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Reports note low risk of Y2K disruptions throughout Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Countering claims in the international press offered by many a computer specialist that Ukraine could suffer from major power disruptions and face huge problems at its nuclear facilities after January 1, a recently issued U.S. government-funded study has found that Ukraine's energy sector is at low risk of experiencing any major Y2K disruptions following the New Year.

The risk assessment report, prepared by computer and energy Y2K experts from Southern California Edison, the huge power-generating conglomerate, along with the Bonneville Power Administration and the CANUS corporation, states that "the Ukrainian power grid will not collapse and heating steam will not be lost" when the new millennium dawns.

After analyzing information gathered from Ukraine's Ministry of Energy, the Nuclear Power Plant-Operations Support Institute and a host of private and government technology centers, as well as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has a substantial presence in Ukraine and funded the report, the project members visited 15 facilities associated with power generation and distribution around the cities of Kyiv, Lviv and Zaporizhia.

The report, released in early November, states that where problems may emerge failure could result in limited service to people — what it calls "degraded system performance" — but that many of the problems should be resolved by manual operation. The report emphasizes that, as in other countries, the seriousness of a situation that could have been catastrophic if not remedied in time, was determined to be manageable simply because there are far fewer computers affected by the date rollover to the year 2000 than previously thought.

"It was found that in Ukraine less than 1 percent were found to be date sensitive, with about the same percentage having Y2K issues — an unexpected but beneficial finding," according to the report.

The report also noted that where potential problems exist, Y2K counter-programs have been effective and that the training of Y2K personnel "was found to be very good."

However, there still are holes in contingency planning, although sufficient time exists to implement them as well, it was reported.

One particular concern, which the assessment emphasizes, is Ukraine's lack of a comprehensive country-wide plan for resource reallocation, communications and emergency response should a worst-case

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Ukrainians recall Famine-genocide at memorial events in New York



Roma Hadzewycz

Commemorating the Great Famine of 1932-1933 engineered by Stalin in Ukraine, marchers walk in a solemn procession.

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK — Vowing they would never forget the millions starved to death by the Stalin regime in 1932-1933 in Ukraine, approximately 1,500 Ukrainian Americans walked in a solemn procession from St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church on East Seventh Street in Lower Manhattan to St. Patrick's Cathedral uptown on Fifth Avenue and between 50th and 51st streets, where a requiem service was offered in memory of the genocide's victims.

The procession up Third Avenue was

orderly with officers of the New York City Police Department clearing the path for the procession, closing off traffic lanes and intersections as the marchers passed.

The column of marchers was led by church banners and Ukrainian national flags draped with black ribbons of mourning. Clergy, among them Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., were at the head of the procession.

Participants carried placards pointing to the Soviet regime's atrocities in Ukraine, and informative leaflets were distributed

to passers-by and drivers. Many were dressed in embroidered Ukrainian shirts or blouses or other elements of traditional Ukrainian attire (female members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization were distinguished by their Hutsul "kyptari"), while others wore black for the mournful occasion.

The mourners hailed from all parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and cities beyond. Many arrived by the busload: from Hartford and New Haven, Conn., from Passaic/Clifton, Bound

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Discover Ukraine expedition changes course, but not goal

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Columbus didn't do it like this, and neither did del Fuego, but they had benefactors. Thus far the Discover Ukraine sailing expedition does not. Like the two renowned explorers, however, who long searched for the financial backer who would express faith in their dreams, Captain Dymytrii Birioukovitch and his crew of believers continue their quest to sail around the world on a cement-bottom boat.

In a concession to realities — their around-the-world voyage has been stalled for lack of financing — the Discover Ukraine project has decided to conquer the seven seas in stages.

Thus far the expedition has traveled three of them, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and a portion of the Atlantic Ocean, which they did on their

way to a sailing regatta in El Ferrol, Spain, in May.

Next year they are off to the United States to participate in OpSail 2000, an international display of tall ships and sailing vessels that was last held in 1992. It will tour the Eastern Seaboard of the United States in early summer and enter New York Harbor at the beginning of July for a lavish Fourth of July millennium celebration.

Captain Birioukovitch said that several people had expressed interest in supporting the around-the-world voyage, including the mayor of Kyiv, but when it came time to cough up the money, the backers fell away.

"We decided that we weren't going to be denied," explained Mr. Birioukovitch. "We found a few dollars here, a few there, and departed." These limited funds, however, allowed them to plan only a trans-European trip.

The 60-something captain, a retired engineer and lifelong sailing enthusiast who helped invent the light weight, concrete bottom design that characterizes his two 27-meter sailing vessels — schooner, Batkivschyna and a brigantine, Pochaina — has spent the last two years pursuing a dream to sail the globe and let the world know about Ukraine. He has said that while governments may know about Ukraine, average people still do not have a clue about one of the largest countries in Europe. His mission: to get the word out about Ukraine's geopolitical and economic potential, and its grand history.

In the first leg of his journey, which took him across the European continent to its western edge, he finally found the chance to let at least Europe know, about Ukraine.

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ANALYSIS

Ukrainian electorate's vote of weariness

by Jan Maksymiuk
RFE/RL Newsline

PRAGUE – Leonid Kuchma won a seemingly easy victory in the November 14 presidential runoff, gaining more than 56 percent of the vote, while his Communist rival, Petro Symonenko, received some 38 percent backing.

Mr. Kuchma commented the following day that nobody in Ukraine expected the incumbent to win by such a wide margin and suggested that his re-election means Ukrainians have chosen a “democratic way to build their country based on a market economy.”

Few observers of the Ukrainian political scene are likely to agree in full with President Kuchma's interpretation of the ballot.

One reason for objecting to such an interpretation is that during his five years in office, Mr. Kuchma has shown himself to be neither a truly democratic head of state nor a true advocate of a market economy. Both at home and abroad he has been described as a half-hearted democrat and a half-hearted reformer.

Another reason is the large number of violations of voting and campaign procedures that were pointed out not only by the incumbent's rivals in the race or his political foes, but also by international observers. The executive's almost total control over the electronic media and its involvement in the incumbent's re-election campaign appear to have been the most instrumental

Jan Maksymiuk is the Belarus, Ukraine and Poland specialist on the staff of RFE/RL Newsline.

in determining the final election outcome.

Despite these violations, no international body will question President Kuchma's re-election. The OSCE – whose opinion on elections in post-Communist Europe seems to play a leading role in determining their legitimacy – reported that October 31 first round of voting was fair. With regard to the second round, the OSCE reported many irregularities but did not suggest they had a decisive effect on the outcome. Serious violations – including the executive's stifling the media and public officials' campaigning for Mr. Kuchma – were noted during the election campaign, but, again, the European election watchdog indicated no immediate link between them and the final result.

Still, the scent of foul play remains in the air. “The runoff result is not [the Communists'] defeat but the defeat of democracy in Ukraine,” Mr. Symonenko commented. That opinion is clearly exaggerated, but it nevertheless underscores the fact that Mr. Kuchma did not give the Communists in Ukraine a fair chance.

Instead, the president's election team modeled his duel with Mr. Symonenko on Russia's 1996 runoff between Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Zyuganov, scaring the electorate with the prospect of a Communist comeback and “red revenge.” Between the first and second rounds, Ukraine's television fed voters documentaries and films about Soviet-era repression and terror. The issue of building the country “based on a market economy” was present, if at all, only in the deepest background of the media campaign.

Under these circumstances, Ukrainians voted on November 14 for what appeared

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The Velvet Revolution: a chronology

by Jolyon Naegele
RFE/RL Newsline

PRAGUE – Eight months after Alexander Dubcek took office in Czechoslovakia as first secretary of the Communist Party and launched the “Prague Spring” reforms in 1968, the five armies of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact occupied Czechoslovakia. That move strangled reform not only in Czechoslovakia but throughout the Soviet bloc for years to come.

The post-1968 ferment in Czechoslovakia's socialist neighbors started with the brutally suppressed Gdansk riots in Poland in 1970 that toppled Communist leader Wladyslaw Gomulka. Unrest resumed in Poland in summer 1976 with worker's protests in Radom against price rises. The Communists once again responded with force.

The Vatican's election of a Pole, Karol Wojtyla, as pope in 1978 did much to encourage Poles as well as devout members of neighboring nations, including the Slovaks. The papal visit to Poland the following year inspired the birth of the Solidarity free trade union movement in the summer of 1980. All these events also encouraged Czechoslovakia's modest, largely intellectual opposition.

While Poles rarely took the Communist system in which they lived completely seriously, Czechs and Slovaks did. The legacy of 1968 and the Munich pact of 1939, as well as the awareness that they were a small country, hardly gave them cause for self-confidence.

On December 13, 1981, Gen. Wojciech

Jolyon Naegele is an RFE/RL correspondent based in Prague.

Jaruzelski declared martial law in Poland rather than risk a Soviet invasion. That came as a relief to Czechoslovakia's Communist rulers and as a disappointment to those who hoped that the flames of Solidarity would spread southward.

The Radio Moscow announcement of the death of Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev came amid economic, political and social stagnation throughout the Soviet bloc. The brief rule of Brezhnev's two ailing successors, Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko, ensured that even the word “reform” continued to be defined by the Czechoslovak Communist Party as a “temporary, tactical step backward – favored by right-wing revisionists.”

The 1985 election of the dynamic Mikhail Gorbachev and the gradual introduction of his policies of glasnost and perestroika yet again raised hopes across Czechoslovakia that change might finally be on the horizon.

At least as important for the Soviet satellites was Gorbachev's oft-repeated warning to his fellow Communist Party chiefs at closed-door Warsaw Pact summits that the Soviet Union would no longer run their affairs. Few of the aging leaders took Mr. Gorbachev's words seriously. And some, particularly Czechoslovakia's leadership, assumed Mr. Gorbachev and his policies were a temporary deviation from the true Marxist-Leninist line.

Mr. Gorbachev's visit to Czechoslovakia in April 1987 only reinforced this view as he failed to urge reform or a re-evaluation of 1968. Perestroika and glasnost remained merely empty phrases in Czechoslovakia. Prague authorities began

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NEWSBRIEFS**Kuchma to nominate Pustovoitenko**

Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

ISTANBUL – President Leonid Kuchma on November 19 told journalists in Istanbul, where he was attending a summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, that he will propose that Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko head the new Cabinet, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma added that he made that decision on the basis of “this year's economic results.” According to the Constitution of Ukraine, the old Cabinet of Ministers must resign immediately after the president-elect's inauguration. The president appoints a new prime minister, who must be approved by at least 226 parliamentary deputies. The National Democratic Party on November 17 proposed that its leader, the current prime minister, be tapped to head the new cabinet. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President rejects bill on elections

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said he will not sign the bill on parliamentary elections that lawmakers adopted in its first reading on November 19. President Kuchma noted that he could sign the bill only if a bicameral legislature were introduced in Ukraine. He added that the bill does not conform “with the interests of a majority of people,” saying that political parties in Ukraine reflect “only the interests of their leaders, not the people.” The chances of those parties improve under a proportional election system, which is proposed in the Verkhovna Rada's bill. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada, Kuchma bicker over inauguration

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on November 19 passed a resolution stating that President Leonid Kuchma's inauguration for a second term in office will take place on November 30 in the parliament, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma said the same day that he had discussed his inauguration with Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko and agreed with him that the ceremony will take place in the Ukraina concert hall. “Should I take my oath in front of the Parliament? I should take it in front of the Ukrainian people,” President Kuchma said. Meanwhile, National Deputy Oleksander Yeliashkevych said that if Mr. Kuchma's inauguration does not take place in the Parliament this will mean “the beginning of the end of parliamentarism” in Ukraine, according to

Kuchma proposes Black Sea trade zone

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine on November 17 addressed an informal summit of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSECO), which took place shortly before the OSCE summit in Istanbul, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma suggested that the creation of a free-trade zone in the region could give a “powerful impetus” to regional cooperation. He also noted that increased cooperation with the European Union and membership in that organization is an “objective necessity for most members” of the BSECO. “We should synchronize to the maximum extent our actions with the EU, primarily in the economic sphere, and pool our efforts in order to prevent the appearance of new dividing lines on the continent,” he said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM proposes parliamentary coalition

KYIV – Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko on November 17 said a parliamentary pro-government majority can be set up with the participation of the Green Party, the Social Democratic Party (United), the two factions of the Rukh, the National Democratic Party, the Rebirth of Regions group, the Labor Ukraine group, the Reform-Congress group, the Independents group and non-aligned deputies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tkachenko predicts center-left majority

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko said on November 16 that the creation of a center-left parliamentary majority is more likely than that of a center-right one, Interfax reported. Such a majority, he argued, could be formed by deputies of the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Peasant Party and the Progressive Socialist Party. Mr. Tkachenko added that this alignment could also be joined by the Hromada Party. Mr. Tkachenko noted that the rightist parliamentary parties are unable to form a majority that “could positively influence the [country's] economic development.” According to Mr. Tkachenko's deputy, Viktor Medvedchuk of the Social Democratic Party (United), parliamentary deputies may form a majority “in the next few days,” spurred on by the prospect of forming a coalition Cabinet. President

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Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors: Roman Woronowycz (Kyiv)
Andrij Kudla Wynnnyckyj (Toronto)
Irene Jarosewich
Ika Koznarska Casanova

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Kuchma and Rada spar over site of inauguration

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Continuing the intransigence that has marked their stormy relations, a brouhaha has emerged between President Leonid Kuchma and Verkhovna Rada leaders over where the president should be inaugurated.

This time the spat involves the Verkhovna Rada's refusal to agree to plans proposed by Mr. Kuchma to move the site of the presidential inauguration from the Parliament Session Hall, where it has been held since Ukraine became independent in 1991.

President Kuchma, who decisively beat his opponent, Petro Symonenko, leader of the Communist faction in the Ukrainian Parliament, in a November 14 election run-off, has insisted that his inauguration, now scheduled for November 30, should be held at the Ukraina Palace of Culture, a luxurious and spacious concert hall

located in the center of the capital.

After a week of public debate and disagreement, President Kuchma said on November 22 that he would go against a parliamentary resolution and would issue a presidential decree the next day to assign the ceremony to the Ukraina Palace.

"I am not taking the oath before the Verkhovna Rada, I am taking it before the Ukrainian people," said a defiant Mr. Kuchma on Ukrainian television on November 22. The president underscored that the Constitution of Ukraine does not require the head of state to swear his oath to the parliamentarians.

The president's assertion is backed up by the words of the basic law of Ukraine, which states only that "the newly elected president of Ukraine shall assume his post not later than 30 days after the official announcement of the elections, from the moment he swears an oath to the people during a solemn meeting of the Verkhovna Rada."

The fractiousness that has characterized relations between the two branches of government for years began anew when the Verkhovna Rada leadership, led by Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, voted on November 16 against a formal request from the executive branch to change the site of the inauguration. Mr. Tkachenko, who supported Mr. Kuchma's opponent in the elections, said tradition dictates that the president-elect take the oath of office in the Parliament chamber.

But a day later President Kuchma seemed to have convinced the Verkhovna Rada leadership that its building does not have the facilities to accommodate the 3,000 or so international diplomats and guests that have been invited, and that there is no specific requirement in the Constitution that the swearing-in take place in the Parliament chamber. On November 17 the president's press service announced that the two sides had agreed to move the date of the ceremony from November 26, a day when the national deputies are scheduled to work in their constituencies, to November 30, and to hold it at the president's chosen venue.

But two days after that, the full parliamentary body rejected the president's proposal by a vote of 285 to 8.

Viktor Medvedchuk, second vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, said that for the most part, the national deputies again had split along ideological lines, with the Communist, Socialist and Peasants' party factions voting

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Quotable notes

"I think it shows the common sense of the Ukrainian people, to choose someone who they trust will be able to keep the country together during this very difficult period and who, in his second term, has a chance to send the country on the right economic course.

"The Ukrainian people are very patient. But they have every reason to expect that President Kuchma, with his experience, will take advantage of the opportunities that will be available to him to push Ukraine further towards prosperity and greater democratic freedoms."

– Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller in an interview with the BBC.

While the West breathed a sigh of relief over Kuchma's victory, or, more accurately, the defeat of the Communists, frustration with Ukraine remains high – even among many of its staunchest supporters. The conduct of the pre-election campaign – especially inappropriate pressure on the media and public officials' campaigning for the incumbent – can only heighten this frustration. President Kuchma, who claims a mandate for reform, now has a golden opportunity to resolutely move forward with democratic and economic reforms and truly combat the corruption which has become so corrosive and has grossly undermined the rule of law so essential to the development of genuine democracy and a normal market economy. Continuing stagnation won't just hurt Ukraine's relations with the West, more importantly, it will have negative long-term consequences for the Ukrainian people. Mr. Kuchma needs to stop using the intransigence of the Verkhovna Rada as an excuse and show the necessary political will to push through reforms to the extent possible using democratic means.

– Orest Deychakiwsky, staffer of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in an interview with *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

The official figures

KYIV – The Central Election Committee on November 18 accepted the protocol of election returns and released the following official figures regarding voting in the November 14 presidential runoff. (The information was reported by Interfax-Ukraine.)

- 15,870,722 voters, or 56.21 percent, supported President Leonid Kuchma.
- 10,665,420 voters, or 37.77 percent, supported Petro Symonenko.
- 980,181, voters did not support either candidate.
- 28,231,774 persons received ballots (74.9 percent of the electorate), and 28,212,484 cast their ballots into ballot boxes.
- 706,161 ballots (2.5 percent) were ruled invalid.
- The total number of electors in Ukraine is 37,680,581 out of a population of 50.1 million that includes 34 million residing in urban areas and 16.1 million in rural areas.

