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Tape scandal becomes international affair as PACE urges independent investigation

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — “Tapegate,” the scandal surrounding video and audio recordings that allegedly have implicated President Leonid Kuchma and a coterie of high-level government officials in the disappearance of a Ukrainian reporter and the subsequent cover-up of the crime, became an international affair on January 25 when the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe condemned the lack of freedom of expression in Ukraine, and agreed to organize an independent investigation into certain aspects of the case.

In Ukraine the scandal continued to take on additional dimensions when on January 26 more tape recordings surfaced in which a voice similar to the president's discusses criminal activity with various government officials. Meanwhile, tent cities established in several metropolitan centers in support of

an effort to remove the president from office were banned or destroyed as law enforcement officials tried to maintain control over growing public disenchantment with the president.

After a session in Strasbourg, France, devoted to Tapegate and freedom of expression in Ukraine, PACE refrained from sanctioning the country for its less than pristine human rights record of late, but voted to take responsibility for an independent analysis of the audiotapes and to give their author political asylum.

The human rights body, which consists of representatives of Europe's Parliaments, also agreed to conduct an independent DNA analysis of the body found at the beginning of November 2000 in the town of Tarascha, Kyiv Oblast, which Ukrainian authorities have said may be that of Heorhii Gongadze, a radio journalist who vanished,

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Ukrainian deputy notes moves by Moscow

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's determination to develop a U.S. missile defense shield may well be one of the major reasons behind Moscow's push to bring Ukraine back into its old Soviet-style fold. Mykhailo Ratushnyi, a leading member of the Rukh (Kostenko) Party and the reformist majority coalition in the Verkhovna Rada, said that Russia cannot counter this U.S. strategic move without Ukraine's rocket-production capability.

“As I see it, Russia is alarmed by the new U.S. administration's determination

to renew the development of an anti-ballistic missile system. In this context, Russia is interested in strengthening its strategic missile forces, and it cannot do this without Ukrainian booster rockets,” he said in an interview with The Ukrainian Weekly on January 24.

Mr. Ratushnyi and fellow Rukh colleague and Verkhovna Rada National Deputy Ivan Bilas were in Washington during the inauguration of the new U.S. president and had discussions with potential officials of the incoming administration. They also shared their views with a larger group of representa-

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National Deputy Mykhailo Ratushnyi holds a clipping from the Financial Times about a new pact between Ukraine and Russia.

Husar enthroned as archbishop major Named cardinal by Pope John Paul II

by R. L. Chomiak

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

LVIV — The 405-year-old Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, with its faithful on the five continents, once again has a “head and father” who also will carry the title of cardinal of the Holy Roman Catholic Church: His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar, archbishop major of Lviv for Ukrainians.

On Sunday, January 28, in the 255-year-old St. George Cathedral in Lviv, the Ukrainian immigrant to the United States, former Studite monk and former auxiliary bishop to his late predecessor, Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky, was enthroned as primate of the UGCC.

The actual ceremony of enthronement was simple and short. But the events that led up to it were full of drama, uncertainty and surprise. They were historic, too.

During the 11 a.m. liturgy celebrated by some 30 hierarchs resplendent in ornate vestments, Archbishop-Metropolitan Stephen Sulyk of Philadelphia, as chairman of the synod that elected the new head of the Church three days earlier, asked Bishop Husar if he accepts the choice of his brother-bishops “because we want to lead you to the altar.”

After receiving the designate's acceptance, Archbishop Sulyk, together with Archbishop Michael Bzdel of Winnipeg and Archbishop Jan Martyniak of Peremyshl-Warsaw led the new archbishop major to the altar. The other hierarchs followed, singing “Axios” in Greek (he is worthy); “Axios,” echoed the cathedral choir. This symbolized the Byzantine roots of this particular Catholic Church, which traces its beginnings to Brest in 1596, when Ukrainian Orthodox bishops recognized the authority of the Roman pope, but retained their Eastern rite.

After the Gospel the new archbishop major gave a homily that he called “the program for the future” of the Church.

The surprise came at the end of the liturgy when among those greeting the new head of the global Church, Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, the Apostolic nuncio, or the Vatican's ambassador in Ukraine, announced that just a few minutes earlier Pope John Paul II had named His Beatitude Lubomyr a cardinal. His elevation, together with that of all the other new members of the College of Cardinals, is set for February 21 in Rome. The element of surprise was heightened, because the pontiff had



Bishop Lubomyr Husar before his enthronement as major archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

named 37 new cardinals just a few days earlier, and was not expected to name a Ukrainian any time soon.

Bishop Husar was among a group of seven new nominees for cardinals who were announced on January 28, among them Roman Catholic Bishop Marian Jaworski of Lviv.

Archbishop Major Husar's program can be characterized as “faith of our fathers.” He said, “it is not my personal program; it is what we received from our ancestors.”

“More than a thousand years ago,” he said, “Lord God gave our people the gift of faith. We are Christian people who live in accordance with the rules of Jesus Christ.” During the past 100 years, he continued, “many strong confessors of the faith saved this faith” despite great difficulties, “and this is what we must continue to do.”

Archbishop Husar then explained that keeping the faith means love and charity towards others — ecumenism. He cited that day's Gospel, which described how Jesus shocked his followers by deciding to dine at the house of Zaccheus, the head tax collector, who was considered “a public sinner” (Luke 19:1-10). But

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FOR THE RECORD

RFE/RL releases transcripts of interviews with Melnychenko

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine Report

On December 29, 2000, and January 9, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service broadcast live interviews with Mykola Melnychenko, a major in the reserve of the Ukrainian Security Service and a former presidential bodyguard, who provoked a political scandal in Ukraine by publicizing the tapes that allegedly show President Leonid Kuchma's complicity in the disappearance of independent journalist Heorhii Gongadze.

On both occasions, Mr. Melnychenko contacted the Prague-based studio of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service of his own choice and spoke by telephone on the live program called "Vechirnia Svoboda" (Evening Radio Liberty).

Following are excerpts of the interviews with Mr. Melnychenko translated from the transcriptions that were published in the Internet newsletter *Ukrainska Pravda* (<http://www.pravda.com.ua>) and on the RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service Internet site (<http://www.rferl.org/bd/uk/ukrainian/>).

PART I: DECEMBER INTERVIEW

You said a lot during your meeting with the deputies. What would you like to add about the main issues?

If this information [ed. note: taped secretly by Melnychenko in Kuchma's office] had not been publicized, in six months' time one would have to give up for lost democracy [as well as] human freedoms and rights in Ukraine. There were plans in the president's entourage to destroy Ukraine's Supreme Court and other bodies that did not comply with the president's wishes and whims.

What do you mean by "destroying the Supreme Court"? Execution by shooting?

The Verkhovna Rada had to pass a law following the president's instruction to make the Supreme Court [ed. note: Melnychenko does not finish this phrase.] You see, the Supreme Court was standing in the president's way because it was not controlled by him. It was performing the duties it had to. And the president gave instructions to work out a law that would allow him to control courts as well. And he said it was necessary to get rid of Boyko,

chairman of the court.

Mr. Melnychenko, now, under such extreme conditions, you are living day-to-day, but it is also necessary to think about the future. Tell us, please, how do you see your future – both near and far?

As to my near future, I am coming back to Ukraine under any circumstances. I think this will happen very soon even if I'm sure that power structures will do everything possible to prevent me from coming back alive. And I'm sure that the people of Ukraine will overcome this evil and will come out of this situation with dignity.

A version appeared in some circles in Ukraine that Yevhen Marchuk is involved in all this [tape scandal]. Can you deny this?

I want to tell you that Mr. Kyrylovych [Marchuk] is one of the, or more properly, his organization is the most decent among those in Ukraine. I mean the National Security and Defense Council.

People are assessing your deed ambiguously. Some consider you a brave man, a hero, and think you can be a model for many people. Other people – and there are a lot of them – consider you literally a traitor, not only to the president to whom you did not swear an oath. They think you betrayed an officer's honor and even that of Ukraine because you have provoked a scandal that does not contribute to Ukraine's prestige. How can you respond to those people?

I am considered to be a traitor by those people who are involved in crimes. I have in mind many power ministers, governors and the president's entourage. I "betrayed" because I know where the people's money was transferred – billions of dollars. I betrayed the president's interests while he was laundering [money], giving instructions how to build his dachas for 4 million, for 7 million. I betrayed [his] interests.

But there are also the interests of the people who work in factories and plants that the president ordered shut down only

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FOR THE RECORD: U.S. rep to OSCE on Gongadze case

Following is the text of a U.S. statement on Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze delivered on January 25 by Ambassador David Johnson, U.S. permanent representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), speaking before the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna.

I would like to thank our Ukrainian colleague for updating all of us in the Permanent Council on developments in connection with the case of Mr. Gongadze.

As we made clear in our statement on December 14, we urge the government of Ukraine to conduct a full, prompt and transparent investigation

for their own interest as well as ours.

We have also urged, and continue to urge, the government of Ukraine to preserve and foster an environment that allows open discussion and expression on this issue – within the Parliament, in the media and in the form of peaceful demonstrations. I am grateful that our Ukrainian colleague's remarks to us this morning, in fact, covered this issue.

We believe that a thorough and transparent handling of the Gongadze case can serve as a positive demonstration of Ukraine's commitment to OSCE principles and its integration into the Euro-Atlantic community. We look forward to further updates on this important case as developments merit.

NEWSBRIEFS

Rada loses two national deputies

KYIV – National Deputy Oleksander Yemets died from injuries suffered in a car accident on January 28, Interfax reported the next day. Mr. Yemets, 42, belonged to the Reform-Center caucus in the Verkhovna Rada. He was a vice prime minister in 1997 and the president's adviser in 1998-1999. On January 22 National Deputy Yuriy Kononenko of the National Democratic Party caucus was found dead in his office in Kharkiv with a firearm wound to his chest. Police suspect that he committed suicide. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Holovatyi cites SBU interference

KYIV – Legislator Serhii Holovatyi on January 30 said the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) prevented him from receiving the results of an independent examination of the corpse believed to be that of missing journalist Heorhii Gongadze, the Eastern Economist Daily reported. According to Mr. Holovatyi, he was to receive the results from his compatriot, Ihor Stelmakh, in Germany. Mr. Holovatyi said their meeting could not be arranged due to interference from the SBU, which was trying to find Mr. Stelmakh in order to question him as a witness in the Gongadze case. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Prosecutors arrest captain of sunken ship

KYIV – Ukrainian prosecutors have arrested Leonid Ponomarenko, the captain

of the ship Pamiat Merkuria, and charged him with breaking transport safety laws, Reuters reported. The Pamiat Merkuria sank during a storm in the Black Sea on January 26; 14 people died and five are still missing, while rescuers plucked 32 survivors from lifeboats and rafts after several days spent floating in the cold water. Volodymyr Rebrov, Crimea's deputy public procurator, said initial findings suggest the ship was overloaded. If found guilty, the captain will face up to 15 years in prison. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Cabinet's survival hinges on energy

KYIV – "Fundamental reforms in the fuel and energy sector are a question of the survival of the government and the prime minister," the January 30 issue of Eastern Economist Daily quoted Volodymyr Lanovyi as saying. According to Mr. Lanovyi, the presidential representative in Viktor Yushchenko's Cabinet, Ukraine is threatened with an energy consumption crisis. Mr. Lanovyi said he believes government has nearly lost its political initiative in conducting reforms in the country and added that the situation was far more favorable in the beginning of 2000, when Mr. Yushchenko was installed as prime minister. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President tells PM to pay off coal miners

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has instructed Prime Minister Viktor

(Continued on page 11)

Yushchenko may reshuffle Cabinet

RFE/RL Newsline

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko on January 30 said a decision on reshuffling his Cabinet may be made "within the next two to three days."

Meanwhile, the chief of the presidential administration, Volodymyr Lytvyn, said the recently discussed idea of forming a coalition Cabinet in Ukraine cannot be implemented. According to Mr. Lytvyn, a coalition Cabinet may be formed only following appropriate amendments to the Constitution. Mr. Lytvyn noted that now the appointment of a Cabinet or its members can be made only by way of consultations between the executive and legislative branches, adding that the Verkhovna Rada does not have a "deciding say."

Four days earlier, RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report had reported that Mr. Yushchenko said he is interested in the creation of a coalition government in Ukraine, but added that the current Parliament has no coalition that could form such a Cabinet. Mr. Yushchenko was com-

menting on lawmaker Serhii Tyhytko's proposal that the Verkhovna Rada initiate Mr. Yushchenko's ouster if the latter fails to form a coalition Cabinet.

"We have a [parliamentary] coalition formed on the basis of various ideas that are not necessarily political," Mr. Yushchenko noted. He said it is "theoretically impossible" to propose a coalition Cabinet on the basis of the 11 caucuses and groups that currently constitute the so-called "parliamentary majority."

Mr. Yushchenko added that his Cabinet is a "quasi-coalition," since some of its members are affiliated with political parties or parliamentary groups.

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report also reported that Mr. Yushchenko commented following Oleh Dubyna's appointment as vice prime minister to replace Yulia Tymoshenko that the Cabinet will conduct an "even tougher" policy of exacting payments from energy and fuel consumers. He also pledged that the government will pay more attention to the privatization of regional energy companies.

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Husar enthroned...

(Continued from page 1)

living in faith, the archbishop major said, means imitating Christ, and "this should be our main goal, [our] program."

He complimented the Ukrainians in Ukraine for not being vindictive towards those who had persecuted them. He called it "a sign of spiritual strength" and said the Ukrainian people "came out of the persecution with their gift of God – faith that was instituted by St. Volodymyr," the ruler who brought Christianity to Kyivan Rus' in 988.

The new primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church called for deepening the faith among those who have it and offering the gift of faith to those who have moved away from it. "There are many of those among us, but they are not enemies, they are hungry people who need this gift – in the form of our words and our testimony," he explained.

Living in faith, he said, also means solving the problems of division among Christians. "There was no division ... during the time of Volodymyr," he noted, suggesting that the reason for division could be that "our faith had cooled." He admonished his followers to renew the faith in their relations with other Christians and non-Christians, "to embrace one another in faith, hope and charity."

The synod that elected Bishop Husar, a Lviv native, to the highest office of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was held almost exactly 55 years after and in the same city as the Synod of Lviv of March 9-10, 1946, that was convened on the orders of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin to repudiate the Union of Brest of 1596 and merge the Ukrainian Catholic Church into the Russian Orthodox Church. Until 1989 the Church existed underground in Ukraine and expanded in other parts of the world.

Since the return from the Soviet gulag of Patriarch and Cardinal Josyf Slipyj, the last head of the Church before it was banned in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Catholic Church was raised to a self-governing patriarchal level. Cardinal Slipyj was appointed the first archbishop major and later Cardinal Lubachivsky was appointed his successor. But now, as in the case of other patriarchates, the hierarchs of the Church elect, in secret, the archbishop major. The only difference is that, unlike patriarchs, the elected archbishops major have to be confirmed by the pope.

The election of Bishop Husar as archbishop major was the first to follow this procedure, thus it was of historic significance.

Only Ukrainian hierarchs took part in the deliberations, which lasted one and a half days on January 24-25. The apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Eterovic, was in Lviv, but did not participate in the synod. His duty was to inform the pope of the synod's choice. He did so late on January 25, but there was no announcement and the synod continued behind closed doors on January 26. While the hierarchs awaited word from Rome, according to a communiqué issued after the synod, they discussed the planned visit to Ukraine by Pope John Paul II in June.

