966 the Institute listed 24 faculty teaching courses on Russia and the Soviet Union and 9 teaching courses on East Central Europe, and figured that graduate students had been drawn from 98 universities including 21 from abroad. One might note that Russian and East European studies, especially after appointment of Peter Sugar in history in 1959, have all along co-existed harmoniously at UW, a happy condition not enjoyed by all other centers in the country.

Russian studies at UW, however, were established on a firm foundation through association with Far Eastern Studies, or East Asian as we came to call them. The 1950's were the great years of building the FERI, an institution embracing chiefly Chinese and Russian studies but including work on Japan and Inner Asia (Mongolia and Tibet, little done at UW on Sinkiang). We had outside grants from Rockefeller and Carnegie Foundations and later from Ford, enjoyed solid University and state support, and a string of notable outside visitors.

Morale was sky high; one sure index was the annual banquet at which the food consisted of sumptuous Chinese dishes (my Russian patriotism never extended to food, except for caviar), featured skits in which faculty made fun of themselves and each other, all loudly sang the song "The Old Gray Mare" in as many languages as were known to any faculty member; I retain an uneffaceable memory of Nikolai Nikolaevich Poppe trying to produce a version in Yakut (I think), which had no word for horse, murmuring to himself, "let me see, the old white reindeer, she is not what she was." Another sign of group spirit was the annual picnic at the home of a Russian language instructor on the shore of Lake Washington, where a whole lamb was roasted and children of all sizes and colors ran about on land and played enthusiastically in the water. At Christmas time cards were posted outside George Taylor's office saying "Merry Christmas" (ACLU would put a stop to it nowadays) which phrase Jews, atheists, Buddhists, a few Christians enthusiastically translated into all the languages they knew. The number of languages represented grew to 30, 40, 50, or more, but one defied decipherment by our best linguists: it proved finally to be Gregg shorthand.

I myself had had no contact with Asia and the barest of course introduction to it as an undergraduate; but by rubbing elbows with colleagues I became fascinated by China in particular, went to Taiwan as visiting professor in 1959 on a Rockefeller-supported exchange program and made the mistake of beginning to study Chinese. I spent much of the next decade or two working on the language, history, literature, thought; the upshot was my two-volume work The West in Russia and China. Some of my other colleagues had comparable experiences tho the attacks of Sinophilia they suffered were less virulent.

Research seminars were the backbone of intellectual life of the place. They met weekly. The papers written by the faculty were distributed and read in advance so that sessions were devoted to discussions--sometimes heated, often illuminating, always lively and interesting. Three were especially active: Modern Chinese History Project, Inner Asia Project, Russia in Asia Project. Ex-Communists, non-ideological types, liberals, conservatives, two or three quiet Communists. We discussed, we argued, we criticized, learned a lot in the process. I have never seen--not at Harvard or any other of the 50 colleges I have lectured at, or since then at the UW--such an intense and exciting intellectual atmosphere. We debated whether the Chinese scholarship were a class, and if so whether it was based on wealth or knowledge, whether Russia had been feudal in the past or the USSR was totalitarian in the present, and though beer cans were not thrown it was probably a good thing none were ready to hand.

Teaching went through a predictable cycle. Spector's courses in history were assigned to me; Erlich's literature courses supplanted several of Spector's; Reid Micklesen took over Erlich's linguistic and philological courses so he could offer more literature. Russian stretched from merely beginning and advanced courses to four solid years' instruction plus graduate courses, also taught were Polish, Czech, Serbo-Croatian, Old Church Slavic regularly, Bulgarian, Romanian and Hungarian at various times. I taught a course in Soviet history from the start plus a single-quarter survey, which became 2 quarter and then 3 quarter; Marc Szeftel joined me to do medieval Russia in 1960, Herbert Ellison joined us to concentrate on Soviet history in 1967. Fr. Georges Florovsky was visiting professor summer 1961 and 1966; we nearly succeeded in making a permanent appointment of him, which is another story, tho the effort advanced to the point where cards covering his library were being checked in ours in preparation for bringing it to Seattle with him.

