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**ХРИСТОС
ВОСКРЕС!**



**CHRIST
IS RISEN!**

Ivano-Frankivsk City Council resolution recognizes Halychyna Division veterans

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With days left before the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, a resolution proposed by the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council which would extend combat veteran status to members of the Halychyna Division of the Ukrainian National Army, a World War II Ukrainian fighting force that battled against both the Soviet Army and Nazi forces, has caused an international stir.

The action has brought the ire of Moscow, which blasted the decision as “regretful” and “shameful,” along with critical statements from Jewish community leaders both in Kyiv and the United States.

The resolution, passed by the City Council of Ivano-Frankivsk on March 19, would give Halychyna Division veterans additional pensions and other government subsidies similar to what Soviet Army veterans currently enjoy. However, unlike the Soviet veterans, who are cared for by the central government, the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council would take upon itself the financial burden to the Ukrainian veterans. It earlier had agreed to compensate from its own till another group of Ukrainian freedom fighters from World War II, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

Before the resolution becomes law, it needs the mayor's signature. Before that, however, it must go through a process of legal and historical analyses. If implemented it would extend benefits to 24 survivors who are residents of Ivano-

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Controversy erupts over foreign influence on Ukraine's elections

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Foreign influence on Ukraine's parliamentary elections became one of the central issues of the last week prior to the March 31 vote.

The loudest political reverberations came after both houses of the United States Congress passed a resolution calling for free and fair elections in Ukraine. There was also much ado about perceived intrusions into the electoral process by Russian politicians, including Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin regarding the U.S. action and the elections situation in Ukraine in general.

Ukraine's authorities responded with bewilderment and consternation to the U.S. congressional resolution, which was passed overwhelmingly by both the House of Representatives and the Senate on March 20 and 21.

The document expressed support for “the efforts of the Ukrainian people to promote democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in Ukraine.” It urged the government of the country “to enforce impartially its newly adopted election law,” including provisions for the transparency of election procedures, equal access to the media for all election participants, multi-party representation on election commissions and access for international election observers.

The day after the resolution was approved, President Leonid Kuchma responded by describing the congressional action as “unprecedented” and expressing astonishment over what he perceived as an indication from Washington that it did not believe that democracy is developing in Ukraine. He said he was concerned over how the Ukrainian public

would respond to such a perception and addressed continued commentary from foreign capitals and politicians over the state of elections in Ukraine.

“Either we are a nation and a state, or we are a soccer field where our strategic partners play,” said an exasperated President Kuchma, according to UT-1 television.

The resolution was criticized also by Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, who appeared on Ukrainian television saying that it was too harsh on Ukraine.

Communist Party leader and candidate Petro Symonenko accused the United States of interfering in Ukraine's domestic affairs. Both he and Progressive Socialist Natalia Vitrenko, another candidate in the parliamentary elections, called for the ouster of the U.S. ambassador.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry responded the same day by issuing a statement in which it called upon all countries to “act in a sophisticated and cautious manner, proceeding from commonly recognized principles of international law as non-interference into domestic affairs of the state and respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity” in the last week before elections.

Moscow's ambassador to Ukraine, Mr. Chernomyrdin, broadened the debate to a three-party discussion when he told Interfax-Ukraine that he believes Ukraine must respond to the United States congressional resolution, especially since U.S. election procedures could be questioned. He said the U.S. had no right to make demands on Ukraine in light of the fact that the person who received the most votes in the U.S. elections in November 2000 had not become president.

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On the campaign trail: Stryi's national deputy seeks re-election

by Stephen Bandera

STRYI, Ukraine — At the outset of the campaign, Ihor Ostash and his election team set a goal: to visit every single city, town and village in electoral district No. 127. The 200-square-kilometer district's heart is the western Ukrainian city of Stryi (population: 70,000), whose claim to recent historical fame is that the blue-and-yellow was first raised here, back in 1990.

Mr. Ostash is the two-term, incumbent national deputy from the district. He is also the chairman of the influential Foreign Affairs Committee in the Verkhovna Rada and the vice-president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Mr. Ostash's high-profile international activities are both assets and liabilities for his re-election bid.

His opponents charge that Mr. Ostash spends too much time abroad, and thus is unable to devote time and energy to issues that affect the everyday lives of his constituents.

This allegation, together with the general “mood for change” among the population, and a dismal 2001 harvest in the Lviv Oblast (the worst among all oblasts), in theory should not bode well for the incumbent.

Western Ukraine, however, is a highly politicized place. During the town hall meetings, the most frequently asked questions focus on lost savings in Soviet and Ukrainian banks, pensions and payments to Ostarbeiters and creation of jobs. In every village, once Mr. Ostash addresses these issues, an elder will inevitably stand up and angrily ask “Why do you let those Commies speak Russian in Parliament?” Independence, statehood, the language issue and the “national idea” are very important in the relatively poorer regions of Western Ukraine.

Another Mr. Ostash asset is the fact that he is endorsed by the Nasha Ukrayina bloc, led by former Prime Minister Victor Yushchenko. The NU bloc's popularity ratings are consistently in the 65-70 percent range in Stryi, occasionally losing ground to the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc, whose party list includes

the fiery lady and a splash of nationalists.

