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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXIX

No. 12

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2001

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

U.S. ambassador offers comments on U.S.-Ukraine relations

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Carlos Pascual arrived in Kyiv on October 19, 2000, as the fourth United States ambassador to Ukraine. Prior to his appointment, he served as a special assistant to President Bill Clinton and the senior director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia at the National Security Council (NSC), posts he held from July 1998 through January 2000. While there as a leading formulator of U.S. policy towards Ukraine, he guided policies to encourage Ukraine's commitment to democratic and market reforms, and its integration into Europe.

Mr. Pascual, 42, a career member of the Foreign Service, joined the NSC in June 1995 as director for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs. In 1994-1995 he served as deputy assistant administrator for Europe and the New Independent States at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). From 1992 to 1994 Mr. Pascual was the director of the Office of Program Analysis and Coordination for the NIS Task Force, where he helped develop the first U.S. assistance programs for that region.

Mr. Pascual's first five months as the head of the U.S. mission in Ukraine have been marked by the election of a new president in the United States and a political crisis in Ukraine, events that a new ambassador generally does not confront in the first months of his posting.

The following interview was conducted on March 20 at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv to get a perspective from Ambassador Pascual on how U.S.-Ukraine relations are currently evolving given the current political climates in the two countries.

PART I

Let's start at the beginning, how did a Cuban American get to be a Ukraine specialist?

I was born in Cuba and came to the United States when I was 3 years old. One of the values that my parents inculcated in me from the beginning was appreciation for freedom and the importance of people having the opportunity to pursue their dreams and their destinies.

In 1992, when some friends asked

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Kuchma denies reports of Kravchenko's dismissal

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma publicly denied on March 21 that he had fired Minister of Internal Affairs Yuri Kravchenko – five days after the first reports of the possible dismissal of Ukraine's top cop appeared in the media, some of which had been confirmed by individuals politically close to the president.

In Bakhchisarai at a commemoration of the 150th birthday of a Tatar national hero, President Kuchma, who is vacationing in Crimea, made his first public appearance in nearly a week to quash the rumor.

Asked whether he had signed a decree releasing Mr. Kravchenko, the Ukrainian president bluntly replied, "No." In obvious reply to the way this story has been played out in the media without a single comment from the president, Mr. Kuchma added in a curt manner that journalists should simply follow their reports to determine if Mr. Kravchenko would be dismissed in the near future.

The president also denied that he had or would soon sack his chief of staff,

Volodymyr Lytvyn, and Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko.

"That is nonsense," said the president, adding, "Lately everything is rumors, rumors, rumors."

Mr. Kuchma's comments did little to clear up the murky situation surrounding his internal affairs minister, who remains under political siege, along with the president himself and several other ranking administration officials, over audiotapes recorded and released by a presidential bodyguard in

November 2000. The tapes, if they are authentic – a question that has yet to be definitively answered – implicate the president, the internal affairs minister and other leading officials in the disappearance of Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze and a slew of other crimes.

An oppositionist force led by a shaky coalition of leftist and rightist lawmakers and their political parties has mustered

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German analysis raises questions about Tarascha corpse

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Another unforeseen twist further complicated efforts to determine who killed Heorhii Gongadze when on March 19 National Deputy Serhii Holovatyi, secretary of the ad hoc parliamentary committee investigating the Gongadze affair, announced that DNA testing of what was believed to be a sample tissue of the remains of the missing journalist had

turned up negative.

"The material from a corpse that was handed over by Olena Prytula is not part of the remains of the body of Heorhii Gongadze," said Mr. Holovatyi.

Ms. Prytula, the colleague of the murdered journalist who was the editor-in-chief of the Internet newspaper he published before he disappeared in mid-September 2000, had turned over to Mr.

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Lviv students protest repressive actions in Kyiv



Students rally at the Lviv Polytechnic University early in the morning of March 13.

by Oksana Petrovych

LIVIV – Over 3,000 students from various Lviv educational establishments took part in peaceful protests which began in Lviv on March 12. They were protesting mass arrests and other illegal repressions against participants in the demonstration which occurred on March 9 in Kyiv.

On the morning of March 12 students from Lviv National University, the Lviv Theological Academy, the Institute of Physical Education and Lviv Polytechnic University gathered by the statue of Ivan Franko in Lviv to hear the testimony of those students who managed to return successfully from Kyiv. The students were on edge because of the mass arrests and other illegal repressions against participants in

the March 9 demonstration in Kyiv.

According to the official numbers, 212 people spent the night in different police stations of the Ukrainian capital – a large portion of these were students. The physical appearance of some of those coming to the meeting in Lviv was so striking that words were not necessary: they had

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ANALYSIS

Poll shows Ukrainians distrust leaders

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PRAGUE – Ukraine's Oleksander Razumkov Center of Economic and Political Studies conducted a poll among 2,037 respondents in all Ukrainian regions in late February and early March, asking them a number of questions about their political preferences. Generally, the poll confirmed what had been known before, namely, that Ukrainians remain deeply confused about what should be done to improve the situation in the country, as well as extremely distrustful of their leadership and political elite.

However, the poll also showed that the current anti-presidential opposition – grouped in the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement and the Forum for National Salvation – cannot count on decisive social support either.

The proposal of the anti-presidential opposition that Ukraine should become a parliamentary republic with a largely ceremonial president, or no president at all, was supported by 16.9 percent of respondents; 46.1 percent were against it; while 37 percent were unable to decide on the issue.

The idea of a parliamentary-presidential republic was viewed more favorably: 30.2 percent supported it; 27.4 percent were against it; and 42.4 percent did not provide a definite answer.

Answering the question about who should be afraid of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement and the Forum for National Salvation, 46.7 percent of respondents mentioned President Leonid Kuchma and the state officials who were secretly taped by presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko; 13.6 percent said the groups threaten oligarchic clans; 15.6 percent mentioned society in general; 11.8 percent said

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Lviv students protest...

(Continued from page 1)

managed to avoid jail, but not the billy clubs of the police.

In Kyiv itself "special attention" had been given to people from Lviv, according to witnesses. Approximately 100 people from Lviv were held at the Kyiv train station on the evening of March 9. Most of them were literally pulled out of train cars and thrown face-first onto the ground of the railroad station.

"They announced that I was guilty, as if I were a dangerous criminal," explained Yurko Fedoryshyn, a student of applied mathematics. "When it turned out that I had done nothing criminal, no one even said 'sorry,' even though they detained me for over a day."

Pavlo Aleksandrov, a student on the faculty of journalism of Lviv National University told the newspaper Postup that he was arrested at the train station and hit by the special security forces on the road before a brief trial. "The trial lasted a few minutes; they didn't tell me what I was charged with. After the trial I met with other friends of mine who were tried, and it was clear that no one had read any charges to any of them, no one had a chance to defend himself. They just read the verdict. The result was either to scare us or to discourage us from traveling to Kyiv again," he related.

Yurii Volkolhon, a philosophy student, was hastily tried by a female judge and two policemen, "It looked like they had

the threat was directed against Ukrainian citizens; and 6.9 percent mentioned state bodies.

According to 13.8 percent of respondents, the anti-presidential opposition is no threat to anybody, while 12.3 percent were unable to answer the question.

The center found that the activity of Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko is supported by 26.7 percent of Ukrainians (27.2 percent said they do not support him); President Kuchma by 11.4 percent (negative rating: 43.8 percent); the government by 9.7 percent (negative rating: 38.8 percent); and the Parliament by 4.5 percent (negative rating: 49.4 percent).

Commenting on why the positive rating of Mr. Yushchenko is higher than that of the government by nearly three to one, Center of Economic and Political Studies head Anatolii Hrytsenko said, "this testifies to the fact that people do not perceive the government as a team of like-minded persons."

According to the poll, if parliamentary elections were held right now, only the Communist Party would be able to overcome the 4 percent voting threshold necessary to win parliamentary seats.

The Communist Party could count on support from 14 percent of Ukrainians, while other parties would obtain far less support: the Democratic Party, 3.7 percent; the Social Democratic Party (United), 3 percent; the National Democratic Party, 2.9 percent; the Democratic Union, 2.5 percent; the Popular Rukh (Udoenko), 2.1 percent; and the Fatherland Party, 1.5 percent.

Of those polled, 36 percent said they would support no party, while 22.7 percent were unable to define their party preferences.

The poll also found that 29 percent of Ukrainians believe Kyiv's foreign policy has recently taken a pro-Russia slant to the detriment of Ukraine's relations with the West. Of that number, 50.2 percent assessed this fact positively, 29.7 percent negatively, and 16.3 percent neutrally.

grabbed the judge from her home in a hurry, because I think she was in a house coat, covered by her judge's robe," he said.

Already on the second day of the protests, students from all the higher educational establishments in Lviv joined in – regardless of announcements by some administrators that all students who participated in the protests would be expelled. Only the rectors of a few institutions unambiguously announced that no administrative sanctions would be applied to those students who were exercising their civil rights via these political activities.

Though the demonstrations in Kyiv culminated in violence, the Lviv protests were peaceful. On both days the demonstrators were escorted by policemen and generally marched on the sidewalks in long columns. Contrary to various reports, no efforts have been made to deport rectors who are American citizens.

The solidarity of the students produced quick results. On the evening of March 14 all those from Lviv who were being detained in Kyiv were released, even those who previously had been illegally sentenced to 15 days.

On March 15, Mykola Zhulynskyi, vice prime minister of culture, met with all the rectors of higher educational establishments in Lviv at a closed meeting. He warned about the danger of destabilization in Ukraine and the manipulation of student activists, but also stressed that repression against students should be excluded.

NEWSBRIEFS**Communists seek to oust government**

KYIV – Four Communist lawmakers on March 15 met with Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and handed him a list of 17 demands, Interfax reported. In particular, the Communist Party wants the government to switch to a socialist economy, nationalize banks, introduce a planned economy for state enterprises, give official status to the Russian language and break all relations with NATO. National Deputy Oleksander Bondarchuk commented after the meeting that "each side has remained on its own position." Mr. Bondarchuk said the Communists will vote to dismiss the Cabinet in a possible no-confidence vote following Mr. Yushchenko's report to the Parliament on April 10. Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko told a Communist rally the same day that the party "will arouse the people of Ukraine and do away with this regime in a week" if it fails to resign voluntarily. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM ready to back Cabinet changes

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko on March 20 said he is ready to discuss Cabinet replacements with parliamentary groups if new candidates turn out to be "more rational and constructive" than the current ministers, and if the reshuffle "cements" the pro-government parliamentary majority, Interfax reported. Meanwhile, lawmaker Yaroslav Kendzior from Rukh (Udoenko) told the Parliament the same day that "vigorous preparations" are under way to oust the Yushchenko Cabinet and install an "oligarchic-leftist regime" in Ukraine. Yurii Kostenko, leader of another Rukh faction, warned that "the attempts of oligarchs and Communists to start off the government's dismissal are a full-scale plan to destabilize Ukraine." (RFE/RL Newsline)

New regional group emerges in Rada

KYIV – A new deputies' caucus called Ukraine's Regions (Rehiony Ukrainy) has been registered in the Verkhovna Rada, Interfax reported on March 21. The group is led by Donetsk Mayor Volodymyr Rybak and includes five former lawmakers from Revival of Regions, four from Labor Ukraine, and two from the Popular Democratic Party. Revival of Regions leader Oleksander Volkov commented that the creation of the Ukraine's Regions group is the beginning of a "real break-up" of the pro-government majority. The current array of parliamentary forces is as follows: Communist Party, 112 lawmakers; Social Democratic Party (United), 34; Fatherland, 31; Rukh (Kostenko), 23; National Democratic Party, 18; Greens, 17; Rukh (Udoenko), 16; Left Center (Socialists),

16; Reforms-Congress, 15; Yabluko, 14; Labor Ukraine, 46; Revival of Regions, 30; Solidarnist, 24; and Ukraine's Regions, 16. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. envoy criticizes authorities, opposition

KYIV – U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual on March 16 criticized the actions of both opposition demonstrators and the authorities during violent protests in Kyiv on March 9. "The events on March 9 were disappointing from all sides. The challenge for Ukraine's authorities is to give the people confidence that they can express dissent without fear of violent repression. Peaceful action is also very important on the part of demonstrators and restraint is also required [on their part]," the Associated Press quoted Mr. Pascual as saying. The envoy spoke after introducing a new \$750,000 media development fund in Ukraine, a two-year project sponsored by the U.S. to encourage an independent press. The fund is aimed at improving the legal, administrative and tax environment for Ukrainian media, expanding the use of the Internet, improving professional standards among journalists, and providing direct grant support for Ukrainian media and non-governmental organizations. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Communists stage anti-government march

DONETSK – Some 3,000 mostly elderly people took part in a march organized by the Communist Party in Donetsk on March 17, Reuters reported. Protesters demanded the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, as well as closer ties between Ukraine and Russia. Some 350 people participated in a similar rally in Dnipropetrovsk the same day, Interfax reported. Meanwhile, Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko told a March 17 conference of lawmakers from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia that only a union of those three countries will help Ukraine "overcome the misery in which we find ourselves and avoid new threats." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kwasniewski to Kuchma: don't use force

WARSAW – Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski told his visiting Ukrainian counterpart, Leonid Kuchma, in Kazimierz Dolny on March 15 that he should use not force, but dialogue, for resolving the current political unrest at home, the PAP news agency reported. President Kuchma responded that he is ready for dialogue with the opposition, but only within the framework of the law and the Constitution. Mr. Kuchma added: "When the so-called opposition wants to

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.
Yearly subscription rate: \$50; for UNA members – \$40.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices.
(ISSN – 0273-9348)

The Weekly:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510

UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:
The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, March 25, 2001, No. 12, Vol. LXIX

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INTERVIEW: Naval officer offers observations on fleet's recent history and current status

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

Anatolii Danilov's first book, "The Ukrainian Flotilla: Near the Well of Rebirth," documents the events that occurred in Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet just before and after the declaration of Ukraine's independence.

Capt. 1st Class Danilov, who was responsible for the formation of the first Ukrainian Navy Television and Radio Center in Sevastopol in the early 1990s, chronicles the political intrigue and the social climate in Kyiv and Sevastopol during those days and months. Today Capt. Danilov is assistant director of the Nakhimov Naval Institute of Sevastopol.

The book, written in the Ukrainian language, is the first tome of a history of the Ukrainian navy that Capt. Danilov is preparing. The second tome is due out in time for the jubilee celebrations of Ukrainian independence in August.

The following edited interview (the first part of which was published last week) was conducted in Kyiv in mid-February.

CONCLUSION

Do you believe there are perspectives for future cooperation between the Ukrainian navy and the Black Sea Fleet?

Basically, there is a future. When I am with the students, the future officers of Ukraine, I tell them: "We are citizens of Ukraine, we have our laws, we have our territory, our Constitution, we have our military oath, and we must understand what this means."

But on the question of maintaining good relations, my God, of course, we should. Whether it is with Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania or with the U.S., with whom I must say we have excellent relations. I have spent time with the U.S.S. LaSalle of the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, with the officers, their wives and girls, with students. This is not a state secret, and I willingly tell many people, including my students at the institute, that we have great relations with the U.S. Navy.

When we have held joint exercises, either with the U.S. fleet, or the Turks, the Bulgarians, the Italians, certain patriotic forces [in Sevastopol] have demonstrated with slogans like "NATO get out!" and similar things.

What I would like to say here is that relations with Russia or some other country should not be different than normal relations with any country. I want to underscore this. We are a normal civilized country that shows respect and expects that we should receive respect in turn.

What is the current situation of the Ukrainian navy? Is it adequately financed? Are its needs being met?

Its authority is growing. However, there has been a declining amount of production of new vessels lately. This is not normal. Last year on August 1, on the deck of the frigate Hetman Sahaidachny, President Leonid Kuchma said questions regarding the completion of construction of the missile cruiser Ukraina must be resolved.

Yesterday I had discussions with leading figures of the government. About 95 percent of the ship is complete. It needs about another 10 million hrv for completion. I think the government will find the financing. It has been under construction for more than 10 years now, since Soviet times. When they asked me if we need the ship, I said, yes, of course. Let's not forget it carries the name Ukraina.

And, of course, we hope that a decision will be made on the submarine Zaporizhia, which is currently docked in Balaklava. All it needs is batteries – an investment of sev-

eral million dollars. That issue also has dragged on. We thought that Russia would provide help, now it looks like perhaps Germany may do so. We need to resolve this matter.

I think that if President Kuchma achieves what he proposed while on the Sahaidachny last August, that the Ukrainian navy must have a separate line item in the national budget, it would benefit not only the seafaring forces but also the country as a whole.

