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Deputies and president jockey for position

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — As Ukraine's Parliament prepares to return from recess, the jockeying between national deputies and President Leonid Kuchma and his administration shows no signs of letting up.

Volodymyr Stretovych, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Judicial Policy and Court and Judicial Reform, told an UNIAN reporter on August 5 that "a serious crisis awaits the Verkhovna Rada" in the autumn, in part

because of Mr. Kuchma's insistence that elections, scheduled for March 1998, be postponed for a year.

Mr. Stretovych said President Kuchma's proposal is divisive, as it would split the Verkhovna Rada into two camps, "those for and those against such a decision."

Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz has insisted on the need for holding elections as planned, but suggested that the Constitution be amended to allow for five-year terms for deputies, rather than the present four. Mr. Kuchma, however, opposes any such amendment.

On August 4, Presidential Chief of Staff Yevhen Kushniarov told UNIAN that Mr. Kuchma is "categorically against introducing changes to the Constitution." Two days later, Mr. Kushniarov added that deputies should concentrate on three key issues: approval of the new law on elections, discussion of a program for the new Cabinet of Ministers and preparation of the new budget for 1998.

Mr. Stretovych, one of the authors of the Constitution, agreed. He criticized moves to make changes to the Constitution as inexpedient, saying "the time for that has not yet come." He stressed that, instead of reforming state institutions, "we are attempting to change the Constitution."

Mr. Stretovych said that a number of amendments proposed by 150 deputies

U.S. citizens can no longer buy Ukrainian visas at Kyiv airport

by **Khristina Lew**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Foreigners arriving at Kyiv's international airport without a Ukrainian visa are no longer permitted to purchase one at the border, but the directive appears to target U.S. citizens.

In the last week the consular section of the U.S. Embassy to Ukraine has received about 10 telephone calls from American citizens who were unable to purchase visas at Boryspil International Airport. The German Embassy and the Japanese Embassy reported no such calls.

On August 6 Serhii Zaitsev, information assistant at the United States Information Service in Kyiv, said the U.S. Embassy's consular section was in the process of looking into the matter and that "a lot of people in the consular section are working with the Ukrainian government."

An official at Boryspil Airport's consular section on August 7 confirmed that for the last three weeks some 20 Americans arriving at the airport were not permitted to purchase visas and were sent back to the Western European cities where their flights originated.

Germans, however, are still permitted to purchase Ukrainian visas at Boryspil. The official explained that Ukraine and Germany have good relations, and therefore, "if a German arrives at Boryspil

without a visa, we will allow him to purchase one."

The U.S. government, on the other hand, "follows the letter of the law. They expect us to adhere to their laws, so we request that they follow ours," he said.

Although Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had announced in December 1996 that foreigners traveling to Ukraine from countries that have Ukrainian embassies and consulates must buy visas prior to their arrival, the regulation was not enforced and visas were readily purchased at Boryspil airport for \$160.

According to an employee of Austrian Airlines, on August 4 an American traveling on the airline without a Ukrainian visa was sent back to Vienna. Boryspil airport began turning away passengers in July, at which time Austrian Airlines issued an advisory to all countries where it flies that passengers bound for Ukraine should purchase visas beforehand.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Lufthansa issued similar advisories.

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially responded to the visa scandal on August 7 by reiterating that in December 1996 it had informed all embassies and representatives of international organizations in Ukraine that visas can no longer be purchased at the

Ukrainian diplomat falls to his death

by **Nestor Gula**

TORONTO — A Ukrainian diplomat in Ottawa fell to his death from his 19th story balcony on August 6.

Borys Poliachenko was the first secretary for science and technology at the Embassy of Ukraine for the last two years. He was due to go back to Ukraine on the weekend of August 9 as part of a normal rotation.

The Ottawa-Carleton Police Department received a call at 2:30 p.m. on August 6 that a man fell and the body was lying on the roof which covers the entrance to the apartment building. The police are treating

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New history chronicles first 100 years of the Ukrainian National Association

by **Roma Hadzewycz**

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — "In order for us to know where we're going, we have to realize where we have been." That, says Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, is the guiding principle behind the newly published history of the Ukrainian National Association written to mark the organization's centennial.

"Ukrainian American Citadel: The First 100 Years of the Ukrainian National Association," released by East European Monographs of Boulder, Colo., is the work of Dr. Kuropas, an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly and a researcher of immigration history.

In its 13 chapters, the book chronicles the founding of the UNA in 1894; its transformation from the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz to the Ukrainian National Association; its leading role in maintaining, indeed establishing, a Ukrainian identity in America; its growth from 439 members in the first year of its existence to a membership of nearly 90,000 in the 1970s; its activism in the American political milieu, particularly through its UNA Washington Office (1988-1995); and its current role within the Ukrainian American community.

It also provides insight into the UNA's publications, the Ukrainian-language daily newspaper Svoboda founded in 1893 — which actually gave birth to the UNA — and The Ukrainian Weekly, published since 1933.

This "social history" as Dr. Kuropas describes it, provides information about the UNA's multi-faceted fraternal

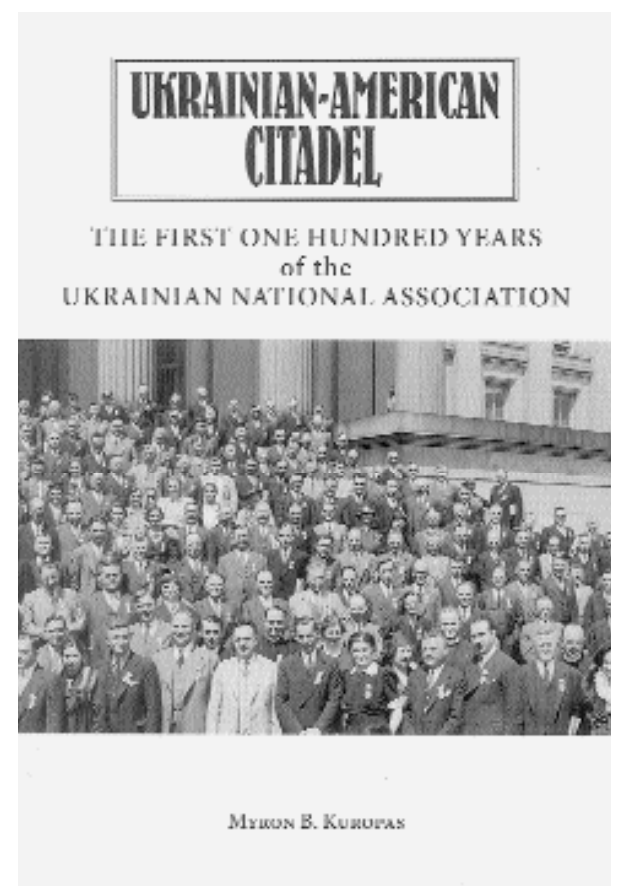
activity, which benefits Ukrainians in the United States and Canada, and beyond: from the founding of reading rooms and heritage schools; to the purchase of an upstate New York estate, Soyuzivka, that is not only a vacation spot but a veritable cultural establishment; and up to current programs such as Teachers for English in Ukraine and the work of the Kyiv Press Bureau.

Drawing heavily on news reports from the UNA's newspapers, Dr. Kuropas explains in his preface: "...this history is filled with long quotations from the UNA press. I avoided too much paraphrasing because I believe history should reflect the thinking of the people who made it. Their stories are best told in their own words, in their letters, their commentaries and their reactions to events."

Much attention is paid to Ukrainian community developments outside of the UNA. As the author states, "From its founding in 1894 to its centennial in 1994, the UNA and the Ukrainian community have been one. They are still inseparable. What happens to the Ukrainian American community happens to the UNA, and what is good for the UNA has generally been good for the community."

Information on community developments provides meaningful context via which readers can understand the UNA's function and vital role. Still more context is provided by the author at the beginning of each chapter as he sets the stage with an overview of historic events of the period. "After all, the UNA did not develop in a vacuum,"

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Belarus suspends talks on OSCE office; human rights continue to deteriorate

by Orest Deychakiwsky

Belarus has indefinitely suspended negotiations on opening an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) office in Miensk that would have assisted and advised in the promotion of democracy. According to RFE/RL, the reason given was that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which met in Warsaw in early July, invited only a delegation from the Parliament that had been disbanded by Belarusian strongman Alyksandr Lukashenka, and not a delegation from President Lukashenka's loyalist post-November referendum Parliament. Last month, Belarus had agreed in principle to open up the OSCE office.

On July 23, despite earlier indications to the contrary, Mr. Lukashenka asserted to foreign reporters that there will be no early parliamentary elections in Belarus, stating: "The idea of holding early elections, planted by Belarusian emigrants in the United States, is being imposed on Miensk by officials from the European Union and the OSCE."

Meanwhile, the human rights situation in Belarus continues to deteriorate. On July 17, police in Miensk beat and detained parents protesting plans by President Lukashenka to transfer management of the building housing their high school to the President's Office. The high school, which teaches in the Belarusian language and whose curriculum stresses democratic ideals, is one of 22 buildings housing cultural and educational entities that are being transferred — as a result of a Lukashenka decree — to the President's Office.

On July 18, the International Helsinki Federation and Belarusian Helsinki Committee issued a report to the OSCE on human rights violations in Belarus.

Among their findings: the "separation of powers" established by the 1994 Belarusian Constitution "has virtually ceased to exist in Belarus"; in areas covered by a presidential

Orest Deychakiwsky is a staffer of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

decree (Mr. Lukashenka has issued numerous decrees in the past several months), "the appointed lawmakers now have the task to bring existing legislation into conformity with the decree, which thus transcends the law"; and, with respect to the judiciary, judges routinely make decisions only after receiving telephone calls with instructions, and in many trials, judges have not allowed defense lawyers and not even testimony by defense witnesses. Furthermore, the state is restoring its control over the legal profession, as legal defense can now only be undertaken by lawyers' collegiums, which are, in effect, state law firms. These measures, according to the report, "make it virtually impossible for individuals to be assisted and represented in court in cases where they are in conflict with the authorities."

The report also addresses violations of political rights and freedoms, charging that "... there have been reports of ill-treatment and starvation in detention of those charged with participating in demonstrations that occurred in March 1997"; "... critics of the regime have continued to be imprisoned, fined, dismissed from their positions, intimidated, unjustifiably held responsible for the actions of colleagues, denounced on national television, provoked and entrapped, and subjected to violations of privacy." Moreover, the Belarusian government has "tried to cripple the political opposition economically by threatening and harassing private business firms whose leaders or workers are not politically loyal."

In President Lukashenka's continuing assault on the media, the accreditation of Russian Public Television (ORT) Miensk bureau chief Pavel Sheremet was annulled in early July. Mr. Sheremet had been critical of President Lukashenka and the Belarusian government. In a July 22 letter to Mr. Lukashenka protesting the action against Mr. Sheremet, Human Rights Watch/Helsinki states: "The withdrawal of Sheremet's accreditation is but the latest

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Report outlines Ukraine's economic state

Eastern Economist

KYIV — The Statistics Ministry and the Ministry of the Economy have issued a preliminary report on Ukraine's economic state for the first half of 1997.

Although the gross domestic product (GDP) for January-June stood at 40 billion hrv, a drop of 7.5 percent from 1996, production grew in the fuel industry and metallurgy sector. The worst fall was in the food production industry, which contracted by 18.5 percent, followed by the construction materials industry, paper and pulp, engineering and the chemical and petro-chemical industry.

Total agricultural production dropped 15.5 percent, with the production of state farms down one-third, although private farm production rose by 3 percent.

Grain production is estimated at 37 million tonnes for 1997, while beet root and sunflower production are up from last year.

Ukraine's total foreign trade in the first half of 1997 is valued at \$18 billion, a fall of 7 percent. Although trade with CIS and

Baltic countries dropped by almost one-fifth in 1997, this was compensated by growth in trade with other countries by 7.4 percent. The trade deficit was \$849 million in the red at the end of June. Retail trade stood at 8.6 billion hrv, an increase of 15 percent.

The economy is currently experiencing a

period of relative price stability. The currency markets have steadied and growth in food prices has markedly slowed. Food prices for 1997 grew by 7.2 percent and consumer goods prices by 1.6 percent. Last year's figures were 14.3 percent and 12.8 percent, respectively.

