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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine sends 70 athletes to Winter Olympic Games

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — When Team Ukraine parades into the opening ceremonies of the 19th Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City on February 8, it will mark the country's third Winter appearance competing under its own national banner (in 1992 Ukraine's athletes competed under the guise of the Equipe Unifiée/Unified Team).

But this time things are a bit different. According to the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOC-U), the delegation will consist of 70 athletes — 14 more athletes than competed in Nagano, Japan, in 1998 and 33 more athletes than in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994.

With a strong showing by the delegation's odds-on medal favorite Olena Zubrylova in the biathlon event, Team Ukraine can begin its medals hunt early in the two-and-a-half week Olympic competition. Ms. Zubrylova, who currently is second in the World Cup Biathlon standings behind Magdalena Forsberg of

Sweden, has looked especially strong as of late in the 15-kilometer event leading up to the Games.

Along with Ms. Zubrylova, fans should pay close attention to the biathlon relay squad of Olena Petrova, Nina Lemesh, Tetyana Vodopianova and Ms. Zubrylova whose World Cup third place, as well as Ms. Zubrylova's personal bronze in the 15-kilometer course, in Pokljuka, Slovenia, on December 14, 2001, could be a strong indicator of the group's prospects for the 2002 Games.

At the 18th Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Ms. Petrova took second in the 15-kilometer race while the biathlon team took fifth in the 4 by 7.5-kilometer relay. Ms. Zubrylova also took gold medals in the 15-kilometer race, mass start and pursuit during the 1999 World Championships.

The group of 70, recently trimmed down from 87 due to economic concerns, will compete in 11 of the 15 Olympic win-

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Central Election Commission reports registration of 23 parties, 13 political blocs

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's Central Election Commission reported that 13 political blocs and 23 parties had managed to register for elections to the Verkhovna Rada and to submit their candidate lists before the January 29 deadline stipulated by Ukrainian law. The CEC is still considering 14 applications, some of which were resubmitted under appeal after initial problems.

And while officially the campaign season will only begin on February 9, dirty tricks and mudslinging have already marred another Ukrainian election and set the tone for this year.

The registration procedure is the first major step in the process to pick 450 national deputies to Ukraine's Parliament in elections that are scheduled for March 31. The process was greatly simplified in a new law passed late last year, which no longer requires a candidate to gather voters' signatures.

Candidates are required to pay a registration fee to run for a parliamentary seat — 1,020 hrv, or about \$200, per candidate in the single mandate districts; while a political party or bloc must pay 225,000 hrv, or \$43,000 to put up its slate.

The new law also stipulates that lawmakers are elected in a mixed system, with half the 450 parliamentary seats awarded to political organizations that attain at least 4 percent voter support and the other 50 percent awarded to individuals who take a majority of votes in each of the 225 single-mandate electoral districts of Ukraine.

The CEC said on January 30 that 2,765 individuals had registered as candidates from party slates, while another 1,160 hopefuls had filed in single-mandate districts, which works out to an average of 12 candidates per Verkhovna Rada seat.

All the candidates will have to deal with the fact that the campaign season will be hot and controversial, and that many contests will be fierce and some run unethically. With the official onset of actual campaigning still days away, maneuvering for political advantage by using smear tactics in an attempt to discredit the competition already has been well-established.

The main target thus far has been Viktor Yushenko, the ex-prime minister and former head of the National Bank of Ukraine, who heads the political bloc called Our Ukraine. The political bloc

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Ukrainian becomes youngest world chess champion

by Dr. Orest Popovych

HOWELL, N.J. — Ruslan Ponomaryov, 18, of Kramatorsk on January 23 became the new chess champion of the world, after defeating his countryman, Vasyl Ivanchuk of Lviv, by a score of 4 1/2:2 1/2 in the final match of the world championship, staged by the International Chess Federation FIDE in Moscow.

The winner went undefeated, posting a record of two wins and five draws. Mr. Ponomaryov is the first Ukrainian and the youngest player ever to capture the world title.

Immediately following his victory, the 16th world champion was congratulated in person by FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and, via telephone, by Ukraine's president Leonid Kuchma. President Kuchma issued a decree bestowing upon Ruslan Ponomaryov the Order of Yaroslav the Wise, fifth degree. Vasyl Ivanchuk has been honored with the presidential Order of Merit ("Za Zasluhy"), second degree. Mr. Ponomaryov and Mr. Ivanchuk have received cash prizes of \$400,000 and \$200,000, respectively.

The world championship match between Ukraine's top two grandmasters, which had been described as an event of epic significance for Ukrainian chess, was not as lopsided as the score would suggest. In two of the games Mr. Ivanchuk had achieved technically won positions, only to blunder them away

later on.

Commentators have attributed this to time pressure and a case of nerves, a problem that has plagued the 32-year-old Mr. Ivanchuk sporadically throughout his career. In contrast, his young opponent was a model of confidence and coolness under pressure. No doubt, his decisive win in game one had a great psychological impact on the rest of the match.

Nevertheless, it is hard to reconcile this result with Mr. Ivanchuk's enormous advantage in experience over his opponent. Mr. Ivanchuk, born on March 18, 1969, in Berezhany, western

Ukraine, has been Ukraine's premiere chess player since the late 1980s. He won a string of powerful international tournaments, among them New York (1988), Linares, Spain (1989, 1991, 1995), Wijk aan Zee, Holland (1996) and Lviv (2000), and has been the perennial top board of Ukraine in international team competition.

Mr. Ponomaryov was born on October 11, 1983, in the city of Horlivka in the Donbas region of Ukraine. He learned chess moves at age 7 and since the age of 12 has been liv-

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Ukrainians Ruslan Ponomaryov (right) and Vasyl Ivanchuk during the World Chess Championship in Moscow.

Ukraine's economy records major growth

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's economy expanded at a 9 percent clip in 2001, making it the second fastest growing economy in the CIS region after Kazakhstan.

Numbers released by the Ministry of Statistics and published in the government newspaper, Uriadovyi Kurier, on January 24 show that Ukraine's industrial and agricultural production were sharply up in 2001 over the previous year. Only Kazakhstan's economy, with 12 percent GDP growth, grew more quickly. By comparison, Russia, Ukraine's northeastern neighbor and the largest economy of the region, experienced growth at about a 6 percent rate.

The strong rise in economic indicators coupled with an inflation rate for 2001 of

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ANALYSIS

Russia keenly interested in Ukraine's March elections

by **Taras Kuzio**
RFE/RL Newline

Preparations for Ukraine's parliamentary elections on March 31 are being keenly followed not only in the West but also in Moscow. Russia is keen to capitalize upon its success over the past two years in reorienting Ukraine's multi-vectored foreign policy eastward. The main threat to the consolidation of this eastward orientation and Russia's increasing influence in Ukraine is Viktor Yushchenko and his Our Ukraine bloc.

In Ukraine, as in other post-Communist states, support for the pursuit of reform, reviving national identity and an orientation toward Europe are closely tied together. The West is seeking to support this package of policies by encouraging reform and free elections, as exemplified by U.S. training of 25,000 local election commissions and \$200,000 in support for the regional media in Ukraine. In contrast, Russia's primary concern is to reassert its influence within Ukraine, regardless of who is in power in that country (as in Belarus).

During the last two years, Russophile oligarch clans and their media outlets in Ukraine have increasingly given credence to a "Brzezinski plan" conspiracy that was first aired by Russian sources close to President Vladimir Putin. The "Brzezinski plan" is supposedly an elaborate plan concocted by a group of U.S. policy-makers to overthrow President Leonid Kuchma and replace him with Mr. Yushchenko in a "bloodless revolution." An analogy is drawn with the overthrow of Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia in October 2000. Mr. Yushchenko's alleged allies in this plot are the two wings of the radical anti-Kuchma opposition, Yulia Tymoshenko (his former vice prime minister) and Socialist leader Oleksander Moroz.

The "Brzezinski plan" was allegedly behind the "Kuchmagate" scandal that broke in November 2000, when incriminating tapes illicitly made in President Kuchma's office were released, leading to Ukraine's largest opposition demonstrations. The "Brzezinski plan," therefore, played a classic disinformation role in seeking to deflect attention from possible Russian involvement in the scandal (in cahoots with a Ukrainian oligarch group) by laying blame on the West.

After Mr. Kuchma survived calls for his ouster in 2000-2001, the conspiracy was quietly forgotten, but it was again revived in November of last year by Kievskiy Vedomosti, a newspaper owned by the Social Democratic Party (United) [SDPU].

Controversial Kremlin strategist and Putin imagemakers Gleb Pavlovskii and Merat Gelman, who are joint owners of the Fund for Effective Politics (FEP), have given maximum publicity to the "Brzezinski plan" conspiracy. The FEP is seeking to continue other shadowy PR activities in the Ukrainian elections together with the SDPU. Its main target, not surprisingly is Mr. Yushchenko, who is the archenemy of SDPU leader Viktor Medvedchuk.

In a recent survey of attitudes on foreign policy by political parties undertaken by the Analytical Centers of Ukraine Network (<http://www.intellect.org.ua>), only the SDPU, apart from the Communists, supported Ukraine's membership in the Russia-Belarus Union. The SDPU also recently raised the question of changing the

1989 Law on Languages by adding Russian as a second "official language." This Russophile populism did not prevent the SDPU from including the "nationalist" and pro-NATO former President Leonid Kravchuk among its top five candidates for election.

The SDPU is also the main backer of the extreme nationalist, anti-Western, and pro-Kuchma Rukh for Unity (NRU-Ye) splinter group led by Bohdan Boiko, which was suspiciously created only three days before the Kuchmagate scandal began. The NRU-Ye and the Progressive Socialists play the role of "radical opposition" parties on the left and right controlled by the executive, in a manner similar to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. The NRU-Ye controls the Ternopil-based Tryzub paramilitaries led by Col. Yevhen Fil, who orchestrated the violence at the March 9, 2001, demonstration in order to discredit the anti-Kuchma opposition.

The SDPU has also duplicated some of the shadowy PR activities that the FEP earlier successfully used in Russia. This includes attempting to blacken Mr. Yushchenko's character, which unlike that of the majority of other politicians, remains beyond reproach. The FEP has an agreement with the SDPU to provide "campaign advice," and 10 of its associates are working on this campaign. This has included creating a fake Yushchenko website www.yushchenko.com, an action that the FEP undertook also in the 1999 Russian parliamentary elections against Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and then-Foreign Minister Yevgenii Primakov.

The FEP and its SDPU allies were very probably behind Ukraine's second taping scandal, that of Mr. Yushchenko and Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko in early January. As Serhii Sobolev, vice-chairman of the pro-Yushchenko Reforms and Order Party, said, this latest scandal "is a fresh pointer to those who organized the tape scandal" in Mr. Kuchma's office. This is apparently because of the similarity in advanced technology used in both cases. Mr. Sobolev had in mind the suspicion – first voiced by RFE/RL Newline in December – that the SDPU (with Russia) was behind the taping of the president's office.

The latest tape was released by the newly organized civic group For Trustworthiness in Politics, which is closely linked to the SDPU and the NRU-Ye. It aimed to discredit Mr. Yushchenko by creating the impression that he conspired with Mr. Omelchenko to remove Mr. Medvedchuk as vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada. The latest taping was condemned by the majority of political parties and Mr. Omelchenko has taken the matter to court. Mr. Omelchenko, whose son is a member of the Yushchenko bloc and is himself a strong opponent of the SDPU, also accused Mr. Pavlovskii and the FEP of underhand practice by "humiliating Ukrainian national dignity."

The Ukrainian elections are the scene of a fierce geopolitical competition over the future direction of Ukraine, and yet there are only two choices open to Ukraine: either it can continue to muddle along and "rejoin Europe together with Russia," the preferred option of President Kuchma and the oligarchs, which postpones integrating into Europe indefinitely and ties Ukraine's fate to Russia's; or it can revitalize its reform and nation-building policies and integrate into Europe regardless of Russia, the option promoted by Mr. Yushchenko and his allies.

NEWSBRIEFS

Pro-presidential bloc to become party

KYIV – Volodymyr Lytvyn, the head of the presidential administration and the For a United Ukraine election bloc, said on January 29 that his bloc will transform itself into a party. "All members of the [For a United Ukraine] coordination board [have concluded] that we have to implement in practice the idea of setting up a political structure. We will tackle this in parallel with the election. Since we are associated with the party of power, think of it as a pro-presidential or presidential party," Ukrainian Television quoted Mr. Lytvyn as saying. The For a United Ukraine bloc consists of the Agrarian Party, the National Democratic Party, the Labor Ukraine Party, the Party of the Regions, and the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. (RFE/RL Newline)

Tymoshenko hospitalized after car crash

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, the leader of the anti-presidential National Salvation Forum and the election bloc bearing her name, was hospitalized with head and chest injuries after her automobile collided with another in Kyiv on January 29, Interfax reported. The accident occurred when Ms. Tymoshenko was on her way to the Kyiv Appeals Court. Oleksander Turchynov, a leader of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, told UNIAN that, according to doctors, Ms. Tymoshenko's condition is "serious." (RFE/RL Newline)

Court restricts Tymoshenko's movement

KYIV – The Kyiv Appeals Court on January 29 rescinded a previous decision by the Pecherskyi District Court in Kyiv, which ruled that law enforcement bodies may not take any actions against Ms. Tymoshenko that would violate a deputy's immunity. This ruling allowed Ms. Tymoshenko to defy her former written pledge to the Procurator General's Office not to leave Kyiv, and to make election campaign trips to outlying areas. The court's decision restored the restriction on her freedom of movement as well as legal proceedings in connection with a corruption case against her. (RFE/RL Newline)

Melnychenko threatened with arrest

KYIV – Deputy Procurator General Oleksii Bahanets said on January 24 that former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko will be arrested if he returns to Ukraine from his asylum in the U.S. to participate in the parliamentary election campaign, Interfax reported. Mr. Melnychenko was proposed as a candidate on the Socialist Party's election list.

Mr. Bahanets noted that prosecutors are conducting a criminal investigation against Mr. Melnychenko, who is charged with abusing his office when he served as President Leonid Kuchma's security officer, and with divulging state secrets. Mr. Bahanets added that if Mr. Melnychenko is elected to the Verkhovna Rada, the Procurator General's Office will appeal to the Verkhovna Rada to strip him of his legislative immunity. (RFE/RL Newline)

CEC refuses to register Melnychenko

KYIV – The Central Election Commission has refused to register former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko as a candidate on the Socialist Party's election list, Ukrainian media reported on January 26. The commission said Mr. Melnychenko, who is currently residing in the U.S., cannot be viewed as a permanent resident of Ukraine, which is a requirement of the election law for parliamentary candidates. Yosyp Vynskyi of the Socialist Party disagreed with the ruling, saying that the election law allows anybody staying abroad under Ukraine's international agreements to become a parliamentary candidate. He recalled that in 1998 the Central Election Commission registered businessman Yukhym Zviahlytskyi, who had lived in Israel for more than two years. "The Central Election Commission interprets this provision differently for different people. I see this as an element of political persecution against our candidate who is running for parliament on the list of the Socialist Party," Mr. Vynskyi said. (RFE/RL Newline)

Melnychenko: officials afraid of my return

KYIV – Former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko said on January 28 that the Central Election Commission (CEC) refused to register him as a parliamentary candidate because CEC Chairman Mykhailo Riabets, President Leonid Kuchma, presidential Chief of Staff Volodymyr Lytvyn and others are "terribly afraid" that he will return to Ukraine having parliamentary immunity, UNIAN reported. Mr. Melnychenko added that if he were to arrive in Ukraine with parliamentary immunity, the Procurator General's Office would have to launch a criminal investigation of the above-mentioned individuals regarding the case of murdered journalist Heorhii Gongadze, as well as other corruption cases. (RFE/RL Newline)

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Ukraine's economy...

(Continued from page 1)

6.1 percent – the first time in a decade that inflation was held to single digits – may have given Ukraine the economic turnaround it has long awaited. In fact J.P. Morgan, the respected banking and investment house, announced on January 8 that Ukraine was among the most investment-attractive countries in 2001, having returned a 57.1 percent profit for investors, reported Interfax-Ukraine.

Economic performance in the Ukrainian manufacturing sector was particularly strong in 2001. The sector witnessed an upturn of 14.2 percent, with growth especially vibrant in the first six months, when industry expanded at a 17.4 percent rate. It was the second straight year of strong industrial expansion for the country, which experienced 12.4 percent industrial growth in 2000.

Slowed global economic growth in the second half of 2001, and especially after the events of September 11, affected the final industrial production numbers in Ukraine and resulted in second-half expansion diminishing to 9.5 percent. Fourth-quarter growth was particularly weak, but within expected projections, with the November numbers showing 7.8 percent growth and the December rate slipping to 1.8 percent.

The furniture industry led the way in the manufacturing sector with an increase of 28 percent. Machine building, which saw an 18.8 gain in production, came second, followed by the paper industry, which rose by 18.2 percent. Next came food production at 18.2 percent, followed by consumer goods manufacturing at 13.8 percent.