How is the Nakhimov Naval Institute of Sevastopol doing? Does it have a full complement of cadets?

I have been the assistant director of the institute for seven years now, and I want to tell you honestly that with each year the quality of the educational process and the level of military discipline increases.

Let me give you an example that is not among the fondest of my memories. The learning process is, above all, a matter of discipline: how an individual carries himself, how he carries out his duties, etc. In 1994 there were more than 90 criminal acts in the institute, but in 2000 there was only one, for practical purposes. And I say for practical purposes because the navy procurator filed no complaints last year, but we at the institute determined one criminal matter.

Today we have about 1,000 cadets. Recently, state quotas have shrunk slightly for cadets as future officers. This is because all the structures [of the Ukrainian navy], today are working more efficiently. No longer are we simply gathering cadres to feed and train them, only to be unable to place them. We no longer are telling graduates, "Congratulations, here's your diploma – and now go out onto the street in search for a job!" Now we have a better idea of our needs.

Last year a navy college began to function at the institute, which is the warrant officer level of naval personnel, the right hand of the officer, who will study for two years, eight months. The courses have been extended for eight months from what was offered during Soviet times to make room for new technologies, computer training, international relations study and language training.

Do you mean Ukrainian language training?

As embarrassing as it is for me to talk about the need to learn the Ukrainian language, it is only common sense. But here we are talking about foreign language training, and especially the English language. The fleet travels the world, and the most common language used is the English language.

Our institution is in pretty good shape physically, although some remodeling still needs to be done. We have a sound pedagogical-teaching foundation with more than 100 academics. This number is constantly rising.

The Ministry of Defense has shown much support for our efforts. Minister of Defense Oleksander Kuzmuk has paid four visits to the institute. What institute can say that it has been visited four times by the minister?

He has set a goal for us: that within two to three years – sometime between 2002 and 2003 – we become a naval academy. As you can well imagine, this is a serious undertaking. This means a level four of accreditation of all our departments, and we have more than 20. Currently we have several departments with level four accreditation. This involves increasing further the number of academicians, guaranteeing the number of personal computers, raising the material and social resources.

It also means that increasingly we will

be hosting foreign students. Already there are plans for Chinese students. We have had Pakistani students. About 50 Greek cadets recently took special courses here, among them officers. As you have read in the press, Greece has bought Ukrainian-made vessels and there were training courses. You can say that Ukraine is slowly becoming a naval incubator.

Is Ukrainian the teaching language of the institute?

Unfortunately not all [instructors] do so. But even here there have been improvements. There is the Ukrainian language department. There are other departments where many of the instructors now teach in the state language.

But I have to say that the psychological situation of Sevastopol – 75 percent of the residents are Russian – exerts pressure. Our boys, our cadets from western Ukraine, from the Khmelnytskyi and Chernivtsi oblasts, even they become entrapped by the omnipresence of the Russian language. When I confront them with, "Why are you giving in, I have pinned my hopes on you," they reply, "Well, you know, this is Sevastopol."

This may sound like sloganeering, but it is true that to live in a society and remain removed from it is very difficult.

On the grounds of the territory of the institute we try to encourage them to speak the state language – of course we can't force them to. But outside the grounds I would say that 100 percent, or nearly 100 percent of them, speak Russian.

As for my own family, my wife speaks Ukrainian, as does my oldest daughter. But my younger daughter speaks it more poorly because in the schools [of Sevastopol] they don't teach it at all. They teach German, English, but they don't teach Ukrainian, the state language. We already have approached the city council on this matter.

But I am nevertheless convinced that

gradually, even if slowly, and perhaps not as quickly as some would like, positive changes are taking place. This goes without saying.

And the last question, what provoked you to write your book, "The Ukrainian Fleet: Near the Well of Rebirth?"

There is a whole complex of reasons that I decided to write the book. When I was under the command of Vice-Admiral Borys Kozhyn, today a national deputy and the director of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, who is my military brother and friend, I never thought about writing a book. It was a time of great stress, psychological conflicts and so on.

But the years moved on, the situation changed, destiny threw me around to various posts. At some point I thought, "What a complicated time. So much is going on." Whether I wanted to or not, I found myself at the epicenter of these events. If I don't document this, explain how it all occurred and how we worked, then others will try to do so. I am convinced they can't offer a more objective version. One needed to have been steeped in that environment.

I am not the first to write on this theme. There are two other books out, but I found them not to be objective, they were written to please a certain audience. I am not going to say whether it was a country or some certain element of Ukrainian society. These were the reasons. As I returned via train to Sevastopol in April 1994 [to take up the post of second in command at the institute] the plan for the book developed.

I must tell you it was very difficult to put this book together. It was not just collecting the information that was difficult. I had to find all the financing myself. The diaspora, specifically in the United States – Vasyl Mackiw, who lives in Florida, and the Ukrainian Social Services organizations in

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U.S. warns Kyiv on CD piracy Ukraine largest producer of pirated CDs

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – The United States has put Ukraine on notice: either curb the production and export of pirated compact discs (CDs) or face U.S. trade sanctions and other punitive action.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on March 13 designated Ukraine as a "Priority Foreign Country" under the "Special 301" program designed to advance the protection of intellectual property rights.

The USTR statement noted that for more than two years the U.S. government has been urging the Ukrainian government to close down illegal CD production facilities and enact legislation to adequately protect copyrights.

"Despite many promises, including high-level commitments made in June 2000, the Ukrainian government has been unwilling to curtail the activities of these pirates," the USTR said.

The American CD industry now considers Ukraine "the largest producer and exporter" of pirated optical disks in Europe. Last year it was characterized as "one of the largest." The USTR said that Ukraine's exports of pirated CDs are "disrupting markets throughout the region and beyond."

With the "Priority Foreign Country" designation in effect, the USTR has initiated an official investigation of

Ukraine's practices and has requested consultations with its government. If Ukraine fails to address these concerns within three months, it may face the imposition of trade sanctions, jeopardize its entry into the World Trade Organization and undermine its efforts to attract trade and investment.

The U.S. recording industry estimates that for each of the last two years, with an annual domestic demand of 5 million CDs, Ukraine has produced and exported between 30 and 40 million pirated CDs. According to the USTR, Ukraine has the capacity to produce up to 70 million pirated CDs per year.

The USTR says that Ukraine has become a world leader in pirated CD production, which is costing the U.S. recording industry more than \$200 million in lost revenue annually.

In June 2000 President Kuchma committed Ukraine to undertake a number of measures against this kind of piracy:

- suspend unlawful and unlicensed CD production;
- adopt proper optical media production and distribution regulations and monitor raw material, manufacturing equipment and CD exports;
- improve significantly its copyright law and implement a modern copyright regime.

"To date," the USTR maintains, "Ukraine has not met any of these commitments."

U.S. ambassador...

(Continued from page 1)

me if I would be interested in working on some programs to support democracy and market reform in the former Soviet Union, the only thing I could say was yes. Ukraine is one of the countries I became particularly involved with. I still think that it is especially significant because it is a country that has perhaps the best opportunity in centuries to establish itself as a European state.

As you well know, Ukraine had consistently been denied the ability to set its own course, for centuries. It really has been an honor to have this opportunity to work here and support the efforts of the Ukrainian people to actually define themselves as a European state.

What is the agenda for the upcoming visit of Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko to Washington?

He will meet with Secretary of State [Colin] Powell and [National Security Advisor] Condeleeza Rice, and will have other meetings.

I think, first and foremost, one of the most important things for him to do is to be able to discuss current developments here in Ukraine. There are three very big issues that are overriding domestic developments and international developments.

Ukraine ... is a country that has perhaps the best opportunity in centuries to establish itself as a European state.

One concerns the Gongadze case, the recordings that have been released that affect the president and the other political leaders here; the way in which those issues have affected questions of freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and the rule of law; and the kinds of actions that Ukraine might take to give, first, the Ukrainian people a sense of confidence that the rule of law can prevail in Ukraine and, secondly, the international community a sense of confidence that there will be adherence to the rule of law.

The second set of issues has to do with Ukraine's efforts to rebuild or re-establish a political consensus for economic reform. At the end of last year we saw that there was a significant amount of progress in Ukraine. Ukraine passed its best budget and its best economic plan ever. It was able to close Chernobyl and get back on track with the IMF [International Monetary Fund]. It was able to reach agreement with the EBRD [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development] on a path forward for major energy projects. And the reason those things were done is that the president, the prime minister, the speaker of the Parliament were able to act in unison to sustain a parliamentary majority to advance economic reform. Clearly, that has broken down right now as a result of the political instability in Ukraine, and the question is going to be: How can Ukraine get back on track with economic reform? What are Ukraine's plans to do that?

The third set of issues relates to how these questions affect Ukraine's foreign policy. One of the practical realities is that relations with the West are based on performance. And because in many ways economic reform has been stalled during this period of political instability and because there are still question marks on how Ukraine will resolve the political crisis surrounding Gongadze and the tapes, and the role of law enforcement agencies, it has been difficult for Ukraine to establish that it continues to move strongly on a course of democracy and economic reforms. That has had an impact on relations with the West, because relations with the West are generally focused on performance.

So, one of the things we will talk about is how to sustain that relationship in the current political context. Around that issue, one of the things we would continue to try to reinforce is that, even if we have disagreement, it is important to stay engaged and have close political contacts, as is evidenced by the meeting itself, as is evidenced by the fact that Mr. [Oleksander] Kuzmuk [Ukraine's minister of defense] may come to the United States in mid-April. And we have had a whole series of other engagements at very high levels.

We will also talk about the broader international situation that Ukraine finds itself in. There have been many questions that have been raised about Ukraine's relations with Russia. For our part, we think that Ukraine should maintain good relations with all of its neighbors, and we will reinforce that. We will reinforce also the very important point that it's critical that all of those relationships be maintained as transparently as possible and conducted on the basis of what supports Ukrainian sovereignty.

That leads us to a several-pronged question on Ukraine-Russia relations. Does the U.S. look at the defense treaty signed in January between Russia and Ukraine and the several agreements signed between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Leonid Kuchma in

Dnipropetrovsk as steps indicating the two countries are drawing closer, and could this be a result of Mr. Kuchma's current political weakness? And, in terms of the military agreement, there has been some talk about joint exercises between the West and Ukraine being planned with Moscow's input. Could you clarify how the U.S. views the situation?

Sure. It's important that people look at these issues very carefully, and that we be able to distinguish fact from rumor. In many cases there have been press reports put out, for example by the Russian media, which have not contained very accurate information.

Again, I want to emphasize that good relations between Ukraine and Russia are important for Ukraine. Russia will always be Ukraine's neighbor and so if Ukraine can, in fact, actually sustain good cooperative relations on a transparent basis, that is good for Ukraine.

In terms of the various agreements that have been signed, there were two sets of meetings that occurred, which have raised questions in people's minds. The first set of meetings occurred in January between Defense Minister [Igor] Sergeev and Defense Minister Kuzmuk. There were a lot of rumors about Ukraine potentially compromising itself and giving Russia veto power over Ukraine's participation in international exercises.

We have looked at this very carefully, and I personally have talked with Foreign Minister Zlenko and Defense Minister Kuzmuk and with Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council [Yevhen] Marchuk, as well as with representatives of the presidential administration. I think I can say quite definitively that many of the initial rumors were just wrong.

There was one agreement that was signed at that point, which was on the standard program of military exercises that has been conducted every year between the Ukrainian military and the Russian military. In fact, the number of exercises and activities in that program are fewer than Ukraine's program with Poland and less robust than Ukraine's program with Poland,

just to put it in perspective.

There is no joint naval combat unit. There was an agreement on creating a search and rescue unit, which hasn't been formally signed yet, but there is an agreement in principle to move ahead and develop this, which is fine. If there is an emergency in the Black Sea, and Ukraine and Russia can cooperate in dealing with an emergency, that's a good thing to do.

There is work that is being developed on establishing some form of a joint harbor control unit so that there are both Ukrainians and Russians looking at the movement of ships in the harbors of Sevastopol. Again, that's fine because, in fact, in many cases in the past Ukrainians weren't aware of certain Russian ship movements and this helps to deal with those sorts of problems.

The Ukrainians themselves have said that as a result of these contacts the Russians are now going to participate in several Partnership for Peace exercises that in the past they have refused to participate in. Will the Russians get advanced notification? The answer is yes, of course, but that is all within the context of the Partnership for Peace program, where every single member of the Partnership for Peace gets advanced notification and has the opportunity to provide input into the nature of the exercise. So, from everything we have seen, I don't think there was any compromise there.

In Dnipropetrovsk the main question mark that came up in people's minds was something done that would result in joint Russian-Ukrainian cooperation in the production of ICBMs. Again, we have seen no evidence in that regard. There are two projects that have attracted attention. They could be interesting projects; we need to see how they develop further.

One is actually not in the joint production of ICBMs, but in the destruction of SS-24 missiles, where the United States has worked with Ukraine to develop a particular technology that uses water to de-mine the fuel rockets. The Russians are quite interested in the technology. The Ukrainians and the Russians signed an agreement on potentially sharing that technology.

Is this within the scope of the U.S.-Ukraine agreement, specifically the transfer of technology?

Both sides are now talking with us about the transfer of this technology, and we are looking at it more closely to see what might be possible and whether it is something that we could support.

There is another agreement that they are developing, which concerns conversion of SS-18 rockets into commercial space launch vehicles. It basically would involve converting the third stage of a rocket from something that is used to carry warheads to something that would carry a satellite and an additional booster, which would allow the rocket to be used to put satellites into space. That is not being put into effect now, but there have been some studies done on it, and as I understand it, the project coming into effect would actually depend on whether there is the commercial demand for using these kinds of launch services for satellites.

Are there any plans for either President George W. Bush or Vice-President Richard Cheney to meet with President Leonid Kuchma soon; to be more specific, can we expect any overt efforts of expression for the continuation of the strategic partnership between Kyiv and Washington that the Clinton administration pursued? Also, can we expect the re-establishment of a structure similar to the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, which was better known as the Kuchma-Gore Commission?

I can't answer about plans that President Bush might have for future meetings. Those kinds of things always have to be comment-



Yaro Bihun

Ambassador Carlos Pascual

ed on from out of the White House. What I can tell you is that this administration sees Ukraine as a very, very important partner, who is in a strategic position in Europe, where we have strategic long-term interests, and we have a strategic interest in staying engaged. Over the past few weeks there have been numerous meetings, both in Washington and here in Kyiv, between senior Ukrainian officials and senior U.S. officials. There have been parliamentary exchanges. Vice Prime Minister [Yurii] Yekhanurov has gone to the United States. The finance minister, two deputy ministers, and now Minister Zlenko and Minister Kuzmuk will be going. The chief of the Ukrainian General Staff was in the U.S. to study issues related to the structure of the U.S. military. The involvement has been very intense.

Here in Ukraine we just recently had a delegation from the State Department and the NSC. We talked extensively on how we would continue work that was begun previously in the binational commissions, specific issues that we want to continue to address.

There are questions that still exist about the overarching bureaucratic structures that might be created to guide our work, but what's very clear is that there are certain sectoral areas where we have a very intense agenda. We are making plans even right now to continue that work.

Would you say then that the Kuchma-Gore Commission structures are gone? In other words, there has been a break point; will there be new bodies, or could there be a continuation?

The new administration will make its own statements out of Washington on how it wants to organize its own political structure. I can tell you that within the context of the Binational Commission the basic work was done through committee structures and working groups, and there is a strong recognition on both sides that that work was real and that there was a substantive agenda that needed to be pursued. Committee structures are, in fact, discussing right now what particular issues they need to continue to work on and they are defining what the best way is to get that work done. I would expect that in the near future we might actually begin to see some meetings that occur that effectively get both sides very actively engaged.

When Jon Pumell and Cameron Munter from the State Department and the NSC were here, we in effect had a meeting of the foreign policy committee because we used similar kinds of structures as we had in the past, and had very intensive discussions on a full range of issues that we would have normally talked about relating to Ukraine – its place in Europe, international issues, non-proliferation issues, commercial questions – a very, very active and full discussion.

Yekhanurov delegation in Washington for talks with IMF, World Bank

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — A high-level Ukrainian government economic delegation, headed by First Vice-Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, held talks at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank headquarters here, seeking the release of hundreds of millions of dollars in loans and credits for Ukraine.

The delegation, which included Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov and National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh, returned home on March 13, abruptly and with mixed results. They departed for Ukraine before a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine in their honor and another day of scheduled meetings and a news conference.

A spokesman explained that the curtailment of the visit had nothing to do with the way the talks were progressing. Some important things came up that required Mr. Yekhanurov's immediate attention, he said.