Results of the oil and gas industry's operations for the first half of 1997 paint a picture of over-optimistic forecasts. State oil, gas and oil refining companies generated 2.67 billion hrv worth of production in the first six months of 1997, according to government figures released on July 16. This is a 5.5 percent increase, although the period saw only 16 oil and 12 gas wells commissioned. Yearly targets were set much higher — at 38 and 75 wells, respectively. UkrGazProm AT commissioned only 10 wells, or 16.1 percent of the yearly target, while UkrNafta AT — a paltry 15 wells, 34.1 percent of the yearly target. As of July 1, debts owed by Ukrainian consumers to gas-supplying companies were almost 5.4 billion hrv, a problem not likely to go away soon.

The Ministry of Energy agreed on July 16 to impose higher electricity rates in exchange for World Bank pledges to resume last year's financing program for fuel oil and natural gas supplies. Tariffs will increase for different areas of the economy by an average of 20 percent, but for residential consumers by up to 36 percent.

NEWSBRIEFS

Floods spread to southwestern Ukraine

KYIV — The rains that forced the evacuation of dozens of villages in the western Ukrainian region around Lviv, where more than 700 people fled the rising waters, have hit Transcarpathia and southwestern Ukraine. On August 4, Tatiana Pomazanova, a spokeswoman for Ukraine's Emergencies Ministry told journalists that 12 villages have been flooded and six bridges swept away in floods caused by heavy rains in regions near the Romanian border. Ms. Pomazanova also said a 9-year-old girl drowned near Ivano-Frankivsk. Torrential rains also flushed 32 families from the town of Kiliya, Odesa Oblast. On August 5, the Emergencies Ministry told the UNIAN news agency that a delegation from the oblast's Civil Defense Department is carrying out relief efforts. (RFE/RL Newswire, Eastern Economist)

NBU lowers interest rate

KYIV — The UT-1 television network reported on August 5 that the National Bank of Ukraine has lowered its interest rate from 18 percent to 16 percent. The rate is now lower than at any time since Ukraine's independence was proclaimed in August 1991. (Eastern Economist)

World Bank suspends electricity loan

WASHINGTON — The Ukrainian government's failure to abide by a promise to raise electricity rates has prompted the World Bank to suspend disbursements of a \$317 million loan to the country. On August 1, RFE/RL's Washington correspondent quoted a bank official as saying the government's unwillingness to raise rates "has jeopardized the financial viability of the thermal generation companies" which depend on the loan. Approved in October 1996, it was to be used over a three-year period to build up fuel stocks and spare parts, and to install metering and other modern equipment to get Ukraine's electric utility industry up to standard. To date, Ukraine has received \$106.5 million U.S. The World Bank official said the country's power companies will continue to deteriorate if wholesale and retail prices are not raised — over the past year, one-sixth of the amounts owed for electricity bills have been paid by consumers. The World Bank representative added that his institution will continue to support power industry reforms with technical assistance and other non-lending services, but will only reopen the loan when rates are adjusted. (RFE/RL Newswire, Eastern Economist)

Crimeans appeal to Mrs. Kuchma

SEVASTOPOL — A number of civic groups from Sevastopol banded together to

form the so-called Bastion Bloc have released an open letter calling on Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's wife, Liudmyla, to use her influence to block the Sea Breeze 97 exercise to be held in Crimea, Interfax reported on August 4. The exercise is scheduled to be held off the peninsula's coast later this month as part of NATO's Partnership for Peace program. It would involve Ukrainian, U.S. and other countries' naval ships. The Bastion Bloc also has called on Ms. Kuchma "to take the rapprochement of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus under her patronage." The League of Crimean Women has sent a similar letter to Mrs. Kuchma. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian and Uzbek presidents meet

KYIV — Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma met Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov on August 5, during the latter's vacation in Crimea. A spokesman for the Ukrainian president was quoted as saying that a "wide spectrum of issues in relations between the two countries was discussed" during the meeting and that both presidents expressed satisfaction with the state of bilateral relations. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Illegal immigrant figures rise

LVIV — According to a report in the Lviv-based daily *Za Vilnu Ukrainu*, there are about a million individuals residing in Ukraine illegally. The report also mentioned that in the past six months, 5,300 people were turned away at the border when they sought to enter the country illegally, a 62.4 percent increase over previous periods. The item contended that over the past two years police closed down 181 illegal immigration channels and arrested 496 smugglers, contrabandists and other violators of Ukraine's borders. (Respublika)

Reform and Order Party founded

LVIV — On August 1, the Reform and Order Party held its founding convention here at the Transcarpathian Military District's Cultural Center, attended by 183 delegates. The meetings were attended by former Minister of the Economy Viktor Pynzenyk. The party's platform proposes minimizing the role of government in the economy, encouraging foreign investment, and taking steps to move the shadow economy into legal sectors. A national convention is planned for September. (Respublika)

Latest popularity poll

KYIV — According to a poll conducted last week by the weekly newspaper *Kievskie Novosti*, the 10 most popular political figures in the country are: 1.

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New history chronicles...

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Dr. Kuropas told The Weekly in a telephone interview, "and it was reacting to developments in America and elsewhere."

Each chapter ends with the pre-convention recommendations of UNA members, which were published in the UNA press, as well as highlights of developments at those conventions. At the conclusion of each chapter there also is a summation of the major themes addressed and developments reported — a good educational device and a feature that no doubt will be appreciated by readers.

The 658-page book, which was funded by the Ukrainian National Association, includes many interesting photos and illustrations, presented in three photo sections that provide a pictorial accompaniment to the history related by the author. It also contains an index, as well as an appendix that lists UNA executive officers, editors-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and UNA membership statistics. The cover features an imposing wraparound photo of delegates to the UNA's 19th Convention held in Washington in 1937.

Project began in 1990

Dr. Kuropas began work on his history of the UNA in 1990. The research took one year, the writing another two years, and then came the process of peer review, publisher's requests and production scheduling matters. The book was ready for publication in 1996, but was finally released in mid-1997.

In working on this project, Dr. Kuropas said, "I learned a lot more than I had ever known about the role of the UNA in the development and growth of the Ukrainian American community. The UNA truly is a citadel and remains as a beacon for all Ukrainians worldwide."

The author also underlined that "All of the goals of the Ukrainian National Association were met, including the long struggle for Ukraine's independence. It is my hope that this book will awaken Ukrainians in North America to the importance of continuing to support this exemplary institution."

Asked to describe his goals in working on the history of what he refers to as "the first 100 years of the UNA," Dr. Kuropas explained: "The UNA is the result of the efforts of thousands of Ukrainian Americans. It became what it is today through its members, branch secretaries and local involvement. It was my goal to include as much of the published input of local branches and district committees as would fit with the basic themes of the book."

Those themes are outlined in the book's preface as follows: ethno-national formation and maintenance, organizational formation, assistance to Ukraine, fraternal benefits, political action, efforts to defend the Ukrainian name, generational transfer, and inter-ethnic cooperation and dissonance.

An ethnic activist and researcher

"Ukrainian-American Citadel" was truly a labor of love for Dr. Kuropas, a UNA activist of long standing who followed in the footsteps of his father, Stephen (a former UNA supreme advisor and currently an honorary member of its General Assembly), and inculcated love of this oldest and largest Ukrainian fraternal organization in his own son, Stefko (a UNA advisor).

Dr. Kuropas is a former UNA supreme vice-president (he held that post for 12 years) and a former supreme advisor (16 years) who is now an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly. He also brings academic credentials to his project. He holds a Ph.D. in education from the University of Chicago — his doctoral thesis covered the history of the Ukrainian immigration from 1884 to 1950 — and he is an adjunct professor in the department of leadership and educational policy studies at Northern Illinois University.

He is the author of "The Ukrainian Americans: Roots and Aspirations, 1884-1954," a history of Ukrainians in the United States and the story of how they defined and maintained their ethnic identity, published in 1991 by the University of Toronto Press. He also wrote "Ukrainians in America," a Lerner Publications book targeted for eighth graders that is now in its third edition.

Dr. Kuropas has a broad familiarity with American ethnic groups in general and served President Gerald R. Ford as special assistant for ethnic affairs, the first such position in the history of the United States.

Dr. Kuropas will be speaking about his new book at various UNA district committee gatherings this fall.

"Ukrainian-American Citadel" is available for \$25 (plus \$2.50 postage/handling) from: Ukrainian Educational Associates, 107 Ilhamwood Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115; or from the Svoboda Bookstore, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.

USA/USA helps Ukraine's students realize dreams

by Roman Woronowycz

KYIV — Sitting in a classroom in July is no high school student's dream vacation. But when the ultimate dream is a paid American college education, it makes it much more bearable.

Thirty-two high school students did just that at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in early July. They were there for a weeklong workshop of intensive instruction on procedures and requirements for admission into U.S. universities.

The students were learning the mundane tasks that every college aspirant must go through: how to fill out college application forms, how to write entry essays, what documents they must forward to the universities they have chosen, how to go about requesting financial aid, room and board, etc. And as anyone who has gone through it will tell you, the process can be intimidating, mostly because of the mountains of paperwork that are required.

With the help of USA/USA (Ukrainian Student Association of the U.S.A.), an academic advising and recruiting project whose mission is to avail some of Ukraine's most gifted students of an American college education, the latest students are hoping to join 17 others who are now studying in the U.S. on full scholarships.

Yaroslava Babych, one of two coordinators of the workshop, said the students who made it through the selection process and were invited to the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy workshop are told about applications and financial aid forms, as well as about the university system in America and college student life.

"Here we start from the beginning: how to choose a college," said Ms. Babych. "We then tell them about the obstacles. We explain to them the U.S. educational system. For example, we tell them that the first years are general education, then you choose a specialization. We tell them what liberal arts is. We explain to them that in the U.S. the goal is a diverse education, whereas in Ukraine it is narrow, specialized knowledge."

The students are also given lists of which colleges to apply to (this year there are 82 schools on the list) and information on how to receive fee waivers. They have access to preparatory materials on the TOEFL, SAT I and SAT II tests they will be required to take, and are counseled in game theory and on successfully competing for limited scholarships.

Ms. Babych should know what it takes to get into a

U.S. college. The Kirovohrad-born student just completed her first year at Colby College in Maine after working through USA/USA to get admittance and a four-year scholarship.

The other coordinator, Yulia Komska, is also just back from her first year studying in the U.S. at Franklin Marshall College in Pennsylvania.

The program counts on those who have successfully completed the process to bring something back to it by working with the applicants, because who better knows what it takes to get into a U.S. college than a person who has just gone through the arduous process. Current students are also asked to work with the universities they are attending to bring in more students through USA/USA.

The prospective students are pretty much left on their own after the workshop. They choose the universities and colleges, fill out and send their own applications. During the week at the workshop they have access to brochures, manuals and preparatory books, and can use the libraries of ACCELS, the Renaissance Foundation and the International Advisory Center of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Application fees, document fees and the like, however, are covered by USA/USA. Each student generally sends out 10-20 applications.

"We try to maintain a family atmosphere, we want them to stay close to us. They know our e-mail addresses, and we advise them when problems arise," said Ms. Babych.

Not every student qualifies for the program because the requirements are strict: students must show a high degree of English proficiency, good marks and must be recommended by their teachers.

After they are accepted for the workshop, there is the TOEFL English proficiency examination and the SAT college exams that all foreign students must successfully complete before entering a U.S. college or university.

If precedent is maintained, about a handful from this year's group will eventually enter a private U.S. college, where they will receive free tuition, room and board.

The 32 who attended the workshop at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy are the finalists from a group of more than 200 interested 10th and 11th graders who began vying for the invitation more than 20 months ago.

The selection process begins with a letter to the

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Germany's foreign affairs minister tours Kyiv



Khristina Lew

KYIV — Klaus Kinkel, vice-chancellor and foreign affairs minister of Germany, is seen above (center in light gray suit) as he takes a tour of St. Sophia Cathedral with his delegation on July 29. Dr. Kinkel was in the Ukrainian capital on July 29-30 with a delegation of 30 businesspeople to discuss expanding German-Ukrainian business ties. Germany is Ukraine's third largest trading partner.

OBITUARY**John Switalski, 88,
traveling journalist**

BARRINGTON, R.I. — John Switalski, editor and journalist, died July 4, 1997, at Rhode Island Hospital. He had resided in Barrington on Ferry Lane since 1984. Born in Portsmouth, Ohio, October 10, 1908, son of the late Frank and Lillian Helfrich Switalski, he attended schools in Cincinnati. After matriculating at St. Xavier University, he joined the Cincinnati AAA-automobile club, which his father managed. He then became one of AAA's first road scouts, logging some 100,000 miles of highways in the U.S. and Canada in the late 1920's.