Helsinki Commission leaders comment on results of OSCE summit in Istanbul

by Chadwick R. Gore

WASHINGTON – Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission), stated on November 19 that he is "particularly pleased that the Istanbul Charter and Declaration approved by the 54 participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) includes a number of specific initiatives advanced by the commission," among them, trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children; corruption; eradication of torture; and protection of the Roma (Gypsies).

"Members of the commission had been fighting for advancements on these pressing issues for several years," said the chairman of the Helsinki Commission. A 17-member U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in July in St. Petersburg, Russia, paved the way for these advances by building a wider and stronger consensus for them.

The Istanbul Declaration adopted at the OSCE summit suggests some progress on Chechnya, another issue to which the Helsinki Commission has

given priority. Chairman Smith called on Russia to "cease immediately and without precondition its use of massive and indiscriminate force against civilians. The use of such force has led to an enormous humanitarian tragedy, one that every day looks more comparable in humanitarian destruction to the terror that Serbian leader Milosevic unleashed on the civilians of Kosovo. Those in Chechnya responsible for the scores who have been kidnapped or unaccounted for should immediately release the victims and provide an accounting for all who are missing."

"Although Russia made promises in Istanbul about seeking a political solution to the conflict in Chechnya and allowing the OSCE to play a role in this," Rep. Smith continued. "Early post-summit reports from Moscow suggest the sincerity of these pledges is already in doubt. According to press reports, senior figures in Moscow refer to President Boris Yeltsin's 'rigid' position in Istanbul and say 'no new orders' have been given. Russia should make a good-faith effort to find a political solution, with assistance from the OSCE. Not to do so and to continue Moscow's brutal attacks would condemn many thousands more innocent people to tragic consequences," he underlined.

"I was disappointed that the documents do not build on OSCE commitments in the field of religious liberty at a time when there is increasing intolerance toward minority faith communities in much of the OSCE region, including Western Europe," Rep. Smith continued. "Similarly, I am disheartened at the failure of efforts to set a

standard for the removal of criminal defamation from the law books of OSCE states. Such an effort was seen as unacceptable by several countries. But we will not retreat."

Members of the Helsinki Commission have been particularly active in supporting concrete steps to combat trafficking of human beings, the subject of a June 28 hearing. The U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg in July introduced an anti-trafficking initiative that was unanimously approved by the Assembly. The introduction of this issue into the Istanbul Charter and Declaration also has been received with broad approval, which will help spur serious efforts in the OSCE member-states to stop this modern form of slavery.

Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.) especially welcomed the high-level recognition of the problems posed by corruption in the OSCE region: "Corruption has implications well beyond the economic dimension, undermining the core OSCE values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Rampant corruption in many of the economies in transition pose a great threat to their ability to develop as democracies and create prosperous private market economies. These problems likewise afflict the United States and other advanced countries."

He added that "This issue is ripe for a much higher level of international attention. I would add that corruption has cost U.S. business firms billions of dollars in lost contracts abroad with direct implications for our economy here at home. The comprehensive nature and membership of

the OSCE make it ideally suited to play a leading role in combating corruption in a region of vital interest to the United States."

Sen. Campbell served as vice-chairman of the U.S. delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg and spearheaded calls for the OSCE to play an active role in combating corruption and organized crime. A commission hearing in July on "Corruption and Bribery in the OSCE Region" highlighted the multidimensional aspects of the problem.

In many OSCE participating states, safeguards – such as due process of law and independent judicial oversight of police and security forces – to prevent torture and prosecute and punish those responsible are weak or non-existent. Abuses of prisoners and detainees occur with alarming frequency throughout the NIS; arrest of those responsible is rare. Last year, Russia's human rights ombudsman reported that torture was widespread. In Uzbekistan, political activists and religious believers have been tortured while in custody to extract confessions. In Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, oppositionists have been targets for similar abuse. In Central Europe and the former Yugoslavia, there have been many incidents of police brutality against the Roma. Torture is widespread in Turkey, but Ankara's recently stated policy of zero tolerance and its plans for additional legal reforms and human rights education are welcomed.

According to the Helsinki Commission, some 400,000 victims of torture worldwide

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Correction

In the chart listing presidential elections results by oblast/regional district (November 21) that was provided by Interfax-Ukraine, the figure for the percentage of votes for President Leonid Kuchma in Dnipropetrovsk should have been given as 56.35 percent.

UCCLA activists meet at retreat

CANMORE, Alberta – Ukrainian Canadian community activists from across the country converged on Canmore, Alberta (just outside Banff National Park) on November 13-14 to participate in the second annual retreat of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Organized by Borys Sydoruk, UCCLA's director of special projects, the meeting brought together UCCLA members and representatives of three of the provincial councils of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress for discussions ranging from the continuing campaign to secure restitution for the imprisonment of Ukrainians and other Europeans as "enemy aliens" during Canada's first national internment operations to a discussion of how the community must continue to protest Ottawa's policy of denaturalizing and deporting Canadians against whom there is no credible evidence of war crimes.

Participants also discussed the need for the development of a permanent, federally funded and inclusive Genocide Museum in Ottawa and expressed serious dismay over the failure of MP Sarkis Assadourian's bill (C-224) to be deemed votable by members of the House of Commons.

The UCCLA also unveiled its annual Christmas card, featuring photographs of Ukrainian Canadian internees coupled with seasonal greetings. Thousands of these cards, aimed at all MPs and senators, are also widely mailed out to other interested persons and supporters across Canada.

A wreath-laying ceremony was organized at the site of the Castle Mountain internment camp, near the internee statue and plaque unveiled by the UCCLA that has since become a place of pilgrimage for many members of the community and visitors to the national park.

The UCCLA's plans in the coming year include the installation of additional plaques at several sites, possibly including Niagara Falls, Montreal, Halifax and Petawawa; a national memorial plaquing effort at Ukrainian churches across the

(Continued on page 5)

American partners of Ukrainian communities attend conference in Washington



Ambassador Anton Buteiko addresses conference of Community Partnerships Program. Seated (from left) are: John Tedstrom, Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Nadia Komarnycky McConnell.

by Olenka Dobczanska

WASHINGTON – The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation held a conference in Washington on September 23-24, for representatives of the 18 American partner communities in its Community Partnerships Program (CPP).

This program, the goal of which is to foster local government reform in Ukraine, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The event marked the first time all the representatives of American partner communities met each other face-to-face. The conference brought together both established partners, who have been working with the project since the beginning, and the newest additions, whose partnerships were finalized this summer.

The conference opened with a session titled "Partnerships and Local Government Reform in Ukraine" held in

the Rayburn House Office Building. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), John Tedstrom, director of Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council, and Dr. Anton Buteiko, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States) spoke about the impact programs such as CPP are having on furthering U.S. foreign policy and strengthening the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Ukraine.

The speakers underscored the importance of reform at the grassroots level. "I really think if societies that are struggling to move themselves forward can learn anything from us, it is to gain an appreciation of how you unleash local ability in every sector," said Rep. Kaptur.

Mr. Tedstrom echoed this theme: "We, Ukraine, the United States and our European partners, need to increase our attention to the grassroots. Simply put, we need to create informed demand for change in Ukraine. Without it, political

leaders are literally rudderless."

A roundtable on "Seeds of Reform Taking Root through U.S.-Ukraine Community Partnerships" led by Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), George Ingram, deputy assistant administrator at USAID, and Karen Hasara, mayor of Springfield, Ill., a CPP partner community followed the opening session.

The day ended with a wine and cheese reception on Capitol Hill, where Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), Vic Snyder (D-Ark.) and William Taylor, special advisor to the president and secretary of state on assistance to the NIS, met and spoke with project participants.

The conference continued on September 24 at the Ronald Reagan Building. Participants met with Donald Pressley, USAID assistant administrator, and Mr. Ingram to discuss USAID strategies and goals in Ukraine. Danielle Arigoni of the USAID Global Mission, shared some lessons learned from a previous USAID partnership project.

Ann Schodde, executive director of the Iowa Council for International Understanding in Des Moines, and Walter Nunn, director of the Arkansas International Center in Little Rock, led a discussion about the experiences of CPP partner communities. CPP Deputy Project Director Olivia Kew presented a report on the accomplishments of CPP to date.

In the afternoon, participants moved to the Crystal City Marriott for working sessions that continued on September 25. Each partner community had the opportunity to share thoughts and insights about its partnership.

Judy Hansen, USAID municipal development advisor and USAID's project manager for CPP in Kyiv, also spoke with participants about USAID objectives and answered questions. "This truly is an excellent program and the principles of the program in terms of partnerships and training and education are really key to what Ukraine needs at this time, and indeed it is working," she said.

For more information, or to contribute, contact: U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, 733 15th Street NW, Suite 1026, Washington, DC 20005; telephone, (202) 347-4264; fax, (202) 347-4267; e-mail: usuf@usukraine.org; homepage, <http://www.usukraine.org>.

Businessman from Ukraine offers perspective on privatization

by Janet Hunkel

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall – an optimistic time throughout the world – marked an appropriate time to reflect on Ukraine's progress in becoming a free market economy and entering the global marketplace. That occasion came at Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute where Dr. Olexandr Savruk, director and CEO of the Ukrainian Center for Post-Privatization Support (UCPPS), provided "A Ukrainian Businessman's Perspective on Privatization." The November 10 seminar was sponsored by the Harvard Ukrainian Business Initiative.

The Ukrainian Center for Post-Privatization Support (UCPPS) is a private, for-profit Ukrainian management consulting firm. The UCPPS has restructured companies and organizations, trained Ukrainian managers to re-engineer critical business processes and offered strategic initiatives to support the entrepreneurial environment.

While Dr. Savruk listed numerous problems facing Ukraine's transition to a free market economy, nonetheless his

optimism was irrepressible. "Every day in Ukraine I feel and see changes," he commented. This optimism is anchored in the new generation: they accept democratic and free market ideas; communicate; utilize the Internet; and make decisions.

He observed that privatization has made some progress, although not enough, in developing infrastructure and changing ownership. The decrease of state influence has moved numerous social issues to the municipal government level. New laws facilitate bankruptcy, along with other sorts of mechanisms that allow businesses to function and stimulate competition. As a result, 50 percent of the GDP is in the private sector and there are 50,000 legal private entities. This has developed a market mentality in Ukraine, created an environment for start-up businesses and allowed sectors such as confectionery, brewing and telecommunications to prosper. "Private is fixed as the way," Dr. Savruk said.

This progress aside, the younger generation faces multiple tasks to implement change. According to Dr. Savruk, the business infrastructure is no more

ready for all of the needed market reforms than are the workers and managers. The state still needs to address unresolved social issues and subsidies, and develop a comprehensive approach. The service culture still needs to provide service. People need to learn how to obtain information and present themselves. Managers need training. More legal and institutional reform is essential. Major changes to energy efficiency must reabsorb the 15 to 25 percent losses currently experienced from past neglect and inefficiencies. Relations with Russia, relative to raw materials, need to be altered.

Participants at the seminar added to this list of changes. One investor effectively argued in favor of stock options and other incentives for managers. Dr. Savruk commented that managers still operate in their old manner, and such changes will need to come from active stockholders. Participants also discussed the need for courts to become effective in enforcing the laws. Another key issue raised was the \$700 million Eurobond issue due this coming spring, which may result in the sell-off of the telephone company.

UCCLA releases listing of interned 'enemy aliens'

CALGARY, Alberta – Canada's Ukrainian community on November 11 released a document, titled "Roll Call," which provides the names of some 4,000 Ukrainians and other Europeans unjustly imprisoned as "enemy aliens" during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920.

Twenty-four concentration camps set up across Canada were used to house the internees, whose labor was exploited by government and big business, and some of whom had their property and valuables confiscated – a portion of which remains in Ottawa's coffers to this day.

Other indignities experienced by the Ukrainian Canadian community's members included restrictions on their freedom of assembly, movement and speech, and disenfranchisement in 1917.

Since 1986 the Ukrainian Canadian community has spearheaded a campaign intended to secure an official acknowledgment of this injustice and a reconciliation through the restitution of the internees' wealth to be used for educational purposes.

Based on the work of two researchers who reviewed the remaining archives of the Office of Internment Operations (National Archives of Canada), and complemented by additional names taken from surviving archives in the U.S. Department of State, British Foreign Office records and other published materials, "Roll Call" represents the first attempt to identify these internees.

While it is incomplete, given the destruction of many of the relevant documents, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, observed: "Until today we were unable to answer questions from Canadians of many different ethnic, religious and racial heritages who came to us wondering if members of their families, relatives or friends had been among those who were interned. Finally, we have a partial list, which confirms that many ethnocultural communities were exposed to these needless and harsh internal security measures, whose crippling legacy continues to affect our community to this day."

He added, "We intend to make 'Roll Call' available to all Canadians by placing it on the website of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and through complimentary distribution to selected libraries, MPs and research institutes. This relatively unknown episode in Canadian history is slowly being recovered and returned to the collective memory of Canada, which these internees, many of them Ukrainians but many representing other cultures and faiths, helped build."

"By releasing this document on Remembrance Day, when all Canadians should hallow the memory of those who gave their lives so that we can enjoy our freedoms," Dr. Luciuk said, "we are paying a tribute to those who fell in defense of liberty while recalling those who fell victim to this injustice, 85 years ago."

UCCLA activists...

(Continued from page 4)

country, dissemination of "Roll Call," a comprehensive listing of over 4,000 internees' names; further development of the UCCLA website; and legal initiatives aimed at securing a resolution of the acknowledgment and restitution campaign.

The UCCLA will also be releasing a revised and updated version of the booklet, "A Time for Atonement," which provides basic information about the internment operations for use in public awareness efforts involving schools, the media and politicians.

Volyn hospital reports decrease in infant mortality

LUTSK, Ukraine – The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund has received a highly encouraging report from its partner hospital in Volyn indicating a notable decrease in infant mortality over the past four years.

In a report issued in September, the Volyn Regional (Oblast) Children's Medical Center compared the mortality rate for children undergoing treatment for birth defects, premature births and other complications between 1995 and 1999.

According to Dr. Mykola Hnativ, one of the leading specialists in neonatal resuscitation at the Volyn center, the number of children undergoing treatment in the center's intensive care unit has increased slightly from 188 patients in 1995 to 198 in 1998, and is expected to rise to over 200 at the current pace for 1999.

However, mortality has fallen off sharply from 51 deaths in 1995 to only 11 in the first six months of this year. "This represents a more than 50 percent decrease in the number of infant deaths in our facility, from 27 percent four years ago to under 12 percent this year," said Dr. Hnativ. "These are very encouraging indicators."

Dr. Hnativ and his colleagues at the center have attributed much of this improvement to new technology and training provided by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund that has delivered more than \$500,000 worth of intensive care equipment to the facility, beginning in November 1997. Among the items delivered by the CCRF, perhaps the most valuable were a fully equipped ambulance complete with transport incubator and respirator and critical care monitor – all of which enabled the doctors in Lutsk to reach newborns in some of the most remote villages in this rural province and to transport them safely to Volyn's central critical care facility.

"In one year, we have doubled the number of children we are bringing from remote maternity clinics," Dr. Hnativ explained. "Many of these were suffering from very serious, life-threatening conditions and would not have survived without emergency surgery and the other resources we now have available."

Thanks to the initiative of Prof. Volodymyr and Oksana Bakum of Highland, N.Y., and a very generous gift from the Matushevsky/Bakum families, the CCRF was able to leverage and install five complete neonatal stations at the Volyn pediatric center. The new work stations are also equipped with



Dr. Oksana Chopko examines a newborn infant undergoing treatment at the Volyn Regional Pediatric Center's intensive care unit.



CCRF monitors Lesia Yavorivska and Olya Datsenko and a local driver review the ambulance donated by the Rotary Club of Fishkill, N.Y., and delivered to Lutsk by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

infant warmers and pulse oximeters that can assist doctors and nurses in monitoring and stabilizing infants' conditions. Prior to these installments, doctors in Lutsk were often forced into the heartbreaking predicament of choosing which one of four or five critically ill newborns could receive treatment using the only incubator or respirator available, and which had the best chance of surviving with makeshift resuscitation techniques.

The CCRF's experience in Lutsk follows similar successes it has achieved at its partner hospitals in Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv with the help of grants from Monsanto and the John Deere Co. The success of the Volyn neonatal team convinced CCRF medical advisers to stage a national training conference at the center in Lutsk on October 18-20. Co-hosted by the CCRF, Ukraine's Ministry of Health and the Volyn Pediatric Center, the conference featured presentations by Ukrainian specialists, technical advisers from medical manufacturers Siemens and Fisher & Paykel, and two neonatal experts from the Beth Israel Medical Center and the St. Barnabas Medical System in New Jersey.

"It is our hope that the success in Lutsk can be replicated in other pediatric centers and maternity hospitals across Ukraine," said Alex Kuzma, director of development for the U.S.-based relief fund. The CCRF is expanding its efforts to include needy pediatric centers in Poltava, Chernihiv and Ivano-Frankivsk. In addition to its medical relief program, the CCRF has also published a groundbreaking handbook on the "Fundamentals of Neonatology," the first book of its kind published in the Ukrainian language. Each participant at the October conference received a complimentary copy of the volume.

To support the CCRF's Infant Survival Initiative, supporters are urged to send their tax-deductible contributions to: CCRF, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078

Ukrainian Orthodox League completes mission of sending eyeglasses to Ukraine

by Elizabeth Mitchell

CARNEGIE, Pa. – The Christian Care Giving and Missions Commission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the U.S.A. completed its 1999 mission project of collecting used eyeglasses for the needy in Ukraine.

