

In Russia . . . Artistic appreciation low, says sculptor

United Press International
NEW YORK — One year ago Ernst Neizvestny, the Soviet Union's premier sculptor, worked in a Moscow studio whose front door was besmirched with anti-Jewish insults and a swastika drawn in chalk.

Each morning, he looked out of the window to check on his "companions" — one seated in a Volga automobile and the other in an egg-yolk yellow vehicle with a 10-foot antenna.

Today Neizvestny divides his working time between Europe and a studio in Greenwich Village about two miles from the American Jewish Congress building where an exhibition of his works was shown recently.

Before his artistic debut in the

United States, Neizvestny recalled his bout with his KGB political police tails — especially the one in the yellow Jaguar.

Although it was far from a Jaguar in model style, he said, "I called the automobile with the antenna the 'yellow Jaguar' because of its outlandish, foreign color for Moscow — something looking like a New York taxi."

The "Jaguar" took up its vigil outside Neizvestny's studio after the sculptor submitted one of the last of his 60 requests to leave the Soviet Union because it was "impossible to work in a society that rejects anything striking."

"I just went about my activities as if they were not there," said the winner of every big Soviet art competition including the monumental

relief for the Soviet-built Aswan Dam in Egypt — the world's biggest sculpture.

Neizvestny explained how he came to know the driver. "He just knocked on the door one morning and came in and introduced himself as the man in the vehicle."

"I have, well you know, been listening to you all this time, and well, I have become fond of you," the man said, according to Neizvestny.

"Come, let's you and I cooperate and together we shall send things to the West," Neizvestny, who was allowed to leave Russia in March, 1976, said the story illustrates the difficulty of a Westerner understanding the Soviet Union and its controls over every aspect of life.

He recalled that the music of Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich was once criticized as "not correct" because his tunes could not be hummed, and Nobel Prize winning writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn was upbraided because his works were not "happy."

Neizvestny said he once asked the late Minister of Culture, Mrs. Ekaterina Furtseva, why his designs were incorporated in works across

the Soviet Union without his getting recognition.

"Neizvestny," he quoted Furtseva as saying, "you are a supreme egotist. The most important thing is that the work is being done."

Neizvestny says he plans to write a book about his experiences in the Soviet Union. The title, he said, will be: "The Theory of the Big Nothing."

Luekemia victims get hope for remission

United Press International
HOUSTON — The latest hope for slowing the ravages of leukemia may lie in applying new technology to an old idea, reimplanting a patient's own bone marrow.

Transplanting bone marrow, the blood-producing tissue which leukemia attacks, is not new. The idea is to replace diseased cells with healthy ones, thereby retarding the disease.

The problem always has been matching a donor so the patient's immunological defense system will not reject healthy cells from another body.

"With brother or sister, you have a one in four chance of compatibility," said Dr. Karel Dicke of the M.D. Anderson and Tumor Insti-

tute. "Beyond siblings, the chance is extremely low, about one in 40,000."

So, scientists turned to autologous transplantation — reimplantation of a victim's own semi-processed marrow. The procedure was first in 1957, unsuccessfully.

But that was before chemotherapy could be relied upon to induce remission, a period when symptoms disappear and leave bone marrow healthy enough for transplant.

It also was before techniques of marrow withdrawal, fractionation, removing residual leukemia cells and cold-storage at minus 196 degrees centigrade in liquid nitrogen had been perfected.

"Now, we can bring the patient into good remission, we can stimulate cells and we can store them," Dicke said.

"I am cautious. I don't want to give patients false hope," Dicke said. "But if my brother had leukemia, I would put him in the program immediately."

Bone marrow withdrawal can be accomplished during a one-day hospital visit. With the patient under general anesthesia, marrow cells are taken by special syringe from the pelvis.

The cells are then chemically radiologically fractionated, stored for use in the event of a threatening relapse, which Dicke said occurs in the majority of leukemia patients.

Reimplantation of the bone marrow cells is simpler than withdrawing. Thawed, the cells are reimplanted into the patient intravenously.

"The cells home — return to their proper location inside bones — because they have specific receptors which match in the marrow," Dicke said. "It is amazing."

Dicke's transplant team tried a new process on its first two chronically ill patients last year. Both patients died within weeks, but Dicke was encouraged.

"Before we did the transplant, both were in really bad shape. They had a short period to live, but that, the quality of life improved fantastically. They could go back and one went back to work."

Dicke since has stored marrow from 90 patients in remission and has 30 to 40 more hopefuls on his waiting list.

But he emphasized the procedure is still experimental.

"This is an alternative for patients. I don't know that we can do them."

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