Mr. Switalski then made a 10,000-mile motor tour of 13 countries of Europe at his own expense, returning to Poland in 1932 to study the Polish language, a skill which after World War II caused the Hoover Institute at Stanford University to employ him to translate statements of Polish citizens who had been imprisoned in Soviet labor camps during World War II.

During World War II, Mr. Switalski did research for Rand McNally and map production for the U.S. Armed Forces. From 1949 to 1955 he was a research editor for the Chicago-based News Map of the Week, an education periodical. After some years as a geography editor for the American Peoples Encyclopedia and Britannica Junior, he became a copyreader for the Gary Indiana Post-Tribune. His last job involved editing a training bulletin and film scripts for the Chicago Police Academy. He retired to Oakland, California in 1972, but moved to Rhode Island when his son-in-law Leonard H. Lesko joined the faculty of Brown University.

Mr. Switalski's keen interest in advocacy for the Captive Nations during the Cold War period led him to write extensively for American Polish newspaper and journals. He had a weekly column in the now-defunct Polish American Journal of Chicago during the 1960's and for several years reviewed books on Poland and Eastern Europe for a number of newspapers and journals.

Mr. Switalski is survived by his wife of 61 years, the former Lee Janke-Saikowski, his daughter Barbara Lesko of Barrington, and a sister Leah Bien of Cincinnati.

Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations either to Brown University Library for book and periodicals regarding Polish culture or to the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, 208 E. 30th St., New York 10016.

Conference examines past and future of Ukrainian World Congressby **Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj**

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — The Canadian branch of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) held a mini-conference on the past and future of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC, formerly the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, or WCFU) that coincided with the UWC presidium's plenary meetings.

About 75 people gathered on May 31 at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation's gallery to hear the presentations of three panelists.

Christina Isajiw spoke on the topic "The Political Activism of the WCFU in Defense of Ukrainian Human Rights." Ms. Isajiw, a former executive director of the WCFU's Human Rights Commission, is currently involved with the agency now revived as the Commission on Human and Civil Rights.

At the outset, Ms. Isajiw lamented the lack of archival materials covering the genesis of the Human Rights Commission (HRC), 1969-1973, but drew on reports by the late Canadian Sen. Paul Yuzyk and Dr. Mykhailo Sosnovsky, an editor of the Svoboda at the time, that were prepared in 1974.

She noted that until 1975 the effort experienced serious difficulties. She mentioned the failure to establish a foothold at the U.N. during the WCFU's term in New York City following the organization's second congress, and the failure of the Canadian-based International Commission on Human Rights (whose honorary chairman was former Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker) to perform to expectations.

Ms. Isajiw described how a systematic effort of cooperation with the London-based Amnesty International and Chronicle of Current Events, as well as Munich-based information gathering agencies (such as the Digest of the Soviet Press and Radio Free Europe) allowed the WCFU's nascent HRC to establish a credible database on repressions against Ukrainian dissidents.

Ms. Isajiw said 1975 was a banner year for the WCFU, which conducted campaigns in defense of religious freedom in the USSR and in defense of women's activists, coinciding with the International Year of the Woman. Oddly, Ms. Isajiw made only glancing mention of that year's signing of the Helsinki Accords as a factor providing a great impetus for Soviet human rights monitoring.

Ms. Isajiw described the late 1970s as a period of burgeoning interest in the defense of dissidents, and said the HRC made a concerted effort to coordinate the various "In Defense of" committees that sprang up to highlight the causes of Valentyn Moroz, Levko Lukianenko and Leonid Pliushch. She also said the HRC worked with the International Association of Mathematicians in defense of Mr. Pliushch.

Ms. Isajiw said international events allowed the HRC to focus its activities effectively, and allowed activists to hone their skills in lobbying. Notable Venues for HRC's effort were Mexico City's International Women's Conference in 1975, the "Habitat" conference on housing in Vancouver, 1976, and the second Helsinki review conference in Madrid, 1980.

Ms. Isajiw listed the HRC's publication of popular brochures and booklets on topics such as Soviet persecution of religion, material in defense of the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group (1980, with two re-releases in 1981 and 1985), as well as those in defense of individuals such as the Sichko and Romaniuk families.

Ms. Isajiw described 1980-1985 as the second period of heightened HRC activism. The release to the West of dissi-

dents such as Mr. Pliushch, Nina Strokata and Sviatoslav Karavansky, Nadia Svitlychna and Petro Grigorenko, particularly after the formation of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group's External Representation, both galvanized the human rights effort in the Ukrainian community and resulted in cooperation with other ethnic groups.

Ms. Isajiw noted that lobbying efforts were vastly more successful in the U.S. Congress thanks to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (known as the "Helsinki Commission").

Ms. Isajiw listed Ukrainian agencies with which the HRC cooperated including Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, Smoloskyp, the information bureaus of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and various students' committees.

The HRC activist noted that human rights efforts in Canada were of a considerably smaller scale, and different in nature. She characterized the Canadian government's response in the late 1970s as "decidedly unenthusiastic." She said the Ministry of External Affairs refused to heed the input of NGOs on the subject, and had a noticeable bias against ethnic groups pushing the issue.

Ms. Isajiw described an international conference in 1980 at Ottawa's Chateau Laurier Hotel, where U.S. delegates offered assistance and encouragement, and the Canadian hosts did their best to impede the HRC's activism at every turn.

Efforts to establish a standing parliamentary committee in Canada similar to its counterpart in the U.S., initiated in September 1981, were not heeded until 1986, when External Affairs Minister Joe Clark compromised and set up a human rights monitoring body within his ministry, thanks in part to backing from the mainstream media.

Ms. Isajiw said the height of the HRC's influence came in May 1986, when the U.S. State Department proposed that the agency prepare a document on the persecution of the Ukrainian Catholic Church by the Soviet regime, which was published the following year. Ms. Isajiw offered a renewed expression of thanks to Ivan Hvat, a researcher at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich, for his assistance in this work.

In more general terms, Ms. Isajiw said the HRC is most indebted to the contributions made by the late Sen. Yuzyk, Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw, the late Andrij Bandera and the late Justice Walter Tarnopolsky. The HRC activist singled out Oleksandra Kovalska, in attendance that day, for providing a much needed element of stability when internal conflicts threatened the commission's existence, and for her ongoing dedication to the HRC's cause.

The second speaker that afternoon was former WCFU President Peter Savaryn, who addressed the question "Has the WCFU/UWC Dealt Effectively with the Responsibilities Placed on it by the Ukrainian Community outside Ukraine?"

At the outset, Mr. Savaryn replied that the answer to this question "Yes" and that his elaboration would be "thematic." Rather than referring to the organization's historical record, he concentrated on specific pronouncements of figures such as Ukrainian National Republic President Symon Petliura, Ukrainian Catholic Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, Orthodox Archbishop Mykhail, the "Shestydesiatnyky" (1960's) poets in Ukraine, and historian Roman Smal-Stocki, that were used by WCFU/UWC leaders as inspiration in their efforts to "develop to the highest

(Continued on page 15)

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

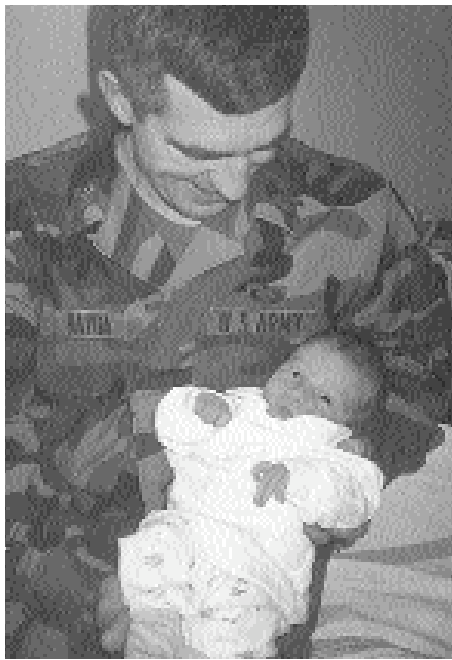
Young UNA'ers



Jonathan William Platosz, son of Roman and Patti Platosz, is a new member of UNA Branch 254 in New Britain, Conn. He was enrolled by his uncle Adam Platosz.



The new youngest member of UNA Branch 323 in Kansas City, Kansas, is Matthew Stephen Bilyk, son of Patricia and Roy Bilyk, of Overland Park, Kansas. Matthew was enrolled by his grandfather Michael Bilyk, secretary of Branch 323.



Artym Hayda, son of Roman and Katheryna Hayda, is a new member of UNA Branch 59 in Bridgeport, Conn. He was enrolled by his grandparents Ihor and Roma Hayda.



Natalie Helen Schrantz, daughter of Anita Schrantz, is a new member of UNA Branch 147 in Allentown, Pa. She was enrolled by her aunt Anna Segan.



Zachariy and Julian Hayda (first and second from left), children of the Rev. Paul and Christina Hayda; Aleksander Hayda (third from left), son of Roksana and Marko Hayda; and Kristina Hayda (right), daughter of Halyna and Borys Hayda; are all new members of UNA Branch 59 in Bridgeport, Conn. All the children were enrolled by their grandparents Roma and Ihor Hayda.

The UNA and you

Interest rates still dropping

by Stephan Welhasch

Long-term interest rates could drop as low as 6.5 percent by the end of this year, believes James Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer of Fannie Mae, the nation's largest purchaser of residential mortgages.

"If the balanced budget agreement is passed [it was] and enforced, then I think interest rates of 6.5 percent are a reasonable expectation," said Mr. Johnson at the recent Fannie Mae Biennial Investor/Securities Analysts Conference.

Over the last six months, interest rates on mortgage loans have come down from 7.75 percent to an average of 7.25 percent. Last year's highest rate was around 8 percent, while in 1994 it was as high as 9.11 percent. The lowest that interest rates on a 15-year fixed-rate mortgage with 0 points have fallen to in recent years was 6.62 percent (and that was the lowest in 25 years).

According to information compiled by the Federal Reserve, the American economy is the envy of the industrial world: 4.1 percent economic growth over the past 12 months; 4.8 percent unemployment; a 2.8 percent rate of inflation that shows no signs of surging; and the Dow, which recently broke through a new level of 8,200, that has been booming for more than seven years. Some economists say we may be facing 25 years of prosperity – not bad, not bad at all.

"In fact, interest rates could go as low as 5.5 percent by the year 2002," opined Mr. Johnson. He feels the U.S. economy "is finally reaping the rewards of corporate re-organizations, as well as a tremendous boost in productivity due to the prevalent and efficient use of high technology."

Economists, who rarely agree on anything, now feel that the economy is running quite well and see little on the horizon that could conceivably steer the economy off track. How does that translate into good news for UNA members looking for a new home or perhaps to refinance their existing mortgage loan? If you are seriously looking for a bargain, speak with our UNA representative. You can find out how much more you will save with the UNA and have peace of mind in knowing that you've made the right choice by calling the UNA.

Being a member of the Ukrainian National Association entitles you to a special mortgage rate discount which also includes insurance coverage for you and your family. If you've been considering looking into a mortgage loan, now is a wonderful time to call the UNA and comparison shop.

The UNA offers its members financing for one-, two- and three-family homes throughout the United States and Canada. UNA's First Mortgage Loan Program is specially designed to meet the financial needs of its members and offers an interest rate that is highly competitive with the prevailing rates in your area. The UNA also continues to provide jumbo mortgage loans to Ukrainian Churches and organizations.

For more detailed information on mortgage loans, rates, refinancing your home, or becoming a member call 1 (800) 253-9862.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our students: here and there

Last week, the front page of this paper carried a story about the Ukrainian National Association's scholarship program which highlighted the top scholarship recipients for the 1997-1998 academic year.

This week, our paper features a story on the work of the Ukrainian Student Association of the U.S.A. (USA/USA), which helps students from Ukraine study at universities in this country.

The two efforts serve different constituencies, but both efforts are noteworthy — and praiseworthy.

The UNA scholarship program, which has been in existence since 1964 (although stipends were provided to needy and deserving students almost since this fraternal organization's founding in 1894), this year allocated \$70,300 to 186 undergraduate students. During the past 33 years the UNA has awarded \$1,619,200 in scholarships to more than 4,100 grant recipients in the United States and Canada who are UNA members.

