

## The Russians

### casserole

a supplement section  
of the gateway

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Ginger Bradley writes about four Russian student leaders, and finds them interesting and different.

The red-haired ex-Gateway staffer rounds out the three-man, all U of A, team in CUP's Ottawa office. Don Sellar and Barry Rust are the others.

Ginger worked two years for The Gateway and a summer for The Edmonton Journal before she responded to the call of duty and left for a year in Ottawa.

Also in this issue is Don Sellar's second column on the Ottawa scene. This time he writes the pre-fee-fight warm-up for what looks like a hot battle.

Yvonne Walmsley talks about the academic relations committee and what, up to now, has been education inaction at U of A.

Dave Mappin discusses movies as an art form and looks at what's happening in Edmonton's largest entertainment import centre—Hollywood.

On the cover is a column by the Ubysey's Gabor Mate. He describes the fastest way to fail in the funniest article we've seen this year.

Also on the cover with a photo on academic justice by Al Scarth is an outline of the latest developments in the CUS mess.

Ginger Bradley, Ottawa-based Canadian University Press staff writer, is a former Gateway staffer. The following is her coverage of an interview with several Moscow university students during their recent visit to Ottawa.

OTTAWA—Sometimes the inscrutable Russian mind is a little more revealing than it would like to think.

Or so I discovered this week when four young Soviet students landed here for a zoom tour of the historic city's highlights.

Overcoming their initial shyness and the language barrier during a crammed cab ride to Carleton University, they disclosed just why Moscow State University's student council saw fit to send them to represent its 35,000 students.

To begin with, these students possess qualities which will prove valuable on their Canadian tour.

For example:

●Stanislave Alechine — dark, quiet, with shrewd blue eyes—is president of MSU's student council and an obvious delegate. A mathematics student, "Slave" said little during our tour, but was quick to



GINGER BRADLEY

smile when a humorous comment in English or French was translated into Russian for him.

●Curly-headed Viatcheslave Chestakovski appears a little older than his three compatriots. A science student also, he is studying chemistry at MSU in addition to working as a member of the Presidium of the students' council of the USSR.

●Short, dark Valeri Chestakov has no impressive title attached to his name. But as a student of

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French language and literature, he will prove invaluable on the University of Montreal-sponsored tour of Quebec later this month. Valeri was also very helpful in Paris—as the only French-speaking delegate.

●The last of the four is Boris

Yarochevsky—the only true Muscovite in the group. A former journalism student at MSU, he is presently studying the French-Canadian press at McGill University in preparation for his masters' degree. The linguist of the group, this unassuming, clean-cut young man speaks both English and French fluently—in addition to his native Russian.

And these rather distinguished visitors strolled virtually unnoticed through Carleton's tunnels and hallways. Each could easily have passed for ordinary, old "Joe College" wandering aimlessly in the golden haze of Indian Summer.

But the four Russians have a definite purpose in mind, and that is to cram as much of Ontario and Quebec into their 21-day visit as

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possible. The tour, sponsored jointly by the University of Montreal and McGill University, will enable them to observe a segment of English and French-Canadian life.

They are always observant—never caught unaware—and always quick to appreciate a joke.

Strolling through Carleton's vast network of tunnels, we chanced upon a row of narrow, grey lockers. "For the big student fountain pens, eh?" one of them quipped.

Students first, they are still basically Russians, and did not seem overly impressed with Carleton or with Canada. For instance, while they recognized that both Russian and Canadian students are concerned with campus—and international affairs to a certain extent—they felt the Soviet student activist movement involves far more students than does its Canadian counterpart.

Students turn out by the thousands to hear a popular Russian poet speak, they said. Where in Canada does a Canadian poet receive such a reception?

"Russian students are more active, more interested in politics and in social reform than are Canadian students," said Boris Yarochevsky. "Here there is a sense of uneasiness among student union leaders."

An observer at the 30th Canadian Union of Students Congress at Dalhousie last month, Boris seemed to know what he was talking about when he said: "We have different aspects of the same problems in Russia, but the students are more active. Today we are pressing for curriculum changes in accordance with the new national economics program. Students should learn the basis of the new economy thoroughly."

"They realize they must change the curriculum according to the new tasks ahead."

Yarochevsky, a "journalist by trade", also commented on one of the great differences he has observed between the Canadian and Russian press.

"The press is not an amusement, nor is it to be used as entertainment. It is a weapon of ideology. It should be used to promote a sense of citizenship and to explain and comment on the most prominent problems of society."

"And advertising!"

He shrugged his shoulders as best he could in the crowded cab. The expression on his face approached that of horror. "Advertising is senseless. People do not want to search through hundreds of pages to find what they are interested in reading."