Archbishop Eterovic delivered the pope's approval at 1 p.m. Lviv time on Friday, January 26, and within an hour the synod members came out of the historic Metropolitan's Palace (today the headquarters of the archbishop major), across from St. George's Cathedral and spoke with the press and interested persons who had gathered there.

There was some thought in Church circles of postponing the enthronement ceremony to a later date in order to invite high government officials to the event,

but Bishop Husar, who had been administering the Church since the death of Cardinal Lubachivsky, opted for the "fast track" – two days after his confirmed election.

The cathedral was filled by the faithful; also present were government representatives, some clergy and bishops of other Churches as well as the Ukrainian hierarchs who concelebrated the liturgy with their new leader.

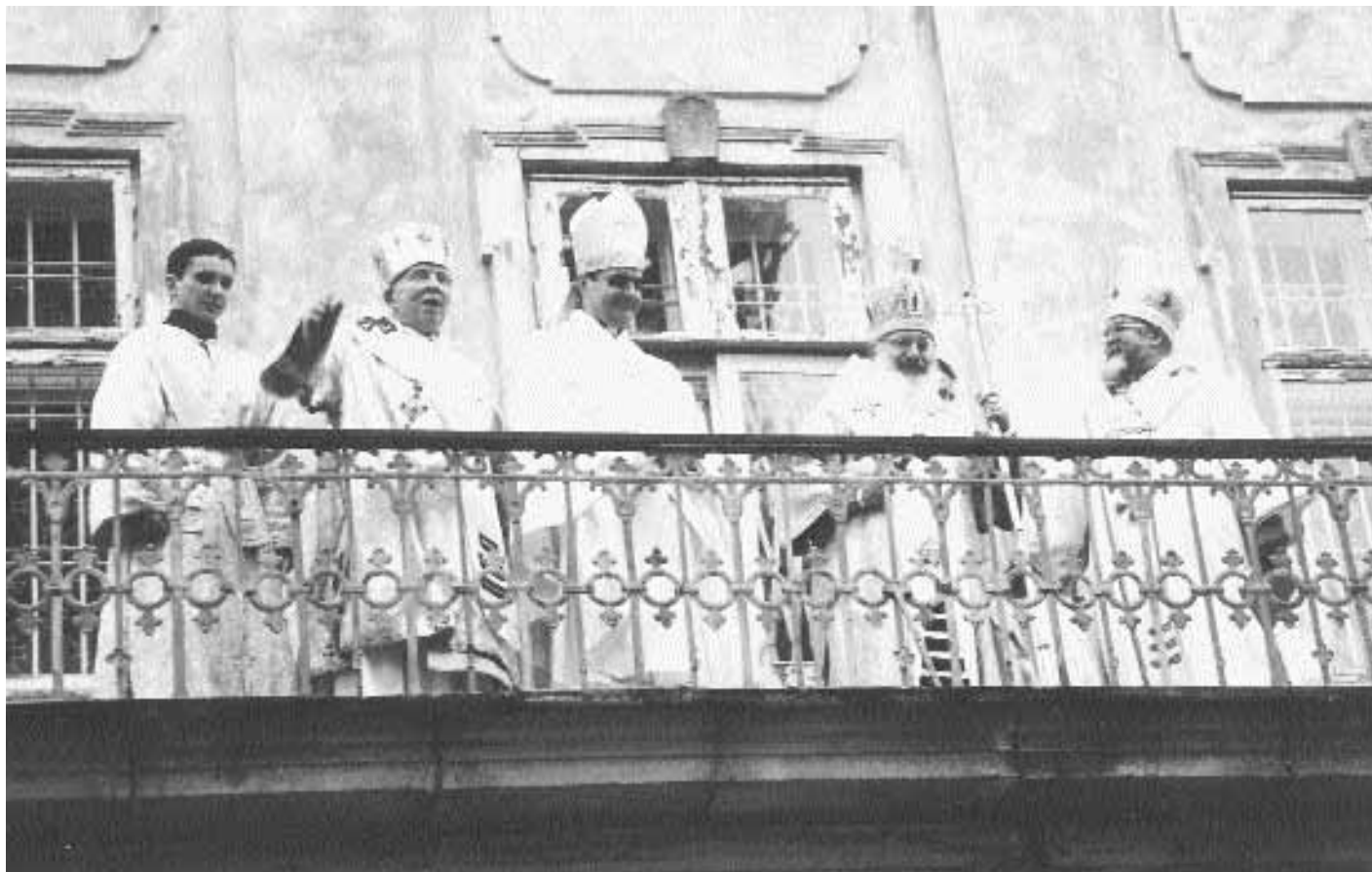
At heart, His Beatitude Lubomyr, 68, is still a Studite monk and a follower of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, who made the Ukrainian Catholic Church a global one by sending priests to minister to Ukrainians who emigrated to other lands, and who preached and worked for ecumenism.

In an interview before the synod, Bishop Husar had suggested that the leader the Church needed now is "a person who in the political world is known as a technocrat, a professional. But there is one very important thing for the Church: whoever is elected would have to emphasize the development of the spiritual life of the Church, because that is the reason for its existence."



Petro Didula

Newly enthroned Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar.



The archbishop major blesses the crowd gathered in the courtyard of St. George Cathedral.



The faithful receive the blessing of the new primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

Zlenko delineates direction of Ukraine's foreign policy

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – In his first major policy address since becoming Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs nearly four months ago, Anatolii Zlenko signaled on January 23 that Ukraine would move away from pursuing a foreign policy that has accented its geopolitical importance to one that stresses its Western standards.

He told a large group of journalists that the period of breakthroughs in the development of international ties was ending and now the accent would move to developing Ukraine's European characteristics.

"An open society, the effective functioning of a market economy, the supremacy of law, the consistency and predictability of foreign policy are key criteria that will have an influence on the country's role in a new European and international orchestra," explained Mr. Zlenko.

He said that in this new foreign policy "there would be less words, but they would be properly written."

He said the accent on the internal development of policy and on the promulgation of Western standards would be the two central pillars behind a five-point plan of action that he enumerated for his diplomatic corps in the next year, which also includes the systematization of Ukraine's strategy vis-à-vis Europe, strict pragma-



Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko.

tism in defending Ukraine's national self-interests and a foreign policy transparent to Ukrainian society.

While not rejecting "multi-vectorism," a term government officials have used for several years to define the country's foreign policy, Mr. Zlenko attempted to specify its meaning in his foreign policy vision. He

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Kuchma not likely to sign Rada's new law on elections

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff indicated on January 30 that the president is unlikely to sign a new election law approved recently by the Verkhovna Rada.

The new law, passed on January 18 as the Rada prepares for parliamentary elections in March 2002, will elect legislators strictly by proportional representation. Put simply, if the president signs the law, all candidates to the Verkhovna Rada in elections to be held 14 months hence will have to seek their legislative seats through membership in a political party.

Volodymyr Lytvyn told a press conference that the president believes Ukraine needs to maintain its current mixed system of legislative representation, in which half the national deputies in the country's Parliament are elected from districts by majority vote and the other half by party affiliation based on proportional distribution of the vote.

Mr. Lytvyn said the new bill, which has yet to be signed by President Kuchma, would further alienate the deputies from their constituents.

"In this situation, the Parliament will not be serving the people, but quite the opposite," explained Mr. Lytvyn, who also said that the old mixed system was

better for promoting "the structuring of Ukrainian society and making parliamentary activity more effective."

The 254 national deputies who voted for the new proportional system agreed that, as in 1998, there would be a requirement that a political party needs to attain at least 4 percent of the popular vote to qualify for seats in the Verkhovna Rada.

The new law stipulates that a party or political bloc must gather 500,000 signatures to qualify for the elections, whereas the old law required 1 million names. National deputies put a 2.5 million hryv cap on campaign expenditures by each political party, which includes government-supplied funds, as well as those from the private sector.

Because there has been little movement on implementing the national referendum held in April 2000 – in which one of the proposals that voters approved requires that the number of Parliament members be decreased to 300 from its current 450 – the national deputies did not stipulate in the election law how many seats would be apportioned to the parties that passed the threshold in 2002. They did, however, divide Ukraine into 225 electoral districts.

Four political factions close to the presidential administration did not take

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Tape scandal...

(Continued from page 1)

literally without a trace, on September 16.

The body was found as Ukrainian law enforcement officials continued to maintain that they had no leads into the journalist's disappearance and amid their suggestions that he perhaps had gone into hiding in order to run from a romantic fling gone sour or a business deal gone bad. More controversy developed when the body was secretly moved from the local morgue to Kyiv and the local coroner was arrested for "improperly" identifying the body as that of the missing journalist and releasing it to the custody of his colleagues.

Mr. Gongadze was the creator and publisher of one of Ukraine's first Internet newspapers, which was highly critical of the Kuchma administration and spent much time exposing the activities of Ukraine's so-called "oligarchs."

Ukraine's Procurator General Mykhailo Potabenko has refused to certify that the Tarascha remains are those of Mr. Gongadze, although he has admitted that the tests are 99.6 percent conclusive.

On September 25 PACE delegations heard rapporteurs – members of the monitoring committee that scrutinizes whether Ukraine is fulfilling its obligations as promised when it took membership in the organization – lambaste the status of freedom of expression in Ukraine. Interfax-Ukraine reported that Hanne Severinsen, one of two lead rapporteurs on the committee, noted that Mr. Gongadze had become a symbol of the lack of journalistic freedom in the country.

Representatives of several national delegations also voiced concern for the situation in Ukraine. Polish representative Andrzej Urbanczyk, a member of the Committee on Education and Culture, noted that the Gongadze case is only "the tip of the iceberg" on human rights problems in Ukraine today. A Swedish delegate said Mr. Gongadze "died because of his political views."

At the end of discussions, PACE members agreed to conduct an independent investigation into the authenticity of the

audiotapes that allegedly contain discussions between President Kuchma, his chief of staff and minister of internal affairs, which, if authentic, could implicate the three in organizing the disappearance of the missing journalist.

However, PACE said that it first must receive an official request from the Ukrainian Parliament to do so, as well as the original tape recordings. PACE also recommended that the ministerial committee of the Council of Europe offer Mykola Melnychenko, the former presidential bodyguard who claims to have made the recordings, political asylum in one of its member-states should he ask for it. While refraining from either suspending or banning Ukraine from membership in PACE, the body asserted its right to return to the issue during its June session.

Ukraine's permanent representative to the Council of Europe, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Oleksander Chalyi, expressed consternation at the PACE resolutions and cited difficulties that could ensue if it turns out that the tapes are forgeries. He explained that another problem was that the resolution was worded in such a way that it did not ensure that the expert analysis will be done in a manner that later would allow for it to be used in an unbiased criminal investigation.

"Some positions [taken] will cause certain difficulties in the process of their implementation at the level of the Council of Europe executive bodies," said Mr. Chalyi, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

He also said Ukrainian authorities did not have in their possession the master tapes that PACE required for the analysis, and, therefore, had no way of providing them.

However, National Deputy Serhii Holovaty, a member of the Ukrainian delegation to PACE and one of the lawmakers driving the Tapeagate investigation, said that if the Verkhovna Rada formally requests the help of PACE in analyzing the tape recordings he would make sure the organization receives the originals.

If January 25 was a bad day for President Kuchma, the next day was only worse. That day National Deputy Viktor Shyshkyn – who along with National Deputy Oleksander Chyzh and Mr. Holovaty made

the video recording in which the ex-presidential body guard testifies how he tape-recorded the president – released another audiotape that implicates the president in still other illegal actions.

The newest montage of recordings allegedly made by Mr. Melnychenko while he worked as a personal bodyguard to Mr. Kuchma, consists of 1.5 hours of discussions with various state officials and politicians, allegedly including Security Services of Ukraine Chief Leonid Derkach, who talks about a wiretap on the phone of Yulia Tymoshenko, the recently ousted vice prime minister and long a political opponent of the president; State Tax Administration Chairman Mykola Azarov, who explains how to apply political pressure to individuals using his tax authority; and Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Kravchenko, who discusses how to put pressure on Supreme Court Chief Judge Vitalii Boyko so that he does the executive's bidding in resolving certain court cases.

Also included is a conversation purportedly with Sumy Oblast Chairman Volodymyr Scherban, in which he offers Mr. Kuchma shares in the privatization of a specialized chemical plant in gratitude for his appointment.

But what could be the most interesting aspect of the latest recordings, other than evidence of a pattern of illegal activity by Mr. Kuchma – if indeed the voice on the tape is that of the president – is that the voices of national deputies in benign conversation with Mr. Kuchma also are included. Some lawmakers already have acknowledged that the recorded dialogues took place, including Oleksander Turchynov, who heads the Batkivschyna faction in the Parliament, and Taras Chornovil of the Rukh Party. Both lawmakers have stated that the discussions they heard on the tapes actually occurred.

Mr. Shyshkyn said he would ask other national deputies to verify portions of the tape recordings on which their voices apparently are heard.

As Tapeagate continued to unravel, anti-Kuchma demonstrations under the slogan "Ukraine Without Kuchma" expanded to more regions of Ukraine, only to be sup-

pressed by state militia in many areas.

While demonstrations in Cherkasy and Ternopil continued with dozens of pup tents clustered in the respective city centers, in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Rivne local officials either banned demonstrations or dispersed protesters.

In Rivne, on January 23 an elite detachment of state militia forces manhandled and beat dozens of protesters in a "Ukraine Without Kuchma" action. While law enforcement officials maintained that they used force in response to violent actions by the demonstrators, some of the students involved said the militia attacked without being provoked.

In Kharkiv, militia swept through the city center, where protesters had erected a tent city, uprooting tents and forcing demonstrators to leave.

City health officials in Dnipropetrovsk used a more peaceful approach to ward off problems, banning a public demonstration and the erection of a tent city in the city center by stating that this would promote viral infections, as well as lead to unsanitary conditions that would aggravate a rat problem in the city.

Meanwhile, in the capital, the organizers of the "Ukraine Without Kuchma" movement said they were ready to renew activities that were suspended during the Christmas holidays but found that the site of their pre-New Year demonstrations was no longer accessible. On January 27 the few tents that had been pitched in the last few days were moved and a seven-foot green construction barricade was erected around both sides of Kyiv's central square. Officials said the barriers were erected in preparation for reconstruction of the square, which will receive a new look in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of independence celebrations scheduled for August.

Kyiv leaders of the "Ukraine Without Kuchma" movement promised they would begin their action with renewed vigor on February 6, the same day the Verkhovna Rada is scheduled to begin its seventh session, during which it is expected to continue to put pressure on the president and law enforcement officials to bring Tapeagate to a proper resolution.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Branch 242 hosts St. Nicholas

by Joe Chabon

FRACKVILLE, Pa. – Once again the St. Michael's/St. John's Youth Group organized the annual visit by St. Nicholas to St. Michael's Church Hall. The event, held on December 10, 2000, was sponsored by UNA Branch 242 of Frackville, Pa., led by Joe Chabon, secretary.

For the second year in a row the auditorium was almost filled to capacity, and over 50 children from the parishes entertained the crowd. There were piano and flute players, singers, several Christmas skits, poem readings and singing by all in attendance. The pre-schoolers and first grade catechism class presented the story of the Nativity and sang a beautiful rendition of "On this Bright Day." Dr. Michael Halupa served as master

of ceremonies.