Some of the UNA funds, in recent years, have been augmented thanks to bequests and donations by members of our community. For example, a bequest by the late Joseph Wolk provides money to help further the education of Lemkos; a \$2,500 scholarship provided by Dr. Susan Galandiuk in memory of her late parents is intended for a single student who excels in the sciences or accounting; funds from the now-defunct Ukrainian National Home Corp. of Blackstone, Mass., are awarded to students from Rhode Island or Massachusetts. Thus, the UNA's efforts to support our students in North America are supported by the acts of individuals.

The USA/USA effort, on the other hand, is aimed at students from Ukraine. It is a program that advises and recruits some of Ukraine's top students for the purpose of providing them with an American college education. In what is basically a "how to" course, the students are advised on choosing a college, filling out applications and writing entrance essays, and applying for scholarships, financial aid, etc. At present, 17 of the best and the brightest from Ukraine are studying in the United States on full scholarships.

The success of the USA/USA program cannot be measured in numbers alone, however, as the program fully expects students who have succeeded in entering U.S. colleges and universities — and those who have graduated — to come back and advise the next group of aspiring candidates. In addition, they are asked to help the promote USA/USA's placement program by establishing contacts with the educational institutions where they studied.

USA/USA, which was established in 1992, has been assisted by the Ukrainian National Association via start-up funds for its first years and, more recently, by the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine. Both organizations have recognized the crucial function of USA/USA which, in the words of founder Dr. Bohdan Oryshkevich, seeks to "develop world-class skills and experience" among the next generation of Ukraine's young adults.

The next step, says Dr. Oryshkevich, is to set up a placement agency in Kyiv that will maintain contact with students in the U.S. and then help reintegrate them into Ukrainian society upon their return from studying abroad. Also on the drawing board: an agency that would provide internships in Ukraine for students still studying in the U.S.

Both the UNA and USA/USA, it is apparent, have seen the future of the Ukrainian nation: our young people. And whether those students are here or there, they deserve our support.

Aug.
9
1823

Turning the pages back...

Oleksander Navrotsky was born into a Kozak nobleman's family on August 9, 1823, in Antypivka, a village in Zolotonosha county, just across the Dnipro from Cherkasy in the Poltava gubernia.

While a student at Kyiv University, he joined what writer and critic Mykola Kulish called the Kyiv circle, which "enthusiastically upheld the apostleship of brotherly love." In part because of his cousin Mykola Hulak's influence, Navrotsky joined the Brotherhood of Cyril and Methodius soon after it was formed in 1845, and together with his cousin he stood somewhere in between those who sought moderate reform within the tsarist regime (Mykola Kostomarov) and those who called for bloody revolution (Taras Shevchenko).

This moderation got him a moderate sentence when the police began rounding up members of the brotherhood in March 1947. They nabbed him in Poltava soon after his graduation. He was imprisoned for six months in Viatka, then exiled for six years to Elabuga and Kursk (all in Russia).

Upon his release in 1953 he worked as a tsarist functionary, mostly outside Ukraine (St. Petersburg, Novocherkassk, Yerevan, Dagestan), although he did enjoy a brief stint in Mykolaiv.

Influenced by Shevchenko (or perhaps giving in to an irrepressible generally Ukrainian urge), he began writing poetry the year of his arrest. A few were published in his lifetime, in the journal *Osnova* (1861). The rest appeared posthumously, in the journal *Kievskaya Starina* and in M.N. Petrov's history of 19th century Ukrainian literature.

However, Navrotsky's translations were his principal contribution. He translated around 140 literary works, producing the first Ukrainian renderings of Heinrich Heine's poetry, and successfully tackled the works of Byron, Goethe, Lermontov, Mickiewicz, Milton, Pushkin, Shelley and Schiller. He also completed monumental translations of Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey."

Navrotsky died in Temir-Khan-Shura, Dagestan, on October 22, 1892.

Sources: "Navrotsky, Oleksander," "Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood" *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vols. 1, 4 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984, 1993); G.S.N. Luckyj, "Between Gogol and Sevchenko," (Munich: Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 1971).

NEWS AND VIEWS

Sabre-Svitlo Foundation promotes development of Ukrainian society

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

The Sabre-Svitlo Foundation based in Lviv distributed more than 50,000 books throughout Ukraine in 1996. These educational, scientific and other materials have played an important role in the growth and development of democratic Ukraine and the enhancement of education and scholarship.

Even before Ukraine's independence, Sabre-Svitlo had been supplying Ukrainians with books sent by the U.S.-based Sabre Foundation, opening avenues for distribution to public libraries and various educational and scholarly institutions across Ukraine. Under communism, book distribution in Ukraine was controlled by Moscow, which served as an ideological filter that severely limited books reaching the public. Books had to conform with Marxist/Leninist doctrine, thus, much valuable literature never reached Ukraine's libraries or book outlets.

The Ukrainian community in the United States supplied financial, physical and moral support that was instrumental in creating a special bridge between the Sabre Foundation, established in 1969 in the U.S., and the Sabre-Svitlo Foundation, which had its beginnings in Ukraine in 1990.

Other Eastern European countries had been recipients of the Sabre Foundation's largesse, including Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Tania Vitvitsky is the director of the Sabre Foundation at its headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.; Olha Isayevych is the executive director of Sabre-Svitlo in Ukraine; and Prof. Yaroslav Isayevych, a well-known academician, is chairman of Sabre-Svitlo's board of directors.

Substantial assistance was given to Sabre-Svitlo by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) and its branches. For many years, executive board member Lida Bilous carried out the thankless task of collecting, coordinating, packing and sending numerous containers of books with the help of members of the Ukrainian American community in Bridgeport, Conn. She also recorded the title of every book on computer to facilitate processing in Ukraine.

In addition to the UNWLA, other organizations and institutions that provided funds to purchase and send books to Ukraine include: the Ukrainian National Association, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation and the National Endowment for Democracy.

The path from a book's donation to its delivery into the hands of a reader is sometimes thorny. Bureaucratic difficulties are often encountered, and import tax impositions have been fought. The distribution center is a warehouse in Lviv; other centers have been opened in Kharkiv and Ternopil, resulting in a more efficient operation.

Assistance in the legal field

An important thrust of Sabre-Svitlo's activities in 1996 was its efforts to build the collection at the library of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation (ULF). A world-class law library is critical to Ukraine's democratic development and essential if Ukraine is to assume its rightful place among other European states. With this plan in mind, the Sabre Foundation sent five containers of books and other printed material to Kyiv, constituting the first phase of a partnership project between the Sabre Foundation, Sabre-Svitlo and the ULF.

Other aspects of this project, funded by

the U.S. Agency for International Development, were preparing and training Ukrainian specialists in the legal field, translating dictionaries, defending human rights, providing legal information via the Internet and introducing a Western system of catalogue classification.

Law-related materials supplied by Sabre include: codes of laws of various countries, monographs, journals, treatises and reference works covering virtually every major area of law: administration, management, banking, bankruptcy, constitution, contracts, insurance, social security, labor, media, taxation, torts, local self-government, international cooperation, and business, criminal and civil court procedures.

Sabre's assistance to the Ukrainian Legal Foundation offers many people — from college freshmen to national deputies in the Verkhovna Rada — the opportunity to study the legal framework of established democratic states. More than 160 people use the library each day.

According to library director Halyna Polozova, each month 20 to 30 groups from various ministries of Ukraine and Parliament committee utilize the library for research. For example, valuable information was received by the Ministry of Agriculture on land reforms, the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada on taxation law, and the Ministry of Defense on the rights of soldiers in other countries.

Help for libraries

Ms. Vitvitsky has visited many libraries in Ukraine where she personally verified that books from the U.S. are in great demand. Sabre also assisted in the selection and adaptation of a cataloguing system for law materials to replace the outdated Soviet one. Sabre consultant Andrew Gregorovich of Toronto worked with the Ukrainian Legal Foundation's librarians on adapting the Library of Congress cataloguing system.

In addition, the Sabre Foundation sent librarian and information specialist Rebecca Schneider to Ukraine in June 1996 to conduct a series of training sessions at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy on accessing law-related material on the Internet.

Sabre-Svitlo's sphere of activity expanded in 1996 to Crimea and all 24 oblasts in Ukraine through its computer base. Most of the books were sent to Lviv, Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odesa, reaching 70 university libraries, 36 scientific-research institutes, 25 medical colleges, 42 public schools, 36 business colleges and 87 libraries of various types. About 25 percent of the books dealt with learning/teaching the English language, 22 percent were on economics and the rest on law, medicine, ecology, sociology, technical-scientific progress, the arts, etc.

Four special courses based on the textbooks supplied by Sabre-Svitlo were instituted in the law department of Lviv University: "The History of Ukrainian Legal and Political Thought," "The History of Foreign States and Their Legislation," "The Constitutional Law of Foreign States" and "The History of Political and Legislative Doctrines." A new course in financial management was established at Kharkiv State University. Additional courses have been introduced at other Ukrainian universities in a similar manner.

Texts on small business

The introduction of classic texts on small business translated into Ukrainian was another important project undertaken

(Continued on page 10)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diabetes Project awaits response from Air Ukraine

Dear Editor:

Since 1993 the Ukrainian Diabetes Project medical team has been flying Air Ukraine into Kyiv as part of our humanitarian aid program. Previously we flew Aeroflot, as Air Ukraine had not yet existed.

Our medical team consists of anywhere between three and 10 members. Our program, as many know, provides insulin, syringes, blood-testing strips, instructional manuals and hours of diabetes education to children with diabetes each summer in many regions of Ukraine. We have served 1,364 children over the past eight years. Our program is completely volunteer-based from our fund-raising projects to the time we spend educating children in Ukraine.

Our program not only emphasizes diabetes management, but also supports Ukrainian society. The diabetes manual we published was translated into Ukrainian. We insist on the Ukrainian language in our clinics, and we try to support the Ukrainian economy by using Ukrainian businesses in our program when necessary. This is one reason we have always chosen to fly Air Ukraine.

Flying Air Ukraine has not always been easy. Last summer, especially, we had great difficulty. One of our members was bumped off a flight that was overbooked. Air Ukraine was unable to accommodate her, and she was forced to purchase another ticket on another airline to get home. The Air Ukraine agent in Kyiv said her money would be refunded by the New York office, since this is where her ticket originated.

Since October of 1996 we have tried contacting Air Ukraine in New York to receive our refund. We were sent \$90 and to this day are unsure why. The ticket that was purchased cost \$729. Our travel agent has made numerous phone calls to Air Ukraine for an explanation. She has faxed messages, wrote letters, sent certified mail to the U.S. general manager, Mykola Kravets, and placed person-to-person phone calls to Mr. Kravets with the same result: no response.

I personally have made over 25 phone calls to Air Ukraine. I have spoken with Marina, Irina and Stefan with the same responses: "I'll check with someone and call you back tomorrow," "the person who can make this decision is in Kyiv, call back in a week," "call back tomorrow," "call back in 30 minutes," "call back after lunch," "s/he's not in the office today, call on Wednesday," "they're at the airport today, call tomorrow," "I'll check into it and call you back." Not once did anyone from Air Ukraine return my calls. When I called them back, I was

given the run-around.

Finally, I wrote to Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, asking him to intervene as the Embassy of Ukraine represents Ukrainian people and business. His response to me was that it was not something the Embassy handles and I should take Air Ukraine to court and settle it legally.

Frankly I'm sick and tired of Air Ukraine's lack of response or explanation. I would gladly take it up legally, but it's very difficult going to court out of state. Our office is based in California and we are all volunteers. I'm disgusted with Air Ukraine's poor business practices — ignore it and it will go away. Our travel agent will no longer recommend Air Ukraine as a carrier. After all, there are many other airlines that fly into Kyiv. Our program will no longer use Air Ukraine as a carrier, at least not until we receive some explanation and a refund for \$729 (minus the \$90).

I only wish this story had a better ending. I can say that the Ukrainian Diabetes Project continues its program, making great strides in improving the health care of children with diabetes — despite the obstacles it runs up against.

Andrea Skrypka
Windsor, Calif.

The writer is project director of the Ukrainian Diabetes Project.

Ukraine's women seldom in leadership positions

Dear Editor:

Taras Kuzio's "Ukraine Changes Prime Ministers Again," (July 13) illustrated to me once more how seldom one sees women in top leadership positions in Ukraine. From my dealings with Ukrainians from Ukraine, I know there are many highly qualified women in Ukraine in every field. However, these women for some reason are not tapped for top leadership positions.