Through the efforts of Pat Dorning of Carnegie, Pa., and Nikolay Shapoval of Lincoln, Neb., over 2,500 pairs of glasses were collected from 20 UOL chapters, Ukrainian Orthodox parishes and individuals throughout the United States.

The project was coordinated through the efforts of the New Eyes for the Needy organization of Short Hills, N.J., which will send the glasses to Ukraine for distribution. New Eyes is a non-profit, volunteer organization with a goal to pro-

vide better vision to the poor of the world. Almost a half-million pairs of glasses are distributed annually throughout the world by the organization.

Dr. Victoria Malick, UOL mission chair, will head the 1999-2000 project of collecting needed items and equipment for the diocesan All Saints Camp located in Emlenton, Pa.

Addendum

In the November 7 news story headlined "Ukrainian organizations benefit from CBS funds," it was reported that attorney Bohdanna Pochoday had donated \$18,500 to various Ukrainian organizations. In fact, Ms. Pochoday donated a total of \$23,500 to various organizations in amounts varying from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Ukrainians recall...

(Continued from page 1)

Brook, Jersey City/Bayonne and Newark, N.J., and from Bethpage, Long Island, N.Y. Others came by public transportation or in private cars from various cities throughout the tri-state area.

Queried by The Weekly about why they had chosen to march, community activists both young and old, all had the same response: to mourn the victims of what is known in Ukrainian as "Velykyi Holod" – the Great Famine; to let the fellow Americans know that Ukrainians will always remember the 7 million to 10 million deliberately killed during the Famine-genocide of 1932-1933; to increase public awareness of this little known genocide.

Along the route, Ukrainian Americans could be seen speaking with passers-by curious to know why this column of people of all ages was quietly proceeding down Third Avenue.

One marcher, Eugenia Dallas, traveled from Hollywood, Calif., to New York specifically to participate in the day's commemoration of the Great Famine. The

author of a book of memoirs, "One Woman, Five Lives, Five Countries," which she dedicated to her parents who had perished at the hands of the Soviets in Siberia, Mrs. Dallas indicated how important it is "to expose the truth about this genocide." She explained that she prefers not to use the word "famine," because it was not a true famine, but an artificially created one, engineered deliberately to break the Ukrainian nation.

Volodymyr Rabitsky of Lviv, who is visiting his daughter, a student in this country, said he came to speak out as a Lemko, having seen another atrocity of this century: the Communist Polish government's Akcja Wisla that resettled Ukrainians from their native Lemkivschyna region, and the period when Ukrainian activists were persecuted and killed, and Ukrainian villages destroyed in Poland.

Ihor Lemischka, a professor of molecular biology at Princeton University, said he came to march and mourn because the Great Famine is "an underappreciated horrific act of this century, on par with other genocides." He added, "It needs to be remembered, in particular now that we are entering a new era with an independent Ukraine."

As several community activists of the older generation passed by, one remarked to The Weekly correspondent: "Write this: even old grandmothers are marching." A young Plast member commented that she and her friends were participating to pay their respects to the victims of the Famine and to demonstrate that "we remember."

As the marchers poured into the landmark cathedral, they were rejoined by hundreds of others who had chosen to arrive directly at St. Patrick's. First to enter were those who carried crosses, church banners and national flags. At the altar, a lone wreath of kalyna (guelder rose), a Ukrainian national symbol, with blue, yellow and black ribbons was placed by the Women's Association of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine. According to organizers, more than 3,000 attended the service.

Inside the cathedral there were words of remembrance and reconciliation.

Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church noted:

"We gather to remember all those innocent victims, who perhaps were not even aware of their purpose as a political instrument. We pray that the evil done by men to them has been converted into good by our Almighty Creator who, in his time, has allowed their story to be publicly acknowledged through the dissolution of atheistic communism ...

"We pray also for the souls of those responsible for such a hideous policy. Our Christian vocation is one of healing and reconciliation. In recalling their calculated cunning and their blind adherence to an evil and deceitful policy, we pray that they also have discovered that greater wisdom from on high, which calls to 'forgive those who know not what they do.'"

Officiating at the service were Archbishop Antony, Bishop Losten and numerous clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic churches. The Dumka Chorus of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky, sang the responses.

Afterwards, remarks were delivered by Sen. Charles E. Schumer, as well as Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Anton Buteiko, and its ambassador to the United Nations, Volodymyr Yelchenko. Also present was Ukraine's Consul General in New York Yuriy Bohaievsky.

Referring to the Great Famine as "what can accurately be called the Ukrainian holocaust," Sen. Schumer pointed out that "The goal of the Famine – perpetrated by



Roma Hadzewycz

The gathering point near St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church before the march.

Stalin – was not to destroy a physical people, but to destroy Ukraine as a culture, society and political entity in order to allow the Communist regime to recreate Ukraine in its own image."

Ambassador Buteiko observed: "Monuments were erected to commemorate the victims, secret archives made public, tens of books, memoirs and studies published. Nevertheless, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, directed by the bloody deeds of Lenin and Stalin, is yet to bear the judgement of the nations of the world, the judgement of history. We have yet to tell the truth about the artificial famine to preach its lessons to humankind."

Ambassador Yelchenko added: "According to the most modest estimates, it took some 7 million innocent lives. In some areas the total population was decreased by one-third; and in many cases entire towns and villages were depopulated. ... Our people paid an extremely high

price for its independence and freedom. We shall never forget it, and we shall do our best to prevent similar tragedies elsewhere."

Roksolana Lozynskyj, speaking on behalf of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, stated: "...it takes great courage to place yourself, into a place of such unimaginable horror even after all this time. 66 years have passed.... we are mute with sorrow. There can be no words to describe the anguish." She underlined that each of the Famine's victims had a name, but today those names are not known, "there were far too many of them."

The day's events were organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and the Civic Committee to Remember the Victims of the Famine in Ukraine, formed under the aegis of major organizations of the New York metropolitan area.



Mourners at the requiem service inside St. Patrick's Cathedral.

First Lady sends message

Message received from First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. (The text below was not read at the memorial gathering at St. Patrick's Cathedral due to time constraints.)

I regret that I am unable to be with you today for the solemn commemoration of one of the great human tragedies of this century. Previous commitments prevent my attendance. You are, however, very much in my thoughts.

The Ukrainian Famine imposed by Joseph Stalin upon millions of innocent men, women and children caused truly "harvests of sorrow." Today we remember those innocent victims and in their honor recommit ourselves to expand the circle of human dignity and recognize that we are all God's children. We must work to protect human rights and ensure that the basic human needs of all the world's people are met. If this violent, war-filled century teaches us anything, it is that whenever the dignity of one of us is threatened, the dignity of all of us is threatened as well.

Today Ukraine is on the road to democracy, but the journey is far from over. As Ukraine undergoes its historic transition, Ukraine is struggling to overcome the terrible legacy of the Stalin era and its Communist successors. Many of Ukraine's children and their families are still suffering from the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. In the face of great hardship, they and many others struggle to make a better life.

So that democracy and freedom may thrive and economic prosperity may flourish, we must help Ukraine to build a civil society where democratic values live in the hearts and minds of her citizens. Together we must walk with the Ukrainian people, into the next century and millennium – remembering the past, keeping the memory of the famine and its victims alive, honoring the survivors and striving every day that such atrocities will never be repeated. As President John F. Kennedy said, "on earth, God's work must truly be our own." Vichnaia Pamiat!

FOR THE RECORD: Addresses at Great Famine memorial service

Bishop Basil Losten

Remarks by Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

We have gathered in this magnificent cathedral setting this afternoon to commemorate the anniversary of what one historian has called the grand "Harvest of Despair" perpetrated against our Ukrainian people and against humanity. The horrific genocide of the 1933 Great Famine in Ukraine is so inhumane because it could have been avoided altogether, had compassion and truth been heralded.

The tragedy of the deaths of some 10 million victims of this orchestrated cruelty is even greater when one considers that truckloads of relief aid, gathered under many appeals by our saintly metropolitan, the Servant of God Andrey Sheptytsky, and others, were barred from crossing the river Zbruch into the famine-beset territory of Ukraine. The Stalin regime preferred the propaganda of the Great Lie rather than revealing its true intentions.

Yes, we gather to remember all those innocent victims who perhaps were not even aware of their purpose as a political instrument. We pray that the evil done by men to them has been converted into good by our Almighty Creator who, in his time, has allowed their story to be publicly acknowledged through the dissolution of atheistic communism and the access to its secret archives. They clearly proclaim the grim truth of their sacrifice for the world to acknowledge and accept another case of man's inhumanity against his brothers and sisters.

We pray also for the souls of those responsible for such a hideous policy. Our Christian vocation is one of healing and reconciliation. In recalling their calculated cunning and their blind adherence to an evil and deceitful policy, we pray that they also have discovered that greater wisdom from on high, which calls to "forgive those who know not what they do."

To all those united forever through the infamy of the Great Famine, we offer our prayers that their souls have discovered that place of refreshment, of green verdure and of light, where there is no pain, sorrow or mourning, but only the radiant countenance of a loving and forgiving God.

May their memory last forever among us! Вічна Їм Пам'ять!

Sen. Charles E. Schumer

Address by Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.)

"Shtuchnyi Holod," the man-made Famine, claimed an estimated 5 to 7 million victims.

The Soviet Union's government covered up and officially denied the Famine. The goal of the Famine – perpetrated by Stalin – was not to destroy a physical people, but to destroy Ukraine as a culture, society and political entity in order to allow the Communist regime to recreate Ukraine in its own image.

Millions of Ukrainians died, not by natural causes such as pestilence, drought, floods or poor harvest, but by policies designed to punish Ukraine for its aversion and opposition to the government of the former Soviet Union's oppression and imperialism, including the forced collectivization of agriculture.

When Ukraine was famine-stricken, the government of the former Soviet Union sent 1.7 tons of grain to the West, while offers from international relief organizations to assist the starving population were rejected on the grounds that there was no famine in Ukraine and no need for the assistance.

In his book "The Harvest of Sorrow," British historian Robert Conquest explains, "A quarter of the rural population, men, women and children, lay dead or dying, the rest in various states of debilitation with no strength to bury their families or neighbors."

Ukrainians see the Famine as part of the long tale of oppression which was Russian rule over their country since the 1654 Treaty of Pereyaslav.

Even today there are those, like Douglas Tottle, author of "Fraud, Famine and Fascism," who use revisionist history to deny what can accurately be called the Ukrainian holocaust.

It is crucial that we educate future generations and pass on the memories of such terrible events so they do not happen again.



Bishop Basil Losten delivers opening remarks during the memorial service at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Ambassador Anton Buteiko

Address by the ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Anton Buteiko.

In the history of every nation there are tragic events. For Ukraine, one such event that stands out most prominently in the memory of our people is the artificial Famine of 1932-1933. It will forever be remembered as one of the most horrific crimes of the 20th century, on par with the genocide of the Armenian and Jewish nations.

The Famine claimed the lives of 7 to 9 million of Ukraine's citizens, hard-working farmers, children, women and people of all ages. Judging by European standards, an entire nation, an entire country was lost. This was, in fact, a war that the Stalinist Communist regime waged against its own people. While during a war at least some international conventions protect the civilian population, in 1932-1933 in Ukraine – occupied by the criminal Communist regime – no such laws applied.

The regime consciously sought to uproot the genetic source of the Ukrainian nation, to avenge resistance to collectivization and the Ukrainian farmers' aspirations for freedom in 1932-1933. The consequences of the artificial Famine are still felt today – for today there is still fear of the state, fear of famine, reluctance to own land for fear of its eventual forced confiscation.

Thousands of facts testify to this unheard-of holocaust of the Ukrainian people. There are stories that tell of family cannibalism; numerous documents that depict the events of that terrible time.

Monuments were erected to commemorate the victims, secret archives made public, tens of books, memoirs and studies published. Nevertheless, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, directed by the bloody deeds of Lenin and Stalin, is yet to bear the judgement of the nations of the world, the judgement of history. We have yet to tell the truth about the artificial Famine, to preach its lessons to humankind.

The dark lesson of the artificial Famine is that in 1932-1933 the world turned a blind eye to the tragedy of the Ukrainian nation and remained indifferent to the suffering of millions of people, while ships carrying cheap Ukrainian bread sailed from Odesa to destinations in Europe and the United States.

Entreaties to the U.S. government on behalf of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky were disregarded, and a dishonest journalist named Walter Duranty convinced the American public that there was no famine in Ukraine.

It is not only our duty to remember the horrors of the artificial Famine, but also to honor those who spoke out on behalf of the victims.

Courageous are the deeds of a well-known Ukrainian Galician, Milena Rudnytska, the head of the Union of Ukrainian Women, and a member of the Polish Sejm in the '30s.

She brought up the issue of the artificial Famine at a forum of the League of Nations, and was supported by representatives from Norway, Ireland, Spain and Germany. However, representatives of other nations

insisted that the Famine was an internal affair of the Soviet Union. Thus, indifference got the upper hand, and the crimes remained unpunished.

Only under the influence of the Ukrainian community in the U.S. such members like Lev Dobriansky, Bohdan Fedorak, Myron Kuropas, Ulana Mazurkevich, and others, in 1984-1988 the United States Congress created a special commission headed by Rep. Daniel Mica. A Senate committee headed by Sen. Jesse Helms also took up investigation of this matter. James Mace headed a scholarly research group.

The establishment of an independent Ukrainian state is the best guarantee that the tragedy of 1933 will never recur. The existence of an independent Ukraine testifies to the immortality of the Ukrainian nation, and its love of freedom that stood the test of Stalin's terror and Hitler's occupation.

Today, we bow our heads in memory of our fathers and grandfathers who perished in 1932-1933, in memory of millions of our compatriots.

Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko

Address by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations.

It is a great honor to be here today for a solemn yet sad occasion commemorating one of the most tragic chapters in the history of Ukraine: the anniversary of the man-made Famine of 1932-1933.

Placed in the middle of Europe and effectively divided between major empires, Ukraine – the land so generously endowed by the nature and the cradle of the Christian democratic Kozak republic – was trampled for centuries by various oppressors who tried to eradicate the very spirit of its people. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Ukrainians were deported to Siberia and other uninhabited parts of the Russian Empire, while other peoples were resettled to the Ukrainian territories. It was a deliberate policy of Russian emperors and Soviet dictators to suppress any expression of the Ukrainian political and cultural identity. This policy was continued through a wave of a forced collectivization of the early '30s aimed at eliminating Ukrainian farmers who were the bearers of the nature and practice of economic freedom, a concept unacceptable for the totalitarian state.

To this end, the political elite of the former Soviet Union elaborated and implemented the most terrible and the most cruel misanthropic action in the history of the contemporary Europe: the artificial hunger. According to the most modest estimates, it took some 7 million innocent lives. In some areas the total population was decreased by one-third; and in many cases entire towns and villages were depopulated. It is hard to imagine that all of this happened in a country called "the breadbasket of Europe." Such a horrible harvest of people's deaths.

Some experts say that if not for this Famine, as well as Ukraine's losses in the second world war, the population of contemporary Ukraine would be close to 100 million people, this is, twice bigger.

(Continued on page 23)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Bearing witness to genocide

Stop the silence and end the lies. That was the principal message carried forth by those who participated in the Famine-genocide memorial procession and service in New York City on Saturday, November 20.

Ukrainians of all ages, members of various organizations, faithful of different Churches congregated to bear witness to the man-made Famine that decimated the Ukrainian nation in 1932-1933 during Stalin's reign of terror. They came to remember the greatest tragedy that has ever befallen Ukraine and to mourn its innocent victims, to pledge that they will never forget and will tell the world about one of this century's darkest periods. That was evident from the placards they carried and from the observations they shared when questioned by a reporter.

But mostly the marchers and mourners came out of the strong conviction that this can never happen again, that others must know the truth – for it is the truth that can prevent such atrocities. (“To ignore one genocide is to invite another,” said one poster.) They pledged by their presence to continue to speak out about the Great Famine, for they know that silence was one of the principal reasons this murderous act of Stalin and his collaborators in crimes against humanity was so successful.

Ambassador Anton Buteiko pointed out in his address that, even during the artificial Famine, the issue been raised “at a forum of the League of Nations and was supported by representatives from Norway, Ireland, Spain and Germany. However, representatives of other nations insisted that the famine was an internal affair of the Soviet Union. Thus, indifference got the upper hand, and the crimes remained unpunished.”

Sound familiar? Even today there are “internal affairs” to which the West reacts with but a slap on the wrist; and silence is maintained. Former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski minced no words recently when he called what is happening in Chechnya a genocide. “A nation is being destroyed,” he told CNN. “Do you destroy an entire people to protect yourself from terrorism?”

Some marchers carried placards reminding the public of the horrific events in Chechnya, where Russian troops are mercilessly pounding the general population – in the name of fighting terrorism within the Russian Federation. (“Purges, famine, Chechnya. Genocide is habit-forming,” read one poster. “Yeltsin, stop murdering defenseless Chechens,” said another.)

The mourners converging on New York City also knew that another reason the Great Famine was successful was the “Great Lie,” as Bishop Basil Losten called it, via which the Stalin regime and its supporters – including some notable Western journalists and intellectuals – denied that famine was raging in Ukraine.