St. Nicholas was greeted by the Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, who led the saintly visitor through the crowd. St. Nicholas expressed his happiness to see such talent in these parishes, and he questioned the boys and girls from the parish about their behavior throughout the year. After that St. Nicholas gave his annual gift to all the children. This year's gift was a tie-dyed St. Michael's/St. John's Youth Group T-shirt.

Local UNAers expressed many thanks to all who organized and supported this annual tradition, including the UNA Home Office, noting that it was good to see such a traditional program experience enthusiasm and growth at a time when many such programs are a thing of the past.

Branch 112 holds Christmas brunch

by Alice M. Olenchuk

CLEVELAND – St. Mary's Lodge, Branch 112 of the Ukrainian National Association, held its Christmas brunch at Hometown Buffet on Sunday, December 3, 2000, after the 9:30 a.m. divine liturgy at St. Josaphat Cathedral.

Members had a wonderful opportunity to become reacquainted. It seems that in this busy new world we live in, we don't often get the chance to go back to old times when things moved a little slower.

It was great to see everyone enjoy each other's company, as in a family gathering. The sad part: no one brought a camera.

Chamber Choir performs at UNA HQ



PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Chamber Choir of ParsIPPany Hills High School put on a special holiday performance here in the atrium of the UNA Corporate Headquarters on December 22, 2000, to entertain employees of the diverse offices located in the building as well as visitors. The chorus director, Linda Clark, led 17 students in a presentation that encompassed Christmas carols and seasonal songs, including the popular Ukrainian "Schedryk," known in English as "Carol of the Bells."

Miss Soyuzivka is Weekly booster

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Miss Soyuzivka for 2001, Michelle Poliwka, has said that one of her goals during her reign will be to increase readership among Ukrainian youth of our Ukrainian newspapers, most notably The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. That's in addition to her goal of enrolling UNA members and promoting Soyuzivka.

According to the latest issue of Suzy-Q News, Soyuzivka's quarterly newsletter, Ms. Poliwka, a member of UNA Branch 88, said many of her friends and acquaintances are concerned about the fate of Soyuzivka. She stated: "Young people want to help preserve Suzy-Q and that includes raising awareness about the UNA."

One way to do that, of course, is to have them read about the Ukrainian National Association and its good works on the pages of its two official publications.

Ms. Poliwka, a 21-year-old Chicagoan, is majoring in business economics at McGill University in Montreal. She is a member of Plast and its "Ti, Scho Hrebli Rvut"



Miss Soyuzivka Michelle Poliwka.

Sorority, the Chicago-based Hromovytsia and Montreal-based Troyanda dance ensembles, as well as the Ukrainian Club at McGill.

Ms. Poliwka's mother, Olga, sent in subscription orders to The Ukrainian Weekly for 10 persons, thus qualifying the entire Poliwka family for the title of "Weekly Boosters."

RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – DECEMBER 2000

Martha Lysko, National Secretary

	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 11/2000	7,114	14,946	3,539	25,599
Total Inactive Members – 11/2000	7,363	17,955	0	25,318
Total Members – 11/2000	14,477	32,901	3,539	50,917

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 12/2000				
New members	33	21	0	54
New members UL	0	0	0	0
Reinstated	3	3	1	7
Total Gains:	36	24	1	61
Losses in 12/2000				
Died	0	26	0	26
Cash surrender	14	26	0	40
Endowment matured	36	30	0	66
Fully paid-up	25	18	0	43
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	7	19	0	26
Certificates lapsed (active)	7	11	16	34
Certificate terminated	4	1	6	11
Total Losses	93	131	22	246
Total Active Members - 12/2000	7,057	14,839	3,518	25,414

INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 12/2000				
Paid-up	25	18	0	43
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	7	19	0	26
Total Gains	32	37	0	69
Losses in 12/2000				
* Died	2	34	0	36
* Cash surrender	10	27	0	37
Pure endowment matured	4	6	0	10
Reinstated to active	3	3	0	6
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	0	6	0	6
Total Losses	19	76	0	95
Total Inactive Members – 12/2000	7,376	17,916	0	25,292
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 12/2000	14,433	32,755	3,518	50,706

(* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)



ANNOUNCEMENT

Minutes and Reports of the 34th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association held in Toronto in 1998 have been published and are now being sent to all General Assembly members, District Chairpersons, UNA Branch Secretaries and Delegates of the 34th Convention.

Any UNA member may receive a copy of this publication upon request. The Home Office can be contacted at (973) 292-9800. Please leave a message with the receptionist.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Enough already

The scandal in Ukraine surrounding the apparent murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze and the audiotapes released by former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko that allegedly prove President Leonid Kuchma's complicity in Mr. Gongadze's disappearance has escalated and, as these lines are being written, the end is nowhere in sight – judging by the behavior of the president and his colleagues.

President Kuchma has never explicitly denied that the voice on the Melnychenko tapes is his. The best response he has thus far mustered has been that the accusations are slander and that the affair is a foreign-inspired provocation and a well-planned political campaign aimed at presenting Ukraine as an uncivilized state. As for Mr. Melnychenko, the president said he is "mentally ill" and refused to discuss the allegations he made. Nor has Mr. Kuchma dealt with the very serious transgressions of his subordinates at the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Customs Service – all of whom have mishandled the case (to say the least) since day one. They provided false information in the Gongadze case, delayed DNA testing and identification of the body, and harassed deputies arriving from abroad with a videotaped interview with Mr. Melnychenko. The Procurator General's Office, for all practical purposes, has been AWOL.

And then there are the authorities' clumsy actions to disband tent protests in Kyiv and elsewhere organized by the "Ukraine Without Kuchma" movement. Suddenly, it seems, Kyiv is getting ready to prepare the protest site for 10th anniversary celebrations of Ukraine's independence; just as suddenly the administration in Dnipropetrovsk has expressed paternal concern about the health of protesters who might get cold and have no sanitary facilities. Authorities in other cities were not as gentle. Meanwhile the administration has stage-managed public actions in support of the president. So much for freedom of speech and public assembly.

Oh, and let's not forget about freedom of the press. Not much of that these days in Ukraine. The Paris-based human rights group Reporters Without Borders and the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists have been speaking out on the Gongadze case, but pressure on the media continues – even on the independent foreign media. Most recently it was announced that Kontinent radio's FM frequency, which broadcasts the Voice of America, BBC and Deutsche Welle, is up for sale. Do we smell a rat? You bet! The British ambassador and the German charge d'affaires expressed concern, and U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual stressed that such actions "will impact on people's understanding of whether a free press can actually operate."

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has now adopted a resolution expressing its deep concern about "intimidation, repeated aggressions and murders" committed against journalists in Ukraine. Most significantly, PACE voted to assume responsibility for an independent analysis of the Melnychenko audiotapes, as well as to conduct an independent analysis of the mystery corpse. But, it must first receive an official request from the Verkhovna Rada to do so.

As a result of this sordid affair, President Kuchma has been weakened at home, where he cannot influence the majority coalition as he once could, and abroad, where he is close to being treated as a pariah. Shunned by the West, President Kuchma may have nowhere to go but into the waiting arms of Russian President Vladimir Putin (and there already are signs that this is happening).

Meanwhile, the editor of the respected newspaper Zerkalo Nedeli, Yulia Mostova, went so far as to state that it is time to ask whether President Kuchma has the moral right to remain in his post. The people of Ukraine have lost faith in their government, while the diaspora finds itself in a quandary: How does one defend the good name of Ukraine in this incredible situation? Surely, the guideline can't be "my country, right or wrong."

On December 6, soon after the Melnychenko tapes were revealed, President Kuchma stated in a nationally televised address that he "will continue to act in line with the law and consistently strengthen democracy in Ukraine." We'd like to see him live up to his words.

A complete and transparent investigation into the entire affair is a necessity – and the only way for Ukraine to save its reputation and guarantee the country's further democratic development. The Verkhovna Rada must take up the PACE's offer to conduct an independent analysis of the Melnychenko tapes and the Tarascha corpse. Then, the guilty – whoever they are – must be found and punished.

Feb.
5
1977

Turning the pages back...

February 5, 1977, marked a major crackdown by the KGB against the members of the three-month-old Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords. That day in Kyiv, according to wire service reports, Mykola

Rudenko, the group's leader, and Oleksa Tykhy, a member, were arrested.

Other group members also were harassed by the secret police. Mr. Rudenko's wife, Raisa, was stripped as an act of humiliation while the KGB searched their home. Also during the search of the Rudenkos' apartment, Oleksander Berdnyk, a member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, walked into the premises and was bodily searched by the KGB. Especially brutal searches were conducted in the apartments of Oksana Meshko and Nina Strokata-Karavansky.

Immediately upon receiving news of the arrests, the Washington Helsinki Guarantees for Ukraine Committee, headed by Dr. Andrew Zwarun, sent letters and telegrams to heads of governments that signed the 1975 Helsinki Accords, and congressmen and parliamentarians, asking them "to intercede now in behalf of Ukrainian human rights activists by protesting arrests and repressions which violate the spirit and letter of Helsinki."

Source: "Major Arrests Conducted in Kiev; Rudenko, Tykhy Incarcerated; Other Kiev Group Members Harassed," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 13, 1977, No. 35.

COMMENTARY

The UNA's proposed by-laws and our organization's future

by Taras Szmagala Jr.

Imagine an organization that controls tens of millions of dollars in assets, operates a 400-acre resort in New York, publishes two weekly newspapers, and has tens of thousands of members. Every year, this organization generates approximately \$6 million in revenue, and incurs about the same amount in expenses. It's a company that is heavily regulated by state authorities, and is engaged in one of the most competitive industries in the United States.

Now suppose, further, that you are a shareholder in this organization, with a vested personal interest in its success. One day, you receive a letter in the mail from this organization, and it asks you the following question: "In what manner would you like us to select our chief executives?" Reading on, you discover that you have two choices: first, you have the option to select your full-time chief executive at a convention once every four years. At this convention, prospective executives will undergo a particularly interesting review process: they will be required to pass out leaflets, flyers, pens and buttons emblazoned with their names in an effort to secure employment. Whether they receive the job will depend on the determination of more than 300 convention delegates who, while mostly wise and intelligent, possess limited information about each candidate, and are given only one day to decide whom to select. Once selected,

Taras Szmagala serves as an advisor on the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly and is chairman of the UNA By-Laws Committee.

the lucky executive will be accountable essentially to no one, receiving little guidance and even less oversight.

The second option provides for the selection of a chief executive by an 11-member board of trustees. This board would be responsible for recruiting, interviewing and eventually hiring the full-time head of the organization. The board would also exercise general oversight into the affairs of the association, formulate its policies and strategies, and oversee the implementation of those policies and strategies. Significantly, this board would also have the power to dismiss non-performing executives, thereby providing a degree of accountability not found in the first option.

As you may be aware, this is exactly the choice facing UNA members today. Shortly, delegates who served at the last UNA Convention will be receiving a ballot in the mail, asking them whether they prefer option one (UNA's current system) or option two, which was outlined previously in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. The future of our organization depends upon our delegates selecting the second option.

I am the first to admit that no governance structure is perfect, and that the UNA's current method for electing a president has served us well through much of our history. But we need a change – our organization simply cannot continue to run as it has been running. As we look forward to selecting a new president in 2002, it is imperative that we attract the best possible professional talent to our organization. To do that, we need to rid ourselves of our "hiring by convention" system.

(Continued on page 9)

Kuchma...

(Continued from page 4)

part in the voting, namely, the Workers' Party faction, headed by Serhii Tyhypko, the Social Democratic (United) faction headed by Viktor Medvedchuk, Oleksander Volkov's Regional Rebirth faction and Petro Poroshenko's Solidarnist faction. President Kuchma does not belong to any political party, which experts say is one reason he may oppose such a structuring of the new Parliament.

The same day it was passing a new election law, the Parliament canned a draft bill that was drawn up as the first step in the process of implementing the results of the April 2000 national referendum. The bills twice failed to gather the majority needed to put it on the Rada's daily agenda, even though it was the last day of the fall session.

The president wanted the lawmakers to begin the implementation process before the end of the just completed sixth session so that it might be approved before the 2002 elections, which would allow a new Parliament to begin its work under the Constitutional amendments.

In April 2000 more than 90 percent of Ukrainians voting in a national referendum approved four controversial changes to the Constitution, which, if implemented, will: give the president the power to dismiss the Verkhovna Rada if it is not able to form a majority or pass a budget in a timely period; reduce the number of national deputies in the Verkhovna Rada from 450 to 300; remove national

deputies' immunity from criminal prosecution; and transform the Verkhovna Rada into a bicameral Parliament.

Unable to reach a decision on how to proceed with the four changes and experiencing deep resistance from lawmakers in the wake of allegations associated with the case of the missing journalist Heorhii Gongadze and "Tapegate," the presidential administration agreed that a single bill should be tabled before the end of this session.

The president and his team decided they would first seek approval of the proposal that would allow the president to dissolve the Parliament if it could not form a working majority within 30 days, but on the last day of the session the national deputies showed no stomach for even considering the extension of additional powers to the president.

Instead, they agreed to set up an ad hoc parliamentary committee for the preparation and preliminary examination of the draft laws that will amend the Constitution as required by the results of the April 2000 national referendum. Second Vice-Chairman Stepan Havrysh, who is a member of the Rebirth of the Regions faction, will chair the commission.

Where that leaves the referendum proposals, which the Constitutional Court has ruled must be implemented, is unclear. Many national deputies believe the resounding defeat suffered by the president assures that this Verkhovna Rada will not consider any other bills associated with the national referendum.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Panelists discuss trafficking of womenby **Walter Bodnar**

WHIPPANY, N.J. — The subject of "Trafficking of Women," included in a recently passed bill in the U.S. Congress, was the topic of a recent discussion at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall in Whippany, N.J., where Walter Zalisko, a covert operations police officer and a member of the Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council in New Jersey, related his experiences in tracing traffickers of women and children.

He was introduced by Bozhena Olshaniwsky, president of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU), who reviewed the contents of HR 3244 and how it impacts on Ukrainian women.

Ms. Olshaniwsky talked mostly about congressional involvement with the issue. She explained that on October 11, 2000, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly, by a vote of 95-0, approved the bill, which makes it a crime to bring women and children into the United States for the purpose of using them as victims in such areas as prostitution, sweatshops, debt bondage and other forced circumstances. The sum of \$95 million was provided over a two-year period by the U.S. government to halt the international trafficking and for issuance of special U.S. visas to those victims.

In addition, the law also renews programs in the United States for protection of "battered women" and proposes spending \$3.3 million during the next five years on a variety of grant programs designed to address domestic violence and other crimes directed largely against women.

According to CIA reports approximately 50,000 people are smuggled into this country each year — a large number of them women from Ukraine. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas) noted that 700,000 women and children are transported annually across borders for the purpose of forced prostitution throughout the world. This international smuggling nets \$7 billion in profits per year — exceeded only by profits in international drug and arms trade. The new law provides for up to 20 years' imprisonment for selling someone into slavery and for similar crimes.

The law also provides for creating a new, non-immigrant T-visa for up to 5,000 victims of trafficking per year. In order to be eligible for the visa, victims have to initially cooperate with investigations and then prove how they would suffer extreme hardship if sent back to their native countries. Several years after receiving T-visas certain victims might qualify for permanent residency and U.S. citizenship. The law in some circumstances, would also require the president to withhold U.S. non-humanitari-

an foreign aid, starting with the year 2003, to any country condoning human trafficking.