The ever-important negotiations with the IMF, including its director, Horst Koehler, did not end with an announcement about the release of the next tranche of the long-term IMF credit program for Ukraine.

The IMF suspended the credit program to Ukraine in 1999 when it learned that the National Bank of Ukraine had given the IMF inflated reports about its reserves. When independent audits showed no malfeasance, the program was resumed last December, but the \$750 million loan program was suspended once again in March because, the IMF said, Ukraine was not following through on promised reforms.

A Ukrainian representative participating in the talks said that "nothing concrete" came out of the latest meetings, but there was "an understanding about where to go from here." He said that the IMF will soon send another mission to Ukraine to check

on reform progress and that an IMF decision on releasing the next \$190 million tranche is expected sometime in May.

The results were more positive at the World Bank, which, a bank spokesperson said, saw "tremendous" economic reform progress in Ukraine — enough to consider giving Ukraine a three-year \$750 million adjustment loan.

Mr. Yekhanurov said the decision about the World Bank loan will be made by the bank's board of directors in early June. He said in an interview that, in the delegation's meetings with President James Wolfensohn and other World Bank officials, they reached an agreement on a \$60 million loan package for administrative reforms, and initiated talks about an Internet expansion project in Ukraine and regional municipal infrastructure development projects in Kyiv, Lviv, Sevastopol and other cities.

The Ukrainian delegation also had meetings with the new treasury secretary, Paul O'Neill, and other U.S. officials, and on March 10 participated in the annual ceremony at the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington.

The Yekhanurov delegation was not the only group of Ukrainian political personalities visiting Washington last week. As did Ukrainian Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz a week earlier, the former foreign affairs minister, Borys Tarasyuk, held a round of meetings at the State Department, the National Security Council and on Capitol Hill. Unlike Mr. Moroz, however, he shied away from publicity and the press.

Also overlapping the Yekhanurov mission was a visit by a small group of Ukrainian parliamentarians led by another former member of Prime Minister Viktor Yushenko's Cabinet, Serhii Tyhytko, who until May of last year handled the economic portfolio. He, too, made the rounds of the power centers in Washington and held a



First Vice Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov and Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko in conversation in Washington near the Shevchenko monument.

briefing on March 13 at the Washington offices of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, as Mr. Moroz did earlier.

Both Mr. Moroz and Mr. Tyhytko said they came to Washington to learn first-hand the new administration's approach to Ukraine and to provide official Washington U.S. policy-makers with their interpretation of recent developments in Ukraine. But the two deputies' messages differed in just about everything else.

Mr. Tyhytko's Labor Ukraine Party, while calling for a quick and just resolution of the Heorhii Gongadze murder case, is willing to back President Leonid Kuchma, but "in a constructive manner," provided that the investigation does not turn up irrefutable evidence of his complicity in the journalist's murder.

As for Prime Minister Yushenko's government, he said it should be strengthened by forming a broader coalition government.

Asked about his view on Ukraine's relationship with Russia, Mr. Tyhytko said that Ukraine should maintain a "sound relationship" with Russia and discounted the fear that Ukraine may again be swallowed up by its large northern neighbor.

He suggested that the best defense against this happening would be for Ukraine to adopt the "Baltic" defense — liberalizing its economy and outperforming Russia economically. He admitted that, at present, Russian companies are outbidding Ukrainian and foreign investors for privatized Ukrainian enterprises with the huge profits they are reaping from the boom in energy prices.

ZAKARPATTIA FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

UNA solicits donations

The Ukrainian Weekly, issue No. 11 of March 18, published an article by Roman Woronowycz from our Kyiv Press Bureau describing the devastation created by the March 7-8 torrential rains and floodwaters in the Zakarpattia region.

Six persons lost their lives, thousand of houses were flooded and many totally destroyed.

As after the floods of 1998, the UNA is appealing to its member to open their hearts and to respond generously to the needs of the flood victims by showing our support when it is required most.

Checks should be payable to the Ukrainian National Foundation-UNA and mailed to: Ukrainian National Association Inc., P.O. Box 280, 2200 Route 10 Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Your donations are tax-deductible under IRS Code 501 (c) (3).

UNA Executive Committee

UACC sets up humanitarian aid account

Ukrainian lands have again undergone a recurrent catastrophe. As in 1998, Zakarpattia has suffered from flooding. At present, six people have died; according to health officials 2,000 people are ill with flood-borne infectious diseases. The exact toll of damages suffered is still being reckoned, but thus far over 200 settled areas have been flooded, over 21,000 buildings have been inundated, completely devastating 443 residences, and damaging 22 bridges. So far, 11,000 people have been evacuated.

Immediate help is therefore urgently needed.

The Ukrainian American Coordinating Council has opened an account to aid the flood victims. Through the UACC's representatives in Ukraine, the members of the Executive Board of UACC, we are guaranteed that donations collected will be delivered to those most in need. We appeal to you all to please help — to the extent possible — our suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine. We will be most grateful to you for each donation and the Almighty will bless you a hundredfold.

Please make checks out to "UACC Flood Relief Fund" and send it to the UACC office in New York at 142 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003.

Ihor Gawdiak, President

Roma Dyhdalo, Chair, UACC National Council

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: January 2001

Amount	Name	City	Amount	Name	City	Amount	Name	City
\$540.00	Anonymous	Washington, D.C.	\$20.00	Maria Durbak	Clarendon Hills, Ill.		Lada Lishchynsky	South Orange, N.J.
\$250.00	Nestor and Ivanka Olesnycky	Maplewood, N.J.		Helen Jensen	Ridgewood, N.Y.		Eugene Lylak	Rochester, N.Y.
	Lubodar and Zenia Olesnycky	Weehawken, N.J.		Roman Voronka	Maplewood, N.J.		Luba Melnyk	Elmhurst, N.Y.
\$100.00	Ihor Fedorowycz	Kyiv, Ukraine		Stephen Wichar	Clinton Township, Mich.		Myron Pawlowsky	Winnipeg, Manitoba
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Total: \$1,960.00

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY PRESS FUND. THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY PRESS FUND IS THE SOLE FUND DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THIS PUBLICATION.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

It's about the kids

Simsbury, Conn., had the distinction and good fortune earlier this month to host a heartwarming and moving event: a unique charity ice show at that town's International Skating Center of Connecticut organized by Ukrainian figure skating star Viktor Petrenko, an Olympic and world champion.

After a fateful meeting last year in New York City at an event marking Ukrainian Independence Day, Mr. Petrenko teamed up with the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. He said he wanted to do something truly meaningful for "a place dear to my heart."

The result was "Viktory for Kids," a benefit show on Friday and Saturday, March 2-3, featuring top figure skaters and ice dancers whose proceeds (\$120,000 at press time) are going toward establishing a neonatal intensive care unit in Odesa, Mr. Petrenko's hometown – the place where he was born, reared and educated, and where he learned his art.

He approached his friends, fellow skaters, to participate in this endeavor. The first to respond was another Olympic and world champion, American Brian Boitano, who is loved and known the world over for his powerful and consistent artistry. Affirmative answers came also from fellow Ukrainians, Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, Ukraine's national champion, and the acrobatic team of Vladimir Besedin of Donetsk (whose little pixie of a daughter, Anna, also performed with him) and Alexei Polishchuk of Kyiv.

But there were others as well: the flamboyant Frenchman Philippe Candeloro (who raced to JFK International Airport in New York after the Saturday evening show to catch a flight back to France, where he had other engagements), the delightful American silver medalist Sasha Cohen (all of 16 years old), two Israelis, a Swiss, an Italian and several Russian pairs, both figure skaters and ice dancers. It was a remarkable cast that came together for a most worthwhile cause. And even those who could not be there contributed, witness one skater, John Zimmerman, who was forced to pull out of the show due to injury but made a donation.

And then there was Ekaterina (Katia) Gordeeva, herself no stranger to tragedy (her husband and skating partner, Sergei Grinkov, died in 1995 at age 28), who briefly told the audience about the Chernobyl accident, and eloquently underlined: "This show is not about you or me. It's not about Viktor or any of the other great skaters donating their efforts tonight. This is about kids ... who are still suffering as a result of this terrible accident."

A reading of works by children survivors of Chernobyl was given by students from Central Elementary School in Simsbury, including Ms. Gordeeva's daughter, Daria Grinkova, 8; the Roaring Brook Elementary School Chorus of nearby Avon and the Jagged Ice children's precision skating team each performed. It was these children's gift to their less fortunate peers.

A slide show of photographs by Joseph Sywenkyj, accompanied by hauntingly beautiful, mournful music, focused on children in Ukraine's orphanages and hospitals, no doubt, touching, each and every member of the audience to the core. (The local fire marshals were so moved that they waived their usual fee for the event.)

And then there was the show, with each of the stars skating as if propelled by some supernatural force, for this was a singular event, an extraordinary chance to share with others.

In the end came a well-deserved standing ovation for Mr. Petrenko, a man of few words and a heart of gold, whose deeds said it all.

The more than 3,200 people present on those two nights in the intimate arena knew and felt they were part of something very special. They understood: "It's about the kids" – the kids in Ukraine who deserve a better tomorrow.

March
26
1961

Turning the pages back...

Forty years ago, on March 26, 1961, the Ukrainian American community mourned the passing of a notable leader: Dmytro Halychyn, supreme president of the Ukrainian National Association and president of the Ukrainian Congress

Committee of America,

"The untimely death of Dmytro Halychyn ... is a great and grievous loss to the entire Ukrainian American community. In him over 2 million Americans of Ukrainian descent have lost not only an acknowledged leader, but also an outstanding patriot and citizen," noted The Ukrainian Weekly's editorial of April 1, 1961.

The editorial went on to eulogize Mr. Halychyn by recounting his many accomplishments. Following are excerpts of that article.

* * *

From the very first days when Dmytro Halychyn, then a 28-year-old veteran of the struggle for Ukrainian independence, set foot on American soil, he was marked to play a leading role in the intricate, yet dynamic Ukrainian life. For the past 30 years Dmytro Halychyn was closely bound to the steady development of Ukrainian American organizational life. It was under the influence of his forceful and vigorous leadership that the Ukrainian National Association has grown tremendously since 1933, the year he assumed the position of recording secretary in the association, and after 1950, when he became supreme president of the UNA. Under both his tenures as secretary and president of the UNA, the association expanded to the extent that it has today a total of 79,000 members in the U.S. and Canada, and \$24 million in assets.

But the patriotic devotion and zeal of Dmytro Halychyn were not limited to the Ukrainian National Association exclusively. He was an intrepid political and civic

(Continued on page 19)

NEWS AND VIEWS

U.S. visas for Ukrainians: help us continue to improve

by Lauren Marcott

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv has listened carefully to the many comments we have received from Americans and Ukrainians on improving our visa services. We are working hard to deliver fast, reliable and equitable services that meet the test of American law and uphold American values. I want to share with you some of the improvements we have made and ask for your input on how we can do our job even better.

For years, Ukrainian visa applicants were interviewed on a first-come-first-served basis. If an applicant did not make it through the door after the first three hours, he or she would have to come back the next day. The visa line became an endurance test; some applicants would arrive the night before, and people of all ages were forced to stand outside in every kind of weather. Those with plenty of cash would hire people to hold their place in line; those with a more aggressive bent simply pushed their way in front of others. Ukrainians with fewer means, pensioners and parents with children were typically the ones who suffered. Clearly, we needed a better approach.

Eighteen months ago we instituted a new system that enabled us to schedule appointments for applicants on an individual basis, thus eliminating in one stroke the long, unruly visa lines of the past. Six months later we moved into a new, modern annex at 6 Pimonenko St. that has far more room than the cramped quarters we once occupied at the Embassy's main building and which affords more privacy for visa interviews.

Another challenge was the unprecedented increase in the number of visa requests that we experienced over last year's peak summer months. The workload simply outpaced our staff resources, and at one point the waiting time for appointments rose as high as seven weeks. To keep up with the demand, we added an American visa officer and several Ukrainian positions, expanded the range of visa applicants who were exempted from interviews and moved time-consuming work-visa interviews to a separate time.

While our visa system is still evolving, we now have the capacity to issue many visas without interviews or on an expedited basis. Travelers with previous U.S. visas of any kind in their passports should feel free to leave their documents in our drop box. In most cases, they will get their visas without an interview within three business days.

For those who must go through the appointment process, the time period between requesting an appointment and the actual visa interview is approximately three weeks, and we hope to reduce this even further. Still, we encourage anyone wishing to apply for a visa to request an appointment as early as possible. Normally a person found eligible receives his or her visa on the day of the interview. Occasionally an applicant will be asked to wait or to return with new information, but we now have Ukrainian-language handouts that better explain what the applicant needs to do.

Some applicants do not plan three or four weeks in advance. As a result, we continue to receive many requests for expedited visa interviews. To ensure fair treatment for everyone, we schedule expedited visa interviews only rarely. But we also recognize that there are circumstances in which jumping the queue is warranted: for instance, in cases of medical or humanitarian emergency, or even to correct our own mistakes when they do occur.

What are some of the other improve-

ments that we have made? We now have an e-mail address for requesting appointments for visa interviews: kiev_consular@state.gov. Or, you can contact us via our English or Ukrainian website at <http://www.usemb.kiev.ua>, which also contains general information about consular procedures and a visa application form that may be printed for your use.

To make life easier for those applicants who arrive early for their interviews, we have opened a new visa waiting area with up-to-date facilities. More staff has been hired to respond to visa interview requests.

And, a badly needed upgrade of our telephone services has also been completed. As a result, we now have voice mail in English and Ukrainian, and additional telephone lines into the section, as well as a consular secretary and an additional public outreach clerk. We can now be reached via the Embassy switchboard at 490-4000 or through the Consular telephone line at 490-4422.

In short, we believe that we have been moving in the right direction. But we want and we need input and suggestions from the public, and in particular from members of the Ukrainian American community.

While the question of an individual visa issuance or refusal will continue to hinge on the particular circumstances of an individual's application, we want to continue to improve our work and our services as a whole. To this end, we have established a special e-mail box for public comments and suggestions: consularcomments@usemb.kiev.ua.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to share your suggestions for how we can continue to do better. We look forward to hearing from you.

UACF appeals for funds to purchase Verkhovyna

On March 15, the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation signed a contract with the UFA to purchase the Verkhovyna resort for the price of \$1,078,000. The generous contributions of many Ukrainian Americans enabled us to send a check for \$107,800 to the UFA and thus to take another step toward saving Verkhovyna for the Ukrainian community.

Not only does the resort serve as the site of dance and sports camps and the annual Verkhovyna Youth Festival, but it also has great historical significance. It contains the residence of the great Ukrainian writer and poet Vasyl Barka. This is the place where for 35 years this great artist lived and created works such as "Zhovtyi Kniaz" (Yellow Prince) about the Great Famine-Genocide. Even though Mr. Barka now resides in a nursing home, his residence is preserved here exactly as he left it. The UACF plans to turn this residence into a historical museum and to make Verkhovyna a center for all the Ukrainian community to utilize. We are drawing up plans for an assisted-living center, an amphitheatre for concerts, and a conference center.

We appeal to all individuals and organizations to help us successfully complete this transaction and to reduce the size of the mortgage with their generous contributions. Deductions are tax-deductible (IRS# 06-15593884) and may be mailed to: UACF, c/o Ukrainian Orthodox Federal Credit Union (Account No. 6653), 215 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003; or UACF, P.O. Box 418, Glen Spey, NY 12737.

Dr. Stephan Woroch, president
Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation.

COMMENTARY

Wasył Odynsky a victim of modern-day witch-hunt

by Lubomyr Luciuk

To you he's just an old man in Toronto. Maybe you've heard he's a Nazi. He's not. To me he's actually a victim. Let me tell you why.

Just over three years ago federal investigators came, unexpectedly, to his home. They questioned him about what he did in the war. There was no interpreter present, and no counsel. He tried to be helpful. He shouldn't have. His own testimony was later twisted against him. Soon thereafter he was served with papers alleging that he misrepresented himself upon immigrating to Canada. Then his nightmare began.

Reporters came pounding on his door, frightening his wife, then scribbling headlines with an inflammatory spin: "Did you know there is a Nazi war criminal living in your neighborhood?" But how, you wonder, can a man be labeled a war criminal even before his trial is done? The answer can be summed up with three words: ignorance, prejudice, indifference. I've met Wasył Odynsky only once. He is certainly not able to answer reporters' questions as cleverly as they are usually asked. And, yes, he has an East European accent, is elderly and is of limited means. But, instead of evoking sympathy, his condition made it even easier for a braying media to stereotype him as evasive and obviously, in their unlettered opinions, guilty as charged. Tellingly, not one journalist made any serious effort to hear his side of the story. They couldn't care less. All they wanted were scintillating headlines. After all, next to sex, what sells better than swastikas?