Metal manufacturing increased slightly, at 4.9 percent, but showed a marked decline in the second half of the year. The coal industry realized a 3.3 percent net gain in production for the year.

The agricultural sector had its strongest year in at least a decade and some say in 20 years, experiencing an overall 9.9 percent surge in production. Agricultural experts attribute the increases to a 7.7 percent increase in yields per hectare, due in part to ideal weather conditions last year.

The grain harvest was the strongest since independence, with Ukrainian farmers collecting 39.7 million tons – an increase of more than 62 percent over 2000. The wheat harvest more than doubled over 2000, while the barley yield was up by 48 percent and oats by 26.6 percent. Only the corn crop was a disappointment, showing a 5.5 percent yield reduction.

In non-grain related agricultural production, tobacco topped the list with an 18 percent increase over 2000 with sugar beets following at 17 percent.

While dairy production saw a 6 percent increase, the meat sector fell by 11 percent, which experts said was caused by a depletion of cattle stocks in the country. Poultry was in much better shape and experienced 10 percent growth.

Over all, the number of private farms in the country grew by 3,200 giving Ukraine a total of 41,600 by the end of the year. Each farm averaged 62 hectares of land.

The state of Ukraine's ever more healthy economy may also finally have become more evident to average citizens, who still complain that, while the numbers look good on paper, few see tangible evidence of the improvement in their daily lives. Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister of the Economy Vasyl Rohovyi said on January 18 that the real income of Ukrainians increased in 2001, which he explained was the result of the improved economic performance that allowed the government to increase the amount of wages and salaries paid out in 2001 by about 25 percent.

Comments by deputy prosecutor muddy the waters of Gongadze case

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Comments by Ukraine's Deputy Procurator General Oleksander Bahanets that the Council of Europe had changed its stance on the creation of an international commission to investigate the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze brought a critical response from Reporters Without Borders on January 28.

The remarks by Mr. Bahanets, made in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine on January 25, were among several regarding the investigation into the murder of Heorhii Gongadze, the controversial Ukrainian journalist who founded one of the country's first Internet newspapers before he disappeared in September 2000, that did not hold up to closer scrutiny.

Mr. Bahanets told the Ukrainian news agency that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which has been calling for the formation of an independent body to investigate what happened to Mr. Gongadze, had ultimately decided that there was no basis for establishing such a commission.

In a statement released to the press, Reporters Without Borders, a human rights group that monitors press freedoms, said that Mr. Bahanets' assertions were erroneous and baseless.

"Reporters Without Borders believes that such an assertion is nothing more than a strategy to which Ukrainian authorities ever more often submit in order to delay establishing the murderer of Heorhii Gongadze," explained the statement.

It said that while Latvian Foreign Minister Antanas Valionis, the head of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, had made a statement that Ukraine lacks the legal basis that would allow for an international investigative committee to work in Ukraine, three Ukrainian lawmakers will shortly introduce the needed legislation.

Reporters Without Borders also noted that on January 27, during its quarterly session, PACE officially turned to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Council of Europe to do the administrative work necessary to create the commission.

Mr. Bahanets also seemed to have missed the mark when he told Interfax-

Ukraine that the Procurator General's Office had ordered that a German firm conduct a third independent examination of the remains of the body found in November 2000 near the town of Tarascha outside Kyiv that are thought to be those of Mr. Gongadze.

He said that the new examination was in response to persistent requests for another forensic examination by the journalist's mother, Lesia, and his wife, Myroslava, and a desire to appease the Council of Europe. He explained, according to Interfax-Ukraine, that the German experts, who were yet to be chosen, and Ukraine's director of the Bureau of Forensic

Examinations would do the tests jointly. He added that afterwards the German side could take evidence to Germany for further study.

However, as Interfax-Ukraine later noted, German officials could not verify that they had received a request from Ukraine on the matter.

"One of the conditions for sending a German expert for a forensic study in a criminal investigation in Ukraine would be an official request for legal aid from the Ukrainian side on the basis of the 1959 European Convention on Mutual

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Kyivans recall sacrifices of the Battle of Kruty



Associated Press

KYIV – The Prosvita Ukrainian Language Society organized a commemorative prayer service on January 29, the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Kruty. Some 300 Kyivan high school and college students perished near the railroad station at Kruty, a town located outside the capital city, during a confrontation with the Soviet Red Army in 1918. The Bolsheviks had invaded Ukraine after consolidating their power in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The commemoration was held at Askoldova Mohyla in Kyiv at the site of St. Nicholas Greek-Catholic Church. The cross at left is the only memorial in the capital to the 300 young students, who are considered national heroes by national democratic forces. The remains of 30 of the students were re-interred at the site when it was built two years ago.

Ukrainian officials commemorate 1918 independence



Associated Press

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma along with Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch gaze upon the memorial in Ukraine's capital city to Mykhailo Hrushevsky, Ukraine's first president, before placing wreaths at the base of the statue on "Den Sobornosty." Hrushevsky led the country after Ukraine proclaimed independence 83 years ago on January 22, 1918.

Construction begins of new Ukrainian Museum building

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – Construction of a new home for The Ukrainian Museum in New York City has begun. The first sign of activity on the designated site at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues in the East Village section of Manhattan, is recently erected scaffolding that surrounds the existing structure, a former meatpacking warehouse. That building is destined to come down shortly to make way for a modern three-story museum facility.

Although not evident from the street, there is plenty of activity inside the old warehouse, according to Andrey Hankevych, chair of the Building Committee on the museum's board of trustees. "The initial demolition, excavation and preparatory work is being done from the inside of the building," he noted. He explained that prior to demolition and before the laying of the foundation can begin, the existing walls and foundations of the adjoining residential buildings must be supported through the underpinning process.

Once that has been accomplished, he went on to say that, "the foundation of our new building will be excavated and poured, and then we will proceed with

the demolition of the existing structure to make way for the construction of the new building."

Mr. Hankevych said work on the building project is on schedule. Weekly meetings between the representatives of the construction management firm, S. DiGiacomo & Son, the project architect, George Sawicki of the firm SawickiTarella Architecture+Design PC, and representatives of the museum are held to discuss the status and progress of the building project.

Mr. Sawicki said he is happy that the construction phase of the project has begun after many years of preparation. "After all the waiting, after all the planning, we have finally started the last but most important phase of this project. For me, both professionally and personally," he explained, "this is a most gratifying and welcoming conclusion to a long process, while at the same time, it also brings forth a feeling of optimism and confidence in a project of such great significance to our community."

"Once completed and opened, I have no doubt that all the work and waiting will have been well justified, and that The Ukrainian Museum will offer future generations of Ukrainian Americans a fit-



Interior view of existing structure where "underpinning" is in progress in the construction process of a new Ukrainian Museum building.



Scaffolding in front of existing structure heralds the beginning of construction of the new home for The Ukrainian Museum.

ting testament to their heritage, and a tangible symbol of their identity," added Mr. Sawicki.

The new building, which will have 75 square feet of frontage and offer 25,000 square feet of space, will be constructed at a cost of \$7.6 million. The Ukrainian Museum, which has been in operation at its present location, 203 Second Ave., for 25 years, has been conducting a capital fund-raising campaign for more than a decade in support of this project. The museum has experienced growth and expansion in recent years in all aspects of its operations. The new building will satisfy the needs and requirements of the museum by providing large exhibition galleries, proper storage for its collections, and spacious facilities to conduct its programs.

Olha Hnateyko, president of the board of trustees, explained that intensive fund-raising continues and will continue to provide funding for the following: completion of the building project without the need for outside financing; furnishing the new museum facility; bringing the new building to a full operational state (expanding the professional staff); organizing and mounting representative exhibitions for the grand opening.

She emphasized that the Ukrainian community in the United States and Canada has been extremely generous and because of this support the new building project is being realized.

Fund-raising is also focused on the financial future of the institution, she explained. It is important to strive now to build a strong financial foundation, so that the museum can function effectively in the years to come. This financial security will be dependent on the future growth of the museum's endowment program. Toward this end the museum is looking to substantially raise its endowment funds base within the next five years. The board of trustees hopes that the Ukrainian community will continue to generously support this program, thereby guaranteeing the financial security of The Ukrainian Museum.

To support the building project and help build a strong financial future for The Ukrainian Museum, donations may be sent to: The Ukrainian Museum 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003. For further information: phone (212) 228-0110; fax (212) 228-1947; e-mail info@ukrainianmuseum.org or visit the museum's webpage at www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Ukrainian Australian leader visits Ukraine to promote bilateral relations

ESSENDON, Australia – The chairman of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations Stefan Romaniw, returned from a nine-day visit to Ukraine, where he had a series of meetings to promote Australia as a business, investment, tourist and migration destination. A further reason for the visit was to call on the Australian government to show a greater interest in Australian-Ukrainian relations.

The Ukrainian Australian community leader had over 30 meetings with political, business, community and departmental leaders during his trip, which lasted from November 28 to December 6. Among them was an official meeting with Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Stephan Hawrysz. The meeting was attended also by National Deputy Pavlo Movchan.

During the one-hour meeting, issues of Ukrainian Australian relations were discussed. Mr. Hawrysz suggested that an official Parliamentary Group would visit Australia in 2002, and a formal letter to the Australian government was sent after the meeting to reflect this. Issues of business, investment, exchanges and support for the Australian Ukrainian community also were discussed.

"Today's Ukraine is a developing Ukraine. There are many positive aspects and attributes in Ukraine of 2001," Mr. Romaniw said after the meeting.

"It is developing economically at a faster rate than the U.S. or the U.K. Its strength is in its people. Government needs to recognize this and create the path for strong, transparent leadership focusing on the national needs and aspirations of the Ukrainian nation," he added.

"Today's Ukraine is made up of many ethnic minorities. The Australian multiculturalism model is one Ukraine should look at closely," Mr. Romaniw said. "All ethnic groups must have commitment to Ukraine and the national language being Ukrainian. Government policies encourage cultural and linguistic maintenance and in this environment all ethnic minorities should aspire to seeing Ukraine develop as a nation."

A Ukraine-Australia House (UAH) has been established in Kyiv. The center will be the hub for promotional activities that will showcase Australia. "This is a great initiative and again shows the support Australia has from many circles in Ukraine," Mr. Romaniw explained.

Mr. Movchan, chairman of the UAH board, and Halina Lemets, executive director, together with National Deputy Ihor Ostash and others are keen to strengthen links with Australia. At a dinner attended by Mr. Movchan, Ms. Lemets, Australia's Honorary Consul Dr. Serhi Berezovenko and representatives of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs plans for expanding UAH activities.

During Mr. Romaniw's meeting with senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Australian-Ukrainian relations and strategies were discussed.

An interesting concept that was raised and is now receiving consideration from the ministry is the link Australia could play for Ukraine in its alliances and economic policies in the Eurasia region. "There is no doubt that closer links between Australia and Ukraine can bring bilateral opportunities and benefits. This can be a win-win situation," Mr. Romaniw said.

Meetings with business leaders in Kyiv, Lviv and Ternopil have seen Australian-Ukrainian business links already a reality.

Mr. Romaniw engaged in a range of meetings with the Lviv Chamber of

Commerce and Industry, representatives of a consortium of businesspeople, legal and cultural representatives, and academics.

He met also with the Lviv Oblast Administration and discussed the possibility of preparing and signing memoranda of understanding between Lviv and state departments in Australia to promote language and cultural exchanges.

"We sense the strong support for cooperation from Ukraine in developing sound government-to-government relations. We are entering a new era. Community organizations such as the AFUO can facilitate, but agreements, accords, memoranda of understanding which fix in concrete relations must be done on the government level," Mr. Romaniw said.

Meetings with tourist operators resulted in the development of the concept of a youth tourist group from Australia visiting Ukraine under a program dubbed Following the Paths of My Forebears." The program will encourage young people to trek through Ukraine visiting important historical attractions and, most importantly, visiting the regions where their parents and

(Continued on page 14)

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Youngstown District holds Christmas party



BOARDMAN, Ohio – Members of the Youngstown District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association celebrated Christmas at a party on December 16, 2001, at the Holiday Inn in Boardman, Ohio. Over 60 people in attendance enjoyed dinner to the music of the Bandurists' Christmas album. The assembled were greeted by Estelle Woloshyn, district chair, who introduced Msgr. George Appleyard, the Rev. Andrew Marko from St. Anne's Church and the Rev. Charles Baxter from Ss. Peter and Paul Church. After dinner, the guests were treated to various prizes provided by the Youngstown District. Members of the committee included Estelle and Gene Woloshyn, Annabelle Borovitsky, Dan Hlywa, Helen Kozlow, Helene Senedak and Kathy Martynzyn. Seen in the photo above (from left) are: Mr. Hlywa, Mrs. Woloshyn, Mr. Woloshyn and Ms. Borovitsky; below: Mr. and Mrs. Nick Cooper, Steve Bury, Mr. Kozlow, Sonya Hlywa and Mr. Hlywa.



Young UNA'ers



Nicholas T. Iverson, son of Motria and Glenn Iverson, is a new member of UNA Branch 66 in New York. He was enrolled by his great-grandmother Maria Kryzaniwsky.



Aleksander R. and his younger sister Anastasia U. Walters, children of Roma and Timothy Walters, are new members of UNA Branch 66 in New York. They were enrolled by their great-grandmother Maria Kryzaniwsky.



Maxim Zarycky, son of George and Pei Zarycky, currently residing in Kyiv, is a new member of UNA Branch 327 in Hempstead, N.Y., thanks to his grandmother Zenovia Zarycky, former long-time branch secretary. Maxim's father is a former member of The Ukrainian Weekly's editorial staff.



Natalie Anna Chapp, daughter of Kristina and Robert Chapp, is a new member of UNA Branch 175. She was enrolled by her grandparents Roman and Victoria Maksymowich of Warren, Mich.

Woonsocket UNA'ers welcome St. Nicholas

WOONSOCKET, R.I. – The presentation of the Nativity scene and the visit from St. Nicholas took place on December 9, 2001, in the parish hall of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Woonsocket, R.I. The event was sponsored by Ukrainian National Association Branch 241 represented by Janet Bardell, secretary, and Teodor Klowan, president. Msgr. Roman Golemba greeted the audience. Program participants were Sofia Bobiak, Zenon Ruzycy, Dr. Lydia Klufas-Tkach and Dr. Michael Klufas. In the Nativity scene Camilla Bobiak represented Mary, Michael Ruzycy played St. Joseph; the three kings were Marko Tkach, Stefko Ruzycy and Andriyko Klufas; Heather Nikolysyn and Julia Hull were angels, and Johnathan Nikolysyn was a shepherd. John Tkach played Christmas music and Dmytro Wolansky decorated the stage. Program organizers were Ivanna Hanushevsky, Nina Koropey, Anna Ruzycy and Ms. Bardell. Gifts were distributed by St. Nicholas and refreshments served, and the program ended with singing of Christmas carols.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Dirty politics, as usual

Ukrainian elections have never been orderly, clean or totally transparent, and this year's Verkhovna Rada balloting should be no different, given recent developments.

There are politicians in the country who believe that elections, are a no-holds-barred affair and that it is okay to employ unethical and downright dirty tactics to manipulate events and voter sympathies for one's political benefit. The methods already used in an attempt to derail the election campaigns of Viktor Yushenko, the ex-prime minister and former chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, and the effort by state authorities to limit the physical movement of Yulia Tymoshenko, whose election bloc is a favorite with the anti-Kuchma forces, do not bode well for this year's Ukrainian parliamentary elections scheduled for March 31.

Never mind that President Leonid Kuchma has made it plain that he will not allow election day irregularities to take place and that the leaders of the largest parties and election blocs have pledged to the world that the vote will be the cleanest and most transparent in the history of independent Ukraine. The political positioning, mudslinging and bloodletting started even before the campaign officially begins on February 9.

Mr. Yushenko, who leads in most polls with anywhere from 15 to 21 percent voter support, has already taken two major political hits. First, his integrity and sincerity were questioned by the release of phone conversations, recorded by someone without his knowledge, in which he and Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko were heard talking about ousting Rada Vice-Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk from his post. Instead of undermining Mr. Yushenko's image as an honest and straightforward politician, the tapes tended to tarnish Mr. Omelchenko's reputation as a level-headed leader.

In the second attack, businessman and politician Oleksander Rzhavskiy, a rather nondescript lawmaker who achieved some fame when he ran unsuccessfully for the presidency in 1999 only to slip back into obscurity afterwards, tried to usurp the Yushenko name and reputation either to besmirch it or to ride it to victory by incorporating it into the name of his election bloc, the For Yushenko Bloc.

Ms. Tymoshenko has been the object of several vicious political attacks from the highest levels of government in an unsuccessful effort not only to smear her but also to wipe her off the political map. In the latest flap, an appeals court set aside a ruling by a lower court that had cleared Ms. Tymoshenko of money-laundering charges and reinstated an order by the Procurator General's Office not allowing her to leave Kyiv. The decision has drawn much controversy because it was handed down without either the defendant or her attorney being present. Most political observers believe the court proceeding was obviously rigged against Ms. Tymoshenko. Ukrainian law states that a defendant can miss two court appearances before a court can rule on the case without him or her present. No one was in attendance for the ruling because Ms. Tymoshenko was injured in an automobile accident on her way to the court proceeding.