The heyday of the Far Eastern & Russian Institute might be counted as 1961-62: accelerated first year Russian and Chinese language courses were given in summer for the first time to 45 students in Russian, 14 in Chinese; Russian House (where Russian only was to be spoken) was begun, having been planned and financed by students; George Taylor was chairman of ACLS-SSRC Joint Committee on Contemporary China, I was chairman of Joint Committee on Slavic Studies and editor of Slavic Review, Rhoads Murphey editor of Journal of Asian Studies, Omeljan Pritsak editor of Ural-Altäische Jahrbücher, Peter Sugar and I launched our 11-volume History of East Central Europe, which went fast at first, slowed down and is still incomplete; we began planning for the ACLS-SSRC-sponsored Lake Tahoe conference which I chaired and edited the volume Soviet and Chinese Communism: Similarities and Differences which emerged from it, which badly needs updating. In 1966 a grant from one of the Mellon foundations launched the Gowen Fellowship program for third-world students seeking Ph.D. in a discipline with specialization in Russian or East Asian areas, and this program was a roaring success, which did not prevent the donors from losing interest after a few years and killing it. (They were affected by the idea if not the phrase, "It's a bottomless pit," which was used by a number of foundations in that period to reduce or discontinue support of international studies.) Gowen Fellows who returned home with Ph.D.'s included people now teaching--as it happens Russian history in all cases--in Universities of Malaya, Sri Lanka, Peradeniya, Nigeria, and Haifa, and doing other things in Japan, Korea, India, and Indonesia.

In 1970 Thomson Hall occupied twice, manuscripts destroyed or scattered about, Hellmut Wilhelm's library narrowly saved from burning by someone who talked fast to students bent on vandalism, offices of two administrators broken into by students looking for "the CIA files," which never existed outside radical imagination. (One noteworthy fact about FERI that it refused to take money from any branch of US government until Congress passed the National Defense Education Act.) It was difficult to escape the conclusion that paranoid vandals outnumbered the noble idealists in that kind of assault, which many U.S. institutions experienced during the period. Fortunately the UW did not suffer as much from the so-called student revolution as some other places.

1968 FERI split into three parts, one called FERI as before plus Slavic L & L and Asian L & L departments. The three units continue but the FERI, after several name changes, is today called the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. REEU is one of the constituent programs of the Jackson School, and is identical in composition to the NDEA Center.

In 1950's and to a lesser extent in the 60's things were easier; to fill a job, I might call the dean and ask if Professor X could be invited to campus as a possible candidate, he often said yes, and sometimes an appointment resulted. If someone went on leave, we could expect to replace him or her; there was usually research support available in summer, and distinguished visitors could be brought to teach in addition to regular faculty: Fr. Georges Florovsky (twice), Gleb Struve, Hugh Seton-Watson, Ralph Matlaw, Deming Brown, Alfred Meyer, several others, aside from a stream of short-term VIP's. In 50's there were fewer committee meetings, set-piece conferences, on campus or elsewhere in the country or abroad that one had to attend, intellectual excitement was on our doorstep, in Thomson Hall; by 60's we already had to travel more.

I remember once, probably in late 60's, expressing to a Sinologist colleague my regret at the changes, the loss of élan in the two great seminars, and other things: he replied in a Chinese vein, "there is no use to lament the spring, once autumn has come." Spring is a wonderful season, but autumn is to be sure often beautiful, rich, and energizing.

Foreboding of a Civil War
Mikhail Chernysh, REEU

Mikhail Chernysh, a researcher at the Institute of Sociology, USSR Academy of Sciences, is currently a visiting professor in the REEU program. This Spring 1991 he will offer a graduate seminar entitled "Research on Social Change in the Soviet Union."