Mr. Ostash's personal ratings trailed those of the Our Ukraine bloc, prior to Mr. Yushchenko's visit to Stryi in the last two weeks of the campaign. The visit gave Mr. Ostash a boost, both on the emotional level, as well as in the ratings. After hearing Mr. Yushchenko speak, and seeing him embrace Mr. Ostash, one candidate withdrew from the race, publicly endorsing Mr. Ostash.

That leaves 14 candidates vying for the Stryi seat. Mr. Ostash's main opponent is Vitalii Antonov, a slick, young businessman who owns a network of gas stations throughout western Ukraine, by virtue of his control over Halnaftohaz, a regional oil and gas company with backing from Yukos, the second largest oil company in Russia.

Mr. Antonov's candidacy is endorsed by the For a United Ukraine bloc, a combination of pro-presidential “parties of power” who have the weighty administrative resources at their disposal. “Adminresurs,” refers to the

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ANALYSIS

Yushchenko's Our Ukraine: from the first Rukh to Rukh-2

by **Taras Kuzio**
RFE/RL Newline

The Ukrainian Popular Movement for Perestroika (commonly referred to as Rukh) was established in 1988-1989 as a popular front comprising former prisoners of conscience from the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and members of the cultural intelligentsia. Rukh became a catalyst for other opposition parties and civic groups that came on the scene during the last few years of Soviet rule.

During the 1990s, however, Rukh became progressively marginalized within Ukraine's evolving multi-party political system. In 1992 the movement divided into two wings, one led by Vyacheslav Chornovil who stood in "constructive opposition" to President Leonid Kravchuk and another that supported Mr. Kravchuk and created the Congress of National

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Democratic Forces (CNDS).

In the second half of the 1990s, Mr. Chornovil's Rukh had better relations with President Leonid Kuchma because of Mr. Kuchma's support for reform in 1994-1996 and his pro-Western orientation between 1995-1999. By 1998-1999 though, relations were beginning to sour as Rukh became disillusioned with the type of regime emerging in Ukraine, the rampant corruption, and the widening gap between rhetoric and policies.

After the death of Mr. Chornovil in a suspicious car accident in March 1999, Rukh again split into two wings. One wing, led by former Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko, maintained good relations with the government, while the other, led by Yurii Kostenko, leaned toward the opposition and kept close ties with Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party.

Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko has transformed the faction into Rukh-2 (Our Ukraine) for the current elections. That

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Quotable notes

"When two thirds of Ukrainians do not believe that the Ukrainian [parliamentary] election is going to be fair, I welcome any steps to boost the transparency and fairness of the election."

— Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the Our Ukraine election bloc, commenting on U.S. congressional resolutions urging fair elections in Ukraine during a phone-in at the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper, as reported by the UNIAN news agency and the BBC Monitoring Service.

A comparison of "parties of power" in Russia and Ukraine

by **Nigel Pemberton**
RFE/RL Newline

In mid-1999 the Russian authorities were concerned that Our Home is Russia had a popularity rating of only several percent and thus set about creating a completely new "party of power" — the Interregional Movement of Yedinstvo (Unity). In the Russian parliamentary elections on December 19, 1999, Yedinstvo captured 23.3 percent of the vote and 82 seats, only 1 percent and eight seats fewer than the Communist Party.

Similarly, the Ukrainian "party of power" — the For a United Ukraine election bloc — was created four months prior to the March 31, parliamentary elections. President Leonid Kuchma ordered all state officials from the raion level upward to ensure that For a United Ukraine (FUU) obtain 30 percent in the elections. In sharp contrast to its Russian equivalent, For a United Ukraine has only received an average of only 4 percent popularity ratings in most opinion polls. Its main base of support is the Donbas, the same as that of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU), while it is unpopular in western and central Ukraine, including Kyiv.

Why did Unity do well in Russia in 1999, while Ukraine's FUU appears to be faring badly today?

Unity was created as a completely new political formation backed by then-acting President Vladimir Putin as his vehicle to help him secure an election win in March 2000. Yedinstvo was a completely new

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political formation, whereas For a United Ukraine is a union of five regionally based mini-parties of power, some of which had to be cajoled into supporting the bloc. Both Unity and For a United Ukraine aim to create pro-presidential majorities in the newly elected Parliaments. FUU aims to implement President Kuchma's long-term goal of changing Ukraine into a Russian-style presidential republic by implementing the results of the flawed April 2000 referendum.

Unity carefully chose leaders such as then-acting Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu, who was constantly on television due to his ministry's involvement in the Chechen conflict, and Aleksandr Karelin, a Greco-Roman wrestler of international fame. The two Unity leaders both stressed their abilities to act decisively. Mr. Putin, who endorsed Unity, was seen in a similar light. In contrast, FUU's leader is the uncharismatic head of the presidential administration, Volodymyr Lytvyn, who is not a confident public speaker and is seen as an academic rather than a "man of action." While Yedinstvo's image helped it attract young voters, FUU struggles to do so.

