

Under native roof

Young specialists no longer keen to work only in large cities or, even, in the capital

By Marina Bogomazova

A growing number of new graduates are choosing to live far from Minsk to secure their own housing, a stable salary and strong family ties. Every year, about a hundred university and college alumni arrive in the Korelichi District of the Grodno Region seeking employment. They seldom regret substituting the noisy and busy life of a large city for calm and relaxed provincial routine.

Close to home

Minsk wasn't the ideal destination for Yevgeny Chichkan, a young teacher of mathematics and informatics. He was born in the town of Mir, so was used to a certain degree of tranquillity. His hostel in the capital (where he lived for five years while studying) was never quiet; trains passing below the windows kept him awake. Unsurprisingly, upon graduation, he sought a job in the Korelichi District — where his family lives. He's been teaching



Specialists Anastasia Solovieva and Tatiana Zykova allocated to Vitebsk gymnasium after job distribution

at Zhukhovichi secondary school for three years now, admitting, "I love working with children and have even prolonged my contract with the school. Everyone respects me in the village."

The school has provided him with a village home and paid him an allowance (which Yevgeny has spent on buying a TV set and sofa). Of course, local grannies are keen to find him a decent fiancée. "Job distribution provides a perfect test for love," he admits wryly. "I dated a girl for a long time in Minsk and we even planned a wedding. However, on hearing my plans to return home, she called it all off."

Help for everyone

This summer, seven young specialists — fashion designers, tailors and seamstresses — arrived at the Korelichi public amenities centre; the range of products on sale at the local store has since expanded. The girls sew pillowcases, bed sheets and, even, warm coats. Vika Savul's curtains quickly sold out while Katya Bartosh's clothes are proving very popular; she always helps her clients choose the best style to suit them. They live in the local lyceum hostel and, as the public amenities centre has given them an oven, cooking is their new hobby.

"We're doing our best to create the most comfortable conditions

for all young specialists arriving in our district," notes the Chairman of the Korelichi District Executive Committee, Victor Shaibak. "Young people are offered places at a hostel or receive a service flat or house. Moreover, we pay fair salaries and provide good working conditions. Most people are satisfied by the district's social policy; after obligatorily working here for two years, few choose to leave."

Every September, young specialists meet district heads at the Korelichi House of Culture, discussing topical problems, sharing suggestions and finding out more about each other. Such events help newcomers feel welcome in their new home.

Flight through glorious epoch

By Mikhail Kovalevsky

Mogilev Region's Bykhov solemnly celebrates 70th anniversary of 57th Smolensk's Red Banner Aviation Division of Baltic Fleet

The division fought in the early years of the Great Patriotic War, when its aircraft bombarded fascist war communications in Iran (from where Hitler's soldiers planned to attack the Caucasus). It battled near Moscow, attacking German aviation bases in Norway and Finland to protect allied ships on the way to Murmansk, and took part in many other vital missions during WWII.

Thirty pilots from the division were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and, in peace time, it became one of the most mobile units in the Soviet fleet, protecting the country from potential enemies, including from aircraft carriers in the Baltic and North seas.

Former officers of the glorious division arrived in Bykhov from all over Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Moreover, many of the children from military families — of almost fifty nationalities, who had once studied at the garrison school, returned for the celebrations, accompanying their grey-haired parents.

"Our division was always known for its spirit of military brotherhood, and this lives on," notes Alexander Baranov, a former military pilot and the Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Officers' Bykhov District organisation. He once served in the unit, as a lieutenant up to the rank of colonel. "We're delighted that dozens of our former commanders, joined by their wives, have responded to our invitation to arrive in the Mogilev Region, visiting their native duty station and remembering how it used to be."

Beautiful house with rich history

By Yekaterina Ozerkova

Famous Vankovich house, constructed in mid-19th century, restored in Minsk's Filimonov Street

Entertainment facilities, with a summer café, restaurant and wine vault, are soon to appear on the family estate of Belarusian noblemen. Alexander Gvardeyev, the chief engineer of the project, notes, "Roofing and plastering works are currently being conducted, with power lines and the heating system connected. At the same time, the building is undergoing external finishing. Contemporary reconstruction will enable us to preserve this historical monument of architecture for years to come. We plan to commission the estate in summer 2012."

According to the scientific leader of the project, Alexander Konovalenko, the house once had several halls, a dining room with a mantelpiece and a library archive. After reconstruction, the building will preserve its major rooms while the interior will show the best traditions of classicism.

Calling down the moon

Young physicist from Minsk, Vladislav Popov (a Grand Prix winner at *21st Century Talents* contest of sci-tech art) asserts that technicians' imagination has no lack of romanticism

semble a device from available materials. I rolled a tube from a large map and placed an ordinary lens (from a pair of glasses) inside.

Late in the evening, we went beyond the city lights to watch shooting stars..."

usually have spent on food in order to buy parts for his telescopes. In the evening, when the sky was clear, he would travel beyond the city to observe the stars and planets. Within a short period of time, he had learnt the layout of the night sky, easily locating the Hunting Dogs and the Andromeda Nebula.

"After I'd studied all the constellations, I was keen to look deeper into the cosmos," he explains. "I spent all my savings on items for my telescope, finding them at the market or on the Internet. Eventually, I assembled a device able to observe not only stars but the surface of some planets in the Solar System."

Vladislav admits that he couldn't sleep on the night he finally seen the surface of the Moon — the largest cosmic object he has been able to

Unsurprisingly, his sweetheart loved the idea. Meanwhile, Vladislav was so impressed by the results of his home-made telescope that he decided to take the hobby further. He began reading specialised literature and saved money he would

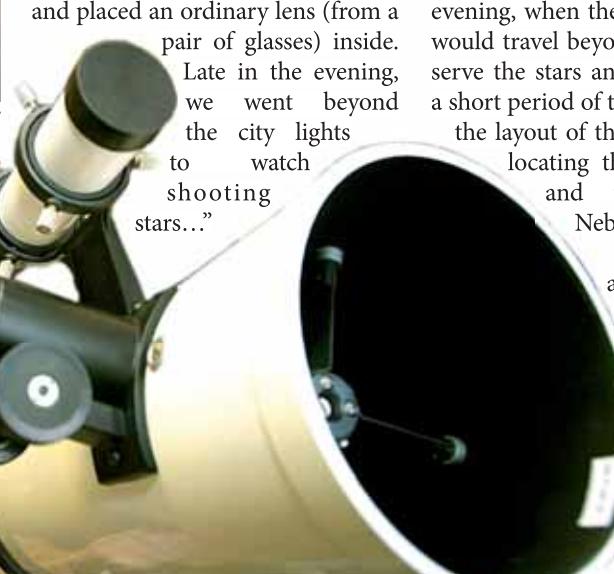


Young astronomer Vlad Popov

By Maria Burmistrova

The Minsk lyceum graduate brought two telescopes (assembled independently) to the St. Petersburg contest, while also presenting his research in the field of astronomy. Vladislav has only been studying the cosmos for just under a year but already boasts a collection of awards — worthy of any acknowledged and experienced astrologer.

The young man discovered his 'astronomic' capabilities by chance. "Everything began when I decided to surprise a girlfriend by showing her the sky at night," he recollects. "I needed a telescope, so decided to as-



Telescopes focused on the stars

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