The specter of a civil war is again looming large on the Soviet horizon, causing utmost concern if not panic among Soviet politicians, intellectuals, business people, society as a whole. Tension started building up two years ago when it became increasingly clear that the onward development of reform would inevitably lead to a decisive clash of interests between those who stand for the preservation of the existing order of things and their antagonists who favor reform.

The creative community reacted to the new threat with a number of artistic statements. First, Yuri Shevchuk, a gifted actor and rock-musician, known for his candor and love of freedom, came up with a song called "Foreboding of a Civil War"--a powerful vision of a society torn apart by warring factions, of millions facing violent death and starvation. A similar warning came from the writer A. Kabakov. In his anti-utopian fiction, "The Defector," he portrayed a war-torn Soviet society of the near future. The country is ruled by a military junta with a general in charge. The military are constantly resorting to the indiscriminate use of violence but still unable to impose their control because the forces of destruction they unleashed are beyond any control. Life in such a society becomes a nightmare. Anyone venturing into the streets risks his life, but venture one must because food and clothes have to be obtained, the family has to be protected. Under these circumstances, everyday life turns into a constant encounter with death and destruction, thus acquiring a new existential dimension.

A pessimistic version of Soviet society's future has not been confined only to the artistic and intellectual communities. It became a theme frequently debated and exploited by Soviet brass and politicians. Speaking on February 23, Soviet Army Day, Defense Minister D. Yazov used the occasion to evoke images of civil strife. In his view, the ubiquitous drive for autonomy and independence may trigger off the chain reaction of a violent conflict.

On February 25, M. Gorbachev himself issued a strong warning that further claims to power by his archenemy B. Eltsin might plunge the nation into a civil war with dire consequences for everyone.

But is such an all out civil war really possible in the Soviet Union today? I should like to advance a number of arguments reducing the possibility of such an outcome.

First, let us define "civil war." As generally used, the term refers to a violent conflict between two armies of the same nation over one basic political and ideological issue. In the United States in 1861 the North and the South clashed over the issue of slavery. A half-measure compromise proved to be an ineffective, and therefore unreliable means of conflict resolution. An impasse over the issue "communism" led to a civil war in Russia in 1917. The Bolsheviks' demagoguery, intolerance, and terror left all conscientious people with no choice but to oppose them with arms.

Although Soviet society is again stuck on the horns of a major dilemma, the situation is different. One of the reasons for this is that today Soviets find themselves in a state of rampant anomy, that is, in a condition where social stability has collapsed as a result of eroded values, and where people

are alienated from each other and from society because of the resulting moral vacuum. Soviets feel let down and betrayed by the Communist government. The population overwhelmingly rejects the Communist ideology as a deceptive trick used to exploit the peoples of Russia. At the same time, they are not in a hurry to embrace, let alone fight for, any other cause.

Even leading proponents and opponents of democracy lack total commitment to their values. Those who speak for democracy and a free market economic system know deep inside that a quick march to the desired goal is impossible in a country with a militarized, monopolistic economy and virtually no experience of a functioning democracy. Their antagonists, despite their hard-line rhetoric, also realize that even if they triumph, a return to the blissful paradise of the Brezhnev era is not a feasible option. They would have to deal with an unwieldy economy and disobedient, disgruntled, disbelieving population in a highly volatile situation. Any new outbursts of Communist rhetoric can hardly create incentives for hard work and efficiency. It is inevitable that even a conservative government addresses itself to the issue of living standards and provides outlets for political participation.

Lack of commitment on both sides frequently leads to amazingly quick metamorphoses of leading political figures. The most notable example is Mikhail Gorbachev himself. Once a reformer with leanings towards social democracy, he quickly turned into an authoritarian figure launching a crack-down against his former allies, Edward Shevardnadze and Boris Eltsin. Boris Eltsin is also on the move. At the time of his service as First Secretary of the Moscow CPSU organization, he was extremely authoritarian, with emphasis on the iron fist policy. Now he is a leading liberal and *primus inter pares* (first among equals) in the democratic front.