Another difference between Unity and FUU is the high popularity of President Putin and the low popularity of President Kuchma. Some 43.5 percent of Ukrainians have a negative impression of Mr. Kuchma, according to a February poll by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology. Mr. Kuchma has attempted to revive FUU's fortunes by issuing a presidential decree on January 28 ordering 300,000 state officials

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NEWSBRIEFS

For a United Ukraine expects victory

KYIV — "Speaking about the future of the [For a United Ukraine] bloc, I can say only one thing — it is clear that the bloc will have the largest number of seats in the Parliament," For a United Ukraine leader Volodymyr Lytvyn told Reuters on March 25. Mr. Lytvyn added that his bloc will form a pro-government parliamentary majority and maintain stability in the country. Commenting on opinion polls that gave his bloc voters' support not exceeding 7 percent, Mr. Lytvyn said the bloc's popularity is increasing as voting day approaches. Mr. Lytvyn dismissed allegations of widespread violations of the election legislation during the campaign. "Parties and blocs are organizing the election, their representatives make up electoral commissions. The authorities, actually, have not taken part in it," he said. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma condemns U.S. resolution

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma has termed as "unprecedented" the March 20 resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives urging the government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair parliamentary election on March 31, Interfax reported on March 22. "Are we a nation, or are we a football playing field for strategic partners?" Mr. Kuchma asked indignantly. The U.S. resolution was also slammed as a "populist" move and "gross interference" in Ukraine's domestic affairs by Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko. "The U.S. has not proven in any region that it wanted democratic elections to be conducted there. It cynically interfered in the Yugoslav election; it tried to interfere in the election in neighboring Belarus," Interfax quoted Mr. Symonenko as saying. (RFE/RL Newline)

Chernomyrdin criticizes U.S. resolution

KYIV — Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin on March 22 expressed his indignation over the recent resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives urging a fair parliamentary election in Ukraine, UNIAN reported. Mr. Chernomyrdin suggested that Ukraine should issue a statement in response. "Why could Ukraine not make a statement to the effect that [people] in the U.S. elected one president but are ruled by another?" Ambassador Chernomyrdin asked. (RFE/RL Newline)

Vitrenko seeks Pascual's expulsion

KYIV — Progressive Socialist Party leader Natalia Vitrenko said on March 25

that the U.S. pressure on this year's election campaign in Ukraine is the strongest in the contemporary history of the country, STB Television reported. She likened the scale of Washington's "unprecedented" interference in Ukrainian affairs to U.S. actions in Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. "We think it is necessary to demand the expulsion of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual on the territory of our country. We believe that this interference that the U.S. has allowed itself tramples upon our national self-respect and Ukraine's sovereignty," Ms. Vitrenko said. Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Ihor Dolhov commented on March 26 that the U.S. congressional resolution does not constitute grounds for Ambassador Pascual's expulsion. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kostenko cites 'totalitarian terror' ...

KYIV — Yurii Kostenko, the leader of the Ukrainian National Rukh (a constituent of the Our Ukraine bloc) has said the administrative pressure by the authorities has been transformed into "totalitarian terror" in the final phase of the election campaign, UNIAN reported on March 26. Mr. Kostenko said the authorities force employees of regional state institutions into writing letters of resignation and are threatening that those requests will be immediately acted upon in the event the pro-government For a United Ukraine bloc does not obtain the "necessary" election results. Mr. Kostenko added that the authorities also intimidate voters by asserting that it is possible to find out who they voted for. (RFE/RL Newline)

... 'double standard' toward statements

KYIV — Yurii Kostenko of the Ukrainian National Rukh accused the authorities of applying a "double standard" to statements by U.S. and Russian politicians regarding the election campaign in Ukraine. He pointed out that the recent U.S. congressional resolution urging a fair and democratic election in Ukraine was treated by official Kyiv as "interference in domestic affairs." Mr. Kostenko went on to say that, on the other hand, Kyiv has not reacted to statements by those Russian politicians who openly named the forces they would like to see in Ukraine's new Parliament. (RFE/RL Newline)

Tax police accuse Tymoshenko Bloc

KYIV — The State Tax Authority has accused the anti-presidential Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc of using "shadow" financial resources in its parliamentary campaign, Ukrainian media reported on

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Ukraine's economy continues to grow in first months of 2002

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's economy has continued to grow, albeit at a slower pace, in the first months of 2002 – even as skeptics keep insisting that the numbers aren't accurate or the expansion is artificial.

Overall the economy has improved dramatically in the last two years recovering more than 50 percent of the decline of the previous eight years. Salaries have increased by nearly a quarter since the economy hit bottom in 1998.

That does not mean, however, that everything is on the up-and-up and will necessarily continue in that direction. To sustain economic growth, which has resulted in a 15 percent increase in the country's GDP since 2000, Kyiv must soon get around to radical tax reform, and foreign investment must be given more incentives to enter the country. But even if all goes well, no one expects Ukraine to reach European levels of prosperity for at least another decade or more.