Prior to being adopted in the Senate, the bill was adopted in the House of Representatives on October 6, 2000, by a 371-1 vote. Ms. Olshaniwsky noted that steep economic decline and unemployment in post-Soviet Ukraine force many Ukrainian women to seek employment abroad, thus causing them to fall victim to the vultures of international trafficking. At first such women were transported to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Israel, and later to the Balkans, Western Europe and the United States.

Serious discussions on this subject were broached by President Bill Clinton. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke on the subject during the Beijing Women's Conference in 1995 and during her visit to Lviv in 1997. She underlined that "women's rights are human rights." Melanne Verbeke, chief of staff to the first lady, also spoke in Ukraine on this subject in June 2000 during President Clinton's visit. The United Nations adopted resolution on this subject, which was supported by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations. In addition, the La Strada agency and similar groups were formed in Ukraine to help women in distress and to prevent their victimization.

Ms. Olshaniwsky reminded the audience that in 1998 and 1999 several bills concerning the trafficking problem were introduced in the U.S. Congress by Reps. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) and Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.), but did not get adequate support at that time.

The bills were supported by the New Jersey Regional Council of the UNWLA, AHRU and the Women's Clubs of America. Hundreds of letters were written and sent to members of both houses of the U.S. Congress by the UNWLA and AHRU. Largely through the efforts of the New Jersey UNWLA, the subject of trafficking of women was put on the agenda of the Women's Clubs of America at its New Jersey state and national conventions.

Ms. Olshaniwsky introduced Walter Zalisko, listing his accomplishments and awards in the field of police work, including medals for bravery, 23 years of service, founding of an international consultation management firm, expertise on crime in Russia, testimony in Congress on the situation in Russia, and service on the Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council in New Jersey.

He related in detail his personal partici-

(Continued on page 21)



Seen during a presentation on the problem of trafficking of women are: (from left) Yaroslava Mulyk, Walter Zalisko and Bozhena Olshaniwsky.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas

**Things are bad, and they're getting worse**

Way back in the 1970s, when I was the Great Lakes regional director of ACTION, a federal anti-poverty agency that administered the Peace Corps, VISTA, Foster Grandparents and other volunteer programs, we were housed on the third floor of a building across the street from the Chicago Opera House.

The second floor of this building was the home of the Environmental Protection Agency, another federal agency. The regional director was Valdas Adamkus, a Lithuanian American who had earned a reputation as an honest, focused and effective federal administrator. A few years ago Mr. Adamkus retired from the EPA and moved to Lithuania. Today he is president of Lithuania. Another American, Gen. Ramas Kilikauskas, a Vietnam veteran, helped rebuild the Lithuanian army from the bottom up, dumping all Soviet-era officers.

Latvia's current president, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, was raised in Canada. American Mari-Ann Rikken-Kellam, who was active in exposing OSI collusion with the Soviets, is a member of the Estonian Parliament while her husband, Tunne Kellam, is head of the ruling Estonian political party, Pro Patria. Former KGB officers have been put on trial in Estonia and Lithuania for war crimes. Baltic governments enforce their language laws without exception, despite the presence in Latvia and Estonia of an even larger percentage of Russians than in Ukraine. The Baltic countries are prospering economically as well.

Other former Communist countries also court their expatriates. Retired Polish Americans are welcomed in Poland where they live quite well on their American pension dollars. Armenian Americans, one of America's most affluent groups, are helping keep Armenia afloat. Multi-millionaire Kerk Kerkorian recently announced a gift of \$70 million for various projects in his homeland. Slovenia's last prime minister spent most of his life in Argentina.

Ukrainians in North America also have had some influence on Ukrainian policies. Many Catholic priests and bishops have and continue to work in Ukraine. People like Bohdan Futey, who participated in the development of Ukraine's new constitution; Bohdan Watral, who is helping develop credit unions; Bohdan Krawchenko, who worked with the administration of President Leonid Kravchuk; Katherine Chumachenko, wife of Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko; Roman Popadiuk, appointed by the first President George Bush as America's ambassador to Ukraine, and Slava Stetsko and Roman Zwarycz, two members of the Ukrainian Parliament, also come to mind. Others have and continue to work for various American and Canadian governmental agencies and legal firms in Ukraine. The influence of Ukraine's diaspora in the actual governing of Ukraine, however, has been anemic at best. And it doesn't appear this will change soon.

Today the Ukrainian American honeymoon with Ukraine is coming to an end. At a Chicago UCCA banquet commemorating January 22, participants were asked to sign a letter read to them by Chicago UCCA Chairman Orest Baranyk. The letter was succinct and to the point:

"After the achievement of Ukraine's long-awaited independence almost 10 years ago, we noticed many shortcomings in the process of nation-building: the decline of the Ukrainian language and culture, a turning towards Moscow, as well as corruption

of the oligarchs and Ukraine's organs of justice. All of this hurt us, but we understood that the evolutionary process would not provide quick results.

"Recent events in Ukraine, however, have crossed the line. [These include] the arrest and illegal incarceration of patriotic students, the dearth of prosecutions for crimes against the government, the death of opponents of the administration and attempts to silence those who have criticized the president for pushing Ukraine towards a dictatorship similar to Belarus."

The letter urged President Leonid Kuchma to make "radical changes" and to appoint people to key positions "who adhere to constitutional law and democratic principles." It ended with the expressed hope that changes "will once again steer Ukraine towards the creation of a democratic and patriotic state, permitting all of its citizens to prosper." Signatures were obtained from over 200 individuals at the banquet.

When it came time for the consul general to speak at the banquet, he took exception to the letter, stating that "Ukraine will not listen to dictates from beyond its borders." Recalling Ukraine's troubled past, he urged greater tolerance. Compared to others in Ukraine, especially eastern Ukrainian Russophones, who dismiss the diaspora as "agents of foreign capitalists eager to exploit the Ukrainian nations," the consul general's remarks were rather mild.

So how bad are things in Ukraine? On the positive side, reports The Economist, "Ukraine has managed a tricky re-negotiation of its foreign debt, nudged up its foreign exchange reserves, cut the annual rate of inflation from 377 percent five years ago to around 20 percent at last count, and has seen its economy grow by 6 percent."

On the negative side, The Economist describes Ukraine as "a bankrupt menace that leaks crime, disease and many thousands of illegal immigrants ... Leonid Kuchma has been increasingly friendly to Russian Vladimir Putin. Russian companies have been snapping up the choicest and most lucrative bits of the Ukrainian economy, such as its aluminum industry, at bargain prices; the government seems as blithe about this as the president. Public spiritedness is weak, corruption rampant, the press docile." Tragically, the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze was not the exception. Hardly a month passes in Ukraine without a journalist being killed. And now, reportedly, there is evidence that Vyacheslav Chornovil's death was not accidental.

Are things getting worse? Consider this. There is no exclusively Ukrainian-language television station in all of Ukraine. Russian TV stations, newspapers, magazines and radio programs far outnumber Ukrainian-language forums. Even "all Ukrainian" stations often have Russian speakers and programming. While the Baltic countries demand all governmental discourse in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian, the law establishing Ukrainian as the official language is ignored by Ukrainian government officials with impunity.

President Kuchma is at a crossroads. If he truly cares about the future of Ukraine and not the pocketbooks of his family and friends, he will heed the well-intentioned advice of Ukraine's diaspora. Time is running out and so is patience, not only in the diaspora but in Ukraine as well.

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

Board of Ukrainian Orthodox Consistory in Canada holds three-day meeting

WINNIPEG – The Consistory Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, elected by the Church's 20th National Council (Sobor) last summer, held its first meeting on November 23-25, 2000, in Winnipeg. The three-day meeting was held at St. Andrew's College, on the campus of the University of Manitoba.

The Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada is composed of 18 members – the chair, eight members elected from among clergy and nine members elected from lay members of the Church. The president of the Consistory is the metropolitan of the UOCC.

The meeting was preceded with the traditional moleben, served by the Very Rev. Wasyly Makarenko (chancellor/chair of the Presidium of the Consistory), the Very Rev. Roman Bozyk (dean of theology and chaplain of St. Andrew's College) and the Rev. Cornell Zubritsky, in the Chapel of St. Andrew's College. Metropolitan Wasyly, primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, and Bishop Yuriy of the Eastern Diocese of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, were also present. Responses were sung by the theology students, directed by Bishop Yuriy.

The first order of business for the meeting of the newly elected Consistory members was a general orientation session on the mandate for the next five years, as directed by the 20th Sobor, and as outlined in the document "Vision 2000: A Blueprint for the Future of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada."

The presidium chair, the Very Rev. Makarenko, spoke to members of their responsibilities, both in the spiritual

realm and in the temporal sphere. He reminded them to stay focused on the directives of the 20th Sobor, and to remember that their service on the Consistory Board is a gift and a blessing to serve the Church as servants of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The orientation session also included a presentation by the Rev. Zubritsky on Christian-oriented leadership and Orthodox Christian meetings. Consistory Member Victor Hetmanczuk presented information on what it means to manage. He spoke about how the board should learn from the past, manage for the present and prepare for the future. He stressed that the Consistory must learn to balance the challenges ahead and to steer the strategic transformation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada for its future survival in the new millennium.

The second day of meetings heard greetings from the bishops and dealt with numerous administrative and financial reports. The chair of the Presidium reviewed his first four months of the new administrative term and the reorganization of staff to deal with new challenges. Although there is still a period of transition, the work is running smoothly. Consistory members also heard reports from several of the Consistory's operating departments, including Ecclesia Publishing Corp., the Office of Missions and Education, and the Consistory Church Goods Supply Store, as well as an update on the joint Canada-U.S. prayerbook project.

The Consistory received the audited year-end financial statement for the 1999-2000 budget year and the report of the external auditors, Craig and Ross, and reviewed the investment report of the

Consistory's investment advisor, Bob Challis of the Nakamun Group. Additional financial information was provided by the Consistory's financial manager, Maurice Labelle. At the conclusion of the financial reporting, the Consistory approved the new operating budget for the 2000-2001 year.

In keeping with the direction of the Sobor, three major Consistory Committees were struck to carry out the resolutions and directives over the next five years. The Rev. Makarenko stated that, "Vision 2000" thus becomes "Vision in Action." The three "vision areas" committees are: Committee on Spiritual Renewal – chaired by the Very Rev. Victor Lakusta (Edmonton), Committee on Educational Development co-chaired by Dr. Alexander Melnyk (Kirkland, Quebec) and Gerald Luciuk (Regina), and the Committee on Responsible Stewardship and Effective Communication – chaired by Mr. Hetmanczuk (Oakville, Ontario). Each of these three committees will have several subcommittees dealing with more specific mandates. As well, there will be a link with each of the three Diocesan Councils, bringing together all "Parishes in Action." The final day of the Consistory meeting heard reports from the Council

of Bishops, including a review of the UOCC participation in the Canadian Council of Churches, particularly the Faith and Witness Commission, the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine, and a discussion of the situation of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Ukraine.

The Consistory also heard reports from the Principal of St. Andrew's College, Dr. Vivian Olender, the dean of theology, the Very Rev. Bozyk, and the acting director of the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies, Dr. Denis Hlynka.

On the final day, the Consistory wrapped up discussion on issues tabled from previous sessions and dealt with a number of administrative matters, including reactivating the Liturgical Commission and the establishment of a Consistory Land Use Committee to study and advise upon possible development of the Consistory properties along St. John's Avenue. As directed by the Sobor, the Consistory also struck a Commission on the Status of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The next meeting of the full Consistory is scheduled for May 2001.

Children and Music fund slates fund-raising concert at UIA

NEW YORK – Children and Music: The Natalia Khoma Fund in Memory of Volodymyr Czyzyk, established last year to create financial support to gifted students of music in Ukraine, will hold a gala concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America on February 17 to officially introduce and benefit the fund in the United States.

The event will feature founders cellist Natalia Khoma, with Dr. Maria Cyzyk of Chicago, who will be present at the concert. Performing will be Suren Bagratuni, Ms. Khoma and Rachel Krysa, cello; Catherine Cho, Peter Krysa and Todd Philips, violin; Daniel Panner, viola; and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano; in a program of works by Handel (Sonata for Two Cellos and Piano in G minor, Op. 2, No. 8), Franck (Piano Quintet in F minor) and Schubert (String Quintet in C

major, Op. 163).

Children and Music presented its first award in December 2000 at the Salomea Krushelnytska Special Music School for Gifted Children in Lviv to the following young musicians: Olena Savka, Olha Lavryshyn, Olena Humeniuk, Ivanka Voroshyliuk, Lyudmyla Kucher, Nazar Pylatiuk, Marian Lomaha, Maria Strelbytska and Olha Levytska.

Other concerts and benefits across the United States, Canada and Europe are planned to support the newly formed foundation. Tax-deductible donations, with checks payable to Children and Music, may be sent to Ms. Khoma, 1291 Sebewaing Road, Okemos, MI 48864. For additional information e-mail childrenandmusic@home.com.

The gala concert at the institute, 2 E. 79th St., begins at 8 p.m.

Penn State U. offers program for summer study in Ukraine

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – Penn State University will offer an eight-credit Summer Education Abroad Program in Ukraine appropriate for those who are interested in focusing on Ukrainian language and culture as well as those who would like to cultivate their language skills and cultural knowledge for more practical reasons such as business and trade. The program runs from May 26 to July 10, and is open to students at the sophomore level and beyond.

Students will be accompanied by a Penn State faculty member to Lviv, a charming multicultural city in western Ukraine, where they will stay in a student hotel or with local families. There they can learn conversational Ukrainian and become part of the everyday life of the residents.

Classes are small and are held on campus at Ivan Franko State University


of Lviv, a five-minute walk from the center of the city. The courses offered are:

- UKR 001 Elementary Ukrainian I (4 credits)
- UKR 002 Elementary Ukrainian II (4 credits)
- UKR 003 Intermediate Ukrainian (4 credits)
- UKR 204 Readings in Ukrainian (3 credits); and
- UKR 199, 299, 399, 499 Special Topics (1-8 credits).

Besides excursions in the city, trips are planned to the resort of Truskavets in the Carpathian Mountains, the Olesko Castle Museum, and Kyiv.

The application deadline for the program is March 1.

For additional information on Penn State's 2001 Summer Education Abroad in Ukraine, visit www.outreach.psu.edu/PSSEA/ or call Dr. Michael Naydan at (814) 865-1675.



Загін Червона Калина

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UCCA executive board discusses community issues and situation in Ukraine

by **Tamara Gallo**

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – The January 27 meeting of the executive board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America included a discussion of Ukrainian American community issues, such as holding regional conferences across the United States; plans to revitalize the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organization of America (SUSTA); and ideas about how to engage the newest wave of Ukrainian immigrants (the “Fourth Wave”) in organized Ukrainian community life.

The meeting, held at the UCCA building on New York’s Lower East Side, was called to order by UCCA President Michael Sawkiw Jr.

The Organizational and Membership committees were given a mandate to provide a synopsis of where the regional conferences should be held and what topics are to be broached at the conferences. In addition, the committee are to prepare an informational packet about the Ukrainian community, including a brochure about the UCCA.

Following the XVIII Congress of Ukrainians in America and its panel discussion about the youth/student movement in the United States, the UCCA executive board earmarked \$5,000 to the organizing committee of SUSTA to assist the student organization. Unfortunately, the student organization has been inactive for the past decade. A SUSTA conference is planned for June in the Chicago area; it is hoped that many Ukrainian student clubs from throughout the United States will participate.