Obviously someone is trying to do as much damage to Mr. Yushenko and Ms. Tymoshenko as possible. Particularly in the case of Mr. Yushenko, determining who is behind the efforts is not easy. However, he himself has noted that two political entities brought down his government and those are the two power centers with which he cannot cooperate politically. One is the For a United Ukraine bloc, headed by Volodymyr Lytvyn, who happens to be President Kuchma's chief of staff; the other is Mr. Medvedchuk's Social Democratic Party (United).

But in the end maybe this sort of dirty gamesmanship truly benefits those who are the subjects of the attacks. Mr. Yushenko's even-handed demeanor and restrained reaction have to an extent boomeranged on those who would have the young politician covered in mud and sinking into political obscurity. Likewise, earlier attempts to discredit Ms. Tymoshenko backfired, in part because like a good judoist she warded off the attacks and used her considerable public relations talents to turn them to her advantage. Many in Ukraine today see her as a sort of political Joan of Arc.

It's a sure thing that there will be more such attacks and smear tactics as candidates and parties become fully engaged in the campaign. Unfortunately for the Ukrainian nation, this has become a sad tradition of Ukrainian electoral politics.

Feb.
6
1998

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago, Ukraine fielded its third Winter Olympic team since independence – the second with its own independent team (as Ukraine's team had been forced by circumstance to compete in 1992 under the aegis of the Unified Team).

On February 6, 1998, 56 of Ukraine's athletes and coaches, trainers and officials filed into Minami Stadium in Nagano, Japan, led by Andriy Deryzemlia, world champion in the biathlon, junior division, who carried the Ukrainian flag during the opening ceremonies.

Ukraine's athletes competed in 10 of the 14 Olympic winter events in Nagano. The head of the delegation, the president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, Valerii Borzov, told *The Weekly* in 1998 that the team would be happy with a couple of medals.

"Ukraine's potential and traditions in the Summer and Winter Olympics are different. The winter climate in Ukraine is such that it does not allow athletes to realize their full potential in those types of sports," said Mr. Borzov. A former Summer Olympics multiple gold medalist, he said Ukraine nonetheless had medal potential in several events, including figure skating, free-style acrobatic skiing, the luge and Nordic combination (biathlon), but he refrained from naming individual potential medalists.

"Every athlete who goes to the Olympics believes he or she can win the gold. It is not for me to somehow discourage that hope. In the end it is the individual's determination that matters," said Mr. Borzov.

Ukraine's first medal in Nagano came on February 8 courtesy of Olena Petrova, who took silver in the 15-kilometer biathlon.

Sources: "Team Ukraine leaves for Winter Olympics in Nagano" by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 1, 1998, Vol. LXVI, No. 5; "Team Ukraine at Nagano Games: biathlete earns first medal, a silver" by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 15, 1998, Vol. LXVI, No. 7.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Ukraine's transformation on the European model: how the United States can assist the process

by Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn

I will deal with the subject of Ukraine's transformation under five headings that pose the following questions.

- Why should Ukraine transform itself on the European model.

- What are the special attractions of the European model for Ukraine.

- Is such a transformation feasible?

- How can the U.S. help?

- Will the U.S. help?

Why should Ukraine transform itself on the European model?

The first reason is geography: Ukraine belongs to Europe geographically; it is close to its geographic heart.

History also provides a reason. Already in the 11th century there were family links between the rulers of Rus'-Ukraine and European royal courts. Four children of Prince Yaroslav the Wise were married with royal families of western Europe. One of them, Anna Yaroslavna, became the queen of France, known as Anne de Kiev. She rose to such prominence not because of her looks, but because she was the only truly literate person in the court and her wisdom was admired.

Further for transformation based on the European model are found in both the present and the future.

In terms of economics, the brick of Ukraine's trade will be with European Union countries. Much of the investment had come and also may continue from those countries.

As for the political sphere, harmonization of legislation with European Union standards will pull Ukraine towards full-fledged contemporary democracy. Yet the fact that western European countries range in their political systems from constitutional monarchies through presidential regimes to more parliamentary types would allow Ukraine to develop its own political architecture best suited to its traditions and current particularities. Since Switzerland is likely to join the European Union, Ukraine will be able to draw on that experience, which is of particular use for multi-ethnic countries.

As regards security, membership in the EU would provide military security and, even more importantly, permit Ukraine to safeguard its cultural, linguistic and political autonomy in the interdependent political constellation in which the EU now finds itself.

What are the special attractions of the European model?

It offers a vision called the "idea of societal order". The experience of some member-countries of the European Union shows that it is possible to reconcile the objectives of contemporary societies with the aspirations of people.

These objectives/aspirations include: political freedom (true democracy); economic effectiveness through innovation, competitiveness, which assures a high level of GDP; social justice (there is room in such societies for very wealthy

Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn is chairman of the International Center for Policy Studies, International Management Institute, Kyiv; and advisor to the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and the prime minister of Ukraine. The article above is based on the keynote address he delivered on November 1, 2001, at the conference "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood" held in Washington.

people but there are no really poor people); co-existence with nature (ecological health, sustainability).

For Ukraine, the development of such a societal order is almost imperative in order to maintain political and social cohesion. At present there are some very wealthy oligarchs and millions of poor people in Ukraine. This is not tenable over a long period.

While communism has not delivered equality, the aspiration for a more equitable distribution of wealth is deeply rooted in society. There is even much nostalgia now for the "good old days" among the majority of the older population which did not experience the mass terror of Stalinist days and led predictable lives, had assured retirement pensions, free medical care etc.

The second attraction of the European model is a so-called "social contract." This essentially means extending democratic rights to the work place and not just keeping it in the political arena, i.e., in various kinds of elections. The experience of countries as different as Sweden and Switzerland starting in 1937 and lasting over half a century shows that it is possible to have a broad consensus type of agreement between labor management and government on how to assure profitability of enterprises and yet achieve good working conditions, protection against actions by owners, managers.

Having work representatives on the boards of directors adds to stability both at enterprise and national levels rather than incapacitating the companies. Even co-determination law providing for even representation of owners and labor on the boards of directors, on the supervisory boards imposed on Germany by the United States to prevent the re-emergence of huge companies assured their good development, the international competitiveness of the German economy, and the country's high prosperity. Other countries, like Austria and Holland, that have additional legislation testify to the positive aspects of such social contracts.

A key policy instrument of the European Union is the Structural Fund. Currently there is about \$100 billion in that fund, which is available for distribution over the next five years to poorer members and particularly new candidate countries to enable them to go through necessary structural reforms and develop their economies in keeping with higher Western/North European standards.

Richer countries contribute to this fund and poor countries draw on it. This is how Greece, Spain and Portugal made rapid economic advances. Ireland is an outstanding example of a country that moved from economic backwardness to being in the avant-garde of developed countries.

Is such a transformation of Ukraine feasible?

One can rephrase the question by posing it in a more direct manner: is ultimate accession to the European Union possible? The European Union did not seem to want Ukraine in its midst until now. The EU did not even want Ukraine to call itself a potential candidate country. But things seem to be changing.

Ukraine's economic performance over the last few years reduces the worry that Ukraine, due to its low GDP per capita

(Continued on page 23)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ps & Bs groups need purposeful environment

Dear Editor:

I read Andrij Wowk's recent article "Where have the young professionals gone?" with interest and laud his and the Ukrainian Engineers' Society's efforts to organize an effort to re-engage young professionals in Ukrainian American organizations.

Mr. Wowk is correct that "there should be a second level of community involvement, into which young people can step as they leave the collegiate world." While a number of professionally affiliated organizations continue to exist in the Ukrainian American community in varying degrees of vibrancy, it seems that many of the professional and business associations (Ps&Bs) that were active in the 1980s and early 1990s and provided that second level of community involvement continue to exist on paper only. Some of the reasons for their demise are pertinent to efforts at revitalization.

While networking – one Ukrainian professional putting another in contact with "the right person" – is a worthwhile goal, this is not enough to sustain an organization. Simply put, once interested professionals from a given geographic location at a given point in time all meet each other, the organization quickly devolves into a social group. While the importance of socializing to the continued vitality of Ukrainian American organizations cannot be overemphasized, it alone is not enough to develop and grow an organization, particularly as members move away, undergo changes in lifestyle, etc. and members begin to question the purpose of the organization. The loss of momentum that inevitably ensues also dooms recruitment of new members. This devolution, it seems to me, was largely responsible for the demise of a number of Ps&Bs groups.

Furthermore, while organizing by professional pursuit also can be worthwhile, at the same time such affiliations may not meet the needs of professionals in today's world. Simply put, Ukrainian American professional societies cannot begin to hope to provide the range of services or professional information that their American counterparts can. While some professional societies seem to have overcome this obstacle, many have not.

Nonetheless, I believe there can be viable Ukrainian American professional societies if a number of factors are taken into consideration.

First, while this may be stating the obvious, members are drawn to these affiliations because they do want to associate with other Ukrainian Americans.

Second, such societies can develop and grow if they provide a mix of activities and interests – in other words, there should be projects with goals that encourage members to participate and to invite others to join them. Not only should there be social and cultural activities, but also volunteer activities for the betterment of the entire community should be considered.

For example, the aging Ukrainian American population would benefit tremendously from volunteer (or partly volunteer) efforts that younger professionals could provide by specialty or interest, such as basic medical services, estate planning or even the collection of oral histories.

There is also the potential for projects involving Ukraine, collaboration with the Fourth Wave of immigrants, or joint efforts with other organizations in the larger American society.

Is this too difficult? There are a number of organizations which by recognizing the need for Ukrainian American professionals

to congregate in a purposeful environment have enjoyed continued vitality and success. I wish Mr. Wowk, the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, and the others involved in their revitalization effort the best of success and hope to see concrete steps taken as a result of the informal summit they are planning

Olena W. Stercho
Wayne, Pa.

Thanks to Kuropas for column on pioneers

Dear Editor:

I wanted to thank Myron B. Kuropas, through your Weekly, for his excellent, erudite article titled "Canada's barbed wire fence" (January 20). To me, the first paragraph was particularly meaningful and poignant.

My parents came from Bukovyna; my dad served in the Austro-Hungarian army. Both parents were illiterate because there were no schools in their vicinity during their school-age years, and they were poor. However, an opportunity arose and they took it. They immigrated to Canada and homesteaded in the area of Kamsack, Saskatchewan, along with hundreds of other Ukrainians. They overcame many a hardship and with hard work and community cooperation led a fairly comfortable life.

The most important result of all this, as it pertains to me, is that they encouraged the children to obtain an education – something they never had an opportunity to experience.

I have copied this column by Dr. Kuropas and sent it to each of our three children, so that they and our nine grandchildren could get a glimpse of some of the hardships that the Ukrainian pioneers endured in order to give us all a much better life.

It is truly something to cherish, and we must never forget our forefathers and their determined efforts to succeed. I am eternal-grateful!

Michael E. Sasyniuk, B.Sc. M.D.
Bellevue, Wash.

The Weekly provides a well-rounded view

Dear Editor:

This is to thank you for publishing my article on "Recent legal and tax changes in U.S. facilitate adoption from Ukraine," in your December 30, 2001, issue. Of course, it is always a pleasure to see one's name in print! Also, I was afraid the article would be quite long by many newspaper standards, and you thought it useful enough to publish in its entirety. Hopefully it will encourage some would-be parents to go ahead with what is a difficult – but certainly doable – undertaking.

My wife Marlies and I both enjoy The Weekly very much. We find it very informative. Often the specialized press of any sort feels it always has to defend its particular interest. But you publish articles and commentaries expressing all possible views on developments in Ukraine, a country that needs not only fair coverage but also encouragement to keep moving in the right direction.

Such an attitude on the part of the press is much appreciated by the ordinary reader. Through The Ukrainian Weekly we get a well-rounded view of events in that country.

Patrick W. Murphy
Bethesda, Md.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



"Together we will"

As most good UNA'ers know, the next quadrennial convention of the Ukrainian National Association will be held in Chicago on May 24 through 28 at the Marriott O'Hare Hotel.

The local convention committee has been preparing for this important conclave, working with the UNA Home Office, as well as the Chicago Convention Bureau, to make this the best UNA convention ever.

This is only the second time in 108 years that a UNA convention is being held in Chicago. To mark the occasion the Chicago convention committee has adopted the slogan "Together We Will," a modification of the motto of the City of Chicago, "I Will."

The reader might well ask, "will what? Although the answer is simple enough – "we will turn the UNA around" – doing that is not. It's no secret that the UNA, like almost every other fraternal benefit society in the United States, has declined in recent years. So has practically every other Ukrainian institution, including our mainline Churches. Only our federal credit unions appear to be thriving.

The most momentous question that UNA delegates will need to address in May will be "how?" How do we turn things around? Much is at stake. The future of Soyuzivka, The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda depend on the answer. Without the UNA, these three community-wide institutions will probably disappear.

Of special interest have been the written reports of the younger members of the UNA General Assembly as presented at our meeting last December. Taras G. Szmagala Jr., for example, believes that the "underlying issue of our association – "why be a member" – has gone unaddressed and there is no indication of that changing in the future."

Echoing Mr. Szmagala's sentiments was Dr. Wasyl Szeremta, who wrote: "For the UNA to survive, we need to decide what business we are running. Are we an insurance company? Are we a resort provider? Are we a publisher? Are we a multi-faceted organization with separate subsidiaries? It is clear from the financial reports that we cannot do everything as a principal business."

Mr. Szmagala expressed disappointment that the UNA delegates did not vote to change the structure of the UNA from its present form to a corporate structure in which the convention elects a board of directors which, in turn, has the power to hire (and fire) the working executive. Mr. Szmagala worked long and hard on fine-tuning this proposal, so his letdown is understandable. The proposal was defeated in a mail-in ballot because two-thirds of the delegates did not approve the by-laws change.

Why was the proposal defeated? Stefko Kuropas argued that the pros and cons of the idea were never adequately presented to the delegates. "I believe," he wrote, "that most delegates would agree that the mail-in ballot is not something that is well-suited for the our organization." Al Kachkowski seemed to agree. "It is normal that such a major step be approached with a degree of caution by delegates, especially when they do not have an opportunity to hear the proposal presented and debated on a convention floor. It is my hope that our next convention will make room for such debate."

UNA conventions are important decision-making bodies. In researching the history of the UNA, I discovered that there was a time when all UNA members, not just executives, assembly members and del-

egates could freely voice their opinions and have them published in Svoboda. The precedent was set prior to the 1914 UNA convention. The discussion on the pages of Svoboda began on July 2 and ended on September 5 with a total of 138 individuals participating.

What amazed me was that some recommendations are being echoed today – some 85 years later. The August 4, 1917, issue of Svoboda, for example, published a letter from Father Dmytro Khomiak demanding that the entire UNA membership receive all convention reports prior to the elections of delegates so that they would be "familiar with the way the organization was managed during the past three years. Only in this way can delegates decide if supreme executives are worthy of further support". On August 30, Ivan Kashtaniuk complained that local UNA branches were no longer viewed as important by UNA national executives. That same year Gregory Geba wrote that the UNA shouldn't belong to any political organization "because it creates real problems in the organizing of new members."

In a September 11, 1920, Svoboda proposal titled "Stop, Look and Listen," the venerable Father Volodymyr Spolitakewycz wrote: "In order for the UN Soyuz convention to be life-giving and beneficial, we must not be narrow-minded, one-sided or selfish, wishing only that 'good' which we believe is good. Our goal must be the organizational good, a good that is apparent to all delegates and members of the UN Soyuz... The convention of the UNA is not a political gathering, a party meeting, or a religious synod, and for that reason there is no room for political, party or religious fights."

Following heated discussions, delegates to the 1925 UNA convention voted to curtail recommendations from individual UNA members. In the future only those proposals which were approved during a UNA branch meeting would be published in Svoboda. This was amended by the 1970 UNA convention, which ruled that only proposals approved at district committee meetings would be published.

Even this was too much for some UNA executives. On May 1, 1974, Svoboda promulgated the following dictate: "Paragraph 17 of the UNA By-Laws defines the duties of various convention committees. The By-Laws Committee is obligated to review all pre-convention recommendations for the development and well-being of Soyuz which are made by branches after they have been approved or amended by the supreme executive which then proposes a course of action to be taken by the convention. There is nothing in the By-Laws that obligates the publication of these recommendations in Svoboda, the official organ of the UNA. Inasmuch as the publication of such recommendations has become part of our tradition, however, Svoboda will continue to publish them, but only in the form in which they are received from the Supreme Executive."

For 60 years recommendations from the UNA membership were published freely in the UNA press. This fraternal and democratic practice was quashed in 1974. I don't believe it is mere coincidence that that same year the UNA began a decline that continues until today.

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FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Ingerit Kuzych

The world's first postal code

The use of mail sorting codes to expeditiously handle large volumes of mail is not a new idea. The first true postal codes, today known as zip codes, date to the first half of the 20th century, and the first country to introduce them was Ukraine.