The economic figures for the first two months of 2002 continue to show a strident economic expansion, although not as robust as in previous months. In January the economy rose by 3.6 percent over 2001, while the February rate was even better, at an even 4 percent.

Volodymyr Sidenko, director of economic programs at the Razumkov Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Studies, said the hot Ukrainian economy should avoid the effects of world recession and that growth would continue through 2002 at least.

"I believe the overall tempo will be positive, around 5 percent for the year, but only if the world economy begins to grow by the second half of the year. If it doesn't do so, which some experts are predicting, then there will be no more than 3 percent growth," explained Mr. Sidenko.

The noted economist, who previously served as a presidential advisor, said the past economic gains were driven by manufacturing, and especially the metallurgy sector. He said that because the metal and steel industry in Ukraine is export driven, the U.S. import restrictions in world steel could help limit the growth rate of the Ukrainian economy as well, but not for the apparent reason.

He explained that the amount of Ukrainian steel exported to the U.S. had fallen in the last two years anyway, due to U.S. quotas and anti-dumping investigations. However, Ukraine's exports to other countries could be affected by increased competition in those markets from firms looking to recoup their own trade losses in the United States.

A key reason that Mr. Sidenko is bullish on the Ukrainian economy is because he has evidence that money hauled out of the country into foreign and offshore accounts in the 1990s is beginning to return at an increasing rate. That capital is usually immediately invested in order to assure that it is "legalized."

There are several reasons for the return of capital, not the least of which is the fact that in the last two years, and especially since September 11, new banking laws and international standards in the fight against corruption and terrorism have forced shadowy banks and off-shore havens to make their banking procedures more transparent.

"Many Ukrainian businessmen have come to believe that it is safer and easier to keep their money in Ukraine," explained Mr. Sidenko.

Inflation and an unstable currency, two reasons Ukrainian businesses preferred to cart their money out of the country in earlier days, has been brought under control as well. The 2001 inflation rate was 6.1 percent and 2002 forecasts are for a similar figure. The currency, once in constant devaluation, has not wavered by more than 1 percent for

two years now.

Mr. Sidenko suggested that some deflationary tendencies exist in Ukraine today, especially in the energy sector, but emphasized that inflation would have to be watched carefully, especially with salaries on the rise.

In the last year, partly for political reasons and partly because a hot economy has given the government more revenues, salaries have risen by 21.4 percent and pensions have increased by 25 percent. While nobody is expecting a surge of uncontrolled consumer spending anytime soon, mostly because the actual salaries are still woefully below the poverty levels of most Western countries, the raises could increase inflationary pressure on basic food staples. An overly optimistic 2002 government budget also could bring inflationary pressure.

The job market, however, remains very weak and improvements largely parallel the wage hikes in the sectors where they are occurring. Mr. Sidenko explained that the construction boom in Ukraine has not only caused wages to rise, but has created a disproportionate number of the new work places. He said that there is reason to believe that the strong performance of the textile industry and food sector in the last two years could lead to dynamic expansion of employment opportunities in those areas of the economy in the next year as well.

He said he is bullish also on eventual strong growth in the computer industry and still believes that, when the investment climate in Ukraine finally improves multinational computer hardware and software companies would invest here to utilize the trained and inexpensive work force that exists.

Foreign investment, or the lack of it, is one of the issues that still could limit the Ukrainian market from reaching its full potential. The other problem is the unresolved issue of tax reform. Last year Russia restructured its tax system, which reduced the ceiling on taxes to merely 13 percent.

The move should not only spur investment in that country and create new businesses and job opportunities, but it could further dampen the investment atmosphere for the Ukrainian market.

Jorge Intriago, vice president of the European Business Association in Kyiv and a tax expert for PriceWaterhouseCoopers, said that if Kyiv doesn't legislate serious tax reform this year, recent economic gains could be lost.

"There is a 40 percent profit tax on businesses here," explained Mr. Intriago. "Even though it is more difficult to do business in Russia, I would prefer to build my factory there simply because the tax rate is lower."

Mr. Intriago said he believes that tax reform will occur in Ukraine in 2002 after the new Parliament is seated, although he couldn't say for certain whether the new tax code would be what businesses were looking for.

Mr. Intriago also criticized the pace of structural reforms in Ukraine. He explained that while there is much legislation on the books that is investor- and business-friendly, much of it has not been implemented. He said Ukraine also still lacks corporate governance legislation, which is essential for foreign investors looking to form companies in Ukraine.

"I have to send my Ukrainian attorneys to Russia for conferences on corporate governance, a law Russia has," explained Mr. Intriago. "Here it is not yet even on the table."

Mr. Intriago, like Mr. Sidenko, remains bullish on Ukraine, however. The European Business Association official said that figures on the level of foreign investment in Ukraine are misleading and that more foreign businesses are interested in the country than the numbers suggested. While the official rate of foreign investment in Ukraine fell last year, Mr. Intriago said he had seen an increase in the amount of foreign business projects in the country, which he said was the most he had

observed except for the banner 1997 year. That year, prior to the onset of the Russian financial crisis, which destroyed foreign investor interest in the NIS, the Ukrainian economy had been on the verge of a similar economic boom.