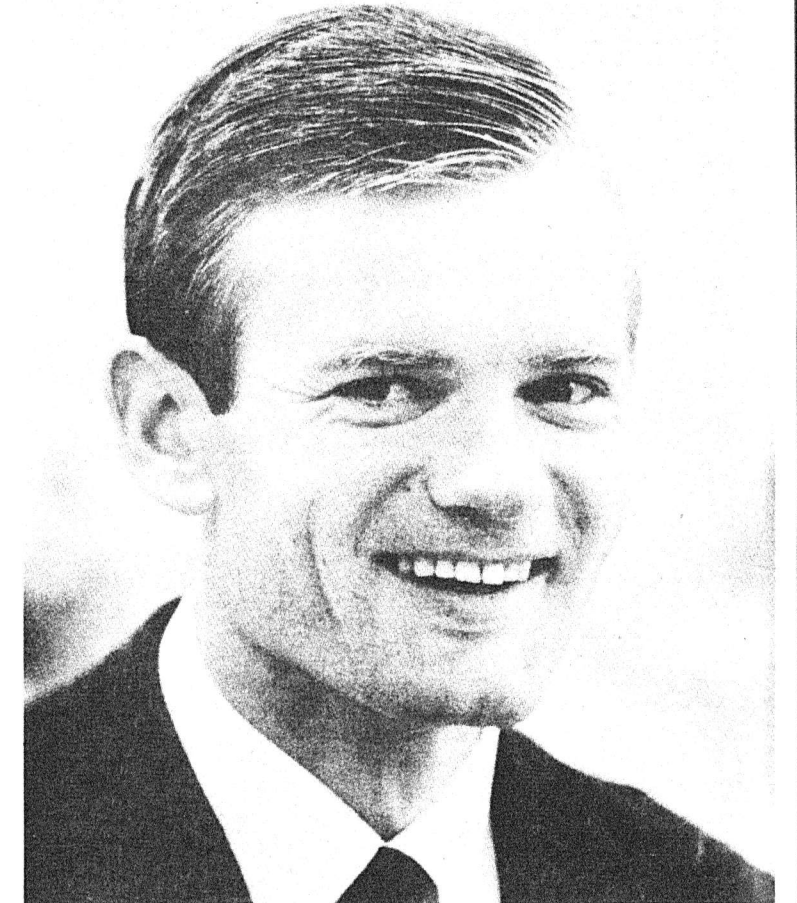
Russian newspapers are smaller and contain no advertising, making it easier for the reader to find exactly what he is looking for. Advertising is displayed in booklets published expressly for that purpose, he said.

As far as Boris is concerned, the Russian student press is just as free as its Canadian counterpart. At times, though, he seemed evasive.

"If I were to tell you we have a free press, you would not believe me anyway."

Russian student journalists are inclined to use their freedom of the press more seriously than do Canadian students, he said. As the cab lurched to a stop in front of the Parliament buildings, he explained that Russian journalists are less inclined than Canadians to abuse their press privileges.

Newspaper snop talk was soon forgotten, however, when the tour departed from student government and its problems to government at the federal level. This time the Russians asked most of the questions while New Democratic Party leader Tommy Douglas attempted to answer them.



BORIS YAROCHEVSKY

... Russian students more active

"The major problem of youth and students in Canada, eh? Well, I'd say it is adjusting to various political problems and to the process of secularization and urbanization that is going on," replied the diminutive leader to one Russian student.

"There is a new kind of freedom from old social and economic aspects which is manifested in new personal and family relationships,

are becoming

in music, art, and literature. There has been a break with old mores, traditions and myths, and in growing urban centres you find these different concepts in morals, human relationships and racial groups."

"Are students here active enough in solving the country's social problems?" bushy-haired Chestakovski queried in Russian.

Boris translated and Mr. Douglas replied: "I'd like to see them more active. Students of today are more active than their parents, than stu-

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dents of 20 years ago, than students of my generation. Then they were more interested in "making a fast buck." Now, they seem to be more concerned with social conditions here and in other countries."

Mr. Douglas appeared quite enthusiastic about further student exchanges with Russia. At present his party is considering a New Democratic Youth tour of the Soviet Union.

The next government official on the agenda was Liberal MP Jean-Eudes Dubé. The entire conversation was conducted in French with Valeri translating.

Later Boris said, "Mr. Douglas is a very kind man, but I liked the other one (Dubé) better."

"Why?"

"Because he's younger."

Perhaps this is the keyword in modern Russia—youth. Age is respected but the vast, sprawling country's future lies in its youth—a youth that appears well-prepared to handle anything the world may throw at them.