Before the trial began I thought the state might drop its case. After all, there was not a shred of evidence that pointed to Mr. Odynsky having been involved in

Lubomyr Luciuk, Ph.D., is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association. His latest book, "Searching For Place: Ukrainian Displaced Persons, Canada, and the Migration of Memory" was published by the University of Toronto Press (2000).

any war crime, as even the government's lawyers admitted, early on. But they pressed on. I guess I was naïve. I should know by now that these proceedings have never been about justice. They are exercises in selective memory, in bias.

So let me tell you a few things about Mr. Odynsky. He was born in a small village in western Ukraine. He finished Grade 5, then had to leave school to work on the family farm. When the war broke out, and the Nazis came, he was a teenager and was forcibly conscripted. He never saw his parents again. After the judge heard this, and much more, he pondered his decision. And, on March 2, after 13 nerve-racking postponements, Justice Andrew MacKay of the Federal Court of Canada found what we had known all along. Mr. Odynsky was not a Nazi. Mr. Odynsky was never involved in a war crime. Mr. Odynsky is not a war criminal. And when Mr. Odynsky served in an auxiliary guard unit it was under threat of death. The learned judge even found that Mr. Odynsky has been nothing less than a good citizen since immigrating in 1949. Good news, right?

Nope. None of these findings count. What does it that Mr. Odynsky may have lied at Canada's gates – a half-century ago. And, for that, he can today be denaturalized and deported – a decision that rests with Cabinet.

Even worse, if you read the headlines of major Canadian newspapers, like The Globe and Mail (Judge Won't Bloc Deportation of Ex-Nazi), or The Toronto Star, (Ex-Nazi Lied to Live Here, Judge Rules), you would have thought Mr. Odynsky was exactly what the judge found him not to be, namely a Nazi. Adding disinformation to defamation, the only commentaries solicited about the ruling came from spokesmen for lobby groups that long ago had prejudged Mr. Odynsky, assuming his guilt not because of what he did, but because, simply, he was Ukrainian.

During what were three paralyzing years for the Odynsky family, I witnessed,

(Continued on page 11)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Leaders should clarify relationship with Tryzub

Dear Editor:

I would like to follow up my earlier letter in The Ukrainian Weekly (February 18) with more disturbing news from Ukraine. As many of us now know, demonstrations against President Leonid Kuchma on Friday, March 9, led to violence at the monument to Taras Shevchenko, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVS) and the Presidential Administration Building.

This is the second time in independent Ukraine's history (the first was in June 1995 at the funeral of Patriarch Vasyl Romaniuk) that violence has occurred. On both occasions it would seem that the authorities deliberately staged a provocation to discredit the national democratic opposition.

Leaders of Ukraine Without Kuchma, such as Taras Chornovil and Oleksander Moroz, have alleged that they had planned to hold peaceful demonstrations on March 9. But, violence erupted when

MVS personnel and members of the OUN(b)/KUN paramilitary organization Tryzub mingled with the demonstrators and began to throw eggs, rocks and at least one Molotov cocktail at the militia. Members of Tryzub were dressed in civilian clothes but admitted to reporters and deputies who they were.

This involvement by Tryzub as agents provocateurs is indeed strange because Slava Stetsko, the head of both OUN(b) and KUN, spoke against President Kuchma at the monument to Shevchenko at the same time as other leaders of the Ukraine Without Kuchma group. One can only deduce from this that either OUN(b)/KUN are supporting both President Kuchma and the opposition, or Tryzub is no longer under the control of OUN(b)/KUN and has been bought out by the authorities.

It would be good if the leaders of OUN(b)/KUN could clarify the situation.

Taras Kuzio
Toronto

The letter-writer is affiliated with the Center for Strategic and International Studies at York University.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Destruction in Afghanistan; turmoil in Ukraine

Like many others, I've been preoccupied by the political turmoil in Ukraine sparked by the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze, but I've also been following another story: the Taliban's destruction of two immense Buddha statues carved into a cliff in Afghanistan. One of them was 175 feet tall and believed to be the tallest in the world. The other, at 120 feet, was almost as imposing. Carved more than 1,500 years ago, these two monuments were considered among the world's greatest religious and cultural treasures. The Taliban, though, viewed them as "un-Islamic idols" and ordered their demolition. People throughout the world, including many Muslims, were outraged. "These are not idols," one Muslim intellectual said, "but statues from the third century." Despite appeals from all corners of the world, the Taliban went ahead and with dynamite, tanks, rockets and picks, smashed the two statues.

This isn't the first time, of course, that fanatics of one kind or another destroyed an irreplaceable cultural monument. Spanish Conquistadors tore down Aztec and Mayan temples and used the stones to build churches. Chinese Communist leader Mao Tse-Tung sanctioned the destruction of more than 6,000 Tibetan monasteries and, as recently as 1991, Serbian gunboats shelled Dubrovnik, a lovely Croatian city on the Adriatic known mainly for its libraries, monasteries and oceanside cafes.

Learning of the destruction of the Buddhist statues, I couldn't help but think of similar vandalism in Ukraine. An utterly heartbreaking book, "The Lost Architecture of Kiev" by Titus D. Hewryk, lists nearly 50 churches, monasteries, fountains and cemeteries that were demolished during Stalin's rule in the 1930s. Tragically, this was a common practice in Soviet Union. Churches in nearly every community were destroyed. So were libraries: in 1964 under Khrushchev, a Communist Party activist burned down the Ukrainian Section of the State Library of the Academy of Sciences, including the archives of the Ukrainian Central Rada from 1918.

The damage this kind of barbarism causes is incalculable. A 1989 poster from Kyiv depicts a stone wall: each stone is inscribed with the image of one of Ukraine's historic churches, but the wall has several gaps. Each is labeled with the name of a church the Soviets destroyed. A caption reads, "Losing the Past, you lose the Future." Take away enough stones, the poster implies, and the wall collapses.

The Soviets attacked Ukrainian history and culture as "bourgeois nationalist." Hence the wholesale destruction of visible images that linked people with their past. Stalin was motivated by Taliban-like fanaticism; his successors by the inertia of evil and the compulsion to stay in power. In many ways, the struggle of the dissidents in the 1960s and 1970s involved the right to maintain Memory, to speak the Truth – both capitalized. One of the principal rallying points for the struggle was Oles Honchar's 1968 novel "The Cathedral," where a student in a gritty steel town leads a successful fight against Communist bureaucrats to save an ancient church. The book was banned and its author denounced, but the message resounded. Honchar's cathedral symbolized something valuable that transcended the arbitrary power of the party and the state.

Today, thousands of people in Ukraine – a high proportion of them youth – are demonstrating against Leonid Kuchma. President Kuchma, to be sure, is no Stalin or Khrushchev. He's not even a Boris Yeltsin or Vladimir Putin. He never ordered tanks to fire on his parliamentary enemies like Boris Yeltsin did in 1994 and he hasn't obliterated a provincial capital like Vladimir Putin did in Chechnya. Still, people are in the streets. Why?

For three generations the Soviet state owned all the property and controlled every aspect of society. It had the power to destroy whatever it wanted, even thousand-year-old churches. Truth was whatever the Communist Party said it was. Anyone who thought otherwise was punished, even killed. Not surprisingly, many Ukrainians lost their moral compass and any sense of initiative. And, having lost a good part of their past, they lost the sense of where they were going as a nation.

Nothing lasts forever, though, including evil, and if they didn't know where they were going in 1991, Ukrainians at least knew where they didn't want to be – and that was in the Soviet Union. Offered the choice, more than 90 percent of Ukrainians voted for independence. The elite that assumed power, however, consisted almost entirely of Communists who had shed their party label but continued to conduct business as if nothing much had changed. Instead of taking the nation in a new direction, they kept the old bureaucratic structures. Far too often, they solicited privileges and bribes, and helped themselves to the country's resources. Voices demanding government reform, openness and honesty were routinely ignored. And, ultimately, those who exposed corruption and wrongdoing were killed. At least that's what happened to Mr. Gongadze.

His murder last year was the event that broke the dam. Now, 10 years after independence, anger is boiling over. President Kuchma's opponents have been playing audiotapes that appear to implicate him in the crime. Mr. Kuchma claims the tapes are phony, part of a conspiracy to destabilize the country. For many, though, that no longer matters. Mr. Kuchma was in charge, and, instead of seeing a leader who lined up with those who long for progress and change, they see someone who protected special interests that look to maintain the past.

The destruction of the Buddha statues in Afghanistan is a reminder of where Ukraine was just a couple of generations ago. That era, when the government could destroy religious monuments and people's lives with impunity, left a trauma that is taking Ukrainians decades to overcome. Its vestiges still poison Ukrainian society.

The present turmoil is distressing, but ultimately it will turn out to be but a symptom of a more profound historical process. Government force will not resolve the issues. Instead, far deeper forces than the power of vested things will be decisive. With the all the pain and effort we associate with birth, a new political mentality is emerging, one that holds a few things sacred: 1,000 year-old churches, a journalist's right to report the truth, the people's right to assemble, a politician's oath of office.

Weep for Afghanistan's loss. Have faith in Ukraine's recovery.

Philadelphia center recognizes philanthropist John Hynansky

by Petrusia Sawchak

PHILADELPHIA – John Hynansky, entrepreneur and philanthropist, received the Recognition Award at the 22nd annual banquet of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) held on February 24. In addition to this featured presentation, guests were treated to a “Celebration of Dance” and an art exhibit.

On view during the cocktail hour were the paintings of Stefan Rozok, most of them oils. Alexander Mychaluk, vice-president of the UECC, gave the opening remarks about the exhibit that was organized by Branch 67 of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America for the benefit of The Ukrainian Museum in New York City. Six other paintings by other artists were also displayed.

Petrusia Sawchak, president of the UECC, gave the welcoming address. She spoke about the diverse programs at the center, thanked everyone for the phonathon and “koliada” contributions, and gave an outline of new projects. Mrs. Sawchak spoke about the upcoming children’s operetta titled “The Brave Rooster,” a new musical composed and directed by Bohdan Yanivsky of Lviv. The entire cast, already in rehearsals, will be composed of children from the Ukrainian American community in Philadelphia. A spring debut is planned.

After the Rev. Mitred Roman Mirchuk

delivered the invocation, Eugene Luciwi, a trial attorney and Ukrainian community activist, took over as master of ceremonies. He introduced the special guests seated at the head table and representatives of organizations.

“A Celebration of Dance” was the theme of the concert program. The Voloshky Dance Ensemble, whose artistic director and lead dancer is Taras Lewyckyj, opened the program with the “Welcoming Dance,” the traditional Ukrainian greeting of bread and salt. The troupe also performed the “Eve of Ivan Kupalo” and a smashing rendition of the “Hopak.”

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Recognition Award to Mr. Hynansky. On behalf of the UECC board of directors, Mrs. Sawchak lauded Mr. Hynansky for his professional accomplishments and contributions to Ukrainian causes both in the United States and Ukraine.

Mr. Hynansky was born in Germany and immigrated to America with his parents in 1949 after they fled Ukraine during World War II. They settled in Wilmington, Del., where Mr. Hynansky was raised. After attending Villanova University, Mr. Hynansky entered the automobile business. He married Deanna (Pelensky), and they have three children, Leah, Alexandra and Michael.

Many hard-working years later, in 1984, he established The Winner Group,



John Hynansky (right) with (from left) Orysia Hewka, Andriy Bihun and Petrusia Sawchak at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

an affiliation of 20 companies all owned by Mr. Hynansky. Additionally, his Winner Group Management firm was created to provide service and support to the Winner companies. Today he owns 24 companies, nine of which are automobile dealerships in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland. He is also a real estate investor and developer.

Despite his successes, Mr. Hynansky never forgot his Ukrainian roots or heritage. After Ukraine proclaimed independence, he was determined to help the economic growth of that country. He partnered with the Ford Co. in 1992 to become its exclusive importer and distributor in Ukraine, which created hundreds of high-paying jobs. Today there are seven Winner Ford dealerships in that country. Just a few weeks ago Winner inaugurated a partnership with Volvo and opened the first Volvo facility in Kyiv.

By establishing companies in Ukraine, Mr. Hynansky created a benchmark for other Ukrainian businesses to aspire to for years to come. Most importantly, Mr. Hynansky taught his employees in Ukraine a new way of looking at life and work. Along with his program of incentives, his workers felt a new vitality and sense of hope that things could be better.

Apart from his professional accomplishments, Mr. Hynansky has given magnanimously to various Ukrainian causes. First, Mr. and Mrs. Hynansky have been very generous to the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center during a critical time in its inception. He also supported other organizations at the center as well.

In addition, Mr. Hynansky, a tennis player himself, is a staunch supporter of Ukrainian American sports. On his own initiative for the past 20 years, Mr. Hynansky contributed approximately \$100,000 in stipends to the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) national tennis championships held at Soyuzivka. In 1988 Mr. Hynansky was one of the principal supporters of the Ukrainian Olympiad and Youth Rally held at Tryzubivka and funded the building of four tennis courts there.

Besides sports, Mr. Hynansky is also a patron of the arts. In 1988 he, along with the Mazepa Foundation, funded the “Religious Music of Ukraine” concert commemorating 1,000 years of Christianity in Ukraine. The event was held at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. Throughout the years he and his wife have also generously contributed to The Ukrainian Museum in New York City.

He has also made regular donations to the Shevchenko Scientific Society to fund the microfilm archiving of Ukrainian newspapers.

In 1993 Mr. Hynansky facilitated the purchase of the Consulate building in New York City when the Ukrainian government was not in a position to do so.

His charitable contributions in Ukraine are extensive. A partial list of his endeavors includes: funding orphanages and children’s hospitals, donating an ambulance to the city of Lviv, providing police cars in many regions, organizing an environmental project and resettling 150 children at a summer camp to prevent disease when the water in the city of Kharkiv was polluted.

Joining Mr. and Mrs. Hynansky on stage for the award presentation were members of the center’s executive committee, Mrs. Sawchak, Borys Zacharczuk, Alexander Mychaluk, Askold Rudakewych, Zwenyslava Romaniw and Dr. Lew Kushnir, as well as the center’s executive director, Orysia Hewka.

Mr. Hynansky thanked the center for the award and spoke about some of his projects in Ukraine. He underscored that “The people of Ukraine are hard-working, generous and intelligent.”

The keynote speaker was Andriy Bihun of the U.S. Department of Commerce, who is a member of The Washington Group. He recently returned from a four-year post as commercial attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv and developed the idea of creating a new committee in TWG dedicated to business development issues – the Business Development Forum. Mr. Bihun provided many personal vignettes about Mr. Hynansky and business in Ukraine in general.

The International Ballet Theatre continued “The Celebration of Dance” under the artistic direction and choreography of Volodymyr Shumakin. Natalia Bondar-Shelest, prima ballerina, and premier danseur Oleksiy Burakov beautifully executed “Carnival in Venice” set to music by Puni. Child protégée, Christina Shevchenko, performed “Cherub” (variation) from Don Quixote and “Kozachok,” a musical adaptation of a Ukrainian folk melody by Mr. Yanivsky. Ms. Shelest and Oleksander Boitsov then performed a waltz titled “Nezabud,” also to the music of Mr. Yanivsky. A special finale dedicated to Mrs. Hynansky, an accomplished ballroom dancer, was a stunning tango, “La Comparsita,” by the two merited performers from Kharkiv.

Concluding the evening were two unexpected donations: the 1st Security Federal Savings Bank forwarded a \$5,000 check and the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union pledged \$2,500 to the center.

The Rev. Vasyl Sivinskij from St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church gave the benediction.

A Ukrainian Summer

Appears May 6 in The Ukrainian Weekly

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Petrenko organizes "Viktory for Kids" ice show to benefit CCRF

by Alex Kuzma

SIMSBURY, Conn. – Just eight weeks before the Chernobyl nuclear disaster's 15th anniversary, Ukraine's figureskating Olympic and world champion Viktor Petrenko invited his friends from the international skating community to help him raise public awareness and funds to help some of the thousands of children still being affected by the world's worst nuclear disaster.

On March 2 and 3 here at the International Skating Center of Connecticut Mr. Petrenko headlined an all-star cast that included Olympic and world champion Brian Boitano of the United States, French sensation Philippe Candeloro, an Olympic and world medalist, as well as U.S. silver medalist Sasha Cohen in "Viktory for Kids," a two-night benefit performance for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF).