Still another example of political flexibility is the Leningrad mayor Anatoly Sobchak. One of the most qualified lawyers in the Supreme Soviet, he was known in the recent past as a staunch fighter for a law-based society and direct democracy. Today he advocates the dissolution of local Soviets and a more authoritarian executive power.

The hard liners are also subject to change. Even KGB chairman Kryuchkov frequently goes out of his way--even if out of sheer expedience--to pledge support for a multi-party system.

So, if the boundaries dividing the two camps are so elusive, what would be the core issue of the civil war and who would volunteer to fight? An all-out civil war is certainly not a likely outcome of the present situation. I think the Soviet predicament is fraught with another uneasy prospect, perhaps concealing an even greater danger than civil war. It is the threat of prolonged disintegration, an agony accompanied by a new multi-dimensional, multi-faceted, patchy conflict--violent, hazy, unsolvable, and unwinnable. It will continue to plague the country and drain her material and human resources even as she gropes for a new political, economic and national arrangement.





An Uzbek Poet's Voice

Do You Care?

Do you hear, our Aral Sea is dying,
Boats are rotting in the sands,
What will our future be?
I pain and grieve.

Do you care?

Of a thousand children, a hundred die,
Their mothers' hearts broken,
Clean air, clean water nowhere
in our land;
Our soil poisoned,
Do you care?

Cotton grows where orchards and
meadows were,
I tell the truth, I do not lie,
Fruits and meat in our villages
nowhere,
Tell me is this fair?
Do you care?

- Jamol Kamol

THE ARTS

Northwest Folk Life Festival Spotlights East Europe

Pounding Hearts, Singing Feet: Dance Costumes and Musical Instruments of Eastern Europe will be on display at the Seattle Center Pavilion at the Seattle Center, May 22 through June 9, 1991. This program is the second in a series of annual exhibits at the Northwest Folklife Festival that explore the culture of a different region of the world each year. The exhibit will feature costumes, musical instruments, lectures, films and cultural materials pertaining to Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, Romania, Yugoslavia, Greece and Czechoslovakia.

Margaret Hord's East European costume collection, considered to be one of the most comprehensive, will form the core of the 1991 exhibit. Photos by professional photographer Jim Molnar of the Seattle Times will complement the display along with performances by the Radost Folk Ensemble, Vela Luka and many others.

Russian Art Exhibit at Frye Museum

March 5 - April 7

The Frye Museum is currently housing an impressive selection of art works by seven contemporary Leningrad artists and a Russian-American. The latter, Nikolai Fechin, specialized in highly interpretive character studies of Soviets done in charcoal and oil paintings of North Americans. Indians, Mexicans, immigrants from every part of the globe, the diversity of our continent and its peoples obviously intrigued him.

Otherwise, several halls are lined with bright, humorous, poster-like depictions of Leningrad life, the vision of Ivan Tarasuk, a graduate of the Repin Academy of Art. His technique is to abstract a moment of the daily bustle into two-or three brilliant colors, rendering it harmless and happy. Within the frozen vibrancy, there is a wealth of detail, of city-relevant forms--delightful, if totally detached from nature. For the more emotional, the paintings of Vyacheslav Nabatov will have particular appeal. His Russian cabins alone in the snow, evocation of wilderness, of the poignancy of the earth speak directly to the heart.

Also among the seven are Valery Mishin, whose works are included in the Pushkin Museum of Art in Moscow, and Victor Tikhomirov, founder of the group "Mitky," which came into being with perestroika to serve artists who had developed their own rules and styles. Some of the artists experienced severe restriction until quite recently. Dmitri Terekhov, for example, was categorized as "too truthful" and prevented from exhibiting his work. Similarly repressed was Yuri Kryakvin, who was not allowed to take his paintings out of the USSR or to exhibit them except locally.