Engaging the newest wave of immigrants to the United States from Ukraine in Ukrainian American organizations

remains one of the greatest challenges presently facing the community. Having established a “Fourth Wave” Committee within the UCCA, one of its members, Yaroslav Kernytsky, presented several ideas to promote interaction between the already organized Ukrainian community and the latest immigrants. In particular, Mr. Kernytsky suggested forming a new branch within the UCCA comprising the new immigrants. The metropolitan New York Fourth Wave branch would be based out of Bayonne, N.J., where the Ukrainian National Home was recently deeded to the national UCCA. Elections of this newest UCCA branch will be in February.

With regard to the current situation in Ukraine, the UCCA Executive Board overwhelmingly voted to write an urgent letter of appeal to President Leonid Kuchma expressing the Ukrainian American community’s concern about recent developments. The letter is to address the need to uphold democratic principles in Ukraine, particularly the fundamental rights of freedom of speech and the press, as well as the continuing process to establish the rule of law.

The letter, is to be distributed and made public to the Ukrainian press (both in Ukraine and the United States) and to national deputies the Verkhovna Rada.

Members of the executive board also expressed concern over recent information from Ukraine that President Kuchma has appointed an organizational committee to begin preparatory work for the Third World Forum of Ukrainians, which is to be held in Kyiv in August. The organizational committee is composed solely of Ukrainian government and agency officials, while no representatives of Ukrainian diaspora organizations have

been invited to participate. It was decided to send a letter of inquiry to President Kuchma.

During the past three years the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America has appealed to the Ukrainian American community and its organizations to help finance a Ukrainian motion picture about the life and experience of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) Commander Taras Chuprynka – Roman Shukhevych. Directed by Ukrainian film producer Oles Yanchuk (known for his films “Famine ‘33” and “The Assassination”), the film has now been completed and will debut in the United States on March 11 at the New York University Cantor Film Center on Eighth Street in New York.

The producer and the movie’s star, Gregory Hladyj, are expected in the United States for the premiere of the film. Once shown in New York, the film will debut in other large cities in the United States and Canada.

It was also announced at the board meeting that in mid-February the UCCA would sponsor an Internet chat with the president. This chat with the UCCA president is to be held on a monthly basis in the evening hours and will feature specific topics of discussion. The inaugural chat will focus on the Ukrainian American community and its future. Further details will be announced shortly.

UCCA Executive Secretary Marie Duplak recorded the minutes of the meeting.

The UNA’s proposed...

(Continued from page 6)

The changes being proposed are not radical. Today, Ukrainian credit unions throughout the country operate on a board of trustees system. Many other fraternal associations have adopted the same system, and still more are considering changes similar to ours. In fact, most non-religious Ukrainian organizations operate exactly in this manner. Most importantly, a switch to this system would preserve our fraternal status – we will still operate using a branch system. Indeed, our branches’ delegates to conventions will have a major responsibility: to elect a qualified and competent board of trustees.

Change is never easy, and it is rarely pleasant. And certainly we should be very, very careful about changing a system that has worked well for us for many years. But it is clear to me, and to many members of

the Ukrainian National Association, that this change is necessary for the well-being of our organization. We can no longer pretend that our current system works, or that we can depend on it to recruit new executive leadership into our ranks.

So what can you do to help? Plenty. If you were a delegate to the last UNA Convention, you will shortly be receiving a ballot in the mail. I urge you to vote “yes” to adopt our new by-laws. If, like most UNA-ers, you were not a delegate at the last convention, please call the delegates from your branch and urge them to support these by-laws changes. These delegates represent you, and your voice should be heard.

Finally, I invite your comments, questions and opinions. Please do not hesitate to voice them either to me via e-mail at Szmagala@telocity.com), or, preferably, on the pages of Svoboda or The Ukrainian Weekly. We look forward to hearing from you.



Alexandra Romana Bida
Jenkintown, PA



Alexandra Harkins
Islesboro, ME



Stephanie Anna Homick
Huntingdon Valley, PA



Natalia Sophia Hud
Huntingdon Valley, PA



Natalie Christina Kuzla
Philadelphia, PA



Lada Roma Pastushak
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FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Karen Lemiski

The stamps of Regensburg, Camp Ganghofersiedlung

Dear Readers:

This month's feature is the first of an occasional series of "guest articles" by other members of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society. These pieces will enable Weekly readers to become exposed to a broader spectrum of philatelic topics. I hope you will enjoy them.

Karen Lemiski received a Ph.D. in history from Arizona State University. She is the current editor of the *Rossica Journal*, the official publication of the *Rossica Society of Russian Philately*.

— Inger Kuzych

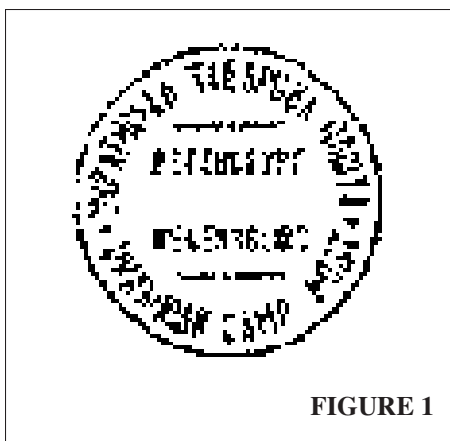


FIGURE 1

By the end of World War II, approximately 6 million people had been uprooted from their homelands and fled to Austria, Italy and the western part of Germany, which was then occupied by the American, British and French armies. Most of these were labor conscripts, prisoners of war, concentration camp prisoners and other victims of war.

Among these displaced persons (DPs) were more than 200,000 Ukrainians, who were either caught in wartime combat or unable to return to their Soviet-occupied homeland.

In 1946 Ukrainian refugees were interned in 125 camps, and in 1949 in 110 camps — about 80 of these camps were predominantly or completely Ukrainian. Between 1945 and 1949, Regensburg was the site of the largest DP camp in Germany. At its peak in 1946-1947, the workers' district of Ganghofersiedlung housed almost 5,000 Ukrainian and 1,000 non-Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons.

With the approval of the authorities, some camps in the American zone organized their own postal services that were responsible for: the acceptance of incoming mail delivered by the German post office and its distribution within the camp; the collection of all pieces of mail within the camp and its delivery to other German post offices; and the transmittal of all intra-camp correspondence.

To obtain funds for administering these postal systems, postal rates were established and postage stamps were issued. The permission to print and sell the stamps was granted by the U.S. Military Government. For internal correspondence, only camp stamps were needed. For mail sent to addresses within the camp from other centers, it was necessary to affix camp stamps to pay for the services provided by the local camp post. Finally, because the German postal system did not recognize the camp stamps, German stamps were required in addition to the camp stamps for all mail destined beyond the camp. Despite these conventions, most surviving mail from the settlements lacks the DP stamps and cancels. The cards and covers are most easily recognized as having gone through the camp postal services by the addresses of the senders and recipients.

In Regensburg, the camp postal service began operation on December 11, 1946. For mail passing through the Regensburg system, the camp cancellation consisted of a ring with the words "Ukrainian Camp Post" in both Ukrainian (top) and English (bottom) inside, and the name of the camp in both languages across the center of the ring (Figure 1).

Not only was Ganghofersiedlung the first Ukrainian DP camp to issue its own stamps, but among the camps it was also the most prolific stamp-issuer: 36 stamps were produced over an 18-month period between June 1947 and December 1948. The designs were produced by three, well-known Ukrainian artists who were residents of the camp: Sviatoslav Hordynsky, Antin Maliutsa and Myron Bilynsky.

The first series of stamps appeared on June 30, 1947. Eight stamps showed views of Regensburg and Ganghofersiedlung, the emblem of the United Nation's Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, portraits of Taras Shevchenko and Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, and the trident emblem (figure 2).

A set of stamps issued in October 1947 reproduced traditional Ukrainian folk costumes from Bukovyna, Pollisia, Podilia, Poltava, and the Kuban regions as well as of the Lemko, Boyko and Hutsul groups. This series is clearly identified as being a charity issue by the two figures of denomination that are linked by a "+" sign. The cost of the stamps was the sum of the two figures: the first amount represents the amount for postage and the second indicates the amount being devoted to welfare causes within the Regensburg camp. If all the



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3

stamps had been sold, 26,000 DM would have been raised for the camp charities (Figure 3).

Five stamps were then issued between 1947-1948 that combined the trident emblem with important dates from Ukraine's history: June 30, 1941, the declaration of Ukraine's independence by the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists; November 1, 1918, the formation of the Western Ukrainian National Republic; January 22, 1918, the declaration of the Fourth Universal, which established the Ukrainian National Republic; January 22, 1919, the unification of the Western Ukrainian National Republic with the Ukrainian National Republic; and March 15, 1939, the proclamation of Carpatho-Ukraine's independence.

In June 1948 a commemorative set of four stamps was released to celebrate the centennial of the "Spring of Nations" in western Ukraine. The first stamp combines a torch and newspaper to mark the publication of the first Ukrainian-language newspaper, *Zoria Halytska*. The second stamp features two young soldiers as representatives of the paramilitary national guard. The third design was of a peasant plowing his fields, which recalled the abolition of serfdom. The final stamp in the series carried the portrait of Hryhorii Yakhymovych, who was the auxiliary bishop of the Greek-Catholic community in Lviv in 1848. It was under his leadership that the Supreme Ruthenian Council was established (figure 4).

In addition to these official stamps, several other issues were produced in Regensburg. Most of these were prepared as a means of raising funds for camp schools. In March 1947 a souvenir sheet was sold in conjunction with a Shevchenko festival with profits donated to the Ukrainian grade school in Regensburg, while another sheet was issued in May 1947 for support of the Ukrainian Technical and Husbandry Institute at Ganghofersiedlung.

In 1948 a special edition of 500 decorative folders for the stamps from Regensburg was prepared. An inscription in

gold on the front cover reads "Ukrainian Camp Post Regensburg" in Ukrainian, English and German. It is surrounded by a red border of stylized leaves. Another interesting item from Regensburg is a label that was created in May 1948 for the émigré youth organization SUM, which was established in Germany in 1946 by members of the Bandera faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. When a chapter of SUM was created in Regensburg in May 1948, a commemorative design was prepared. It combined the trident emblem that had been used on the earlier camp stamps with the phrase "under the banner of SUM."

When the International Refugee Organization ordered the Ganghofersiedlung settlement closed, its remaining population of about 1,200 people was moved to other locations in Bavaria and Württemberg. The majority of the internees from Regensburg, including the camp administration, were relocated to the Ulm-Donau Sedankaserne in November 1949. A new postal system was established there in May 1950. The remaining stamps from the Regensburg costume series were overprinted "Ulm/D." to reflect the new issuing authority. The stamps were also given new values as a result of a revaluation of currency in Germany.



FIGURE 4



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Ukrainian deputy...

(Continued from page 1)

tives of various government departments and agencies and non-governmental organizations during an open forum at the International Republican Institute here on January 23.

In his interview, Mr. Ratushnyi said the military cooperation agreements signed during a January 18-19 visit to Ukraine by Russia's Defense Minister Igor Sergeev underscore the fact that Russia and "certain forces in Ukraine" are intensifying their efforts to bring Ukraine and Russia together again. And Russia is especially interested in getting control of Ukraine's military-industrial complex, he said.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, before coming to Kyiv initially as prime minister and then as president, used to head PivdenMash in Dnipropetrovsk, the Soviet Union's leading rocket-production facility. These new military cooperation agreements, in Mr. Ratushnyi's view, are "part of the Putin administration's policy of intensifying pressure on Ukraine to increase its military and economic integration with Russia and Belarus" and "a retreat from the path to cooperation with NATO."

"I think that it's a bad omen for the West as well as for the patriotic forces in Ukraine," he added.

Mr. Ratushnyi cautioned that even though "one should not see this as a done deal," since such agreements require ratification by the Verkhovna Rada - which he expects will not be an easy process - "experience has shown that the executive branch frequently brings international agreements into force without waiting for the Parliament to ratify them first."

During their appearance at the International Republican Institute, the two Rukh deputies also strongly suggested that the current scandal dealing with accusations of presidential complicity in the disappearance and possible murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze may also have Moscow policy connections. As Mr. Ratushnyi pointed out, there have been calls in leading Western newspapers - notably an opinion piece by economist Anders Aslund in the Washington Post on December 27, 2000 - for Western governments to treat President Kuchma as a pariah if he does not come



National Deputy Ivan Bilas

clean in the Gongadze case.

"And when one adds to this the criminal indictment of Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, whose party, with 35 votes, is the largest faction in the majority coalition in Parliament, this could bring about the disintegration of that majority, the undoing of last year's accomplishments and the collapse of the Yushchenko government," Mr. Ratushnyi said.

Gen. Bilas called the Kuchma-Gongadze affair an "artificial and conspiratorial scandal" engineered by a parliamentary faction that calls itself "Rebirth of the Soviet Union."

Mr. Ratushnyi said his party has always been for a complete and transparent investigation of the murder of Mr. Gongadze. "And I can assure you that we will do our utmost, regardless of who is ultimately responsible, to get to the bottom of this matter," he said. He added, however, "We are politicians, and we should understand that the strategic partnership between Ukraine and Georgia as an alternative to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's CIS was undermined by the murder of Mr. Gongadze, whose father is a member of the Georgian Parliament."

Mr. Ratushnyi also raised the question of why corruption allegations about Ms. Tymoshenko's business dealings, which were known back in 1993-1994, were officially brought forward only now, in 2001, when her party is the keystone in the parliamentary majority.

"If we are politicians, then we cannot allow our emotions to replace geopolitical considerations," he stressed. Mr. Ratushnyi said that during their meetings in Washington the two national deputies found President Bush's security and economic affairs team well-versed on issues relating to Ukraine and the region.

He added that he did not anticipate any "Chicken Kiev" speeches from this administration. (Mr. Ratushnyi was referring to former President George Bush's address in Kyiv in August 1991 just before Ukraine's independence, in which he called on Ukrainian leaders to remain within the USSR and not strive for independence.)

"We will continue maintaining our position, and ask for only one thing and we are confident about this - that the Bush administration reaffirm its position about Ukraine continuing to develop within Europe as an independent state and that no one will drag us back into some renewed unions," Mr. Ratushnyi said.

At the outset of the meeting at IRI, Mr. Bilas, who heads the Ukrainian Kozatstvo (Kozak movement), gave IRI President Lorne Cramer the group's "universal" (declaration) and asked that he present it to President Bush in their behalf. In the declaration, the group greets the new president and underscores the shared Ukrainian and American goals of freedom, independence and democracy.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

Yushchenko to resolve the problem of wage arrears and payment for coal deliveries in the coal mining sector within one month, Interfax reported on January 29. The presidential service told the agency that as of January 26 the government paid only for 13.2 percent of supplied coal and 52.5 percent of the wages owed to the sector. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Kyiv to silence foreign broadcasters?

KYIV - The National Council for Television and Radio has announced an open tender for the 101.9 FM band, on which the Kontinent radio station rebroadcasts Ukrainian-language programs from the BBC World Service, Voice of America and Deutsche Welle, Interfax reported on January 25. Kontinent director Serhii Sholokh accused the government of planning to shut down the last remaining independent mass media in Ukraine or to frighten them into silence. The BBC World Service supported Kontinent, saying that offering Kontinent's frequency for sale "is a clear breach" of the council's 1997 decision to give Kontinent that frequency for 10 years. The BBC added that the tender terms "make it almost impossible for the station to retain its frequency." The council responded that Kontinent's license for broadcasting expired last year. (RFE/RL Newswire)



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Albany area Ukrainians come to the rescue of hockey team from Ukraine

by Dr. Andrij O. Baran

ALBANY, N.Y. – The Sokil Ukrainian Youth Hockey Team was invited to participate in the New York State International Hockey Cup competition over the Christmas holidays – December 26, 2000, through January 5 – as one of 37 teams from seven countries including Germany, Russia, Belarus, Canada, the Czech Republic and the United States.