Proceeds from the sold-out event are earmarked for the creation of the Victor Petrenko Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Mr. Petrenko's hometown of Odesa. In an extensive interview with the Hartford Courant and USA Today, Mr. Petrenko explained his motivation for organizing this unique benefit performance for CCRF. "I received a lot from my city to get where I am today ... That's where I grew up ... That's where I learned to skate ... Now this is my chance to pay them back." Mr. Petrenko described the many people he had seen in Odesa who had survived Chernobyl, only to be stricken with cancer or to see their children stricken with birth defects.

Mr. Petrenko turned to his close friend, Mr. Boitano, who was the first to agree to skate in this charity fund-raiser. Among the other skaters who also donated their time and waived their performance fees were: Swiss national champion Lucinda Ruh, Ukrainian national champion Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, Italian national champion Silvia Fontana, Ukrainian daredevil acrobats Volodymyr Besedin and Alexei Polishchuk, Israeli national champions Darya Zuravicky and Michael Shmerkin, Olympic pairs champions Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriev; as well as Russian ice dancing stars Roman Kostomarov and Tatiana Navka, Maya Usova and Evgeny Platov, and Angelica Krylova and Oleg Ovsannikov.

With the help of Mr. Petrenko's all-star cast, the International Skating Center and the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund were able to secure sponsorships from several major corporations, led by title sponsor Cingular Wireless and Environmental Systems Products (ESP), which financed widespread advertising campaigns on television and radio, and in the print media. The Hartford Courant and WFSB-Channel 3,

Connecticut's CBS affiliate, provided extensive news coverage and promotional ads for CCRF.

Western Union Financial Services also made a major contribution in honor of Mr. Petrenko, who serves as the spokesperson for the company's Eastern European campaign. Western Union marketing director Rennie Jackson presented CCRF with a check for \$9,400 for the purchase of an infant warmer for the Petrenko Neonatal Unit.

Other local and national sponsors included the Connecticut Natural Gas Corp. (CNG) and Virginia-based EuroTech, a manufacturer of innovative technology to encase and safeguard nuclear waste at the Chernobyl site. CCRF received net proceeds of \$120,000 above expenses, and more donations are still coming in to the fund's New Haven office.

CCRF is an award-winning New Jersey-based charity that has recently completed its 27th airlift to Ukraine. All told, the fund has delivered over 1,300 tons of medical and humanitarian aid valued at \$46 million to hospitals that specialize in the treatment of children affected by thyroid cancer, birth defects and other illness believed to be linked to radiation exposure.

CCRF has established six neonatal units similar to the one planned for Odesa. These newborn intensive care units have had a major impact on infant mortality in CCRF's partner hospitals in Lutsk, Poltava, Chernihiv, Rivne, Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv. The Ukrainian investigative journal Fakty has verified that technology and training provided by CCRF has reduced mortality in the Poltava Maternity Center by newly 90 percent. CCRF hopes to achieve similar results in Odesa and other cities.

To help familiarize the audience with the impact of Chernobyl and CCRF's medical mission, each "Viktory for Kids" program began with a short introduction and slide show. Schoolchildren from the local towns of Simsbury and Avon read translations of a poem by Ukrainian prodigy Vika Ivchenko and the first-hand account of a young Chernobyl survivor now living in Slavutych. A hush fell over the audience as Grammy Award-winning jazz virtuoso Paul Winter performed variations on a Bach Adagio as a giant screen displayed images of Ukrainian children by Connecticut-born photographer Joseph Sywenkyj, who visited orphanages and cancer wards in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne and Kirovohrad.

Olympic champion Ekaterina Gordieva electrified the crowd with her admonition: "This show is not about you or me. It's not about Viktor or any of the other great skaters donating their efforts tonight. This is about kids. The kids in Ukraine who are still suffering as a result of this terrible accident.



Viktor Petrenko with Nadia and Zenon Matkiwsky of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund at the International Skating Center of Connecticut.

The kids who eagerly await Western technology and aid so that they may live a little longer and suffer a little less."

The solemnity of the opening ceremonies was broken by a children's choir from the Roaring Brook Elementary School Chorus of Avon performing "One Song," an original composition written for the occasion by choral director Carl Sauerbrunn. The Jagged Ice children's precision ice skating team then performed a special on-ice rendition of Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" choreographed by the ISCC's artistic director John Thomas. Only then did the international array of stars emerge one by one to greet the audience.

The "Viktory for Kids" program was

sold out on both Friday and Saturday evenings. In addition to ticket sales and corporate sponsorships, CCRF and the ISCC also raised funds through a celebrity auctions, VIP reception and program booklet.

The Cingular Wireless "Viktory for Kids" will be broadcast on the evening of Easter Sunday, April 15, on WFSB-Channel 3 immediately following "60 Minutes" through much of Southern New England.

For more information, or to support CCRF and the Viktor Petrenko Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, readers may write or make tax-deductible donations to CCRF, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078, or call (973) 376-5140 or (203) 387-0507.

New York state offers exam for Ukrainian language credits

by Oksana Bakum

HIGHLAND, N.Y. – High school students in the state of New York have the opportunity once again to earn three credits toward their Regents requirement in foreign languages by taking an accredited exam in Ukrainian.

Since 1999, the procedure for applying and taking the exam has undergone a marked change, as directed by the State Education Department. This applies not only to Ukrainian, but to five other languages not usually taught in high schools. Exams or high school credits in these languages are now administered not at high schools as in the past, but they must be given at community schools, outside regular schools. This involves the Ukrainian studies schools and their upper-level language teachers.

Special teachers' committees, which up to this change have worked under the aegis of the State Department of New York in devising such exams in six languages, continue to function. Each year, they produce these tests in full adherence to the Regents requirements, for the benefit of students and teachers of the state's various ethnic groups. In the case of Ukrainian, it is the Committee for Preparation of the Sample Comprehensive Examination in Ukrainian (CPSCEU).

Students must be aware of the following mandatory conditions: their high school level cannot be lower than grade 11 or 12; their course requirements for their high school diploma must be met. In view of this, the Ukrainian language exam cannot serve as a substitute for any test in a required subject. Only the

high school authorities make the ultimate decision as to the student's qualification for taking this language test.

Therefore, the new procedure is as follows: a student should obtain from his/her high school office two forms: the application for Regents Credit for Foreign Language Studied Outside of the Regular High School and the Student Profile. These forms must be filled out by the Ukrainian studies school teacher and mailed to the high school which the student attends.

All language exams are given in the first half of June, but formalities must be completed well in advance. Should any forms be unavailable, a high school can order them from the Education Department.

Applicants should have a level of competency in Ukrainian that measures up to the state's intermediate language standard, Checkpoint B. In practical terms, this means that students must have completed three years of Ukrainian studied on the upper level, and that their weekly sessions – which may include classes in language, literature, history and/or culture – should total not less than three hours. Those who are now successfully completing their Ukrainian studies should pass this exam.

Teachers of Ukrainian studies are obliged to take care of some of the initial formalities to enable students to file their applications. The above-mentioned CPSCEU will continue to prepare the exam, according to all the state requirements and the Regents format. Upon request from Ukrainian teachers, the

(Continued on page 16)



Viktor Petrenko is flanked by fellow skaters Brian Boitano (right) and Sasha Cohen during the benefit auction held in conjunction with the ice show.

Court says Toronto resident not involved in war crimes

Odynsky threatened with denaturalization/deportation due to "false representation"

TORONTO – Toronto resident Wasył Odynsky was found on March 2 not to have been involved in any war crimes during the second world war by Judge Andrew MacKay of the Federal Court of Canada, who noted "there was no evidence at trial that Mr. Odynsky participated personally in any incident involving mistreatment of prisoners or of any other person during his service."

Furthermore, Justice MacKay found that "there is no doubt that Mr. Odynsky's service was not voluntary." The judge also urged Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Elinor Caplan to consider that Mr. Odynsky has also been a good citizen since he arrived in Canada, more than 50 years ago, as testified to by members of his church and community.

The only finding made by the judge (whose ruling came earlier this month) that went against Mr. Odynsky was with respect to the matter of his screening by Canadian immigration and security officials prior to his immigration to Canada in 1949.

Although acknowledging that it is possible that Mr. Odynsky's "memory of his experience when he applied to Canada is an accurate depiction of what happened," the judge was not convinced that it was a full account, and so found that, "on the balance of probabilities," it is "more probable than not that Mr. Odynsky did not truthfully answer questions that were put to him concerning his wartime experience."

Because of that, the judge ruled that Mr. Odynsky "obtained citizenship in Canada by false representation or by knowingly concealing material circumstances," which means Minister Caplan could recommend to the Cabinet that Mr. Odynsky be denaturalized and deported.

Mr. Odynsky has maintained his assertion that he was never asked questions about his involuntary service as a member of an auxiliary guard unit in Nazi-occupied Ukraine.

Commenting on this finding, the chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, John

B Gregorovich, said: "The learned judge has made it clear that Mr. Odynsky was not a war criminal, was not a Nazi, and did not participate in any war crimes or atrocities. Under duress he had to serve in a guard unit during the war years. He is, in that respect, no different from any Jewish kapo who, likewise, had no choice but to work for his captors."

He further noted that "Mr. Justice MacKay found, on a balance of probabilities, that Mr. Odynsky may have obtained his citizenship by not telling Canadian immigration officials, a half-century ago, about his wartime experiences is probably the only finding that the judge could have come to, given the evidence presented in the hearing room."

Nonetheless, Mr. Gregorovich commented, "we must now ask: wouldn't it be a cruel and unusual punishment to denaturalize and deport a good citizen against whom, as the judge found, there is absolutely no evidence whatsoever that he personally was involved in any wrongdoing?"

"We urge members of our community and other Canadians to write to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Honorable Elinor Caplan, and to your own MP, recommending that no further action be taken against Mr. Odynsky," he continued.

"That an innocent man should have been subjected to the emotional and financial traumas that he and his family have endured for some three years is proof enough of just how unfair the current policy is for dealing with how alleged war criminals allegedly found in Canada should be brought to justice," he wrote.

"We maintain that the government should bring these cases into Canadian criminal courts, where the rules of evidence are far more vigorous. What we are instead seeing is how naturalized Canadian citizens are, in fact, being treated as second-class citizens, for no Canadian-born citizen would ever be forced to defend himself against such allegations without all of the protections provided for in criminal court trials," the chairman concluded.

UCC officer protests paper's headlines

Following is the text of a letter sent to Richard Addis, editor of The Globe and Mail, by V. Walter Halchuk, president of the Ontario Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The letter is dated March 4.

Dear Sir:

Please note that your news editors continue to skew the news with misleading headlines. You are certainly not living up to your billing. "Well written" does not mean insulting Canadians with simplistic and deceptive stereotypes. And "well read" is beginning to sound like "well red."

I refer to "Judge won't block deportation of ex-Nazi," March 3. The assertion that Wasył Odynsky was found to have been a Nazi is false.

Furthermore the Honorable Justice MacKay found no evidence that Mr. Odynsky participated in any wartime atrocities. Mr. MacKay found him to be an unwilling collaborator from Nazi-occupied Ukraine who was forcibly conscripted into an auxiliary guard unit. He did not find that Mr. Odynsky was a Nazi.

Obviously you are still continuing to experience some difficulty in meeting your stated goal: "The Globe and Mail aims to serve all Canadian readers in a manner free of bias."

I corresponded with your office and members of your staff in November of 2000 and with Mr. Kuntz on a similar matter back in February and March of 2000. Unfortunately, negative stereotyping by some of your staff continues to be employed in your headlines, a practice which reflects bias and tends to exacerbate intolerance towards Ukrainians and Canadians of Ukrainian origin.

May we be of some assistance in that matter – a small media advisory group perhaps?

Finally, by bringing this matter to your attention again, we hope to start a dialogue with your standards people and possibly help you achieve your stated goal on bias. Should you chose to convey any regrets, please direct them to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress head office in Winnipeg (ucchq@istar.ca).



TO UNA CONVENTION DELEGATES REGARDING THE BY-LAWS BALLOT

The Ukrainian National Association's Home Office is currently mailing a voting package to all delegates to the last UNA Convention, held in May 1998 in Toronto, and to current members of the UNA General Assembly.

The package contains proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws and a ballot that is to be returned via the mail.

Delegates and General Assembly members are being asked to vote by May 1 on whether they approve the proposed changes to the by-laws.

In the event that a delegate or a General Assembly member does not receive the packet, he/she is urged to phone the Home Office, (973) 292-9800, ext. 3018.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

UCC critical of Canadian government's denaturalization and deportation policy

Ukrainian Canadian Congress

WINNIPEG – In 1995 the Canadian federal government introduced its new denaturalization and deportation policy against individuals suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity during World War II.

The government stated that such revocation of citizenship proceedings would be initiated against Canadians who acquired their citizenship almost half a century ago, notwithstanding the fact that the Deschenes Commission reported in 1986 that: "Applications for immigration and connected documents have been destroyed in large numbers over the years, consistently with retention and removal policies in force within Canadian government departments and agencies, more particularly Immigration, External Affairs, RCMP and CSIS, so that evidence for possible revocation of citizenship or deportation has become largely unavailable."

However, the government declared that: "The key criterion in all these proceedings is the existence of some evidence of individual criminality. If that cannot be proven, no proceedings will be considered."

In the final decision of The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration vs. Odynsky, 2001 FCT 138, rendered on March 2, the Federal Court of Canada, presented with a matter of revocation of citizenship acquired almost half a century ago (1955 to be more precise), concluded that: "It is worth noting that there was no evidence before the court of any particularly activity of Mr. Odynsky that could be characterized as brutal or criminal, or as directly threatening to any individual."

The judge also noted:

• "on the evidence before me I find that Mr. Odynsky did not voluntarily join the SS auxiliary forces, or voluntarily serve with them at Trawniki or Poniatowa, or later with the Battalion Streibe";

• "there was no evidence of any incident in which he was involved that could be

Wasył Odynsky...

(Continued from page 7)

unbelievably, how their lives have been disrupted, their life savings drained and their honor besmirched by the organs of a country that Mr. Odynsky and his wife, Maria, so lovingly helped build over the course of years of hard work.

I would never have believed that a witch-hunt could happen in modern times, least of all in Canada. Yet that is exactly what has happened to Mr. Odynsky, as surely as if he was being tied to a stake to be burned.

Still, I am not one of those who intends to plead for clemency. Mr. Odynsky is not guilty of any crime that merits so cruel and unusual a punishment as to be stripped of one's Canadian citizenship and deported to a foreign land. No one should have to beg for a pardon for an innocent man.

For the record, let everyone understand that if he is exiled, far from his wife and family, then we as a society will be doing nothing less than sentencing him to a slow death. Those who orchestrated this travesty should remember that. Many of us won't forget. And if Mr. Odynsky is deported then it will be Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his Cabinet who will have to live with the knowledge that they sent an innocent man to his grave.

considered as directed wrongfully at any other individual, whether a forced laborer-prisoner, or any other person";

• "no evidence was presented of any wrongdoing by Mr. Odynsky since he came to Canada, now more than 50 years ago."

Moreover, the Federal Court of Canada stated that there was no evidence of war crimes or crimes against humanity committed during World War II in the earlier cases of:

• Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) vs. Vitols, 1998] F.C.J. No. 1373;

• Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) vs. Duek, [1998] F.C.J. No. 1829.

• The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Katriuk, Docket: T-2409-96;

• The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Podins, Docket: T-1093-97; and

• The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Oberlander, Docket: T-866-95.

In light of these cases, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) contends that the Canadian government is not abiding by its undertaking to initiate proceedings against Canadians for events that occurred a half century ago only if there is "evidence of individual criminality."

The UCC continues to assert that in cases where "evidence of individual criminality" is uncovered, the government of Canada should prosecute such individuals before Canadian courts of criminal jurisdiction in accordance with Canadian criminal law and Canadian standards of evidence in criminal proceedings.