Even today, after “Monuments were erected to commemorate the victims, secret archives made public, tens of books, memoirs and studies published,” as Ambassador Buteiko noted, “the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, directed by the bloody deeds of Lenin and Stalin, is yet to bear the judgement of the nations of the world, the judgement of history. We have yet to tell the truth about artificial famine, to preach its lessons to humankind.”

Though they did not get to hear the first lady's message in St. Patrick's Cathedral (the text appears on page 6 of this issue), the Ukrainian Americans gathered for the last time this century to commemorate the Great Famine are no doubt buoyed and emboldened by Hillary Rodham Clinton's words to the memorial gathering: “Together we must walk ... into the next century and millennium – remembering the past, keeping the memory of the famine and its victims alive, honoring the survivors and striving every day that such atrocities will never be repeated.”

Nov.
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Turning the pages back...

Last year on November 28, Ukraine officially commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 two days after President Leonid Kuchma issued a presidential decree proclaiming the fourth Saturday of each November as a National

Day of Remembrance of Famine Victims.

The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv correspondent, Roman Woronowycz, reported on the commemorations in Ukraine's capital that honored the memory of the millions who perished as a result of the artificial famine imposed by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.

Following are excerpts of the story filed by our Kyiv-based editor.

A program at the Kyiv National Philharmonic Hall featured a musical program by Ukraine's National Symphony, preceded by an address by Vice Prime Minister Valerii Smolii. “That the famine was artificially induced is a historical fact,” said Mr. Smolii. He called the holocaust part of the “deliberate criminal policies of the Communist regime.” ... He stated that officially the Soviet Union hushed up the genocide and portrayed any references to it as anti-Soviet propaganda “worthy of incarceration in a concentration camp.”

World governments ignored rumors and the world knew little about the forced starvation and genocide of millions of Ukrainians engineered by Soviet leaders to force the peasantry onto collective farms and under Soviet servitude, even as reporters such as Malcolm Muggeridge of the Manchester Guardian attempted to focus attention on the man-made tragedy.

However, as Mr. Smolii explained, others did not forget what happened, especially the Ukrainian diaspora, whom he thanked for keeping the memory alive. “Ukrainians abroad consistently rang the bell,” said Mr. Smolii. “Even those who traveled across the ocean from the territories of western Ukraine, which were under Polish rule and did not experience the Famine, felt it a matter of honor and national dignity to let the world community know the truth about the unparalleled Stalinist crime. They put together titanic efforts so that all would realize: the Ukrainian Famine of 1933 stands on the level of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and the Jewish Holocaust.”

... Although not present for the concert, President Leonid Kuchma did show for another

(Continued on page 23)

House of Representatives expresses 'grave concern' over Chechnya conflict

by Chadwick Gore

WASHINGTON – The U.S. House of Representatives on November 16 approved by a near unanimous vote House Concurrent Resolution 206 “expressing grave concern regarding armed conflict in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation, which has resulted in civilian casualties and internally displaced persons, and urging all sides to pursue dialogue for peaceful resolution of the conflict.”

“The Russian government is justified in rebuffing armed aggression against its territorial integrity. Moreover, one can certainly sympathize with Russia's frustration when unsolved bombings kill almost 300 persons in Russia. But this does not justify reactivating a war against the civilian population of Chechnya,” said Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

Ranking Member Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) noted, “The Russians claim the situation in Chechnya is simply an effort to address a terrorism problem. They claim to be targeting ‘bandits’ not innocents. They say they are using ‘smart bombs.’ Well, the bombs aren't so smart, and the policy is not only murderous, but incredibly short-sighted. However, it may have been planned, the war in Chechnya has not only become an attack on innocent non-combatants, but it will strain the fabric of Russia's democratic development, to say nothing of the financial resources that could be used to build up a society, rather than destroy it.”

During debate on the floor, commission member Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.) urged the Clinton administration to

“appoint a person with strong negotiating skills to go to Moscow and help bring resolution to this conflict, to bring pressure on the Russians to stop the killing.”

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Smith and co-sponsored by Reps. Hoyer and Wolf, and fellow members of the Helsinki Commission. Reps. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) and Michael P. Forbes (D-N.Y.), as well as Reps. Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.) and Fortney Pete Stark (D-Calif.).

The concurrent resolution:

(1) urges the government of the Russian Federation and all parties to cease the indiscriminate use of force against the civilian population in Chechnya, in accordance with commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

(2) urges all parties, including the Russian Federation, to enter into negotiations on the North Caucasus conflict with legitimate political representatives of the region, including President Aslan Maskhadov and his government, and to avail itself of the conflict prevention and crisis management capabilities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which helped broker an end to the 1994-1996 war;

(3) urges the Chechen authorities to use every appropriate means to deny extremist forces located in its territory a base of operations for the mounting of armed incursions that threaten peace and stability in the North Caucasus region;

(4) urges the Chechen authorities to create a rule of law environment with legal norms based upon internationally accepted standards;

(5) cautions that forcible resettlement of internally displaced persons would

(Continued on page 17)

BOOK NOTES

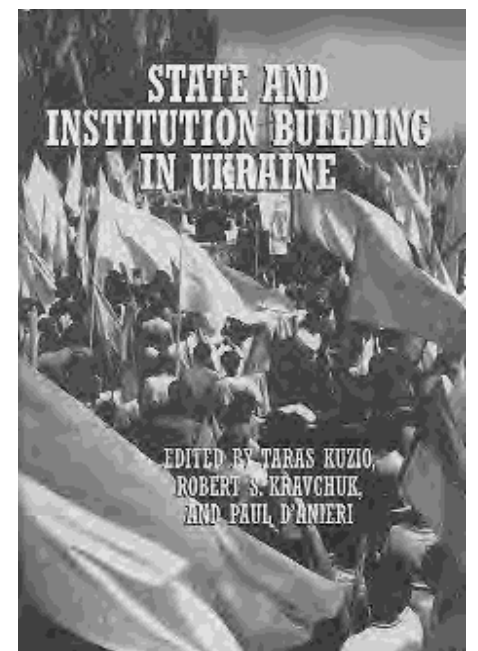
Study of state-building in Ukraine

NEW YORK – “State and Institution Building in Ukraine,” edited by Taras Kuzio, Robert S. Kravchuk and Paul D'Anieri. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999; ISBN 0-312-21457, \$49.95) represents the first in-depth and comprehensive study of state-building in Ukraine. As opposed to previous books that have focused on the political and economic transformation of the successor states to the USSR, this volume argues that a market economy and democracy cannot exist in the absence of effective state and governing institutions.

Ukraine was only a quasi-state within the former USSR when it declared independence in August 1991. Thus, it inherited only the rudiments of what is normally considered a “modern state.” The development of a viable and capable state with effective institutions was prioritized by the executive and legislative branches, which understood that a democracy, civil society, rule of law and a market economy could not be created in the absence of a genuine, functioning state.

This study is the first to survey institution and state-building in Ukraine by placing it within a comparative and theoretical perspective, challenging many of the current misconceptions about Ukraine and other post-Soviet countries at the throes of transformation.

Editor Taras Kuzio is an honorary research fellow in the Ukraine Center, University of North London. He was the head of mission of the NATO Information and Documentation Center



in Kyiv, and senior research fellow in the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham.

Robert S. Kravchuk is associate professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

Paul D'Anieri is associate professor of political science at the University of Kansas.

To obtain a copy of the book, published by the Scholarly and Reference Division of St. Martin's Press, contact Meredith Howard at: telephone, (212) 982-3900, ext. 267; e-mail, meredithhoward@stmartins.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: The Weekly's role and its importance

Dear Editor:

The recent editorial about the financial problems of The Ukrainian Weekly ("The Complex Answer," October 10) is very disturbing news and has elicited positive responses from our community. I hope there will be more.

In addition to being an advertisement for the Ukrainian National Association, The Ukrainian Weekly is also the single best nationwide vehicle for informing Ukrainian Americans about significant events in the diaspora community and in Ukraine.

It is a unique source that provides all generations of Ukrainians with the information they need to work for business and professional reasons. Additionally, The Weekly effectively preserves and fosters among the younger generation of the American diaspora a sense of their ethnic heritage, which helps them identify with the rest of our community.

The Ukrainian Weekly plays an extremely important role in providing information about current developments in Ukraine to that segment of the U.S. population that has the greatest effect on formulating policy toward Ukraine. Often The Weekly is the only source that prints certain news items concerning Ukraine that American or Canadian papers overlook or will not print for whatever reason.

The Weekly outlines issues in a responsible way and thus demonstrates for the U.S. government those concerns the Ukrainian American diaspora considers to be most critical and policies and actions it expects its representatives to pursue. On numerous occasions I have heard members of the U.S. Congress or their staff remark that they learned about this or that development in Ukraine by reading The Ukrainian Weekly. U.S. State Department employees dealing with Ukrainian affairs also make use of this valuable source of information.

Scholars and graduate students doing research on Ukrainian issues at the Library of Congress often avail themselves of this excellent paper, which is displayed along with other major newspapers on the public racks of the European Division's Reading Room.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance that The Ukrainian Weekly be given every chance, not only to continue its work, but to expand. And, its staff should be congratulated for all their hard work.

Ihor Gawdiak
Washington

The writer is president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council.

Reaction to review of Hutsulshyna book

Dear Editor:

The Ukrainian Weekly is a respected source of information about problems and events in the world, in Ukraine and in the Ukrainian diaspora. For this reason the publishers of the book "Hutsulshyna: Perlyna Ukrainskykh Karpat" felt it important that The Weekly note its publication.

The review reads as a detailed listing of the book's table of contents, and as such provides an arguably accurate representation of the book. Following this is the reviewer's assessment that the book's value is diminished somehow by the absence of dates and credits for the photographs, and by the technical faults of the photographs themselves.

These photographs were gathered from a large number of people and their compilation was not an easy process, nor was it a realistic task to authenticate the captions and dates, or to verify the geographic locales portrayed in these photographs.

The Institute of Ethnology in Lviv described the publication of this book as a "pre-eminent event in Ukrainian ethnography" and a "definitive work," and underscored the significance of the book "for current and future researchers of this colorful region."

Criticism of this publication by the review in The Weekly is painful for lovers of the Hutsuls and their region who devoted so much time and effort in preparing the materials that enabled the publication of this important book.

Ulana Starosolska
New York

The writer is editor of "Hutsulshyna: Perlyna Ukrainskykh Karpat."

Ukraine doesn't need hetmanate or monarchy

Dear Editor:

One is compelled to agree with Dr. Myron Kuropas on his assessment of the presidential elections and presidential authority in Ukraine ("Where is our hetman, now that we need him?" October 31). However, the situation does not merit the romantic notion of re-establishing a hetmanate or monarchy in Ukraine.

Left-Bank and Right-Bank Ukraine under hetmanate administrative rule experienced a lack of cohesiveness due to internal squabbling and disloyalty (let alone foreign intervention), based on personal ambitions and opportunism. The brilliant statesman Hetman Ivan Mazepa, Hetman Ivan Vyhovsky and others witnessed first-hand these tragic setbacks that more than hindered their military campaigns.

I'm not sure the British imperial example is opportune either. The princely members of the House of Windsor are hardly models of exemplary rulers. Moreover, monarchies have been plagued for centuries by disgruntled taxpayers. The average Ukrainian citizen has difficulty paying taxes under the current political system in Ukraine. Why would a Ukrainian be content in attempting to fulfill his civic duty by paying taxes in support of a monarchy?

And besides, Ukraine has had its share of governance under monarchial, imperial colonial rule. Monarchies breed unrest. Irishman Bobby Sands starved himself to death in protest against the English crown's colonial rule in Ireland. Did I mention Basque separatism?

Ilyia Matthew Labunka
Lviv

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Leonid Kuchma: patriot or parasite?

"Gimme, gimme, gimme" has become the silent mantra of Ukrainian politicians, "biznismeny" and the mafia eager to get a piece of Ukraine's resources, i.e., "the big pyrih" (or "varenyk," if you prefer).

What passes for "commerce" in post-Soviet Ukraine is really little more than a scramble to "get mine at any cost." Lying, dissembling and stealing continue to be a way of life in Ukraine.

Leonid Kuchma's 56 percent plus margin of victory is a miraculous mandate from an electorate that apparently still believes in the future of Ukraine. As tainted as his campaign was, Mr. Kuchma did promise changes in his second term. This may be his and Ukraine's last chance to turn things around. This time Mr. Kuchma can demonstrate that he is truly a Ukrainian patriot, not the parasite the man on the Ukrainian street believes him to be. Let's face it, Mr. Kuchma won because he was perceived the lesser of two evils.

Ukraine, more a basket case than the breadbasket it once was, is experiencing a depression that is both economic and psychological. Agriculture has fallen from 22 percent of the economy to 14 percent. The Gross Domestic Product has declined an average of 11 percent per year since 1988. Foreign debt has increased exponentially. Unemployment figures are high and would be higher if more Ukrainians would quit jobs where payless paydays are the norm rather than the exception.

Just prior to the election, the Wall Street Journal wrote; "If voters don't return the Communists to power, Ukraine faces a golden opportunity to reverse its decline," economists believe. "Most large enterprises are still idling away in state hands, giving Ukraine the chance to sell them in fair and open privatization auctions to competent managers. At least \$1 billion per year could be raised from the sales, giving the state more funds to improve its social services and meet foreign debt payments of \$3 billion next year."

The Communists lost and Mr. Kuchma now has his golden opportunity. He's done the right thing before. He started off with a bang soon after his 1994 election by liberalizing prices and corralling inflation with a tight monetary policy. Then he sputtered, stumbled and went limp.

Mr. Kuchma's first order of business during his second term has to be corruption among government bureaucrats and the political elite, former members of the nomenklatura who are now "biznismeny." It is intolerable that Yukhym Zviahivskyi, who is accused of stealing enormous sums of money in a raw materials scam, Pavlo Lazarenko, who build a vast fortune from oil and gas, and Vitold Fokin who was dismissed because of a scandal involving petty bribery were once prime ministers! Corruption is a virus. Even some patriots/dissidents are not above reproach.

Has corruption increased in Ukraine since Soviet times? According to a chapter titled "Corruption in Ukraine: Between Perceptions and Realities," by Roman P. Zyla, which appears in the recently published book "State and Institution Building in Ukraine" (edited by Taras Kuzio, Robert S. Kravchuk and Paul D'Anieri), the answer is simply, "not necessarily." Corruption was always a part of Soviet life with select periods,

such as the Brezhnev years, more corrupt than others. Scandals were usually kept under wraps, however.

Today, the situation is quite different, according to Dr. Zyla. Although there is "no accurate measure by which to determine if there has been any real increase in corrupt activity since 1991," he writes, it doesn't matter. The perception by the man in the Ukrainian street is that there is. And the perception has become the reality.

Three developments account for the perception Dr. Zyla believes: 1) the increased media coverage of government operations; 2) the plodding modification of the criminal code combined with a lax enforcement of those laws that do exist; 3) the free-for-all, lawless market economy that has produced a brand of "savage capitalism" that rewards those who lie, cheat, steal, even murder to make the quick buck.

The greatest threat corruption poses to a free society is that it renders the government irrelevant to the people, who then begin to seek alternative avenues of economic survival. Increasingly frustrated by a bureaucracy on-the-take, legitimate businesspeople simply give up on trying to legally obtain the required permits, licenses and registrations the Ukrainian government demands of them. The end result is a kind of "disconnect" between the citizenry and the government followed by withdrawal from the official economy. Today the shadow economy in Ukraine is reliably valued at somewhere between 40 and 60 percent, claims Dr. Zyla.

Corruption also drives away foreign investors. According to the Wall Street Journal, Hungary last year received \$1,750 per capita in foreign investment, Bulgaria received \$140. Ukraine? A piddly \$40 per capita! How sad. With its educated work force and proximity to European markets Ukraine could reach an annual growth of 10 percent believes David Snelbecker, an American economist.

Before this can happen, however, the vicious circle of corruption leading to decreased trust in the government, producing a shadow economy, resulting in less tax money for government coffers, yielding to more corruption, has to be cut. "During the period of transition from socialism to a market-driven democracy," concludes Dr. Zyla, "good government and a working market economy can be created only if there is strong public support of the institutions and workings of the state."

The only man who can break the vicious circle is Leonid Kuchma. Is he up for it? The time for plodding, deal-making and media manipulation is over. If he wishes to erase his parasitic image, Mr. Kuchma needs to take advantage of his mandate, appoint a qualified patriot as prime minister, and vigorously push for legal reform and economic privatization. Continued foot-dragging will have dangerous consequences. A worsening economy may lead to massive, nationwide protests, and the return of the Communists, redder than ever.

Patriot or parasite, Mr. President, the choice is yours.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is: mbkuropas@compuserve.com

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Discover Ukraine...

(Continued from page 1)

Invited to the Spanish port city of El Ferrol for the annual celebration of Santiago (St. James), the patron saint of Spain, Mr. Birioukovitch and his crew of 20 took with them an exhibition of the history, resources and culture of Ukraine, including 23 gravures from 1918 of Ukrainian navy vessels flying the blue-yellow national ensign. The exhibition, which consisted of 16 display boards and Ukrainian folk music blaring from the ship's deck, brought much attention from the thousands of visitors to the seven-day Santiago festival.

"We felt a warm welcome and lot of respect shown to us," said Mr. Birioukovitch. "When the Ukrainian flag was raised next to the other European flags, it was a moving moment."

Seven tall ships and 14 military vessels from several European countries, including Germany, Italy, Holland and Belgium, traveled to take part in the celebrations, but the voyage by the Ukrainians was the longest.

