

Seg. Lec - Sagalaw Interview Dec. 17, 1987

Ellen - I am sending Sagalaw interview which I just wrote up from my notes, quickly, just so I send you something. We're going to NY tomorrow (Louisa Miller!) and am trying to spend every spare minute on sending out funding inquiries (any further ideas) so it may be some time before I get to Yushkiavitshus and Pozner, the other two I have. George.

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how to use the new opportunities and to take to them the message of people fighting for their rights against circumstances and old habits and powers. It is not enough to point to who or what is to blame, we must search for solutions.

In the schools we face the clash of perspectives. New top people come in with new ideas, but other oppose them, those who work by the old pedagogical methods. In our programs we tried to show the advantages of co-operation instead of dictation. Television tells a story, arouses emotions. TV took up cases of teachers dismissed for using new methods, opposing official pedagogical institute, ministry, etc. -- despite article in Pravda urging reforms. What if we are wrong? Well, sometimes we are and then we admit it. (Afterwards. gg)

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In general, programs like 12TH FLOOR, WORLD AND YOUTH have been cancelled and developed into programs such as INSIGHT, ACTING PEOPLE, etc. exploring how young people elect new leaders of collectives, prevent "stage-managed" elections, etc. Dissatisfied with the magazine format that prevents probing more deeply. INSIGHT is on twice a week. ACTING is a 45-minute program devoted to one problem, person, etc. For example, a recent program idea was given to us by letters we received from a city where a 20 year old taxi driver was elected director of a collective at a general meeting. In two months he made many enemies and higher-ups pushed him out, could not function effectively. We (TV) organized a gathering of taxi drivers and, amidst the hunking of horns, conducted a dialogue between the young man and higher officials. This documentary took us about one month to shoot. Have WE "stage-managed" the meeting? Perhaps, but we are on the side of change, reform, and want to get results.

We are also responsible for some entertainment programs, but always with an educational purpose. They include games, quiz programs, etc.

Interview with E. Sagalaev
December 17, 1987

Youth programs

1987: have 150 hours

1988: will have 240 hours.

Result of proposal by this department; decision taken by collegium of Gostel. Council meets each week. Council=chief of each department [redaktsia].

last year, budget = 3 million r.

1986: 5 million

used to be 78 creative people; now 135.

Two category of youth programs reduced: instructional [uchebnaya-populyarnaya] and movie type [kino pokaza, e.g. cartoons, films, kinopanorama]

Another category in this department is public affairs [publitsistika]. Social problems of children; documentaries. e.g. 12th Floor.

This kind of program usually broadcast on Wednesdays at 19:00. 12th Floor is exception, Weds. 21:50-22:00. It hasn't appeared in last 4 months.

12th Floor began to repeat itself. Same arguemnts. Problem is same as perestroika--get real, concrete (even if small) results. This was decision of this department, although there had been criticism in press and letters. But that was not the reason to make this decision. There is always criticism. It had to move from discussion to concrete results. Important to tell the truth about the area [issue area] and in that were quite successful.

Minister was taken from post and new one put in, thanks to us, but still situation doesn't change. Have to teach youth and people to use new opportunities and raise the development of democracy. Need concrete story, not problem. Person fights obstacles--can either win or lose--and use that to show mechanism of democracy. What impedes and what helps.

There have been changes: Pres. of Academy of Pedagogical Sciences; New head of Cttee on Trade Education; ought to take away the Minister of Education. But in regions [provinces] there is little change. In many schools, there are people with the new principles we stand for. These people are opposed by people who are used to old ways. Now at stage of confrontation of 2 pedagogies: cooperative (between teacher and student; teacher and parent; parent and student) and command (teacher as boss; parent as boss). How to promote into everyday practice. Tv affects with a concrete life story--not fiction.

We are bold; we think we are more progressive than specialized institutes. We have group of pedagogues in conflict with official pedagogical science. We are on their side.

They came to us at department [redaktsia] and asked for forum for their views. Now there is a whole pleiad of innovative teachers. About 20 of them are outstanding at level of pedagogical thinking. [like Pestalozzi]. 5 years ago, official pedagogy repressed them (Academy of Ped. Sciences and Ministry). Weren't published; their techniques weren't allowed; not allowed to defend dissertations.

