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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ukraine to gain three bishops and an exarchate

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II on January 11 gave his assent to the provisions made by the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church for the establishment of an exarchate in Donetsk-Kharkiv and the appointment of two auxiliary bishops for Lviv.

The Synod's provisions were made in accordance with the UGCC's canons, noted the Vatican Information Service (VIS).

An official Vatican release reported the following:

- The erection of the archiepiscopal exarchate of Donetsk-Kharkiv, Ukraine, and the election of the Rev. Stepan Meniok, CSsR, superior of the monastery of St. Alfonso of Lviv, as hierarch of the new exarchate.

- The election of the Revs. Ihor Vozniak, CSsR, master of novices for the Lviv province of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, and Hlib Lonchyna, MSU, collaborator at the apostolic nunciature in Kyiv, as auxiliaries for the Lviv Eparchy.

The exarch-elect, the Rev. Meniok, is a Redemptorist. He was born in Nakonechne, Ukraine, in 1949 and was ordained a priest in 1981. He was the rector of the Lviv-Rudno seminary for several years.

Bishop-elect Vozniak, a Redemptorist, was born in Lypytsi, Ukraine, in 1952 and was ordained a priest in 1980.

Bishop-elect Lonchyna, a Studite, was born in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1954 and was ordained in 1977. The Rev. Lonchyna taught courses on the Old Testament at the Lviv Theological Academy.

## Accounting Chamber reports misuse of funds

by Maryna Makhnonos

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — Ukraine's Accounting Chamber charged several government institutions with alleged misuse of 1.9 billion hrv (about \$357 million U.S.) during 2001. Several cases were registered in the industrial policy and fuel and energy ministries, according to the chamber's statements released on January 17 as part of a summary of its activity during the past five years.

In particular, the management of the Industrial Policy Ministry was blamed for ineffective control of state funds aimed at financing the sectors of hard water production and conservation of mines in 1999-2001, the statement said.

"In most cases, the planned volumes

(Continued on page 3)

## Verkhovna Rada approves anti-piracy bill

by Maryna Makhnonos

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada on January 17 in short order approved a draft bill and its final version aimed at the regulation of the compact disc production industry and prevention of piracy in the field — satisfying one of the requirements established to avoid U.S. trade sanctions.

After passing the draft in its first reading, later in the day the lawmakers returned to the issue and passed an amended bill that now goes to the president for his signature. The bill was passed six days before sanctions were to go into effect.

U.S. authorities have long threatened sanctions if Ukraine's government failed to act to stop CD piracy, which costs the international recording industry an estimated \$250 million to \$300 million a year, according to experts' estimates. A December 12, 2001, deadline was delayed after bilateral talks, but the office of the U.S. Trade Representative had ordered on December 20 that trade sanctions were to take effect on January 23. The sanctions were expected to restrict all steel and other metal exports to the United States, which the Ukrainian government fears would cost Ukraine some \$470 million annually.

The Verkhovna Rada had repeatedly failed to approve legislation that would satisfy U.S. demands.

The draft bill passed on January 17 was one of six versions previously presented to the Parliament. It allows prosecutors to enter CD production plants with a warrant that is based on specific allegations.

The bill was one of two documents reviewed by the Parliament that day. Another proposal was presented by the government; it reflected more radical U.S. demands, but was rejected by lawmakers. The government version would have allowed prosecutors to enter production premises at any time and examine any document and equipment, with or without a warrant.

The draft bill was approved by a vote of 238-5, with four abstentions; it received only 12 votes more than necessary to pass. Of the 397 deputies present, 150 ignored the vote.

Later that day, national deputies voted 233-6, with one abstention to approve the bill in its final reading. A total of 160 legislators present at the session declined to vote. The final version of the anti-piracy measure contained some amendments that took into account Ukrainian government proposals. A total of 160 legislators present at the session declined to vote.

The bill now must be signed into law by President Leonid Kuchma, and its implementation should begin 60 days after presidential action.

Leftist lawmakers, who were the main

opponents of the legislation, had argued that it would hinder the development of Ukraine's domestic high-technology production. Socialist Party Chairman Oleksander Moroz said last week that the United States would impose sanctions regardless of the Rada's actions in order to protect the U.S. metals market.

The head of a business association that favors the protection of intellectual property, Ihor Eihenvald, said on January 17 that no law will succeed in solving Ukraine's piracy problems as the companies that are outside the field would remain in the shadows.

"Those who produce this illegally are not touched by this law at all," Mr. Eihenvald said. He added that legal CD producers in Ukraine that are suspected of piracy are in fact interested in the additional controls. "Nobody had ever opposed a civilized control," Mr. Eihenvald underscored upon learning of the draft bill's approval.

Speaking after the passage of the bill's final version, pro-government lawmaker Petro Poroshenko said, "Obviously, the government's draft bill would have been better, but it's a kind of compromise that allows us to move the trade sanctions talks from standstill."

"I think the government and metallurgy producers should be satisfied," added Mr. Poroshenko, according to Fakty news on the ICTV channel.

## Candidate Yuschenko promises economic reforms and ethical politics

by Maryna Makhnonos

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — Ukraine's popular ex-Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko promised on January 16 to improve the people's standard of living via economic reforms and to uphold ethics in politics upon winning a seat in the parliamentary elections in March.

"Our highest value is the individual," Mr. Yuschenko said as he opened a meeting of his Our Ukraine bloc. The Interfax news agency quoted him as saying: "Our main goal is to secure conditions for a person's self-realization as an individual, as a citizen and as an owner."

At the meeting, which attracted about 2,000 delegates, Mr. Yuschenko announced the list of candidates fielded by his bloc.

The top five posts are held by Mr. Yuschenko; the head of Ukraine's trade union federation, Oleksander Stoyan; the chairmen of two Rukh parties, Hennadii Udovenko and Yurii Kostenko; and the leader of the Reforms and Order Party Viktor Pynzenyk.

Other well-known candidates on the Our Ukraine list are the president of the Obolon beer company, Oleksander Slobodian; Rukh leader Ivan Zayats; former Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk; and former Vice Prime

Minister in charge of Cultural Affairs Mykola Zhulynskyi.

Mr. Yuschenko said his bloc of reformist and nationalist pro-government parties will become a joint faction or even a joint party in the new Parliament.

He also revealed plans to cooperate with the Yednist (Unity) political bloc led by Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko, and the pro-presidential bloc For United Ukraine headed by Volodymyr Lytvyn, the presidential chief of staff.

"We are sure that important partners of our bloc will demonstrate a pragmatic policy, especially in economics," Mr. Yuschenko said.

The ex-prime minister also urged honest politics in the Verkhovna Rada, promising to adhere to the principles of morality, transparency and humanity.

"Ukrainian politics lack honesty," Mr. Yuschenko said, drawing attention to a problem that had affected him personally in the form of a tape scandal that roiled the country last week.

The scandal was launched January 9, when a nationalist politician, Dmytro Ponomarchuk, publicized a telephone conversation between Mr. Yuschenko and Mr. Omelchenko. Mr. Ponomarchuk accused both leaders of organizing a plot in the Parliament against former Rada Vice-Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk



Andrew Nynka

Viktor Yuschenko

In the taped conversation, Mr. Omelchenko angrily urged Mr. Yuschenko to organize the collection of deputies' signatures for an upcoming vote in the Verkhovna Rada. However, it was not immediately clear from the con-

(Continued on page 6)



## ANALYSIS

## A round-up of party congresses prepping for parliamentary elections

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

A congress of the For a United Ukraine election bloc on January 12 approved its election manifesto and list of candidates for the March 31 parliamentary ballot, UNIAN reported. The first five individuals on the list include the bloc's leader and head of the presidential administration, Volodymyr Lytvyn; the head of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh; National Deputy Yekateryna Vaschuk; the general director of the Mariupol Ilich metallurgical plant, Volodymyr Boiko; and the rector of Taras Shevchenko National University, Viktor Skopenko.

The second five on the list are National Democratic Party Chairman and Transport Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko; Labor Ukraine Party Chairman Serhii Tyhypko; Party of Regions Chairman Volodymyr Semynozhenko; Agrarian Party leader Mykhailo Hladii; and the First Vice Minister of the Transport Ministry, Heorhii Kyrpa.

The list continues with National Deputy Andrii Derkach; famous sportsman Serhii Bubka; Yuris Company President Mykola Onishchuk; Presidential Adviser Anatolii Tolstoukhov; Ivan Zubets; Minister of Agricultural Policy Ivan Kyrylenko; National Deputy Oleksander Karpov; Industrial Policy Minister Vasyl Hureyev; Ivan Kuras, the director of the Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies; and National Deputy Ihor Sharov.

National Deputy Dmytro Tabachnyk is No. 21 on the list, and the president of the Professional Soccer League, Ravil Safiullin, is No. 22.

The congress also approved candidates in single-seat constituencies. The bloc's 225 candidates include Parliament Chairman Ivan Pliusch (Chernihiv Oblast); Presidential Adviser Leonid Kadaniuk (Chernivtsi Oblast); former Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk (Mykolaiv Oblast); Parliament Vice-Chairman Stepan Havrysh (Kharkiv Oblast); First Vice-Chairman of the State Tax Administration Ihor Kalinichenko (Vinnytsia Oblast); and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea Valerii Horbatov (Crimea).

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A congress of the Socialist Party on January 12 approved its election manifesto and list of candidates for the March elections to the Verkhovna Rada, Interfax reported. The top five on the Socialist Party's election list include Socialist Party Chairman Oleksander Moroz; National Deputies Valentyna Semeniuk and Ivan Bokyi; the secretary of the party's political council and coordinator of the now-defunct anti-presidential movement Ukraine Without Kuchma, Yurii Lutsenko; and the editor-in-chief of the opposition newspaper Silski Visti, Ivan Spodarenko.

The list also includes Maj. Mykola Melnychenko, who currently resides in the United States, where he was granted political asylum, who is No. 15. In 2000, Mr. Melnychenko triggered the tape scandal by releasing what he said were records of conversations in the presi-

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

dent's office, allegedly hinting at President Leonid Kuchma's complicity in the murder of opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze and a host of other crimes.

Referring to a conversation with Mr. Melnychenko, Mr. Moroz told journalists that the former presidential bodyguard will take part in the election campaign on Ukrainian territory.

\*\*\*

A congress of the Natalia Vitrenko Bloc on January 12 approved its list of candidates for the parliamentary ballot, Interfax reported. The top five candidates on the list are activists of the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine: Ms. Vitrenko, Volodymyr Marchenko, Liudmyla Bezuhla, Petro Romanchuk and Mykhailo Sydorchuk.

\*\*\*

A congress of the Women for the Future political association on January 12 approved its election list for the ballot, UNIAN reported. The top figures on the list are Valentyna Dovzhenko, the association's leader; Maria Orlyk, the head of the Union of Ukrainian Women; Iryna Belousova, vice-chairman of Women for the Future; Tetiana Selikhova, director of the Dynamo-Silyer plant; and Andrii Ivanov, a member of the Women for the Future central board.

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A congress of the all-Ukrainian leftist union Justice on January 12 approved its election manifesto and list of candidates for the Rada elections. The party election list is headed by poet Mykola Lukiv, the editor-in-chief of the Dnipro magazine. The party's leader, Ivan Chyzyh, will run in a one-seat constituency in the Khmelnytska Oblast.

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A congress of the Russian Bloc on January 10 approved its election manifesto and list of candidates for the March 31 ballot. The top five candidates are: Oleksandr Svystunov, the leader of the For a Single Rus Party and the Russian Movement of Ukraine; Ivan Symonenko, the leader of the Russian-Ukrainian Union Party; Oleh Liutikov and Ihor Pylayev, activists of the For a Single Rus' Party; and Svitlana Savchenko, the leader of the Union Party.

The Russian Bloc's election manifesto calls for the creation of "a single economic, informational and cultural area of Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus on the basis of a close interstate union," and for "the equality of the two state languages – Russian and Ukrainian," Interfax reported.

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The Central Election Commission has approved the distribution of funds for conducting the March 31 parliamentary election, Interfax reported on January 10. The 2002 budget provides for the allocation of 291.1 million hrv (\$55 million) for the balloting.

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According to a recent poll conducted by the Oleksander Razumkov Center of Economic and Political Studies among Kyiv residents, only 19.8 percent of respondents believe that the March 31 parliamentary election will be more "democratic and transparent" than previous ballots in the 10 years of Ukraine's independence, Interfax reported on January 12.

Some 59.7 percent of respondents

(Continued on page 23)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Rada wants probe of alleged arms sales

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on January 15 backed a motion by National Deputies Hryhorii Omelchenko and Anatolii Yermak requesting the Procurator General's Office and the Security Service of Ukraine to check the recent allegations by Germany's Der Spiegel of illegal sales of Ukrainian arms, UNIAN and Interfax reported. Quoting Russian State Duma Deputy Viktor Iliukhin in an article published on its website, Der Spiegel said Israeli citizen Vadym Rabinovych jointly with the former chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, Leonid Derkach, and his son, Andrii Derkach, had sold "military equipment" to the Taliban. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Communists want to oust election official

KYIV – Communist Party Chairman Petro Symonenko appealed to the Parliament on January 15 to dismiss Central Election Commission Chairman Mykhailo Riabets, Interfax and UNIAN reported. Mr. Symonenko said Mr. Riabets and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual recently signed an accord on U.S. assistance to Ukraine's Central Election Commission in organizing the parliamentary election. According to Mr. Symonenko, this accord is "brutal interference" on the part of the United States in Ukraine's internal affairs. Mr. Riabets commented later the same day that the accord does not provide for financing the election campaign but only for technical assistance measures, including training sessions for judges and an international conference to sum up election results. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Deputies' foreign accounts to be probed

KYIV – The Procurator-General's Office has launched an investigation into the opening of foreign bank accounts by six Ukrainian legislators, Interfax reported on January 11, quoting a letter by Deputy Procurator General Oleksii Bahanets to Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch. The lawmakers suspected of illegally opening bank accounts in Switzerland are: Oleksander Volkov, Ihor Bakai, Pavlo Riabkin, Oleksii Kucherenko, Kostiantyn Zhevaho and Volodymyr Satsiuk. The investigation was opened following a motion by National Deputies Hryhorii Omelchenko and Anatolii Yermak. Last month, Messrs. Omelchenko and Yermak demanded explanations from the Procurator General's Office about an Internet report alleging that Swiss police had blocked some 200 bank accounts belonging to Russian and Ukrainian com-

panies and citizens. The report mentioned the six Ukrainian lawmakers. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kyiv may sell military hardware to UAE

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko said in Abu Dhabi on January 15 that the support provided by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for Ukraine's entrance into the World Trade Organization can become an important tool for improving bilateral cooperation, UNIAN reported. In particular, Mr. Zlenko noted that Ukraine is ready to supply military and transport aviation, armored vehicles, and radar equipment to the UAE. The Ukrainian side also expressed interest in receiving humanitarian aid from the UAE for the resettlement of deported Crimean Tatars, and for cooperation programs to build residential housing and establish the necessary infrastructure in Crimean Tatar settlements. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Macedonian delegation visits Ukraine

KYIV – Ukraine will help Macedonia upgrade its military equipment, Interfax reported on January 15. An agreement to this effect was reached during a meeting of Ukrainian General Staff chief Petro Shuliak with his Macedonian counterpart, Metodi Stamboliski, in Kyiv on January 15. Mr. Stamboliski told journalists that the talks focused on the equipment already delivered by Ukraine to Macedonia and ruled out any new weapons acquisitions. The Skopje daily Dnevnik reported on January 15 that Mr. Stamboliski was scheduled to discuss cooperation with Mr. Shuliak, as well as Defense Minister Volodymyr Shkidchenko and Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko. The visit was not billed as an arms-buying mission. According to DPA news agency, the Ukrainian government said that it has already provided Macedonia with four Mi-8 general-purpose helicopters, four Mi-24 helicopter gunships, four Su-25 ground attack jets, and 31 T-72 tanks. Including two recently acquired Mi-24 helicopters from Ukraine, the Macedonian army now has 12 Mi-24, four Mi-8, and three Mi-17 helicopters, Dnevnik reported. The newspaper added that the Macedonian Interior Ministry has also shown strong interest in buying four Mi-24 helicopter gunships. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Memorial rededicated at Kuropaty

KUROPATY – Several hundred people participated on January 15 in a reded-

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## Ukraine, Brazil agree to cooperate in space and oil/gas exploration

by **Maryna Makhnonos**

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – A visiting delegation led by Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso laid the groundwork on January 16 for several bilateral deals on oil and gas exploration off Ukraine's coast, and made provisions for the joint construction of a space booster rocket.