Since women are often the ones who have to deal with the day-to-day economic and social survival, inclusion of women in top leadership positions in Ukraine could bring a degree of pragmatism, not always apparent to men, to the national level in Ukraine.

Nadia M. Derkach
San Francisco

The letter writer is former behavioral sciences officer, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Washington.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed or legibly hand-printed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

Addenda on ordering information

It has come to our attention that ordering information about two recent releases was either incomplete or incorrect. Following is the correct information.

- "William Kurelek: The Suffering Genius" by Michael Ewanchuk may be purchased for \$15.95 (Canadian) plus \$3 postage for Canadian orders (add \$4 for postage to the United States, \$6 elsewhere). Orders should be sent directly to the author: Michael Ewanchuk, 828 Borebank St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 1G4.

- The Olexander Koshetz Choir's audio release, "A Festival of Ukrainian Choral Music" is available at the following prices: \$11 (Canadian) plus \$3 postage for the cassette; \$16 plus \$4 postage for the CD. To order write to: Olexander Koshetz Choir, P.O. Box 3891, Station B, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 5H9.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

"That's bull*#^@!"

I'll agree with you, dear readers, that not every one of my articles is as great as it could or should be, but getting the above reaction to my Christmas traditions series of articles was a bit mind-boggling — especially since it came from an elderly, grey-haired tiny Ukrainian Canadian baba. True, she didn't tell me directly, but expressed it to her daughter. And, to this babunia, what I write about our traditions does sound like a load of bull.

While so far only one person has expressed his doubts quite gently to me in person (and he is leaning toward my views), and a few others shrug their shoulders and roll their eyes as they look away, there have been others who regard me as, if not armed and dangerous, then at least "a few pyrogies short of a banquet," as they say here in Winnipeg.

Let's rewind. I didn't start out consciously trying to be the "guru of Ukrainian traditions," or the "oracle of things Ukrainian," as some have called me (whether seriously or in jest, I have no idea and it doesn't matter, since they still refer questions to me). Quite a few decades ago, rather than just wonder about why we do what we do as Ukrainians — especially in our customs — I began finding out. The information is there, in many scholarly books and articles (although very little is in English). And once you have the background information, Ukrainian folklore (ritual, folk and historical songs, proverbs, customs) and the material culture and folk arts do show and explain the origins and symbolism of our traditions.

The major problem for many Ukrainians in North America is accepting the pre-Christian — actually non-Christian — origin of our traditions. "What do you mean, the hay and straw don't signify the manger? Who said the 12 dishes of Sviat Vechir don't represent the 12 apostles? Of course, the pysanka [Easter egg] symbolizes Christ's Resurrection! Christian is always better than non-Christian!"

When my very first article on Ukrainian Christmas traditions appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press back in 1973, the reaction was mixed. People were pleased that "Ukrainian" Christmas was featured on the first page of the Saturday paper's magazine (in those olden days, there were no Sunday papers in Winnipeg), but for some my explanation of the traditions was embarrassing.

People seemed to have read only what they wanted in the article. I ended the two-page feature with the comment that we, as Ukrainians, no longer believe in these rituals the way our prehistoric ancestors did, that our traditions now celebrate the birth of Christ, and we respect the richness of what was passed on to us by our ancestors. But that didn't count.

"She made us sound like pagans!" This was the reaction of a well-educated, professional Ukrainian Canadian couple at a Christmas dinner that a good friend of mine attended. She told me how these people complained on and on about how embarrassed they felt having the whole city read about our Christmas traditions.

My friend then asked them how they celebrated Sviat Vechir the night before: did they serve the 12 meatless and non-dairy dishes including kutia and uzvar, did they have a kolach and candle on the table, was there an empty place setting, was there a didukh [sheaf of wheat] in the corner? Well, of course! My friend's question to them was, "So what are you

complaining about?"

In curating a major exhibit on the pysanka for the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center (Oseredok) in the late 1970s, Vera Senchuk and I tried to cover all aspects of the symbolism and art of the Ukrainian Easter egg. Much thought went into the text and illustrations for the captions of the exhibit which filled the Oseredok art gallery with thousands of pysanky. One small glass case featured pysanky with Christian themes, while the majority of the cases on symbolism showed their pre-Christian meanings. An erudite elderly gentleman, a pillar of the community, took me aside the day before the opening, and asked — seriously — if we could tone down the pre-Christian emphasis of pysanky. After all, the bishops and priests would be there for the opening, and what will they think?! The exhibit stayed as it was, and was a great success.

I get invited to many cities for workshops and lectures on these topics, and I never know what the reaction will be. In one city, the community invited me for a Kupalo workshop. Without ever meeting me or hearing what I have to say, one of the priests in the city forbade the distribution in his church of the flier announcing the workshop, and prohibited his parishioners from attending because he didn't approve of "the propagation of pagan rituals." In another city, members of the audience at a lecture on the origins of our traditions asked me to talk about our koliadky [carols], because their priest had said that only Christian carols can be sung in church, and the other kind only in the church hall. This attitude seems to be ecumenical, because each of our Ukrainian Churches was represented by these priests.

I passed on the reply that the fathers should immediately stop blessing water on Yordan, blessing Easter baskets, fruit (for Spasa), and flowers (for Matky Bozhoyi), stop blessing and distributing pussy willows on Palm Sunday, and should not benefit at all from the money collected during carolling — since these are all pre-Christian, i.e. "pagan," in origin.

I don't go looking for controversy. Honest. But sometimes folks just can't accept a new, even though very old, explanation to what they have known differently all their lives. The Church has indeed been efficient in its teaching over the last two millennia. Whether in Ireland, Mexico or Ukraine, the missionaries and Church authorities banned and deemed "pagan" the non-Christian beliefs and rituals of the now supposedly converted populations. The formula: Christianity = good, "paganism" = evil. In Ukrainian, it is very close from "pohany" [pagans] to "pohanyi" [ugly], a remnant of that time. If only it were so simple.

Tradition does not burst forth suddenly: it is something that grows and develops, and originates from the basic beliefs and way of life of a clan, community, tribe and nation. Why should something new be accepted outright, just because some stranger says so, when the ways of the ancestors have been just fine as they are? In time, there was compromise on both sides, but the old ways were not forgotten by the people, even though they now attended church. Nor did the clergy completely accept the strange heathen rituals, and well into the 15th-16th centuries fought the

(Continued on page 12)

THE ART SCENE: Griffin's images of the Ukrainian village

by Daria Darewych

Christopher Griffin is a young Canadian artist residing in Toronto. Yet, his recent solo exhibition at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation on June 3 to 18 was titled "Selo" and was entirely dedicated to the theme of a Ukrainian village. His large oils on canvas and ink drawings are filled with mundane images that capture the spirit and endurance of the people of present-day rural Ukraine.

Christopher Griffin is not of Ukrainian background. His ancestors on his mother's side were German and on his father's side a mix of Scottish, Irish and Welsh. He is married to a Ukrainian, however, and in the fall of 1996 he accompanied his in-laws, Stefan and Marta Korbutiak of Winnipeg, to Ukraine. After the initial introduction to his father-in-law's village and family, he ventured out on his own, cycling for five weeks through the villages near Kolomyia on an old fashioned, single-speed bicycle.

With a bamboo reed pen and ink, he sketched the people and the countryside: old men and women at their chores, working in the fields or resting at home, rural scenes of cattle, haystacks, geese and bowls of mushrooms.

Although genre painting was popular in 17th century Dutch art, it did not become generally acceptable in Europe until the 19th century. In Ukrainian art, genre scenes of peasants and village life have attracted artists for years, starting with Taras Shevchenko. Realist painters of the late 19th century like Kostiantyn Trutovsky, Mykola Pymonenko and Serhii Vasylykivsky focused on ethnographic aspects of village life. In western Ukraine Olena Kulchytska and Ivan Trush were especially fascinated by ethnographic themes of the Carpathian region. In the 1920s and 1930s Mykhailo Boichuk and his followers glorified the peasants and their labor. The imposition of Socialist Realism by the Communist Party mandated that artists depict workers and labor in a highly idealized, heroic manner.

Typical Ukrainian ethnographic elements such as embroideries, thatched roofs and sunflowers are not apparent in Mr. Griffin's work, nor is he interested in Ukrainian folkculture or an idealized

portrayal of village life. To Mr. Griffin a village represents a close social unit, a microcosm with its own micro-climate and culture. "The people I encountered in the villages," he said "made wonderful studies. They possess a visual character which only hard living can endow."

Primarily attracted to older people, Mr. Griffin found their identity visually more stimulating, their connectedness to the land impressive. Asked why there are no young faces in his work he said young people in Ukraine resemble their counterparts throughout the world in their jeans and t-shirts, whereas the old ones are self-sufficient, strong and independent. They opened their hearts to him despite his limited knowledge of Ukrainian.

Mr. Griffin's paintings are figurative and within the expressionist tradition of bold strokes, expressive forms and colors indicative of a correlation between the emotional state of the artist and his response to observable phenomena. Color, form, line and texture are explored for their expressive possibilities in order to convey the experienced sensations.

In "From the Pasture" Mr. Griffin has portrayed a village scene with a few head of cattle being herded down a dirt road lined with houses. Sharing the road with the cows is a man pushing his bicycle laden with a heavy sack of potatoes. The juxtapositioning of beasts with primitive machine and man is a reflection of a way of life prevalent in contemporary rural areas of Ukraine. The predominantly blue, violet and ochre palette suggests evening, but also conveys feelings of melancholy and nostalgia.

A silhouette of an old woman with a cane tending a single cow dominates the composition in "Woman and Cow in Kremetsi." This is a typical scene throughout Ukraine. The palette of blues from deep cerulean to cobalt, ultramarine and dark blue of the figures contrasts with the ochre foreground and brightness of the lemon-lime background of field and sky to convey a mood of eerie disquiet. There are no details, no descriptive context, just a few silhouettes of trees in the distance. The pigment has been applied vigorously and with a minimum of modeling. The dark foreground and illuminated background suggest a sym-



Painting that appears on the invitation announcing the Toronto exhibit of paintings and drawings, "Selo: A Ukrainian Village," by Christopher Griffin.

bolic reading in terms of the passage of time, of old age and the expectations of the future.

"Scythes" is a large vertical canvas rich in textured blues, ochres, and greys. The pose of the reapers of grass echoes Van Gogh's sower in the painting with that title. The heavy impasto of oils, the boldly textured surfaces and the bird's eye view also appear to be inspired by the work of the Dutch artist, but the composition, palette and emotional impact are original and different. The subject, composition and light contrasts suggest an uphill struggle faced by a society using scythes in a technologically advanced age.

The interior of a simple peasant home with a typical built-in "pich" (stove), laundry drying and a rug with deer hanging on the wall is depicted in "Ivan and Maria." The man sits at the table while the woman is shown drying dishes. The composition is frontal; the palette is dominated by mauves, blues, blue-greens and off-whites which do not represent

the local color of the interior, but convey an atmosphere of calm and simplicity, suggest an event witnessed, a memory recalled and cherished.

The largest painting (4 feet x12 feet) is also the most striking and meaningful. Two crows in flight in opposite directions held together by their tangled claws completely dominate two canvases. Their wings are clipped by the horizontal edges; their beaks are open in a soundless scream. Their dark menacing silhouettes contrast sharply with the much lighter background. The swirling, heavy pigment adds to the turbulence of the image. Crows are a common sight throughout Ukraine, both in the cities and rural areas. In Ukraine they are considered to be harbingers of bad news. The intended meaning becomes apparent only in association with the title which is "History of Ukraine." The images in this work stand as metaphors for the people of Ukraine. The artist has successfully transcended the commonplace and moved to the symbolic, which was only suggested in some of his other works.

However, not all of the paintings in the exhibition are as satisfying in terms of a unified vision, painted surface and composition. Some of the large figure compositions such as "Solitude" and "Anastasia" are not convincingly rendered. Others such as "Rain in Balyntsi" are uneven in execution. There were 51 paintings and 20 ink drawings on paper in the exhibition. A few pictures could have been eliminated and the exhibition would have been more unified. Nonetheless, the exhibit presented a solid body of recent work that is well-focused and represents a substantial accomplishment for such a young artist. As an involved chronicler of rural life and as a strong colorist who obviously enjoys working in oils, Mr. Griffin comes across as a sensitive and engaging artist, an artist whose career is worth following.

