

# Life after death: a refugee from Siberia

By OAKLAND ROSS

Some of Yevgeny Levich's best memories of Russia are of the year-long term he spent in a Siberian labour camp for military criminals, three years ago. He was sent there after being arrested on a street in Moscow; he was not charged with or convicted of any crime.

During his confinement, Levich lived in a crude barracks eating only soup, bread and dried potatoes. In winter, the indoor temperature rarely rose above freezing. But in the face of these hardships, Levich developed "the strongest feelings of friendship with the other 'criminals' there".

He still receives letters from the friends he made in Siberia. He writes back, but he knows his messages seldom reach the intended hands.

Levich, a 28 year old physicist who now teaches at the Weizman Institute of Science in Rehovoth, Israel, was at York on Monday to talk to students and faculty about the plight of intellectual dissidents in the Soviet Union.

He is a boyish looking young man; his curly brown hair brushes across the tops of his ears; his English is almost fluent.

Puffing occasionally upon a Rothmans cigarette which he clutched, European-style, between his index finger and his thumb, he described to an audience of a dozen students and two professors what constitutes political dissidence in Russia.

"Most people behave with discipline and restraint at the office but then loosen up at home, but others behave the same way at the office as they do at home and, in the Soviet Union, those people are called dissidents."

According to Levich, there are a great many Russian scientists and intellectuals, most of them Jewish, who want to emigrate from Russia. The state either harrasses or ignores them, but it refuses to let them leave.

"I have no logical explanation of such policy," he confessed.

Levich himself was dismissed from his job at the Academy of Science in Moscow in 1972 shortly after applying for permission to emigrate to Israel.

A year later he was ordered to report for military duty as a private. (He was already an officer in the reserve.) He refused to obey the order and, soon after, was arrested and shipped to Siberia.

World-wide protest resulted in Levich's release in May, 1974. In April, 1975, he and his brother and their wives were permitted to leave Russia for Israel with the understanding that Levich's parents would soon follow.



Dave Fuller photo

Ex-Siberian prisoner tells York students and professors that Russian scientists are harrassed by officials if they try to emigrate.

That promise was revoked and Levich's mother and father, an electrophysicist, are still being held in the Soviet Union. Through secret channels, Levich is able to maintain sporadic contact with them.

"It's step-by-step diplomacy," explained Levich. "They let my brother and me out; they told my father 'yes', but then it stopped."

According to Levich, this sort of oppression of Russian scientists can be eased through pressure from the world scientific community.

"Scientists who are now allowed out of Russia on speaking tours are less scientists than they are party officials," he said. "But efforts should be made to include legitimate scientists in international scientific conferences."

Levich described the Soviet Union as "a state capitalistic society".

"It's as if the oil companies took over in

this country," he said. "No one (in the Soviet Union) believes in the ideals of socialist revolution anymore; there is no room for such ideals anymore."

Levich predicts that the two greatest challenges the Soviet Union now faces are the rise of national movements (Jews, Germans, Lithuanians, Ukrainians) within its borders and the threat of war with China from without.

He is highly critical of the American policy of détente with the Soviet Union.

"Détente is a one-sided advantage for the USSR," he said. "Russia gets western technology, increases her military strength; even the KGB is equipped with American and Japanese equipment. But Russia gives back nothing."

"The Soviet Union now produces 10,000 tanks a year. They're not the best tanks in the world, but 10,000 of them!"

Levich is unsure of the future of the

Soviet Union and its people.

"It's an unpredictable country; some little coup upstairs and everything could change. But I feel that any younger person would be better than Brezhnev. I may be wrong; I don't know. I feel that the younger generation is better."

Born in Moscow in 1948, Levich received his Ph.D. from the Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics at the age of 22. He is currently in the middle of a four-week tour of the United States and Canada to meet fellow scientists. He is also assisting in the formation of the Canadian Committee of Concerned Scientists, an organization dedicated to defending the human rights of oppressed scientists in the USSR and elsewhere.