Mr. Cardoso met with President Leonid Kuchma and Ukraine's top ministers during his two-day visit to Kyiv after arriving from neighboring Russia, where he held four days of talks with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

Among the eight bilateral documents signed by President Cardoso's delegation was a joint project that would allow both states to offer space research services at the Alcantar space center in Brazil. The deal would make it possible for Ukrainian scientists to work at the facility, and allow Brazilian space researchers to use a Ukrainian-designed Ziklon-4 booster rocket.

The delegations also agreed that Brazil's Petrobras company would assist Ukraine with technology for deep sea exploration of the Black and Azov seas for oil and gas.

Vadym Kopylov, the head of Naftogaz, Ukraine's state oil and natural gas company, said on January 16 that such exploration is impossible at this stage as Ukraine lacks the appropriate equipment, while the world's leading companies in the natural resources exploration sector show very little interest in Ukraine.

"I think that we can have mutually beneficial cooperation with Brazil," Mr. Kopylov said. "It has to do with mentality, because we understand each other well."

Officials also signed a convention on prevention of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion, an agreement simplifying export and import financial operations, and an agreement on assistance in criminal investigations.

President Kuchma praised the Brazilian government for achieving economic success, saying its example was worthy of emulation. Ukraine has suffered economic decline and has been struggling to reform its economy since its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The trade volume between Ukraine and Brazil was \$169 million (U.S.) in 2000, which is up 16 percent from the 1999 level, the State Statistics Committee said. Bilateral trade in the first nine months of 2001 was \$110.7 million, it added.

Brazil is home to about 500,000 members of Ukraine's diaspora.

## Accounting Chamber...

(Continued from page 1)

of financing for recipients of state funds were determined and corrected without the necessary basic calculations," the Accounting Chamber said in its statement. In one case alone, more than 500,000 hrv (\$94,161) were misappropriated instead of financing a mine's conservation in eastern Ukraine.

Another case revealed that the Fuel and Energy Ministry had violated legislation that regulates state support for coal mines. In addition, the ministry had organized ineffective tenders to acquire mining equipment, blocking more than 3 million hrv (\$565,000) for two months in 2001.

The head of the Accounting Chamber, Valentyn Symonenko, said on January 10 that his service had made about 2,500

## ANALYSIS: The Communist Party, the executive and Ukraine's approaching elections

by **Taras Kuzio**

RFE/RL Newswire

Two recent decisions by the Constitutional Court and the executive in Ukraine have again raised the question of the relationship between the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) and the executive. The timing of those decisions, during the run-up to the March 31 parliamentary elections, is in itself suspicious.

First, on December 29, 2001, the Constitutional Court rejected as unconstitutional a decade-old ban on the CPU and stated that only the courts have the power to declare political parties illegal. The CPU was suspended and subsequently banned by two resolutions of the parliamentary presidium on August 26 and 30, 1991. All CPU property and other assets were nationalized by the Ukrainian state, although the Constitutional Court rejected calls for these assets to be returned to the post-Soviet CPU. The Constitutional Court's December 2001 ruling was the result of a motion submitted by 139 left-wing deputies as far back as January 23, 1997.

With 3.5 million members, the Communist Party of Ukraine was the largest republican Communist Party in the USSR until the Russian SFSR created its own republican branch in 1990. The CPU was fortuitously registered as a party independent of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) only on July 22, 1991, a month before Ukraine declared independence and the CPU was banned. Allowed to re-establish itself in October 1993, the current CPU claims to be the direct descendant of the Soviet-era CPU. Nevertheless, it has managed to attract only about 150,000 members, or less than 5 percent of its Soviet-era membership.

The relative weight of the CPU within Ukraine's multiparty system, therefore, is less due to its size than to Ukraine still being an unconsolidated democracy, the weakness and diffusion of Ukraine's remaining 129 political parties, and the ideological amorphousness

*Taras Kuzio is a research associate at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto.*

## Correction

The article headlined "The government-criminal alliance" (January 13) contained an error in the second paragraph. The reference to Ukraine's International Affairs Ministry should read Internal Affairs Ministry.

revisions and checked some 2,000 institutions and enterprises in 1997-2001, according to the Interfax news agency. Mr. Symonenko noted that the chamber had uncovered about 12 billion hrv (\$2.26 billion, according to the current exchange rate) in misused funds during that period.

Mr. Symonenko said that "lack of financial, economic and tax policies" is the main reason for the misuse of funds.

Ukraine's economy suffered a severe economic recession since winning independence in 1991 after the collapse of the USSR. The country's post-Soviet transition period was accompanied by large-scale corruption and high-profile money-laundering schemes.

The Accounting Chamber was established in 1997 to control financial operations of the state sector; it is subordinate to the Verkhovna Rada.

of the oligarchic center.

Support for the CPU during the 1990s has declined from approximately 30 percent to 20 percent of the electorate, and is drawn mainly from pensioners and veterans (former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc is the first Ukrainian political force to be more popular than the CPU). This support ranges from its high concentration of voters and members in the industrialized east and Crimea, to very low support in western Ukraine.

Throughout the 1990s, pro-statehood ideas evolved across the Ukrainian political spectrum from the center-right, which propelled Ukraine to independence, through the oligarchic center to the center-left (including the Socialist Party). The only main party to escape this evolution was the CPU. Ukraine's ethnic and linguistic divisions have prevented the evolution of the CPU into a post-Communist or national Communist party (the national communists left in 1990-1991). The Socialist Party, therefore, has taken upon itself the role of a pro-statehood, left-wing post-Communist party.

At its height, the combined left bloc had 170 to 180 deputies in the 1998-2002 Verkhovna Rada – still less than a majority but more united than the fractious non-left. This unity of the left was ended in November 2000 by the "Kuchmagate" scandal that opened a wide gulf between the CPU and the Socialist Party, which played a central role in the crisis and remains one of the two wings of the radi-

cal anti-Kuchma opposition. Mykola Melnychenko, the presidential guard who recorded audiotapes of conversations in Mr. Kuchma's office, is to run for election on the Socialist Party list.

The second recent development concerns the relationship between the executive and the CPU. President Leonid Kuchma has repeatedly reiterated that "there is only one real opposition in Ukraine," the Communist Party, and has refused to recognize any non-CPU opposition to his "pragmatic centrism." Mr. Kuchma identifies "opposition" to him in the Soviet sense as opposition to the state he supposedly personifies. Consequently, by definition only the CPU can be in "opposition" as it is the only major party that is opposed to Ukraine's independence.

The CPU had shielded President Kuchma from blame during the height of the Kuchmagate crisis by not supporting parliamentary votes of no-confidence in Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko – this despite Mr. Potebenko's inept and unsympathetic investigation of the murder of opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze in September-November 2000.

Commenting on Mr. Potebenko, CPU Chairman Petro Symonenko said this month that "there is nothing to reproach him for." The CPU will again abstain from a parliamentary vote of no-confidence in Mr. Potebenko's record as procurator-general in the near future. Mr.

(Continued on page 21)

## Ukrainian immigrant wins \$12.6 M in New York Lottery

by **Andrew J. Nynka**

NEW YORK – New York Lottery Director Margaret R. DeFrancisco announced on January 11 that Ukrainian immigrant Aleksandra Pilyavskaya was the sole winner of the \$24 million drawing on December 19, 2001.

The 31-year-old Dnipropetrovsk native, a medical office assistant chose the lump sum option and took home a total of over \$12.6 million.

"My family came to America over four years ago," said Ms. Pilyavskaya. "My sister kept telling me to move to America, too. I missed my family very much and decided two years ago that I would move [to the United States]. Winning this money will make things better. I will go to school so I can learn to speak better English. After I learn, I would like to teach others."

Ms. Pilyavskaya said she would not move back to Ukraine, but plans to stay in the United States although she

wants to spend some of the money traveling around the world. She also said she wants to send some of the money back to relatives left in Ukraine.

Ms. Pilyavskaya moved to America with her husband, Vladimir, and their daughter, Marina. The couple chose their winning numbers based on their anniversary and birthdays. Their winning ticket was purchased at a newsstand and grocery store in Brooklyn.

As a direct result of Ms. Pilyavskaya's winning the \$24 million jackpot, the New York Lottery's Education Wins! program will donate a computer equipment package to Brooklyn's Three Hierarchs School – a randomly chosen school located in the same zip code as the jackpot winner. The parochial school, whose students include Greek, Russian and Ukrainian youths, received a \$1,000 credit to use toward basic system items such as monitors and printers, as well as peripherals, including scanners and digital cameras.



Andrew Nynka

**Ukrainian-born Aleksandra Pilyavskaya receives her check from New York Lottery Director Margaret R. DeFrancisco.**



## OBITUARY: The Rev. Vital Wasyl Pidskalny, former vice-general and Canadian provincial superior of Basilian Fathers



The Rev. Vital Wasyl Pidskalny (right) in 1989, meeting with Pope John Paul II.

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – The Rev. Vital Wasyl Pidskalny, OSBM, who held senior positions with the Ukrainian Catholic Basilian Fathers in Canada and Rome, and was one of six members of his family who entered religious life, died in Saskatoon on December 10, 2001, after a yearlong battle with prostate cancer. He was 80 years old.

Funeral services were held in Edmonton on December 14-15, 2001, and in Winnipeg on the following two days before the Rev. Pidskalny's remains were laid to rest at Holy Family Cemetery, located just north of St. Nicholas Church in Winnipeg, where he served for more than a decade.

Widely regarded as a deeply pious man who conducted himself through life with quiet dignity and humility, the Rev. Pidskalny approached death in a similar

manner, according to his nephew, the Rev. Peter Pidskalny, 56, a Ukrainian Catholic Redemptorist priest and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Wynyard, Sask.

"I had the chance to be with him several times before he passed on and was strengthened by seeing a person of such strong faith who was so well-prepared to die," the Rev. Pidskalny said.

He explained that during his uncle's final days at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Saskatoon, Father Vital barely moved or spoke. However, just hours before he passed away, the Sisters of St. Joseph at the nursing home brought the 14-foot-tall World Youth Day Cross – currently traveling across Canada in preparation of Pope John Paul II's visit to Toronto in July for World Youth Day celebrations – into Father Vital's room.

"He half-propped himself up, looked at

the cross and made a gentle sign of the cross on it before kissing it. That was the last thing he did before dying a few hours later," the Rev. Pidskalny said. "It was a very holy death."

Those who knew the Rev. Pidskalny remembered a priest who lived a very holy life.

Born in Ethelbert, Manitoba, on January 28, 1921, to Joseph and Melania Pidskalny, who arrived in Canada as part of the first wave of Ukrainian settlers during the 1890s, Wasyl (one of 11 children) followed his older brother, Stefan (later Father Soter), into the Basilian community.

At the age of 15, Wasyl entered the Order of St. Basil the Great, St. Josaphat Novitiate in Mundare, Alberta, and chose the religious name Vital.

In 1942 he professed his solemn vows with the Basilians and on August 2, 1947, was ordained to the priesthood in Grimsby, Ontario, by the late Archbishop Wasyl Ladyka of Winnipeg.

Though he served as pastor of parishes in Vegreville, Mundare and Edmonton (the latter two also as superior of the Basilian communities) in Alberta, as well as in Vancouver and Winnipeg, the Rev. Pidskalny became best known in Ukrainian Catholic circles as a leader.

While in Winnipeg he served as provincial superior of the Basilians in Canada and the United Kingdom from 1970 to 1982, afterward holding the vice-general's position at the order's headquarters in Rome until 1992, when he returned to Canada.

A reserved man by nature, the six-foot-tall, white-haired priest nonetheless struck an imposing regal presence with his handsome features and perfect posture. "You could put a book on his head and it wouldn't fall off," surmised Father Peter, whose father, John, 85, of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, is the last surviving sibling.

Actually, many had expected that the Rev. Pidskalny's head would have balanced a mitre, but the episcopacy was a career path that appeared to hold little interest for the Basilian monk. Encouraging vocations to the priesthood, if not entrants to the Basilian order, captured most of his attention.

Perhaps part of his motivation was genetic. In addition to his brother, who predeceased him, the Rev. Pidskalny had a sister, the late Donna, who joined the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate and was later joined in that religious community by a niece, Anne, now in Winnipeg. Another nephew, Joseph Pidskalny, Father Peter's younger brother, is a Basilian priest in Vancouver.

As the last surviving religious member of his generation in the Pidskalny family, Father Vital became a spiritual mentor to his two nephews and one niece who pursued their own vocations within the Church, explained Father Peter, former principal of St. Vladimir's High School and Minor Seminary in Roblin, Manitoba.

"He was very knowledgeable and always level-headed, and would always give good advice. But the way he gave advice was that it was not like it was coming from the top but felt almost as if you were coming up with the ideas yourself," he recalled.

Always ready to serve as wise counsel, the Rev. Pidskalny was also known to loosen his clerical collar with family and friends with whom he would display his dry sense of humor. He loved smoking a pipe, was skillful at playing shuffleboard and had an artist's eye when it came to snapping photographs or taking home movies.

Mainly though, Father Peter remembers a man who held great affection and loyalty for both his blood relatives and religious family.

### The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: December 2001

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\$1,000.00	Self Reliance (NY) FCU	New York, N.Y.	Dorothy Wylder	Vacaville, Calif.	Peter Stefanow	Worcester, Mass.	
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**Total: \$2,765.00**

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# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## UNA district chairpersons meet in special session at Soyuzivka

by Martha Lysko

UNA National Secretary

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – A meeting of the district chairmen of the Ukrainian National Association was held at Soyuzivka on November 29, 2001. This was the first time since 1992 that the district chairmen had an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and discuss many issues facing UNA branches and districts, and the UNA's organizers.

In attendance were 13 district representatives and members of the UNA Executive Committee. Participants included: Nick Fil, Albany, N.Y.; Anna Haras, Allentown, Pa.; Stefko Kuropas, Chicago; Alexander Serafyn, Detroit; Ihor Hayda, Connecticut; Tekla Moroz, Montreal; Barbara Bachynsky, New York; Michael Zacharko, Central New Jersey; Eugene Oscislowski, Northern New Jersey; Stepan Hawrysz, Philadelphia; Christine Dziuba, Rochester, N.Y.; Ivan Hvozda, Syracuse, N.Y.; and Henry Bolosky, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; and Myron Groch, Niagara District.

The meeting was conducted by UNA President Ulana Diachuk, National Secretary Martha Lysko and Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj.

