



Photo by Michael Clapp

Former Soviet journalist Ilya Gerol says Americans must view the Soviet Union with an understanding of the "real ideological roots of that society."

Emigre says peace 'misguided'

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

U.S. journalists working in the Soviet Union have misinterpreted the country, causing serious effects on the development of American foreign policy, says a former Soviet journalist.

According to syndicated columnist Ilya Gerol, misconceptions of the Soviet Union encourage a misguided American peace movement. He says he believes a tough stance is the most effective way to deal with the Soviets and Pres. Ronald Reagan's nuclear policies will convince the Soviets to return to the negotiating table.

Gerol, who emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1979 and now lives in Vancouver, B.C., visited Eugene this weekend to participate in a conference on U.S.-Soviet rela-

tions sponsored by the Willamette World Affairs Council.

Gerol's duties as a Soviet reporter included writing speeches for many important Soviet leaders, including Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. But when Soviet authorities discovered Gerol was publishing articles in the Western press critical of the Soviets, Gerol was told to leave the country.

Though the spirit of detente was responsible for his relatively moderate treatment by the Soviets, Gerol says detente was a bad idea.

"My personal fate doesn't count," he says.

Gerol blames the policies of Presidents Carter and Ford for the loss of seven countries to the communists: Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, Grenada and

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Council debates Soviet issues

By Richard Paxton
Of the Emerald

The president of Oberlin College and a United States State Department official kicked off the Willamette World Affairs Council's first anniversary conference Friday.

The three day conference brought together various experts on Soviet affairs to speak to concerned and active members of the community, providing different views of U.S.-Soviet relations.

University professor Allan Kimball served as master of ceremonies for the conference, which focused on the question: "The United States and the Soviet Union. Where have we been? Where are we going?"

"The issues that we're talking about are issues that each of us have as much right as any other voting citizen in a democratic

environment to establish an opinion about, to inform ourselves about and to state views upon and act upon," Kimball said.

The weekend conference revolved around speeches, open discussions and debate.

Keynote speaker at Friday's opening ceremonies at the Eugene Conference Center was Frederick Starr, Oberlin President and author of the recent book, "Red Hot: the Fate of Jazz in the Soviet Union." Approximately 100 people attended Starr's lecture on Konstatin Chernenko and his difficulties in office.

Chernenko's power is more limited than some may think, according to Starr, who characterized the Soviet leader as an interim manager of a country which occupies about one-fifth of the world's land mass.

"Today we've been through a period when we've been acutely aware of the possibilities of limits on the freedom of action on the Soviet leadership," Starr said. "The health and age of Mr. Chernenko is a real problem. He's not a long-termer in his health apparently, and it's hardly to be expected, under the circumstances, that he would have a long term horizon."

He said the real power in the Soviet Union is wielded by the Politburo, a small group of elderly politicians which has picked the party chairman and ruled the country since the downfall of Nikita Khrushchev.

Things are changing though, Starr said, but not through U.S. economic, military or political influence, as might be expected.

"The new Soviet man turns

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