The current collection includes some magnificent pieces of porcelain. The artistry of Galina Rein is one of the highlights of the exhibit. This porcelain sculptor has devoted her life to reviving the techniques of the 18th century and has honed her own skills to perfection. Some of her pieces display a delicacy and intricacy of detail that is truly breathtaking. In addition, the showcases protect some extraordinary treasures: elaborately decorated plates, inlaid spoons, and such odd luxuries.

Russian/East European Movies in Seattle

Freeze-Die-Come to Life. Metro, April or May. Vitaly Kanevsky, Director. Winner, "Camera D'Or" Award (Best First Film), Cannes Film Festival 1990.

A lifetime of pent up feelings find expression in Kanevsky's frankly autobiographical film about growing up in a post-WW II Siberian mining town. Here life for the townsfolk and prisoners at the local POW camp are roughly on par. Kanevsky drew on his eight years spent in a labor camp on unspecified charges as well as a youth like his protagonist's (he found his lead actor in a state orphanage and took him home during shooting). His voice at end of film implies that very little has improved. *Freeze-Die* refers to a children's game like our "Statues," but it acquired new meaning when, in searching for memories, Kanevsky found he would go still, 'die' to the present, and awaken to scenes long forgotten. He learned to consciously use this technique, shooting fast before the images again grew dim. The film has been much praised for its lyric beauty. Kanevsky views life as cruel in its arbitrary meting out of suffering, but the exuberance of the young is sweet. The mood is black-and-white: like dirty marble, "soiled but very beautiful."

Leningrad Cowboys Go America. Coming to Metro Cinema, sometime in April. Finnish Director Aki Kaurismaki apparently achieved great success with two other recent comedies at this year's New York Film Festival.

Leningrad Cowboys also has its admirers, among them Vincent Canby of the New York Times, who calls this "a comedy so laid back and so cool that to laugh out loud would seem to be hopelessly square." The story line follows a mediocre polka band, who, having no particular success at home, are advised to go to New York ("They'll buy anything there."). When a New York promoter hears them, however, he immediately sends them off to play a wedding in Mexico. The brothers take off southward on a meandering trek that passes through Memphis, New Orleans, Natchez, Langtry and Galveston, on its way to their destination. Each gig is a flop, but the band learns survival skills, such as how to lip-sync the recordings of Herb Alpert. It even picks up a theme song about a Leningrad cowboy raising cattle on the steppes. The film's detached, dead-pan style leads Canby (NY Times) to extol Kaurismaki as potentially "the seminal European filmmaker of the 1990's. His films see all but...divulge nothing. They refuse to be surprised or to take sides."

Larks on a String (Czechoslovakia). Neptune, April. Winner of the Golden Bear Award (Best Film) at the 1990 Berlin Film Festival. Jiri Menzel, Director ("Closely Watched Trains").

Begun in 1968, as the Warsaw Pact invaded Czechoslovakia, the film was banned on completion and not shown until 22 years later (1990). It was considered unacceptable because of its open satire of the practice of "re-education" that took place in the early 1950's after the communist takeover. The film is set in a landscape so bleak and devastated, it looks like the aftermath of a bombing but is instead the impact of the nearby factory on its surroundings. In this grim, polluted setting, a group of "bourgeois" types are made to do manual labor under the supervision of a lazy, but not malevolent, working class functionary. They include a philosophy professor, a prosecutor, a musician, a milkman, a hairdresser, and a Jewish hotelier. The film is witty and quite upbeat considering the situation, its view of humanity charitable. One wonders, though, if these same characters could work so well together if they weren't all sitting on the same slag heap in their scruffies.

Report from Jewish Family Service

Carol Benedick, REEU

REEU graduate student Carol Benedick is employed as a Refugee Resettlement Caseworker at Jewish Family Service in Seattle. The following report is based on her observations of the changing nature of Jewish immigration to Seattle.