Mrs. Diachuk opened the meeting. With a moment of silence all present honored the recently departed Leon Hardink, Woonsocket District chairman, who had passed away a week earlier.

The first item on the agenda was reports by the district chairmen on the fraternal and organizing activities in their respective districts.

The first district to report was Albany. Mr. Fil, the district chairman, reported that the Albany District had organized 30 new members for the first nine months of 2001, achieving 75 percent of its annual quota. Albany has over 1,000 members in five UNA branches. The champion organizer for the district is UNA Advisor Stephanie Hawryluk, secretary of Branch 88, who organized 15 members during the report period.

The Albany District, according to Mr. Fil, has the most fraternal activities in the entire UNA network of districts and as a result of these activities the district was able to achieve such a high percentage of its organizing quota. Each month the district alone, or with other local organizations, sponsors dances, picnics, bazaars or other activities. They get together to bake bread or for breakfast



UNA district committee leaders with UNA executive officers during their meeting at Soyuzivka.

after liturgy and church suppers. All proceeds go to various charitable projects, such as to buy candy for the children's Christmas Party, sponsor a seminary student in Ukraine, support a local public television stations that featured the Virsky Dancers and other worthwhile causes. Such activities give the secretaries a chance to be seen and to be active in the community, as well as a chance to look for new members while doing fraternal activities.

Second in order of fraternal activities is the Detroit District, chaired by Dr. Serafyn, UNA auditor, who detailed the activities of his district. Together with Shevchenko Scientific Society the district sponsored a lecture on the Ukrainian language. It participated with the Dibrova Committee in the annual clean-up day at the Dibrova resort in preparation for opening the camp for the summer season. In a longstanding summer tradition, UNA Day was held at Dibrova with a large turnout of UNA members.

(Continued on page 19)

## Weekly receives more donations to "Copies for Congress" project

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Self Reliance (NY) Federal Credit Union, New York has contributed \$3,000 to The Ukrainian Weekly's "Copies for Congress" project. The donation arrived at The Weekly's offices at the end of 2001, along with an additional \$1,000 donation toward The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

Another contribution was received on January 15 from The Selfreliance Baltimore Federal Credit Union, which sent a check for \$250 for the "Copies for Congress" project, along with wishes for "much success in your work for the benefit of the Ukrainian nation in the new year 2002."

Thus far four Ukrainian American credit unions and two individuals have

responded to The Ukrainian Weekly's letter of November 16, 2001, soliciting donations for its "Copies for Congress" project, which provides free subscriptions to all members of the U.S. Congress.

The Weekly's editor-in-chief had written to the Ukrainian American community's strongest financial institutions, its credit unions, as well as leading Ukrainian community institutions and organizations to solicit donations for the "Copies for Congress" project, whose annual cost is approximately \$30,000.

Since that letter was sent The Weekly has received \$5,000 in donations.

### RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – NOVEMBER 2001

Martha Lysko, National Secretary

	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 10/2001	6,589	13,771	3,082	23,442
Total Inactive Members – 10/2001	7,404	17,511	0	24,915
Total Members – 10/2001	13,993	31,282	3,082	48,357

#### ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 11/2001				
New members	15	22	0	37
New members UL	0	2	0	2
Reinstated	4	10	8	22
<b>Total Gains:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61</b>
Losses in 11/2001				
Died	0	27	0	27
Cash surrender	13	18	0	31
Endowment matured	15	21	0	36
Fully paid-up	20	17	0	37
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	15	17	0	32
Certificates lapsed (active)	4	5	26	35
Certificate terminated	2	6	5	13
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>211</b>
Total Active Members – 11/2001	6,539	13,694	3,059	23,292

#### INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 11/2001				
Paid-up	20	17	0	37
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	15	17	0	32
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>
Losses in 11/2001				
* Died	1	30	0	31
* Cash surrender	9	22	0	31
Pure endowment matured	2	6	0	8
Reinstated to active	4	18	0	22
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	1	7	0	8
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
Total Inactive Members – 11/2001	7,422	17,462	0	24,884
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 11/2001</b>	<b>13,961</b>	<b>31,156</b>	<b>3,059</b>	<b>48,176</b>

(\* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)



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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### A change in U.S. policy?

When U.S. President George W. Bush made his first trek to Europe last summer, he delivered what is still considered by some his most incisive foreign policy speech, calling for an "open" Europe, to include Ukraine.

"The Europe we are building must include Ukraine," said Mr. Bush during a speech in Poland at Warsaw University on June 15. The words gave every indication that Ukraine would continue to receive a good deal of American attention, and that a U.S. policy of supporting Ukrainian national interests against attempts at de-stabilization by its former colonial master, Moscow, would be retained.

Then came September 11, which was followed by a U.S. initiative to bring Russia into the coalition leading the fight against global terrorism. As relations between the two former arch-enemies warmed considerably, one of the issues that had distanced them in the recent past, namely the U.S. missile defense shield, also seemed to dissolve. Recently the situation between them has become so cozy that Washington may have agreed to allow Moscow to resume its influence over Ukraine.

For most of the 1990s, the U.S. retained a keen interest in Ukraine, going so far as to declare a "strategic partnership" with the country. The soundings from Washington unwaveringly let it be known that Moscow had to control its desire to see Ukraine returned to its geopolitical fold. But with Ukraine nuclear-free and Chernobyl shut down, two priorities of U.S. foreign policy in attempting to maintain world stability had been accomplished. Now there are indications that Washington no longer has the same strong desire to keep Moscow and Kyiv at arm's length, a scenario that was presented in *The New York Times* on January 13. The news story reported that the United States is not concerned about closer relations between Kyiv and Moscow and is even encouraging them.

The Russian newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* went a serious step further in an article published back on December 29 when it stated that, not only was the U.S. supporting a Moscow-Kyiv axis, but that it had gone so far as to develop a new policy for its relations with Russia and Ukraine, which the newspaper labeled the "Rice Doctrine" (after U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, who is said to have authored the policy). According to *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, the Rice Doctrine provides that "Russia has a right to special interests outside its borders and, consequently, to the special handling of Ukraine." The author of the piece, a Taras Galyuk, writes: "Naturally it does not require the United States to abandon Ukraine completely or give up all levers of influence there. It seems, however, that the ostentatious interest in the Ukrainian issue once displayed by America is history now."

The veracity and accuracy of the article can easily be questioned because it is fraught with anti-Ukrainian sentiments, but the fact remains that to date – two weeks since it was published – no U.S. government official has expressly rejected that there is a new Russia-U.S. policy on Ukraine.

While never offering that the U.S. had in any way condoned the return of Ukraine to Russia's sphere of influence, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual was quoted in *The New York Times* article as saying that he supports the deepening of relations between the two Slavic states. "We see no contradiction between Ukraine's 'European choice' and stable, normal relations with Russia," said Mr. Pascual. "Ukraine can – and should – pursue both. A stable, confident and reforming Ukraine would be the kind of neighbor that could encourage a reform-minded Russia on its own transition path. The obverse is likewise true."

The U.S. Embassy told *The Weekly* that a key portion of the quote, omitted in the *Times* story, underscored the ambassador's concern that Ukraine astutely take care to make sure that new relations do not end with Moscow again asserting domination over the country. "A key for Ukraine today is to keep its relations with Russia transparent so that all can see that Ukraine's actions indeed reinforce Ukraine's sovereignty and national interests," Mr. Pascual had added, according to an embassy spokesperson.

While the ambassador's sensitivity to Ukraine's tragic, colonial past is heartening, it remains disconcerting that the U.S. indeed seems to have accepted, if not encouraged, a new geopolitical alignment in the region. The U.S. failure to offer an unequivocal statement that a "Rice Doctrine" does not exist leaves a lingering concern that the U.S. and Russia have adopted a new common policy on Ukraine.

The lack of a clear message on the part of the U.S. only increases the concern that Washington and Moscow have returned to playing a geopolitical chess game. We cannot accept that the fate of a country of 49 million could again be determined by those two governments as happened after World War II. We must now diligently watch how relations involving Washington, Kyiv and Moscow continue to unfold, and we must understand that what is currently in the best interest of the U.S. is not necessarily advantageous for Kyiv as well.

Jan.  
25  
1996

### Turning the pages back...

Six years ago, on January 25, 1996, Petro Shelest, the leader of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR, who was ousted in 1972 for nationalistic tendencies as a result of his defense of the Ukrainian language and culture, died in

Moscow at the age of 87.

Mr. Shelest's death was announced in Moscow by the Embassy of Ukraine. Reuters quoted Petro Tolochko, vice-president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, as saying of the former Communist Party leader: "Shelest was one of the first in the Soviet era to lay the cornerstone for Ukrainian statehood."

"He was a party man in the Soviet mold, but in his heart he felt where Ukraine's interests lay and acted in favor of this national development as much as this was permitted," Mr. Tolochko added.

(Continued on page 23)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Where have the young professionals gone?

by Andrij Wowk

A recent editorial in *The Ukrainian Weekly* focused on the general activity of Ukrainian students in cultural, social, and political circles by asking the question, "Where have all the students gone?"

Although many Ukrainian American youths are active in various student clubs and Ukrainian organizations, there does appear to be another missing generation of sorts in a broader scope: individuals in their 20s and 30s who are in the process of developing their careers.

One argument is that as young professionals develop their careers, the amount of "free time" which they can devote to social, cultural and political issues becomes reduced. However, this does not seem to be consistent with the reality of the modern Ukrainian American community. Since the wave of Ukrainian immigration after World War II, many members of our community have reached high, respectable professional-positions. These people have incredible value to people entering the business world. In fact, it would appear that our cultural ties would form an excellent foundation for developing professional level networking ties, which would aid our youth to further their careers.

In essence, there should be a second level of community involvement, into which young people can step as they leave the collegiate world. And we have already the organizations in place that would allow such involvement: the various professional organizations in the Ukrainian community. Even if one does not work in a directly related field, these organizations still hold

*Andrij Wowk is president of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America. He may be reached via e-mail: wowk@email.com.*

### Candidate Yushenko...

(Continued from page 1)

versation what the vote was about.

Mr. Medvedchuk was dismissed the same day as the conversation took place, and the Ukrainian media burst forth with speculations that Mr. Yushenko was being ordered to organize enough lawmakers to vote in support of the Rada vice-chairman's dismissal.

Some reports have expressed surprise that Mr. Omelchenko spoke in a commanding tone to one of the country's most significant and popular politicians.

Other reports commented with irony that the tape scandal has become a "national peculiarity" of Ukrainian politics. They recalled the high-profile case involving President Leonid Kuchma, when his bodyguard released audiotapes allegedly documenting the president's orders to silence an opposition journalist.

Mr. Kuchma had denied those charges, and the tapes' authenticity have never been proven, but Ukraine's international image was badly tarnished.

Meanwhile, the release of Mr. Yushenko's taped backfired on Mr. Ponomarchuk. His allies criticized the release and, according to the *Korrespondent.net* Internet newsletter, said they would exclude Mr. Ponomarchuk from their party list in the elections.

Mr. Yushenko called the scandal a "weak morality" act by his opponents, and assured the public he has nothing to hide.

much value for young professionals. If one Ukrainian can put another Ukrainian in contact with someone who eventually leads to the "right person" (even if that person is not Ukrainian), then our networking has tremendous value.

Ironically, although this second level does exist in the form of organizations such as the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA), people do not appear to recognize their networking potential. The UESA, for example, recently conducted a survey to obtain a better understanding of its membership's demographics. One item that became clear was that the age of the membership was heavily skewed towards the higher end of the age scale, while the younger members were largely under-represented. This age distribution does not appear to be limited to our organization as other organizations have noticed similar divisions in their membership rolls and in the attendance at their events.

So, ultimately, we're back to the question of "where are our young professionals hiding," and what is necessary to re-engage them in our Ukrainian American professional organizations. In an effort to make some progress in tackling this question, the national board of directors of UESA is organizing an informal meeting or "summit" of Ukrainian organizations and other interested parties, tentatively scheduled for March, to address this very issue. Many professional and student organizations have already expressed interest in coming to this event. The summit will serve as a brainstorming session to see what can be done to engage the missing demographic group. The goal is to develop ideas, challenge current assumptions and find potential solutions, which can be beneficial to all the respective organizations – and to our young professionals.

"I am not afraid of any information aimed at damaging my image," Mr. Yushenko said at a news conference on January 14. "I conduct myself legally and transparently."

He also harshly criticized another political move by a lawmaker, Oleksander Rzhavskyi, who surprisingly declared a new bloc called For Yushenko and included the ex-prime minister on the bloc's top candidates list.

Mr. Yushenko repeatedly dismissed any chance of his participation in other political groupings. "I don't need somebody to defend the Our Ukraine bloc, my family and me, or to wave Yushenko flags behind my back," Mr. Yushenko said on January 16.

Mr. Yushenko is a reformer known for effective governance that produced Ukraine's first industrial and economic growth over the past 10 years. He served as prime minister beginning in late 1999 and was ousted by centrist and Communist foes in Parliament in April 2001.

His government policy was marked by pragmatism and his public remarks at the time demonstrated a strong pro-presidential position.

In the parliamentary elections race his bloc is one of the few groups named by various polls as potential winners. Others include the Communist and Socialist parties, the Social Democratic Party (United) led by Mr. Medvedchuk, and For United Ukraine. The elections are scheduled for March 31.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Sobor participant shares observations

Dear Editor:

During the month of October, I had the privilege to be a lay delegate to the 16th Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (UOC-USA). Delegates could choose from 12 Sobor committee meetings with a specific topic of interest. I was deeply impressed by the varied subject matter discussed at the committee meetings. After thorough discussion, each committee agreed upon resolutions, which were later submitted before the entire Sobor for adoption. This indeed was "sobornopravnist" at work; I was truly amazed to watch democracy at work within our Church.

I attended two committee meetings: "Church Ministries" in the morning, and "Inter-Church Relations/Church in Ukraine" in the afternoon. The packed meeting room exemplified the magnitude of the delegates' interest in the fate of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine. Archbishop Vsevolod, Father Nakonechny and Dr. Lysyj provided very interesting information during this session. It was revealed that the diligent work of the hierarchs of the UOC of USA helped convince His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to change his mind regarding the future "Pomisna" (Autocephalous) Church in Ukraine. One has only to compare Patriarch Bartholomew's statement in Odesa in the fall of 1997 and the Ecumenical Patriarchate's response to the Russian Orthodox Church on July 28, 2001, to understand his revolutionary change in attitude toward the Ukrainian Pomisna Church (see [www.uocofusa.org](http://www.uocofusa.org)).

Presenters at the "Inter-Church Relations/Church in Ukraine" committee stated that recognition by the Ecumenical Patriarchate was not a simple task. The Russian Orthodox Church and other government and lay institutions are still trying very hard to prevent or at least prolong the process of recognition of the Ukrainian Pomisna Church by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Not only is the Moscow Patriarchate interested in preserving the religious status quo in Ukraine, many Ukrainian citizens, including clergy of the so-called Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate, anti-Ukrainian pro-Russian organizations, as well as the Communist Party of Ukraine are working against recognition of the Pomisna Church. The epitome of hypocrisy was the visit by the head of the Communist Party of Ukraine, the "pious" Petro Symonenko to Patriarch Alexei in Moscow and his report to the patriarch that Ukrainian communist deputies wrote a letter to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew asking him to break all contacts with "non-canonical" Ukrainian Churches.