Inquiries should be directed to Professor Barbara Glass, 636 Briar Hill Ave., Toronto M5N 1N2.

## Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalbur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalbur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 5 p.m.

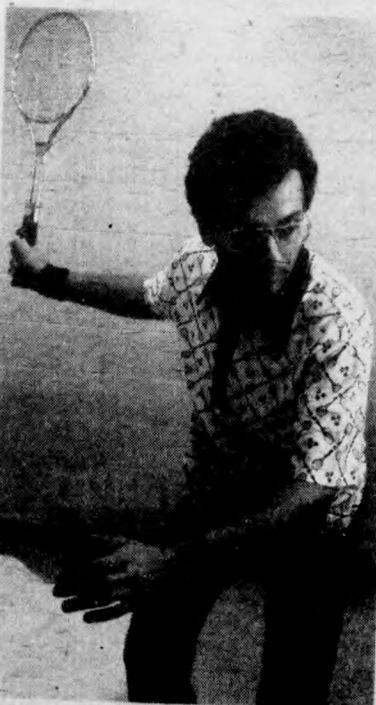
# Exploding the great tennis forehand myth

Dr. Labib, in his article on the forehand shot in tennis, repeats a classic teaching cliché concerning the placement of the feet and the transfer of weight, that I suspect dates back to the days when tennis was played in white flannels and long dresses and Queen Victoria was not amused.

Let it be said, however, that Dr. Labib is in excellent company. Every champion, after winning Wimbledon, hastens to write a best-seller in which is repeated the same nonsense. I explain this to myself by noting that their books are usually ghost-written and that the ghost, who knows nothing about tennis, gets his information from the last ghost-written book of the last champion and so the aberration is passed on from one generation to another. And how did it all begin?

The first champion, anxious to

hold on to his power by fair means or foul, decided to screw the little champs coming up by giving them a large dose of incorrect information and charging them for



Dr. Nabil Labib's forehand. Now a question mark.

it. He succeeded only too well. (The only exception to this general rule, that I know of, was the great French champion, Cochet, and everyone knew that his was not a style that could be imitated.)

The truth of the matter (as is so often the case) is subtler in reality than the teaching of it. With the backhand you *do* transfer the weight from back foot to front foot. And with the forehand you *can* do it this way if you want to and make a reasonable shot. I know. I have done it this way for years.

However, in actual fact 95 per cent of the forehand shots made by the men who eat by making the shot correctly, i.e. the pros, are made off the *back* foot, with the power being generated not from the transference of weight but by the *twisting of the upper body using the planted right foot as the fulcrum from which the ball is slammed.*

The left foot is kept well out of the way. In short, the shot is made by doing exactly what the teacher tells you not to do — face the net!

Watch the pros on TV and you'll see what I mean.

Having thought about the execution of the forehand for roughly 20 years and having found the solution finally in a cheap book (39 cents) written by a senior citizen who had never won any kind of a championship at all but who had been wrestling with the problem for his whole life, I am ready to defend my thesis with great vehemence — with photos, live demonstrations, guns, swords, or even (God forbid!) on a tennis court itself.

I repeat: Dr. Labib you are wrong but your sources are impeccable.

R. Arnold  
Systems Office  
Scott Library

### Tempered thanks

I would like to express my gratitude to those McLaughlin

students who gave me their support in the recent CYSF elections. That gratitude, however, is tempered with disappointment at the low percentage of students exercising their franchise in all the colleges, including McLaughlin.

Granted the turnout at the polls surpassed previous elections, but still nothing near a majority. While this may just be another plaintive cry in the wilderness protesting student apathy, one must wonder why we show so little concern over the money we are required to surrender to student council.

### FACILE LIFE

The problem may lie in the fact that few students perceive the activities of student government as being beneficial to their academic priorities, but there are many ways in which CYSF may be able to make your life more facile.

I look forward to working for you toward that end next year.

Jon Wheatcroft  
CYSF representative-elect  
for McLaughlin College