Born in Toronto in 1966 Mr. Griffin grew up in rural Ontario. Since 1992 he has had 12 solo exhibits in Canada, the United States, Honduras and Guatemala. His next solo show is scheduled to open at the Oseredok Gallery in Winnipeg in 1998.



"Woman and Cow in Kremetsi" (oil on canvas 4 feet by 6 feet) by Christopher Griffin.

Philadelphia Museum of Art features mosaic of Ukrainian culture

by Petrusia Sawchak

PHILADELPHIA — Every Wednesday evening the Philadelphia Museum of Art comes alive with special programs designed to tantalize all the senses. On July 9, a stunning mosaic of Ukrainian culture was featured at the Philadelphia Museum of Art under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia (UECC).

The museum's coordinator for the Wednesday night programs, Laura Hendrich, described the Ukrainian program as, "Outstanding! Exquisite! Beyond all my expectations. I never expected such sensational talent." She added that she wants the center to participate in next year's program. Over 1,500 people participated in the event which, according to museum officials, was the best attended event in the past six months.

The program commenced with contemporary Ukrainian popular music provided by the Zenko Ensemble under the director of Zenko Kmet. Borys Zacharchuk, UECC president, welcomed and invited everyone to visit the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center and to enjoy the many programs being offered there.

Mistress of ceremonies Orysia Hewka, who organized the evening, introduced the Ukrainian International Ballet Company VAGI, whose artistic director/choreographer is Volodymyr Shumakin. His wife, Halina, is the company's costume designer. The opening number was a pas-de-deux "Melody and Rain" (music by Skoryk and choreography by Shumakin). It was exceptionally well executed by prima ballerina Irena Matiash and premier danseur Alexander Boitsov. The husband-and-wife team also performed selections from "Swan Lake" (music by Tchaikovsky and choreography by Petipa). Fourteen-year-old Kristina Puleini and Maxim Sivyi of Ukraine performed another outstanding pas-de-deux from "Giselle," (music by Adan and choreography by Koralli).

Eighteen historical costumes, on loan from the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 64, in New York City, were modeled. The costumes were obtained through the efforts of Christina Nawrocky, president, and Lubomyra Artymyshyn, cultural affairs chairperson of Branch 64.

The majority of the costumes were



The Voloshky Dance Ensemble of Philadelphia performs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

replicas of garments worn by Ukrainian noblewomen between the 10th and 18th centuries. The fabrics were often silk or velvet, richly decorated with gold embroideries and/or semi-precious stones, and depicted the affluence of the period. In addition to these, there were a few costumes from the sixth century that reflected everyday garb of village women made from linen and imprinted with wood-cut patterns.

One of the oldest garments was a replica of a white Sarmatian costume from the second century B.C., which featured a blue Egyptian jasper necklace. Models dressed as Prince Volodymyr the Great and Princess Olha were the highlight of the collection exhibit. Their regal attire reflected the prosperity and power of Kyivan Rus' during the Middle Ages.

The dynamic Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble performed under the

direction of lead dancer and artistic director Taras Lewyckyj. They opened their program with the traditional greeting of bread and salt and followed with the Kyivsky Hopak, a lyrical dance featuring the women of the company. Not to be upstaged by the women, three men then performed a comic dance to the delight of the audience.

The entire Voloshky Ensemble concluded its performance with a smashing rendition of the "Hopak" in colorful Poltava costumes.

In the museum's auditorium, "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors," winner of 16 international awards and directed by Sergei Paradjanov, was presented in Ukrainian with English subtitles. The film is a masterpiece of Ukrainian folklore and embarks on an impressionistic voyage into the supernatural.

As part of the "Spotlight Tour to the Sculptures," two works of world-famous sculptor Alexander Archipenko (1887-1964) were showcased by Michael Taylor, the museum's assistant curator of 20th century art, who spoke about "Archipenko in the Boudoir."

Other various events took place simultaneously during the evening. An information table, staffed by several members of the UECC board, provided brochures about the Ukrainian center and Ukrainian folk art, and displayed maps of Ukraine. Staff also answered questions about Ukraine. For 17 years the UECC has had an active outreach program that promotes Ukrainian culture in the community. Visitors to the museum also had an opportunity to participate in a raffle to win a round trip to Kyiv, courtesy of Diaspora Travel Enterprises.

A presentation and demonstration of the art of making Ukrainian Easter eggs was provided by Roksolana Gilicinski. The pysanky on display showed the designs used in different historical periods and regions in Ukraine.

For the palate there was a free sampling of Ukrainian vodka, courtesy of Spirits of Valley Forge. Other Ukrainian-style foods and drinks were available for purchase.

The television program "Windows on America" filmed the entire evening, and the program was to be broadcast in Ukraine.



Costume of a Galician-Volhynian princess of Ukraine from the 12th century is modeled by Larysa Horodyska. A large gold mesh collar, a sign of princely status, was worn around the neck.



Prima ballerina Irena Matiash and premier danseur Alexander Boitsov of the Ukrainian International Ballet Company VAGI perform a duet from "Swan Lake."

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Sabre-Svitlo...

(Continued from page 6)

by Sabre-Svitlo. The five-book series is titled "The Library of Small Business." The official introduction and presentation of this project was held at the Lviv Municipal Council and also in the main library of the Ukrainian National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to "The Library of Small Business," the New York Public Library Catalogues donated by Edward Kasinec (head of that library's Slavic Department) were presented. Among the guests present at the ceremony were: U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller and Bronislav Ometsynsky of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. A total of 1,000 sets of "The Library of Small Business" have been sent to all regions of Ukraine (four schools in Burshtyn received a set of these books, donated by Joseph and Jane Senyk from Hallieford, Va.).

Awareness of Sabre-Svitlo's programs in Ukraine has increased through articles published in such periodicals as Halytski Kontrakty, Dilo, Ukrainskyi Shliakh and Za Vilnu Ukrainu. In addition, Anatolii Zavorodnyi, a professor at the Lviv Polytechnical Institute, published "Economika Ukrainy," a digest based on materials available at Sabre-Svitlo.

As a result of its cooperation with the East European Donation Project, Sabre-Svitlo subscribes to 150 periodicals. They are available to the public in the reading room of English-language periodicals established in 1994 by Sabre-Svitlo at the library of Lviv State University. Of particular interest to readers are materials on sociology, ecology and biology.

Sabre-Svitlo has been a regional representative of the Euroclub in Lviv since 1995 and distributes numerous leaflets and brochures released by the NATO Office of Information and Press in Brussels. Some 665 volumes on political science, modern economic thought and global security were distributed among 28 national and regional scientific libraries, six universities and other institutions.

Letters of appreciation

The value of Sabre-Svitlo's activities may be ascertained by the many letters written by appreciative recipients.

Emmanuel Mysko, director of the Lviv Academy of Arts, noted: "Our collection of books suffered great losses during the period of the Bolshevik totalitarian regime, during which 'ideologically harmful' literature was destroyed." Prof. Mysko expressed thanks for the donation of books and expressed his hope that the academy's library will continue to be supported by Sabre-Svitlo.

O. Muromtseva, doctor of philology and professor of the Hryhorii Skovoroda Ukrainian Studies Chair at Kharkiv Pedagogical University, wrote: "The books we received carry with them a potential of love for Ukraine, in the name of which Sabre-Svitlo distributes books on a variety of subjects and branches of sciences with the intention and hope of stimulating the intellectual and spiritual elite of the nation."

Mykola Yablychanskyi, dean of the College of Medicine at Kharkiv State University, thanked Sabre-Svitlo and sent a journal published by the College of Medicine. He stated: "Our college was founded in 1805 and re-established in 1992. This is our country's first attempt to return to the classic medical education on a university level that prevails in the West. It was destroyed by the USSR, resulting in a fundamental backwardness in medical science, thus diminishing the prestige of our medical practice and fostering a lack of confidence among the recipients of medical service. The goals of our college of medicine cannot be attained without the aid and support of Sabre-Svitlo."

Additional letters of appreciation have come from the Stefanyk Library of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the National Committee to Combat AIDS, the Business Management College of Cherkasy, the State Scientific Libraries of Donetsk, the Centralized Library System of Kherson, the Medical Libraries of Lutsk, America House in Kyiv, the First Ukrainian Gymnasium in Kharkiv and many others.

The Sabre-Svitlo Foundation manages its charitable and educational activities on a grand scale with a modest budget and deserves our continuing support.

Please send inquiries and donations to: Sabre-Svitlo Foundation, Ukraine, 290026 Lviv, vul. Kozelnytska 4; or Sabre Foundation Inc., Tania Vitvitsky, Program Director, 872 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 2-1, Cambridge, MA 02139.

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Ukraine's physics team earns awards

by Jurij Darewych

SUDBURY, Ontario – The 28th International Physics Olympiad, a prestigious competition for high school students from around the globe, was held in Sudbury, Ontario, on July 13-20. This event has been held annually since 1967. Teams from 56 countries participated, including a five-member group from Ukraine.

The Ukrainian team did very well, as all five members came away with awards. Konstantyn Zakharchenko, 17, from Zhovti Vody won a gold medal, Andrii Didovych, 16, from Vinnytsia won a silver medal, while Oleh Miroshnychenko, 14, from Dniprodzerzhynske won a bronze.

Oleksander Solovyov, 17, from Kyiv and Bohdan Lozynsky, 17, from Lviv both obtained certificates of honorable mention.

The team from Ukraine was among the 10 top teams in the competition, and was one of the few on which all five team members came away with an award.

The highest score over all was achieved

by gold medalist Saved Mehdi Anvari from Iran. Gold medals were also won by youngsters from Germany (one), Romania (one), Slovakia (one), China (three), Australia (two), Russia (four), Czech Republic (one), Singapore (one), Austria (one) and the U.S. (one).

The Ukrainian competitors, together with their three supervisors, Profs. Ihor Pinkevych and Oleksander Liashenko from Kyiv University and Borys Kremynskyi of Ukraine's Ministry of Education, spent a week visiting the Toronto area immediately following the competition. Their visit was sponsored by the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Friends of Ukraine. The visitors were housed with Ukrainian families during their stay in the Toronto area.

In addition to tours of Toronto and visits to the Royal Ontario Museum and the Ontario Science Center, the group visited Niagara Falls, where they were hosted by the Kartoffel family, owners of Biffy's Restaurant.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

Leonid Kuchma — president of Ukraine; 2. Oleksander Moroz — chairman, Verkhovna Rada; 3. (tied) Volodymyr Horbulin — secretary, National Security and Defense Council; 3. (tied) Serhii Tyhytko — vice prime minister; 5. Vasyl Durdynets — first vice prime minister; 6. Valerii Pustovoitenko — prime minister; 7. Yevhen Marchuk — national deputy; 8. Leonid Kravchuk — national deputy, former president; 9. Petro Symonenko — national deputy, Communist Party leader; 10. Yurii Kravchenko — minister of internal affairs. (Respublika)

Estonia, Latvia reject Russia's offer

TALLINN — Estonia and Latvia on

July 16 firmly declined Russia's offer to provide the Baltic states with security guarantees, BNS and ETA reported. The offer was made the previous day in Moscow by Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadii Tarasov, who commented that Russia has a "constructive alternative" to the Baltics' possible entry into NATO; namely, security guarantees. Estonian Premier Mart Siimann responded by saying his country "sees international security guarantees in unification with European structures, including NATO." He added that the best guarantee Russia could offer would be its "transformation into a democratic country with a well-developed economy that we could trust." Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis commented that "under no conditions, even on the level of a discussion, will we speak about Russian guarantees." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarus suspends...

(Continued from page 2)

incident in an indisputable pattern of harassment and intimidation – both physical and administrative – against the critical or independent mass media and its personnel in the name of suppressing an alternative to pro-government information."

On July 27, Belarusian authorities detained a three-person ORT crew, including Mr. Sheremet, allegedly for illegally crossing the Lithuanian-Belarusian border. Since then, security officials have searched the Miensk offices of ORT on several occasions.

On July 30, President Boris Yeltsin of Russia expressed indignation over the ORT arrests, and threatened to reconsider the Russian-Belarusian union charter if the matter is not settled. Mr. Lukashenka reacted angrily, blaming Mr. Yeltsin's comments on alleged misinformation by Russian liberals, principally Russian First Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Chubais, who, according

to the Belarusian president, are trying to derail Belarusian-Russian integration. According to Interfax, Mr. Lukashenka also accused Mr. Sheremet of having received remuneration from unspecified "foreign special services." Mr. Lukashenka also canceled a planned visit to Kaliningrad.