Sadly, it seems some people from the "Save Our UOC" group in this country are indirectly preserving the status quo of the separated Churches in Ukraine by denying the efforts of UOC-USA hierarchs towards recognition by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This group repeatedly rebelled against the policies of our Church and the hierarchs themselves. One can understand their predicament: when there will be one Pomisna Church in Ukraine recognized by the Ecumenical Patriarch, the UOC of USA will most likely become one of its metropolia with the same hierarchs who lead it today. There will be no other church jurisdictions in the communion with the Kyivan See in this country. As Archbishop Vsevolod told the assembled delegates and guests during the sobor banquet, just as it is impossible to stop the flow of a river towards the sea, it will be impossible for

Moscow to block the recognition of the Ukrainian Pomisna Church by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The election of the officers to the Metropolitan Council gave me hope for the future of our Church. What impressed me was that so many young people wanted to be elected to the Church's governing body. The enthusiasm of the young people to work for our Church gave me solace in that when the present older generation, including myself, depart from this world, my children and grandchildren will have a Church that will guide them throughout their lives. I left convinced that the Holy Spirit guided the delegates in their deliberations during this Sobor.

**George Bazylevsky**  
Whitestone, N.Y.

### UWC president's appeal is on the mark

Dear Editor:

Askold Lozynskyj's thoughtful article discusses the forthcoming elections, and I would endorse his call to the diaspora to understand that this election will decide Ukraine's fate. Independence has been achieved and will not be taken away. It is now time to contemplate what is being built within independent Ukraine.

Mr. Lozynskyj is wrong in only one aspect. The 1999 presidential elections were not accepted as free and fair by international organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In addition, the "Kuchmagate" tapes show how the executive used every possible means to ensure its victory (e.g., blackmailing state officials and even a fake assassination attempt).

Another disturbing trend is public opinion among Ukrainians on their political system. According to a recent poll conducted by the Oleksander Razumkov Center of Economic and Political Studies among Kyiv residents, only 19.8 percent of respondents believe that the forthcoming election will be more "democratic and transparent" than previous ballots in 1990, 1994 and 1998. Some 59.7 percent of respondents said "no" when asked if the elections will be held according to international standards and without pressure from the authorities.

This should give us greater resolve to support Mr. Lozynskyj's call to become involved in whatever manner we can.

**Dr. Taras Kuzio**  
Toronto

*The letter writer is research associate at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto.*

### Thanks to writer of Christmas stories

Dear Editor:

My thanks and compliments to Edward Andrusko on his Christmas stories. They are really special, reflecting the life of that generation of Ukrainian immigrants about which we should know more. They were the ones who so generously and kindly welcomed us, the DPs, in the late 1940s early 1950s, and they and their parents were the ones who established the foundation for all Ukrainians in the United States. I hope Mr. Andrusko will write more articles for The Weekly year-round, not just at Christmas.

**Orysia Tracz**  
Winnipeg

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Canada's barbed wire fence

Imagine that you are Stefan Balansky. You were born in 1879 in Bukovina, then a region within the Austrian-Hungarian empire. You are illiterate, dirt poor and have little hope for the future. Canada beckons. A land of freedom and opportunity is opening its doors, offering jobs and homestead land for the taking.

Along with some 170,000 other Ukrainians, you emigrate to Canada, find a job and begin to build a future for yourself. The thought of confinement behind Canadian barbed wire is beyond anything you can possibly imagine. Confinement is for criminals, not for you.

Suddenly your whole life changes. The first world war breaks out and in 1914 the Canadian government labels you an "Austrian alien," subject to forcible internment. You are arrested and sent to Valcartier and later to Spirit Lake, two concentration camps located in the cold northern regions of Quebec province. Your documents are confiscated and you are forced to work on various government projects. On July 20, 1916, you are released from the camp and shipped to Kenora, Ontario, to lay track for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Stefan Balansky was not the only Ukrainian Canadian who suffered internment and exploitation. His story and those of other Ukrainian Canadians can be found in Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk's recently published book "In Fear of the Barbed Wire Fence: Canada's First National Internment Operations and the Ukrainian Canadians, 1914-1920." Dr. Luciuk has devoted more than 10 years to researching federal documents, interviewing survivors and their families, and traveling around Canada gathering information for his monograph.

He writes: "Innocent of any disloyalty, thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans were needlessly interned in Canadian concentration camps as 'enemy aliens' following the outbreak of the first world war on August 4, 1914." Included were "naturalized British subjects and even Canadians categorized as being of 'foreign-born' origins." They "found themselves herded together into what were often makeshift encampments, located in some of the Dominion's frontier hinterlands." They were interned not because of anything they said or did, but because of where they came from. Since they once lived in Austria-Hungary, they were suspect and were classified as "Austrian" - enemies of Canada.

"They had no legal recourse," Dr. Luciuk explains. "Wartime hysteria, ignorance, xenophobia and racism would combine over the following six years to fuel various repressive measures directed against them."

A total of 8,579 "enemy aliens" were eventually incarcerated, including 81 women and 156 children. "Over 80,000 others, of whom the majority were also Ukrainian, were obliged to report regularly to special registrars or to local or North West Mounted Police forces," continues Dr. Luciuk. As in the Soviet Union, they were obliged to carry special identity papers on their persons at all times; failing to do so could lead to arrest, a fine, or imprisonment. There were government restrictions on freedom of speech, movement and association for all "enemy aliens." Some had their bank accounts frozen. Others were forbidden to acquire land, power rights or other benefits from Dominion lands in western Canada for the duration of the war.

"Enemy aliens" were housed in primitive internment camps. Most were forced to clear land for roads, experimental farms and

national parks. Their wages were those of a Canadian army private, far less than they could have earned were they part of the civilian labor pool.

The human costs were enormous. Personal property was confiscated or stolen. Correspondence was limited. Letters were censored. Escapees were sometimes shot and killed. And, according to a report filed by Maj.-Gen. Sir William Otter, director of internment operations, "insanity was by no means uncommon among the prisoners."

Given the undeniably harsh and undeserved punishment suffered by innocent Ukrainian Canadians, one would expect the Canadian government to have offered some form of reparations for this Bolshevik-like act. Japanese Canadians wrongfully interned during the second world war were compensated, so why not Ukrainians? Unfortunately, Ukrainians don't fit the proper ethnic profile.

Writes Dr. Luciuk: "The government of Canada has not acknowledged this injustice and continues to refuse to negotiate the restitution of that portion of the internees' confiscated wealth which remains in government coffers to this day. An application for funding by Emeritus Law Professor Ian Hunter of the University of Western Ontario under s.15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was submitted to the Canadian government's Court Challenges Program." Program Executive Director Claudette Topin responded in typical liberal doublespeak: "Panel members were concerned that the s.15 arguments were expressed in formal equality terms. Although this type of argument might win this particular case, it could have an important negative impact on jurisprudence." According to political science professor Ian Brodie, program panel members generally fund those groups with which they have an ideological affinity and refuse those with which they do not. Interpreted in Orwellian locution, this means that in Canada today some groups are more equal than others.

The most recent attempt for redress occurred on April 4, 2001, when Canadian Alliance MP Inky Mark, a Japanese Canadian, introduced C-331, The Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act in Parliament. The bill has yet to be discussed and voted upon.

Has Lubomyr Luciuk given up? Hardly. As research director of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA), he has pursued governmental atonement relentlessly. His op-ed pieces and letters to the editor appear in Canadian newspapers on an almost weekly basis. And with the assistance of other UCCLA members, he has unveiled commemorative plaques at 17 out of 24 internment camps along with three statues.

Thanks to Dr. Luciuk and his UCLA compatriots, the Ukrainian internment issue is being discussed by the Canadian media and taught in some Canadian history classes. The restitution issue is far from dead.

Dr. Luciuk's book is available from Kashtan Press, 22 Gretna Green, Kingston, Ontario, K7M-3J2 for \$20 (including shipping and handling). Order two books, one for yourself, one for your local library. Tell your friends to sign the book out. Librarians notice books that are popular with their public. Finally, invite Dr. Luciuk to the next meeting of your community organization. He's a dynamic speaker. You won't be disappointed.

*Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is: [mbkuropas@compuserve.com](mailto:mbkuropas@compuserve.com).*



## Ukrainian government delegation completes study of intergovernmental relations in Canada

by Dr. Bohdan Klid

EDMONTON – The Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project (CULIP) at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) has successfully organized its third study tour for a senior-level Ukrainian government delegation since the project's launch in September 2000.

The working visit was part of series of activities planned for its third module on "Financial-Budgetary Mechanisms for Development of Local Territorial Communities." This module focuses on assisting Ukraine in adopting laws on the administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine. Heirs to the Soviet Union's centralized administrative system of government, Ukraine's regions and municipalities have had a limited voice in their own financial and social affairs. A legal framework outlining the relations between central and regional governments, as well as their responsibilities, has been on the minds of many Ukrainian lawmakers. An opportunity for Ukrainians to study the Canadian experience of two orders of government and their complex budgetary mechanisms was developed by the project.

The delegation, composed of three members of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, three representatives from the Secretariat of the Parliament, a specialist from the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as representatives from oblasts (regions) and other experts, visited several Canadian centers from November 23 to December 4, 2001. The visit was organized by the project's partners: the federal government, and the provincial governments of Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. The CULIP office at CIUS coordinated the visit and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) provided community liaison representatives at each location.

The organization of the program was assisted by Judy Cavanagh, the Canadian sector specialist, who participated in a series of seminars at the Ukrainian Parliament in Kyiv before the group departed for Canada. During the federal part of the program the delegation had an opportunity to hear experts explaining financial relations between Ottawa and the provinces from the national perspective. In Ottawa the dele-

gation visited the Parliament of Canada and was briefed on the Canadian political and parliamentary system, as well as its legislative process.

Stephane Dion, minister of intergovernmental affairs and president of the Privy Council Office, met with the group. His presentation was followed by a lively discussion with the Ukrainian guests, particularly those who were fluent in French. The government's role in regional development was discussed during a meeting with Eleni Bakopanos, deputy speaker of the House of Commons, Sen. Raynell Andreychuk and Walt Lastewka, member of Parliament. Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, invited the delegation to the Ukrainian Embassy for a business meeting and reception.

In order to study intergovernmental relations in the provinces, the delegation was divided into three groups. Each group attended seminars held by experts and government officials on various aspects of funding agreements, taxation and investments, as well as on responsibilities of different levels of government.

The Manitoba group, led by Yevhen Zhovtiak, member of Parliament and vice-chair of the Budget Committee, met with Manitoba Minister of Finance Gregory F. Selinger. A member of the delegation, Mayor Vasyl Kuibida of Lviv, signed a sister-city agreement between the City of Lviv and the City of Winnipeg during a reception at Winnipeg City Hall hosted by Mayor Glen Murray. A field trip to Portage la Prairie introduced the group to the work of municipal administration and its programs. The national executive of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress hosted a reception for the delegation that was attended by UCC President Eugene Czolij of Montreal and other executive members.

The Saskatchewan delegation led by Volodymyr Matviiev, member of the Parliamentary Committee for Property, Privatization and Bankruptcy, held meetings with officials from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance. Myron Kowalsky, speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly,



During meetings in Ottawa (from left) are: Member of Parliament Walt Lastewka, National Deputy Yevhen Zhovtiak, Eleni Bakopanos, deputy speaker of the House of Commons, and Sen. Raynell Andreychuk.



National Deputy Yevhen Zhovtiak (left) with Stephane Dion (right), minister of intergovernmental affairs, and Marina Lavrov, translator.

briefed the group on the legislative process and public consultation mechanisms. A dinner was hosted by Minister of Finance Eric Cline.

The Alberta delegation was hosted by LeRoy Johnson, M.L.A. and member of the International Governance Office Advisory Committee. Through a series of roundtable discussions and seminars, the group learned about the work of provincial departments responsible for finance, municipal affairs, economic development, and international and intergovernmental relations.

Gene Zwozdesky, minister of community development and co-chair of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations, also met with the delegation. The head of the Ukrainian delegation Taras Chornovil, member of the Parliamentary Committee for State and the Development of Local and Provincial Government, spoke during a reception for the Ukrainian community hosted by the UCC Alberta Provincial Council.

The delegation was reunited in Toronto for the last leg of the tour. During a visit to Toronto City Hall the Ukrainians learned about the amalgamation of Canada's largest urban area and about the daily challenges of municipal government. A program prepared by the government of Ontario focused on the legislative framework and relationship between Ontario

municipalities and the provincial government, as well as tax policies and fiscal transfers.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provides funding for the Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project. Matching contributions of time and effort are provided by provincial governments and other partners. The project builds on the success of the Canada-Ukraine Legislative Cooperation Project which also was administered by CIUS.

Now in its second year, the project will oversee a total of six programs, involving Canadian Study Tours, consultation with experts, and seminars organized for Ukrainian legislators, government officials and experts. Since 1996 CIUS and its partners have involved over 1,000 Ukrainian members of Parliament, staff, ministers and other senior government officials from Ukraine in seminars by experts, study tours and other activities. The project receives high ratings by participants for being results-oriented and for drafting policy and legislation that support democratic and market reforms in Ukraine.

Those interested in further information on policy and legislative proposals in Ukraine can visit the project website in Ukraine at [www.culip.com.ua](http://www.culip.com.ua).

## Ukrainian Free University concludes its 80th anniversary celebrations

MUNICH – The Ukrainian Free University (UFU) officially concluded its 80th anniversary celebrations on December 12, 2001. Gathered in the main auditorium of the university were students and professors of the UFU and neighboring German universities, as well as members of the Ukrainian community of Munich and guests from various European countries.

In his introductory remarks Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky, rector of the UFU, provided a brief overview of the university's achievements during the jubilee year 2001. He stressed the ongoing cooperation between the UFU and other institutions in Europe and the United States, and thanked all organizations and individuals who contributed to the well-being of the university.

Special greetings to the university were conveyed by the Vasyl Serdeha, Ukrainian consul in Munich, and Dr. Hansjuergen Doss, member of the German Parliament.

The keynote address, titled "Perspectives on Education," was delivered by Prof. Gerhard Stockinger, member of the Bavarian House of Representatives and honorary doctor of the UFU.

Dr. Stockinger focused on the latest developments in the area of education, and delineated the role and function of the UFU for the near future. While praising the university's contributions to both Bavarian and Ukrainian cultures, he offered a number of cogent suggestions regarding its future activities.

The official part of the program concluded with the singing of the venerable academic hymn "Gaudeamus Igitur," which was followed by a wine and cheese reception.

Over 200 students are currently enrolled at the university, 90 percent of whom receive scholarships from either a German foundation, such as the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, or from the Ukrainian Free University Foundation in New York.



# IN MEMORIAM: Voices from the camps

*John Lahola, a longtime activist in the Ukrainian community in Canada, passed away in Edmonton on November 14, 2001. A former member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) Mr. Lahola was imprisoned during World War II. The following article, written by Andriy Semotiuk back in 1997, chronicles Mr. Lahola's wartime life and his extraordinary experiences.*

by Andriy Semotiuk

Finally the train stopped. After four days of starvation and thirst, sealed and wired shut in stench and filth with 120 other prisoners in a boxcar with no toilets or water, John Lahola was apprehensive but relieved that his uncertain journey was over. For four days and nights the fearful occupants jointly recited prayers in Polish as they anxiously awaited their fate.

Four days earlier the prisoners had been forcibly taken from Gestapo headquarters in Nazi-occupied Lviv and loaded onto this train bound for an unknown destination. It did not matter that most of them were Jews and Ukrainians – in Polish prayer they all found common solace. Now, as the SS guards flung open the boxcar doors, a welcome burst of fresh air flooded the compartment.

But then the prisoners realized where they had arrived: Auschwitz.