The *Batkivshchyna* traveled 3,600 nautical miles across the Black Sea, through the Strait of Dardanelles and the Sea of Marmara and into the Mediterranean before entering the Atlantic Ocean on its way to El Ferrol. The journey took a month, and it was far from smooth sailing, said Captain Birioukovitch.

In the Atlantic off the coast of Portugal, the crew experienced storms and heavily pitching seas that tossed the ship about for three days. The yacht and the crew held up admirably, however.

In El Ferrol, they were accorded special attention as the only expedition team from Eastern Europe. At the Admiral's Banquet, given by the director of the Spanish Naval Academy in El Ferrol, Mr. Birioukovitch was seated in a place of honor across from the admiral himself.

As the *Batkivshchyna* entered El Ferrol Harbor during the parade of ships, the master of ceremonies proclaimed over the microphone "Viva Ukraina." And during the formal ceremony honoring St. James, held in the neighboring town of Santiago de Compostela, the Spanish bishop who presided read a greeting in Ukrainian.

During the return to Ukraine, a much more leisurely voyage that took two months, the Discover Ukraine expedition made 16 ports of call to five European nations. At each stop they put up their exhibition and played their music to positive raves from the locals.

Having conquered Europe, the Discover Ukraine team now has set its



Captain Dmytro Birioukovitch and his wife with members of the organizing committee of the Santiago celebration in Spain.

sights on the Americas, where both del Fuego and Columbus made their contribution to history. The captain has individual invitations from six of the cities that are hosting the OpSail procession up the Atlantic Seaboard of the United States.

Mr. Birioukovitch hopes that his two sailing vessels will join the tall ships expedition in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in late May, and sail with the fleet to Miami, Norfolk, Va., Baltimore, New York and New London, Conn.

Operation Sail is a non-profit organization that has organized four historic tall ship events: in 1964 in honor of the New York World's Fair, in 1976 for the U.S. Bicentennial Celebrations; in 1986 for Liberty Weekend, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty and, most recently, the 1992 Columbus Quincentennial celebration. The organization was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy to foster good will among nations.

With five months until the event, 17 ships from across the globe are already confirmed for OpSail 2000, including sailing vessels from Venezuela, Ecuador, Indonesia, Germany, Canada, Russia and Poland.

OpSail officials were first told about the Discover Ukraine project during an

August reception in Washington marking Ukraine's Independence Day, hosted by Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Anton Buteiko. Their Norfolk organizing committee head, Timothy Jones, who spoke with Ambassador Buteiko at the embassy, contacted Roy Kellogg, a Canadian who lives in Kyiv and is a founding member of the Discover Ukraine team, to extend an invitation to take part.

Ambassador Buteiko had learned of the Discover Ukraine project while still in Kyiv as first assistant minister of foreign affairs. The Discover Ukraine people have worked closely with the ministry during the last two years while developing their trans-global sailing project, according to Mr. Kellogg.

Mr. Buteiko is not the only official in the Ukrainian government to have taken an interest in Discover Ukraine. On September 17, the admiral of Ukraine's naval forces, Mykhailo Yezhel, informed the expedition team that he had agreed to act as the honorary head of the Ukrainian OpSail expedition. Mr. Birioukovitch hopes that eventually the Ukrainian government will sanction the two boats as official OpSail representatives of Ukraine.

Captain Birioukovitch explained that he sees participation by Discover Ukraine in OpSail as a wonderful opportunity to further his mission to get the word out about his beloved country. In each U.S. port the crew will put out the exhibition it has developed and be on hand to answer questions and provide information to visitors as they did in El Ferrol, Spain. They also hope to set up a project for school kids in Ukraine to track the expedition's journey via the Internet, cell phone and radio communications.

In another evolving project, one of Kyiv's major television channels has expressed interest in putting together daily updates on the vessels' progress across the Atlantic during its news show's weather forecasts, which may help generate the one thing that Discover Ukraine sorely lacks: financial supporters and advertising.

Captain Birioukovitch said that for the voyage to the United States his crew chiefly will need money for fuel and provisions. But in Puerto Rico after the crossing of the Atlantic, he also hopes to be able to slap a new coat of paint on his two sailing vessels and attach new sails, which requires more money.

"In El Ferrol, after the storms and the

day-to-day beating the ship took, our yacht looked rather ragged," explained Captain Birioukovitch.

In the United States another expense, this one unavoidable, will be maritime insurance, which is required to dock at most U.S. ports.

While the captain continues to search for benefactors in Ukraine, he is hoping also to attract some financial support in the United States from among the Ukrainian American community. The OpSail 2000 organization has developed an Adopt-A-Ship program, via which locals can support individual ships that are taking part in the regatta. In this way individuals, civic groups and businesses can take a personal interest in a ship and its crew while providing some financial support.

Although OpSail 2000 committee organizers have promised the Discover Ukraine team that they will put them in touch with local Ukrainian American communities in Norfolk, Baltimore, New York and New London, Mr. Kellogg said he has yet to receive any information.

In an individual fund-raising project, the Discover Ukraine team is planning to allow guests to sail aboard the *Batkivshchyna* and the *Pochaina* during official ceremonies in each of the host cities. Special emphasis is being put on participation in the grand Parade of Ships program in New York on Independence Day.

Capt. Birioukovitch said he would be pleased to have Ukrainian American guests on board as he takes part in local celebrations in each of the host cities, and especially when he sails in the tall ship parade in New York Harbor on the Fourth of July.

It will take much persistence, good luck, a bit of obstinacy, a measure of courage and a heap of optimism for the *Batkivshchyna* and the *Pochaina* to get to the United States. Yet these words aptly describe Mr. Birioukovitch and the way he is pursuing his dream. They would probably apply to Columbus and del Fuego as well.

For information on the Discover Ukraine expedition, or to find out how to contribute funds or become a part of this project, contact: telephone, 38-044-419-5998 or 38-044-229-4121; fax, 38-044-228-6663; e-mail, discoverukraine@hotmail.com; or ukraine@discover.relc.com; or phillip@regatta.kiev.ua.



Captain and Mrs. Dmytro Birioukovitch exchange gifts in El Ferrol with members of the organizing committee of the annual Santiago celebration.

Pianists Luba and Ireneus Zuk awarded title of "Merited Artists of Ukraine"

MONTREAL – The Ukrainian Canadian piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk were recently awarded the title "Merited Artists of Ukraine" for "significant personal contribution to the popularization of Ukrainian culture in the world and notable creative achievements."

The title, which is bestowed by presidential decree, was conferred on October 19 prior to the duo's performance at the State Opera House in Kyiv. The awards ceremony was held as part of the final concert of the Festival of the Arts of Ukrainian Ethnographic Lands and the Diaspora.

On October 20, following the award ceremony and the festival concert, Luba and Ireneus Zuk were invited to meet with the Canadian ambassador to Ukraine, Derek R.T. Fraser, at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv.

Mr. Fraser, who attended the concert and the award ceremony the previous night, congratulated the artists on this unique distinction, and discussed with interest past and present performances and academic activities in Ukraine of the Zuks. Mr. Fraser also expressed his personal interest in future concert appearances in Ukraine by the Zuk duo.

News of the award was carried in the Kyiv newspaper Den (October 26 issue) and was written up by the Kyiv Conservatory.

Luba Zuk and her brother, Ireneus, who perform both as soloists and as a piano duo, and have appeared in concerts to critical acclaim in North America, Europe and the Far East, are known for their commitment to the introduction of contemporary music by Ukrainian and Canadian composers to international audiences.

They have presented many world premieres, many of which were written especially for them. Among contemporary Ukrainian composers are works by Ihor Bilohrud, George Fiala, Marian Kuzan, Hennadiy Liashenko, Halyna Ovcharenko, Lesia Dychko, Myroslav Skoryk and others.

They have advocated the work of various Canadian composers including John Burge, FRC Clarke, Graham George and David Keane, and they have commissioned works from composers such as Bengt Hambraeus, Ann Southam, Gary Kulesha and Clifford Crawley, among others.

Some of the works were commissioned under awards from the Canada



Ireneus and Luba Zuk, piano duo, on the stage of the State Opera House in Kyiv during their performance at the Festival of the Arts of Ukrainian Ethnographic Lands and the Diaspora.

Council and Ontario Arts Council, and their recordings have been included in the Radio Canada International Anthology of Canadian Music.

The distinguished musicians first visited Ukraine in 1991. At the invitation of the Composers' Union of Ukraine, the duo performed at the second and third International Ukrainian Music Festivals in Kyiv, and in the last few years they performed at the Virtuosi and Organum international music festivals in Lviv and Sumy, respectively, as well as toured major cities in Ukraine.

They returned to Ukraine in 1995 to perform in Odesa and Kherson, and at Kyiv Music Fest '95. In their 1996-1997 concerts they premiered several works written for them by Canadian and Ukrainian composers. Last year, they performed in Cyprus and during the first part of 1999 in the U.S. and Canada.

The Zuks also frequently adjudicate in Canadian and international music festivals.

Born in western Ukraine, Luba and Ireneus Zuk are graduates of McGill University and the Conservatoire de Musique du Quebec in Montreal. Both also studied at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, and at the University

of Alberta Banff School of Fine Arts.

An associate professor in the faculty of music at McGill University, Luba Zuk has performed on CBC and Austrian national radios, and her recital tours have taken her to major cities in Canada and the U.S. She has a special interest in music by Ukrainian composers and has given North American premieres of many of their solo and chamber works.

Ireneus Zuk studied also at the Royal

College of Music in London and the Juilliard School in New York, and earned a doctor of musical Arts degree at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. A professor and the director of the School of Music at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, he has performed on CBC Radio and Television, as well as in numerous recitals throughout in North America, Europe and the Far East, and as a soloist with several orchestras.



On the stage of the State Opera House in Kyiv, after the awards ceremony and festival concert are (from left): Ivan Hamkalo, conductor of the Ukrainian State Opera; pianist Luba Zuk; Borys Sharvarko, artistic director of the Festival of the Arts of Ukrainian Ethnographic Lands and the Diaspora; Yuri Bohutski, Minister of Culture and the Arts; and pianist Ireneus Zuk.

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DATELINE NEW YORK: Music hath charms – and so hath dance

by Helen Smindak

The exceptional talents of Ukrainian composers, bandurists, opera stars and folk singers brought a wealth of great music to the Big Apple in recent weeks. Add to that the thrilling sight of beautifully trained and taut bodies moving gracefully in dance – what more could one wish for in the way of cultural delight?

The talents belonged to composers Dmitry Polischuk and ballet soloist Maxim Belotserkovsky and Irina Dvorovenko, bandurists Roman Hryniv, Julian Kytasty, Michael Andrec and Jurij Fedynsky and folk singers Alexis Kochan and Maryana Sadovska.

Mr. Polischuk and the two ballet dancers showed their mettle in the American Ballet Theater's two-week fall season at the City Center last month, in particular during the October 28 program that saw the world premiere of Robert Hill's new ballet "Baroque Game." Mr. Belotserkovsky was one of the featured soloists in "Baroque Game," for which Mr. Polischuk composed the score, and he and Ms. Dvorovenko appeared as soloists in Robert Joffrey's period piece "Pas des Déesses."

Though Mr. Polischuk has collaborated with Mr. Hill on two previous ballets – "Post No Scriptum" and "Pulsar" – both for the ABT Studio Company, "Baroque Game" was the first work commissioned for ABT itself. It was a tremendous hit with the audience and critics, in particular The New York Times' reviewer Anna Kisselgoff, who described the music as "a sly score ... music and dance come blissfully together with wit and sophistication ... The game in "Baroque Game" is embodied in Mr. Polischuk's playfulness. At one point the orchestra, conducted by Charles Barker, appears to be warming

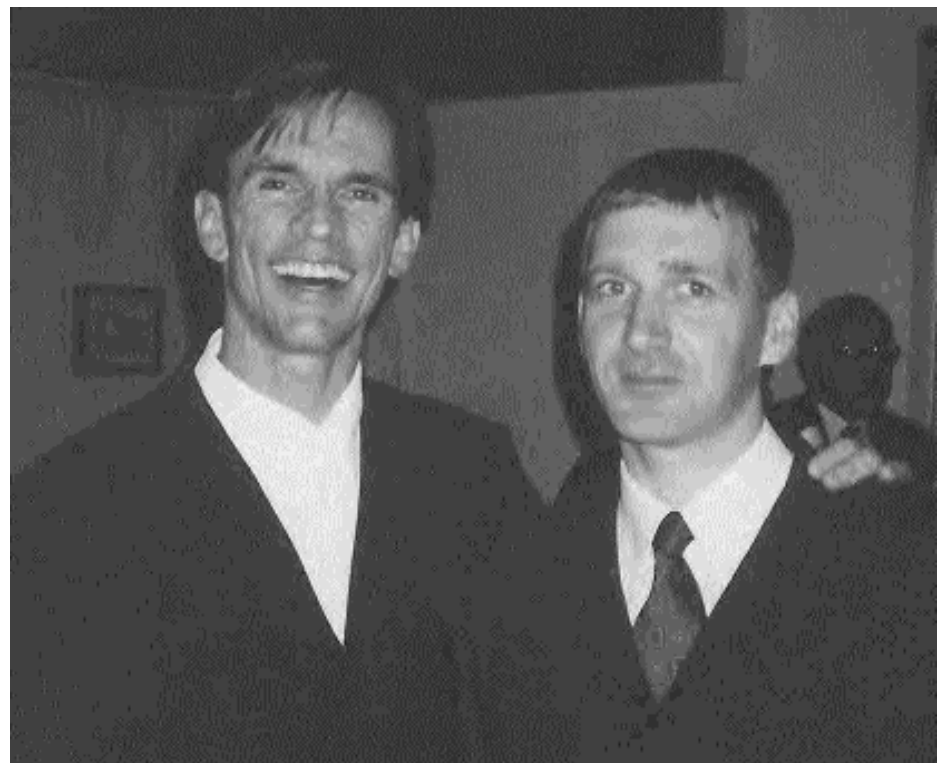
up, and there is more than one bang on the piano."

Mr. Polischuk's music, which embraces a dance energy and a sophisticated approach to historical dance forms, is held in high regard by Mr. Hill, yet the young composer likes to emphasize that "Robert's taste, integrity and musicality and Mr. Barker's "great job with the orchestra" are what made the ballet such a success. Composer and choreographer have already collaborated on another new ballet, tentatively called "Broadway Bound," which will receive its premiere in February by the Minnesota Dance Theater in Minneapolis.

Mr. Belotserkovsky, lean and handsome, was the most impressive of the four male dancers in "Baroque Game," leaping and spinning with great virtuosity. In "Pas des Déesses," he partnered ballerinas Ashley Tuttle, Oksana Konobeyeva and Ms. Dvorovenko through frolicsome nocturnes, rondos and waltzes as the female soloists competed for his attention. His performance received great applause, as did his sensuous duet with Ms. Dvorovenko (in real life, the two are husband and wife; they were soloists of the Kyiv Opera Ballet before joining ABT ranks a few years ago).

During the ABT regular season last spring, Mr. Belotserkovsky and Ms. Dvorovenko received excellent notices for their performances in "Giselle," "Études," "The Merry Widow," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Sinfonietta," and made their debuts in the leading roles of "Don Quixote."

From American Ballet Theater, take a giant leap to the Ukrainian Institute of America where a weekendlong "Harvest: Ukrainian Folk Song Today" (November 13-14) included a Saturday afternoon



Composer Dmitry Polischuk (right) with choreographer Robert Hill after the premiere performance of the ballet "Baroque Game."

workshop in Ukrainian folk singing led by Canadian singer and culture-maker Alexis Kochan, that attracted 35 participants, many of whom described it as "a fantastic experience." That evening, Ms. Kochan, whose recordings "Czarivna," "Paris to Kiev" and "Paris to Kyiv: Variances" have brought together musicians from different worlds to explore the deepest layers of Ukrainian musical tradition, joined third-generation professional bandurist Julian Kytasty in a sentimental reprise of many of the songs they have performed as a duet and with their ensemble for festival programs and concert series in Germany, Canada and the

United States. Mr. Kytasty provided flute and bandura accompaniment as they sang. For their encore, workshop participants seated in the audience chimed in, providing a moving rendition of the old Ukrainian folk song "Oy, Hilia."

The Kochan-Kytasty combo was preceded by a song presentation from Maryana Sadovska, actor and musical director of the Gardzienice Experimental Theater in Poland. The Lviv native, who has been organizing expeditions to collect Ukrainian folk songs since 1991, brought out songs, stories and rituals documented during travel last summer throughout Polissa and the Poltava, Hutsul and Lemko regions. Her bright voice and outstanding dramatic ability added remarkable verve to her presentation.

One of Ukraine's leading contemporary bandura performers took the stage on Sunday evening, fingers deftly plucking the strings of his gloriously mellow and resonant bandura. Roman Hryniv, a laureate of Ukrainian and international competitions who has been awarded the title of Merited Artist of Ukraine, drew from his bandura the sounds of a spinet as he played his "Fantasy in Baroque Style" and a four-part "Suite" that combined high notes, heavy chords and liquid-like glissandos that melted into one another in quick succession.

From "Kolomyika," centered around a Hutsul dance melody, came the sound of the drymba (jew's harp). "Virtuosic Piece," a meditative piece with Oriental overtones, had Mr. Hryniv using his fingers like a guitar pick, then splaying out the fingers of both hands to produce cascades of music in ascending and descending chords.