Mr. Intriago said that foreign investors in Ukraine tend to initiate projects with borrowed money instead of their own capital, a byproduct of the perceived higher risk of investing here. That type of investment does not show up in economic figures on new investment capital.

However, once the companies are established and confidence in the market develops, real capital tends to follow the initial debt investment. Mr. Intriago believes that within a couple of years that strategy will be reflected in higher foreign investment numbers on Ukraine.

The business expert also agreed with Mr. Sidenko that economic growth will continue in 2002, although at reduced levels from the torrid pace of last year, and that inflation will remain under control. He concurred that domestic capital today found in foreign banks would increasingly continue to return to the country, driving the economic expansion further.

While both experts said they believe that Ukraine is moving towards Europe in its business prospects and opportunities, they also concurred that it would be difficult for Ukraine to reach Europe's level of economic development as soon as state leaders in Ukraine were predicting. President Leonid Kuchma recently stated that he had set a goal of about 2011 for entering the European Union.

Mr. Sidenko said that today Ukraine's per capita GDP is only about 15-16 percent of the European average, and only about 25 percent of one of its poorest nations, Greece.

He said that to reach European levels Ukraine would need to attain a per capita GDP level of \$12,000-\$13,000 (U.S.), about where the Czech Republic stands today. He

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UWC statement on the Year of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church has proclaimed 2002 as the Year of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj on the 110th anniversary of his birth. All people of good will are called to honor this heroic pastor who endured 18 years of imprisonment and suffering for his Church and his faith.

He was born February 17, 1892, in the village of Zazdrist, Ukraine, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1917. In 1922 he began teaching dogmatics at the Lviv Theological Seminary. He was the co-founder of the Ukrainian Theological Scholarly Society, and the founder and editor of the quarterly Bohosloviia.

In 1925 Father Slipyj was appointed rector of the Lviv Theological Seminary, which he reorganized as the Greek-Catholic Theological Academy, becoming its first rector in 1928 and remaining in this position until 1944.

On November 25, 1939, at the request of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, Pope Pius XII nominated him as bishop-coadjutor. He was consecrated bishop by Metropolitan Andrey, Bishop Nykyta Budka and Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky.

After the death of Metropolitan Andrey on November 1, 1944, Archbishop Slipyj succeeded him as metropolitan. On April 11, 1945, he was arrested and sentenced to eight years of hard labor in Siberia for treason. The reason for his incarceration was that he had refused to break relations with the Apostolic See and submit the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church to the

authority of the Moscow Patriarchate.

After 18 years of hard labor, Metropolitan Josyf was freed from exile through the efforts of Pope John XXIII and was permitted to come to Rome on February 9, 1963. In a short time he was engaged in the deliberations of the Second Vatican Council. In his first address at the council he proposed the creation of a Ukrainian Patriarchate for Kyiv-Halych.

In Rome His Beatitude Josyf founded St. Clement Ukrainian Catholic University, acquired a monastery for monks of the Studite Order, revived the publication Bohosloviia and published numerous theological works.

On January 25, 1965, Pope Paul VI conferred upon him the title of cardinal. In 1969 Cardinal Slipyj built St. Sophia Cathedral in Rome, and in 1970 he established the Ukrainian Catholic parish of Ss. Sergius and Bacchus. He presided over seven synods of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops, and received honorary doctorates from five universities.

In 1968 he began pastoral visitations, travelling to all the continents where the diaspora flourished, and continued this apostolic mission until 1976.

The Lord called to himself his faithful, long-suffering and deserving servant on September 7, 1984, in the 92nd year of his life. His mortal remains were interred in the crypt of St. Sophia Cathedral in Rome. But God's Providence ordained that this Confessor of the Faith would finally be laid to rest in his own Cathedral of St.

George in Lviv, in independent Ukraine. In the midst of great enthusiasm and solemn liturgical services his re-interment took place on September 7, 1992.

To our prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for giving our Church and our nation a man of great stature and spiritual father, we add a prayer for his beatification.

Prayer for the Beatification of Confessor Patriarch Josyf Slipyj

Most Holy Trinity, glory and honor to You for the graces bestowed upon the pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Servant of God Josyf Slipyj, and for giving us a shining example of unshakeable faith and heroic perseverance of a defender of Your persecuted Church and an authentic witness of the Crucified Christ, throughout 18 years of severe hardship in Siberia. Through his merits and intercession, grant us the strength to follow Christ on His Way of the Cross and help us obtain the grace, which we most need and for which we ask... (specify). May this received grace lead to the elevation on the altar of the Blessed your good, strong and faithful son of Your Church. For to You belongs all glory, honor, adoration, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

For the Ukrainian World Congress:
Askold S. Lozynskyy
President
† Cornelius Pasichny, OSBM
Eparch of Toronto
Head of the Church Council

UACC's executive committee confirms recognition of UWCC

WASHINGTON – The executive committee of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC) at its quarterly meeting on February 16, reaffirmed its recognition of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council in Kyiv as the main non-governmental organization representing Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad and established a separate fund in support of the UWCC.