It was now over three months since Mr. Lahola had been arrested for his support of the partisan underground resistance to the Nazi occupation of Ukraine. For a split second while the Gestapo was placing him under arrest in Lviv, he caught a glimpse of his mother across the street. As he sought to wave good-bye, he was struck on the head by the butt of the soldier's gun. Mr. Lahola did not know that in that place, at that moment and in that manner, he was parting from his mother forever.

Thus began the relentless march of events that now ended here, with these fellow prisoners, in this – the most notorious death camp of Nazi Germany.

"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed," wrote Eli Wiesel, one of the former inmates of Auschwitz. Like John Lahola and countless other former prisoners who experienced the horror of Auschwitz, Mr. Wiesel is tormented by his memories of the camp. In his book *Mr. Wiesel* declares the following:

"Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky.

"Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.

"Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul, and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never."

It was under these conditions that psychiatrist Victor Frankl, also a former Auschwitz inmate, was able to develop a deeper understanding of the human mind and the foundation of his theory of human survival. Frankl observed that while many inmates perished, some Auschwitz inmates managed to survive despite the hardships and privations. He asked: Why?

How did people like John Lahola manage to survive in such inhumane conditions?

In his book *"Man's Search for Meaning,"* Frankl states that the answer was to be found in the prisoner's attachment to some larger explanation of his existence – some higher purpose to his life. Frankl hypothesized that the difference between those who perished and those who survived was to be found in the manner in which the inmates translated the meaning of their suffering to themselves. Those inmates who lived with a higher purpose in life were able to endure the hardships and sacrifices because they could be explained as necessary evils that had to be surmounted for the sake of a higher purpose. Those inmates who lived without a larger philosophical framework through which to interpret their suffering died. It was Frankl who quite rightly pointed out that one of our most deeply rooted needs is to believe that our life has meaning, that our setbacks and efforts to overcome them carry a significance apart from the mere events themselves – they fit into a bigger picture.

This knowledge armed Frankl with a weapon he could employ in helping fellow inmates. He knew that while an inmate could do absolutely nothing to avoid the extreme external that he had to endure on a daily

basis, he alone controlled how he would interpret the events and react to them. If the inmate could identify a "higher" purpose to his suffering this would serve as a key to his survival.

Whenever a fellow inmate would turn to Frankl exhibiting signs of depression or resignation, Frankl would ask the prisoner why he doesn't just give up – throw in the towel so to speak. Frankl would then intently listen to the prisoner's response, which would usually be something along the lines of "I would give up, but I have a wife..." or a child, or maybe a political cause or religious belief, etc.

Whatever the prisoner would proffer in that moment, Frankl would seize upon as the anchor to that inmate's continued survival. The prisoner's answer was really his reason for living and a powerful key to his continued existence. If the inmate spoke of a wife, for example, Frankl would endeavor to direct all his comments and explanations for what was taking place towards that idea, linking everything to it and thus developing a whole rationale for the prisoner on why he must continue the struggle to survive.

In his own case Frankl rationalized his suffering by focusing on his wife's beautiful hands. He told himself he must survive to hold those beautiful hands in his again. He also developed a rationale that he was sent into the camps as a psychiatrist so that after his release he could later relate his findings to scientific colleagues all over the world.

Perhaps this explains how Mr. Lahola survived the death camps. He wore a red triangle on his prison garb signifying that he was a "political prisoner." Could it be that his passionate devotion to a free, independent and democratic Ukraine helped him overcome the camp repression? After all, there was so much to endure. He recounted some of his experiences for us in his video memoirs.

\* \* \*

On arrival at Auschwitz, each prisoner was registered and assigned a number. While the prisoner was restrained, a prison guard roughly tattooed this number on the prisoner's arm with three needles. The number permanently branded on Mr. Lahola's arm was 154820, which became his new name. By the time the ordeal was over, Mr. Lahola was drenched in blood. He was then forced to join the others who were led to the barracks.

Silence ruled the barracks. It was clear that a complaint meant instant death. A "punishment hole," where prisoners were beaten until dead, served as an effective reminder of the futility of complaining.

There were no beds. The prisoners were jammed together on shelves just large enough for four prisoners to lay down on their sides one way, while four lay the other way. Latrine breaks occurred only in the early morning when the guards shouted for the inmates to get up and then beat the prisoners to hurry them along. Then there was the routine roll call in the courtyard when the prisoners were required to stand naked in the snow without a single piece of clothing to protect themselves against the cold.

Each prisoner was issued one pair of pants, one shirt and one jacket. If he was ever discovered with anything else he was beaten to death. As soon as a weakened



John Lahola, formerly prisoner No. 154820.

prisoner fell, he was thrown into ice water – an instant death. By nightfall each day there was always a pile of human corpses waiting to be burned. Resistance was impossible.

For two weeks newcomers were "initiated" to Auschwitz. First they were divided into groups of 100. Then, to induce terror and submission to camp authority, every 10th man was shot arbitrarily. Then some of the prisoners were strapped down to benches especially made for this purpose. They were beaten by the Gestapo so badly that their screams didn't sound human. At the end of each day as the prisoners returned from back-breaking work, they were herded back into the barracks. A mad rush to get inside always ensued in order to avoid the Gestapo who would beat the stragglers.

Anyone who tried to escape was found, tortured and then paraded in front of the inmates. A sign was hung around the inmate's neck declaring, "I tried to run away but did not succeed. Hurray, I'm back!" As the horrors of initiation at Auschwitz subsided, Mr. Lahola came face to face with an equally insidious threat to his survival: hunger.

As the SS guards cut back on food rations, famine stalked the camps. In the face of death, the pursuit of any form of nourishment became a never-ending obsession. Virtually no price was too high to satisfy the hunger pangs constantly tormenting them. Mr. Lahola's experiences vividly illustrate the magnitude of the problem.

Enforced starvation turned Mr. Lahola into a scavenger. Whenever a camp guard threw away an empty can of food he would scoop it up and clean it out with his fingers. Such a can meant two or three days of nourishment. Once, while searching through the personal effects of some prisoners who had been removed by the guards, Mr. Lahola found a jar of goose fat. He gleefully smeared the fat over his camp ration of bread over the next few days.

After months on a diet of bare subsistence, fortuitously Mr. Lahola was chosen by the SS to unload a bread truck. To be caught stealing bread meant death. Nonetheless in an unattended moment, Mr. Lahola devoured as much bread as he could. Then he hid more bread away into his clothing to take back to the barracks. Luckily, that day he passed through the camp gates unchecked. However, his feeble body could not process the food. Mr. Lahola became violently ill, vomiting everything he had eaten. He was so sick he gave whatever bread he had smuggled into the camp to the other inmates because he knew he wouldn't be able to eat it himself.

Liquor was obviously unavailable in the camps and thus became a prized commodity that could be traded for food. On one occasion Mr. Lahola was unloading wagons of goods which had to be brought in from the front when he spotted a whisky bottle. He immediately started concocting a method for smuggling the bottle into the camp compound. He found a strap which he tied around his waist and then hung the bottle down his pant leg suspended from the strap.

As the prisoners marched through the camp gate, the strap broke and the bottle fell to the ground. When the guards discovered it, they halted the return of the work party. The guards demanded that the prisoner who stole the bottle step forward and confess. Mr. Lahola stood silent as did the others. When nobody confessed, the guards searched every prisoner and noted the strap down Mr. Lahola's leg.

While they said nothing, the next day Mr. Lahola was called out and then ordered to report to a hard labor work party digging ditches several kilometers away from the camp. Exhausted after two weeks, Mr. Lahola knew that he would not last if he continued to work there.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Lahola hid among some prisoners assigned the task of peeling potatoes. This move went unnoticed. Then, luckily, the camp cook chose Mr. Lahola to help in the kitchen. He was safe and in a place where he could attend to his hunger, albeit at great risk. His main job was to fill big pots with soup for the SS officers. He would then carry the soup pots to the soldiers at mealtimes. He would wrap a rag around his hand to help carry the pot and, as he pretended to hurry along, would purposefully spill some of that soup on to the rag. Later, back in the barracks, he would rinse the rag into his cup and drink the dribbles of soup for extra nourishment.

Every day for three years Mr. Lahola and the others endured this torment. Every day more people died in the gas chambers; every day their bodies were stripped of

(Continued on page 15)



# Ukrainian Institute of America celebrates a Ukrainian Christmas

by Mary E. Pressey



Some of the members of the Ukrainian Family Ensemble, which performed at the UIA.

NEW YORK – Some 170 members and friends gathered on January 5 at the Ukrainian Institute of America to celebrate Ukrainian Christmas. Enjoying the festivities, food and a splendid young choir from Brooklyn were members of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center from Philadelphia, Self Reliance of New York, Senior Citizens from Lower Manhattan (both groups arriving by the busload) and members and friends from various locales.

Honoring the celebration with their presence also were Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, Valeriy Kuchinsky and his wife, Alla, and Consul General of Ukraine Serhiy Pohoreltzev and his wife, Svitlana.

Walter Nazarewicz, UIA president, and Marta Jacuszko warmly greeted each guest attending the celebration.

At the helm of the activities was Martha Kokolskyj, who donated some Ukrainian holiday delicacies and the traditional kolach, and presented an eye-catching Didukh draped in exquisitely embroidered ritual towel and an accompanying Ukrainian candelabra, which were prominently displayed on a table on the second level next to the Ukrainian Christmas tree. The tree, artfully decorated by Mary Pressey, a board member, bore the Ukrainian colors of blue and gold.

The choir, known as the Ukrainian Family Ensemble, hails from Brooklyn, where it was founded at the Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church in 1997 by the Pradivus family of four and two more enthusiasts under the directorship of composer Oksana Lykhovyd.

It now has grown to approximately 25 members, including 6- and 7-year-olds. The most recent to join the ensemble is Galyna Remezova, a violinist, whose performance adds a substantial depth to the choir's musical repertoire.

Following the concert and throughout the afternoon, Mrs. Kokolskyj led the audience in singing traditional carols, an activity that was enthusiastically enjoyed by all.

But Christmas would not be Christmas without delectable food: the owners and employees of Tania's Restaurant in Jersey City, N.J., spared no effort in their preparation of a variety of hot dishes, assorted salads and tasty pastries.

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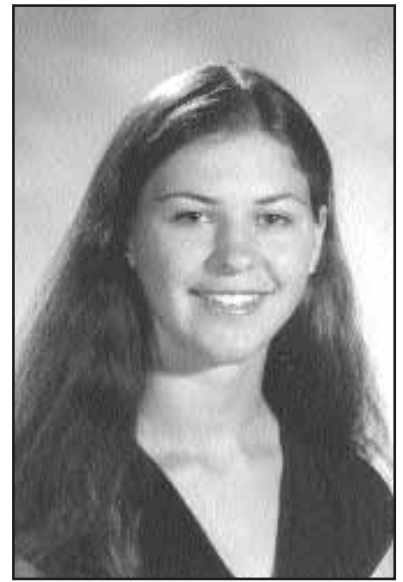
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## Pop, rock, hip-hop – Ukraine’s music scene has it all – and it’s thriving

### PART I

KYIV – Although not as expansive as in Moscow, which remains the center of post-Soviet “show business,” Kyiv today has a vibrant popular music scene, including all kinds of clubs, bars and discothèques and ever more state-of-the-art production studios and producers. Ukrainian artists are increasingly recording their soundtracks and their video clips in Kyiv rather than running to Moscow for “the best,” as the new talent decides to stay home rather than travel abroad to attain stardom.

While Ukrainians in the West have become accustomed to “Ukrainian music” as encompassing either the traditional Ukrainian folk styles or the “easy listening” format of pop music, in reality contemporary Ukrainian music encompasses all the various types of music popular around the globe today.

You’re a traditionalist and want classic rock? Or something with a heavier beat, maybe metal? Perhaps your taste runs to the post-modern and you need a hip-hop beat to get you moving? Or maybe you like to feel the rhythm inside and go for soul and rhythm and blues?

In Kyiv you will find all that and more. And because musicians are less burdened by tradition and many of the

musical influences from the West, the music coming out of Ukraine is often very innovative. Ukrainian musicians are apt to mix a dash of the traditional ballad or the beat of a kolomyika into a contemporary song or even to produce something from the very depths of the avant-garde. Sometimes it doesn’t work, but when it does...

And because the music scene here is less established and less structured, and carries fewer expectations, it is much easier to get the eclectic, the non-familiar and non-traditional produced.

While use of the Russian language in songs remains popular in Kyiv, it is no longer prevalent. The most popular acts – and just as important – the ones that have shown staying power, sing mostly in Ukrainian. In the realm of hard rock they are Vopli Vodopliasoiva (V.V.) and Okean Elzy; in hip-hop it is the group with the amazing name of Tanok Na Maydani Kongo and another one at the fringe of the hip-hop movement called Dymna Sumish; in the pop category you can choose from Iryna Bilyk, Oleksander Ponomariov or Taisa Povalii; and in the rhythm and blues and soul grouping it is Yevhenia Vlasova or the queen of the genre, Ani Lorak.

To be sure, there are those who continue to perform exclusively in the Russian language. Pop singer Natalia

Mohylevska and the rap artists Green-Grey, both at the top of the entertainment industry in Ukraine with considerable followings in Moscow and Miensk, come to mind.

But the Ukrainian-singing artists have also found success beyond the confines of Ukrainian territory, particularly V.V., Okean Elzy and Ani Lorak.

Nearly all Ukrainian pop stars admit to having Russian-language songs in their respective repertoires. They explain that this is a necessity because the fact remains that the Russian market, with its 150 million potential music listeners, can make or break their success.

Although the cream of the entertainment business in Ukraine makes a modestly comfortable living, there are no super rich among the superstars, mostly because artists earn very little from album sales. Most albums are pirated, but even those that are legally printed and sold usually provide income only sufficient to cover production costs for the audio and video recordings. All the acts and artists make their money through live performances, which can be a grueling way to live.

Perhaps the biggest criticism of the popular music scene in Ukraine, besides its continued reliance on Moscow money and expertise, is that many artists still tend to lip sync when giving

live performances. The reasons they give for doing so center on the need for quality, but none resonate with conviction. Some say they record the music presented during concerts because they want to assure the quality of the sound, which can’t be guaranteed with the questionable sound equipment found in many of the country’s concert halls. Others say that it is too expensive to travel with the full complement of musicians needed to accurately reproduce the sound they desire.

Critics, however, have said the central problem is that too many of these acts are either too timid, too lazy or simply lack the talent to produce a professional sound outside the studio.

In a three-part series, beginning this week, The Weekly’s Kyiv Press Bureau will present a panoply of Ukraine’s contemporary music stars. In the first series we present two current pop divas, Ani Lorak and Iryna Bilyk, which will be followed next week with a profile of the two most popular rock bands, V.V. and Okean Elzy. Finally we will feature two up-and-coming acts, Tanok Na Maydani Tango, a hip-hop group that calls its music “Ukra-hop,” and other, Dymna Sumish, considered by its peers the most talented of the young breed.

–Roman Woronowycz

## Pop divas deal with dinosaurs and aliens on their way to success

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

### ANI LORAK

Born in the same building as the legendary Ukrainian composer Volodymyr Ivasiuk, with a powerful voice that has some of the quality of a Whitney Houston and the attractive looks of a young Elizabeth Taylor with a dollop of Grace Kelly thrown in, Ukrainian pop diva Ani Lorak seems to have what it takes not only to rule the perch of the Ukrainian music scene, but to become a multimedia international star, as well. And that’s what she is bent on doing.