The Experimental Bandura Trio (EBT), combining the artistry of Mr. Kytasty and two of his former students – Michael Andrec of New Jersey and Jurij Fedynsky of North Carolina, revealed its ideas of extending bandura music into new territory. Mr. Kytasty's adaptation of Ostap Veresai's "Duma/Dance" and his imitation of new bandura sounds produced by the late Dr. Zynoviy Shtokalko (this piece was quixotically named "Dr. Shtok Makes House Calls") opened and closed the EBT session; in between came Mr. Andrec's "Canticle," Mr. Fedynsky's "A Night in Emlenton," which seemed to emulate the sound of the wind sweeping through a stand of pines, and a take-off on a traditional Macedonian melody called "Osogovsko Oro."

REVIEW: Plishka and Pyatnychko perform in 'Adelia'

by Bohdanna Wolanska

NEW YORK – It was not just another Thursday night in New York. On November 11 two outstanding Ukrainian singers performed together in Carnegie Hall. The occasion was the sole performance of the little-known opera "Adelia" by Gaetano Donizetti, presented in concert by the Opera Orchestra of New York (OONY).

Newcomer Stephan Pyatnychko, in his professional New York debut, sang the role of Carlo, the opportunistic and hypocritical Duke of Burgundy, and Paul Plishka, famous around the world and especially at the Metropolitan Opera, performed as the Duke's trusted archer, Arnoldo. The title soprano role of Arnoldo's daughter was handily dispatched by veteran diva Mariella Devia of Italy, still youthful and fresh of voice with scintillating high E flats, while her lovely Count Oliviero, was ardently and mellifluously rendered by the young tenor Warren Mok.

The sophisticated audience was liberally sprinkled with savvy Ukrainian opera-goers – the same people one encounters at Maria Gulegina's, Volodymyr Hryshko's and Oksana Krovyt's performances.

Bohdanna Wolanska, founder and director of the Promin Vocal Ensemble, is a certified teacher who holds degrees in education, music, and computer applications and information science, as well as an M.B.A. She is a teacher with the Ukrainian Music Institute and personal manager for several operatic singers.

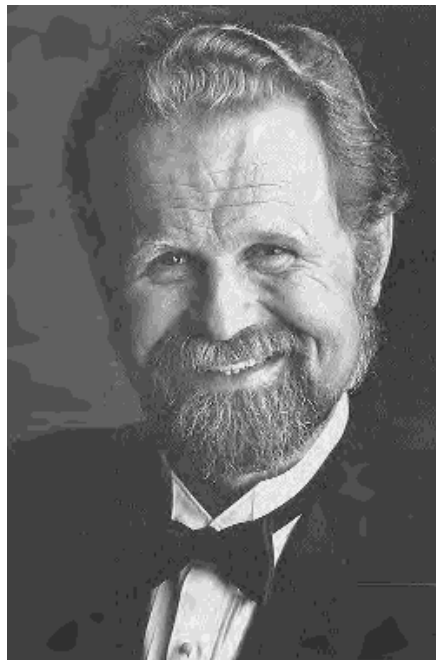
But this night was special, as those who frequent conductor Eve Queler's three or four annual performances know. More than a conductor, she has a talent for spotting talent, and people come to hear outstanding, but as yet undiscovered, voices she is presenting to her discriminating New York audience.

Mr. Plishka, a favorite who has sung at OONY more often than any other singer, sang with his customary care, emotional commitment and booming black bass sound. He movingly rendered the portrait of a loving father betrayed by what he mistakenly thinks is his daughter's shame-

ful behavior. Once again he has shown his amazing versatility: he has sung buffo roles such as Dr. Dulcamara, basso cantante roles such as King Philip, colortura bass in Handel's Samson, leading dramatic roles such as Boris Godunov, to bass-baritone staples such as Falstaff, with equal ease and success.

Mr. Plishka is a known quantity, as is Ms. Devia, so the novelties were Messrs. Mok and Pyatnychko. Mr. Mok, after a somewhat pinched and tight start, warmed up to an emotionally charged clos-

(Continued on page 14)



Bass Paul Plishka



Baritone Stephan Pyatnychko

Arkan Dance Company brings Ukrainian culture to China

by Olenka Genyk

TORONTO – Members of the Arkan Dance Company, with its directors, Danovia Stechishin-Stefura and Scott Stefura, met on July 21 at the Pearson International Airport in Toronto in eager anticipation of their long-awaited concert tour of China as part of what was called, '99 China International Year of Traditional Song and Dance and the World Expo of Culture.

Many countries were invited by China to dance in numerous cities to initiate friendly cultural relations during the festival held May through September. The tour invitation was courtesy of Folklore Canada, and the tour was sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and the government of China.

After long months of rehearsals and fund-raising, and lots of planning, our dream had finally come true. We said good-bye to friends and family, and boarded the plane for our journey.

First stop: Beijing

Our first concert at the Beijing Theater was a resounding success, and the performance was televised on national Chinese television. We noticed an interesting cultural difference: the audiences were very conservative and they reserved their applause until the end of the concert.

The audiences in China were not familiar with the Ukrainian style of dance – this was a new experience for them given the Cold War between China and the Soviet Union.

Officials from both the consulates of Ukraine and Canada greeted us backstage. Later the dance company was feted at a banquet hosted by the Chinese Government, the Ministry of Culture, and the China National Arts and Culture Corporation. The dancers were treated to Chinese delicacies, some of which we were tasting for the first time.

After a well-deserved good night's sleep at the Baolingcheng Hotel, we were taken on a sightseeing excursion to the Great Wall of China. How exciting to find ourselves at such a world famous historical sight! Wearing our Ukrainian costumes, we took official pictures with the beautiful scene as our backdrop.

Chinese tourists who were visiting the Great Wall that day were enthralled by our costumes and wanted to take pictures with us.

After leaving the Great Wall we were driven to Tiananmen Square and continued our sightseeing excursion. We saw the changing of the guard and the Forbidden City. Then we were taken to the station where we boarded a train that took us to Wuhan, our next concert destination.

After getting off the train, we were driven to our hotel, the Wuhan Asia Grand Hotel. We were truly amazed by the hospitality bestowed upon us. This five-star hotel had a swimming pool, large lobby, revolving restaurant and spacious rooms. During our stay in Wuhan, we had two two-hour concerts. Wearing our colorful costumes representing diverse regions of Ukraine, we were a big hit with the Chinese audiences.

We also had an opportunity to visit a museum filled with ancient Chinese artifacts. While at the museum, a chime concert was performed – the music was extremely beautiful to hear. After our stay in Wuhan, we flew to the next city on our tour, Kunming.

In Kunming we stayed at the lovely Yunnan Jingmato Hotel. Most of our shopping was done in this city. During our stay there we visited the beautiful international horticultural exhibit, named World Expo '99. The fabulous displays of water fountains, architectural struc-



Arkan's dancers at the Great Wall of China.

tures decorated with multicolored flowers, and exotic flora and fauna were breathtaking. We were thrilled to see a Canadian display.

That evening we were hosted for the second time by Chinese officials at a banquet held in our honor at the hotel. Again we were treated to such exotic Chinese dishes as snails, snake, shark and others. The following day we visited an ancient Chinese village. We were especially astounded by the beauty of the Tibetan Buddhist Temple with its colorful indoor frescoes.

The Arkan Dance Company had two performances in the Yunnan Art Theater in Kunming. Our audiences were impressed by our numerous, varied and brightly colored Ukrainian costumes, which they were seeing for the first time. Each concert seemed to be better than the previous one, as we were becoming more accustomed to the time change and the differences in language, food and culture.

On Sunday, August 1, we left Kunming

and traveled to Ningbo where we stayed at the Ningbo Wenyi Hotel. Our performance was at the Ningbo Yifu Theater. The next day, we set out for Fenghua, where we stayed at the Fenghua Huayi Hotel and performed the final concert of our Chinese tour at the Fenghua Theater.

The following morning we were taken on a sightseeing excursion of an ancient mansion museum and its extensive beautiful gardens. A banquet was held for us that evening, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at a karaoke night. Later on, we boarded a bus for the five-hour drive to Shanghai, where we then boarded a plane for Seoul, South Korea.

Since we had a nine-hour layover in Seoul, we took advantage of this opportunity and toured the beautiful city. We visited the major landmark in Seoul, a communications tower that we climbed to its summit. From there we had panoramic views of the whole city and took many photographs. We then visited the old palace with its unique Korean architecture.

At the end of this long day, the very tired but exhilarated Arkan Dance Company boarded the plane for the long flight home to Toronto.

Although our tour of China was completed, the memories will last a lifetime. We experienced a completely different culture, and this will have a profound effect on our lives. We brought our unique Ukrainian Canadian culture to the Chinese, who have never seen our folklore.

Many thanks to our organizers in China, the China National Art and Culture Corporation, the local sponsors and presenters in each Chinese city, the Ministry of Culture, the Government of China and Folklore Canada; our sponsors, Contract Supply Corp., Holsag Canada, Ramatol Corp., Natalia Morlaccetti, the Ukrainian Credit Union, Trypillia Arts and Prombank Investments; our fund-raising director, Nina Allinson; our parents; and our directors. Without them this tour would not have been possible.



The Arkan Dance Company at the Wuhan Theater, one of the venues where the troupe performed.

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Plishka and Pyatnychko...

(Continued from page 12)

ing aria, sounding (and looking) like Franco Corelli, tenor idol of the 1960s and 1970s. In all fairness, opening night nerves may have played a part in his early tightness, since in the teaser mini-concert given for OONY patrons and in the dress rehearsal, the tenor's voice was free and liquid, with blazing and secure high notes.

Mr. Pyatnychko's role was regrettably short – he appeared only in Act I – but he still made a lasting impression on an audience starved for a voice possessing at once power and beauty. There were even those overheard in the audience who suspected the part had been cut. It was not for nothing that Mary Jane Phillips-Matz, noted American authority on composer Giuseppe Verdi, last year introduced Mr. Pyatnychko to an audience with the words: "You are about to hear something none of us has heard in years: a genuine Verdian baritone!"

Mr. Pyatnychko commands a rich, flexible sound that reached all corners of the hall, despite the orchestra's frequent attempts to drown him and the other essentially lyric voices out. (When the orchestra is on stage instead of in an orchestra pit, it behooves the conductor to keep them in check.) Although bereft of a show aria, this burnished baritone stirred enough audience excitement to carry over the remaining acts and explode in a storm of applause and bravos at his solo curtain call.

If one must quibble, it's only that Mr. Pyatnychko could use a little more freedom of movement to match the extraordinary nuance and detail he creates with his voice. American audiences are accustomed to more naturalistic acting, whereas Ukrainian performance traditions are a bit more formal. However, that didn't stop a stream of well-wishers from packing into his backstage dressing room after the show, asking for autographs and predicting a successful career at the Met.

Beyond applause and cheering, there are two signs of respect and admiration that the audience and the orchestra bestow upon a singer who has moved them especially deeply. One is the audience thumping on the wooden partitions and/or stomping on a wooden floor while applauding, and the other the members of the orchestra (who by accepted concert protocol, do not applaud) quietly tapping their instruments with their bows or their hands.

On Thursday night at Carnegie Hall, the audience banged and stamped for both Mr. Plishka and Mr. Pyatnychko, and the orchestra tapped their instruments for the last act trio in which Mr. Plishka took part. We have yet to see what the critics say, but the audience, fellow soloists, orchestra and this writer were impressed.

It is gratifying to see a potential star who makes no secret of his Ukrainian heritage. Happily Mr. Pyatnychko, like his Ukrainian American colleague Mr. Plishka, is a thorough professional who understands the American work ethic. Too many other talented singers come West with high hopes, only to fail due to chronic lateness, willful disrespect for conductors and directors, or failure to learn a role before rehearsals start.

Ukrainian singers in America already have to contend with a largely ignorant public, whose misperception of Ukrainians as Russians has been fostered by unsympathetic if not downright hostile media for the better part of a century. They have a potential ally and producer in conductor Ms. Queler, who favors Slavic opera and Slavic singers, but has been heard to complain that Ukrainians are hard to work with for the above-mentioned reasons. One hopes Mr. Pyatnychko has begun to change her mind, and, following in Mr. Plishka's footsteps, will return in subsequent seasons to sing ever better roles with ever greater success.

Grant enables Manor to put books on line

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Manor College recently received a \$3,000 grant from the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation of North America for retrospective conversion and cataloging of an on-line Ukrainian language book collection that will be available on the Internet.

"We're very excited to be moving forward with this project," said Brian T. Johnstone, library and information literacy specialist at Manor. "This grant provides us with the resources we need to complete a very important project. The college's Ukrainian identity will now be available to researchers at large through the bibliographic information about the collection."

In 1997 Manor College received a competitive grant to begin offering its technical holdings on-line for public use. The grant funded some equipment to bar code the collection and software to computerize the holdings, build the on-line database and maintain the website. Manor College, through institutional funds, has funded the remainder of the project's hardware and software. The grant given by the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation will fund the actual bar coding of each collection holding, trouble-

shooting the project once tested and fixing any coding errors.

Manor's Ukrainian library collection totals over 6,000 volumes and is one of the nation's largest Ukrainian language book collections. Including language, historical, cultural, economic, religious, cultural and political topics, the comprehensive collection contains books, magazines, newsletters, newspapers and multimedia selections.

Manor College is a private, two-year, co-ed, Catholic college founded in 1947 by the Ukrainian Sisters of St. Basil the Great. Manor's objective to foster an awareness and appreciation of the Ukrainian heritage and culture is accomplished through its on-campus Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center (UHSC) that was established in 1977.

The Ukrainian Heritage Foundation was founded in 1983 and is based in Poland, Ohio. The foundation makes grants to organizations for projects that advance its mission to preserve Ukrainian culture in North America. Grants are made in the areas of the performing arts and humanities, and are given to non-profit organizations in the United States or Canada.

Ukrainian students receive scholarships at Manor



JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Ukrainian heritage was well-represented at Manor College's annual Scholarship Reception, as Ukrainian students received numerous scholarship awards. Iryna Bogun (back row, far left) received three scholarships: the Wasył and Jozefa Soroka Scholarship, the International Scholarship, awarded to foreign students who exhibit academic excellence, and the Basilian Scholarship, awarded to returning students who maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average or greater. Oksana Shtuka (back row, second from left) received three scholarships for academic excellence: Wasył and Jozefa Soroka Scholarship, International Scholarship and Basilian Scholarship. Andrey Mykich (back row, second from right) received two scholarships: the International and Basilian Scholarships. Anna Siniakewitch (back row, far right), Ivanna Pelekh (front row, left), Anna Kaczynska (front row, center) and Lesya Koval (front row, right) all received the International Scholarship.

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Ukrainian electorate's...

(Continued from page 2)

the more secure option – namely, for the country's fragile socio-economic status quo under President Kuchma – and against any radical changes in the country's course that were linked with Mr. Symonenko (or with his media image).

In 1991 Leonid Kravchuk's installation as the head of state took place on a nationwide wave of enthusiasm for an independent Ukraine. The 1994 election of Mr. Kuchma was an equally emotional event, marking a considerable ebb in national enthusiasm. Independent Ukraine's third presidential election – though bustling and enthusiastically fought by the presidential hopefuls – was a vote of weariness on the part of the electorate.

Rather than an enthusiasm for President Kuchma's reformist effort, voters displayed skepticism about the ability of politicians to improve the economic situation by systemic change.

By the same token, Mr. Symonenko's not unimpressive electoral showing should not be interpreted as a sign that 10 million politically active Ukrainians want the return of communism. By casting their votes for the leader of the Communist Party many Ukrainians were in fact protesting their country's current economic plight, which is widely associated with Ukraine's failed attempts (under both Presidents Kravchuk

and Kuchma) to follow a "Western path."

As expected, the presidential elections showed once again that Ukraine remains somewhat politically split into a western, "nationalist" part and an Eastern, "socialist" one. This time, Mr. Kuchma received overwhelming support in western Ukraine. The dividing lines between east and west in Ukraine are blurred, however, by Mr. Kuchma's fairly strong showing in such eastern regions as Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy or Kharkiv (where he beat Mr. Symonenko).

Nonetheless, the overall "two-nations-in-one" pattern has not changed. It seems that only a definite improvement in Ukraine's economy can heal the political, social and – as Samuel Huntington put it – "civilizational" cleft between these two parts of one country.

However, even if the full message of the Ukrainian presidential ballot is not easily identifiable, there is nonetheless strong ground for optimism, at least among democrats. The re-election of Mr. Kuchma – a proponent of Ukraine's rapprochement with the West – is a good omen for all those in the post-Soviet area (notably in Russia and Belarus) who oppose the Communist-sponsored idea of restoring some kind of USSR in the form of a "Slavic union."

Without Ukraine, such a union makes no sense, either politically or economically. And it appears that President Kuchma is bent on continuing to strongly oppose that restoration effort.

The Velvet Revolution...

(Continued from page 2)

curtailing distribution of the Soviet press in a bid to prevent the dissemination of openly critical articles. Mr. Gorbachev's speeches were censored in the Czecho-Slovak Communist Party daily Rude Pravo.

The roundtable talks in Poland in early 1989 between Solidarity and the Communist authorities, as well as the Hungarian Parliament's move to re-evaluate its 1956 revolution and transform itself into a parliamentary democracy contributed to a sense of change in Czecho-Slovakia. Elements of a civil society began to develop in response to the jailing of dissident playwright Vaclav Havel and others.

The mass demonstrations in East Germany and the exodus of East Germans through Czecho-Slovakia to the West in September and October 1989 served as an example for Czecho-Slovaks. They saw how massive, peaceful civil disobedience could force a Soviet-bloc satellite to rein in its forces.