The UACC executive committee felt that it was essential to establish such a fund at this time, in view of the fact that, at the urging of the Ukrainian diaspora, in the West, the UWCC has become a strictly non-governmental organization. The future development and activity of this organization will now depend to a very large degree on the financial support of Ukrainian diasporas in the West. Therefore, the UACC executive committee called upon central organizations in the United States, Canada and Western Europe to give their full support, both financial and moral, to the UWCC.

The UACC Executive Committee voted to send \$1,500 to the UWCC as its initial contribution to the fund. (Donations to the UWCC fund set up by the UACC may be sent to: UACC New York Office, 142 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003).

The executive committee also approved other donations totaling \$1,550 for various educational and charitable organizations in Ukraine and a \$300 contribution for the Ukrainian teachers' committee responsible for developing Ukrainian language tests for secondary school students in the state of New York.

In the course of the meeting, the UACC executive committee heard reports by its president, Ihor Gawdiak, and other members of the committee. Mr. Gawdiak reported on the meeting of the Presidium of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) on February 2 in Toronto and on the activity of the UACC Office in Washington.

Following his report, the executive committee reviewed the draft of the new by-laws proposed by the UWC's By-Laws Committee and unanimously expressed their opposition to the proposed definition of the UWC as a representative body of the entire Ukrainian diaspora. In the opinion of the UACC Executive Committee, the UWC's mission should remain the same as it was when the organization was first established, namely to coordinate the activity of the central organizations of the Ukrainian diaspora in the West. In the executive committee's view, it is the national umbrella organizations of the Ukrainian diaspora in each given country that represent that particular Ukrainian community. The UACC executive committee also expressed its reservations concerning the UWC's decision to hold its 2003 convention in Warsaw.

The UACC president also gave a brief summary of the organization's activity in the U.S. capital. He informed the executive committee that in the last few weeks the UACC Washington Office has been working within the framework of the Action Ukraine Coalition, together with other Ukrainian community organizations in Washington, to have Congress remove

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Embassy of Ukraine, Washingtonians honor Shevchenko



WASHINGTON – This year's Taras Shevchenko anniversary celebrations here began March 7 with a cultural program and reception at the Embassy of Ukraine. The evening featured soprano Stefania Dovhan, who sang a classical program that included art songs composed to Shevchenko's poems, and a choral ensemble of children of Ukrainian diplomats, who also recited a selection of his poetry. During the reception that followed, the Embassy guests had an opportunity to view some rarely seen paintings by Ivan Yizhakevych (1864-1962), known for immortalizing Shevchenko's and other Ukrainian literary works on canvas, as well as an exhibit of Ukrainian "rushnyky" (embroidered ritual clothes) collected by Melissa Hess while her husband was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. On March 9, the diplomatic children's ensemble joined with the children of the Washington and Baltimore Ukrainian schools to honor Shevchenko by his monument in the nation's capital.

– Yaro Bihun

UUARC springs into action to help dying immigrant's family

by Lida Melnyk

PHILADELPHIA – On February 6, the Philadelphia Inquirer ran a front-page story about Volodymyr Lukyanenkov, a Ukrainian electrical engineer from Sevastopol, who, against his own better judgment, had been forced to work in the officially "cleaned-up" nuclear facility in Chernobyl. After years of punishment for his vocal protests that radiation there was still at unsafe levels, Mr. Lukyanenkov left his family in Ukraine and came to the United States to try to make a better life for his wife and daughter.

In January Mr. Lukyanenkov, complaining of severe stomach pain was taken to the hospital by his friends. Doctors at Harrisburg Hospital found him riddled with cancer, attributable to radiation exposure. After hearing his story, doctors tested him for radiation, and his entire body tested positive – two times baseline normal. The article in the Inquirer mentioned that Mr. Lukyanenkov's final wish – to see his wife and mother – had just been fulfilled; they had just arrived from Ukraine to see him one last time.

On the morning of February 6, as Stefan Hawrysz, executive director of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) finished reading the article, the office went into high gear:

they searched the Internet, found the hospital, and called hospital information.

Within the hour Mr. Hawrysz had reached Mr. Lukyanenkov's mother in his hospital room. Through tears, she told Mr. Hawrysz the family's sad story, and he, in turn, promised to visit her.

Indeed, on Sunday, February 10, Mr. Hawrysz along with Dr. Larissa Kyj, president of the UUARC, and Luba Siltesky, head of the UUARC's Aid Committee, drove to Harrisburg, offering not only moral support, but also financial aid for Mr. Lukyanenkov's wife and mother. America was very generous to this family – not only had Harrisburg Hospital treated the patient at no charge to the family, they had also arranged for an apartment where the despondent family could stay.

And Mr. Lukyanenkov's greatest fear – that his wife, mother and 7-year-old daughter in Ukraine would not be taken care of – had also been eased. Through his oxygen mask, and through his unbearable pain, he blessed the UUARC for its help.