“When I have [beome] world renown and tour internationally; when I have an Oscar in my pocket, as well as a large Swiss bank account, then I will have succeeded,” explained Ms. Lorak during an interview with The Weekly.

There is not only the dream, but plans to make it all happen. Ani already moves among those who realized similar dreams long ago. While recording in London in July she met Mick Jagger, legendary singer of the equally legendary rock’n roll band The Rolling Stones, who used their meeting to gather publicity for himself and his recently released solo album by telling the London tabloid, the Daily Mirror, after their meeting that he had spent an evening with a Ukrainian singer.

Ms. Lorak said she was enchanted by Jagger, the 56-year-old charismatic front man for one of the seminal bands of British rock’n roll, known as much for his philandering ways as for his musical talents. It seems, however, that the magic of the Mick wasn’t sufficient to affect the result the Rolling Stone may have wanted with Ms. Lorak, who refused his offer of dinner. She explained that he seemed a tad too old for her.

For that matter, the unassuming 23-year-old, who projects a child-like innocence and a smile that comes with a sparkle in her eye, has too much in her future to get bogged down with a musical dinosaur. She has a new album, “Where You Are” and a



Ani Lorak in a recent promo photo.

new music video (nowadays you can’t have one without the other) and has just returned from a Ukrainian music festival in England. She says her next project is an album of Ukrainian songs.

“I have a desire to show that an album of traditional Ukrainian songs can be contemporary, that it can be modern, youthful, European and attractive,” explained Ani,

(Continued on page 13)

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

### IRYNA BILYK

Ukrainian pop diva, Iryna Bilyk like most talented and creative individuals, comes with quirks and eccentricities. For example, Ms. Bilyk believes in ALFs (alien life forms), is prone to vertigo and loves to dress in somewhat outlandish ways. But for a pop star, there is nothing unusual here.

Many in Kyiv describe her as “the Ukrainian Madonna,” a reference to the American pop superstar with equally campy tastes. The image of Iryna Bilyk as a Slavic Madonna is to an extent self-promotion, which at least one producer – who wished to remain anonymous – disclosed. But then that has always been Madonna’s forte as well.

Ms. Bilyk was not shy in explaining how that image emerged. She said the comparisons began in 1992 when Western styles and attitudes became all the rage in a Ukraine finally freed of Soviet social constraints, and fans began to compare some young pop singers to the Western stars they were just getting to know.

“I look back at myself then, and I have to admit there was something to the comparison,” said Ms. Bilyk. “It’s not necessarily the look, the straightforward, outward appearance, but there was something there.”

She allowed that one of those intangibles could have been her propensity to change her hairstyle from blond to black and back – and along with it her image, just like Madonna has done over the years.

Ms. Bilyk’s rise to fame in Ukraine – at one time she was considered the hottest rising star here – has been a rocky road with several professional setbacks. But after more than 10 years in the business, she remains at the top and one of the few Ukrainian musical stars who can cross over from light pop and traditional folk to rock’n roll.

Recently back from shows in New York, Ms. Bilyk described her first trip to the States as frightening and difficult, mainly



Iryna Bilyk on the cover of her latest album, “Kraina.”

because she was there not long after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

“This was not a simple tour because we were afraid to fly,” explained Ms. Bilyk, who said the New York tour was nearly canceled. “But we had to go because we were told the concerts were sold out.”

She had two sold-out shows at the Millennium Hall in the Brighton Beach neighborhood of Brooklyn, which were attended each night by more than 1,000 mostly Ukrainian and Russian emigrants.

It was in the Big Apple that the singer realized she had vertigo. The attack was so extreme, as she explained it, that she became panicky and was taken to a hospital emergency ward to calm down.

“New York is a beautiful and exciting city, but I didn’t realize how tall the buildings would actually be. At one point I began to think that the buildings were going to fall on me,” explained the blond, blue-eyed singer.

Beyond that unpleasant moment, Ms. Bilyk said she felt warmed by the metropolis and its people, who she said greeted her often wherever she went and constantly

(Continued on page 13)





Mick Jagger with the Ukrainian pop princess during her recent visit to London.

## ANI LORAK...

(Continued from page 12)

whose real name is Karolina Kuyek.

She would not be the first singer from the Bukovyna region of Ukraine to rise to the top of her craft. She walks in the footsteps of several renowned Ukrainian contemporary pop stars who grew up in the region, including Sofia Rotaru (who spends more time in Moscow than in Kyiv these days) and Ivo Bobul.

Ms. Lorak was born in the same apartment building as Volodymyr Ivasiuk, perhaps the first, and undoubtedly the most outstanding composer of contemporary Ukrainian pop music. And that is not her only connection to the renowned composer.

When she was a baby, Ani's grandmother put her in the same bassinet that the infant Ivasiuk rested in. Ms. Lorak said she did not know that the building was the home of Ivasiuk until she was 12 or so, at a time when she was already committed to music. She had made the decision to pursue singing as a career at the tender age of four she explained.

"When I was still a kid, I decided I wanted to sing, and not just to become popular, but to conquer the world," explained the young star.

She won her first formal competition in 1992 at the age of 14, at which time she also met her producer, Yuri Falosa. Soon after, she signed a professional contract and was on her way.

The professional name Ani Lorak popped up in 1995, during one of Karolina's first appearances on Moscow television.

"We were told that there would be another singer named Karolina on the show," explained Ani, "and that I should use another name. Yurii and I went through all kinds of variations and then hit on the fact that Karolina spelled backwards is Ani Lorak!"

The name does not really matter, for it is the voice – so gentle when she speaks yet so powerful in song – along with the look that give her a combination claimed by the best pop divas in the business, the Chers, the Whitney Houstons and the Mariah Careys.

And while Ani acknowledges that Ivasiuk and her fellow "Bukovyntsi" left their mark on her, it is Whitney Houston whom she calls her major musical influence. Ironically or not, their voices are very similar in timbre and strength. Nonetheless, Ani's taste was not limited to America's top

princess of pop when she was growing up, but extended to the full range of female songstresses of the late 1980s and early 1990s, including Cher, Mariah Carey and Gloria Estefan.

"When I was a kid I would listen to that music and I just loved it," she noted.

She explained that today she continues to listen to her teen heroes. Her latest hit, "Poludneva Speka" (Southern Heat), with its sizzling Cuban beat, shows the deep influence of the sound of Estefan.

As for Ani's future plans, she would like to record more often in London, a town she said she loves, although she indicated she would rather not live there. After that it's on to conquering the European continent, then North America and Hollywood and the silver screen followed by the world, of course. With that done, the Swiss bank account should take care of itself.

## IRYNA BILYK...

(Continued from page 12)

complimented her on her hats and outfits.

What she did not see in New York were alien life forms. Those she has seen only in Ukraine. Ms. Bilyk explained that she believes unequivocally that they exist and, like angels, look after people, especially those with artistic talent.

"They see the need on Earth for better cultural understanding and development," she explained ever so seriously.

Ms. Bilyk did not set out to be an idiosyncratic pop culture princess. Initially her plans called for a career in the theater. Nonetheless, she had been writing poetry and songs since she was 10 years old and was a part of the children's musical ensemble Sonechko from the time she was 6. Her career plans changed at the age of 17 when a producer for the noted songstress Sofia Rotaru saw a performance and became interested in her talents.

"He told me that I am not a theatrical performer, that I am pop singer," explained Ms. Bilyk.

He had her record three songs, and by 1988 she had developed her own repertoire. A year later Ms. Bilyk took part in the initial Chervona Ruta Festival. Soon after that she met the members of the group Ayaks, and in July 1990 they formed This Rain For Long.

While Ms. Bilyk's star began to rise at that time, she claims her breakthrough moment occurred when she became one of the first pop singers to go beyond confining her concert tours to the major cities and travel to Ukraine's smaller towns. In 1992 she did a tour of western Ukraine – two to three concerts daily – to show Ukrainians "a new kind of music," explained the ever-effusive Ms. Bilyk. The tour also proved that a group singing in Ukrainian could be popular with young people.

"Many believed that no one would come to listen to a Ukrainian-language singer," she explained.

Ms. Bilyk, whose repertoire consists almost entirely of Ukrainian songs, believes that Ukrainian artists tend to be more origi-

nal than the performers who come out of Moscow – and that they have more to say. She added that, unfortunately, Russian singers get more radio and television airtime because they have stronger public relations and marketing organizations behind them.

That has not stopped Ms. Bilyk, however. She said that while she has a Russian language song project in the works, she would continue to compose and sing in Ukrainian.

"I believe in the Ukrainian song and believe that I can help Ukraine develop in this way," explained Ms. Bilyk.



The album cover of Iryna Bilyk's popular "Vybachai" CD.

### Next week:

Read about Ukraine's premiere hard rock acts, **Vopli Vodopliasova (V.V.)** and **Okean Elzy**.



Ukraine's "Madonna" stands on a subway platform in Manhattan during her recent New York appearance.



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## Detroit's UAC Foundation awards student scholarships and grants to organizations

by Stephen M. Wichar Sr.

WARREN, Mich. - The Ukrainian American Center (UAC), incorporated since 1915, sponsors a foundation that provides scholarships to deserving Ukrainian American students who live in the state of Michigan. In addition, financial service awards are bestowed on Ukrainian organizations that conduct worthy community endeavors.

The UAC's goal is to foster cultural, artistic and athletic undertakings, with the ultimate goal being to promote among the public at large and American citizens of Ukrainian ancestry the appreciation of Ukrainian culture and traditions.

Beginning with year 1987 to date, the UAC Foundation has granted 150 scholarships to Ukrainian students and 42 grants to Ukrainian organizations for a grand total of \$92,050.

The UAC - the oldest social organization in metropolitan Detroit - celebrated its 86th birthday with a community banquet held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in late October 2001. Before the formal opening of ceremonies, Nicholas Koshiw read his winning essay to the audience. His topic dealt with the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, and a decade of its failures and successes.

In keeping with the chosen topic for this academic year, Bohdan Andrushkiw, president of the Ukrainian American Center Foundation, opened the banquet with greetings and an address about his participation in The Washington Group's recent Leadership Conference.

Mr. Andrushkiw focused his comments on the panels on U.S. policy toward Ukraine and women in Ukraine's society, as well as on the Ambassador's Forum. "All the panel discussions were interesting," stated Mr. Andrushkiw, "but the [one on] United States policies toward Ukraine was the most provocative." He added that the State Department, the Defense Department and the Department of Commerce had representatives who commented on their respective relationships with Ukraine.

Mr. Andrushkiw, also acting as a master of ceremonies for the afternoon, called upon the Very Rev. Roberto Lukavey OSBM, pastor of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in nearby Hamtramck, to offer the invocation.

After dinner and acknowledgments, a team composed of Lydia Jachnycky, Mr. Andrushkiw and Walter Marfey offered congratulations and introduced the scholarship recipients.

The following students were invited to the podium: Larissa Hotra, Matthew Hotra, Zenovyj Hotra, Adriana Karanec, Orest Kornetsky, Amy Krupa, Anne Maziak, Nicholas Koshiw, Lauren Palmer, Danylo Terleckyj.

Grants were also presented to the following Ukrainian organizations: Americans for Democracy in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Heritage Room at Wayne State University and Help Us Help the Children.

The remainder of the program was devoted to Ukrainian entertainment. The popular Zoloti Dzvony (Golden Bells) song ensemble of greater Detroit, under the directorship of Olga Dubriwny-Solovey, performed several folk songs.

## Correction

In "Dateline: New York" (December 30, 2001), the name of the pastor of St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Manhattan should have been given as the Rev. John L. Lyshyk.



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

ication ceremony of a small granite bench at Kuropaty outside Miensk, the site of mass executions during the Stalin era, RFE/RL's Belarusian Service reported. The memorial, originally unveiled by U.S. President Bill Clinton in January 1994, was destroyed by vandals last summer. According to Belarusian opposition activists, up to 250,000 people were killed and buried at Kuropaty in the 1930s and 1940s by the NKVD, while officials assert that no more than 7,000 people are buried there and question whether they were victims of Stalin or Hitler. "The victims of Kuropaty were killed by the ruling government," U.S. Ambassador to Belarus Michael Kozak said at the rededication ceremony. The Belarusian government was represented by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Alyaksandr Sychou. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Social Democrats approve election list.

KYIV – At a congress on January 15 the Social Democratic Party (United) (SDPU) approved its election list and manifesto, Interfax reported. The top five on the list are SDPU leader Viktor Medvedchuk; Tamara Proshkuratova, a teacher from Cherkasy Oblast; SDPU Vice-Chairman Oleksander Zinchenko; Volodymyr Riabika, the head of the National Committee of Youth Organizations; and Leonid Kravchuk, the first president of independent Ukraine. Mr. Medvedchuk told the congress that an SDPU caucus in the future Verkhovna Rada will seek to create a centrist majority, including with the For a United Ukraine bloc, the Green Party, the Democratic Union, and the Yabluko Party. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine's GDP grows by 9 percent

KYIV – Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2001 increased by 9 percent compared with 2000, UNIAN reported on January 15, quoting a government official. Inflation in 2001 was 6.1 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Socialists' list includes Melnychenko

KYIV – A congress of the Socialist Party on January 12 approved its election list for the March 31 parliamentary election. The list is headed by Socialist Party Chairman Oleksander Moroz and includes former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko (No. 15), who is currently in the United States. In 2000 Mr. Melnychenko triggered Ukraine's biggest political scandal by releasing what he said were records of conversations in the president's office, which implied President Leonid Kuchma's complicity in the murder of opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze and a host of other crimes. Referring to a conversation with Mr. Melnychenko, Mr. Moroz told journalists that the former presidential security officer will take part in the election campaign on Ukraine's territory. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Our Ukraine bloc has unwanted ally

KYIV – The Our Ukraine election bloc led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko opened a congress on January 16 to approve its election list, but Mr. Yushchenko's name has already appeared on a list of another election bloc, Ukrainian media reported. On January 15 Mr. Yushchenko was proposed as a candidate on the list of the bloc For Yushchenko, which was organized by lawmaker Oleksander Rzhavskiy, the leader of the One Family All-Ukrainian Union. Mr. Rzhavskiy originally intended to join Our Ukraine but was rejected. "We can-

not allow people's trust [in Yushchenko] to be privatized or usurped by a narrow political circle, by the right-wing parties that are now part of the Our Ukraine bloc. But we are willing to cooperate with them and to create a united caucus in the Parliament," 1+1 Television quoted Mr. Rzhavskiy as saying. Mr. Yushchenko said he has not authorized anybody to create blocs in his support, while Our Ukraine called Mr. Rzhavskiy's initiative a "provocation." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Rada adopts bill on police strength

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on January 10 passed a bill establishing the total number of employees working at the Interior Ministry at 386,600 people, UNIAN reported. This figure does not include the ministry-subordinated internal troops for which the numerical strength was set at 44,000. The same day parliament considered some 70 draft laws, but voted against reverting to the CD anti-piracy bill that was voted down in December. A totally new bill is to be submitted for consideration on January 11, New Channel Television reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### 10 parties pledge to form single caucus

KYIV – Ten parties constituting the Our Ukraine election bloc led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko on January 9 signed a formal agreement on the creation of their election coalition and pledged to set up a joint caucus in the future Parliament, Interfax reported. Our Ukraine is formed by the National Rukh of Ukraine, the Ukrainian National Rukh, the Reforms and Order Party, the Christian-Popular Union, the Solidarity Party, the Forward Ukraine Party, the Republican Christian Party, the Youth Party, the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Liberal Party. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kyiv reports record industrial output