It is easy to tell when a new Soviet family is expected at Jewish Family Service. A "welcome basket" of candles, yarmulkes, a mezuzah, and a loaf of challah from Brenners' Brothers sits on the desk, next to the box of kleenex. Both the welcome basket and the kleenex play an integral role at orientation, the Soviet Jews' first meeting with the agency that brought them to Seattle.

The basket provides tangible evidence of a living Jewish culture in the United States. The mezuzah will be hung in the doorway of the family's new home. The candles, yarmulkes, and challah will be used to observe the Sabbath. For the young people, these traditions are completely unfamiliar. For the seniors, they are something remembered from childhood.

In many ways the older and younger generations' approach to life in the United States is completely different. The seniors know they will probably never learn English, and that they may be isolated and lonely. The middle aged and younger Soviets realize that life will be very difficult at first, but, with time and hard work, success will be within reach.

The young and the old do have something in common, however, as they share tears when recounting the indignation they felt as second-class Soviet citizens. Anti-Semitism has always been present in the Soviet Union -- though sometimes it's been more subtle than now. Glasnost and economic instability have awakened more violent forms of anti-Semitism, and the young people have realized what the elderly have always known: there is no future for Jews in the Soviet Union.

I have been a Refugee Resettlement Caseworker at Jewish Family Service for over two years. When I started working here, the Soviet Union was just beginning to open its doors to freer emigration. The first people to apply to leave were refuseniks, Jews who had previously been denied exit visas. There were also families hoping to be reunited with relatives who had come during the 1970s. Then there were Jews who, after careful consideration, decided that though glasnost was appealing, they should take advantage of the opportunity to leave, as it might be their last. Now, if one word describes the applicants for emigration to the United States, it is "desperate."

The current arrivals to the United States did not want to leave the Soviet Union. They felt they *had* to leave. And though they are relieved to have made it to this country, they fear for the safety of Jewish friends and relatives who remain behind.

At orientation, these new immigrants describe how, in the Soviet Union, clerks who don't want to sell goods to Jewish customers will accuse them of stealing or falsifying ration cards. The Jews are told, "Don't deplete our scarce Soviet supplies. Go to your Israel."

Interrupting themselves with sobs, the immigrants explain how they just couldn't endure another pogrom threat. Several times over the past year, rumors circulated throughout the country of an imminent mass murder of Jews. Though none of the pogroms actually transpired, the threats were taken seriously. On such occasions the government advised Jews to remain home and stay

in groups. For the Soviet Jews who had considered the country to be their motherland, this was the last straw.

Unfortunately, it was not the last humiliation. That came later as the prospective emigrés sold all their furniture and took all their money out of the bank in order to buy plane tickets in cash. On January 22, 1991, Gorbachev decreed that all 50 and 100 ruble notes would be removed from circulation. This measure was taken purportedly to curb corruption, contraband, counterfeiting, and unearned income. Soviet citizens had only three days to exchange their money for smaller bills. Moreover, the amount they could change was strictly limited. This measure presented a hardship for all Soviet citizens, but it was especially harsh on those trying to leave the country.

The family sitting before us at orientation has beaten the odds. Out of half a million Jews trying to leave the Soviet Union, only about 40,000 annually are selected to come to the United States. Unlike in previous years, it is the United States, not the Soviet Union, which is preventing emigration to this country. After a record 82,000 Jews were allowed to leave in 1989, the United States reexamined its policy of unlimited Soviet immigration. As costs skyrocketed, the U.S. began to restrict immigration of Soviet Jews.

In an effort to keep the quota from being further eroded, Jewish Family Service is working to keep the costs to the government down. We advocate that employable family members take a job instead of applying for welfare benefits.