Setting up the index

A sophisticated, three-part postal code system (referred to as an "index") was first introduced in December 1932. This program was not a brief experimental venture limited to a small region of the country, but instead was a fully supported governmental effort that extended to all corners of interwar Ukraine (then part of the USSR) until it was abruptly discontinued in 1939 (Figure 1). Four different informational postal cards were prepared in 1932 to announce the new index program (Nos. 176 and 184-186). Their texts are all different, but the messages are similar.

Postal card No. 186 (Figure 2) displays a typical announcement-exhortation. It shows an envelope with delivery and return addresses that each contain the new index (for the cities of Olevsk and Kyiv, 101 Y 1 and 11 Y 15, respectively). The Ukrainian text reads: "A conventional indication 'index' has been assigned to every populated point in Ukraine. The presence of such a conventional designation on a letter guarantees correct sending and timely reception! Information at the post office!"

It was at post offices that a 268-page book was made available to patrons. Its lengthy title was self-explanatory: Listing of the Postal Establishments, Railway Stations, Towns, Villages and Rural Councils of Ukraine With Their Designated Postal Codes. Published in 1932 in Kharkiv (the Ukrainian capital at the time), the volume was divided into two sections. The first half presented all the locales in Ukraine in alphabetical order followed by their new postal code. The second half listed all the postal codes of the country in sequence (starting with 1 Y 1 and ending with 486 Y 53) followed by the place name. So, either way one looked up some information, it could be readily tracked down.

How the index worked

Every index was composed of a num-

ber-letter-number series. The central Cyrillic "Y" (pronounced "oo," as in boot) of an Index designation stood for (Y)країна (Ukraine) and so immediately identified mails destined for this republic of the Soviet Union. The first number (the fore-number) designated the importance and size of a location. Numbers 1 to 10 were assigned to the capital city of Kharkiv (1 through 7 allocated to major district (raion) postal centers in the city, but 8 to 10 held in reserve).

Remaining two-digit numbers indicated other major cities. So, 11 to 20 specified Kyiv (Nos. 11 to 14 allocated, remainder in reserve), 21 to 29 Odesa (five numbers allocated), 30 to 33 Mykolaiv (only one allocated), 34 to 39 Dnipropetrovsk (four numbers allocated), 40 to 44 Zaporizhia (all five numbers allocated), 45 to 48 Stalino (presently Donetsk, four numbers allocated), 49 to 51 Mariupil (one number allocated), and so on to 89 to 91 for Kherson (one number allocated). Numbers 92 to 100 were kept in reserve.

Three-digit fore-numbers indicated raions of lesser importance in the country. So, 101 stood for the Olevsk district (in Zhytomyr province) and this district was subdivided into 39 smaller postal drop-off and pick-up points, mostly village post offices. These raion subdivisions were indicated by the hind-numbers of the postal Index. The Olevsk subdivisions, therefore, ranged from 101 Y 1 to 101 Y 39.

Raion subdivisions could vary tremendously in number, from 130 in Kharkiv raion to just nine in Staro Kermenchuk raion. Usually, though, they ranged between 20 and 40 in number. In all, 440 raions are enumerated in the listing, while 46 large-city raion number slots were set aside for future use (i.e., the raion fore-numbers go as high as 486). Over 25,000 unique raion subdivision receiving points are specified.

Examples of use

Postal index codes more frequently appeared on the bottom halves of canceling devices (Figures 3 and 4), but they can also be found across the tops and sometimes on the side. In addition, the codes are frequently seen on registration cachets (Figures 5 to 7), both those indi-



Figure 1. The Ukrainian SSR during the interwar years in a detail of a map from "Ukraine: A Historical Atlas" by Paul Robert Magocsi (1985).



Figure 2. Postal card from 1932 introducing the new Ukrainian "index" system.

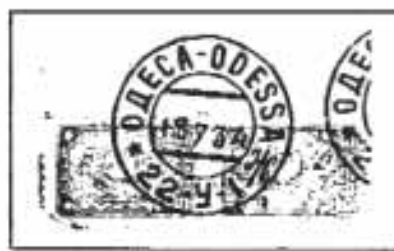


Figure 3. The Index 22 Y 1 specified Odesa.

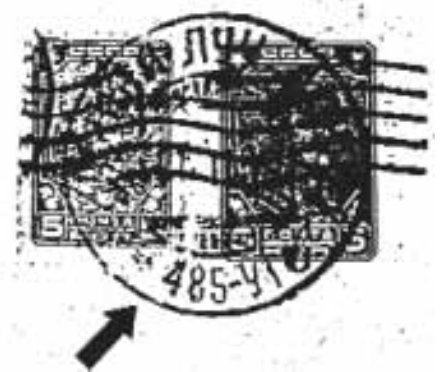


Figure 4. Index number 485 Y 1 served Krasnyi Luch.

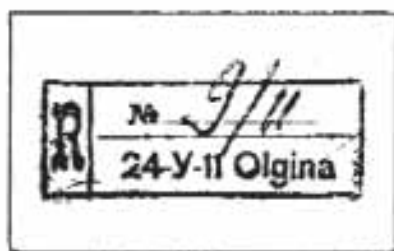


Figure 5. Registration sticker with the Index 24 Y 11 for Olga, a substation of Odesa.

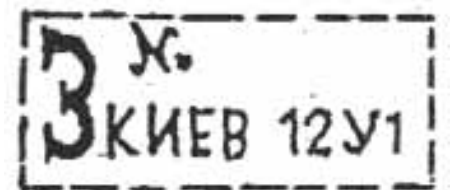


Figure 7. Cyrillic registration marking with the Index of 12 Y 1 for Kyiv.

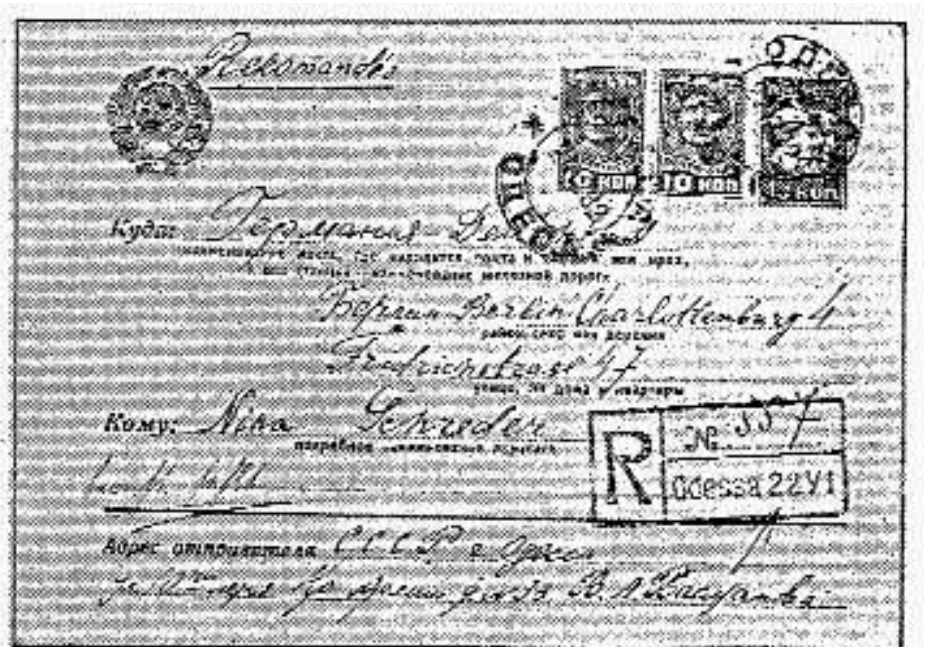


Figure 6. Registered cover mailed from Odesa to Berlin on December 22, 1932 (i.e., not long after the Index system was established). Note the 22 Y 1 index notation on the rectangular registration marking.

cated with the Latin "R" (for registered) or Russian Cyrillic "З" (for zakaznoe).

The fate of the index system

The Ukrainian index system was suspended in the summer of 1939. The latest code described in the literature (22 Y 1 from Odesa) dates to June 25, 1939, and the index system most likely was discontinued at about this time. The abrupt cessation in use of the index may have been for strategic reasons, since the rumblings and preparations for war increased as the year progressed. (The Nazi-Soviet non-

aggression pact, the so-called Molotov-Ribbentrop Agreement, was signed on August 23, 1939.) Postal codes were apparently not assigned to any locales in western Ukraine, which came under Soviet occupation in September of 1939.

An alternate reason for the abandonment of the system may have been the stepped-up purges of the latter 1930s. Newly installed Communist Party replacements may have wished to demonstrate their loyalty by eliminating the postal code as a manifestation of "bourgeois nationalism."

INTERVIEW: Yurij Luhovy on the making of a film about Bereza Kartuzka

by Fran Ponomarenko

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

MONTREAL – The story of the infamous concentration camp, Bereza Kartuzka (1934-1939), where thousands of Ukrainian patriots were incarcerated without due process and in direct violation of the Polish Constitution is little known. Yurij Luhovy, a member of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, is now close to completing a documentary film about this camp, a film based on authentic photographs, documents, archival footage, and eyewitness testimonials from survivors.

Part one of a trilogy dealing with Ukraine under three occupations – Polish, Communist and Nazi – this film will highlight the political situation in which Western Ukrainians found themselves under Polish rule between the first and second world wars. Award-winning Montreal filmmaker, Mr. Luhovy is best known for his work on “Harvest of Despair.” He has, however, more recently made another documentary film titled “Freedom Had a Price” about the internment operations in Canada, which led to the detention of over 5,000 Ukrainians in 24 camps across Canada, and led to the designation of a further 88,000 civilians (the majority of whom also were Ukrainian) as “enemy aliens.”

In addition to his documentary work, Mr. Luhovy has also worked in the mainstream industry on such films as “Khanesatake: 250 Years of Resistance,” “Show Girls,” “Rocks at Whiskey Trench” and “Race for the Bomb.”

You are presently close to completing a film about the Bereza Kartuzka concentration camp. What brought you to this subject?

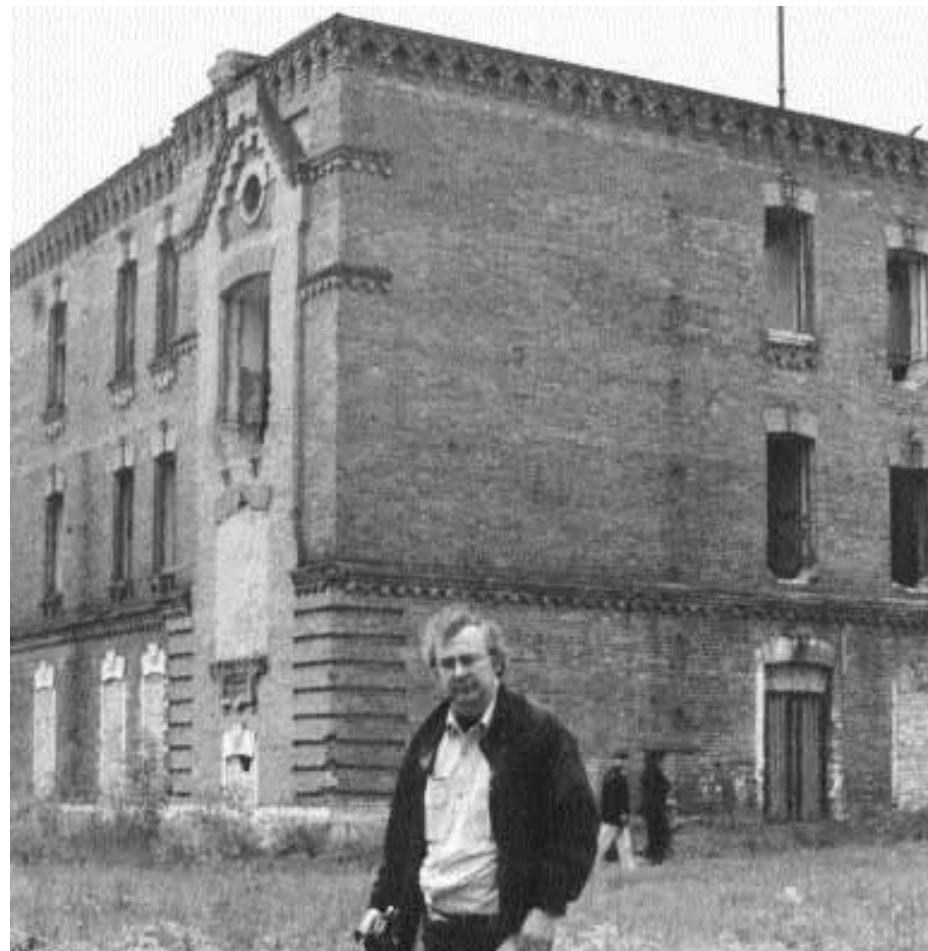
Actually, it was my father. He was imprisoned in Bereza. When I was a young boy I often heard him speaking with his friends, who were also incarcerated there, about the abuses they endured in the camp. They used to sit around our dining room table in Montreal and recount their stories for hours. They talked about their lives in western Ukraine in the 1930s. They all knew each other in Ukraine as students, or as former prisoners in Bereza

It was the political climate at that time. You have to place his story in the context of the tension between Poland and Ukraine in the late 1920s and 1930s. Western Ukraine was under Polish occupation and the Polish government progressively used severe measures to suppress and pacify Ukraine. By 1935 Poland became a completely authoritarian state and attacks against Ukrainian life again increased. My father’s arrest was one of many.

We were never certain of the reason. None was ever given. Ukrainians were arrested by the Polish police “bez prava zakhystu,” without the right of a defense. This was illegal, of course, even under Polish law, but it was done anyway. My father had just finished law school in Ternopil and had just married my mother. They decided to settle in Brody; the year was 1938. He was supposed to work for two years under a lawyer for no pay. However, to survive they opened a fruit store. Nearby, a Polish man also had one, and he saw his business dwindling. My mother always thought that the reason for the denunciation of my father was this person’s jealousy. One day my mother came to the store to bring my father some lunch but he was not there. The neighbors said that my father was arrested and taken to the Bereza Kartuzka concentration camp. This happened in June or July of 1939. That day about 17 other people from Brody alone were arrested and imprisoned.

What kind of people were usually picked up by the Polish police?

All persons active in Ukrainian national affairs were under constant surveillance, searched and often arrested. The Polish police especially looked for people that were in the Ukrainian underground, in the OUN [Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists], which, in retaliation, had organized a struggle against the brutality of the Polish occupation. They also targeted intellectuals. But criminals of various nationalities also were imprisoned there. This was done on purpose, to create dissension and conflict. There were also some Poles in Bereza who opposed Pilsudski’s authoritarian rule. The Polish police also arrest-



Filmmaker Yurij Luhovy stands in front of the Bereza Kartuzka concentration camp.

thing into a historical context. We see that problems began on June 28, 1919, when the Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference, just after World War I, allowed Poland to occupy all of Eastern Galicia (or western Ukraine). Poland never adhered to the points of the Treaty of Versailles.

A clear violation of Ukrainian rights was made in July 31, 1924, which excluded the Ukrainian language from use in governmental and in self-governing agencies. In addition, Poland embarked on an intensive process of colonizing Ukrainian territories with Poles from ethnic Poland. In the next 20 years, about 200,000 Poles were moved into Ukrainian villages and about 100,000 into cities of western Ukraine. The Polish regime also began a complete destruction of Ukrainian schools. For example, Ukrainian schools in Galicia dropped from 2,420 in 1911 to 352 in 1937. Polish schools on Ukrainian territories greatly increased. Ukrainian Catholics also were pressured to accept the Latin rite, to become Roman Catholic, which actually meant renouncing their Ukrainian nationality.

Then, in June 1934, the Polish Minister of Internal Affairs, Bronislaw Pieracki, was assassinated in Warsaw by Ukrainians in retaliation for his role in the brutal “pacification” of Ukraine. Three days later Bereza Kartuzka was opened. This means that the camp must have been planned much earlier because everything was in place.

The “pacification” of Ukraine was a reign of terror. People were beaten mercilessly, books were burned, Ukrainian institutions were closed, censorship was enforced. In the Ukrainian newspapers in Canada during the 1930s, you can read many accounts of what occurred. It was natural for Canadian Ukrainians to follow what was happening in their homeland, to their families and friends. Also, when you go through newspapers and archives of the 1930’s, you see that the international press was aware of what was happening. The Manchester Guardian, for example, often reported about the terror being inflicted on Ukrainians. And photos depicting this did get out to the West. The West knew what was happening in Western Ukraine but did little.

Who took these photographs?

It was local people from different villages who took these pictures secretly. They wanted to inform the League of Nations about the conditions that Ukrainians lived in under Poland in order to persuade the League to intervene. The Polish government, claiming to be democratic, was somewhat sensitive when the West learned about the abuse of minority rights in Poland. Can you imagine? We were living on our own land and were considered a minority!

What purpose was the concentration camp supposed to serve in the eyes of the Polish government?

Ukrainians were placed in Bereza to be “re-educated,” that is, to learn not to oppose policies of Polonization and not to resist Polish rule. It was a way of terrorizing Ukrainians and trying to get them to stop attaining an independent homeland. Most of them were there for three months, but some for a year and a half. Some died in the camp. The camp commander was Col. Yanush Kostek-Biernacki and his subordinate was B. Grefner, who was later replaced by I. Kamalia.