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Rohovyi told journalists in Kyiv on January 9 that Ukraine's industrial output grew by 14.2 percent in 2001 compared with 2000, UNIAN reported. This is the highest growth rate since Ukraine declared independence in 1991. In 2000 Ukraine posted industrial growth of 12.4 percent over 1999. Also on January 9, the State Statistics Committee reported that Ukrainian farmers harvested 39.7 million tons of grain last year, significantly surpassing the 2000 harvest of 24.8 million tons. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### U.S. slams brutality in Chechnya

WASHINGTON – Speaking at a press briefing in Washington on January 10, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher expressed concern that Russian troops resorted to "overwhelming force against civilian targets" and committed human rights violations during recent fighting in the village of Tsotan-Yurt and the town of Argun, Reuters reported. Die Welt on January 11 quoted Chechen human rights activists as saying that drunken Russian soldiers massacred at least 80 Chechen civilians during the fighting in Tsotan-Yurt in early January, which was the fiercest in several months. Mr. Boucher also expressed concern that Moscow has not followed up on initial talks last November between presidential envoy to the Southern federal district Viktor Kazantsev and Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov's representative Akhmed Zakaev. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kutno recalls destroyed Soviet monument

KUTNO, Poland – The municipal government of the city of Kutno in cen-

tral Poland has decided to place a commemorative plaque at the site of the monument to the brotherhood of the Polish People's Army and the Red Army that was dismantled in 1990, Polish Radio reported on January 10. This is the first decision of this kind in Poland concerning the commemoration of a dismantled monument glorifying the Soviet army. The Kutno Municipal Council decided in 1990 to erect a monument to Marshal Jozef Pilsudski at the site, but has failed to collect appropriate funding. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Armenians mark 1,700th anniversary

LVIV – On December 26-27, 2001, the Armenians of the Ukrainian eparchy of the Armenian Apostolic Church (AAC) in Lviv celebrated the 1,700th anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as a state religion in Armenia. Armenian King Tiridates III, who was baptized by St. Gregory the Illuminator in 301 AD, proclaimed Christianity as the state religion. With that, Armenia became the first state in the world to give official status to Christianity. In Lviv, the celebration began with a liturgy in the church of the Dormition of the Mother of God, cathedral church of the AAC. The liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop Gregory Buniatian, head of the Ukrainian eparchy of the AAC; the Rev. Thaddeus Heorhian, pastor of the Armenian community in Lviv; the Rev. Masis Galstian (Albany, N.Y.); and the Rev. Abgar Glchian (Odesa). Archbishop Buniatian's

homily focused on the urgent necessity of bringing Armenians back to their faith, since among the few thousand Armenians in Lviv only a few dozen regularly attend church services. Lviv's National Opera and Ballet Theater hosted an event held in honor of the anniversary. Volodymyr Herych, vice-chairman of Lviv's Regional Administration, and Volodymyr Haiuk, curator of the Museum of the History of Religion, took the occasion to share some good news: the museum will hand over to the Armenian community a 17th century organ made by a Lithuanian master organ-maker. "This gift is a sign of the respect and love the Ukrainian state has for all Armenians who live in this land. Our Church teaches all Armenians who live here to be true Christians and good and useful citizens of the Ukrainian state," Archbishop Buniatian commented at the ceremony. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

### Kinakh supports single Orthodox Church

KYIV – At a press-conference on January 12, Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh supported the idea of creating one National Orthodox Church in Ukraine. "We need a united Church in Ukraine," which could work together with the government for the good of the state explained Mr. Kinakh. According to the prime minister, the process of unity must not depend on the decision of the government but on the wishes of the Church and its faithful. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

## Voices...

(Continued from page 9)

jewelry and gold teeth, and then piled up on carts to be wheeled over to the incinerators. Every night as the prisoners of Auschwitz looked on, flames and smoke rose above the Birkenau chimney, while the putrid stench of cremated bodies permeated the air. The relentless process continued until the facilities were taxed to the limit. Towards the end, Mr. Lahola and other inmates were forced to collect firewood from the surrounding forests to be used to burn the overflow of corpses piled into ditches near the camp.

Finally, the end drew near. For months rumors had circulated in the camp that the Russian front was coming closer. Then a huge fire was built to destroy camp papers and documents. Finally, on January 18, 1945, prison officials began removing the inmates. As a cook, Mr. Lahola was one of the last to leave, since he had to prepare meals for German soldiers from the front.

The Nazis now engaged in a frantic three-month effort to hide the prisoners and transfer them from one concentration camp to another. Thus, Mr. Lahola and the others from his camp were forced to march westward for three days and nights until they reached the German border. There, as the men huddled together in the sleet and driven snow, they were loaded onto boxcars and transferred to Mauthausen, a concentration camp near Linz, Austria. Not long afterwards they were again transferred, this time to Melk,

a converted army camp where the prisoners worked in coal mines. Then again they were transferred, this time by tug-boat into Germany to the Ebensee concentration camp. There, on May 6, 1945, liberation day, an American tank pulled through the gates of the camp and the astonished soldiers informed the exhausted prisoners they were finally free.

Some of the prisoners went wild. In their rush to enter a bakery to get some bread, several of them were trampled to death by fellow inmates. Others died from overbinging at a time when their bodies were incapable of processing the food they hungrily consumed. The long nightmare, however, was finally over.

Over 50 years later, John Lahola was living in Edmonton. Yet he was overcome with emotion whenever he reflected on these events. More than anything, his three-year incarceration in Nazi concentration camps exemplifies the fact that life requires struggle – that resignation and surrender are the surest prescriptions for death.

His experience, like that of the other survivors from the camps, demonstrates that the essence of life is not found in arbitrary events that occur in our lives. Rather, John Lahola's life shows that the real question is how to lead your life no matter what events life brings you.

Survival depended on Mr. Lahola dedicating himself to a larger cause, a cause that helped him find meaning in his suffering. It was this greater overarching purpose that saved John Lahola and helped him surmount the many great hardships he faced.

## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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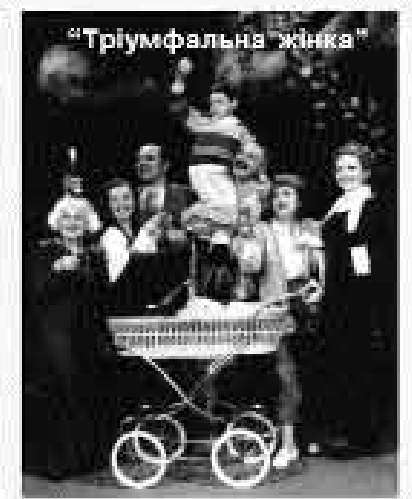
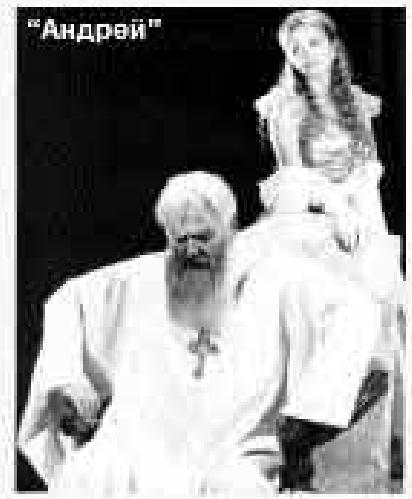
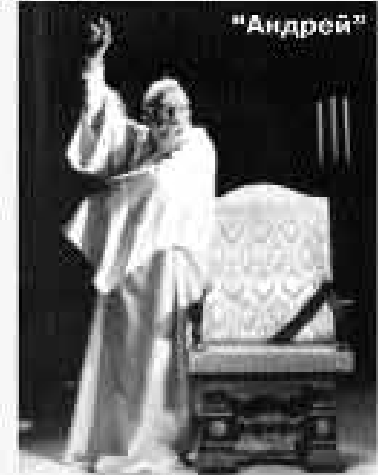
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# Львівський Державний Академічний Український Драматичний театр ім. Марії Заньковецької

## Гастрольний тур по Північній Америці

- 20 січня 2002** - „Андрей“ (вистава-реквієм, присвячена 135-ти річчю з дня народження Митрополита Андрея Шептицького), зал церкви Св. Покрови, 6810 Broadview Road, Parma, OH, початок о 7рм, тел.: 216-398-7664
- 23 січня 2002** - Зустріч з акторами театру ім. Марії Заньковецької (уривки з найбільш controверсійної вистави „У.Б.Н.“ за часи існування незалежної української держави, пісні та вірші у виконанні акторів), зал церкви Св. Покрови, 6810 Broadview Road, Parma, OH, початок о 7рм, тел.: 216-398-7664
- 26 січня 2002** - „Андрей“ (вистава-реквієм, присвячена 135-ти річчю з дня народження Митрополита Андрея Шептицького), зал церкви Св. Йосафата, 940 East Rich Road, Rochester, NY, початок о 7рм, тел.: 716-685-1505
- 27 січня 2002** - „Андрей“ (вистава-реквієм, присвячена 135-ти річчю з дня народження Митрополита Андрея Шептицького), зал церкви Св. Трійці, 200 Como Park Blvd, Cheektowaga (Buffalo area), NY, початок о 8рм, тел.: 716-685-1505
- 02 лютого 2002** - „Андрей“ (вистава-реквієм, присвячена 135-ти річчю з дня народження Митрополита Андрея Шептицького), Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA, початок о 8рм, тел.: 215-681-8052
- 02 лютого 2002** - „Триумфальна Жінка“ (трилінійна мелодрама про сучасне львівське життя), Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA, початок о 7рм, тел.: 215-681-8052
- 03 лютого 2002** - „Андрей“ (вистава-реквієм, присвячена 135-ти річчю з дня народження Митрополита Андрея Шептицького), St. George Academy „Школа Аудиторія“, 215 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, початок о 8рм, тел.: 212-674-1615
- 03 лютого 2002** - Зустріч з акторами театру ім. Марії Заньковецької, Український Музей в Нью-Йорку, 203 Second Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY, початок о 8рм (вхід по запрошеннях), тел.: 212-228-6840
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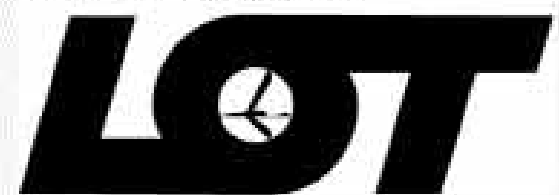
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## Philadelphia-based credit union opens branch in Scranton

by Roman Stelmach

SCRANTON, Pa. – The Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union of Philadelphia opened its fourth branch with the now traditional blessing from local religious leaders. The fourth branch is the result of a merger of the Ukrainian Fraternal (Scranton) FCU with Ukrainian Selfreliance FCU.

Parishioners of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Scranton and St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scranton also attended the blessing and grand opening on November 4, 2001. Immediately after the

blessing, Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish led the attendees in remembering the victims of September 11 by singing "God Bless America."

All the attendees then gathered outside the modest office, where they witnessed Chairman of the Board Bohdan Mizak, the Very Rev. Nestor Kowal of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Scranton, Msgr. Hrynuck, Board Member Olga Jakubowska and CEO Ihor Chyzowych cut the ceremonial yellow and blue ribbon. A reception followed in the "new hall," which also houses the new Scranton branch.

Branch Operations and Marketing

Manager Roman Stelmach welcomed the attendees and introduced Mr. Chyzowych, who requested that Helen Pronko join them at the dais. Mr. Chyzowych then described the many long years of Ms. Pronko's volunteer efforts with the Scranton credit union. On behalf of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association, he presented Ms. Pronko with a handsome plaque of appreciation.

Ms. Pronko stated that after 25 years of service she felt that Scranton area members would be better served by the many products that the USFCU has to offer. She further stated that the merger was made easy by the professional staff of the USFCU. She ended her comments by stat-

ing that, although the Scranton credit union was small, she is satisfied that it was merged into another Ukrainian credit union.

Mr. Chyzowych stated that today the branch has only a teller station, but hopes that someday the branch will expand into the rest of the hall and thus might force the credit union to buy the building from the landlord, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church.

Mr. Mizak remarked that the USFCU is a young and vibrant Ukrainian credit union, is eager to serve the Scranton area, and that it soon will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. He invited all attendees to a delicious dinner prepared by the "official" credit union caterer, Ivanka Lucyshyn.



Ihor Chyzowych presents a plaque of appreciation to Helen Pronko.



During the grand opening are: (seated, from left) Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck and the Very Rev. Nestor Kowal, (standing) Bohdan Mizak, Olga Jakubowska and Ihor Chyzowych.

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## UNA district...

(Continued from page 5)

The Detroit District participated in a banquet honoring 50 years of community service by Wasyl Kolodchin. It was also represented at the blessing of land for construction of an additional building for the local parish school. It sponsored and took an active part in a meeting of all Ukrainian organizations in the Detroit area. The district represented the UNA at the annual graduation ceremony of the Ukrainian Studies School. The district paid for Christmas greetings from the UNA on the Ukrainian Radio Hour and for greetings on the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

The organizing results for 2001, it was reported, are not very good, as only 10 percent of the assigned quota was met. There are 12 branches in the district encompassing 1,650 members.

Wilkes-Barre was represented by Chairman Bolosky, who reported for six branches and 691 members in his district. In 2001 the district organized two new members, thus achieving 10 percent of its quota. The district is involved in helping new Ukrainian immigrants establish themselves, and it is hoped that, in time, they will be able to join the UNA.

Mrs. Haras, honorary member of the General Assembly and a longtime chairman of the Allentown District, stated that for many years she has represented the UNA at all functions in the region. The Allentown District has 596 members in nine branches. During 2001 it organized two new members, reaching 6.6 percent of its quota.

There are nine branches and 895 members in the Central New Jersey District headed by longtime Chairman Zacharko, who reported that in 2001 the district organized 12 new members and reached 26.7 percent of its yearly quota. UNA Auditor Yaroslav Zaviysky organized four members. The district actively participates in all local events and activities. This year it took part in the New Jersey banquet celebrating the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, and also participated in the local church picnic.

Chicago District Chairman and the UNA First Vice-President Kuropas reported that his district had started preparations for the upcoming UNA Convention in Chicago, which is scheduled to begin on May 24. The UNA Chicago District, along with the Ukrainian American Justice Committee, sponsored a book signing by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of Canada. The district participated in a fund-raiser for the National University of Ostroh Academy. The district has 15 branches and 1,770 members. Twelve members were organized during 2001, thus completing 12.6 percent of its quota.

Dr. Hayda, chairman of the UNA Connecticut District, reported that the district annually takes an active part in celebrating Ukrainian Day in Stamford. During this event all the district's branch secretaries organize a UNA table and take turns in handing out UNA promotional materials. The UNA branches and the district participate in many programs and events sponsored in the area. The district's branches are scattered throughout the state and each branch sponsors one district meeting in its location. The Connecticut District has 866 members in nine branches. This year it achieved 14.3 percent of its quota by organizing five members.

The Montreal District has only three branches with 643 members. Its longtime chairman is UNA Advisor Moroz. Although it is a small district, it achieved 24 percent of its organizing quota by organizing six new members. All three branches are very active in the Ukrainian

community of Montreal.

UNA Auditor Groch represented the Niagara District, since the chairman of the district, Judge Ben Doliszny, was unable to attend. The district attended the fall organizing meeting held in Buffalo, N.Y. There are six branches and 440 members in the district, which achieved 13.3 percent its the quota by enrolling two members during the report period.

The New York District has 18 branches and 1,780 members, as reported by the district's chairperson, UNA Advisor Bachynsky. Although the district is large, it does not organize district activities. During the year 2001 the district enrolled 12 new members, which is 12.6 percent of the assigned quota.