A major part of my job is ensuring that people are prepared for work. I do this first by helping them take advantage of the English classes offered by Jewish Family Service and community colleges. I also help them mentally prepare for accepting a job in the United States. We refer all of our clients to an employment agency which helps to write resumes, cover letters and conducts the job search. But because many Soviets' skills are inapplicable to the U.S. job market, it is often not possible to find employment on a par with their work in the Soviet Union. The immigrants are afraid to take a demotion for fear they will never regain their former status. I must convince them that they will move up the ladder to success much more quickly if they go ahead and take a job beneath their skill level.

Before a family will take my advice, I must convince them that I am on their side. This takes some effort because in their eyes, I'm no different from a government official. And though they realize that the U.S. government is not comparable to the Soviet government in terms of corruption, the Soviet immigrants cannot easily erase the correlation from their minds. Trust is not automatic; it must be built.

At Jewish Family Service we try to instill trust and confidence by making the family's transition to the United States as smooth as possible. By the time they arrive in Seattle, an apartment, equipped with furniture donated by the community, has already been rented for them. When they arrive at Jewish Family Service for orientation, we do as much listening as talking as the family describes their frustration with the Soviet system. We give the newcomers a "welcome basket" as a sign that the Jewish community is eager to help them rebuild their lives. Through a well-rounded program of financial assistance, vocational guidance and emotional support, Jewish Family Service helps the former "second-class citizens" develop into contributing and equal members of American society.

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

Summer Intensive Russian and Czech

Intensive Intermediate Czech and Intensive Russian on four levels are offered during the nine-week Summer Quarter by the University of Washington's Department of Slavic Languages and Literature this year. From June 24 through August 23 students will attend classes three to four hours daily to acquire in one quarter the equivalent of one year of language study. The Summer Intensive Russian Language Program has been a tradition at the UW for over 25 years, and Intermediate Czech in the summer intensive format is also becoming a regular feature.

Students of the summer Russian courses live in one of two Russian-language dormitory arrangements: the Russian House for more advanced students, and the "Russian floor" of the main dorm for beginners. Both house live-in Russian tutors and act as centers of Russian-oriented activities. A film series, slide shows and lectures, and Russian sing-alongs are all part of the summer Russian fare.

Popular especially with out-of-state students, the summer program draws between 150 and 200 students annually, including those from as far away as Japan and England. Known for its top quality instruction at in-state tuition rates and for Russian House, the program is in such demand nationwide among graduate and undergraduate students alike that courses now are hard-pressed to accommodate all applicants in spite of measures taken to expand capacity. Though application can be made through the first week of summer quarter, such latecomers may find themselves closed out. Applications are available from the office of Summer Quarter, 543-2300, and brochures and Russian House applications may be requested from Slavic Languages and Literature, 543-6848.

REEU COURSE INFORMATION

Late Listing for Spring: History of Russian Music

Claudia Jensen will again be offering her popular music history course (MUS 497), which covers Russian music from the 10th century to the present. Among the musical genres explored will be: Russian church chants, 18th century opera, and compositions by the well known 19th century and 20th century composers (Shostakovich, Prokofiev, etc.) Entry codes are required for admission and can be obtained through the Music Department. Claudia Jensen invites you to call her if you wish more details (827-1884).

To the Community

Your group's activities are of us interest to us. If you have notices you wish to make known to others in the community, we will be happy to include them in our newsletter. Our office phone is 543-4852, or write to REEU Newsletter, c/o Jackson School of International Studies, DR-05, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195.

Upcoming Events at UW

Wednesday, April 10, 1991. Conference - "Soviet Forestry and Forest Products Sector: Northwest Business Implications in Changing Times, UW Center for International Trade in Forest Products and the Evergreen Partnership; 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Edgewater, Pier 67; \$85-100. (UW College of Forest Resources Continuing Education, 543-0867).