I might add that in a declaration of September 13, 1934, Poland denounced the treaty on the protection of national minorities at the League of Nations.

You said earlier that various ethnic groups were incarcerated. Which group predominated in the camp?

Well, that depends on the year. Towards 1939 the majority were Ukrainians. In 1934 the population of the camp was about 250 people, but by September 1939 there were between 5,000 and 8,000 people, the majority of whom were Ukrainians. Just imagine the conditions, too. They used to sleep about 15 to a room when the camp first opened in 1934 but towards the end it was between 60 and 70 men to a room. Some even slept outside under the elements.

Were you able to learn what the prisoners ate?

(Continued on page 21)

[My father’s] experiences, and those of others like him were first-hand accounts of an untold story never yet filmed. ... It was very emotional for me to walk where my father once did.

Kartuzka, or from the DP [displaced persons] camps after World War II. In the 1950s some of them found each other again in Montreal.

So, their stories were always in the back of my mind and overtime, I realized we didn’t know our history. There were many other immigrants living in Canada and the United States that had spent time in Bereza. What also stayed with me is that such a docile, gentle man like my father could be beaten. His experiences, and those of others like him, were first-hand accounts of an untold story never yet filmed.

What led to the incarceration of your father?

ed Communists of Polish, Jewish and Belarusian origin. All these people were thrown together and that created lots of problems in the camp amongst the prisoners. There were even fights.

This concentration camp dates back to the early 1930s, to the time when eastern Ukrainians were in the aftermath of the Famine-Genocide.

The 20th century wasn’t very kind to Ukraine. Yes, eastern Ukraine was suffering brutal repression under Stalin, and western Ukraine was suffering under Polish control. Bereza Kartuzka began to operate from 1934. In the film, the historians who were interviewed put every-



AP/Tor Wennstrom

Biathlete Olena Zubrilova celebrates her victory in the World Cup 10-kilometer race in Lahti, Finland in 2000.



AP/Franco Debernardi

Gold medalist Nina Lemesh of Ukraine (center) with silver medalist Svetlana Ichmouratova of Russia (left) and bronze medalist Magdalena Forsberg of Sweden on the winner's podium after the World Cup 7.5-kilometer biathlon in Anterselva, Italy, in 1998.

Ukraine sends...

(Continued from page 1)

ter sports with a first-time berth in ice hockey (see story on ice hockey, page 11). The team will compete with five National Hockey League players. Veteran Dmitri Khristich of the Washington Capitals, Philadelphia Flyers' up-and-comer Ruslan Fedotenko, Toronto Maple Leafs' fourth-round draft pick Alexei Ponikarovsky, St. Louis Blues' Sergei Varlamov and Chicago Blackhawks prospect Dmitri Tolkunov all are expected to compete barring any last-minute changes.

The Ukrainian ice hockey squad will begin its quest for the medals round by competing against Belarus on February 9, Switzerland on February 11 and France on February 13. If the group can successfully navigate the qualifying round, Team Ukraine will need to face powerhouses Canada, Sweden, the United States and the Russian Federation – not to mention the gold-medal favorite, the Czech Republic – in order to place itself in medal contention.

Team Ukraine gained its Olympic ice hockey berth by placing third at the Olympic Qualification Tournament for the Salt Lake City Games in Oslo, Norway, on August 2, 2001, and followed up this performance with a top-10 finish at the 2001 World Championships in Germany.

Ukraine's hopes in freestyle aerials seem much more realistic but suffered a blow with the loss of Ukrainian-born Alla Tsuper who changed her citizenship to Belarusian midway through the 1998-1999 season. Ms. Tsuper, whose career best 2000-2001 World Cup season placed her second overall, was quoted on the official 2002 Salt Lake City website that she left the Ukrainian team because she didn't work well with the new Ukrainian head coach and wanted to continue working with her old coach in Belarus.

However, with a string of recent top-10 finishes, Tatiana Kozachenko could make things interesting in the women's freestyle aerials. The 21-year-old took 10th place on January 21 in Lake Placid, N.Y., eighth in Mont Tremblant, Quebec on January 13, and second-and-third place finishes at Canada's Fortress Mountain on December 16 and 14, 2001, respectively.

At the 18th Winter Games, Ms. Kozachenko barely missed the medal platform by taking fourth place, one ahead of then teammate Ms. Tsuper. While on the men's side, 23-year-old Stanislav Kravchuk took ninth place in Nagano along with seventh, fifth and third

place finishes during the 2001-2002 World Cup season.

Though America's Michelle Kwan and Sarah Hughes, along with Russia's Irina Slutskaya and Maria Butyrskaya, look strong for medal contention in women's figure skating, Ukrainians Olena Liashenko and Halyna Maniachenko could prove very interesting to watch. The pressure will be off the Ukrainians but on the American and Russian skaters – and especially Kwan who has yet to win an Olympic gold medal.

Both Ms. Liashenko and Ms. Maniachenko competed in the 2002 European Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, taking ninth and fourth places, respectively. Ms. Maniachenko's fourth place was especially impressive considering that both Ms. Slutskaya and Ms. Butyrskaya competed in the event, not to mention that Ms. Liashenko is the odds-on favorite in the Ukrainian camp.

It may seem like a surprise, but Ukrainian bobsleders have competed in all of the last three Winter Games and will continue that tradition in Salt Lake City by fielding a four-man and two-man sled. Although they have yet to medal, or for that matter even come close (one cannot help but think of the Cinderella team of Jamaican bobsledders) in any European, World or Olympic races, the squad does have a ninth-place finish in the four-man at the 2001 European Cup in France. The team will also carry 27-year-old veteran Oleh Polyvach who took 23rd place in the two-man at the 1998 Nagano Games.

Although strongest in biathlon with potential in the women's freestyle aerials, women's figure skating and men's ice hockey, the Ukrainian squad will also field competitors in cross-country skiing, luge, alpine skiing, speed skating, ski jumping, figure skating and short track.

Weekly at Olympics

The Ukrainian Weekly Editor Andrew Nynka leaves on February 1 for Sun Valley, Idaho, official training site of Ukraine's Winter Olympic Team, where he will have an opportunity to meet with the Ukrainian delegation. Mr. Nynka will then travel to Salt Lake City, where he will cover the Olympic Games. Look for his exclusive reports in upcoming issues of The Weekly.



Freestyle aerialist Tetiana Kozachenko (photo reproduced from "The Olympic Team of Ukraine: Official Handbook.").



AP/Viktor Pobedinsky

Figure skater Olena Liashenko poses for a photo during a training session in Kyiv.



AP/Joe Cavaretta

Iryna Taranenko Terelia crosses the finish line to take fourth place in the 15-kilometer cross-country event at the Nagano Games in 1998.

Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Salt Lake City Preview: Ukraine's hockey hopefuls

On Saturday, February 9, even before they drop the puck at center ice in Ukraine's first preliminary round game versus Belarus in Salt Lake City, there will be a tremendous sense of accomplishment. The 2002 Winter Games will be Ukraine's first ever participation in Olympic hockey competition. Previously, Ukraine had earned its status in the upper echelon of hockey nations by winning the 1998 B-Pool World Championships.

Ukraine's head coach, Anatoly Bogdanov, preaches the old Soviet style of hockey, featuring crisp passing, constant cycling of the puck and an overall emphasis on an attacking offense. However, Mr. Bogdanov's theory may not be so easy to transform into practicality due to a chronic lack of troops to realize such a multi-dimensional attack.

Between the pipes, Coach Bogdanov must select between Igor Karpenko, once the property of both the Anaheim Mighty Ducks and Calgary Flames, and Konstantin Simchuk. Karpenko and Simchuk have many years of tested experience on the North American professional minor league circuits.

Karpenko has the additional credit claim of winning two Russian titles while with Metallurg Magnitogorsk. Unfortunately, his career resume is somewhat tainted by his meltdown at the 2001 World Championships, where he stumbled and bumbled to a lofty 5.41 goals against average with a paltry .844 save percentage.

His rival, Simchuk, managed a 47-save effort in a 5-0 whitewash to Sweden, but finished the tournament with his own impressive shutout win, 2-0 over Austria.

The defense corps would truly be fortified and very well manned if Ukrainian-born blueliners Alexei Zhitnik of the Buffalo Sabres and Oleg Tverdovsky of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks had the desire and eligibility to don the sweaters of their true national team. Having represented Russia in international competitions in the past, this option is no longer feasible for the talented Ukrainian defense duo. Thus, the Ukrainian back-line will be headmanned by 26-year-old Sergei Klementiev (owner of a good hard shot from the point) and Oleksander Savitsky and Artem Ostroushko (reliable stay-at-home types).

Team Ukraine boasts three semi-noteworthy Ukrainian-born wingers with varying levels of National Hockey League experience: 12-year veteran Dmitri Khristich of the Washington Capitals, second-year rookie Ruslan Fedotenko of the Philadelphia Flyers and

21-year-old Alexei Ponikarovsky of the Toronto Maple Leafs, recalled from the AHL's St. John's Leafs in mid-January. The addition of these talented right-wingers will obviously add offensive firepower.

Little peppercorn Vadim Slivchenko's star outshined Khristich's at the World tournament by notching four goals. The forward line of Vadim Shakraichuk, Vitaly Lytvynenko and Valentyn Oletsky should return intact as a potentially potent trio.

Ukraine has struggled against the top national hockey programs at the World Championships, earning back-to-back 14th place showings in 1999 and 2000. The squad showed improvement by finishing in 10th place at the 2001 World Championships in Germany, mainly due to an impressive upset victory over Latvia.

One can only wonder about the levels of grandeur the Ukrainian nationalhockey program could achieve if more of its national players stayed at home, honing their skills training together as a cohesive unit. The legendary Ukrainian club team Sokil Kyiv used to be Ukraine's answer to powerhouse CSKA Moscow, but the club has suffered through a series of difficult years due to continually increasing player migration throughout Europe and into North America. The lure of upgraded training facilities/player development and lucrative professional contracts is too tempting for our young native sons.

In Group B of the preliminary round of eight teams, Ukraine will encounter the most difficulty against Switzerland. That said, Ukraine does have an excellent chance at knocking out France and Belarus. In fact, some international hockey experts are predicting Ukraine as a potential favorite against both these foes.

Team Ukraine has an international reputation as a feisty group that can be victorious when harnessing that feistiness. With all five skaters on the ice sticking to their offensive system of quick passes and creating the right shot on goal, Ukraine has a legitimate shot at surviving the preliminary round and gaining the medal rounds. Wouldn't that add to the already strong sense of accomplishment of just being in Salt Lake City?

Fedotenko to play for Team Ukraine

For Christmas, what do you give a professional hockey player who has just about everything?

How about official permission to leave his NHL team for a week and play for his country in the preliminary round of the Olympics?

In the year 2001, Mr. Ponomaryov tied for 1-2 places in the European men's championship and then played a key role in garnering the first-ever gold medal for Ukraine in the World Team Championship. The gold medal was decided only in the last-round match against Russia, in which the four-man Ukrainian team prevailed by a score of 22:12, thanks to the lone victory by Mr. Ponomaryov.

For the first time in history Ukraine possesses both the team and the individual world chess championships – and both of them have Ruslan Ponomaryov written all over them.

Ukrainian becomes...

(Continued from page 1)

ing under the guidance of a full-time chess coach. In the under-18 age category he won the European championship at age 12 and the world championship at 13.

At 14 he became the youngest player ever to be awarded the title of grandmaster. In 1998, Mr. Ponomaryov made his debut on the Ukrainian olympic Team, and soon thereafter won the Ukrainian Zonal tournament – the first step towards the World Championship.

2001 World Championships final Team Ukraine scoring

Player	Pos.	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Vadim Slivchenko	F	6	4	0	4	0
Vadim Shakraichuk	F	6	2	1	3	12
Dmitri Khristich	F	6	1	2	3	2
Sergei Klementiev	D	6	1	2	3	20
Wasyli Bobronikov	F	6	1	1	2	0
Valery Shiryayev	D	6	0	2	2	2
Konstantin Kasyanchuk	F	6	1	0	1	0
Vitaly Litvinenko	F	6	1	0	1	2
Boris Protsenko	F	6	0	1	1	0
Roman Salnikov	F	6	0	1	1	2
Valentyn Oletsky	F	6	0	1	1	4
Vyacheslav Zavalnyuk	D	4	0	0	0	0
Igor Karpenko	GT	3	0	0	0	0
Andrei Sryubko	D	5	0	0	0	0
Oleg Polkovnikov	D	5	0	0	0	10
Konstantin Simchuk	GT	4	0	0	0	0
Vitaly Lyutkevich	D	6	0	0	0	2
Bogdan Savenko	F	6	0	0	0	2
Alexei Lazarenko	F	6	0	0	0	4
Alexander Matvichuk	F	6	0	0	0	6
Artem Ostroushko	D	6	0	0	0	8
Alexander Savitsky	D	6	0	0	0	8

That's what right-winger Ruslan Fedotenko found under the proverbial holiday tree when the Philadelphia Flyers told him he could miss games to play for his native Ukraine in Olympic qualifying action February 9-15.

A night after finding out the good news, Fedotenko celebrated with his first two-goal game of the season in a 4-1 victory at Washington.

Initially the Flyers were not too keen on the idea of giving Fedotenko permission to go, but General Manager Bobby Clarke had a change of heart after he realized Fedotenko is one of only a hand-

ful of NHL players on the Ukraine roster. Without players of his caliber, Ukraine has virtually no chance of advancing to the final round.

"If it means that Fedotenko misses one game or two, I don't think that's as important to us as him getting a chance to play in the Olympics and representing his country," Clarke said.

Fedotenko's response: "I'm honored to play for my country and I'm looking forward to it."

(Thanks to The Hockey News' Wayne Fish for above quotations.)



Four of Team Ukraine's hockey players (beginning with top row, from left): Dmitri Khristich, Ihor Karpenko, Valentyn Oletsky and Vitaly Litvinenko. (Photos reproduced from "The Olympic Team of Ukraine: Official Handbook.")

Ukrainian Hopak to be featured during Olympic ceremonies

PROVO, Utah – Viewers will need to keep a sharp eye on the various ceremonies during the Olympics in Salt Lake City, because they may just catch a glimpse of swirling ribbons and flying leaps in the Ukrainian Hopak.

Colleen N. West, assistant professor, World Dance Division, Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, has reported that The International Folk Dance Ensemble from BYU will perform at the Olympics – and its repertoire includes Ukrainian members.

The ensemble, affiliated with the dance department in the College of Health and Human Performance, comprises 15 women and 15 men who come from all backgrounds and majors. Some of the dancers are dance majors, but many major in political science, international finance, linguistics, zoology, health science, law, accounting, etc.

In order to be a member of the group, a student must be a full-time student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Edwin Austin is director of the group participating in the Olympics, which is called the Performing Arts Company. There are also five other folk dance teams with 16 couples in each group. The faculty who manage these 190 students, are Ms. West, Delynne Peay, Jeannette Geslison and Tara Christopher. Ms. West is the costume research and design coordinator for all the costumes.

The group does dances from all over the world, but, according to Ms. West, their Ukrainian section always is the signature piece of its shows and most loved by audiences.

There will be a special program called "Light of the World" sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The performance will be presented every night in the Conference Center during the Olympics. The Ukrainian culture will be one of the many highlighted and many of the students are involved in this huge production.

The folk dance ensemble has been

asked to perform the Hopak and Irish step dancing at the Medals Plaza on February 18 from 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. NBC will televise this performance. The dancers will also be in the opening ceremonies involving American clogging, Ukrainian and Irish dance numbers.

On January 29 at noon the dancers have been asked to do a half-hour show – with Ukrainian numbers specifically requested – for the athletes at the Olympic Village.

They will also be dancing the Hopak at the Tabernacle Park in Provo on February 14 at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. At Washington Square at the County City Building, where the Salt Lake City Corporation will sponsor an Olympic Celebration, the folk dance ensemble has been asked to do a half hour show on February 21 at 5:45 p.m. Of course, Ukrainian again was requested.

"This is craziness, but yet, it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It all begins in a

couple of weeks. It's hard to believe," said Ms. West.

Ms. West grew up in Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta. Her mother hails from Athabasca, Alberta, where her family, the Waschuks, emigrated from Datyn, northwest of Kovel in Volyn, western Ukraine, in the early 1900s. At the time, "land was 160 acres for \$10, of course, it was solid bush," Ms. West related.

West is the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award, from the College of Health and Human Performance at BYU (1998-1999). Her research interests are ethnic costume design, Ukrainian dance, music and costumes, and history of choreography of rhythm tap dance.

Along with being a choreographer, Ms. West designed Poltava-region Hopak costumes for the male and female dancers of the ensemble. She received a research grant from the college to conduct research on culture, costumes and dance history during a folk arts tour of Ukraine in August 2000.



Roman Rudnytsky

Globe-trotting pianist sets off for next round of concerts

YOUNGSTOWN – Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky will be involved in several international concert trips between February and the end of June, that will cover a wide area of the world.