According to the UCC, the Canadian government should not resort to denaturalization and deportation proceedings to deal with the issue of Canadians suspected of war crimes during the second world war since:

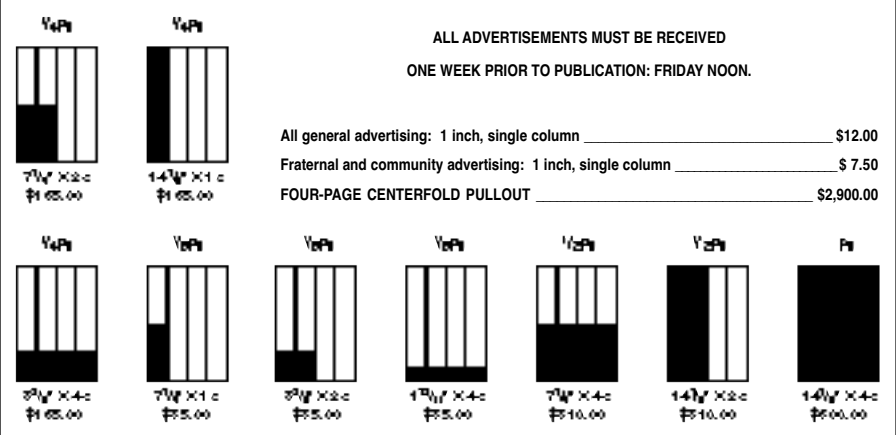
• such proceedings are inadequate to determine a person's guilt or innocence as a war criminal;

• such proceedings suppose, therefore, that another country will address this issue in Canada's place; and

• applications for immigration and connected documents have been destroyed in large numbers over the years by government employees.

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announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2001, at 12:00 noon

at the UNA Branch 120 Meeting Hall

2152 Sheffield Rd., Aliquippa, PA

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

53, 56, 63, 96, 113, 120, 161, 264, 296, 338, 481

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Martha Lysko – UNA National Secretary

Nicholas Diakiwsky – UNA Advisor

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U.S.-Ukraine Foundation creates endowment fund

Dr. Murray Senkus is initial benefactor

by Olenka Dobczanska

WASHINGTON – The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's 10th anniversary began with the establishment of an Endowment Fund.

"The creation of the foundation's Endowment Fund along with our 10th anniversary are important milestones," stated USUF President Nadia McConnell. "They signify that the foundation is here to stay and its importance in regard to U.S.-Ukraine relations is growing every day."

Long-time USUF supporter Murray Senkus of North Carolina has enabled the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation to establish an endowment fund through a generous \$25,000 gift. Over the years Dr. Senkus' contributions have made him the top individual donor to the foundation.

Dr. Senkus expressed his full confidence in the foundation, saying his gift could be used in any way the foundation wished. Now 86 years old, Dr. Senkus continues to be keenly interested in the fate of Ukraine. He has been there 11 times since 1992 and believes that a tremendous amount still needs to be done to put the country on the road to prosperity.

In choosing the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, Dr. Senkus applauded the foundation's emphasis on local projects that are "close to the people, where aid can

do the most good."

"We are thinking about tomorrow – about USUF's presence, permanence, strength and stability," added Vice-President John A. Kun. "Everyone who is a friend, donor or stakeholder of the foundation realizes that our new Endowment Fund will provide key financial resources for our future operations and programs. And that is critically important for Ukraine of tomorrow."

It is the foundation's hope that Dr. Senkus' gift will be an inspiration for others to support the foundation – whether through annual giving or through a onetime gift. President McConnell concluded, "The substantial gifts made possible by Dr. Murray Senkus, the Petrach Estate and the new Kovaluk Scholarship Fund are showing that the legacy you wish to leave for Ukraine can be entrusted to the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. An expanding, growing Endowment Fund will generate future revenues that will support the foundation's U.S.-Ukraine activities in the 21st century."

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

Western Union donates \$9,000 to sister schools project for Kyiv

MONTVALE, N.J. – For years now, Western Union, a leading provider of money transfer services, has been assisting its customers in the United States and abroad with support of their educational and cultural initiatives. On February 28 company officials announced a new community relations initiative as part of the Western Union "Helping Hands" program.

Under "Helping Hands," Western Union recently pledged \$9,000 in support for the Sister Schools Abroad Program between Kyiv and Chicago. This donation was the largest contribution to a fund-raising effort that exceeded the initial goal of \$50,000. The money will enable Chicago Sister Cities International to purchase badly needed computers and photocopiers for several under-funded sister schools in Kyiv and to provide training for their use.

The initiative originated in Chicago, home to thousands of Ukrainian Americans and recent immigrants from Ukraine, as well as the Chicago Sister

Cities International Program. In May the computers and other equipment purchased will be presented to the four sister schools in Kyiv by, among others, representatives of Western Union.

"Our Western Union 'Helping Hands' community relations effort to benefit the children of Ukraine is not a new concept to Western Union; rather, we're building on our commitment to our customers," commented Alton Campbell, Western Union vice-president for the Chicago area. "It was a natural step to support our Ukrainian customers and their friends in Chicago in a noble quest to provide Ukrainian children with resources that will help them achieve their educational goals for the global economy," he explained.

The Western Union "Helping Hands" initiative was launched in 1999 as a corporatewide, worldwide community rela-

(Continued on page 23)



Kyiv Deputy Mayor Anatoly Tolstokhov (left) with Marta Farion of the Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program and Alton Campbell, Western Union director for the Chicago area.

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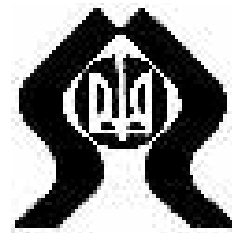
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DATELINE NEW YORK: The play's the thing!

by Helen Smindak

Lydia Krushelnytsky's drama studio has done it again! The troupe that keeps bringing us entertaining dramas in diverting ways staged the premiere of Bohdan Boychuk's new philosophical work "Piat Kartyn Dvotysiachnoho Roku" (Five Scenes of the Year 2000) at Pace Downtown Theater earlier this month. Playgoers, and even those who did not have the pleasure of seeing the performance, presented in Ukrainian, are still talking about the intriguing piece.

Silhouetted against five tall archways that formed the backdrop for five ongoing scenes, the actors of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble moved with dignity and poise through the dramatic montage, interpreting the different states of man's being in poetic and philosophical terms.

Minimalistic choreography and stage design, a hallmark of Mrs. Krushelnytsky's productions, emphasized the introspective nature of the dialogue – the state of birth and early discovery of the world, the joys and agonies of love, metaphysical introspection, human relationships, the turning to God, and finally, prayers and enlightenment. The drama was heightened with changing illumination and taped excerpts from Myroslav Skoryk's compositions – the unforgettable score for "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" and "Carpathian Concerto."

Volodymyr Kurylo and Nadia Dyba-Podoliak were admirable narrators who carried the montage from one scene to the next. Other actors who stood out in the cast of 20 white-clad thespians were Ivan Bernatsky, a professional stage and screen actor from Ukraine, Stefa Nazarkewycz, a Ukrainian American actress who has appeared in Off-Broadway productions, Olenka Lysetsky, Ivan Makar, Melasia Sonevtsky and Liza Sonna.

The contemporary choreography, which at times had the actors seated or lying on the floor and at others moving in fluid circle dances or walking together in step formation, was conceived by Katja Kolcio. Stage design and costumes were by Maria Shust, and lighting by Andrey Hankevych. Christina Karatnytska, Dzvinika Dobriansky, Oleh Hrabovsky and Lesyk Hewryk assisted with the production.

Working with young actors as an educator and play director since 1966, Mrs. Krushelnytsky has directed children's plays, dramatizations of poems by Lesia Ukrainka, Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko and Lina Kostenko, and such rarely per-

formed plays as Volodymyr Vynnytsky's "Chorna Pantera i Bilyi Vedmid" (Black Panther and White Bear) and Eugene Scribe's "Le Verre d'Eau." A 1939 graduate of the Lviv Conservatory, she appeared in several operas in Lviv and Stanyslaviv, and after the war performed with the Muza performing arts group in Austria. She joined the Theater-Studio of Joseph Hirniak and Olympia Dobrovol'ska in New York in 1949 and appeared in many of its productions.

Ukrainian actress on HBO

Oksana Babiy, who studied to be an economist in Ivano-Frankivsk in western Ukraine and came to New York at age 20, was associated with the Yara Arts Group, managed an espresso bar, worked for the subscription department of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, then turned to print and runway modeling. Beginning with modeling for small catalogues, she soon progressed to prints in "Paper" and "Bride" magazines and runway work for name designers during Fashion Week in Bryant Park. Now, in her mid-20s, she's appearing in the HBO hit "The Sopranos" as Tony Soprano's Russian mistress, Irina.

Interviewed on HBO prior to the third-season premiere of "The Sopranos" on March 5, Ms. Babiy was asked if she was Russian. "No, I am Ukrainian," she told the reporter, an answer which reached 11.3 million viewers, the largest audience that has ever seen any HBO show. The show is reported to have surpassed most series on the broadcast networks despite being available in only a third as many homes.

The svelte, sultry-eyed actress, whose Slavic features undoubtedly helped in winning her the "Sopranos" role, has made several appearances on the series since 1998. In addition to "The Sopranos," the drama that carried off the Best Series Award in the 2000 Golden Globe Awards, she has appeared on two NBC shows – "Deadline" and "Law and Order" – and a CBS production "Late Line," and has earned credit for performances in two modest movies.

Fluent in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish, she has portrayed characters of Slavic heritage in such Off-Broadway productions as Turgenev's "Month in the Country," Chekhov's "Cherry Orchard" and Sidney Kingsley's "Darkness At Noon."

Before coming to New York, Ms. Babiy spent a year of study at the Ivan Karpenko Institute for the Theatrical Arts in Kyiv. Since then she has studied at the Michael

Howard Studios in New York and is presently attending acting classes at the Wynn Handman Studio. Will Hollywood knock at her door some day?

Television tidbits

- Alex Trebek, host of the popular game show "Jeopardy!" is among the nominees for the Daytime Emmy's Game Show Host of 2000. The awards will be given out by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences on May 18 in a ceremony at Radio City Music Hall televised by NBC.

- Making a special appearance on the CBS show "Becker," famed football coach Mike Ditka told Becker off for beefing about a sports headline which said a multi-million-dollar contract was given to a football player.

- Hollywood actor George Dzundza was recently seen as a schoolteacher in the ABC production "Dangerous Minds."

- The 1993 Jack Palance movie "Cyborg 2: Glass Shadow," in which a corporation makes a walking bomb to destroy a competitor, was shown March 11 on WOR-TV. Mr. Palance, who turned 81 on February 18, told Valley Press staff writer Lavender Kemble of Reading, Pa., last month that journalism and writing, not acting, were his "initial pursuit." He has three books coming out soon, including a novel, a work in diary form and another similar to his first book of blank verse musings, "The Forest of Love," published in 1996.

Around town

Soprano Lidia Bychkova, leading soloist of the Shevchenko National Opera of Ukraine, brought her expressive, powerful voice to an audience at the Ukrainian Institute of America last month. With renowned pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky as her accompanist, Ms. Bychkova interpreted operatic works by Strauss, Handel, Puccini, Verdi and other composers. Her program also included a number of art songs – Richard Strauss's "Zueignung" (Devotion), Ihor Sonevtsky's "Our Father," Scarlatti's "Arietta" – and such special favorites of Ukrainian audiences as "Odarka's Song" and "Oksana's Romance" from Hulak-Artemovsky's "Kozak Beyond the Danube" and "Natalka's Song" from Lysenko's "Natalka Poltavka." The concert was sponsored by the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences as part of its 50th anniversary celebration. Ms. Bychkova, who has a repertoire of over 25 roles, made her U.S. debut

in Orlando, Fla., in 1993 with Verdi's "Requiem" and in New York in 1996 at Riverside Church as a guest soloist with the Kyiv Symphonic Choir and Orchestra, both times under the direction of Roger McMurrin. She has toured extensively in Europe and has performed in numerous festivals.

Two works by world-renowned artist Alexander Archipenko, one of the first 20th century sculptors to penetrate solid form with space, are included in the Guggenheim Museum's current exhibition "The Global Guggenheim: Selections From the Extended Collection," which runs until April 22. They are "Medrano II" (1913-1914), in painted tin, wood, glass and painted oilcloth, and "Carrousel Pierrot" (1913), a painted plaster work.

The word is out: Oksana Baiul is not in the John Hancock Champions on Ice tour this summer. Although Ms. Baiul is not appearing (show sponsors have given no explanation), Viktor Petrenko is still with the show, as is the amazing Ukrainian acrobatic team of Vladimir Besedin and Alexei Polishchuk. The tour is not scheduled to stop at Madison Square Garden, so New York area residents who wish to see Ukrainian champion ice skaters in action will have to try for the April 7 show at the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, N.J., or the April 12 performance at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y.

The Robert De Niro-Edward Burns thriller "15 Minutes," which presents Vera Farmiga in a starring role, has been soundly panned by film critics in print and on TV. It's been called "overwrought and hypocritical" by some and "morbid" by others. But reviewers appeared to agree that it is fleet-footed entertainment that "has crowd-stopping impact." One reviewer, who conceded that the film succeeds as "a cop procedural riffing off the standard veteran/rookie dynamic," said the movie finds interesting ways to photograph New York. Grossing 10.5 million in its first weekend, "15 Minutes" came in second to "The Mexican," released a few weeks earlier.

In "The Passion According to G.H.," playing at the Access Theatre at 380 Broadway until April 14, Tannis Kowalchuk of North American Cultural Laboratory portrays G.H., a woman whose normally uneventful life is turned upside down by the discovery of an enormous cockroach in her home. Using humor, vigorous physicality and theatrical surprises, Ms. Kowalchuk sings, dances and carries the audience along on her delightful and mysterious mutation.

A permanent exhibition of enchanting still lifes and landscapes by New York artist Olga Maryschuk can be viewed on the website www.paintingsdirect.com. Ms. Maryschuk, a BFA graduate of the Cooper Union School of Art and Architecture, also studied at Pratt Graphic Center, New York Studio School and the Kyiv State Art Institute.

"Helix," an academic solo work by American Ballet Theatre principal dancer Robert Hill set to music by Dmitry Polischuk, was performed during the recent "Millennium International Ballet Gala, Stars of the 21st Century," presented at the New York State Theater. Mr. Polischuk, who came to the United States from Vinnytsia, Ukraine, in 1991, has collaborated with Mr. Hill on other works, including ABT's "Baroque Game" and "Post No Scriptum."

Lviv-born Marjana Sadovska, who has spent the last 10 summers traveling through the Polissia, Poltava, Hutsul and Lemko regions of Ukraine collecting folk songs



Lydia Krushelnytsky and her drama studio take a bow after the presentation of "Piat Kartyn Dvotysiachnoho Roku" (Five Scenes of the Year 2000) at Pace Downtown Theater.

(Continued on page 23)

“The Undefeated,” story of Shukhevych, premieres in New York

by Areta Komarnicky-Lloyd
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

NEW YORK – The life of a hero – especially the underground insurgent type – is often shrouded in myth, but that of Roman Shukhevych is laid bare in all its gritty glory in Oles Yanchuk’s new film “The Undefeated,” itself a heroic effort by the Ukrainian filmmaker.

Mr. Yanchuk tells the story of the intrepid general who led the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) from 1942 to 1950 through a series of flashbacks set within a chronology of the last weeks of Shukhevych’s life. Shukhevych is portrayed as a fiercely nationalistic teenager, proving his loyalty by assassinating a repressive Polish leader; as the head of the Ukrainian legion in the German army, when he takes a bold stand for independence; as a shrewd and clever commander of a 200,000-strong underground army; and as a devoted husband and father, who suffers internally but retains an unwavering duty to his shackled nation.

“He was an exceptionally determined man,” said Gregory Hlady, the Ukrainian Canadian actor who played Shukhevych. “I would not be capable of doing what he did.”

Mr. Hlady’s powerful onscreen presence truly carried the film. The actor, who was born in Ukraine and has resided in Montreal for the last decade, admitted that he was simply overwhelmed by the sheer energy that guided Shukhevych and, in fact, was deeply moved by this particular page in Ukrainian history.

“It touched me to tears,” said Mr. Hlady. This struggle, he said, “was unknown beyond the borders of Ukraine – so it was carried entirely on the shoulders of the Ukrainian nation.”

Throughout the film, Mr. Yanchuk reveals little-known facts about the underground army and its role during World War II when the Germans invaded the Soviet Union. He depicts the deeply religious nature of the insurgent troops, and further details that it was an entire generation of youth who fought desperately for freedom.

The massacres perpetrated by the retreating Red Army (upon the German advance) are graphic and horrible scenes, but Mr. Yanchuk deserves kudos for showing the grisly truth. In fact, despite some saccharine allegorical scenes, the film stays away from romanticizing the times or life of this until-now mysterious national hero. Instead, Shukhevych is portrayed as a brave army general who lived and fought during a treacherous time, but, in the end, is undone by circumstance and his own fallibility.

The righting of a man’s wronged reputation – and that of the troops who fought with him – was the goal of this endeavor. Call it setting the record straight. At its American debut in New York this week, the film drew a full house at both showings. Judging from audience reaction, viewers felt duly vindicated.