Wednesday, April 10, 1991. Lecture - "Alexander Pushkin and Love as Transformation," Dr. Willis A. Konick, UW associate professor of comparative literature, international studies and Slavic languages and literature; 1st of 6 UW Alumni Spring Lecture Series on "Life, Love and Literature"; 7:30-9 p.m., UW 220 Kane Hall; \$5-10. (UW Alumni Association, 543-0540)

Saturday, April 13, 1991. Workshop - "The Great Awakening: The Transformation of the Soviet Union and East Europe," Dr. Herbert Ellison, UW professor, REEU; Dr. Daniel Chirot, UW Chair of REEU; Larry Lerner, UW instructor, REEU; 4th of 5 "Second Saturdays: World Issues in the News" UW Extension course. (See article in this newsletter, or call UW Extension Office, 543-2310, for details.)

Wednesday, April 17, 1991. Lecture - "Alexander Pushkin and Love as Transformation," Dr. Willis A. Konick (see above); 2nd of 6 UW Alumni Association lectures. 7:30-9 p.m., UW 220 Kane Hall; \$5-10.

Wednesday, April 24, 1991. Lecture - "Leo Tolstoy and Love as Home, Marriage and Family," Dr. Willis A. Konick (see above); 3rd of 6 UW Alumni Association Lectures; 7:30-9 p.m., UW 220 Kane Hall; \$5-10.

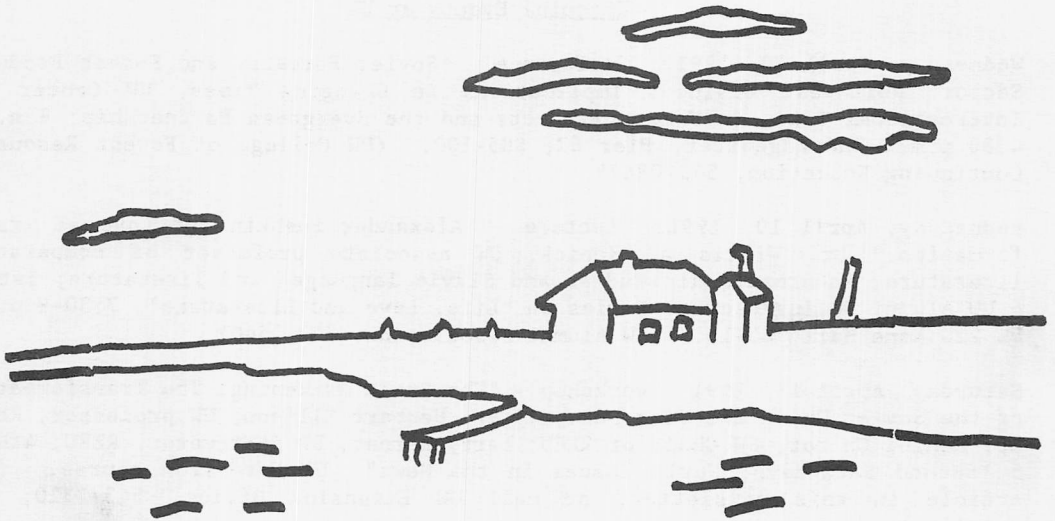
Wednesday, May 1, 1991. Lecture - "Leo Tolstoy and Love as Home, Marriage and Family," Dr. Willis A. Konick (see above); 4th of 6 UW Alumni Association Lectures; 7:30-9 p.m., UW 220 Kane Hall; \$5-10.

Wednesday, May 8, 1991. Lecture - "Fyodor Dostoevsky and Love as the Triumph of Joy Over Pain," Dr. Willis A. Konick (see above); 5th of 6 UW Alumni Association Lectures; 7:30-9 p.m., UW 220 Kane Hall; \$5-10.

Wednesday, May 15, 1991. Lecture - "Fyodor Dostoevsky and Love as the Triumph of Joy Over Pain," Dr. Willis A. Konick (see above); 6th of 6 UW Alumni Association Lectures; 7:30-9 p.m., UW 220 Kane Hall; \$5-10.



The REEU Newsletter is published quarterly during each academic year by the staff of the Russian/East European Studies Program at the Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle.



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Address Correction Requested