Sokil accepted the invitation last summer and preparations were made for 20, 14-year-old boys, along with their coaches, sponsors and some parents to fly to JFK and then to travel by bus to Albany, N.Y., where the tournament was held.

Just 10 days before departure, the tournament organizers in Albany were notified that the U.S. State Department would not issue visas to the team's sponsors, but only to three coaches and the players. This decision placed the entire team's participation in jeopardy, as the sponsors withdrew their financial support, leaving the Sokil team with just enough money for airfare for only 13 boys and two coaches with no allowance for hotels or food.

The tournament organizers turned to the Ukrainian diaspora for help. They placed a call to this writer, as head of the greater Albany District of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, for assistance.

Despite the short notice and the imposition of unexpected guests at Christmastime, the Ukrainian community in Albany and Saratoga responded.

The boys arrived on Christmas Day and were spirited away to various Ukrainian families' homes for Christmas dinner. Each family took two to three boys. Their coaches, Andrij and Valentin Utkin, the latter considerably famous in world hockey, also were hosted by local families.

The following day a reception was held at the Ukrainian Club in Watervliet. The team was officially welcomed by the head of the Albany District president of the UCCA, as well as by Michael Sawkiw, head of national UCCA, who was visiting his parents in nearby Cohoes.

The team was presented with a large Ukrainian flag and treated to dinner and coffee. Volodimir Kislitsin, the only parent issued a visa, expressed his sincere gratitude for the warm reception and indicated the group's amazement that Ukrainians in America have preserved their language and customs, and have such cultural and religious centers. Over \$700 was raised to help support the team that night.

The next day was Sokil's first game, against Riessersee, the German team. With many fans in the stands waving Ukrainian flags and chanting "Go, Sokil," the boys skated to a decisive 6-0 victory. The players were elated and returned to their host families victorious.

In between games they were treated to such American concepts as Wal-Mart, Friendly's, McDonald's, Ponderosa and the shopping mall. Many of the host families opened their wallets as well as their homes, buying the boys some well-earned souvenirs.

The team's spirit was not matched by their equipment, which paled before the U.S. team's expensive regalia. In order to help the boys at least in some small measure, a new goalie's vest was purchased, using the funds raised at the reception and donated to the team. This was greatly appreciated, as the Sokil's goalie's own vest was made of deerskin and was nearly useless in reducing pain from blocked pucks.

On Saturday, December 30, 2000, after successfully defeating their opponents 3-2, the team and their host families braved the nor'easter snowstorm to attend a professional hockey game between the Albany River Rats, the farm team for the New Jersey Devils, and the Hartford Wolfpack, the farm team for the New York Rangers. The boys were thrilled to see one of their own former Sokil players, Alexander Zinevich, play for the hometown River Rats. Mr. Zinevich and with his wife, Tanya, warmly greeted the Sokil team.

Despite their lack of equipment, and with three of their best players left behind in Kyiv for lack of funds, the team acquitted itself well, completing its stay in the United States with four wins and two losses, both of which came at the hands of much larger teams from Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Their departure was bittersweet as many of the boys had endeared themselves to their Ukrainian American hosts. Tears were shed on both sides at their departure.

While the visiting players thanked Albany-area Ukrainians for our hospitality, we, in turn, thanked them for providing us with the opportunity to truly practice the Christmas spirit.



Members of the Sokil hockey team, with Coach Andrij Utkin and their team mascot, little Dimitriy Baran.



Local fans of Sokil cheer the team on during the tournament.



Some of the young athletes with the Baran family. Standing are: (from left) Coaches Andrij and Valentin Utkin and Dr. Andrij Baran, president of the Albany District UCCA.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Memorable evenings, downtown and uptown

by Helen Smindak

The stirring poems and the tormented life of the national bard of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko, were brought into breathtaking focus at the Shevchenko Scientific Society recently by Ivan Bernatsky, Ukraine's distinguished interpreter of historical and literary figures. Mr. Bernatsky has been featured since 1976 in films produced by the Alexander Dovzhenko Cinema Studio and the UkrNaukFilm Studio in Kyiv. Since 1980, he has also been active as a dramatic actor in productions of the Maria Zankovetskyi Theater in Lviv.

In measured, resonant tones, Mr. Bernatsky narrated the tribulations and joys of the poet and the man, touching on the poverty and misery of Shevchenko's childhood; his years as a serf, working as a houseboy; then freedom and the pursuit of art studies and his general education in St. Petersburg, and his first collection of poems, "Kobzar," followed by the epic poem "Haidamaky" and the ballad "Hamalia." There were references to his few, and unhappy, interests in the fairer sex.

The profile traced the poet's frequent visits to Ukraine, during which he sketched historical and architectural monuments, collected folkloric and other ethnographic materials, and wrote some of his most satirical and politically subversive poems. His membership in the secret Brotherhood of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Kyiv in 1846 resulted in his arrest and sentencing to military duty in a remote area of the Caspian Sea for 10 years. Released in 1857 but forbidden to return to Ukraine, Shevchenko died at the age of 47 in St. Petersburg in 1861.

Expressed with deep feeling, the narration was animated by dramatic recitations of Shevchenko's poems, echoing the thoughts, sorrows and aspirations of a man who realized the full extent of his country's misfortunes under Russian rule and exhorted his people to stop serving foreign masters, to become honorable and free people, worthy of their history and their heritage, in their own free land. Mr. Bernatsky concluded with the highly moving poetic epistle "I mertvym, i zhyvym ..." (To the dead and the living ...), in which Shevchenko reminded the Ukrainian people that only in "one's own house" is there "one's own truth."

A handsome man with a dignified mien, Mr. Bernatsky made an impressive appearance as he stood next to a Shevchenko bust in a candlelit setting draped with richly embroidered and woven rushnyky (ritual cloths). Like the poet, Mr. Bernatsky is a collector of ethnographic materials, including rushnyky from various regions of Ukraine, which he enjoys using in performance. He began his acting career in 1969 with the Volyn Oblast Music-Drama Theater of Shevchenko and went on to become a film star in Kyiv, winning distinction as a Distinguished Artist of Ukraine (1974) and a National Artist of Ukraine (1991). Still associated with the Kyiv film studios and the Lviv theater, he is presently assisting the Ukrainian Stage Art Ensemble of New York as an actor, choreographer and stage manager and, in line with his interest in the upcoming generation, teaches the 12th grade class of the Selfreliance Society's Ukrainian School in New York.

Mr. Bernatsky was introduced by Larissa Onyshkevych, Shevchenko Society president, who spoke of the current trend in Ukraine to chamber performances, both in small salons or theatres as well as at various institutions and private homes. In this manner, Dr. Onyshkevych pointed out, a performance may be staged with one actor or two to three actors, a plan that is feasible in Ukraine's current economic situation. It also supports the initiative of artistic individuals who can organize and stage a small production but would not be able to do so



Sponsors, family members and performers at the "Music at the Institute" tribute to the late Wolodymyr Trytjak.

in larger theaters, which are fewer in number. Welcoming remarks were offered by Anna Procyk, the society's vice-president in charge of conferences and programs.

Premieres galore

A big round of applause is due to Marta and Dr. Ihor Fedoriw of Allentown, Pa., who sponsored January's "Music at the Institute" evening as a tribute to Mrs. Fedoriw's father, the late violinist/conductor/composer Wolodymyr Trytjak, and to Mykola Suk, the hard-working artistic director of the Ukrainian Institute's Chamber Music Society.

The program was a premier offering of world and North American premieres – the debut of several notable compositions superbly presented by outstanding Ukrainian and American performers at the Ukrainian Institute of America. Guests came from such widespread points as Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut to take in the January 20 event.

New York City Opera (NYCO) diva Oksana Krovyska, baritone Oleh Chmyr, violinists Peter Krysa and Catherine French, violist Borys Deviatov, pianist Vyacheslav Bakis and cellist Daniel Gaisford were in their prime at this event. Ms. Krovyska's voice, which sounds better at every hearing, rang out with silvery tones, Mr. Chmyr's dark Slavic voice offered a striking contrast, and the musicians provided a marvelous vehicle for the inspired work of Vasyl Barvinsky (1888-1963), Borys Liatoshynsky (1895-1968), Ihor Shamo (1925-1982) and contemporary composers Yuriy Ishchenko of Kyiv and Ihor Sonevtsky of New York.

The depth and richness of Ms. Krovyska's voice, backed by the fine musicianship of Messrs. Krysa and Bakis, shone in Barvinsky's "Song of Songs for Soprano, Violin and Piano," soaring to great heights in the finale. The soprano interpreted Mr. Sonevtsky's lovely "Bohorodytse Divo" (Ave Maria) with reverence; acknowledging audience applause after the piece, she gestured grandly to the composer in the audience, and Mr. Sonevtsky stood up to take a well-deserved bow. With Mr. Bakis at the piano, Ms. Krovyska gave voice later in the evening to Liatoshynsky's "Three Songs for Soprano and Piano," defining the composer's images of a seagull flying into a

rainbow, of falling in love and black sails.

Mr. Chmyr's distinctive voice showed to great effect in Liatoshynsky's "Three Songs for Bass or Baritone" – the deep and somber "Byl Tsar" (There Was a Tsar), the dark and gloomy "Smert" (Death) and the commanding "Poslanie v Sibir" (Letter to Siberia), the last sung in Russian.

The evening opened with Ishchenko's "Trio for Two Violins and Viola," a chamber work that was at times atonal and dissonant but still a wonder to hear in the capable hands of Mr. Krysa, Ms. French and Mr. Deviatov. Fingering, bowing and pizzicato movements were impeccable as the trio made its way through the work's allegro ecstático, vivace leggiere and andante sostenuto segments.

Wrapping up the program, Mr. Krysa, Ms. French, Mr. Deviatov and Mr. Gaisford tackled Shamo's String Quartet No.4 and came out victorious in all four segments, beginning with moderato non troppo, then ferociously attacking allegro molto, ferroce, taking a quiet, ponderous approach to lento lugubre, and winding up with a full-bodied treatment of risoluto.

In her ninth consecutive season with the NYCO, Ms. Krovyska returns to the New York opera scene next month as Donna Elvira in Mozart's "Don Giovanni." Critically acclaimed for her recent work in the title role of "Katya Kabanova" with the Montreal and Miami Operas and her role as Amelia in Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera," she sang two concerts of Verdi and Puccini favorites at last summer's Italian festivals of San Remo and Albissola. This season, she will record Dvorak's "Spectre's Bride" with the New Jersey Symphony and will appear in Boito's "Mefistofele" at the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico, "Tosca" at the Opera de Monte Carlo and Tchaikovsky's "Pique Dame" at the Opéra de Montréal.

Mr. Chmyr, an award winner in the Glinka and Schumann International Competitions, has performed in major opera houses of Ukraine, Russia and Poland, and has concertized in several European countries. A voice professor at Morris County College in New Jersey, he has brought his fine baritone voice to many American cities in recent years. The special Millennium Concert he gave last spring at Weill Hall, "European Vocal Miniatures," was released as a new CD at the time.

The genius of violinist Peter Krysa has

been evident since he began studying violin at age 6 with his father, renowned violinist Oleh Krysa. His solo performances last season included appearances with the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, the Kyiv Chamber Orchestra, the Lviv Philharmonia and Ukrainian national radio and television, as well as a concert at Alice Tully Hall remembering composer Alfred Schnittke. Co-founder and artistic director of the Lake Winnepesaukee Music Festival and the Winnepesaukee Chamber Players with his wife, cellist Rachel Lewis Krysa, Mr. Krysa has recorded with the Winnepesaukee Players on the Russian Disc label. He recently joined the Leontovych String Quartet, a leading string quartet from the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Deviatov, winner of several competitions and participant in numerous international festivals, is the former music director, conductor and soloist of the Ivano-Frankivsk Chamber Orchestra. With recordings on several labels to his credit, he is presently the principal violist of the Bacchanalia Chamber Orchestra and the String Orchestra of New York.

A graduate of the Kyiv State Conservatory and the Donetsk Conservatory, the German-born Mr. Bakis served as artistic director and conductor of the Donetsk Chamber Orchestra before his emigration to the United States in 1993. Winner of competitions in Kyiv and Munich in the 1970s and 1980s, he was awarded the title of Distinguished Artist of Ukraine in 1993. Now a resident of New York, Mr. Bakis performs as a recitalist and chamber musician.

Ms. French, a native of Victoria, British Columbia, has been a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's violin section since 1994. She has won Canadian and American competitions, has given recitals on both sides of the border and has debuted at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Mr. Gaisford, the recipient of several honors, including first prize in Juilliard's 1986 Shostakovich Cello Competition, has performed extensively with U.S. and Canadian orchestras and participates in numerous music festivals. He has recorded the Michael Hersch "Sonata for Unaccompanied Cello," and performed its New York premiere last month at the 92nd Street Y.

(Continued on page 17)

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RFE/RL releases...

(Continued from page 2)

because of his political ambitions. For instance, there is an oil refinery in Kherson, and the Interagro firm in Kharkiv. The president of Ukraine, for example, calls [State Tax Administration head Mykola] Azarov and says: stifle him because he works not for us but for another person. The stifling begins, jobs are destroyed, taxes not paid.

So, whom did I betray?

[Journalists speculate] that there are some oligarchs behind this affair who want to discredit Leonid Kuchma in order to take all the power in their hands in a way that could appear legal at first sight. The names of [oligarch and lawmaker Hryhorii] Surkis and [Verkhovna Rada, Vice-Chairman Viktor] Medvedchuk are mentioned. What can you say in this regard?

This is absurd. The idea that Surkis and Medvedchuk could give an instruction [to secretly tape Kuchma] is absurd. As far as I know, both Messrs. Surkis and Medvedchuk are not interested in Kuchma's exit.

You say that there are other officers like you in the power structures. Let us assume that this story will lead nowhere. What further actions can be taken by the people who share your views?

In any case, democracy will win. The president will no longer be able to order the closure of, for instance, Silski Visti, the Polityka i Kultura magazine, Grani, or Zerkalo Nedeli ... And I'm convinced that those sums that were stolen – I can show from where they were taken and to whom and for what purpose they were transferred – should return to Ukraine, at least part of them.

Do you have any information about the accounts into which some Ukrainian citizens deposit their money?

I won't answer this question. I can only say that I have information about many millions that were illegally taken from some firms, and that the president of Ukraine knows about that. Incidentally, [that was done] on his instruction.

Is this documented in some way?

This is on microcassettes, on chips. And there is also information that the illegal business is being continued. I can say that Kuchma is very afraid that some facts connected with [former Prime Pavlo] Lazarenko may be revealed.

Can you tell us which facts?

There are facts. Procurator General [Mykhailo] Potebenko can tell you about them in a more detailed manner. There was a conversation between Messrs. Potebenko and Kuchma. Mr. Potebenko took fright when there was a large probability that Lazarenko could be extradited to Ukraine [from the U.S.]. You can ask him [Potebenko]. [I know] the day and hour when he spoke about this. These facts are documented, as well as other facts regarding [Prime Viktor] Yushenko, Kostenko and the eavesdropping on Marchuk, there is everything.