Within the last few weeks, authorities have renewed their efforts against the democratic opposition. Police in Miensk conducted a search of the office of the opposition Belarusian Popular Front, ostensibly to search for weapons. Instead, they took away four flagstaves. At the same time, the opposition appears to be determined in its advocacy of democracy, human rights and the promotion of Belarusian national culture. At a July 27 congress of the Belarusian diaspora in Miensk, participants criticized the Belarusian government for aiming at the conscious elimination of the Belarusian language and culture. Also that day, some 20 people were arrested after a 7,000-person strong rally marking the declaration of Belarusian independence.

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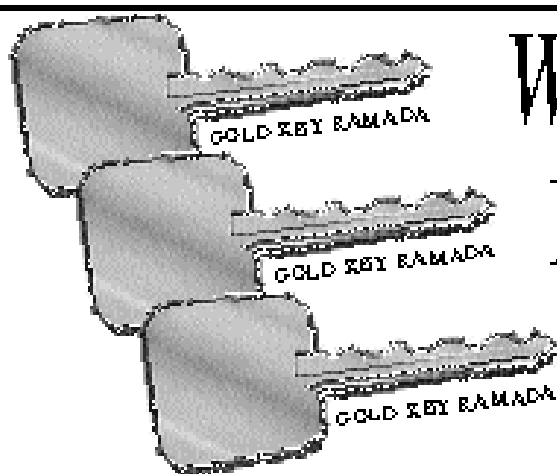
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That's bull...

(Continued from page 7)

blessing of Easter baskets, hahilky (ritual spring dances) and carolling. The Feast of Kupalo certainly was unacceptable.

By combining the old feasts with saints' days and other Christian holy days, and by finally accepting some of the ancient rituals into those of the Eastern Christian faith, the church unofficially achieved compromise — dualism ("dvoieviria", actually "two faiths"). If local beliefs had not been accepted, the Christian Church would have uniform rituals all over the world, and this it surely does not. Most Roman Catholics do not bless Easter baskets, although the Poles do, because their earlier Slavic beliefs have remained. But in that pre-Christian basket of sacrifice foods, there is a Polish compromise — a butter or cheese Lamb of God.

In describing the conflict between Christian and pre-Christian at one of my lectures in the "Let's Talk Culture Series" at Oseredok, I inadvertently offended a contemporary pagan. A large group of young Canadians had attended my "Feast of Koliada" lecture at the center; they were from across Canada, part of a government program for youth. I had never seen such an assortment of pierced faces at the center before. In explaining the Church's stance on everything non-Christian as "pagan," I said that the word "pagan" in this sense, to the Church, denoted something negative, i.e., "bad" or "evil."

During the break, a young man approached and complained that I had offended him, because he was a pagan, and into all the old Celtic things. I explained myself, and later reiterated to the whole group that what I meant was that, in the Church's eyes, pagan meant bad, not that I was saying it was bad. The young pagan smiled and waved. I prefer the term "pre-Christian," which is not subjective, although I realize that many people accept "pagan" as meaning "non-Christian," to them also non-subjective.

I have no hidden agenda in selecting this or that topic — I just try to cover "all that old stuff" that people ask about. In the words of that great mind of the 20th

century, Dave Barry, "I am not making this up." Even if I tried, I couldn't.

Would any of us have come up with kutia (the special food of Sviat Vechir — cooked wheat grains, ground poppy seeds and honey) as a food? Why were cloves of garlic placed in the corners of the Christmas Even table, under the table cloth — why not onions or parsley root? Why don't other Christians have a meatless, non-dairy menu for Sviat Vechir?

How about the periwinkle and myrtle wreaths for the heads of the bride and groom, instead of ivy or creeping Charlie? Why a korovai (wedding bread) with wheat stalks and poppies decorating it, instead of roses or lilacs?

Why not a fancy cake for Easter instead of a rich bread with over 12 egg yolks and in a special shape? Why go through all the painstaking trouble of writing in melted beeswax on the surface of a raw egg — and only certain designs and not others? For example, why are there horses and deer and rams on pysanky, but no cows or bulls? From a utilitarian point of view, that pysanka is a most impractical, really useless object. Why are certain quite strange designs embroidered and woven, and not others, maybe more pleasant or artistic ones? Why do we...? Why don't we...?

What we do and don't do is part of our heritage, our traditions — not from a few centuries ago, but from 10,000 and 20,000 years ago. (There they go rolling their eyes again!) We did not select certain things and rituals, they were just passed on through family and community. And they were important enough, even vital, to have survived all that the Ukrainian people have endured over the centuries.

In a contemporary world, in a different way of life, with different beliefs, we don't need to do the things our distant ancestors believed they had to do in order to survive in nature. But as Ukrainians dispersed around the world, most of us emotionally need that connection to whatever it is that makes us what we are. Tradition can't be enforced, and it cannot be taken away that easily. Our stubborn dualistic ancestors saw to that.

If you don't believe me, try serving a stratta for Easter breakfast or some Chinese food for Sviat Vechir instead.

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USA/USA helps...

(Continued from page 3)

USA/USA office in Kyiv. Information regarding the opportunity to study in the U.S. is disseminated via newspapers and TV and through notices and posters in high schools that emphasize an English-language curriculum.

The interested student is required to write two essays in English: one on the topic "Why I want to study in the U.S." and another on an individually chosen subject. The student also must submit an autobiography (a resume or CV), a recommendation from a teacher, a photocopy of his latest school transcripts, photos and self-addressed envelopes.

The applicants are then screened, and the chosen are invited to take an English-proficiency examination, which is structured like a TOEFL examination. Tests are given in five cities in Ukraine: Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv, Kharkiv and Zaporizhia.

Up to 10 students from each city, who must also achieve at least a minimum score on their language proficiency test, are invited to Kyiv for the workshop. The cost of their travel and room and board is picked up by USA/USA, as is the SAT and TOEFL exams they will take later.

This is USA/USA's fifth year placing Ukrainian students with American universities. The organization was conceived by Dr. Bohdan Oryshkevich of New York in the summer of 1992.

"When Ukraine started to emerge from the shadow of the Soviet Union in 1988-1991, I saw that it had to be rebuilt from the ground up," said Dr. Oryshkevich. "It had to develop world-class skills and experience. And the only way to do that was to start with the kids."

Initial funding was provided by the Ukrainian National Association with two grants totaling \$5,500. Today USA/USA is part of the umbrella aid organization, the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine.

This year's effort is being sponsored

by Shop-Vac, makers of commercial vacuums of Williamsport, Pa., through the efforts of Alex Ponomarenko, a Ukrainian who received his U.S. education with the help of Dr. Oryshkevich's organization and now works for Lehman Bros. "From what I understand Shop-Vac had some extra cash floating around and didn't know what to do with it, so they gave it to us," said Dr. Oryshkevich.

In the future USA/USA hopes to establish a placement agency in Kyiv that will maintain constructive contact with Ukrainian students in the U.S., which will help reintegrate them into Ukrainian society upon their return, and will place them into employment opportunities that will serve their personal needs and those of Ukrainian society. A second goal is to establish an agency to provide concrete educational internship opportunities in Ukraine for students still studying in North America.

Dr. Oryshkevich said he would also like to work more closely with the Ukrainian institutes and organizations that are affiliated with colleges and universities in the U.S., such as those at Harvard, Yale and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

So how are the kids studying in the U.S. doing? The first students associated with the USA/USA graduated this past spring.

Anya Lysianskaya of Kyiv graduated from Smith College and will pursue a doctorate in computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Currently, she is interning at MicroSoft.

Natalia Dmitrieva of Kyiv graduated from Mt. Holyoke College. She interned for U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy and will now work for J.P. Morgan as an investment banker.

Ekaterina Horbatiuk of Odesa graduated as class valedictorian at the Laboratory Institute of Fashion in New York. She has been hired by Lehman Bros. as an investment banker specializing in the emerging economies of Eastern Europe.

If you would like to support the work of USA/USA, send your contribution to: USA/USA, P.O.Box 250093, Columbia University, New York, NY 10025-1531.



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SUMMER PROGRAMS 1997

Saturday, August 16

8:30 p.m. **CONCERT** – Vocalist **OSTAP STACHIV**
10:00 p.m. **DANCE** – music provided by **FATA MORGANA**
11:45 p.m. Crowning of **"MISS SOYUZIVKA 1998"**

Sunday, August 17 **"DEN SOYUZIANKY"**
Program dedicated to Zoya Kohut

Saturday, August 23 **UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

8:30 p.m. **CONCERT** – **SOYUZIVKA DANCE WORKSHOP RECITAL**
Director: **ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY**
LVIVYANY
10:00 p.m. **DANCE** – music provided by **BURYA**

LABOR DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS
CONCERTS, DANCES, EXHIBITS, TENNIS TOURNAMENT, SWIMMING COMPETITION
(Details TBA)

Deputies...

(Continued from page 1)

were only received by his committee on July 17 and are still being studied.

The committee chief added that, first and foremost, the crisis is due to "the lack of political unity between deputies," as well as their preparing for new parliamentary elections due next year. In effect, he asserted that electioneering has already started, regardless of the date of the forthcoming election and that politicians may well be concentrating all their energies on political point-scoring.

Mr. Stretovych stressed that the Verkhovna Rada should not pass new legislation on elections, but instead make changes to existing legislation, annulling the requirement for a minimum number of deputies — presently 50 percent plus one — needed to make a session valid. Mr. Stretovych said he would put forward such a proposal at the special plenary session of Parliament scheduled for August 28-29.

On August 5, Former President Leonid Kravchuk echoed sentiments expressed by the presidential administration that deputies should concentrate their efforts on resolving problems such as the non-payment of back wages, the recent falls in GDP and the continuing decline in manufacturing levels.

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Qualifications: This competition is open to any player whose club is a member of USCAK. – Singles matches are scheduled in the following division: Men, Women, Women (35 and over), Junior Vets (35-44), Senior Men (45- 55), Junior (Boys and Girls). Juniors are persons aged 18 and under, while seniors are those over 45 years of age.

Registration for tennis matches, including name, age divisions and the fee of \$15.00 should be sent to:

Mr. George Sawchak
7828 Frontenac, Philadelphia, PA 19111

Registration should be received no later than August 25, 1997. No additional applications will be accepted before the competitions, since the schedule of matches will be worked out ahead of time.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

G. Sawchak, R. Rakoczy, Sr., Z. Snylyk, G. Popel, G. Hrabec. schedule of matches:

Friday, August 29, Soyuzivka, 1 p.m. Men's preliminary round. Players who must compete in this round will be notified by August 26.

Saturday, August 30. All players must contact the Tournament Committee: they will be informed of the time and place of their first matches, as well as matches in subsequent rounds. In case of rain, all players meet in the Main House.

Because of limited time and the large number of entries, players can compete in one group only; they must indicate their choice on the registration blank.

Players who fail to report for a scheduled match on time will be defaulted.

REGISTRATION FORM — TENNIS ONLY

Please cut out and send in with registration fee of \$15.00

1. Name _____
2. Address _____
3. Phone _____
4. Date of birth _____
5. Event _____ Age group _____
6. Sports club membership _____

Check payable to: K.L.K. American Ukrainian Sports Club

Swim meet

Saturday, August 30, 1997, 10:30 a.m.

Warm-up at 9 a.m. for individuals championship of USCAK
and Ukrainian National Association Tropics & Ribbons

Boys/Men	TABLE of EVENTS INDIVIDUAL	Girls/Women		
1	13/14	100m im	13/14	2
3	15 & over	100m im	15 & over	4
5 ..	10 & under	25m free	10 & under ..	6
7	11/12	25m free	11/12	8
9	13/14	50m free	13/14	10
11	15 & over	50m free	15 & over	12
13 ..	10 & under	50m free	10 & under ..	14
15	11/12	50m free	11/12	16
17	13/14	50m back	13/14	18
19	15 & over	50m back	15 & over	20
21 ..	10 & under	25m back	10 & under ..	22
23	11/12	25m back	11/12	24
25	13/14	50m breast	13/14	26
27	15 & over	50m breast	15 & over	28
29 ..	10 & under	25m breast	10 & under ..	30
31	11/12	25m breast	11/12	32
33	13/14	100m free	13/14	34
35	15 & over	100m free	15 & over	36
37 ..	10 & under	25m fly	10 & under ..	38
39	11/12	25m fly	11/12	40
41	13/14	50m fly	13/14	42
43 ...	15 & over	50m fly	15 & over	44
RELAYS				
45 ..	10 & under	4 x 25m free	10 & under ..	46
47	11/12	4 x 25m free	11/12	48
49	13/14	4 x 50m free	13/14	50
51	15 & over	4 x 50m medley	15 & over	52

Swimmers can compete in three (3) individual and one (1) relay events. Relay teams will be established by team coaches or representatives.

