

Women's roles change in USSR

by Lucinda Chodan

The grandmother — a peasant.
The mother — manager of a small rural store.

The daughter — a Ph.D. in demography.

Noted American broadcaster and Sovietologist William Mandel used this example to illustrate the rapid change in Soviet women's roles in a slide presentation titled "Soviet Women" Friday night.

"The grandmother says, 'If Victor doesn't beat you, it means he doesn't love you,'" Mandel related.

"The mother says, 'I don't know why a girl needs a college education.'"

"And the daughter does demographic research," he said.

Mandel used slides from eight trips to the Soviet Union between 1959 to 1979 to illustrate these changes.

"Industrialization is one of the keys to changing the status of women in a pre-industrial society," Mandel said. In the past, Soviet women were "quite literally barefoot ... and pregnant" from the time they were married until they

died, he said. However, industrialization has allowed them to earn money and achieve at least some independence, he said.

Even in rural, more traditional areas of the USSR, women are becoming financially self-sufficient, Mandel said. Small stores in the countryside and farmer's markets are providing employment for women who would have been peasants a generation ago he said.

For instance, in an area of 99 per cent female illiteracy two generations ago, Mandel met a woman studying for her Ph.D. in Mathematics.

And in western Russia, north of Iran, "where men — including economists, doctors, and teachers — would say with pride their wives have never left the home," he photographed a female butcher in a market.

In addition, the majority of rural intelligentsia — including economists, doctors and teachers — are women, Mandel said.

Quoting statistics from his new book *Soviet Women*, Mandel said

almost half the Soviet work force was female.

Ninety per cent of Soviet women work or go to school and women comprise a majority of professionals in the USSR, he said.

For example, 70 per cent of the medical profession is female, Mandel said, compared to 10 per cent in the United States.

"And there are more female engineers in the USSR than there are male engineers in the US," he added.

However, women are still under-represented at the highest levels of science and government in the Soviet Union, Mandel said.

"One aspect is male chauvinism," he said. "Women are also socialized to regard the success of their children as part of their life-satisfaction."

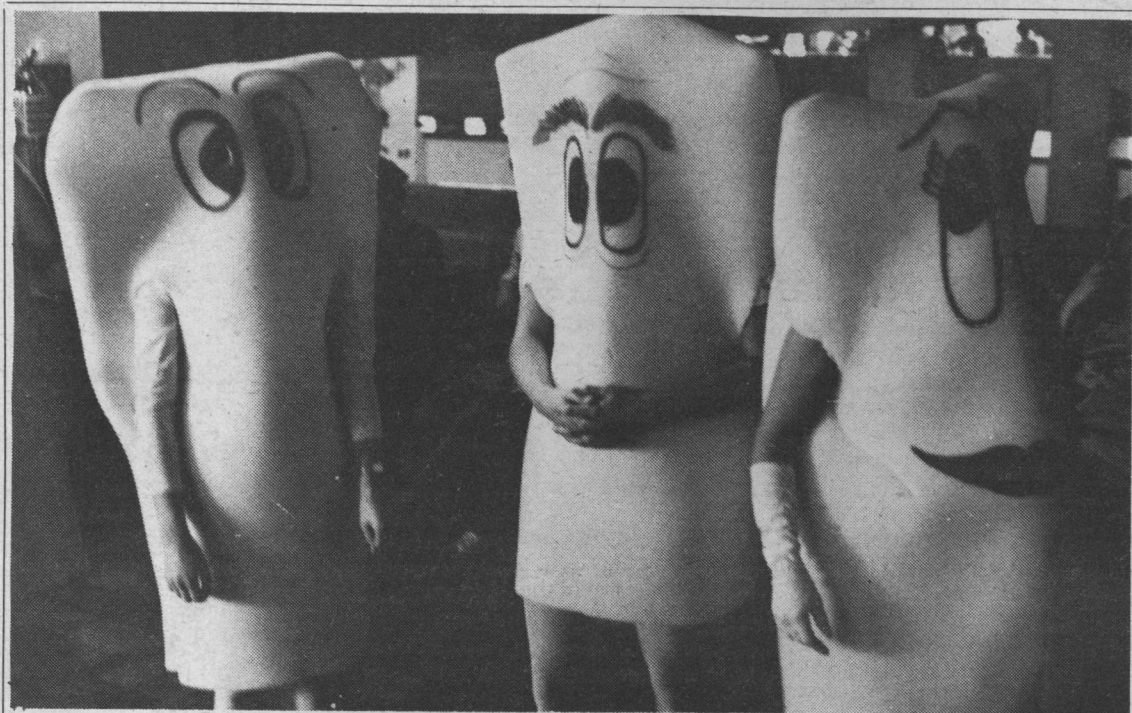
This results in many women delaying or forgoing their careers to stay home with their children, he said.