What specifically about Mr. Yushenko? Can you tell us now?

I can. The president gave an instruction – I quote literally – to destroy Yushenko. This was said on March 30 to one of the oblast chairmen. Following this, they [the oblast chairmen] were to prepare letters that they are dissatisfied with Yushenko's work. And there was also an instruction to a number of minis-

ters to write a statement that they are not able to work in such conditions.

Do you think that to destroy Yushenko meant to organize an attack on him, to sack him, or to literally destroy the man?

I only quote the president's words that I documented, and he gives an instruction: "I'll destroy Yushenko." [Ed. note: phrase in quotation marks is in Russian.]

Did he say that in Russian?

One time in Russian. And the second time he said "znyschyty" [Ukrainian: to destroy].

What could you respond to Mr. Bezsmertnyi [Kuchma's official representative in the Parliament] who says that he knows well the sofa under which your dictaphone was planted, [adding that] it's impossible to place or hide anything under [that sofa]?

If Mr. Bezsmertnyi agrees to broadcasting his conversations with expletives on Radio Liberty, [I'll release] one conversation where he says that it is necessary to drive [former Rada chairman Oleksander] Tkachenko out of the Parliament. The dictaphone was where I said it was – under the sofa.

When you applied for that job, did you think that everything was clean there? Those were the corridors of power. You surely knew that there might be various developments, didn't you? Why did you go to work there at all?

A rhetorical question. Why did I go and what have I learned? You know, I accompanied a businessman on his way to the president, he was carrying a gift for the president worth \$5 million. I can't tell you his name. I can only say that it was related to Zhytomyr. To pay wage and pension arrears, one needs some 5 or 6 million hrv [ed. note: not specified to what economic sector or category of employees], while the president receives a gift worth \$5 million – Scythian gold. And that businessman says: yes, I have [already] given gifts worth \$3 million, that was small change ...

How much attention did the president pay to Heorhii Gongadze?

This incident [with Gongadze] ultimately exhausted my patience. I can't say the president attached great importance to Heorhii, but he paid attention [to him] more than once. Those journalists who praise the president around the clock are automatically included in his favorites. But Kuchma, in my opinion, is not a courageous man. He fears journalists who criticize him. His favorites are given financial support. As for the newspaper Den, which remained hostile to him during the [presidential election] campaign, he ordered more than once to halt the subscription for it. Horror! He personally fights against people. Not only against journalists, I can mention dozens of people who, following Kuchma's instruction, were fired from the army, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Procurator General's Office ...

Correction

Due to a technical error, the first portion of a book title was omitted in the "Book Notes" column on January 14. The full title of the book by Dr. Bohdan S. Wynar is "Independent Ukraine: A Bibliographic Guide to English-Language Publications, 1989-1999" (Englewood, Colo.: Ukrainian Academic Press, 2000). In addition, the press release sent by the publisher to accompany the new book incorrectly listed the book as covering the period 1990-1999; in fact the period is 1989-1999.

Museum announces schedule of workshops

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – The lack of desire to work and create with one's hands is one of the truly sad aspects attributed to our modern life style. It seems that most everything can be bought, even olden things once were by hand. People would rather purchase items than create their own unique works.

There is a great deal of pride and self-fulfillment in working with one's hands. In the Ukrainian folk culture tradition this is translated into the making of exquisite objects that are both useful and beautiful. A large part of this folk art tradition is the application of hands to such creative tasks as embroidery, bead-working, or pysanky.

The Ukrainian Museum is concerned that the knowledge of these art forms remain viable – not diluted but true to their origins – and continue to be passed on to the new generations of Ukrainian Americans. The museum is interested also in sharing this knowledge with the public.

Toward that end the museum is once again presenting its complement of Ukrainian folk crafts courses and workshops for the spring 2001 season.

• The Embroidery Course, given in two eight-lesson sessions, is taught by master embroiderer Lubow Wolynetz. For those just beginning to embroider, to those whose dexterity with the needle is to be envied, there is always something new to learn in this course. Schedule: February 3 - March 17 and April 21 - June 9, 1-3:30 p.m.; fee: adults, \$60; students over 16 and seniors, \$50; children 10-16, \$30.

• The Gerdany/Bead Stringing Course is a three-session course in the art of making traditional Ukrainian beaded necklaces worn with folk costumes in various regions of Ukraine. Schedule: March 3, 10 and 17,

10 a.m.-noon; fee: adults, \$30; students over 16 and seniors, \$25; children 12-16, \$10.

• The Pysanky/Ukrainian Easter Egg Decorating Workshop offers an opportunity to learn the art of making a traditional Ukrainian pysanka with dyes, beeswax and stylus, applying traditional designs. Schedule: March 25, 31 and April 1, 2-4 p.m.; fee for each session: adults, \$15; students over 16 and seniors, \$10; children 12-16, \$3.

• Ukrainian Easter Traditions will enable participants to learn how to make traditional Ukrainian Easter breads such as babka and paska, listen to instructor Ms. Wolynets speak about Ukrainian Easter traditions, and learn how to decorate the paska with all the magical symbols of spring and reawakening of life. Schedule: March 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; fee: adults, \$15; students over 16 and seniors, \$12.50.

• Demonstrations in the Making of Pysanky will present experienced artisans who will continually demonstrate this beautiful craft. The award-winning film "Pysanka" by director Slavko Nowytski will also be shown every half hour. Since the museum does not allow children under age 12 to participate in pysanka courses due to the utilization of candles and hot wax, this demonstration is a great opportunity for youngsters to actually see the time-honored process of decorating an egg "the Ukrainian way." Schedule: April 7, 2-5 p.m.; fee: adults, \$4.50; students over 16 and seniors, \$3; children under 12, free.

Members of the Ukrainian Museum receive a 15 percent discount for all courses and workshops. Reservations must be made in advance by calling the museum, (212) 228-0110 or e-mailing: UkrMus@aol.com.

Zlenko delineates...

(Continued from page 4)

explained that Ukraine's policy is one, but with several points of reference. He stated that Ukraine would continue to move along that line with the accents on Brussels, Moscow and Washington, but emphasized that he would not limit the number of Ukraine's strategic partners.

"There should be as many as are needed," said Mr. Zlenko. He repeated a phrase often uttered by Ukraine's foreign policy makers that the key to a good strategic partnership is mutual respect for the interests of each country.

The foreign affairs minister said Ukraine would continue to work toward closer relations with Poland, whom he identified as another key strategic partner, as well as with all of its other immediate neighbors, with the major European centers of power such as Germany, France and Great Britain.

He said, however, that his central foreign policy accent would be to develop the European integration of Ukraine. He explained that, because Ukraine has set a goal to make Kyiv an undivided part of "the European house," a systematic program for integration needs to be developed that would rid Ukraine's foreign policy of chaos and useless illusions.

Mr. Zlenko explained that the new globalization processes transforming international relations encompass a new pragmatism, one that Ukraine would adopt. "I see this stage as a time of pragmatic and strict defense of the national interests of our country," said Mr. Zlenko.

He said that Ukraine would need to set goals for the development of a high level of economic and legal standards, and to demonstrate the effort the government is making to achieve them.

In explaining that foreign policy and domestic policy must work hand-in-hand, Mr. Zlenko stated that Ukraine would

develop new foreign policy initiatives that he labeled, "ambassadors of Ukrainian business" and "Ukrainian business assistance." The programs would work to further Ukraine's commercial interests abroad and allow the Foreign Affairs Ministry to act as the lobbying arm for Ukrainian businesses.

Mr. Zlenko acknowledged that a new chapter had opened in relations with Russia in the months since his appointment. He explained that cooperation with Moscow had taken on "realistic and practical meaning," and that the two countries are in the process of developing a relationship of equal and mutually interested partners.

"It must be understood that if Ukraine agrees with Russia on a specific question, that doesn't mean it is following in Moscow's path," said Mr. Zlenko. And, conversely, if Kyiv doesn't support a Russian position, there is no reason to believe that the Berlin Wall is rising between us."

The foreign affairs minister said the key in relations with Moscow, Washington or Brussels is that Ukraine must identify and protect its own national self-interests and that its partners respect that goal.

He also underscored the need to expand relations between the partners in GUUAM, the yet to be formalized cooperation association of Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova.


Mr. Zlenko explained that Ukraine also must continue to look at other parts of the world where it may be able to develop trading partnerships, including the Near and Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America.

Finally, he called on his cadres to pursue their foreign policy work in a manner "transparent before society." He added that without a free press and freedom of thought there is no future for "a democratic European Ukraine" because the country would be left with a foreign policy that is unrealistic, ineffective and illusory.

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Memorable evenings...

(Continued from page 13)

Around town

The 11 p.m. broadcast of WCBS news on December 16 informed viewers about successful brain surgery performed that day on 7-year-old Artem Trok of Ukraine by Dr. Fred Epstein at Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan. Contacted by a neurosurgeon in Kyiv, Dr. Epstein's "Save a Child Fund" brought Artem and his mother to New York from Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. Following rare brain surgery to remove a growth the size of a lemon from the back of his head, the young patient was released from the hospital on December 23 and is recuperating until February 6 at the Ronald McDonald House on East 73rd Street, where accommodations and kitchen facilities are provided for him and his mother. Ina Bazylevsky of Bayside, Queens, who visited Artem and his mother, said they "speak beautiful Ukrainian" and were receiving excellent care at the Ronald McDonald House, but were "on their own" as far as food supplies were concerned.

Alex Trebek, longtime host of the highly popular game show "Jeopardy!," who is pictured with "Millionaire" host Regis Philbin on the front cover of the January 27-February 2 issue of TV Guide, is touted as No. 4 in TV Guide's selection of "Hosts We Love The Most." "Jeopardy!" was chosen No. 2 in the Guide's cavalcade of "The 50 Greatest Game Shows of All Time." Reputedly the most rigorous game show on television, "Jeopardy!" has become a genuine American institution under the all-business demeanor of Mr. Trebek, who has been

its host since 1984. The Canadian-born Mr. Trebek, whose father is Ukrainian, spent a decade on Canadian TV before heading south to try his luck on American TV. He made his American debut as host of the short-lived "The Wizard of Odds" and later hosted "High Rollers."

In a January 27 story in The New York Times, Sarah Boxer reported that the Ukrainians and the Russians "are fighting over which country is the true home of masochism." This strange turn of events came to light at the Modern Language Association's annual meeting in December, when three hours were devoted to the subject of masochism, so named by a German psychiatrist after Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, the author of "Venus in Furs" (1869), a novella about the adventures and fantasies of Severin, a man who loved being whipped. According to Vitaly A. Chernetsky, an assistant professor of Slavic languages at Columbia University, Sacher-Masoch was born in Lemberg [Lviv] in eastern Galicia, and "considered himself a Galician Ukrainian in terms of identity and recalled with fondness his Ukrainian wet nurse." After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia began publishing Sacher-Masoch's works, formerly banned, and in 1995 Aleksandr Etkind published a historical sociology of Sacher-Masoch "and his Russian readers," suggesting that the name Severin has Russian roots and that Sacher-Masoch may have learned the pleasures of flagellation from the Russian sect of "khlysty" or flagellants. Mr. Chernetsky, who said Mr. Etkind was arguing that the Russians are "the original masochists," called the Russian impulse to take credit for masochism a "tortured, post-imperialist, melancholic" fantasy.



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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 437

Please be advised that Branch 437 has merged with Branch 66 as of February 1, 2001.

All inquiries and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Peter Leshchyn, branch secretary.

Mr. Peter Leshchyn
3601 Culver Rd.
Rochester, NY 14622-1826
(716) 342-3874

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 113

As of February 1, 2001, the secretary's duties of Branch 113 were assumed by Mr. Michael Shean.

We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mr. Michael Shean
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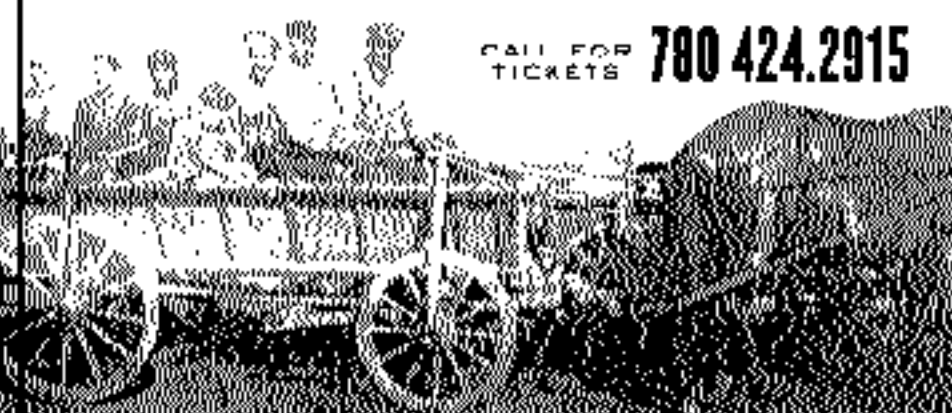
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Chornomortsi hold 25th annual ski clinic in upstate New York

HUNTER, N.Y. – The Chornomortsi fraternity of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization unit held its 25th annual ski clinic at Hunter Mountain and Ski Windham on January 25-28. Seventeen members of the Chornomortsi fraternity and their friends met for four days for an intensive clinic to hone their ski skills in preparation for the annual Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) races, which will be held at Ski Windham on March 10, followed by an award presentation and banquet at neighboring Hunter Mountain. Members arrived from around the country: Texas, Virginia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut. The 2001 clinic had an added international flavor as representatives from the Embassy of Ukraine, Consul General Dr. Valerii Hrebenyuk, Trade Representative and Counselor Yaroslav Voitko and Vice-Consul (Second Secretary) Kostiantyn Kudryk, also participated. World downhill champion Karl Plattner of Ski Windham led the clinic, which was organized by Erko Palydowycz. The Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., was the spiritual (and parallel skiing) advisor. Downhill slalom courses were set up at Windham and Hunter mountains, and representatives of Atomic Ski had equipment available for members of the group to test out. Orest Fedash arranged accommodations at local chalets, while Drs. Ihor Zalucky and George Kryzaniwsky provided medical supervision. Food for the event was supplied by Olympic Meat Market of Irvington, N.J.