The Lukyanenkov family lost their son, husband and father three days later, but they were not alone. The family's wish to take Mr. Lukyanenkov's body home to Sevastopol was made possible by many generous people in Pennsylvania, and he was buried in his native Ukraine on February 25.

A Ukrainian Summer

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Rediscover Kyiv...

Go to summer camp...

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Ukrainian Medical Association supports Weekly's "Copies for Congress" project

CHICAGO – The Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) voted unanimously at its winter board meeting to support The Ukrainian Weekly's "Copies for Congress" project.

President Ihor Voyevodka, M.D., summarized The Ukrainian Weekly's letter requesting donations for this project. Since the activities of UMANA are covered extensively by The Weekly on a regular basis, the board felt that this information would be helpful to members of the U.S. Congress in evaluating issues regarding healthcare of Ukrainians worldwide.

Dr. Voyevodka reminded the board of the successful "Synergy" conference held in Washington in 1999. Under the leadership of then President Roman Goy, M.D., UMANA members were able to meet with and discuss items pertaining to Ukrainian health care with many repre-

sentatives of the U.S. Congress. For the first time in recent memory, the UMANA, along with a host of co-sponsoring organizations, was able to confer with leaders in Washington on their own turf, and on their own terms.

An obvious way to keep this discussion updated and ongoing is to continue presenting the Washington establishment with a record of the UMANA's accomplishments on a regular basis.

The UMANA board of directors approved support for this project, in the form of a \$1,000 check. Furthermore, the UMANA board stated that it "encourages the Ukrainian community to stand behind this worthwhile effort, and present continuing reliable primary information about our activities to the U.S. Congress."

For further information, readers may contact the UMANA at (773) 278-6262, or via the web at www.umana.org.

Wilkes-Barre District Committee holds pre-convention meeting

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. – A meeting of the Wilkes-Barre District of the Ukrainian National Association was held on March 2 here at Ss. Peter and Paul Rectory, with National Secretary Martha Lysko of the Home Office in Parsippany, N.J., presiding.

Those in attendance were: Henry and Mary Bolosky, Genet and Jack Boland, Bonnie Scholtis, Gisela Stafuryn and Tymko Butrej.

Mr. Bolosky, chairman of the Wilkes-Barre District, reported that he and his wife had attended a conference of UNA district chairs at Soyuzivka, which was well attended. A statement was made to the fact that such meetings should be held every two years, as the previous meeting was eight years ago.

Mr. Bolosky proposed the merger of two districts, the Wilkes-Barre District and the Shamokin District. The proposal was unanimously accepted, and it was decided to draft a letter immediately to the Shamokin District secretary, Adolph Slovik. A proposal to meet at the earliest

convenience to discuss the possibility of a merger was offered.

Mrs. Lysko informed the members of the Wilkes-Barre District that a vote was being taken as to whether or not a \$100 fee be deducted per diem from each member attending the UNA Convention in Chicago for events on the last day of the conclave. Mr. Butrej, vice-chairman of the Wilkes-Barre District, made a motion against the assessment; Ms. Scholtis seconded the motion. All members present voted unanimously against the assessment.

Mr. Butrej made a motion to reduce the present size of the UNA General Assembly from 25 members to 14: President, one Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, three auditors and seven advisors. This motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

The district also voted against placing an ad in the convention Booklet due to the lack of funds in the district treasury.

The meeting was adjourned and a social with light refreshments was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Bolosky.

Young UNA'ers



Brendyn Everts, son of Oksana and Douglas Lupe, is a new member of UNA Branch 13 in Watervliet, N.Y. He was enrolled by his mother.



Elizabeth Marin Burke, daughter of Katherine Ann and Sean P. Burke, is a new member of UNA Branch 147 in Allentown, Pa. She was enrolled by her grandmother Dolores B. Bochnak.

To the UNA membership:

- In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, Article 17, all branches, district committees and individual members are invited to submit their proposals for the good and welfare of the association to the UNA Executive Committee. These proposals will be reviewed, and approved or revised, by the Executive Committee, which will then recommend them to the UNA convention's Committee on Revision of By-Laws for its consideration. That committee will then recommend to the convention what action should be taken. Please address such proposals to: Ukrainian National Association, Att'n: Executive Committee, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

- Any proposals for amendments to the UNA By-Laws are to be submitted to the Committee on Revision of By-Laws, which will consider the advisability of the change or revision suggested, and will then present its recommendation for consideration by the convention. Such proposals are to be submitted to the chairperson of the Pre-Convention By-Laws Committee, Taras Szmagala Jr. Please address proposals regarding by-laws changes to: Ukrainian National Association, Att'n: Taras Szmagala Jr., 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

– UNA Executive Committee

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JANUARY 2002

Martha Lysko, National Secretary

	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 12/2001	6,565	13,728	3,018	23,311
Total Inactive Members – 12/2001	7,451	16,919	0	24,370
Total Members – 12/2001	14,016	30,647	3,018	47,681

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 1/2002				
New members	14	17	0	31
New members UL	1	0	0	1
Reinstated	8	24	7	39
Total Gains:	23	41	7	71