But Czechs were also witness to clashes between their own police and East German asylum seekers trying to reach the West German Embassy in Prague. East German police had ceased beating demonstrators by mid-October.

On October 28, the 71st anniversary of the founding of Czecho-Slovakia, the streets of central Prague once again echoed with chanting and whistling as police battled peaceful protesters.

The crowd numbered some 20,000 – hardly enough to persuade a government to resign. In marked contrast to neighboring East Germany, the Prague police resorted to clubs, water cannon and armored personnel carriers to disperse the gathering.

On November 9, East German authorities opened the Berlin Wall. Eight days later, on November 17, a record 50,000 Czecho-Slovaks turned out for a student demonstration in Prague that, though officially sanctioned, turned violent as police surrounded and beat demonstrators. Secret police disinformation that a student had been killed backfired: in the following days, the number of protesters soared into the hundreds of thousands. Opposition activists and intellectuals founded the Civic Forum two days after what came to be known as the "massacre."

The secret police, riot police, Internal Affairs Ministry troops and the army all waited in vain for orders to act. But the orders never came. As with the Berlin Wall, Moscow monitored the situation in Prague closely but refrained from any interference. Within a week, the Czecho-Slovak Politburo resigned. But equally incompetent bureaucrats were appointed as replacements.

Some 700,000 people demonstrated on November 25-26 to express their outrage and demand an end to Communist rule. The crowd whistled and booed Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec, who soon resigned.

On December 3, the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact issued separate statements condemning their invasion of Czecho-Slovakia in 1968. And on December 10, after he swore in a new government of opposition activists and moderate Communists under Communist Prime Minister Marian Calfa, Gustav Husak finally stepped down as president.

By the end of the month, Mr. Dubcek was speaker of the federal Parliament, and the most articulate and outspoken critic of the communist regime, Mr. Havel, was president of Czecho-Slovakia.

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Helsinki Commission...

(Continued from page 3)

have made their way to the United States, recognized as a global leader in supporting the rehabilitation of victims of torture. The commission has conducted hearings this year on the use of torture in countries of the OSCE, especially in Turkey, a NATO ally. Efforts by several members of the commission to stop the export of torture equipment by U.S. companies to Turkey's government followed a 1998 congressional fact-finding mission to Turkey which included interaction with families of torture victims, and a hearing in March.

The November 19 Charter for European Security includes a clear commitment of

House of Representatives...

(Continued from page 8)

evoke outrage from the international community;

(6) urges that the government of the Russian Federation seek and accept international humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the internally displaced persons from Chechnya, so as to reduce the risk of civilian casualties; and

(7) calls on the government of the United States to express to all parties the necessity of resolving the conflict peacefully, with full respect to the human rights of all the citizens of the Russian Federation, and to support the provision of appropriate international humanitarian assistance.

On November 3, the Helsinki Commission held a hearing on "The Chechen Crisis and its Implications for Russian Democracy." The full transcript of the hearing will soon be available on the commission's website.

OSCE states to eradicate torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment and punishment. The heads of state have further pledged to promote legislation to provide safeguards and legal remedies to combat torture and assist victims.

Members of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation In Europe hoped to expand the language to further protect minority religious believers, many of whom are currently under legal attack in a number of the OSCE states. Evangelical and Pentecostal Protestants, for example, are having a difficult time in much of the former Soviet Union and in countries like France and Austria in obtaining legal standing in the courts, and in buying property. The Helsinki Commission cited the recent bulldozing of the only Seventh Day Adventist church in Turkmenistan as a reminder of the existing threats to religious freedom in some areas of the OSCE region.

Leaders at the Istanbul summit acknowledged that the Roma minority is subjected to violence and discrimination, as well as other manifestations of racism. The Helsinki Commission noted that there is no clearer manifestation of the racism Roma face than the wall recently erected in the Czech city of Usti nad Labem. The United States has commended the Czech government and Parliament for opposing the wall, which is incompatible with a democratic society.

A number of countries have no comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, and Roma have often faced unremedied discrimination in the workplace, housing, education, the military and public places. Therefore, in addition to acknowledging the violence and discrimination Roma face, the November 19 declaration calls for the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation to promote respect for the rights of Roma.



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NOTES ON PEOPLE

UNA'ers celebrate 35th wedding anniversary

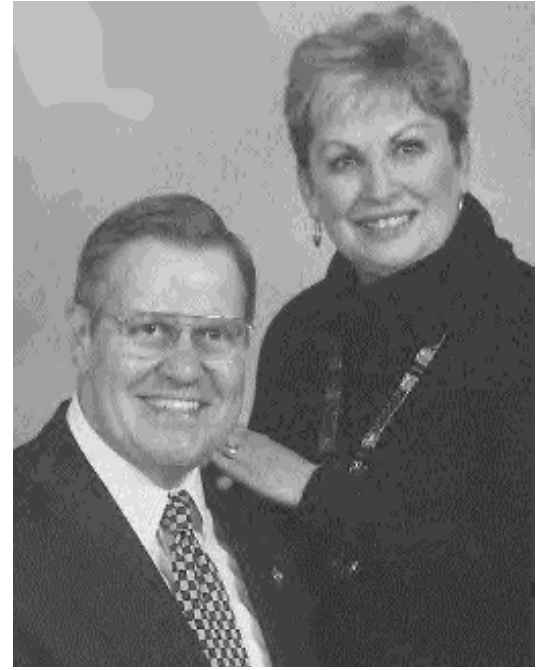
DE KALB, Ill. – Myron and Lesia Kuropas celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on October 24. The happily married couple spent their anniversary weekend away on a marriage retreat.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuropas met at Soyuzivka in 1960, when both were workers at the Ukrainian National Association's resort. They also got married at Soyuzivka on October 24, 1964.

Mrs. Kuropas was Miss Soyuzivka in 1957. Dr. Kuropas served as UNA vice-president from 1978 to 1990 and is well-known for his "Faces and Places" column in The Ukrainian Weekly.

The couple have two married children (Stefko and Michael) and four grandchildren.

The Kuropases are members of UNA Branch 423.



Myron and Lesia Kuropas

Named outstanding senior at Morristown High

MORRISTOWN, N.J. – Ruslan E. Denysyk, a student at Morristown High School in Morris County, was named "Outstanding Senior" and featured in the October 1999 issue of the school newspaper, Broadcaster. He was cited for winning the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, being a Congressional intern in Washington this past summer and his involvement in the local first aid squad, The Morris Minute Men, as a certified emergency medical technician (EMT).

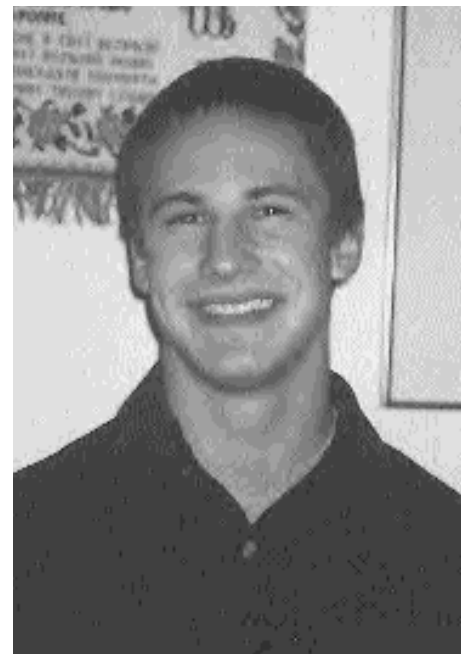
Ruslan won the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) in June 1999. The award is given annually at the end of the junior year of high school (11th grade) to two students (male and female) who have shown exemplary community involvement. The panel of educators and businesspeople who selected Ruslan cited his dedication to the Morris Minute Men, his Eagle Scout project in Plast and his leadership as captain of the varsity soccer team.

As part of the award, Ruslan, as well as other award-winners from New Jersey, attended a RYLA weekend in early June held on the grounds of Drew University. The students listened to motivational speeches from the CEO of AT&T and other business and community leaders, performed team-oriented outdoor activities and discussed ways to encourage other students to become positive role models.

This award helped Ruslan secure a Congressional summer internship in Washington. He worked in the office of Rep. Bob Ehrlich (R-Md.) and was involved in projects with the Commerce Department and the Senate Finance Committee.

Ruslan's involvement with the Morris Minute Men began early in his junior year. Soon after joining at the age of 16, he dedicated himself to taking the EMT course and after going to class every Saturday and alternating Sundays for three months, and he passed the state certification exam. He has led numerous life-saving rescues and has received a commendation from the Morris School District for his role in helping evacuate students from a school bus that was hit by an automobile.

Ruslan is interested in a career in medicine. He is a member of Plast (Newark branch) and UNA Branch 88. His parents are Dr. Oleh and Anna Denysyk, and he has two sisters, Dara and Lana, all of Morris Plains, N.J.



Ruslan E. Denysyk

Grandfather and grandkids win art prizes

HAINES FALLS, N.Y. – The 52nd Annual Art Exhibition held by the Twilight Park Artists was quite a success for a grandfather and his three grandchildren. Entering the exposition together, Taras, Xenia, Justin and Larissa Schumlowych each won awards for their works of art.

Taras, the proud grandfather of the others, earned third place for his tempera paintings, "My House in Tannersville, N.Y." and "Post Office in

Tannersville, N.Y.," and graphic, "St. Paraskevia Church in Ukraine." As can be guessed, he resides in Tannersville, N.Y.

Xenia, Justin and Larissa Schumlowych were each presented Emerging Young Artists Awards for their own tempera entries in the exhibition, which was held August 14-15 at the Twilight Park Clubhouse.

The Schumlowyches are members of UNA Branch 86.

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Plast Chicago golf outing raises funds to support youth organization's activities

by Oleh Skubiak

ROUND LAKE, Ill. – On a beautiful and perfectly comfortable early fall day, Plast Chicago hosted its first annual golf outing here at the Renwood Golf Club. The event took place on Saturday, September 11, and included 63 participants from Chicago, Boston, Cleveland, Los Angeles and Miami.

Using a scramble format, participants enjoyed 18 holes of golf and engaged in relaxing fun and friendly competition. Afterwards the golfers joined their families and friends at the Selfreliance Resort at Round Lake Beach for post-tournament awards, steaks, refreshments, music and excellent camaraderie, lasting late into the evening.

The event was organized by the Pobratymy fraternity of Plast under the leadership of Ihor Hrynewycz, George Kuritza, Andy Wyshnytzky and Oleh Skubiak. The event generated nearly \$5,000 in profit for the Pobratymy Foundation, which designated the full amount to the ongoing activities of Plast's Chicago chapter.

The Pobratymy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation, was established in 1992 by members of the Plast Pobratymy fraternity for the purpose of supporting the developmental activities of Plast, particularly in the area of counselor training. The foundation has made several contributions to the Chicago chapter of Plast and has provided scholarships for the past several years to candidates for "Lisova Shkola" (a rigorous counselor training camp) from both North America and Ukraine.

The Pobratymy Foundation is limited to making contributions to Plast and other 501(c)(3) organizations that support the stated purposes of the fraternity: to renew and strengthen Plast; to encourage excellence and self-improvement; to encourage identification and cooperation among Ukrainian youth; and to inform others about Ukraine.

Plans are under way for the second annual golf outing to take place next fall in Chicago.

At the 1999 outing the following prizes were awarded:

- Best team score (15 under par): Wasyl Mirutenko, Long Grove, Ill.; Taras Konowal, South Elgin, Ill.; Alex Petrusha, South Elgin, Ill.; and Walter Kosogof, Crystal Lake, Ill.
- Longest drive – Mr. Petrusha, South Elgin, Ill.
- Closest to the pin – Irene Mykytyn, Los Angeles.

Plast Chicago and the Pobratymy Foundation expressed thanks to all prize donors, as well as the following individuals and corporate sponsors for their generous contributions to the first annual Plast open: Olha and Nestor Popowych; Cars.com; Intersol Industries; Charysh and Schroeder, Ltd.; Vision MRI/ Oak Brook; Affiliated Health Care; Anesthesia Associates of Crystal Valley; Cafe Salsa; D and D Insurance; DeVry Inc.; State Sen. Walter Dudyycz; Domino, Gritis and Co.; Marianne Diachenko, D.D.S.; First Security Federal Savings Bank; Fox Lake Animal Hospital; Mycyk and Ciesco, D.D.S.; North Avenue Animal Hospital; Procon General Services and Selfreliance Federal Credit Union.



The winning team at Plast Chicago's golf outing: (from left) Walter Kosogof, Taras Konowal, Alex Petrusha and Wasyl Mirutenko.



Golfers and guests line up for steaks and refreshments after a day on the links.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Dallas still loaded after purging vets

It's shaping up as another 3-D season in the Western Conference of the National Hockey League. Dallas, Detroit and Denver (a.k.a. Colorado) are once again the teams to beat. Here, in alphabetical order, is a brief look at each of the 13 Western teams, including off-season developments and the key issue they face during the 1999-2000 season. Players of Ukrainian descent appearing on training camp rosters are noted in parentheses.

MIGHTY DUCKS OF ANAHEIM: A refreshingly quiet summer for the Ducks. With tight-fisted Disney looking to sell the team can the Ducks finally make a movie with more than one good line? (Defenseman Oleg Tverdovsky returns to the team that drafted him; young goalie Gregg Naumenko signed.)

CALGARY FLAMES: Goalie Grant Fuhr, at one time a hated Edmonton Oiler, joined the Flames to solidify their goaltending. If Calgary fails to make the playoffs for the fourth straight year, will GM Al Coates and coach Brian Sutter keep their jobs? (Defenseman/winger Wade Belak is enforcer of the Flames; netminder Igor Karpenko and blueliner Lee Sorochan are insurance in the minors; center Daniel Tkaczuk is a future star.)

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS: Chicago hopes Bryan McCabe, whom GM Bob Murray acquired from Vancouver, will anchor the defense for 10 years. Was Chicago's 8-2-1 rush to finish last season the beginning of a run for the playoffs or an out-of-body experience? (Veteran Eddie Olczyk was unsigned during training camp, but did return to the fold.)

COLORADO AVALANCHE: The Avs got a new owner Donald Sturm, but suffered heavy free agent losses. They are also without superstar Peter Forsberg, who is injured until December. Can the Avs' motherlode of talent deliver more than one Stanley Cup? (LW Jordan Krestanovich a recent draftee.)

DALLAS STARS: The Stars moved out some of their older players to make room for younger talent they hope will keep them hungry. Will the Stars' decision to surrender so much experience come back to haunt them? (Brad Lukowich should join Richard Matvichuk on the Dallas blueline this year. Evgeny Tsybuk plies his trade in the minors.)

DETROIT RED WINGS: The Wings cured Nicklas Lidstrom's homesickness by giving him a three-year, \$21.75 million contract. Do the aging Wings have enough talent to give coach Scotty Bowman one more Stanley Cup? (Old horse Joey Kocur out several months on injury list.)

EDMONTON OILERS: Coach Ron Low refused Edmonton's conspicuously low contract offer and was replaced by Kevin Lowe. Always bursting with youthful promise, how come the Oilers are always so mediocre?

LOS ANGELES KINGS: The Kings upgraded their skill and got a player they hope will fill their new arena in proven scorer Ziggy Plffy from the Islanders. Can a new coach, a new star and a new attitude make the Kings contenders in the West again?

NASHVILLE PREDATORS: Made no off-season moves. These guys are Predators in name only, as they didn't even try to make a bid for any unrestricted free agents. Will a moderately successful year be followed by an upward climb or will a team whose key players are Cliff Ronning, Greg Johnson and Sergei Krivokrasov crash and burn? (Drake Berehowsky is a solid force and leader on defense.)

PHOENIX COYOTES: Bobby Francis replaced Jim Schoenfeld as coach after the Coyotes again failed to win a playoff round. Is Robert Reichel out of the picture or will he return and be a key player? Answer: he's out of the picture. (Captain Keith Tkachuk returns, this time contractually content. Youngsters Alexander Andreyev and Radoslav Suchy await down on the farm. Center Ryan Huska is a journeyman.)

ST. LOUIS BLUES: The Blues traded for goalie Roman Turek and pinned their present and future hopes on him when they dealt Grant Fuhr to Calgary. Is Pavol Demitra a legitimate star or hockey's equivalent to Dexy's Midnight Runners? (Minor league ranks boast three future Ukrainian Blues: netminder Cory Rudkowsky, left wing Trevor Wasyluk and backliner Jaroslav Obsut.)

SAN JOSE SHARKS: Vincent Damphousse was re-signed, and Gary Suter looks to be healthy after missing most of last season with torn triceps. Can the impressive Sharks take the next step and become a legitimate playoff contender?

(Continued on page 21)

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- Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 20)

VANCOUVER CANUCKS: GM Brian Burke did some fancy stickhandling when he got the Sedin twins at the amateur draft, but the move will do nothing to improve the Canucks' present woes. Is there any reason to expect the Canucks to make the playoffs this season after missing them the previous three? (Defenseman Zenith Komarniski came out of nowhere to almost make the Canucks in training camp.)

Intrigue surrounds Eastern stars

Going? Going? Gone. That's one way to sum up the NHL's Eastern Conference. Can Dominik Hasek really be going home after this season? Is Alexei Yashin going to hold out the entire 1999-2000 campaign? And gone are the famous long locks of league MVP Jaromir Jagr. Here is a brief look at each of the 15 Eastern teams.

