

# On the other side ...

## SOVIET YOUNG PEOPLE TALK

How do Soviet young people feel about restructuring? What problems worry them today? How do they assess their role in society? Novosti Press Agency (APN) offers several interviews with young Muscovites.

### Arbat Painters

Arbat is one of Moscow's most popular streets. On this colorful mall artists draw portraits of passers-by for a moderate price. We interviewed artist Sergei Rudin. He graduated from an art college two years ago and teaches drawing at a children's studio. In his spare time he earns a little extra by drawing portraits in Arbat Street. "I have a licence to engage in individual enterprise and I pay income tax. My profits are not steady. Sometimes I draw 10 portraits a day and at other times only one. The average price is 10 roubles."

### Yakimanka Society

In a garden near the Oktyabrskaya Metro stations we arranged to meet with Dmitry Zakharenko, senior engineer with the Academic Institute of the Lithosphere and Chairman of the Yakimanka Voluntary Society promoting the development of youth housing complexes.

"Muscovites, young people in particular, suffer from a shortage of housing," Dmitry said. "We offer a solution to the problem." In their free time society members reconstruct run-down old buildings in the city centre to live in. The society which was approved by the Moscow City Council Executive (municipality) six months ago has 500 members. They were given three build-

ings which need a complete overhaul.

We offered to restore the whole city centre rather than residential buildings alone. In the past, housing young people in the centre was out of the question. Fortunately, the attitude to the matter is changing dramatically.

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### Metallists against routine

A year-old club of informal youth groups at the Gorky Cultural Centre unites lovers of hard rock, punk rock, pop music and heavy meta. The Club is headed by a council that includes group leaders.

We arrived just in time to see a group of "metallists" in their leather-and-metal jackets and metal bracelets applying for membership.

"There is a protest in the way we dress," Ruslan Tyurin admitted. "We protest against routine and narrow-mindedness. How do most people live? From home to work and back every day. Whereas we entertain ourselves. Sometimes we get our thrills riding motorcycles at night. I want to have more such experi-

ences to have something to remember in my old age."

Ruslan has a job as an assistant salesman. He is the eldest in a group of 12 metallists, including Yuri Mureyev a commercial artist, and Andrei Leonov, Mikhail Savin and Valery Parushkin who are students. The boys said they did not take drugs or drink, except for beer.

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"When our movement was born, nobody took any notice," Ruslan recalled. "Then they banned it without trying to understand what we were all about. Under restructuring we've received full freedom and we like it. That's the way it should be.

"Our group is moral. It's members who distort its ideas who are to blame for our bad name.

They should be punished and removed from the leading posts.

### Punk accuses older generation

Our conversation with metallists attracted the attention of another youth group. Member Aleksei Blinov, an engineer, is closer to punks in his views. He claims to be dissatisfied with the world. Aleksei is an avid reader. His favorite writers are Jorge Borges, Julio Cortazar and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. "The Autumn of the Patriarch" and "One Hundred Years Of Solitude" are real eye-openers," he said.

"I don't like the way

the older generation lives," Aleksei said. "They accuse unofficial organizations of consumerism, but who makes them what they are? Who taught them that happiness is being married to a brainless doll, making good money and having a car and carpets? There must be a different goal in life."

Blinov says, "The West has no fresh ideas to offer us. It has already built a con-