“Roman Shukhevych has been portrayed as a bandit,” said Askold Lozynskyj, former president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and current president of the Ukrainian World Congress. For a long time the label “Banderiste,” applied to UPA soldiers, was synonymous on the territory of the USSR with terrorist and traitor.

“This film is important because it deals with the untold, or mistold, story,” Mr. Lozynskyj underscored.

The UCCA has committed itself to



Gregory Hlady, in a scene from the film “The Undefeated.”



Gregory Hlady as Roman Shukhevych and Svitlana Vatamaniuk as the UPA leader’s wife, Natalia.



NKVD forces move in to surround an UPA detachment in a scene from “The Undefeated.”



The film’s recreation of 1941 Lviv shows legion members walking down a city street.

(Continued on page 22)

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German analysis...

(Continued from page 1)

Holovatyi tissue samples that she believed belonged to the corpse of her missing boss.

Ms. Prytula first identified what are considered his remains in a morgue in the town of Tarascha on November 15 of last year. She received the sample from the local medical examiner after the body suddenly disappeared during the several hours it took her to obtain a vehicle to transport the body she had just identified. The piece of bone and soft tissue were part of what remained of a partial autopsy. The body later turned up at the Kyiv morgue of the Procurator General's Office. No explanation has ever been given for how and why the corpse was moved.

What made the announcement so stunning is that it came after a similar analysis conducted by a Russian firm in February, which made a completely different finding. That examination, which was ordered by the Ukrainian Procurator General's Office, but only after much pressure from lawmakers and the public, found a 99.6 percent probability that the remains of the Tarascha corpse were that of the missing journalist. Government officials said the tissue sample used in the Moscow analysis, which was done by a noted expert on DNA identification, was from the Tarascha body. However, Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko refused to certify the results because he believed that level of probability was inconclusive. After further testing raised the likelihood to 99.9 percent, Mr. Potebenko recognized the results.

The analysis commissioned by the ad hoc committee of the Verkhovna Rada investigating the Gongadze affair, which was done by a German firm, Geneida of Munich, compared a splotch of blood found on a medical card belonging to the late journalist and blood taken from his mother, Lesia Gongadze, with the tissue samples submitted by Ms. Prytula.

The results showed that the blood on the medical card belongs to the offspring of Mrs. Gongadze but that the tissue sample from the corpse is not related to either.

Ms. Prytula said she was shocked by the result and explained that she does not exclude the possibility that the tissue sample, which had been in her refrigerator in the weeks before it was turned over to Mr. Holovatyi, could have been replaced by someone who had secretly entered her apartment.

"This whole time the fragments were kept in my apartment, where I am only early in the morning and late at night," explained Ms. Prytula in an article published in her Internet publication, Ukrainka Pravda.

Mr. Holovatyi gave a second theory for how differing results could have occurred from ostensibly the same corpse. He offered that it is possible to mask DNA identification by contaminating the tissue sample with genetic material from a foreign source, such as blood from another person. He suggested that the Moscow test could have been contaminated in that way.

In a grizzly warning, the Ukrainian lawmaker, who has been a vocal critic of the presidential administration for years, also said that a close relative of the murdered journalist may be in imminent danger from those who may need more DNA matter to continue to confuse medical experts.

National Deputy Oleksander Lavrynovych, the head of the parliamentary ad hoc committee, said that in all likelihood his committee would accept the findings of the Munich analysis, but that he has serious doubts whether the tissue samples came from the Tarascha body.

He explained that the way the materials

were handled prior to being delivered to the experts in Munich "made the results questionable from the beginning."

Mr. Lavrynovych suggested that Mr. Holovatyi had improperly handled the materials from a scientific and official point of view. He explained that Ms. Prytula had turned the samples over to Valerii Ivasiuk, a doctor who is a close friend of Mr. Holovatyi. They were then passed on to the commission and accepted by Mykola Boltivets, its head administrator, and two committee members, Viktor Shyshkyn and Mr. Holovatyi.

Mr. Holovatyi, during his press conference announcing the results of the Munich analysis, said the decision to have an independent DNA examination performed came from a 6-0 vote of the 15-member committee on December 26, 2000. Two members abstained, including Mr. Lavrynovych, and seven were absent.

Myroslava Gongadze, the spouse of the missing journalist, told The Ukrainian Weekly on March 22 that neither Mr. Holovatyi nor the parliamentary committee had informed her separately of the results and therefore she did not feel qualified to comment on them. She said, however, that she was bothered by a whole series of decisions and actions that have been carried out, which could cast doubt on the legitimacy of the parliamentary investigation.

"I said from the beginning that all the things that are done must be done on the basis of legitimate procedures. I am irritated by the fact that everybody is seeking to make a name for themselves," explained Ms. Gongadze.

Meanwhile, the press center of the Procurator General's Office said on March 20 that the German results had no legal force and could not be submitted as evidence in a Ukrainian court of law.

On March 21 President Leonid Kuchma said he had again requested that the FBI send experts to do "a complex analysis of the Tarascha body along with Russian and German experts." He said the FBI had failed to perform an analysis the last time its representatives were in Kyiv, reported Interfax-Ukraine.

Iryna Lawrin contributed to this report.

New York state...

(Continued from page 9)

committee will mail the complete and certified exam, to be administered at their schools in June. The review and certification thereof is provided by the Language Immersion Institute of the College at New Paltz, N.Y.

Also according to the new Education Department directive, community schools (Ukrainian studies schools) have two choices: to use the exam structured yearly by the exam committee, or to construct it themselves, observing all the standards, i.e., modeling it precisely on the Regents foreign languages test. Their exam must then be evaluated by an independent, qualified language and education expert and the certification submitted to the students' school office. Evaluation forms are available at schools.

The Education Department will mail interested teachers the Ukrainian exam of 1998 to be used as a model (parts 2, 3 and 4). Also, the Oral Test Topics of any past year should be requested. Teachers should write to: Office of Testing and Assessment, R.760 EBA, State Education Department, Albany, NY 12234, and ask for the Sample Comprehensive Examination in Ukrainian and for Oral Test Topics.

Requests for this year's exam prepared by the committee, with \$5 enclosed for printing and mailing, should be addressed to the CPSCEU coordinator: Oksana Bakum, 18 Orchard Lane, Highland, N.Y. 12528.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

dictate the resignation of a president ... protesting with sharp metal objects and Molotov cocktails in their hands – how can we talk to such groups?" Polish Television reported that the Ukrainian president said he will not talk to "fascists" who provoke social disorder in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kwasniewski talks to Ukrainian opposition

WARSAW – Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski on March 15 met with a delegation of the Ukrainian opposition, which included lawmakers Taras Chornovil, Stanislav Mykolajenko and Ihor Koliushko, the PAP news service reported. Presidential aide Marek Siwiec said Mr. Kwasniewski tried to persuade the Ukrainian opposition activists that "everyone in this conflict should declare their willingness to hold talks." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Gazprom says Ukraine continues gas theft

MOSCOW – Gazprom head Rem Viakhirev on March 20 said Ukraine is still siphoning off Russian transit gas, the Eastern Economist Daily reported on March 21. Mr. Viakhirev noted that Ukraine has not yet paid for supplied gas, adding that Kyiv's gas debt to Russia now totals \$2 billion. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Duma explores ties with Ukraine

KYIV – A Duma delegation led by Unity Deputy Sergei Apatenko is in Kyiv to consult with Ukrainian parliamentarians who have set up a parliamentary group For the Union of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, ITAR-TASS reported on March 16. The Ukrainian effort currently unites 60 members of the Verkhovna Rada. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New group to promote Slavic union

MOSCOW – Russian Duma Deputy Sergei Apatenko (Unity), deputy chairman of the Russian Parliament's Committee for CIS Affairs and Relations with Compatriots Abroad, said that his visit to Kyiv this week will lead to the formation of a new group of parliamentarians from the three Slavic countries to promote their union, ITAR-TASS reported on March 20. More than 90 Ukrainian deputies are among its supporters, Mr. Apatenko said. The Duma had voted on February 15 to charge its CIS committee with developing proposals for the creation of an interfacational support group For the Union of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, ITAR-TASS reported. At the time, Mr. Apatenko said the idea for the organization had come from Ukrainian parliamentarians. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Former NBU official is detained

KYIV – Kyiv prosecutors have detained Volodymyr Bondar, first vice-chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine in 1995-1999, on charges of abuse of office, Interfax reported on March 19. The prosecutors allege that in 1997 Mr. Bondar signed an unsound deal with a bank in Cyprus, inflicting a loss of \$5 million on the state. In June 2000 prosecutors instigated criminal proceedings against a number of NBU officials, accusing them of mishandling foreign currency reserves in 1997-1998. The names of those officials have not been officially released. The Internet newsletter Ukrainka Pravda suggests that Ukrainian oligarchs Oleksander Volkov, Hryhorii Surkis and Viktor Medvedchuk are behind Mr. Bondar's detention. According to the newsletter, the oligarchs want to put pressure on Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko to form a coalition government. Mr. Yushchenko headed the

National Bank of Ukraine at the time the alleged mishandling of foreign currency reserves took place. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM calls for full investigation of murder

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko on March 16 called for a thorough investigation into the murder of Heorhii Gongadze, Interfax reported. Mr. Yushchenko added that he does not believe President Leonid Kuchma ordered Mr. Gongadze to be killed. "Morally, I cannot assume that the country's president may somehow be involved in Heorhii Gongadze's disappearance. It would be a tragedy for me," Mr. Yushchenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Communists want Soviet comeback

KYIV – Some 3,000 Communists and hard-liners demonstrated at the Ukrainian Parliament on March 15, demanding the ouster of President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, and a return to the old Soviet ways, the Associated Press reported. Mr. Yushchenko earned particular ire from the protesters, who stood patiently in the pouring rain, chanting "Kuchma and Yushchenko to jail!" and lamented their lost Soviet-era savings, miserable pensions, low wages and other social woes, the agency noted. Many Communists arrived from outlying regions such as Donetsk, Luhansk, Odesa and Kharkiv. They were backed by hard-line groups, including the Ukrainian Workers' Union and the All-Ukrainian Union of Soviet Officers. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine Without Kuchma pickets in Kyiv

KYIV – Some 1,000 activists of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement on March 14 picketed the parliamentary building and subsequently the Procurator General's Office, the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Presidential Administration Building, demanding the dismissal of President Leonid Kuchma, Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko, and Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko, Interfax reported. Demonstrators collected a glassful of blood drawn from their fingers and deposited the glass outside the Internal Affairs Ministry, suggesting that Messrs. Kuchma and Kravchenko have blood on their hands following the murder of independent journalist Heorhii Gongadze. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Melnychenko continues transcribing tapes

KYIV – Mykola Melnychenko, who secretly bugged President Leonid Kuchma's office and provoked a political scandal in Ukraine by publicizing some recordings, told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service on February 26 that he needs "a great deal of time" as well as "equipment and professionals" to transcribe all the secret tapes he made. Mr. Melnychenko noted, however, that the material he has already transcribed is sufficient to prove unambiguously that President Kuchma is "a criminal who gave criminal orders and controlled [their fulfillment]." (RFE/RL Newsline)


Melnychenko says Kuchma stole \$1 B

KYIV – Mykola Melnychenko, who released secret recordings of conversations in the Ukrainian president's office, was quoted in the February 26 issue of The New York Times as saying that President Leonid Kuchma had pocketed at least \$1 billion for personal or political use. Mr. Melnychenko said his goal is "to totally expose the level of corruption in Ukraine as an independent Don Quixote and ensure that thieves will never come to power again in Ukraine." He spoke with Patrick Tyler of The Times, who interviewed him in an undisclosed location in a Central European country. (RFE/RL Newsline, The New York Times)

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Turning the pages back...

(Continued from page 6)

leader as well. In the '30s Dmytro Halychyn occupied a leading role as an executive officer of Obiednannia, the United Ukrainian American Organization, which was an overall representative organization of Americans of Ukrainian descent, and which endeavored to bring moral and material assistance to the Ukrainian people in Ukraine in their struggle for freedom and liberation. He was one of the leaders who sponsored and organized mass Ukrainian American protest rallies against foreign oppressors of the Ukrainian people. In 1940, prior to the United States entry into World War II, Dmytro Halychyn was one of the founders of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, in which organization he occupied the most important executive posts, those of treasurer, vice-president, acting president and, since 1956, that of president. During World War II, when pro-Soviet forces in this country were attacking Americans of Ukrainian origin for their steadfast anti-Communist attitude, Dmytro Halychyn was one who led Ukrainian American organizations in their patriotic activities, such as the U.S. Bond drive, American Red Cross and USO activities, proving again and again that to him the United States was as dear and close as Ukraine, for which he had fought and suffered physical hardship as a young lad.

After World War II, when Soviet American relations worsened and many Americans saw for the first time Communist Russia for what she really was, the part played by Dmytro Halychyn in the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and in the formation of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, was one of paramount importance. He was among those Ukrainian American leaders who advocated the passage of the U.S. displaced persons law, whereby over 100,000 Ukrainian refugees and escapees succeeded in coming to this country for permanent resettlement.

... One of the great projects in which Dmytro Halychyn was actively engaged was the Shevchenko Memorial Committee of America of which he was elected executive director, the most important and responsible post in that committee.

Dmytro Halychyn has departed from us. But he has left a rich and exemplary heritage for our younger generation. That heritage comprises his selflessness, devotion to freedom, not only of Ukrainians but of all other peoples, a dedicated sacrifice to noble causes, enlightened liberalism, prudence and statesmanship, and above all, unqualified patriotism and good citizenship. ...

Source: "Dmytro Halychyn, Patriot and Citizen" (editorial), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 1, 1961.



В глибокому болю і смутку повідомляємо, що 14 березня 2001 р. відійшла від нас наша найдорожча МАМА, СЕСТРА і БАБУНЯ

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Вічна йому пам'ять!

Rt. Rev. Mitred Archbishop

Andrew Mykyta, STD, SEOL

Passed into eternity on Sunday, March 11, 2001, in Chicago, Ill.

He was born on September 9, 1916, in Pykulychi, a village neighboring Peremyshl in Ukraine. He graduated from gymnasium in Peremyshl and entered the Theological Seminary. The war interrupted his studies and he joined the Ukrainian Division. Toward the end of the war was held captive as a POW in Rimini, Italy. Through the intercession of Archbishop Ivan Buchko he was released and entered St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Seminary to complete his theological studies. On January 1, 1948, he was ordained a priest in Rome by Archbishop Buchko.

In 1950 he emigrated to the U.S. and served in parishes in Chicago, Ill., Youngstown, Ohio, and the Cathedral parish in Philadelphia. In 1957 he undertook the assignment to build a parish in San Francisco, Calif., where he toiled among the faithful for over 25 years. Thereafter, he also served in parishes in Phoenix, Ariz., and San Diego, Calif., from which he retired.

Priestly Parastas was celebrated on Tuesday evening, March 13, 2001, and a requiem Divine Liturgy on Wednesday morning, March 14, 2001, at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. Most Rev. Michael Wiwchar and Most Rev. Innocent Lotocky concelebrated the liturgy assisted by priests of the eparchy.

The earthly remains of Father Andrew were transferred to Philadelphia where, on Friday morning, March 16, 2001, a requiem Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Most Rev. Walter Paska, rector of the Cathedral, assisted by Very Rev. David F. Clooney, rector of St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington, Very Rev. Msgr. John Bura, pastor of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chester, Pa., and Rev. Deacon Michael P. Waak.

Interment was in St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Fox Chase, where his two brothers, Wasyl and Stephan, are buried.

He is deeply mourned by his family:

- Nephew – Roman Z. Mykyta
Niece – Halyna Morenko and her family
Nephew – Lubomyr Mykyta and his family
Nephew – Jaroslav Kaczmar and his family
Nieces and nephews in Ukraine

BLESSED MEMORY - EILEEN KLOPOUSHAK



On April 3, 2000, Eileen Klopoushak of Regina, Saskatchewan was called to God's Heavenly Kingdom. On the first anniversary of her passing, husband Edward, son Gary (children Jillian and James), daughter Lori (Lyle) Saigeon (children Anna-Maria, Daniel and Michael) mourn her passing and pray that God will grant her eternal rest in His Dwelling where there is no pain, no sorrow, no suffering.

The year has been filled with many reminders of Eileen's warm smile and pleasant personality. She has left us and this world behind, but memories of her will remain forever.

A Panakhyda honoring her blessed memory will be served in Descent of the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Regina on April 1, 2001, followed by a Memorial Dinner in the Orthodox Auditorium.

ВІЧНА ЇЙ ПАМ'ЯТЬ! ETERNAL MEMORY!