The Northern New Jersey District is chaired by UNA Advisor Oscislawski. In 2001 the district sponsored a "Yalyuka" for local children at the UNA Corporate Headquarters in Parsippany, N.J. It also organized a bus trip to Soyuzivka for the annual Father's Day program. It was actively involved in planning the statewide banquet to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. In 2001 the district enrolled 62 new members and thus completed 37.6 percent of its organizing quota.

Ms. Dziuba, Rochester District chairperson, reported that the district is involved in collecting funds to aid the needy in Ukraine. It also sends cards to sick members and holds meetings regularly. Due to the illness of many district officers, the district was unable to organize any members for the first three quarters of 2001.

Dr. Hvozda briefly reported on the activities of the Syracuse District, which has 724 members in eight branches. Each branch is located in a different town with great distances between them. All branches try to meet annually at the district meeting. In 2001 the district organized 12 members, completing 34.3 percent of its quota. The top producer in the district is Michael Felenchak, secretary of Branch 271.

The largest district in the UNA system is headed by longtime Chairman and UNA Auditor Hawrysz. The Philadelphia District has 27 branches and 2,700 members. At this time the district does not sponsor any activities, but it does participate in the many activities of the Philadelphia area Ukrainian community. All branch secretaries and officers of the district are active members of the community. The district achieved 38.52 percent of its assigned quota by organizing 52 members. The best organizer in the district is Branch 10 Secretary Lubov Streletsky.

After the reports, the next item on the agenda was the topic of fraternal activities in the districts and branches. The main question discussed was how to increase these activities. There are no easy answers, since every district has its own specific circumstances; fraternal activities that are suited and successful in one district may not be appropriate for another area. However one thing is certain: districts and branches that have fraternal activities attract more people and thus promote the UNA, which leads to greater success in organizing new members. Discussants agreed that UNA'ers must actively seek out new and younger people to join us in our activities. Branches and districts with a wide range of activities and frequent meetings have greater success in attracting new members.

Another question discussed was the number of branches necessary to form a district and the number of districts the UNA should have.


The last item on the agenda focused on the participation of members, secretaries, branch officers and delegates in

the annual meetings of their respective districts. Members of the Executive Committee often travel to the districts at a great expense of both time and effort only to be met with dismal attendance at the meeting. The question of attendance at UNA meetings was left unanswered, but it was agreed that it should be given some consideration in the future. It is very beneficial to all if the district chairmen, General Assembly members and other UNA officers participate in the meetings of their local branches. They are often better informed about the work


of the UNA and can explain that work to branch members.

Other topics discussed were: direct billing, Christmas cards, the amount granted to scholarship recipients and Soyuzivka. Everyone actively participated in the discussion regarding these and other issues facing the UNA and tried to help find solutions to the many questions raised.

After the meeting, participants had an opportunity to view a video of the Kyiv celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.




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## NOTES ON PEOPLE

### Dr. Michael Ewanchuk feted by Self-Reliance League

by D.A. Bilash

WINNIPEG – Members of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League arranged a testimonial banquet for one of their most-senior members, Dr. Michael Ewanchuk.

Dr. Ewanchuk is a retired educator and writer who recently published his third 13th book. His writing has been devoted to the life and experiences of Ukrainian pioneer settlers and post-World War II arrivals in Canada. Having been appointed to supervise the introduction of the teaching of Ukrainian in the public school of Manitoba and then employed by the Department of Education as inspector of schools, he wrote four books for children dealing with the Ukrainian people, one of them a novella, "The Young Cossack," as well as several monographs, including one about noted writer Markian Shashkevych.

The testimonial banquet was held in Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral on November 10, 2001, with some 100 friends and acquaintances in attendance.

Metropolitan Wasyly brought greetings and congratulated the nonagenarian for his literary work. Lesia Shwaluk brought greetings from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and Sonja Bejzyk, a daughter of Dr. Ewanchuk's late friend, from the Women's Organization.

Dr. Vivian Oleander, principal of St. Andrew's College, University of Manitoba, stressed the honoree's contri-

butions to the college, while Dr. Roman Yereniuk, also of St. Andrew's College, spoke about Dr. Ewanchuk's wide range of experience as inspector of schools, and as a flight lieutenant with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and his close Ukrainian connections. A representative from the Department of Education also brought greetings. Doug Martindale, member of the Legislative Assembly, presented the honoree with a special certificate of recognition.

While Dr. Ewanchuk lived in Detroit he became a member of the Ukrainian National Association and used to contribute articles to Svoboda, The Ukrainian Weekly and the Canadian Ukrainian Voice.

In thanking those assembled, Dr. Ewanchuk recalled that he worked hard to acquire his education and that attending Detroit State University (Detroit City College) and working on the midnight shift at Ford was not easy.

In his brief words of thanks he pointed out that his late parents, Wasyly and Paraskeva, his school teacher, the late Peter Humeniuk of Stuartburn, and his now-departed wife, Muriel, were people who most influenced his progress in life. He also mentioned the Petro Mohyla Institute of which he was a member, as an institution that merits continued support.

The proceedings of the evening were ably conducted by Myroslaw Bugera, president of the Self Reliance League, who advised that Dr. Ewanchuk's book, "Vertical Development, Volume 2," dealing with the new generation of Ukrainian Canadians, will be available at the end of November.

### The Communist Party...

(Continued from page 3)

Potebenko is No. 20 on the CPU list of candidates to be elected by proportional voting. He has refused to relinquish his post before the March election.

In return for shielding Mr. Kuchma, the CPU has been promised executive "support" in the March elections, the prosecution of young nationalists who seized the party's Kyiv headquarters on March 9, 2000, and recognition that it is "the sole opposition party" in Ukraine.

The CPU ceased to be a threat to the executive following Mr. Kuchma's defeat of CPU Chairman Symonenko in the second round of the presidential elections in November 1999. The executive had always wanted to be challenged by the CPU – not Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz – in that round. A CPU candidate provided negative votes for Kuchma (who could not count solely on positive votes to win a victory) because of the CPU's hostility to independence and its hard-line Marxist ideology.

After President Kuchma began his second term, the CPU complained that "anti-Communist hysteria" was sweeping Ukraine. The left had been removed from the parliamentary leadership in a "velvet

revolution" in the spring of 2000 and, for the first time, the non-left had created a majority in Parliament.

At the same time, oligarch Oleksander Volkov initiated the launch of a rival pro-statehood CPU(o) (revived) on behalf of the executive. The CPU also accused the executive of being behind a split in the Komsomol when a new Communist Youth Union was created in March 2000.

Later that year, the Kuchmagate scandal led to the collapse of the non-left parliamentary majority, and no more has been heard of the executive-backed CPU(o) ever since.

The need for a pro-executive CPU(o) to split the Communist vote would not have arisen if the non-left parliamentary majority were still united and able to do the executive's bidding. Since the collapse of this majority the executive is facing, for the first time, a bigger threat from Mr. Yushchenko, whose popularity rating has fluctuated between a high of 60 percent and its current 30 percent. The executive, therefore, has resumed its mutually beneficial relationship with the CPU because, together with the oligarchs, the CPU represents a second anti-Yushchenko force. This oligarch-CPU alliance successfully worked together during the Kuchmagate crisis and brought down the Yushchenko government on April 26, 2001.

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# Turning the pages back...

(Continued from page 6)

Petro Shelest was born on February 14, 1908, in Andriyivka, Zmiyiv county, in the Kharkiv gubernia of Ukraine. He graduated from the Mariupol Metallurgical Institute in 1935, and from 1940 worked as a party official in defense industries located in Kharkiv, Cheliabinsk and Saratov. From 1948 he worked as a plant director in Leningrad and Kyiv.

A protégé of Nikita Khrushchev and Nikolai Podgorny, and a doctrinaire Marxist-Leninist, he rose in the party ranks to positions on the city, then oblast levels. He was second secretary (1954) of the Kyiv City Committee, and second and first secretary (1954 and 1957, respectively) of the Kyiv Oblast Committee.

Next he rose to republican and all-union party positions. In 1954 he became a candidate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CC CPU) and a member in 1956. He became a candidate member of the CC CPU Presidium in 1960 and a member a year later.

Mr. Shelest became a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1961, and secretary of the CC CPU and chief of its Bureau for Industry and Construction in 1962. He was named first secretary of the CPU as well as a member of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet in 1963, the same year he became a candidate member of the CC CPSU Presidium. A year later he was voted a full member of the CC CPSU Presidium.

In 1966 he was elected to membership in the Politburos of both the CPU and CPSU Central Committees, and became a member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Mr. Shelest served as first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine in 1963-1972. In that post, according to the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, he pursued domestic policies that encouraged cultural and educational Ukrainization and a measure of autonomous administration and economic development. To some extent, the encyclopedia notes, Mr. Shelest tolerated the dissident movement, and the activities and patriotic writings of the nationally conscious intelligentsia in Ukraine.

As a result of his pro-Ukrainian policies he came into conflict with Leonid Brezhnev and other members of the CPSU Politburo, who saw his activity as detrimental to the interests of the Soviet Union as a whole. In 1970 Mr. Shelest published a book, "Ukraino Nasha Radianska" (Our Soviet Ukraine), a popular publication that noted Ukraine's glorious Kozak past and its cultural achievements.

In 1972 Moscow attacked so-called "national deviations" in Ukraine, launching a wave of arrests of Ukrainian dissidents. Mr. Shelest was ousted in May of that year and replaced by one of his adversaries, hard-liner Volodymyr Shcherbytsky, who promoted an identity for the "Soviet people" and implemented policies of Russification. Mr. Shcherbytsky remained first secretary until 1989, when he was removed by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Transferred to Moscow, Mr. Shelest held the largely symbolic post of Soviet deputy premier for 11 months. He was rebuked for party failures in Ukraine and his book was denounced for its ideological and factual "errors," including "nationalism," "idealization of the past," "economic autarchism" and "national narrow-mindedness."

He was removed from the CPSU Politburo, and many of his supporters were purged from the Communist Party of Ukraine. Mr. Shelest was named director of a defense enterprise near Moscow, where he worked until retirement.

A collection of Shelest's speeches, "Ideyi Lenina Peremahayut" (Lenin's Ideas Triumph) was published in 1971.

Source: "Shelest, former Communist leader in Ukraine, dead at 87," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 4, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 5; "Shelest, Petro," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. IV, Toronto: University of Toronto Press Inc., 1993.

# A round-up...

(Continued from page 2)

said "no" in answer to the question: "Do you think the upcoming parliamentary election will be held according to world standards – democratically, transparently and without pressure from the authorities?"

\*\*\*

According to a poll conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology on December 11-20 among 2,013 Ukrainian voters throughout the country, if parliamentary elections had been held at that time, the Our Ukraine bloc led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko would have won 19.5 percent of the vote; the Communist Party, 17.6 percent; For a United Ukraine, 5.9 percent; Social

Democratic Party (United), 4.2 percent; and Women for the Future, 4.1 percent.

Other parties and blocs that failed to achieve the 4 percent voting threshold included: the Green Party, 3.9 percent; the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, 3.2 percent; the Socialist Party of Ukraine, 3.1 percent; Yabluko, 2.9 percent; and the Natalia Vitrenko Bloc, 2.5 percent.

The poll's margin of error was 2 percent.

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Thursday, January 24**

**GREENWICH, Conn.:** The Lois Richards Galleries cordially invites the public to the debut exhibition of Zorya, a not-for-profit Ukrainian Cultural Organization, featuring the works of Yolande Ardissonne, Christina Debarry, Ilona Sochynsky and Susan Stillman. A gala cocktail reception will be held at the galleries, 54 Greenwich Ave., at 5-8 p.m. Gallery hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday and evenings by appointment. For appointments call (203) 661-4441; for more information visit the website [www.Loisfinearts.com](http://www.Loisfinearts.com). The exhibit runs through February 7.

**Friday-Sunday, January 25-27**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio:** MN<sup>2</sup> Productions presents "Shadows of Our Forgotten Ancestors," a dance-theater piece based on the novel by Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky ("Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors"). Directed by Michael Flohr with choreography by Sarah Morrison, Natalie Kapeluck and Roman Lewkowicz, "Shadows of Our Forgotten Ancestors" tells the story of Ivan and Marichka by fusing modern and traditional dance, traditional Ukrainian folk music, puppetry and theater. Performances are on January 25-26 at 8 p.m. and January 27 at 3 p.m. in the Gordon Square Theater, 6409 Detroit Ave. Tickets: \$15, general admission; \$12, seniors and students with a valid ID. For more information and ticket reservations, call Nadia, (216) 749-0060, or e-mail [mn2productions@yahoo.com](mailto:mn2productions@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, January 26**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society is holding a presentation by Oleksiy Haran, director, Center for National Security Studies, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, on the topic "Ukraine on the Eve of Parliamentary Elections." The presentation will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 4 p.m. For more information call (212) 254-5130.

**Monday, January 28**

**TORONTO:** The Canadian Institute of

Ukrainian Studies and the Peter Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine are holding a lecture by Prof. Wsevolod Isajiw, University of Toronto, on "Fourth Wave Immigrants from Ukraine, 1991-2001: Results of a New Study." The lecture will be held at the University of Toronto's Munk Center, Room 108N, at 3 p.m. For additional information call CIUS, (416) 978-6934.

**Wednesday, January 30**

**EDMONTON:** The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies is holding a lecture by Volodymyr Kravchenko, director of the Kowalsky Eastern Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Kharkiv National University, on "The Development of Ukrainian National Historical Consciousness in the Late 18th and Early 19th Centuries." The lecture will be delivered in Ukrainian. It will be held at the University of Alberta, Athabasca Hall, Heritage Lounge, at 3:30 p.m. For further information contact CIUS, (780) 492-2972, or e-mail [cius@ualberta.ca](mailto:cius@ualberta.ca).

**Saturday, February 9**

**PHILADELPHIA:** The Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America will hold its annual banquet and ball in the Grand Ballroom of the Park Hyatt Hotel, Broad and Walnut streets. The banquet begins at 6 p.m., followed by the ball at 9 p.m. Music will be by Tempo. Tickets: \$100, banquet and ball; \$40, ball only; students, \$25. For reservations and additional information call Dr. Larysa Zaika, (215) 635-7134.

**CORRECTION**

**Sunday, January 20**

In the Preview of Events section (January 13 issue), the time for the slide presentation by Andriy Saliuk, president of the Fund for the Preservation of the Historical-Architectural Heritage of the City of Lviv, on the topic "The Preservation of the Architectural Monuments of Lviv," to be held Sunday, January 20, at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave., New York City, was mistakenly given as 5 p.m. The presentation will be held at 3 p.m.

### 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.

## Bryttan to conduct "The Merry Wives of Windsor"

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Adrian Bryttan has been asked by Rutgers University to prepare and conduct their production of "The Merry Wives of Windsor" by Otto Nicolai.

The German composer's enduring comic opera provides another look at one of Shakespeare's most beloved creations, Sir John Falstaff. Out for adventure and cash, the fat knight sets out to seduce the wives of Windsor, only to find he's thrice-outsmarted — humiliated, beaten and dunked in a river! Tangled with trickery,

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Mr. Bryttan will conduct all four performances which will be presented fully staged in an English translation. The opera will take place on two Fridays, February 1 and 8, at 8 p.m. and two Sundays, February 3 and 10, at 2 p.m. at Nicholas Music Center in New Brunswick. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for senior citizens and \$10 for students; they may be reserved at the Mason Gross PAC Ticket Office, (732)932-7511.