Between February 6 and 25 Mr. Rudnytsky will perform recitals and conduct master classes at two California universities: Cal Polytechnic State University in Pomona and CalState Northridge before proceeding to several Pacific islands of Micronesia. There, recitals will take place on such islands as Majuro and Kwajalein (Marshall Islands), Pohnpei and Yap (Caroline Islands), Chuuk (Federated States of Micronesia), Saipan (Northern Marianas), Guam, and Koror on the island of Babeldaob in the Republic of Palau. Mr. Rudnytsky made a concert tour of most of these islands back in 1996.

On March 8 and 9 he will perform a recital and conduct a master class at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, before proceeding to Britain for several recitals there. In mid-March, he will travel from Britain to Tunisia to play a recital and conduct a master class in Tunis under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy's "public diplomacy" program. This program is the successor to the U.S. Information Service, which was abolished in 1998 and its functions absorbed into the State Department.

Mr. Rudnytsky played in 18 countries between 1984 and 1998 through the USIS and, after the change to "public

diplomacy," made a tour of six Central and West African countries in March of 2000. Mr. Rudnytsky previously played in Tunisia in 1998 as part of the Carthage Festival there – situated next to the ruins of the famous ancient city of Carthage.

In mid-April the pianist will travel to Poland to perform as soloist on April 12 with the Sudecka Filharmonia in the city of Walbrzych, near the Czech border. He will play Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1 as soloist with this orchestra. During this same period he will also travel to the island of Malta for a recital arranged through the U.S. Embassy there.

On April 25 and 26 he will play a recital and conduct a master class at Abilene Christian College in Texas and on May 5 he will be at Dartmouth College, where he will perform Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue as soloist with the Dartmouth Wind Ensemble. From late May through mid-June, he will embark on his concert tour of New Zealand.

Since concluding his 12th Australian tour (comprising 21 concerts) last summer, Mr. Rudnytsky played in September in Britain and Iceland, in late October in Chile – his eighth visit there, and in November in Hagerstown, Md., and at the University of Waterloo in Ontario.

Mr. Rudnytsky has performed concerts in over 75 countries and since 1972 has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University in Ohio.

CONCERT REVIEW: Paris to Kyiv in Toronto

by Marcia Ostashewski

TORONTO – Billed as "Winter Cycle Concert," the afternoon concert on Sunday, January 20, was the best music this reviewer has heard from Alexis Kochan and her group Paris to Kyiv. It was truly exquisite.

Concert-goers were greeted at the door of Holy Trinity Church in downtown Toronto by concert producer and director of Small World Productions Allan Davis. We took our seats among the chairs and old wooden pews in an unpretentious atmosphere; while the church is graced with grand stained glass windows and fine celestial decorative painting, it also feels comfortable.

It was the perfect atmosphere for the music of the special Paris to Kyiv trio comprised of chanteuse Alexis Kochan, bandurist Julian Kytasty, and violist Richard Moody. The trio recently returned from performing together on an extraordinary tour of old churches and an avant-garde festival in Poland. The music they shared with the audience in Trinity Square was pure synergy – clearly a result of working closely together.

Ms. Kochan used words from the translated songs to lightly color images in the mind; each bit of ancient Ukrainian song material came alive with the music. The concert, which focused on the winter song cycle, began with the trio's version of "Sviaty Vechir," or "Holy Night."

The velvet tones of Ms. Kochan's voice welcomed the audience into a gentle quiet and were joined by Mr. Kytasty's vocal harmonies. Mr. Kytasty, more renowned as a premiere bandurist, met this song with a cheerful melody

on sopilka (wooden flute). Mr. Moody rhythmically punctuated the melody on viola, then began to wind his own playful tune. This was the first of a series of sound vignettes.

Immediately following, the musicians played "Cross/Cradle/Tree," a piece composed for an earlier CD recording. Mr. Kytasty played his bandura, which he'd laid across his lap instead of holding upright as it is normally played. Throughout the concert, Mr. Kytasty displayed his talent for creating novel sounds on his traditional instruments. He fashioned unorthodox tonal moments and often used the bodies of the instruments to produce unusual sound qualities.

Each member of the trio wove in and out of richly layered textures. One audience favorite was a duet between Ms. Kochan and Mr. Moody; Mr. Moody jazzed up the piece and bent notes on a groove of Gershwin's "Summertime" melody, echoing a lullaby sung by Ms. Kochan.

The most intimate part of the group's performance was "Plach," an ode to a mother's dead child. Ms. Kochan chanted the woman's lament; Mr. Kytasty played a drawn-out melody, ending phrases with generous amounts of breath-evoking elements of the ephemeral. Mr. Moody accompanied himself on guitar, offering a response from the child; the unassuming and calm timbre of his voice brought tears to many eyes as he sang "Mama, please don't cry."

Such poignant songscapes were interspersed with dancey tunes played by the two instrumentalists. These tunes treat-



Alexis Kochan

(Continued on page 14)

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

CONCLUSION

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.

The music played in Ukraine today encompasses all the various types 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.

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.

In the final installment of a three-part series, The Weekly’s Kyiv Press Bureau presents more of Ukraine’s contemporary music stars. This week we profile two recently popular acts: Tanok Na Maydani Kongo, a hip-hop group that calls its music “Ukra-hop;” and Dymna Sumish, considered by its peers the most talented of the young breed.

–Roman Woronowycz

Hip-hop takes hold in Ukraine; “Ukra-hop” leads the way



Tanok Na Maydani Kongo

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

TANOK NA MAYDANI KONGO

The seven members, all in their early and mid-20s, walk the walk that low-hanging extremely loose baggy pants force upon those like them. They wear the same dark wrap-around glasses and the unstructured hats and caps. Nonetheless they would rather call the music they sing “Ukra-hop” rather than simply hip-hop.

And while the look is the same, the music indeed has different intonations. The harsh rhythms are slightly more subdued, the rapping less agitated and even melodic at moments. They haven’t, however, smoothed over the dancing, which seems much more spontaneous and far less polished than anything ‘NSync or the Backstreet Boys could ever hope for.

And the name, well the name just puts them way over the top. There is nothing like the name Tanok Na Maydani Kongo, and it is exclusively Ukrainian, as is their music.

Their stage name originated with a book on the history of jazz the band members were leafing through back in their hometown of Kharkiv when they still called themselves Novyi Dim (New House). A passage from the book described the African roots of jazz; how ancient tribesmen danced to certain rhythms, which held specific meaning for the people. At the time the group came up with the name for use as the title of a song they particularly liked. Soon afterwards they decided that they liked the title so much that it should be the name of their act.

It was cast in stone about a year later, after they met Jamaal, an African American from New Orleans, who told them that a Congo Square (Maydan Kongo) is a Rastafarian term for a spliff,

(a marijuana cigarette) of all things.

“We found that to be quite interesting,” explained Fozzy, 28, one of the band’s founders and its spokesman.

In reality the group is absolutely drug-free, although they do experiment with the occasional beer.

The TNMK sound is not gangsta-rap, but then the group does not try to make that kind of music, as Fozzy, who is known to his mother as Oleksander Sydorenko, readily acknowledged. Instead they have focused their energies on creating a sound that binds the traditional music of Ukraine to the emerging tradition of hip-hop. Their latest album, “Anti-Format,” which was released in December, incorporates that concept into its title.

“The point is that our style of hip-hop is not standard for today’s Ukrainian music scene,” explained Fozzy. “It is a difficult hip-hop. And it is not in the Russian language, which absolutely dominates music in Ukraine, where musicians who sing in Ukrainian are still considered secondary talents.”

Fozzy admitted that initially TNMK tried to write in Russian – they are after all from Kharkiv, where Russian dominates on the city streets – but found that the language did not fit the rhythms and rhymes they were trying to achieve.

“We began to understand that our groove was better in Ukrainian. We also decided we would be innovators,” explained Fozzy. “Let the Russians sing in Russian, but we’ll sing in Ukrainian.”

Fozzy said the album’s title also is a back-handed jab at the Moscow record industry and the companies and producers who put out music in well-worked-out and to a large extent preordained formulas that leave little room for innovation and spontaneous bursts of creativity.

(Continued on page 19)

Ukraine’s hot new musical talent is alternative, plus a mix of much else

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

DYMNA SUMISH

If it weren’t for the likes of Sviatoslav Vakarchuk of Okean Elzy and Oleh Skrypka of Vopli Vodopliasoiva, Dymna Sumish (Smoky Mix) may not have been part of this series on pop/rock acts. However, the two leading Ukrainian artists, along with Fozzy of Tanok Na Maydani Tango, kept mentioning the new act as one of the best and most original groups to come around in a long while.

Their first album is not due until a bit later this year, but Dymna Sumish has begun to play the Kyiv club circuit, appearing to a packed house at Buddy Guy’s, one of the better known nightspots here, during the first week of January. And, while they still do not have a music video, they already have an extensive following.

As their name implies, their music is a great mixture of influences, not the least of which is hip-hop and punk with a smattering of rhythm and blues.

“We create a mix from all that we enjoy,” explained the band’s front man and vocalist, Pruzhyna, also known as Sashko and more formally Oleksander.

To say that their music is a mixture is not to mean that it sounds like everything and everybody. If that were the case, they could have called themselves Dymna Ghoulash and few would care. What makes listening to them so interesting is that you recognize different influences, musical and artistic, at different moments and in different songs.

And while it seems you have heard that beat or this guitar riff before, you can never quite pin down where or by whom.

Dymna Sumish’s sound is a unique combination of various popular music styles and they move freely among several genres, but they are unerringly grounded in hip-hop and rap. That is where their music begins and to the point which it returns.

During the course of their interview with The Weekly, the two and a half (as they explained) present members of the four-and-a-half-person band – lead singer Pruzhyna, along with drummer Oleksander, or Sashko, who also goes by the acronym G-Al, as well as the group’s half member (because he doesn’t make the music), break dancer Kostia, a.k.a. Co-style – kept adding additional bands and musicians to the list of acts that have influenced them. What started with The Fugees, Lauryn Hill, System of a Dog and Portishead, soon also included the Doors and the Sex Pistols, and then “you have to add Nirvana, yes, they were one of the best,” finally, “grunge, punk, heavy metal and hard core” and “from another perspective, jazz.”

They are brash and self-assured as most young acts tend to be and, whether accurate or not, they have a definite vision of who they are and where they are going. Pruzhyna and G-Al said that before they are through the group hoped to “make albums, make video clips, become super popular and earn a few million, and to be able to create in our own way in a Ukrainian style.”

They regard themselves as pioneers on

(Continued on page 18)



Dymna Sumish

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Some 500 observers expected for election

KYIV – Central Election Commission Secretary Yaroslav Davydovych said on January 25 that his commission expects that at least 500 international observers, including 280 from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, will monitor the parliamentary election. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

Ukraine to discuss sanctions with U.S.

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Rohovyi and Finance Minister Ihor Yushko are to hold consultations on the U.S. trade sanctions against Ukraine with U.S. officials during the World Economic Forum which begins in New York on January 31, the Associated Press reported on January 24. Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko told Interfax the same day that Kyiv is currently “clarifying” the reaction of the U.S. side to Ukraine’s law against CD piracy that was passed earlier this month. The U.S. trade sanctions over what the U.S. sees as Ukraine’s inadequate measures to curb CD piracy took effect on January 23. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine in trade war with Washington?

KYIV – Agricultural Minister Ivan Kyrylenko said that last week’s ban on U.S. poultry exports to Ukraine was introduced following a demand from sanitary services and has nothing to do with the U.S. sanctions imposed on Ukraine over CD piracy. “The problem consists in the difference between Ukrainian and U.S. veterinary legislation,” Mr. Kyrylenko told Ukrainian Television on January 27. Mr. Kyrylenko added that Kyiv needs full information from U.S. producers on preservatives they add to poultry products exported to Ukraine. The same day, Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh vowed to defend national inter-

ests in trade with the U.S. “We shall be doing our utmost to ensure that our partners, including the U.S., clearly understand that we are ready for compromise. We are ready to seek optimal solutions but there is a boundary that neither the Ukrainian president nor the Cabinet of Ministers will ever overstep – its name is the national interest of the state,” Ukrainian Television quoted him as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Minister pessimistic over U.S. sanctions

KYIV – Economy Minister Oleksander Shlapak told ICTV Television on January 24 that the U.S. sanctions over CD piracy will cost Ukraine \$51 million and “thousands of jobs.” Mr. Shlapak added that U.S. trade sanctions from the Soviet era, which are still in force, suggest that there will be no swift end to the sanctions even if Ukraine fully complies with the demands of the international music industry. “The [Jackson-Vanik] amendment was passed by the [U.S.] Senate in 1974. It was aimed against the Soviet Union for violating the right of its Jewish citizens to emigrate. But this problem has long been solved in Ukraine, while the amendment is still in place. This shows how conservative the Americans are on economic issues,” Mr. Shlapak noted. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moody's raises Ukraine's ratings

LONDON – The rating agency Moody’s on January 24 upgraded Ukraine’s foreign currency ceiling for bonds and bank deposits, citing a sharp improvement in the country’s macroeconomic indicators over the past two years, the Financial Times reported. Moody’s raised the country’s rating for bonds by two notches from Caa1 to B2 and the ceiling for bank deposits by one notch from Caa1 to B3. The move reflects the country’s strong exports, tighter budgetary policies, reduction in some arrears and growth in foreign exchange reserves. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Comments by deputy...

(Continued from page 3)

Assistance in Criminal Matters,” explained the German Embassy in a statement it released. “The German Embassy has not received such a request.”

Mr. Bahanets also said that the investigation into the case of the murdered Ukrainian journalist had taken a positive turn and that now there was some doubt among investigators that a criminal underground figure by the name of “Cyclops” was responsible for Mr. Gongadze’s death. “Work on this case continues, and soon

you will see that I do not lie,” said Mr. Bahanets. “I am sure that this crime will be solved.”

The same day that Mr. Bahanets gave his interview, a Kyiv district court rejected an appeal by Lesia Gongadze to launch a criminal investigation into the culpability of President Leonid Kuchma, presidential Chief of Staff Volodymyr Lytvyn and former Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Kravchenko in the murder of her son. Ukraine’s Procurator General last year found that the three were not complicit in the criminal matter.

Paris to Kyiv...

(Continued from page 12)

ed the audience to some lighter material, and had them almost dancing in their seats.

The trio closed the program with “Stone Age Carol,” an energy-charged blending of primordial and avant-garde effects. The spring song performed by the trio for an encore intermingled seemingly disparate open-voice-like timbres and legato moments. The fullness and resonance of the

viola, voice and sopilka together suggested a gracious renewal of spirit. This was a magnificent performance of the luscious sounds of Paris to Kyiv.

Renditions of all these pieces can be enjoyed on various CD recordings of Paris to Kyiv. However, the live performance of this particular trio was a precious experience of their own integration, as noted in the program, of “ancient Ukrainian traditions into an original, richly atmospheric music which has won fans wherever it has been heard.”

Ukrainian Australian leader...

(Continued from page 4)

grandparents lived. A proposal to commence a program of Ukrainians visiting major sporting events and business conventions in Australia also was discussed.

Mr. Romaniw gave a number of news conferences and appeared as a guest on national television’s main morning pro-

gram “1+1”.

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations has written to the Australian government to call for an increased diplomatic presence in Ukraine. The organization underlined that business interests, cultural, education exchange programs, and strong valid migration programs can only develop with an increased Australian presence in Kyiv.

Central Election...

(Continued from page 1)

includes most of the mainstream national democratic parties, including both Rukhs and the Reforms and Order Party, in addition to the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Liberal Party.

Most polls show Our Ukraine comfortably ahead in the run-up to the parliamentary elections with some 17 percent support (the latest Democratic Initiative poll gave the bloc as much as 21 percent), about two percentage points up on the Communist Party, which has historically led the Ukrainian vote for Parliament.

In the latest strategy directed against the Our Ukraine Bloc, the For One Family Party, headed by National Deputy Oleksander Rzhavskiy, announced during its convention on January 15 that it had changed its name to the For Yushenko Bloc and would include Mr. Yushenko in its candidate list. Mr. Yushenko vehemently protested the action and said he would file suit against the political organization.

"Dirty political tactics are used more and more often in our times," Mr. Yushenko said on January 25, announcing that he had filed an appeal in court to stop the use of his name. Mr. Yushenko called the move by Mr. Rzhavskiy's political group, which includes at least one prominent politician from a pro-Russian organization, "a type of political assassination and an attempt to earn political dividends from the name of the bloc."

Mr. Rzhavskiy, whose party had unsuccessfully attempted to become part of the For Ukraine bloc, said he would proceed with the use of the Yushenko name nonetheless, according to Interfax-Ukraine, primarily because there is an Oleksander Yushenko on the slate. However, the CEC said on January 30 that it still was not certain that it would register the bloc for the elections.