- Ed Klopoushak

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Chicago Plast branch organizes ski weekend

CHICAGO – The Chicago Plast branch enjoyed its third annual Presidents' Day Ski Weekend on February 16-19. Although primarily designed with "novatstvo" (children age 7-11) in mind, this trip attracted a large number of "yunatstvo" (youths age 11) and family friends, as well as some guests from Ohio.

The weekend began in the sort of bitter Wisconsin Dells cold that only the old-timers in the group remembered, but the bright sun kept everyone going. Saturday evening brought the warmth of a group dinner with the much-appreciated amenity of separate children's and adults' dining rooms. Many "tall" stories were told about the day's adventures.

The next day was warmer and quickly grew hot with the tension of competition. The group had its own ski race in which 55 avid racers competed. After the race, the hot-dogging continued until the evening medal ceremonies.

Top spots went to Nastar gold medal winners Matthew Derkach, Zoe Ripecky and Olenka Stasula (all novatstvo). Overall top honors went to yunachka Maya Ripecky who ran the fastest race of all 55 competitors. Groups of both novatsvo and yunatsvo showed off their basic skiing skills to earn merit



Chicago Plast members and friends gathered for their third annual ski outing in Wisconsin Dells.

badges.

For those with the strength, there was plenty of time to continue the merriment at the pool or other hotel amusements. Over 100 participants had a chance to get

together and to enjoy each other's company.

Many thanks were expressed to Areta and Yura Kuritzza for all their hard work in organizing and running these extravaganzas.



DANCE CAMP I Jul 22 - Aug 4, 2001
CAMP Aug 7-15
CAMP II Aug 18-26, 2001

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Stage Director: ZHUKHIMCHUK
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"The Undefeated" ...

(Continued from page 15)

helping produce films that reveal the true history of Ukraine and its heroes – a positive act designed to counter decades of Soviet propaganda. Mr. Yanchuk stated plainly that without the support of the UCCA, the film never would have been made.

"The Undefeated" is the only film to come from Ukraine in at least half a decade; and it is only one of three films this year, according to the filmmaker, that has been produced by Ukrainians about Ukrainians. By comparison, about 70 independent films were made in Russia.

By all accounts, the nascent Ukrainian film industry is practically non-existent. There is little, if any, support from the government and, what is more, nationalistic subject matter has long been held as taboo.

"The previous government had stifled cultural production," said Mr. Yanchuk. "The Ministry of Culture gave a not-insignificant amount of money towards this production, but it was their approval – specifically Viktor Yushenko's – that really gave this film steam."

The idea for the film was born in New York City during a visit six years ago. Mr. Yanchuk collaborated closely with Mr. Lozynskyj, who helped raise approximately \$150,000. It was this money that comprised most of the initial budget. Not willing to disclose the final cost of "The Undefeated," the filmmaker conceded only that his budget did not approach that of a typical Hollywood movie. But it stands up well to any film made, by American standards, on a shoestring budget.

With this, his third film, Mr. Yanchuk has styled himself as a chronicler of modern Ukrainian history. "Why historical themes? I have a personal interest – I

open a page of history with each new film," he said.

Apparently the UPA kept photo and other records of its activities (in the film Shukhevych wants to send documents to Russia for storage). Asked if such archives were used for background, Mr. Yanchuk said documentary materials were referred to, but much was not available to them. He then underscored that the film is a drama, not a documentary.

Small touches, such as the careful use of languages – Ukrainian, German and Russian – in the appropriate scenes lend authenticity. Particularly effective is Shukhevych's insistence on speaking Ukrainian even in Odesa, where everyone else spoke Russian. The historic cities of Lviv and Odesa were the backdrop for events that actually took place there. And a good many others were shot on location in the Carpathian Mountains throughout three seasons, with the production team editing the film in parts while waiting for the seasons to change.

Throughout the four-year-long project, Mr. Yanchuk said his challenge lay in maintaining consistency and staying true to the underlying tone. Striving for drama and intrigue in an effort to create an interesting biography, the challenge evident on screen was the telling of the story.

As with all attempts at non-linear storytelling, a clear-cut plot is sometimes lost and "The Undefeated" is no exception. The fact that the drama spans a number of years and the complexity of facts intrinsic to the life of Shukhevych – not to mention the sheer amount of information that the filmmaker wants to get across – jump out at the viewer without retaining a natural cohesiveness.

Packed with details, all squeezed into 99 minutes, "The Undefeated" demands a great deal from the viewer. Read your history before seeing it – but do see it.



Director Oles Yanchuk (right) with crew and cast member during the filming.

Naval officer offers...

(Continued from page 3)

the U.S. and Canada – greatly helped.

I never realized that everything wouldn't fit into one book. Only when I began writing did I come to understand I wouldn't be writing simply about the dry facts but about the leading heroes: the officers, the warrant officers, the sailors and the civilians; the patriots who maintained a determined position on the need to deepen Ukrainian national identity in the Crimea and Sevastopol; about the fight to create the Ukrainian navy, and so on.

So there will be another book. The first book encompasses the time period between the first half of 1989 through to the first half of 1992. This period includes the formation of patriotic organizations in Sevastopol such as the Prosvita Language Society, National Rukh of Ukraine, Ukrainian Republican Party, Union of

Ukrainian Officers, Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, in Ukraine as well as in Sevastopol, of course.

During that time the leadership of the Black Sea Fleet used all means at its disposal to pressure [officers], to remove them from their posts and discredit them. It was terrible.

The book begins in a very traditional way, with the send-off of a vessel from Donuzlav on July 21, 1992, and the first entry into the ship's log and ends with the arrival at Odesa and an entry that reads: "We are maintaining a steady course."

For information on how to obtain a copy of the book please send an inquiry to: Ukraine, Kyiv 01001, Budynok Ofitsera, vul. Hrushevskoho 30/1, 3-ii poverkh, Spilka Ofitseriv Ukrainy, Voitovych Yevhen Maksym.

The play's...

(Continued from page 14)

and stories and documenting rituals, gave a performance at Exit Art on March 2 that won approval from The New York Times writer Ben Ratliff. The reviewer felt the performance was "rushed and nearly reckless but oddly perfect." He wrote: "The songs, all about the rituals and psychology of a remote, rural life, had strong melodies, only occasionally in minor keys; she used whipping trills in her voice." Mr. Ratliff noted: "Some moments in the performance recalled white gospel music from Appalachia. At other times Ms. Sadovska's delivery was as wired, forthright and sexual as a rock star's - Polly Jean Harvey, perhaps. She could have been singing the same material in front of a rock trio."

As one of the stronger companies in the Slavic Heritage Council of America, New York's Szyzkryli Ukrainian Dancers were given the honor of opening and closing the

Council's European Folk Festival held in Haft Auditorium of the Fashion Institute of Technology on March 18. The Limbora Slovak Folk Ensemble, with live musicians, put on a great show; the Narts Dance Ensemble, a Circassian troupe, was a tough act to follow, and the Polish American Folk Dance Company wowed the audience with colorful costumes and lively choreography. The Makendonka Macedonian Dance Ensemble from Toronto was well received by the audience. Nonetheless, the professional and artistic performance given by the Szyzkryli ensemble really did Ukrainians proud. The audience would not stop applauding after the show's final number, the "Hopak." Andrij Cybyk, assistant to ensemble director Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, declared "this was the best European Folk Festival I have been a part of in the last 12 years!"

Helen Smindak's e-mail address is HaliaSmindak@aol.com.

Western Union donates...

(Continued from page 13)

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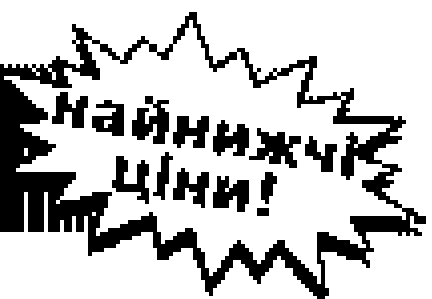
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Kuchma denies reports...

(Continued from page 1)

enough support to hold demonstrations numbering in the thousands on the streets of Kyiv in the last two months. The largest of the protests, held on March 9 and numbering about 20,000 demonstrators, ended in violence. The opposition has demanded the resignation of the president and his top law enforcement officials.

Mr. Kravchenko, who has kept a low profile since the tapes were revealed, has not been seen since the first rumors of his imminent ouster appeared. Officials at the Internal Affairs Ministry explained that Mr. Kravchenko is out of town at a relative's funeral and not available for comment.

Initial reports on the resignation of the internal affairs minister by Interfax-Ukraine and ITAR-TASS of Moscow, published on March 17, cited unnamed individuals in the presidential administration as the source of the information. They named Yurii Smirnov, the current head of the Kyiv militia, as the new minister. Mr. Smirnov was responsible for organizing the state militia and the tactics they used during Taras Shevchenko Day commemorations at Shevchenko Park on March 9.

National Deputy Yurii Karmazyn, a leading member of the anti-Kuchma forces as well as chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Corruption and Organized Crime, confirmed the reports on March 18 and indicated that a "Bloody Saturday" of sorts had occurred in the presidential administration when he explained that sources had told him the president's chief of staff, Mr. Lytvyn, had also been replaced and Procurator General Potebencko would go soon. Both rumors were later denied by President Kuchma.

However, Mr. Kravchenko's ouster seemed a done deal, especially after National Deputy Roman Bezsmertnyi told reporters on March 19 that he could confirm that a presidential decree authorizing the dismissal of Mr. Kravchenko was being prepared, although he could not say who would succeed him. More indications suggesting the accuracy of the reports appeared that day, including rumors that Mr. Smirnov had flown to Crimea to meet with Mr. Kuchma.

The story began to unravel that evening, after Prime Minister Viktor Yushenko vis-

ited the president. While many in the press had explained that the official announcement merely had been delayed until Mr. Kuchma held a meeting with his prime minister, Mr. Yushenko told reporters afterwards that he could not confirm the dismissal of Mr. Kravchenko. He said that while consultations were under way on the possible appointment of a new internal affairs minister, no decision had been reached.

Mykhailo Pohrebynskyi, director of the Center for Politics and Conflict Studies, said he believes President Kuchma has made a decision to fire his minister of internal affairs, but has stalled on a decision on a replacement. "I believe that, inside, the president wants to remove him. Because he hasn't yet, that means there are problems," explained Mr. Pohrebynskyi.

The political analyst said he believes Mr. Kravchenko has submitted a letter of resignation in preparation for the move.


National Deputy Volodymyr Filenko, a leading figure of the anti-Kuchma Forum for National Salvation, who expressed wholehearted support for the move when it was announced on March 17, explained that this could be either another bone thrown to the anti-Kuchma forces, as was the dismissal of the chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, Leonid Derkach, or merely a political tactic utilized by the president to gauge the opposition.

Even if he is out, few here believe that Mr. Kravchenko, who has long been loyal to the president and has the longest tenure of any high-ranking official either in the Kuchma administration or the government, is through. The initial Interfax-Ukraine reports had Mr. Kravchenko moving from his ministerial post to a newly created directorate for law enforcement agencies, which essentially would have been a promotion, as it would give him control over all three law enforcement bodies in the government.

Mr. Pohrebynskyi said that Mr. Kravchenko's dismissal, if it should eventually happen, would indicate that the administration believes the crisis is subsiding.

"It is a sign that the crisis is de-escalating, if there is no further outside stimulation, that is," said Mr. Pohrebynskyi. "We can expect internal rotations in the elite posts. I don't know when that will happen, but everyone understands that the odious figures will go. And there will be a political fight for their chairs."

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 28)

Pochaiv Mother of God will be holding an Easter bazaar with traditional foods, crafts, original watercolors and Ukrainian Trypillian-style pysanky by N. Gawdiak to benefit the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Silver Spring. The bazaar will take place at Westland Middle School at 5511 Massachusetts Ave. at 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For information or to order food call (301) 622-2338, after 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 1

NEWARK, N.J.: The Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey invites the community to a presentation by Ihor Pasichnyk, Ph.D., rector, and Natalia Lomiska, M.S.Ed., vice-rector, of the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ukraine. The topic will be "The Task of Educating Future Patriotic Leaders in a Democratic Ukraine." The presentation will take place at 2 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 709 Sandford Ave. For more information call (908) 608-0866

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey invites the community to a presentation by Ihor Pasichnyk, Ph.D., rector, and Natalia Lominska M.S.Ed., vice-rector, of the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ukraine. The topic will be "The Task of Educating Future Patriotic Leaders in a Democratic Ukraine." The presentation will take place at 5 p.m. at SelfReliance Hall, 98 Second Ave.

Monday, April 2

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will present the annual Petryshyn Memorial Lecture by Andrea Graziosi of the University of Naples. The lecture, titled "The Ukrainian Factor in European War and Revolution, 1905-1956," will be held in the Thompson Room at Barker Center at 4-6 p.m. For more information contact the institute, (617) 495-4053.

Saturday, April 7

EAST HANOVER, N.J.: The Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey invites the community to a presentation by Yaroslav Isaievych, historian, director of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Lviv, Ukraine. The topic will be "Why are There No Ukrainian Books in Ukraine? Economics, Politics and Psychology." The presentation will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Ramada Hotel on 130 Route 10 (westbound). For more information call (908) 608-0866.

Monday, April 9 – Friday, April 13

WASHINGTON: To mark the 15th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund will host a photo exhibit by Joseph Sywenkyj in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Building (corner of First Street and Constitution Avenue on the north side of the Capitol). The exhibit, sponsored by the office of Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) will feature photos of children in hospitals and orphanages in Ukraine, as well as photos of children who are recovering from illnesses with the help of Western medical aid. For more information contact the CCRF office, (973) 376-5140.

ONGOING

NEW YORK: La MaMa Experimental Theatre Yara Arts Group presents: "Obo: Our Shamanism," an original theater piece created by Virlana Tkacz, Sayan and Erzhen Zhabalov, featuring traditional Buryat music performed by Battuvshin and the soaring vocals of Badmahanda Aiusheyeva performing Buryat songs and Mariana Sadovska performing ancient Ukrainian songs. Set and lights are by Watoku Ueno, costumes by Kateryna Nemyra and video by Andrea Odezynska. Performances are Thursday-Sunday, 8 p.m., plus Sunday, 3 p.m., through April 1. Tickets are \$15. La MaMa Etc. is located at 74 E. Fourth St. near Second Avenue. For more information call (212)475-7710 or visit the website <http://www.brama.com/yara/>.



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 27

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group presents Adrian Karatnycky, president of Freedom House, who will discuss the current political situation in Ukraine in the aftermath of the "Gongadze Affair." The presentation will be held at Freedom House, 1319 18th St., NW (between N Street and Massachusetts Avenue) at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Thursday, March 29

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art cordially invites you to a literary evening with Yuri Andrukhovych, a renowned Ukrainian writer, at 7 p.m. at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave. The evening will be conducted in Ukrainian and English by Prof. Michael M. Naydan and actor Michael Bernosky. For more information call (773) 227-5522.

Friday, March 30

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club presents "An Evening of Humor and Satire," a literary program featuring readings of selected works by Ukrainian authors of the 18th to 21st centuries. Participants will include Stepan Heryliv, Lyubov Dmytryshyn-Chasto, Larisa Kukrytska, Volodymyr Lysniak and Nadia Savchuk. The photo exhibit "Images of Ukraine: An Intimate Portrait of Ukraine's People and Landscapes" by Yuri Lev will also be on view (until April

1.) The evening will take place at 7 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. There is a suggested donation of \$7. For more information call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 777-8144; visit the website <http://www.brama.com/mayana/>; or e-mail ukralitclub@aol.com

Saturday, March 31

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society cordially invites all to a conference dedicated to Dr. Wasyl Wytwycky, the musician and composer. Participating in the program will be: Tamara Bulat, Bohdan Vitvitsky, Larissa Onyshkevych, Liubomyr Lekhnyk (Kolomyia), Roman Sawycky and Andrij Szul. The conference will be held at 5 p.m. at the society's building at 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets).

BUFFALO, N.Y.: The Buffalo Chapter of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund will hold an opening reception of a photo exhibition by Joseph Sywenkyj and a film screening of "Living under the Cloud" by Teresa Metcalf at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center at 7-10 p.m. The film screening will begin at 8 p.m. in Hallwalls Cinema. Suggested donation \$5-\$10. The Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center is located at 2495 Main St., Suite 425. For additional information contact Olenka Bodnarskyj-Gunn, (716) 886-5881.

BETHESDA, Md.: The Sisterhood of the

(Continued on page 27)

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.



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 Lviv (3)
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 KHOTYV/Kozhichats Padilsky (1)
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