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Tour 3: Ukraine and Central Europe. June 19-29, 2001.
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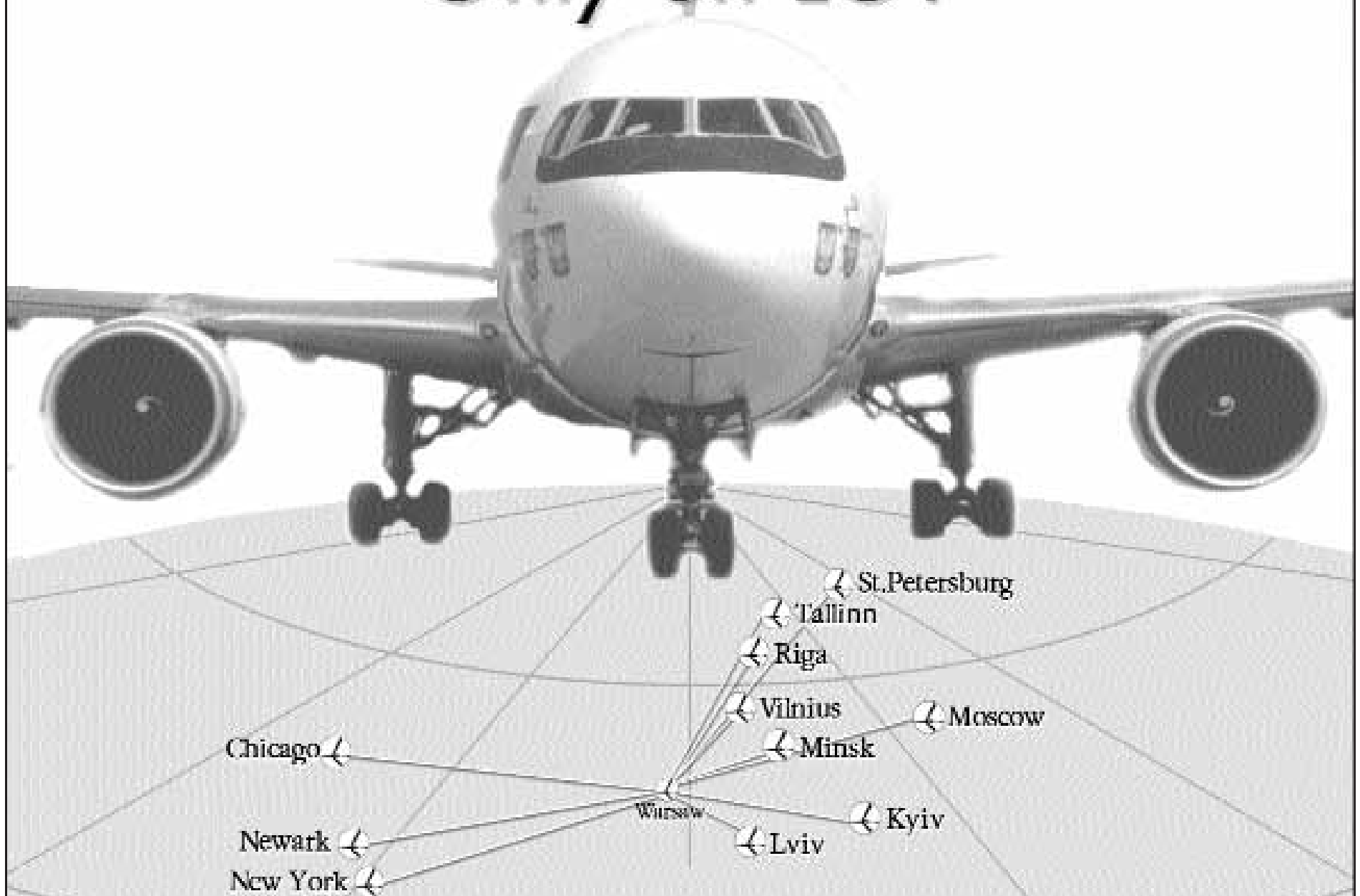
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Panelists discuss...

(Continued from page 7)

pation in investigating and uncovering the underground practice of modern white slavery – especially in New York and New Jersey. He spoke of an extensive and well-developed network of pimps and criminals who supply dancers to go-go bars and “sex clubs” in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn and in such New Jersey cities such as Newark, Linden and Atlantic City.

New Jersey has about 300 such go-go bars, the most of all the 50 states. In addition to alcoholic bars where some sort of attire is required – no matter how scant – there are “juice bars” where women have no such restrictions and perform au naturel. In one such bar visited, out of 18 women performers 14 were from Ukraine, Mr. Zalisko noted.

Mr. Zalisko continued by relating his experience when he entered such a bar posing as a customer. He would observe, record and photograph such situations for evidence and would try to strike up a conversation with the women, although most of the women were reluctant to talk. Quite a few women are in their teens (13 to 17), he said. These women are generally kept under lock and key in apartments in the Brighton Beach area and are transported in vans to and from their places of “business” every day. The women are threatened, blackmailed, shortchanged, beaten and even killed if they do not conform.

Despite the dangers and the degradation these women suffer, Mr. Zalisko said it is difficult convince them to run away from this kind of life. He stressed that the best way to help the women is to prevent them from leaving Ukraine in the first place because it is almost impossible to help them once they are hooked.

The numerous agencies with legitimate-looking facades that have sprung up in Ukraine like mushrooms after a downpour

to encourage women to register with them for employment abroad. They purport to be travel agencies, purveyors of well-paying jobs, recruiters for college positions, etc. Laws have been adopted in Ukraine to put these agencies out of business, but as soon as one is closed another springs up, Mr. Zalisko explained.

The most important cause of this tragedy in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries is a severe lack of job opportunities and poverty among women. In addition, there is corruption among government officials, police, embassy and consulate employees, customs officers on borders, train conductors and bus drivers. Collectively they aid and abet the international trafficking of women and children because of the lucrative profits.

In addition to his work in the United States, Mr. Zalisko travels to Ukraine and other countries. He meets with police units and government officials whose job it is to uncover and fight the trafficking of women. He explained that in numerous instances the police in Ukraine work hand-in-hand with the criminals because their salaries are meager when compared with the benefits they derive from the traffickers. In addition, the governmental agencies assigned to fighting this crime do not consider it to be a serious problem.

The international trade in prospective brides is another type of shady business under control of the criminal element, Mr. Zalisko continued. The money comes from would-be husbands who are required to pay for pictures, magazines, addresses, trips abroad, personal introductions, inspections, etc. Again, the criminal element makes big money and the prospective brides often find themselves in unbearable situations.

The “Dollar for Ukraine” organization sponsored the afternoon program on held on Sunday, November 12, 2000; Yaroslava Mulyk acted as mistress of ceremonies.

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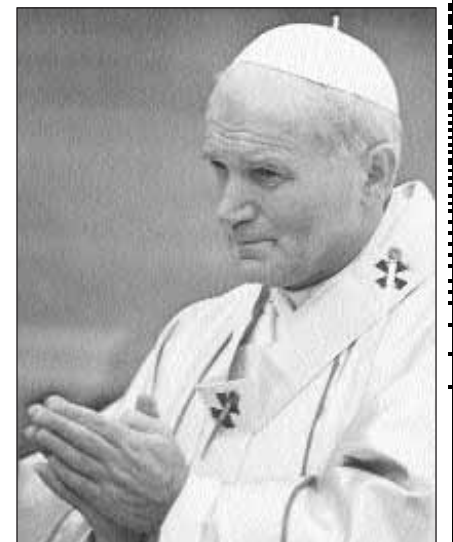
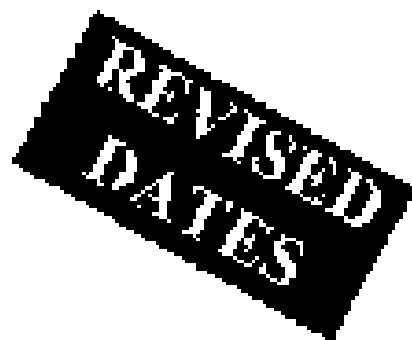
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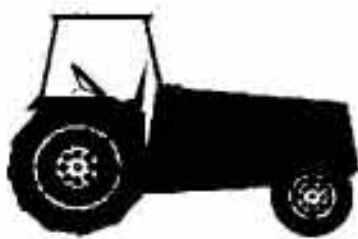
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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Floridian celebrates 105th birthday

NORTH PORT, Fla. – Barbara Gruchowsky recently celebrated her 105th birthday, making her one of the oldest residents of this Florida community. She holds that the secrets of longevity and happiness are smiling often and thanking God for her health.

Mrs. Gruchowsky's family members, 77-year-old daughter Dorothy Wylder along with her son-in-law John Wylder and her grandson Dr. Michael Brodin, had the pleasure of uniting at the Quality Health Care nursing home to celebrate Mrs. Gruchowsky's birthday on November 21, 2000. They came bearing a cake covered with 105 candles.

Mrs. Gruchowsky was born in Halychyna, Ukraine, and moved to America as a teenager in the early 1900s. She married Daniel Gruchowsky at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York. They had two daughters, Stacy and Dorothy and were married for 55 years.

Mrs. Gruchowsky cared for her husband for 22 years, when he became partially par-

alyzed after falling off a ladder while repairing the roof. She worked in various places, as a seamstress, a servant and a cook, provider for the family. Mrs. Gruchowsky was involved also in the Ukrainian community as a charter member of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. She also volunteered in a church in North Port, Fla., with her daughter Stacy, who has since passed away.

Mr. Wylder describes his mother-in-law as "an amazing woman." He explained: "When she was 70 years old she was still painting the high ceilings in her home. It wasn't until she turned 80 and decided to sell her home because she couldn't keep up with the demands of a house and yard. Until then she would do things like mix her own cement and fill potholes."

Although Mrs. Gruchowsky has encountered much and worked very hard during her 105 years, she is still in good health. Remarkably, she suffers only from hearing loss and a slight vision problem. Her daughter Dorothy (a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 307-394) said, "Her mind is alert and her memory is fantastic, however she is physically frail."

Gets citizenship at the age of 107

PHILADELPHIA – At age 107, Alexandra Dubinsky was given U.S. citizenship, along with an American flag and a bouquet of pink roses on December 13, 2000, making her one of the oldest people to take the oath of American citizenship. Wasil Dubinsky, her 74-year-old son, accompanied his mother to the ceremony.

Mrs. Dubinsky is originally from Ukraine, but has resided in Philadelphia for many years. She was born on May 10, 1893, on a farm where she lived the first half of her life. Her hometown was located about 20 miles away from the present-day site of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Mrs. Dubinsky emigrated to the United

States in 1950 as a refugee after enduring a Nazi farming camp.

She was among 68 new citizens who recited the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the oath of citizenship during the ceremony in Philadelphia. Immigration officer Hairabed Kazandjian, who interviewed Mrs. Dubinsky in June to approve her for her citizenship, was impressed with her vitality. "She just did not come across as 107 years old," he said. "She's just very nice and seemed really happy," he added.

Under the circumstances of advanced age, health and the extended period of time that Mrs. Dubinsky has lived in the United States, she was able to skip the extensive history test that is normally required of most applicants. During her interview, Mr. Kazandjian reported, Mrs. Dubinsky mostly reminisced about her family and "the old country."

UKRAINIAN STAGE ENSEMBLE

Artistic Director LIDIA KRUSHELNYTSKA

presents Bohdan Boychuk's Dramatic Montage

FIVE SCENES OF THE YEAR 2000

Direction: Lidia Krushelnytska

Choreography: Katia Kolcio

Music: Myroslav Skoryk

Stage design and costumes: Maria Shust

Lighting: Andrij Hankevych

Sunday, March 4, at 2:30 p.m.

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The Ukrainian Weekly



Wedding Announcements

will appear in March 2001.

For a wedding announcement to be included in the March issue, all information must be received in our offices by February 23.

Along with wedding announcements, we will include greetings from friends, family members, bridesmaids and ushers – from all those who wish to share in the excitement of a new marriage.

We hope you will announce your wedding in The Ukrainian Weekly, or send a greeting to your favorite newlyweds.

Rates for announcements and greetings:

One-column wedding announcement: \$100

Two-column wedding announcement: \$200

Wedding greeting: \$75

For further information or to request a brochure, please call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040 (Maria).

Visit www.ukrweekly.com to view a wedding announcement sample page.



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 4

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: The Les Kurbas Theater in Lviv presents a concert of "Ancient Spiritual Ukrainian Song (Irmos)," with Natalia Polovynka, Oleh Stefan and Andriy Vodychev, to be held at St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church, at 11:30 a.m.

TRENTON, N.J.: The Les Kurbas Theater in Lviv, Volodymyr Kuchynsky, artistic director, presents "The Dream," an evening of Taras Shevchenko poetry with song. The performance will be held at The Ukrainian Home, 47 Jeremiah Ave., at 5 p.m.

Saturday, February 10

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) presents "A Literary Evening: Poetry and Other Works by Marta Tarnawsky." Participating in the program will also be Larissa Onyshkevych, NTSh president, and Prof. Myroslava Znayenko, Columbia University. The evening will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

MADISON, N.J.: Soprano Oleksandra Hrabova and tenor William Falk will sing love songs from operettas and operas at the annual Valentine's Cabaret in Lenfell Hall, The Mansion, on Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham-Madison Campus, at 8 p.m. During this past season, Ms. Hrabova sang the title role in "Lucia di Lammermoor" for the Dicapo Opera Theater and the National Lyric Opera, and presented a series of concerts of Ukrainian music throughout major cities in the United States. Mr. Falk performed the original role of Chris in the Tony award-winning "Miss Saigon" and has also appeared in "Les Miserables," "Starlight Express" and "Marilyn: An American Fable." Opera at Florham cabarets offer seating in groups of eight. Tailgating is encouraged, and light refreshments are available. For reservations call (973) 443-8620 or (908) 273-5045.

PATERSON, N.J.: The Les Kurbas Theater in Lviv presents "Marko Proklyaty, or The Legend from the East," a performance of music and movement to Vasyl Stus' poetry. The performance will be held at 85 Fifth Ave., starting at 10 p.m.

Sunday, February 11

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 719 Sanford Ave., invites the public to a concert "Ancient Spiritual Ukrainian Song (Irmos)," performed by the Les Kurbas Theater of Lviv. The concert begins at 1 p.m.

Monday, February 12

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will present a lecture by Vitaly A. Chernetsky, Columbia University, titled "Allegorical Journeys: The

Metamorphoses of Ukrainian Magic Realism." The lecture will take place in the institute's seminar room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For further information contact the institute, (617) 495-4053.

Friday, February 16

TORONTO: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto will hold a lecture by Ann Makolkin, University of Toronto, titled "A Forgotten Page in the History of Ukraine: The Italians of Odesa." The lecture will be held at University College, 15 King's College Circle, Room 256, at 4 p.m. For additional information call (416) 978-6934.

Saturday, February 24

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: The Ukrainian Cultural Center and the Committee for Aid to Ukraine, Central New Jersey Branch, invite the public to a carnival ball dinner/dance to be held at the center starting at 6:30 p.m. with music by Tempo. Profits from ticket sales will benefit charities in Ukraine. Tickets in advance for the dinner/dance: \$40 per person; \$30, for students with identification. Tickets after February 15 and at the door: \$50 per person; \$40 for students. Tickets may be ordered from: Michael Shulha, (908) 534-6683; the Rev. Ivan Lyshyk, (212) 873-8550; and George Mischenko, (732) 671-1914; e-mail, UKRNS@aol.com.

Sunday, February 25

CHICAGO: The Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program, will host a buffet reception at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson at 2-5 p.m. Guests will enjoy fine Ukrainian cuisine, delight in the performance of spectacular Ukrainian dance, and have occasion to meet key members of the mayors' administrations in both Chicago and Kyiv. Proceeds will benefit the Sister Schools Abroad Program between Chicago and Kyiv. Tickets: \$50. For additional information contact Patricia Mackiw, (773) 975-5917 or the Chicago Sister Cities International Program, (312) 742-5320.

ADVANCE NOTICE

March 7-28

CHICAGO: The International Visitors Center of Chicago (IVCC) will implement a professional development training program in Chicago for 10 journalists from Crimea on March 7-28. Under the U.S. Department of State-sponsored "Community Connections Program," qualifying Ukrainian mixed-media professionals will participate in an educational exchange program focusing on freedom of the press and first amendment rights issues. The IVCC is also seeking homestay hosts for this program. For additional information, contact Dan Stephenson, (312) 915-6383, or e-mail dstephenson@ivcc.org.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (**\$10 per submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$10 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.