This was the second attempt by a political force to discredit Mr. Yushenko. Earlier, Dmytro Ponomarchuk, an organizer of the National Rukh For Unity Bloc, whose membership includes many who had broken with the National Rukh of Ukraine Party after it joined the Our Ukraine Bloc, announced at a press conference on January 9 that he had in his possession a taped telephone conversation between Mr. Yushenko and Unity Party leader and Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko, which allegedly proved that the two conspired to successfully oust Parliament Vice-Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk. Mr. Ponomarchuk asserted that the tapes are evidence that Mr. Yushenko is not as clean and honest as he portrays himself to be.

Mr. Ponomarchuk, the longtime press secretary to the late Rukh founder and leader Vyacheslav Chornovil, said at the time that he would not identify who gave him the recordings. The taped conversations were subsequently confiscated by Ukraine's intelligence agency, the Security Service of Ukraine, as it began a criminal investigation, and Mr. Ponomarchuk was ousted from the political bloc he helped organize.

Judicial authorities also have come under fire recently for influencing the electoral process. On January 29 a Ukrainian Appeals Court rescinded a ruling by a Kyiv District Court in which criminal money-laundering charges against former Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko had been dropped. The Appeals Court said the lower court had exceeded its jurisdiction.

Ms. Tymoshenko is the leader of a political bloc named after her, which includes many of the political organizations that staunchly oppose President Leonid Kuchma and led anti-Kuchma demonstrations on the streets of Kyiv in

the spring, among them: her own Batkivschyna Party, Stepan Khmara's Republican Conservative Party, Levko Lukianenko's Republican Party and Anatolii Matvienko's Sobor Party. The latest polls have the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc at around 3.5 percent voter support, somewhat shy of the 4 percent needed to obtain seats in the next Parliament.

The Appeals Court ruling reinstated a ban imposed by the Procurator General's Office barring Ms. Tymoshenko from leaving Kyiv, effectively limiting the charismatic oppositionist leader's campaigning to the capital city.

Oleksander Turchynov, leader of the Batkivschyna Party's parliamentary faction, said during a press conference on September 29 that the ruling against Ms. Tymoshenko is illegal and unethical because no one was present to offer her defense. He explained that a court generally excuses defendants from appearing twice before handing down verdicts in their absence.

Ms. Tymoshenko failed to show for the court proceeding because she was involved in a serious automobile accident on her way to the courthouse. She is expected to be hospitalized for at least two weeks for treatment of a concussion, possible vertebral damage and a chest contusion.

"The court made a cynical, even immoral decision today," explained Mr. Turchynov. "The court, which is controlled by the president, in effect damaged Yulia Tymoshenko's election strategy and her ability to campaign."

While Mr. Turchynov would not rule out that the accident was staged, Yuri Kostenko, leader of the Ukrainian National Rukh Party and a member of the Our Ukraine bloc said it was "the transition of the electoral process to the extreme stage."

"It is difficult for me to comment on the reasons for the crash," explained Mr. Kostenko. "But everyone in Ukraine who has heard about this event - I am 100 percent sure about this - sees it not just as a simple road accident."

Meanwhile the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU), a respected civic organization that has monitored elections in Ukraine since 1994 and receives much of its financing from international foundations and organizations that support the development of democratic processes, also felt the effects of a Ukrainian election season that is heating up considerably.

The CVU issued a statement on January 30 in response to an editorial commentary broadcast by the government station UT-1, which questioned whether the use of international funding from the National Democratic Institute, an arm of the U.S. Democratic Party, renders the CVU unable to remain objective in its election monitoring. It also queried whether the use of international funds was an illegal intrusion by the NDI into Ukraine's electoral process.


The CVU responded that the editorial piece, which was broadcast on January 23, was part of a concerted effort "to discredit non-governmental organizations in Ukraine, with the aim of lowering the trust in them in the run-up to elections of Ukrainian parliamentarians." It did not identify who was attempting to do the discrediting.

Since September the NDI has sponsored weekly monitoring of elections in Ukraine by the CVU in which thousands of CVU workers in all the country's regions report on questionable practices by government officials, election workers, political parties and candidates. The CVU's research has found that the use of government resources will be extensive in the spring elections and could be decisive in many campaigns.

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UNA NOTICES

Meeting of UNA Br. 206

Saturday, February 16, 2002
Woonsocket, RI

The annual meeting of Branch 206 will be held at 1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 74 Harris Ave. All members are required to attend.

Irene Sarachmon, Secretary-Treasurer

Meeting of UNA Br. 174

Thursday, February 21, 2002
Warren, MI

The annual meeting of UNA Br. 174 will be held at 7:00 p.m. in front of "Echo" Gallery on Ryan Rd. On the agenda are reports, election of delegates and alternates to the 35th UNA Convention. All members are asked to attend. For info call 248-693-4548.

Zenon Waslkewych, Secretary

Meeting of UNA Br. 27

Sunday, February 17, 2002
Newark, NJ

Branch 27 "Orlyk Society" will hold its annual Branch meeting on Sunday, Feb 17, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. in the church hall of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church at 719 Sanford Ave. Newark, NJ. A meeting to elect a delegate to the 35th Convention of the UNA will immediately follow. All members are asked to attend.

Luba Lapychak, president
Christine Brodyn, secretary

Meeting of UNA Br. 230

Saturday, February 9, 2002,
Austintown, OH.

St. John the Baptist Br. 230 of the UNA will hold its annual meeting at St. Anne's Ukrainian Church, 410 Kirk Rd., at 2:00 p.m. There are important matters to discuss as this is a UNA convention year. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Annabelle Borovitck, secretary

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Corning re-establishes ties with Lviv

by William J. and Gloria B. Misnick

CORNING, N.Y. – A Ukrainian delegation from Corning's sister city of Lviv came to Corning on December 17, 2001. This event took place because of the efforts of William J. and Gloria B. Misnick, co-chairs since 1997 of the Lviv Committee of the Corning Sister Cities Association.

The Misnicks have worked to re-establish ties with Lviv by visiting that western Ukrainian city in 1997 and again in 1999 when a protocol was signed – the first since the fall of communism. Sister city ties between Corning and Lviv had diminished after the fall of communism in 1991, largely because Ukraine was experiencing very difficult economic times.

Lviv had become Corning's first sister city in 1987 after Corning, Inc. (formerly the Corning Glass Works) helped the Soviet Union install a ribbon machine for producing light bulbs at a factory there.

Representing Lviv during the most recent visit to Corning was Volodymyr Olijnyk, deputy mayor, chair of the Halytsky District and master of state management, and his wife, Oleksandra. Ties were cemented with the protocol-signing ceremony between Corning and Lviv on December 17, 2001, by Corning Mayor Alan Lewis and Mr. Olijnyk. The translators at Corning City Hall were Peter Melendevych of Horseheads, N.Y., and Victor Ohremchuk of Corning.

The Olijnyks were welcomed to the region at a welcoming party at St.

Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Elmira Heights by over 75 parishioners led by their pastor, the Rev. Janusz Jedrychowski. Mr. and Mrs. Olijnyk visited with many parishioners from their native city of Lviv.

The Misnicks are active members of the Elmira Heights chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, where Mrs. Misnick is the delegate. The Olijnyks met Peter Kremel, UCCA branch president, as well as Deacon John Hobczuk, vice-president, and other officers.

A reception was held at the Radisson Hotel in Corning after the protocol signing. U.S. Rep. Amo Houghton Jr. welcomed the Ukrainian visitors along with Corning City Council members and the Lviv Committee. Letters of congratulations were sent by New York State Sen. John R. Kuhl Jr. and State Assemblyman James G. Bacalles.

A glass gift to the city of Lviv was presented along with various gifts representing the Finger Lakes region of New York. Mrs. Misnick was the mistress of ceremonies for the event. Both the American and Ukrainian national anthems were sung. Mr. Misnick explained the meaning of the Ukrainian national anthem and gave the toast.

The Olijnyks stayed with the Misnicks until December 27, 2001; they visited Corning Museum of Glass, The Rockwell Museum of Western Art and the Benjamin Patterson Inn, all in Corning. They traveled to Hammondsport to the Glen Curtiss Museum and toured the Finger Lakes



Corning Mayor Alan Lewis (left) and Lviv Deputy Mayor Volodymyr Olijnyk.

region, including its wineries. They had a bird's eye view of the Finger Lakes in a private airplane ride. They also saw the beauty of Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls and the Festival of Lights at Lewiston.

"The Crystal City" of Corning and Lviv, "The Pearl of Europe," came together in Corning after 12 long years. Now the Lviv Committee in Corning will continue its work with renewed energy. Members of the committee have been invited to visit Lviv in September of this year to continue the close relationship that has been revitalized.

The Lviv Committee of Corning has supported the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Research Hospital where there

are 200 children age 5-15 who suffer from cancer as a result of the Chernobyl accident. They have set up computer service and Internet access for the Lviv hospital, linking it with the Falck Cancer Center of Elmira, N.Y.

In addition, the Misnicks have shipped 22 wheelchairs of various sizes for the children. Christ Episcopal Church of Corning aided with the wheelchair project's completion with a generous grant of \$2,500.

Corning's Lviv Committee also sponsored two teachers of English to teach in summer school and cultural programs in Eastern Europe headed by Bridges for Education. All of these accomplishments took place in the past four years.

Detroit UNWLA raises funds for needy children

by Irene Pryjma

DETROIT – Saturday, November 10, 2001, was a day to remember. The Detroit Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and its members had decided months ago to have a fund-raiser for needy schoolchildren in Ukraine under the UNWLA's "Milk, Roll and Book" program. The ambitious program included a pre-

Christmas bazaar and bake sale in the morning and early afternoon, followed in the evening with cocktails, a buffet dinner, a silent auction, a live auction and fine entertainment.

A committee was formed with Natalia Hewko, Detroit Regional Council president, and Anna Macielinski, vice-president, as committee chair. For nine months 42 UNWLA members participated in this committee preparing the benefit. The

theme for the event was "Giving Angels," and indeed they were that.

The program and plans were carefully thought-out. Sponsors, donors and donations were solicited; items were received, purchased or consigned. A hundred specialty baskets were assembled, invitations sent, program and catalogue books compiled, flyers, advertisements and posters printed and distributed, program participants selected and contacted, and a special informational/recruitment UNWLA brochure was printed.

The holiday bazaar and bake sale went

very well and closed at 3 p.m. The silent auction opened at 5 p.m. Baskets were assigned to categories such as health and beauty, jewelry, fine arts, home/office/garden, Ukrainian artifacts, children's corner, sports/recreation and holiday items. In addition, gift certificates for gardening, flowers, shopping, personal service, vitamins, beauty salons, therapeutic massages, acupuncture, dental visits, piano lessons, instructions on embroidery, restaurants, jewelry, electronics and books, were laid out on tables according to category.

The live auction was a unique event. Dr. Roman Kolodchin very ably served as auctioneer; he was enthusiastic and kept the bidding moving at a fast pace. The audience responded by bidding up on fine art items, Ukrainian embroidered pillows, rushnyky, carved wooden gift boxes, a torte, a tray of napoleons delivered with a three-song medley, a Ukrainian Christmas Eve supper for eight (prepared and delivered), museum-quality complete Hutsul wedding attire for the bride, a ski vacation package, hockey tickets, a Toronto getaway, and an autographed picture of Canadian comedienne Luba Goy.

In the evening there was a two-part program of entertainment prepared by Program Chair Lida Kazevych, opened by Regional Council President Hewko and master of ceremonies Svetlana Korduba. The featured highlight of the evening was Canada's one and only queen of comedy, Luba Goy, co-star of TV's "Royal Canadian Air Farce," which spoofs the Canadian political scene. She appeared as "Queen Elizabeth" and, regally waving, greeted the crowd with a Manchesterian accent and received their accolades.

In the second part of the program the inimitable Luba came out with her impressions of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister of Immigration



The benefit committee of the UNWLA Detroit Regional Council: (seated, from left) Daria Koniuch, Daria Zawadiwskyi, Sophie Koshiw, Lydia Kolodchin, Anna Macielinski, Natalie Hewko, Lydia Kazewych, Genevieve Murskyj; (standing, first row) Marcelene Chomiak, Irene Pryjma, Myroslava Capp, Lydia Kizyma, Stefa Korol, Nadia Juzych, Olha Hyszcak, Marta Szechowycz, Katya Beswerchij, Oresta Biloskurska, Zirka Zubar, Irene Tarnavsky, Lillian Litynskyj, (standing, second row) Juliana Maziak, Elizabeth Kuczer, Marie Zarycky-Chervivskij and Maria Mykolenko.

(Continued on page 21)

IN MEMORIAM

Ivan Fedorovych Karabyts



January 17, 1945 - January 20, 2002

Ivan Fedorovych Karabyts was one of the leading composers of Ukraine and one who contributed to the establishment of the major trends in Ukrainian music in the post 1960's. He made his name overnight with "The Garden of Heavenly Songs" (1971) for chorus, soloists and orchestra, on poems of the 18th century philosopher, poet and musician Hryhoriy Skovoroda, in which he tried to rejuvenate the choral concerto genre of 17th-18th century Ukrainian music. In addition to his multifaceted creative work, he established the international music festival, Kyiv Music Fest and the Kyiv International Piano Competition in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. He enriched Ukrainian music for generations to come. We shall miss him.

Vichnaya Pamyat!

Our condolences to his family, friends and students.

TNC Recordings, Music at the Institute, Ukrainian Institute of America,
Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art - Chicago, The Washington Group Cultural Fund.



The KLK Ukrainian Ski Club

invites its members, friends and their guests to their

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Race registration and bib assignments
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Race to begin at 10:30 a.m. SHARP

Banquet to be held
at Hunter Mountain at 7:30 p.m.
Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Race with lift ticket: \$50 (adults); \$40 (juniors). Race only: \$10.
Discounted lift tickets will also be available at the KLK registration table.

For more race information please phone:
Orest Fedash at 210-387-8061, or Erko Palydowycz at 518-263-4866,
or send e-mail to: erkoklk@aol.com

TO: ALL UNA MEMBERS

From January to March 2002, branches of the Ukrainian National Association hold their annual meetings as mandated by the UNA By-Laws. It is very important that all members attend these meetings. This year, in preparation for the upcoming UNA Convention, branches will hold meetings for election of delegates. Branch meetings are announced in both The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

Participation of UNA members is important to the future of our organization.

Attention! Attention! Attention!

UNA BRANCH SECRETARIES, ORGANIZERS, ADVISORS, MEMBERS AND ELECTED DELEGATES TO THE 35TH UNA CONVENTION. THE UNA IS ANNOUNCING A PRECONVENTION ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN FROM JANUARY 2002 TO APRIL 30, 2002.

– FIRST PRIZE: \$500 coupon for travel to Ukraine (Dunwoodie Travel Agency) or

a \$500 UNA Annuity Policy.

Requirements: 15 new members **with** a minimum annual premium of \$2,000

– SECOND PRIZE: UNA Annuity Policy for \$300

Requirements: 10 new members **with** a minimum annual premium of \$1,500

– THIRD PRIZE: \$100

Requirements: 5 new members **with** a minimum annual premium of \$1,000

*** Excluded from the campaign are T-23 policies**



Fozzy, founder and leader of the TNMK posse

DYMNA SUMISH...

(Continued from page 13)

the Ukrainian music scene and consider the smoky mix they play inventive. They tend to a version of hip hop, laced with alternative music sounds and do not agree with comparisons to Tanok Na Maydani Kongo, currently the most popular hip-hop act in Kyiv.

"We were at their last concert and decided that they are something completely different," explained G-Al.

"They call their style Ukra-hop, and that is not us," added Pruzhyna.

But like TNMK, Dymna Sumish members believe that writing good music in the Russian language is very difficult. Also much like TNMK they have an aversion to nearly all music recorded in Moscow (as well as in all the countries of the CIS, including Ukraine, to be quite honest). They believe the post-Soviet music scene is stale and uninteresting. Given a choice, they would perform in Europe. Their ultimate show would be an appearance at the annual alternative rock showcase, the Dynamo Open Air Festival in Holland.

Dymna Sumish hails from Chernihiv, where group members were on the brink of calling it quits after three years of work and performances at several musical competitions did not bring forth instantaneous acclaim. At what they had decided would be

their final competition, however, they were "discovered" by their current production company and invited to work in Kyiv.

"We had already played several competitions, including Chervona Ruta," explained Pruzhyna, "and decided we had nothing more to prove. We knew we were the best."

Few others did, however, and probably would not have to this day if the highly regarded sound producer, Yevhen Stupka, had not been in the crowd that day searching for new talent. He immediately asked the band to make the move to Kyiv.

Dymna Sumish achieved its first semblance of fame about a year earlier, using a different variation of their current name. At the Chervona Ruta Music Festival, where they took second place (and no one was awarded first place) for best act in the 1999 Dnipropetrovsk show, they were billed as Dyvna Sumish (Strange Mix), but changed their name about the time they got to Kyiv. In Chernihiv the band had originally started out as Torba (Bag).

Whether as bagmen, or in a strange or smoky mix, today the group is not shy about its abilities and the quality of the music they make.

"Today we are the best band in Kyiv," explained Pruzhyna bluntly and matter-of-factly.

Such blatant self-promotion would leave them open to much criticism if it weren't for the fact that many who should know and might differ seem to agree.