Mandel also used the statue of a female Soviet heroine to illustrate a different aspect of Soviet life.



William Mandel

"It is important to us in this crazy Cold War situation to understand the thinking of the Soviet people," he said. "The last thing they want is another war."



Open wide ... this won't hurt a bit. These marauding molars romped through CAB to put the bite on students last week, one of the many activities during Dental Health Week. Anyone wanna buy a hot toothbrush?

Gov't intervention criticized

by Lucinda Chodan

"The control of a university by a single government is a negation of the conditions necessary for its survival," resigning Athabasca University president Dr. Sam Smith told the U of A Senate Friday.

Government control is "the first step down the road to mediocrity," and the proposed relocation of Athabasca University in the town of Athabasca is "a major step in that direction," he said.

Smith and Ken Chapman appeared before the Senate to provide an overview of Athabasca University Friday afternoon.

But Smith said although it would be "inappropriate and unseemly" to use the previously scheduled presentation to criticize the proposed relocation, it would be dishonest not to discuss the government decision.

"There is a delicate tension between a university which serves society, is a critic of that society, but is in our case almost totally supported by the government of the day," he said.

Moving Athabasca University without consulting its staff would be a move away from this historic role of a university, Smith said.

Ken Chapman said that although he personally did not

like the government's decision, he would abide by the Athabasca University's governing council decision to accept the move.

"We're not here to engage your support for a protest; we're here to respond to questions about Athabasca University," Chapman said.

In mid-March, Minister of Advanced Education James Horsman announced that Athabasca University would move from St. Albert to the town of Athabasca, 125 kilometres northeast of Edmonton.

Staff protests and the resignation of president Smith followed the announcement.

Free tuition would cure ills of world

by Alison Thomson

There should be tuition-less liberal arts education in Alberta, U of A Board of Governors member Bill Pidruchney told Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) delegates Saturday night.

Education cures the world's ills, according to Pidruchney, and for this reason, our society ought to encourage as many people as possible to obtain a university education.

A tuition fee is a nuisance to many students and an obstacle to some, he said. Alberta's greatest resource is still the human resource, Pidruchney said. Thus it is wasteful to force students to do manual work over the summer to support their educations, instead of doing work related to their field, he said.

In spite of this, Pidruchney cautioned delegates about demanding free tuition for the wrong reasons. The worst reason, he said, is that Alberta is a rich province and can afford

the money. He said the university as a whole is very well funded and suggested that the university must be realistic in its demands.

Pidruchney said the best justification for not charging tuition fees would be to demonstrate factually that access to post-secondary education is limited by tuition fees.

However, he said, that to his knowledge, no such data exists but added the onus should be on students to produce such evidence if they can.

He also said students must consider the other costs of education, such as food and rent, which may present the real bar to accessibility.

Pidruchney also addressed students' roles in the government of universities, and stressed that studies should come first.

"Bear in mind you have your whole life ahead of you to be involved in politics," he advised. "You're going to need everything you learn here out there."

Sign on to rent petition

An Edmonton woman has begun a petition to keep rent controls in effect in Alberta.

Claire Botsford has collected almost 1500 signatures in three weeks of canvassing. She says she hopes to present the Alberta legislature with the petition as soon as possible.

"I've been working in shopping malls and bus stops so far," says Botsford, "and it's not tough to get signatures."

According to Botsford, many home owners and even landlords have been signing her petition. "I've been a landlord myself, and I know that most landlords are fair, and don't want to see anyone hurt by unfair increases in rent."

Botsford has also given copies of the petition to other people, hoping that with more copies being distributed, more

signatures will be collected.

The main body of the petition reads: "That, upon the final expiration of The Temporary Rent Regulation Measures Act (1975, Chapter 84), your petitioners fear that rents charged to tenants in Alberta will rise at a precipitous and burdensome rate to levels which will cause real hardship."

"Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that Your Honorable Assembly may be pleased to give consideration to the re-institution of the provisions of and regulations attendant to The Temporary Rent Regulations Measures Act (1975, Chapter 84)."

A copy of the petition is available at The Gateway office, Rm. 282 SUB. Signers must be eighteen years old and residents of Alberta.



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