ATLANTA THRASHERS: GM Don Waddell was involved in a flurry of draft-day deals that left him with the first pick, which he used to take NHL-ready, but concussion-prone Patrik Stefan. The first time around, 1972-1973, Atlanta's NHL entry finished with a respectable 65 points. Can the Thrashers equal that? (Defenseman Mike Muzechka and left wing David Kaczowka drafted by Thrashers.)

BOSTON BRUINS: The Bruins became the first team ever to walk away from an arbitration award when they allowed Ukrainian Dmitri Khrstich to become a free-agent. But they're truly an equal opportunity cheapskate - they also alienated restricted free agent goalie Byron Dafoe. Is this the final year of Ray Bourque's brilliant career? (500+ goal scorer Dave Andreychuk signed as free agent to replace fellow-Uke Khrstich. Goaler Seamus Kotyk in minors.)

BUFFALO SABRES: All-World goalie Dominik Hasek announced he'll retire at season's end. Will the Sabres be able to forget Brett Hull's controversial goal to end the playoffs? Will Hasek have a change of heart? Is Maxim Afinogenov the next Pavel Bure? (Alexei Zhitnik is leader of Buffalo's blueline corps and logs a ton of minutes.)

CAROLINA HURRICANES: Center and captain Keith Primeau became a restricted free agent and the Hurricanes don't think he's a \$5-million-a-year player. Will the team's move to its permanent home in Raleigh solidify its future or prove the NHL can't survive in NASCAR country? (Curtis Leschyshyn remains a kingpin on defense; Steve Halko stuck coming out of camp; Randy Petruk is future goaltending prospect; forwards Brett Lysak, Damian Surma and Jaroslav Svoboda are back in juniors.)

FLORIDA PANTHERS: Florida replaced the unpredictable Kirk McLean in goal with the younger Trevor Kidd. Will Pavel Bure win the battle of wounded knee and, if he does, will an under-achieving supporting cast do its part to get the Panthers back into the playoffs? (Right winger Denis Shvidki was Panthers' top draft selection. He is quick! Defensemen Joey Tetarenko and Peter Ratchuk are on standby in the AHL.)

MONTREAL CANADIENS: The Habs dealt their first-round pick to the Islanders for Trevor Linden, who should provide grit and character to a team lacking in both. Are the declining Canadiens on the verge of becoming another Canadian small-market franchise that is more concerned with the bottom line than winning games?

NEW JERSEY DEVILS: It was what the Devils didn't do that was notable. Despite being playoff pretenders, they stuck with their "improve from within" philosophy and didn't sign any free agents.

We know they'll be great during the regular season, but will the Devils show up when things really matter? (Loyal defender Ken Daneyko to play in his 1,000th game early this season; goalie Mike Buzak and forward Stanislav Gron await in the wings.)

NEW YORK ISLANDERS: Team Turmoil changed coaches and continued to dump salaries the way Boris Yeltsin dumps prime ministers. Will ex-coach Bill Stewart, now running the Barrie Colts of the Ontario League, have a better team this season than he did last season? (Centerman Tony Hrkac got a two-year contract as a free agent, but was most recently traded to Anaheim.)

NEW YORK RANGERS: While every other team was preaching austerity, the Rangers bought everyone in sight. Have the Rangers purchased themselves a contender or will they prove they've just thrown bad money at their problems? (Veteran minor leaguer Yevgeny Namestnikov signed to provide their AHL club added savvy. Alexei Vasiliev joins Namestnikov.)

OTTAWA SENATORS: Alexei Yashin has a valid contract paying him \$3.6 million (U.S.). He wants \$10 million, but who doesn't? So, he withdraws his services. Will the Senators give in to Yashin? Will various levels of government give in to the Senators by granting them tax relief to keep them from moving? (Right winger Chris Szysky on farm.)

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS: Philly bought out goalie Ron Hextall's contract and gave him a front office job. Tragedy struck when Dimitri Tertyshny was killed in a summer boating accident. Will Eric Lindros ever find lasting peace and security in the City of Brotherly Love? (Winger Mike Maneluk re-signed with the Flyers; forwards Todd Fedoruk and Ruslan Fedotenko are recent draftees.)

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS: Mario Lemieux was finally able to put together a credible ownership bid and now it's up to him to usher the Pens into a new building and a successful future. Is there any way somebody can make a 200-foot hockey stick so Lemieux can play from the owner's box? (Hopefully centerman Boris Protsenko will get a shot at making the big club.)

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING: The team was sold and front office staffs were revamped so Lightning parlayed the first overall draft pick into roughly half the population of Saskatoon. Success in the International League is one thing, but can these guys, the new GM and coach, compete with the big boys and ultimately build a contender? (Right wing Greg Pankewicz has now moved into this organization.)

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS: An ugly front-office standoff between associate GM Mike Smith and president Ken Dryden ended with Smith's departure and coach Pat Quinn being elevated to GM. With Quinn as the NHL's only GM-coach and the team's sudden preoccupation with money, can they possibly improve on their 97-point season? (Winger David Nemirovsky still trying to make it back to the big show; add free agent Greg Andrusak to an already crowded Toronto defense corps.)

WASHINGTON CAPITALS: After once again leading the NHL in man-games lost to injury with a mind-boggling 511, the Caps fired their training and medical staffs. The team was also sold. A return to the Stanley Cup final is out of the question, but will the Capitals return to the post-season? (Check out this roster of Ukrainian pucksters: right wing Peter Bondra, left wing Steve Konowalchuk, center Andrei Nikolishin, promising scorer Glen Metropolit and prospects forward Jason Shmyr and defenseman Ross Lupaschuk.)

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

Leonid Kuchma has threatened to seek the dissolution of the parliament unless that body creates a pro-government majority. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarus to be independent in union

MIENSK – Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on November 16 said Belarus sovereignty and independence will remain “inflexible and unshakable” in the planned union state with Russia, Belarusian Television reported. “There will be no question of our joining Russia as six [separate] oblasts or any other state as the whole republic,” Mr. Lukashenka said. He noted that Belarus will accept only “equal conditions” and a “civilized method” of integration with Russia, adding that there is no alternative to the process of integration. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarus-Russia union treaty amended

MIENSK – Belarusian presidential chief of staff Mikhail Myasnikov told Interfax on November 16 that Belarus and Russia have found an “optimal variant” of the union state treaty that is to be signed in Moscow on November 26. However, Mr. Myasnikov noted that the treaty calls for “setting up a union state” and does not envisage the integration of Belarus and Russia into a single state. Mr. Myasnikov added that during the public debate of the draft treaty more than 1,300 proposals were made on how to improve the draft; as a result, some 500 amendments were introduced into the document. Meanwhile, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s aide Mikhail Sazonau said 99 percent of all amendments are “purely technical” and do not change the nature of the functions or

powers of the union bodies as stated in the draft. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine will not join Slavic union

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Ihor Hrushko said on November 16 that Ukraine is interested in deepening cooperation with neighboring countries, but does not intend to join the union of Belarus and Russia, Interfax reported. Commenting on the planned signing of a treaty establishing the union state of Belarus and Russia, Mr. Hrushko noted that “the creation of any Slavic unions would amount to giving preference to some ethnic groups at the expense of others.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kravchuk cited among century's notables

KYIV – The International Biographical Center and the U.S. Biographical Institute have awarded ex-president Leonid Kravchuk the Outstanding Person of the 20th Century medal, which was introduced for the year 2000, for his major contribution to the creation of an independent Ukraine. Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, Vaclav Havel, Henry Kissinger and others were also distinguished. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine's armed forces underarmed

SEVASTOPOL – The Ukrainian army and navy are supplied only 37 percent of their requirements, according to Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk. Nevertheless, the armed forces received 16 new kinds of weapons and machinery in 1999, he added. Currently 430,000 persons serve in Ukraine’s military; the country’s military forces possesses 231,000 units of machinery, 4,050 tanks, 150 vessels and 53 military plants. (Eastern Economist)

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Reports note low risk...

(Continued from page 1)

scenario develop. It suggests that Ukraine should construct a comprehensive emergency plan, if only because it is tightly tied to Russia's electrical network, and Moscow has said that it could shut down energy going to Ukraine if it determines the country is not Y2K ready.

The bottom line, according to the study, is that at worst Ukraine could experience some regional electric outages until nuclear power plants restart, two to three days after the New Year. No problems with heat and gas availability are foreseen.

The year 2000 computer problem, known simply as Y2K or the millennium bug, is a programming deficiency found particularly in older computer software programmed to read years by the last two digits. Most computer experts believe that when the year 2000 arrives those computers not properly adjusted will read it as 1900, which may cause them to simply shutdown or react in other unexpected ways.

Many specialists derided Ukraine for being slow to respond to international pleas to review the computer systems that run its nuclear and hydroelectric power-generating stations, even as the Ukrainian government had given assurances that it would undertake the requested testing and meet international standards. Ukraine has been generally grouped with Russia, China and Indonesia as places where the millennium bug will hit hardest.

Whereas most countries had been attacking the computer problems for about two years, the Ukrainian government Y2K task force organized by Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and currently headed by First Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh, was formed only on February 16. Its secretary, Volodymyr Furashev, admitted on November 19 at a roundtable on the subject that Ukraine had been late getting started, but added that now the problems had been resolved "in a substantial way."

The members of the roundtable, which

included representatives from the energy, finance, transportation and communications ministries, all reported that they had achieved or were well on their way to Y2K compliance, and those that were not would be by the new year. Ukraine's civil defense authorities said they had contingency plans in place in case computer failures caused extensive problems around the country.

With its own reports concluding that the Y2K problem will minimally impact Ukraine, the U.S. government has decided, nonetheless, that it is better to be safe than sorry, and has authorized the departure from Ukraine of its government employees, including Embassy personnel and their families, on a voluntary basis. Of the more than 100 countries in which the United States has a diplomatic presence, Ukraine is one of only four where the U.S. government will cover transportation costs for employees wishing to leave the country during the holiday season. The other countries are Russia, Belarus and Moldova.

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine declined to comment on the decision, and State Department officials did not return The Weekly's inquiry.

The psychological impact of the many negative scenarios described by U.S. government officials and experts in the last months – most of them now deemed unlikely – may be one reason that U.S. officials have decided to allow their workers to leave.

As late as October 13, Lawrence Gershwin, the CIA's national intelligence officer for science and technology, told a Senate Y2K panel that Ukraine was one of several countries that still were vulnerable to serious millennium bug disruptions, according to an Associated Press report. Explaining that longer-term problems could develop after the onset of the new year, Mr. Gershwin said that European markets could be affected by severe gas shortages in Russia or Ukraine.

Neither the official U.S. government report nor the Ukrainian government Y2K commission mentioned any such threats in their findings.

Kuchma and Rada...

(Continued from page 3)

against the president's choice, along with unexpected support from the center-right Rukh faction led by National Deputy Yurii Kostenko. Mr. Medvedchuk said he personally disagreed with the vote.

"There is no objective basis for the Verkhovna Rada to intrude in the process," explained Mr. Medvedchuk.

Mykhailo Syrota, a leading national deputy who heads the Labor-Ukraine faction, which supported the move to the Kyiv concert hall, said that a ceremony in the Parliament chamber could pose the risk of motions from the floor and demonstrations by the national deputies aligned against the re-elected president aimed to disrupt the proceedings.

The political hubbub comes after Mr. Kuchma had said that with the political mandate of his landslide victory he hoped and expected that cooperation between the

two combating branches of power would increase. However, he has also reasserted that he would not preclude dismissing the Parliament if it continues to block his bills and paralyze government.

He has also proposed a national referendum to change the Constitution to allow for a bicameral national legislature, a move that many national deputies consider an attempt to develop a separate parliamentary chamber controlled by the president. They argue such a move usurps their authority.

The current body, a conglomeration of 15 political groupings – the largest of which is the Communist faction and none of which holds a majority of votes – has been characterized by bickering and paralysis since it was elected in March 1998.

The president has proposed that if factions of the center and center-right organize a majority coalition, he will grant them the ability to form a government and appoint a prime minister.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 8)

official commemoration held earlier in the day during which the president, along with Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and Second Vice-Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Viktor Medvedchuk, laid flowers at the monument to the victims of the Great Famine, located at the foot of the belltower of the newly rebuilt St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery.

The Rukh Party – which had attempted for over a year to have November 7, still celebrated either officially or unofficially in most former Communist countries as October Revolution Day, transformed into a national day of mourning for victims of Communist terror, including those of the Great Famine – also took part in the ceremony before the Famine monument on Mykhailivskyi Square.

Source: "Ukraine commemorates National Day of Remembrance of Famine Victims" by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, The Ukrainian Weekly, December 6, 1998 (Vol. LXVI, No. 49).

Ambassador...

(Continued from page 7)

In spite of all this, our nation did not melt away or dissolve in the ocean of other peoples, as had often been the case in the history of mankind. Ukrainians survived, saving their dignity and faith, saving their culture, customs and traditions, saving their own country. Today, using our historic chance, we created a new democratic independent state in the center of Europe, where there should be no place for intolerance, discrimination, injustice, violations of human rights. Our people paid an extremely high price for its independence and freedom. We shall never forget it, and we shall do our best to prevent similar tragedies elsewhere.

More and more people in the world learn the truth about the calamity experienced by the Ukrainian people. Last year, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, I shared information about this genocide against the Ukrainian nation in 1932-1933 with the representatives of more than 180 countries at a session on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention of Genocide held in the U.N. General Assembly.

Ukrainians in New York and in other cities of the United States commemorate these tragic events every year. And, every year, more and more Americans join us to learn and understand better Ukrainian history, the Ukrainian spirit, the hopes and aspirations of the Ukrainian people. It makes us stronger.



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday-Sunday, December 4-5

WASHINGTON: A Christmas Bazaar, sponsored by the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Famine, 4250 Harewood Road NE, will be held December 4 at 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and December 5 at 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The bazaar will feature Ukrainian foods, ethnic and holiday crafts, religious articles, books, treasures from the attic, bake sale goodies, raffles and more. For further information, call (202) 526-3737, (703) 360-9310 or (301) 779-1882.

HARTFORD, Conn.: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Hartford branches, will hold a Holiday Food Fair and Bazaar on December 4 at 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and on December 5 at 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the school hall behind St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 125 Wethersfield Ave. Delicious ethnic food and baked goodies will be available, as well as crafts and painting, and art work. Ample parking, free admission.

Sunday, December 5

PASSAIC, N.J.: For your last chance before Christmas to purchase Ukrainian gifts for all those special people in your life, stop by The Ukrainian Mall bazaar, in the Ukrainian Center, 240 Hope Ave. Ukrainian vendors will be selling art work, prints, ceramics, embroidery, wood carvings, floral designs, music and much more. Relax and enjoy lunch or just coffee and sweets at the Kozak Café. The Ukrainian Mall will be open 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; admission is free. For more information and/or directions contact Christina, (973) 546-6133 after 6 p.m. or e-mail cjanew@kpmg.com.

Saturday, December 11

NEW YORK: “Music at the Institute” presents a concert program titled “Anniversaries,” featuring works by Chopin, Poulenc and Martinu, respectively, Trio for Piano, Violin and Violoncello in G Minor, Op. 8; “The Story of Babar, the

Little Elephant” and Trio for Flute, Violoncello and Piano. Performing will be Janice Weber, piano; Kyung Sun Lee, violin; Alexis Pia Gerlach, cello; Andrea Axelrod, soprano and narrator; and Sheryl Henze, flute. The concert, sponsored by an anonymous benefactor, will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20; UIA members, \$15; senior citizens and students, \$10. For more information call the institute, (212) 288-8660.

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.: The Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association (TUCA) will hold its quarterly meeting and Christmas Party in Virginia Beach at 7 p.m. We extend an invitation to everyone of Ukrainian ancestry in the Virginia Tidewater area (Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Hampton, Newport News, York County, Williamsburg and surrounding area) to come and join us. Ukrainian American service personnel assigned to armed forces installations in this area (Norfolk, Little Creek, Oceana, Dam Neck, Fort Monroe, Fort Eustis, Fort Story, Langley AFB, Yorktown NWS, Yorktown USCG RTC, etc.) are especially welcome. For directions and further information contact Andy Grynewytsch, (757) 874-3155.

Sunday, December 12

HILLSIDE, N.J.: St. Nicholas invites you, your family and friends to celebrate the holiday season at the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, Liberty Avenue and Bloy Street, starting at 2 p.m. An informal holiday entertainment program will be presented by the parish children (and some adults) and refreshments will be served. Admission is free. Call Mike Szyphulsky, (908) 289-0127, or Joe Shatynski, (973) 599-9381, by December 4 to indicate the number of people attending, as well as to receive information on how you can arrange for St. Nicholas to provide your child with a gift.

REMINDER REGARDING NEW REQUIREMENTS:

Effective September 1, there is a **\$10 charge per submission** for listings in Preview of Events. The listing plus payment must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. There is also the option of prepayment for a series of listings.

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Information sent by fax should include a copy of a check, in the amount of \$10 per listing, made out to The Ukrainian Weekly. The Weekly's fax number is (973) 644-9510.

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The Ukrainian Museum

extends a cordial invitation
to the opening of the exhibition

The Creative Legacy of Vasyl Hryhorovych Krychevsky

From the collection donated to
the Museum by Vadym Pavlovsky

Sunday, December 5, 1999

At 2:00 PM

The exhibition will be on view through March 12, 2000



The Ukrainian Museum • 203 Second Avenue New York, NY 10003 • Tel: 212 228-0110
Fax: 228-1947 • E-mail: UkrMus@aol.com • Web site: www.brama.com/ukrainian_museum

Museum hours: Wednesday through Sunday 1-5 PM