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TANOK NA MAYDANI KONGO...

(Continued from page 13)

While TNMK lists among its favorite hip-hoppers Arrested Development, The Fugees and one of the seminal acts of the genre, the Beastie Boys, it also acknowledges the influence of a local Kharkiv singer who made them comfortable singing in the local Ukrainian dialect of the Slobozhanshchyna region, with its traces of Russian surzhyk intermixed. The music was well received, particularly among the locals who recognized their native accent immediately.

"It brought smiles to people's faces," noted Fozzy.

The group members, whose appearances may remind some of a rag-tag posse of "homeboys" from the streets of Brooklyn, or Hamburg, are actually accomplished musicians with formal training.

"We did not come to music like rebellious drug-abusers," explained Fozzy somewhat defensively.

In fact Fozzy began the group with his friend, Spets Kotia, in 1989, at an age when the two had yet to see the need for a razor. How audiences reacted to the untraditional and to some even unheard of music the youngsters were performing is nicely described in the band's biography:

"In 1992 the kids took part in the initial musical contest 'Young Stars of Kharkiv.' The jury said, 'Phew!' This incident was repeated five more times."

The band went through several changes, moving gradually from a time when it consisted of a 15-person "cast,"

which included a DJ and a group of break dancers, to its current seven-person lineup. TNMK's composition began to coalesce in 1995 when Fozzy's writing partner, Fahot, joined, after running with the rap outfit RAP Obiymy (Rap Hugs) and also successfully producing a series of rap shows in Kharkiv called "In Da House." Today, in addition to those two, TNMK consists of original member Kotia, along with Dilia, Yaroslav, Vitold and Tonique.

After putting out several well-received albums and music videos, the group disappeared from the music scene for nearly a year at the end of 2000 before recently re-emerging with a flourish – with two new releases in the last two months and another new album due out in the next weeks.

Their music is not yet widely accepted in Ukraine, and the band does not hold Kyiv producers in high regard. Fozzy criticized them for being "of an age at which they cannot accept aggressive contemporary music" and for "wanting to make music a decade old."

TNMK also is not all that fond of Moscow, which Fozzy likened to a tundra: "A lot of noises, but basically empty."

He added that he would not mind if the act made its first international mark in Warsaw, which he considers more contemporary and more open to new ideas. But in the end that is neither here nor there because TNMK does not have and does not want a plan for success.

"We didn't begin this to make money and be in show business," explained Fozzy. "We want to play music. We call it an odyssey, and an odyssey determines its own path."



Admission ticket to a Dymna Symish concert in Kyiv.

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Yurij Luhovy...

(Continued from page 9)

That also depended on the year. Towards the end, just as the second world war was beginning, the inmates were given buckwheat kasha with sand mixed into it. This was so that sand would lodge in their teeth and cause them pain. They were also given soup, or rather slop, of some sort.

One witness told me that the female inmates were so hungry they would throw themselves into the large food cauldron to scrub out whatever might still be stuck at the bottom. Only their backsides and feet would be left hanging out and visible. And then they would be beaten with sticks and fists.

How did you begin filming?

Well, at first I needed to find out if I could actually do a film on this subject. I needed witnesses. Fortunately, here in Montreal I had two people whom I could interview: Jaroslaw Pryszlak, who was imprisoned in 1935, and Adolf Hladylowycz in 1939. Their memories were excellent and their stories unbelievable.

It was crucial to get more survivors of the camp. I found many young people whose fathers were in Bereza. But that's not the same, nor as powerful. So, I started to ask around. In the U.S. I found Demian Korduba but, unfortunately, after interviewing him I decided I couldn't use him in the film. He was elderly and his speech was too difficult to understand. He was half-paralyzed when I met him. It was sad because he, too, had suffered there. But he did give me the names of two other people that I could talk to. Just recently Mr. Korduba passed away and will never see the film completed.

In the film I have five witnesses, and all give compelling accounts. In Belarus I found three more. They were children at the time and saw prisoners getting beaten up. I also met survivors in Florida, among them Bohdan Deychakiwsky. He was excellent, but was not well enough to be filmed.

Fortunately, I started this project when I did. It would have been such a shame not to have recorded their stories. Once I filmed the witnesses, I knew the film could be made, but it was essential to visit the site and go through the archives in Warsaw and Lviv. Arrangements were made and I went to the former Bereza Kartuzka prison last summer.

What was that like? How much of the camp is left standing today?

It was very emotional for me to walk where my father once did. I thought of him and all the other prisoners. There were originally two main blocks. But the prisoner's block is still there. However, the police block is almost in ruins. Whole sections of it, the roof and floor have collapsed. It was risky going inside the building because at any moment anything could come down. But I went inside, and at first I thought that was where the prisoners were. But, after seeing the book on Bereza by Wolodymyr Makar, I rechecked the layout of the camp and realized that I had filmed in the wrong building. So, I went back from Miensk to film again.

At the site, they are planning to establish a museum about the Bereza concentration camp. You have to remember that Bereza Kartuzka is now part of Belarusian territory. Today, most of the prisoners' block has been converted to a children's activity center.

What kind of arrangements did you need to make in order to film there?

I had to obtain special permission from the Ministry of External Affairs of Belarus. I arranged everything here in Montreal and in Ottawa. Needless to say,

once I arrived in Belarus nothing was ready, even though I had faxed them that I was coming and even though all my papers were in order. Fortunately, a Belarus official in Miensk went out of his way to obtain the necessary minister's signature on a Friday at three in the afternoon. Without this, I couldn't film.

That afternoon, I also rented a car and then drove about four hours to Bereza Kartuzka with historian Dr. Roman Wysotsky from Poland. He also had never visited Bereza, although he was familiar with it. We enjoyed doing research together, and we both became united by trying to imagine what the former prisoners of Bereza must have gone through. I was very fortunate that Dr. Wysotsky was able to accompany and help me.

What was the most frightening or the most dangerous moment you experienced?

The very worst part was when we were leaving Belarus and were at the Polish border in Berestia. The Belarus guard almost confiscated all my cassettes, regardless of my official press credentials. "I'll decide your fate in the next hour," he said. I was worried for the footage I had with me and for all the planning and effort that was put into this. There was a journalist who had disappeared in the area just the week before. It was very stressful, not knowing what was going to happen next. Eventually, someone higher-up asked me more questions and looked over all my documents again and then let us go.

How much of the film do you have completed at this point?

Basically, I am finishing the editing and verifying details. I have a few inserts to shoot, and then the music and the sound effects have to be worked on. You know, I'm doing this film in my spare time, between work on other films from which I earn my living. So, I anticipate that probably sometime in March of this year the film will be ready for screening.

The biggest problem is purchasing the rights to some film archives. This is very expensive, it's \$50 for each second plus lab fees.

How is this film being financed?

This is one of the most difficult aspects. As you know, making a documentary is very expensive. As with my film "Freedom Had A Price," I began this film on Bereza Kartuzka, financing everything myself and hoping that eventually the project would get some further support. Because witnesses were elderly, passing away, and their stories disappearing with them, I knew this project could not wait any longer. I had to begin filming. No one had yet done a film on this subject, it's another first.

Eventually, several institutions, including the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and some private donations, helped offset some costs. But this is far from the cost of the film. I still have hopes the project will get additional donations. Many people, whether in Canada, the U.S. or in Ukraine, have been very supportive of the project, and especially those that were in Bereza and their children. Once again, the story was almost forgotten, silenced forever.

It is difficult to get mainstream financing. So, either we Ukrainians are prepared to find ways to make these projects, or we lose the opportunity to record our history. And how can we not capture these stories?

Could you tell us how your father finally got out of the Bereza Kartuzka concentration camp?

Ironically, it was because of the beginning of World War II and another occupation of Ukraine. In September 1939 the Germans attacked Poland. The Nazis and the Red Army met in Brest-Litovsk, or Berestia as it is called in Ukrainian. Berestia is now in Belarus, but it is ethnically Ukrainian territory. When the Poles in Bereza saw that the Germans were advancing, all the police guards fled the camp at night.

On September 18, 1939, the local people opened up the gates and released the prisoners. Believe it or not, that was my father's birthday. It was the best gift he could have ever received. He then began the two-week walk home to Brody, with the other prisoners. He walked without any shoes, with only rags around his bare feet. The moment he arrived home, he collapsed. He had been so weakened by the near starvation conditions in the prison. He was utterly exhausted. Occasionally people would give him a lift on a cart and give him

some food. Unfortunately, my father never really wanted to recount his experiences to me. I wanted to know all the details of daily life in the camp, but he wouldn't talk. He just refused. He was one of 250 prisoners who were forced to dig their own graves because they were slated to be shot by the Polish guards due to the German advance. Then, at the last moment, somehow the executions didn't occur. Call it Divine Providence. Maybe it was the German planes in the sky. I don't know.

"Did they hurt you?" I once asked my dad when I was young. "No, they just tickled me," he replied.

Anyone wishing to support the making of the Bereza Kartuzka documentary, may send donations to: M M Luhovy Inc., 2330 Beaconsfield, Montreal, Quebec, H4A 2G8. Survivors may contact the filmmaker by calling (514) 481-5871 or e-mailing mmlinc@hotmail.com.

Detroit UNWLA...

(Continued from page 16)

Sheila Copps, Welfare Brenda the bingo player, and even Donald Duck. Her humorous anecdotes and personal reminiscences on being Ukrainian in a Canadian milieu were delightful. She had a message to all who have young, creative and budding artists, to encourage their aspiring talents and to let them enjoy theater, performing arts and other creative pursuits.

Other participants in entertainment

were demonstration dancers Tony Canu and Nataalka Cap (salsa), Gary and Oksana Gudz (ballroom), and the nine Soyuzianka Singers – in their premiere appearance – accompanied by Olga Dubriwna Solovey on piano. Prior to and during the buffet dinner there was lovely harp music by Paula Pinterper in keeping with the "Giving Angels" theme.

The event was a highly successful fund-raiser for the UNWLA "Milk, Roll and Book" program. The proceeds will provide many breakfasts and books for a larger number of children – nourishment for the body and enrichment for the mind.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES of CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2002 at 1:00 P.M.

at St. Michael's Church Hall, 1700 Brooks Blvd., Manville, NJ.

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

26, 155, 168, 209, 269, 312, 349, 353, 372.

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:
Martha Lysko - UNA National Secretary
Yaroslav Zaviysky - UNA Auditor

DISTRICT COMMITTEE:
Michael Zacharko, District Chairman
John Kushnir, Secretary
John Babyn, Treasurer

THE ALBANY DISTRICT COMMITTEE of the UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2002, at 2:00 P.M.

at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club, 1 Pulaski Ave., Cohoes, NY 12534.

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

13, 57, 88, 200, 266.

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:
Stefan Kaczaraj - UNA Treasurer
Stephanie Hawryluk - UNA Advisor

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KLK members eligible for discount tickets at Ski Windham, site of annual ski races

WINDHAM, N.Y. – Mark Richardson, sales director for Windham Mountain, has extended discounts on ski lift tickets for card-carrying members of KLK, the Carpathian Ski Club.

The Membership Direct Program offers \$29 weekday/non-holiday lift tickets and \$39 weekend/holiday tickets when KLK members show their club card and a valid photo ID. In appreciation KLK will again hold its annual ski races at Ski Windham.

Races will be held in the morning of February 23 on an official NASTAR course. Award presentations will be later

that night at Hunter Mountain. This year for the first time the races will be open to snowboarders competing in separate categories.

For more race information contact Orest Fedash at (201) 387-8061, or Erko Palydowycz at (518) 263-4866 or by e-mail at erkoklk@aol.com.

Family membership dues in KLK are \$30 a year.

Those interested in joining KLK, and receiving ticket discounts, may contact Talia Kachala at (732) 772-0556 or by e-mail at taliak@aol.com for further information.

Ukraine's transformation...

(Continued from page 6)

coupled with its size, would be a great drain on the structural funds.

Ukraine is gradually fulfilling the pre-conditions – both legislative and political – for future accession to the EU. The privatization of land, adaptation of some codes and the abolition of the death penalty are among the examples of such moves.

Attitudes in some member-countries and the European Commission towards Ukraine are changing. On April 24, 2001, of this year I chaired a conference in the European Parliament building in Brussels on "Ukraine and the European Union." Several members of the European Parliament and even the head of the mission of the European Commission in Ukraine stated forcefully:

"If Ukraine is so much behind some Central European countries on the road to the European Union, it is as much a fault of the European Union as it is of Ukraine. Had the EU given the same signals to Ukraine as it did to Czechoslovakia (as it was then), Hungary, Poland – i.e., we want you – and had it given the same assistance to Ukraine as it gave to those countries, Ukraine would be much closer to the accession to the EU which is in the interest of the EU."

How can the U.S. help in this process?

The first question we could ask is: Should it help? I believe the answer is "yes" for the following reasons.

Ukraine once anchored in the EU would be by definition more democratic, more prosperous, more pro-Western, and thus a better economic and political partner for the United States.

Membership in the EU would preclude Ukraine from joining Russia. If Ukraine were to join Russia, Russia would cross the psychological threshold and strive openly for superpower status and dominance over neighboring countries and in the process it would likely become anti-Western. This would not be in the interest of Ukraine, or Russia, the EU, or the U.S.

Ukraine's accession to EU would not involve a financial burden for the U.S. since it does not contribute to its Structural Fund. It would just require an intensified U.S. diplomatic effort, i.e., using its influence to persuade members of the European Union to be more open to Ukraine's accession.

How can the United States help?

In various ways: through direct influence on some of the EU member-states and on the EU Commission; and through international financial institutions.

Pointing to NATO, a good example is how the U.S. is pressing hard for the

admission of Turkey to the EU because of its NATO status, even though the current position of the EU is that Turkey falls short on many of the admissions criteria, such as minority and general human rights.

The United States sees Ukraine from a greater distance. It can judge better how beneficial it would be for the EU to have Ukraine as an example of a multi-ethnic country with very liberal policies and practices towards national minorities, as compared to the Balkans or even some present member states of the EU.

Will the U.S. help?

Perhaps the answer to this question can best be given by recalling a fable. There was an old wise man in a village that always answered when questions were put to him. A mischievous youngster thought that he would trick the old man. One day he came up to him, holding a live bird in his hands behind his back, and asked: "Wise man, can you tell me if the bird I hold is live or dead?" He thought that if the man said the bird is a live he would just quickly twist its neck and the bird would be dead; and if the man said the bird is dead he would let it fly. The wise man looked at the youngster and said: "The fate of that bird is in your hands, young man."

It is, of course, Ukraine that has to transform itself on the European model. Its destiny is mainly in its own hands. Whether U.S. aid will help Ukraine take the ultimate steps is, of course, up to you, the Americans.

Special Time at Soyuzivka Help Us Celebrate Our 50th Anniversary



We are looking to YOU - our dear guests, friends and former employees for your input in helping celebrate our 50th anniversary.

If you were invited to Soyuzivka, remember one of our camps, enjoyed our treatment and remember how you enjoyed it. Please send us a letter or e-mail with your suggestions. We would like to see them soon.

If you have any "memorabilia" - photos, Souvenirs, tapes, video tapes, drawings, and would be willing to lend us or let us to copy or willing to copy them - we would like to use as much of these items as possible for our celebration.

We are looking to see together a family - celebration of the past 50 years of Soyuzivka. We will be happy to work together for the anniversary celebration and if that's all right, we would like to have the celebration in the same place as we were before.

Sign up at the Soyuzivka website: Soyuzivka.UkrainianWeekly.com special to help for additional information and updates.

Thank You for kind consideration in this matter.

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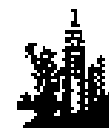
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 9

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society presents a lecture by Dr. Tamara Hundorova, Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and currently Shklar Fellow at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, on the topic "Olha Kobylanska and Lesia Ukrainka: A Feminine Relationship." The lecture 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.

Thursday, February 14

NEW YORK: Columbia University and the Harriman Institute will present a talk by former Minister of Education of Ukraine Mykhailo Zhurovsky. The talk, titled "Globalization - The Challenges and the Opportunities for Ukraine," will be

held in the International Affairs Building, 7th floor, Lindsay Rogers Common Room, 420 W. 118th St., at noon-2 p.m. For more information contact the institute, (212) 854-4623.

Saturday, February 23

EAST HANOVER, N.J.: The New Jersey branch of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) invites UESA members and the public to a branch meeting and presentation, at the Hanover Ramada Inn., Rt. 10 West. A meeting of UESA-NJ members will be held at 1 p.m. A presentation (open to the public), titled "Focus on Lviv: Education and Architecture," will be held at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. All UESA members and the public (especially students and young professionals) are invited to attend. For more information contact Andrij Wowk at nj@uesa.org.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

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



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ATTENTION: UNA CANADIAN DISTRICTS

A meeting of the District Chairmen, Branch Officers and Branch Secretaries of UNA Canadian Branches with the Director for Canada Rev. Myron Stasiw and a representative from the UNA Home Office will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2002, at 11:00 am at:

Protection of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall,
30 Leeds Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 1N7
Telephone: (416) 531-9945

Topic of the meeting: "The Future of the UNA in Canada."



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