Conflict with pedagogy now behind us--accomplished about a year ago. There was a discussion organized by the Central Com-

mittee and published in Pravda. ½ of people published were those supported by S's department [redaktsia]. The authority for them to receive the possibility to speak at this high level was given them by tv and press.

12th Floor

Beginning with glasnost, question: how to in a broadcast, have the most varied points of view--how to have each age and social group independent. Was director's idea--to unite these with space bridges. Youth shown where it usually gathers--staircase. Felt on own territory. Would talk on any subject. Another group was in Novosibirsk. In the studio were experts, from ministries. Was a model of a referendum: on education, leisure time; work of adolescents. When kids come to the studio, they behave differently

Sagalaev presented it on paper to Gostel Council, but it was not the same as it turned out. Some results were unexpected. Some people were shocked. Were sharp conflicts between kids and adults; kids and officials; kids and official organizations. On paper, this hadn't been predicted, but not on purpose. If I had known, I wouldn't have done this broadcast. Now we are pressed to do the program. There is a time to rip the shirt and put salt on the wound and there is a time to heal. To expose social issues would be irritating. The public is looking for results. If there are no results, tv should not keep batting. Tv is a great pedagogue. 12th Floor is a tv lesson. We taught this class and society moved to higher classes. Same as moving from the mathematics of society to the algebra of society.

Entertainment section

also educative

Form is game [igra] sports, competitions, quiz.

We work with psychiatrists, philosophers, teachers. Chto, gde, kogda [quiz show] comes on 6 times a year.

Mir i Molodezh [Youth and the World]: has been cancelled. Has been divided: Part is included in Vzgl'yad [Glance--late night live music and info show]. Part will be program called "Acting Persons" [Deistvuiushchie litsa--debuts on December 19, 6:00 p.m. Saturday.] First program is about the election of young directors [rukovoditeli] on BAM [Baikal-Amur Mainline RR]. We decided that at the present stage of the development of society, we cannot do a journal format of 8-10 minutes on the most varied themes. We can't put enough information into that amount of time about what happens in the world and the country and can't sufficiently discover the deep essence of problems. After the New Year, Vzgl'yad will appear twice a week and Deistvuiushchie litsa once a week. The latter will devote 45 minutes to one problem or person. Each program will be a concrete conflict, the equivalent in life to theater's "Acting Persons" [Russian is used for "Cast" on playbill]. Hamlet in real life. New people are born in perestroika. They encounter obstacles in real life and oppose them. We act in the role of catalysts. Concrete example: 24-year-old taxi driver from Ivanovo was elected at meeting head of the taxi park with thousands of taxis. He was energetic and in 2 weeks had dozens of enemies--even higher up in the administration. Then the taxi park merged with a buspark in a reform and he became a director not of the whole but only a branch. He has

no bank account and cannot do anything; He is no longer an independent leader, but under the overall director. We went with a mobile crew, to Ivanovo and got all the taxi drivers in the city into the city square. Drivers expressed their views with their horns. We don't hide our function of arranging this event. We knew about all this from letters, and from people there who couldn't handle it and asked for help. TV has no authority to make those decisions about the directorship. Other episodes will be in broadcast, and we arrange a dialogue with a young man and the boss above him. It is documentary drama, in a sense. Chief scriptwriter is life itself. We don't pretend that it was a spontaneous meeting; we put a notice in the newspaper and invited those who wanted to come. It took a month to prepare.

Other sub-sections of dept: entertainment (e.g. KVN, game)
information (e.g. vzglyad--
info/musical)

Image of public: sociological research and analysis of mail
twice a year do a survey of the audience. Letters provide an
additional aspect: emotional reactions to programs.

Led them to change time of a broadcast: Vzglyad, after
January 1988 will be on Tuesday and Friday. Tuesday will be at a
different time. Decision was taken because of reaction of
audiences. Will be put 1½ hours earlier.

SU/YOUTH

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