Entry deadline: Entry forms, provided below, must be submitted by August 15, 1997 to Marika Bokalo, Swim Meet director. There will be no registration at poolside. Registration fee is \$5.00 per swimmer.

Name: (English) _____
(Ukrainian) _____
Address _____
_____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Age _____
Male _____ Female _____
Club/Youth Association _____
Event _____ Entry time _____
Event _____ Entry time _____
Event _____ Entry time _____

Please send this entry form with entry fee
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ENTRY FORMS

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*Philadelphians to mark
Ukraine's independence*

PHILADELPHIA – The Community Committee to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the independence of Ukraine in Philadelphia invites all Ukrainians to join in celebrations of the anniversary, which will be held on Saturday, August 23, at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa., and on Sunday, August 24, at the Ukrainian Sports Center Tryzubivka, located on County Line and Lower State Roads in Horsham, Pa.

The commemorative program at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center will include a keynote address by the Ukrainian ambassador to the United Nations, Anatolii Zlenko; and performance by the Prometheus male choir, the Cheremosh dance ensemble and singer Lesia Hrabova, beginning at 6 p.m.

However, the community is invited to come at 5 p.m. in order to see an interesting film about a military parade and a song and dance concert held in Kyiv on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence. The master of ceremonies will be Volodymyr Karpynych. After the program all attendees are invited for a snack to be served in the UECC Gallery. Admission: \$10.

The second day of this commemorative weekend celebrating the sixth anniversary of independent Ukraine will take place at Tryzubivka in Horsham, Pa. The program will feature: the Voloshky Dance Ensemble, Lviviany Music Ensemble, and singer Ms. Hrabova, dancing to live music, a moonwalk for children, arts, crafts, souvenirs, excellent food and refreshments. The festivities begin at 1 p.m. Irena Yakoblak will serve as master of ceremonies. Admission: \$8 per person; children up to age 12, free.

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Conference examines...

(Continued from page 4)

potential, not simply preserve, the Ukrainian identity of members of the diaspora," and "to give all possible aid for the liberation of the Ukrainian people."

The final speaker Prof. Wsevolod Isajiw, addressed the issue of "The Ukrainian Diaspora and the UWC in the Near Future."

The University of Toronto scholar identified the present day as a transitional period for the Ukrainian diaspora. Prof. Isajiw said that after watching the USSR fall, the diaspora community engaged in a frenzied rush of institution building in support of the new Ukrainian state and allowed its own institutions to drift into disarray.

Prof. Isajiw said the mid-1990s were a time of slowed pace in relations and disillusionment with Ukraine. The failure of high-profile business deals and the puzzling behavior of officials acting in an idiosyncratic fashion to further their state's best interests have ushered in the latest phase in the diaspora, that of more quiescent expectation of improvements in Ukraine, and a reform of attention to its own affairs.

This landscape is not all that inviting, as Prof. Isajiw saw it — an anemic and

tired leadership and a dearth of youth involvement. He said the UWC has a chance to survive only if it assists in the efforts of Ukrainians to assert themselves as citizens of their adopted countries.

Addressing the issue of the diaspora's relations with Ukraine, Prof. Isajiw quoted Ukrainian Canadian historian Roman Serbyn, who recently wrote that just as an infant or child doesn't exist for the benefit of a mother, so a diaspora does not exist for the mother country. "A diaspora functions based on its own rules and customs, derived from its experience in the country of residence, which is necessarily different from that of the mother country," Prof. Isajiw said.

Like a doctor conducting a physical, Prof. Isajiw provoked some wincing and snorts of protest as he put forward the idea of democratizing the UWC. He said the practice of only allowing agreed-upon candidates to run for the presidency and other senior executive positions cripples the organization and narrows the possibilities of drawing the most talented members of the community.

Prof. Isajiw also suggested that direct lines of communication between national representations, particularly between the U.S. and Canada, but also with Brazil and Argentina, should be vastly improved. He said this was an area in which the UWC could play its most effective role — in coordinating efforts against group defamation, for example.

The Toronto-based sociologist also made some brief comments about the diaspora community's demographics. He pointed out that immigration from Ukraine will continue to grow, and that the cultural and other differences of the newcomers will have to be taken into account.

Although Prof. Isajiw said a gradual loss of linguistic proficiency is to be expected through succeeding generations, he said researchers have found that assimilation is not a uni-directional process in which identity at arrival progressively dissolves into the identity of the adopted country.

After the panel presentations and discussion, Canadian NTSH president Dr. Volodymyr Mackiw presented a certificate granting honorary membership to Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Isidore Borecky, in recognition of his contribution to the development of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada and support for Church scholarship.

U.S. citizens...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukrainian border. In that directive, the ministry confirmed that visas can be purchased at Boryspil International Airport only by those travelers whose countries do not have Ukrainian consular points.

An official in the consular section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs admitted the directive had not been strictly enforced at the time but that "gradually, it was put into practice." The fact that many Americans travel to Ukraine in the summer months is a "coincidence," the official added.

A Ukrainian visa can be purchased for \$50 in any country that has a Ukrainian Embassy or Consulate. There are currently 64 countries that have a Ukrainian representation. The United States has three: the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York and the Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago.

Ukrainian diplomat...

(Continued from page 1)

the death as a suicide, according to Staff Sgt. Richard Murphy, media relations spokesperson at the Ottawa-Carleton Police Department.

Although the police will not officially release the name of the deceased, Andrii Marchenko, press secretary at the Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa, confirmed reports that the person in question was Mr. Poliachenko. Mr. Marchenko said the Embassy is saddened by Mr. Poliachenko's death. He said that as far as he knows there are no indications that the incident was anything but a grave accident. Due to the ongoing police

investigation he was not able to release any more information.

According to an Associated Press report of August 6, Det. Lengacher of the Ottawa-Carleton Police Department confirmed that the apartment building where Mr. Poliachenko's body was found was the deceased's residence and suggested that Mr. Poliachenko's family was inside the apartment but did not witness the incident. This could not be confirmed at press time.

Associates of Mr. Poliachenko, who did not want their names to be used, said he behaved normally during the last few days of his life. He was visiting friends and saying good-bye in preparation for his departure to Ukraine.

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Re: Mail delivery of The Weekly

It has come to our attention that The Ukrainian Weekly is often delivered late, or irregularly, or that our subscribers sometimes receive several issues at once.

We feel it is necessary to notify our subscribers that The Weekly is mailed out Friday mornings (before the Sunday date of issue) via second-class mail.

If you are not receiving regular delivery of The Weekly, we urge you to file a complaint at your local post office. This may be done by obtaining the U.S. Postal Service Consumer Card and filling out the appropriate sections.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 16

HUNTER, N.Y.: A fund-raising concert to benefit the Music and Art Center of Greene County summer concert series will be held at the Grahda at 8 p.m. The concert will feature basso William Wildermann, Metropolitan Opera; lead soprano Oksana Krovytska, New York City Opera; baritone Oleh Chmyr; and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, artist-in-residence.

Friday, August 22

PHILADELPHIA: The Echoes of Ukraine Festival of Music, Song and Dance will take place in Fairmount Park at Robin Hood Dell East at 8 p.m. The concert will feature Oksana Krovytska, soprano, Lviv Opera, and leading soprano, New York City Opera; Volodymyr Vynnytsky, pianist; Stefan Stepan, baritone, Lviv Opera; the Ukrainian International Ballet Co. VAGI; and the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. The festival is sponsored by the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and the Ukrainian Festival Committee of the Ukrainian Community of Metropolitan Philadelphia. Admission is free. Robin Hood Dell East is located near Ridge Avenue at 33rd and Huntingdon streets. For information call (215) 455-8751.

Saturday, August 23

WILDWOOD, N.J.: Everyone 18 and older is invited to the 1997 Pre-Labor Day Bash/Zabava from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the VFW Hall located at 3509 Spicer and Pacific. The evening, sponsored by the Passaic SUM-A Druzhynyky and the Passaic Ukrainian Center, will feature the Na Zdorovia band from Yonkers, N.Y. Proper ID is a must; \$10 cover charge at the door. For further information contact Christina Jancew, (908) 709-7829 (day-time).

Sunday, August 24

TORONTO: The Ukrainian Canadian Congress Toronto Branch will hold a celebration of the sixth anniversary of the independence of Ukraine at St. Volodymyr Cultural Center, 1280 Dundas St. W. and Fourth Line in Oakville. The celebration will include guest speaker Leonid Kravchuk, former president of Ukraine and current member of Parliament. An ecumenical service is slated for 11 a.m., and the con-

cert begins at 2:30 p.m. Included in the festivities are a bazaar, and a children's corner with clowns, balloons, games and face-painting. There will be a students' dance with an orchestra and DJ after 6 p.m. Admission: adults, \$5; children under 12, free; parking, \$5. (St. Volodymyr Cemetery will be closed on this day.) For further information call (416) 762-9427.

OTTAWA: On the sixth anniversary of Ukraine's independence, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Ottawa presents "Music and Lectures" featuring concert pianists Yuri and Nelly Krechkovsky and young virtuoso violinists Iryna and Marta Krechkovsky performing the music of Vivaldi, Lysenko, Brahms, Kolessa, Sarasate, Revutsky, Chopin and Wieniawski. Lectures in the English and Ukrainian languages, respectively, will be delivered by Nestor Gayowsky, former Canadian consul general in Kyiv, and Dr. Theofil Kis, professor emeritus of political science, University of Ottawa. The event will be held at 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave. Ticket prices: \$10 per person; \$5 for children under age 12. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling: Walter Saidak, (613) 224-8474; Christine Habrowycz, (613) 731-1870; Irena Bell, (613) 730-4725; or Mary March, (613) 831-0788.

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

SAN DIEGO: The House of Ukraine will celebrate "Ukrainian Festival 1997" during Labor Day Weekend. Festivities start on Friday night with a vatra/picnic on Crown Point/Mission Bay Park. On Saturday night in the Casa Del Prado Theater in Balboa Park, the House of Ukraine proudly presents the Zaporizhian Kozaks Ukrainian Dance Company from Toronto, along with popular Ukrainian entertainer Ihor Baczynskyi. On Sunday, at the House of Pacific Relations lawn stage in Balboa Park, Ukrainian food and a program of Ukrainian dance will be presented. The festivities will close on Sunday night with a dinner-dance at the Town and Country Resort, Hotel Circle, with Ukrainian music by Dunai from Toronto. For more information, please contact the House of Ukraine, (619) 460-6781 (phone/fax); or e-mail, marusia@sdcoc.k12.ca.us

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals or organizations who have not taken into account the changes in Preview requirements announced on April 13 and have not submitted information in Preview format will find that their entries have not been published in this issue.

At Soyuzivka: August 15-17

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — During the weekend of August 15-17, the Ukrainian National Association's resort will crown a new Miss Soyuzivka.

For those who arrive early enough on Friday, there is the seafood buffet of Odesa Night, starting at 6 p.m. on the Veselka Patio. After dinner, Midnight Bigus will play inside in the Trembita Lounge, while Lvivyany, Soyuzivka's house band, will perform on the patio (weather permitting) or inside in the Veselka auditorium.

On Saturday, after enjoying the beauty of this Catskill mountain resort, guests are invited to a concert by vocalist Ostap Stachiv, beginning at 8:30 p.m., and then to a dance to the music of Fata Morgana, scheduled to begin at 10 p.m.

While guests make merry, candidates for Miss Soyuzivka will be interviewed

by a panel of judges. Just before midnight the judges will announce the name of Miss Soyuzivka 1998, and she will be crowned by her predecessor, Miss Soyuzivka 1997 Tanya Kosci.

On display throughout the weekend in Soyuzivka's Main House will be the art of three Kozaks: the late Edward, and his sons Jarema and George.

Guests can end their weekend just as they began it: by enjoying Soyuzivka's cuisine, as Sunday brunch is served in the Main House dining room. They can also choose to participate in the annual "Den Soyuzianky" — a program presented by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America — which this year is dedicated to writer Zoya Kohut.

For more information about Soyuzivka programs, or to make reservations, call the resort at (914) 626-5641.

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