Losses in 1/2002				
Died	0	38	0	38
Cash surrender	6	15	0	21
Endowment matured	5	14	0	19
Fully paid-up	2	23	0	25
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	9	25	0	34
Certificates lapsed (active)	5	1	27	33
Certificate terminated	1	4	3	8
Total Losses	28	120	30	178
Total Active Members – 1/2002	6,560	13,649	2,995	23,204

INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 1/2002				
Paid-up	2	23	0	25
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	9	25	0	34
Total Gains	11	48	0	59

Losses in 1/2002				
* Died	1	40	0	41
* Cash surrender	6	7	0	13
Pure endowment matured	0	2	0	2
Reinstated to active	8	24	0	32
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	3	5	0	8
Total Losses	18	78	0	96
Total Inactive Members – 12/2001	7,444	16,889	0	24,333
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 12/2001	14,004	30,538	2,995	47,537

(* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Terms of engagement

Picking up where we left off last week with our editorial titled "Vital signs at a summit," this week we expand on our comments on what transpired at the first Summit of Ukrainian American Organizations held to explore the topic of engaging the younger generation. This unique gathering was successful, first and foremost, because of the open-mindedness and flexibility of conference organizers and participants alike. All had an opportunity to engage in a dialogue, and most were emboldened to speak by the overwhelmingly collegial atmosphere. The principal result was new contacts and an obvious willingness to continue the communication begun at this informal, yet very significant, conference and to transform it into effective interaction.

Many summit participants learned new information concerning organizations about which they thought they knew all they needed to know. Several of the speakers mentioned that what the younger generations need is to learn what our community has to offer in the way of organizational activity. Indeed, the Ukrainian National Association's treasurer, for example, pointed out that many of the younger set do not even know they are UNA members since they were enrolled by parents or grandparents, yet never informed about the organization and its beneficial work. During one panel spokespersons were asked to comment on the most prevalent misconceptions regarding their organizations; the answers and comments of the audience revealed as much about our individual/community biases as about our organizations.

Clearly, even well-established organizations need to reconsider how they "market" themselves (if they do at all...). Plus, our schools and organizations could do better in educating our kids about the value of our community life and the incredible achievements of our diaspora. For example, we know of a least one school of Ukrainian studies that has created a pilot project that addresses these topics, in addition to other themes that are beyond the scope of the traditional curriculum of our Saturday schools yet very beneficial for our high-school-age students.

Conferees also discussed the best methods to attract new members: one-to-one contact between members and prospective members, and contacts via "non-threatening," non-stressful social gatherings open to interested persons. Also noted was the importance of quality, which one young professional emphasized is key to getting people interested and/or involved in an organization. "Our offerings must be on par or better than others," he stated. And, yes, a student leader also mentioned the age-old method of setting an example: when parents are active in our community and demonstrate that they see value in its existence, it's likely that their children also will be involved.

The youngest participants of the summit, university students and recent grads who are now young professionals, underlined, again and again, the potential value of mentoring and internships for students. (Several, we must note with pride, mentioned working at *The Weekly* as summer or student interns as a very positive and much-appreciated experience – to which we add that such opportunities are mutually enriching.) The students also said very matter-of-factly: maybe we haven't become involved because we haven't been approached; come speak to us, encourage us to become involved, use us as a resource!

The professionals' groups represented at the summit took notes and made contacts. And whether it was the medical association, the engineers' society, or the Ps & Bs (professionals/businesspersons), all agreed that outreach to student groups (including making activities more financially accessible) would now be on their agendas in addition to their networking for those already in the professional world.

The summit also broached the question of how we could better structure our community for maximum benefit to all and challenged community activists to take a good look at why and how they do what they do. The matter of effective communications also was noted as a key to our community's well-being, as was such synergistic activity as co-sponsorship of events and projects.

It was Andrew Masiuk of Washington who made perhaps the most salient observation about the conference goings-on: it seems ours is a virtual community, that what we have is a collection of organizations looking for a community.

The truth is that our community is what we make it. It's up to all of us to translate the energy of the first Summit of Ukrainian American Organizations into a new foundation for a revitalized community. We can make it happen.

April
2
1996

Turning the pages back...

In his state of the state address six years ago on April 2, 1996, President Leonid Kuchma confirmed that "Ukraine has passed the point of historic return, and there will be no going back. However, the danger of attempts to return to the past cannot be excluded; in fact, both internal and external forces must be considered," he

cautioned in his 65-minute speech at the Verkhovna Rada.

Throughout his speech, President Kuchma emphasized that Ukraine would prosper only if its branches of power work together and consolidate their forces. "Our future – without exaggeration – depends on this," he noted. "We should begin – finally – moving not in a direction which pulls us apart, but in one that brings us together and unites us."

It was just minutes before President Kuchma's first state of the state address, delivered on April 4, 1995, that the Rada had issued a vote of no-confidence in Mr. Kuchma's government, accusing officials of failing to act upon key social and economic questions. A year later Mr. Kuchma reported that "1995 will enter the annals of Ukrainian history as, in general, a successful year, disregarding the economic crisis and social difficulties." He was referring to the Constitutional Accord reached in 1995 by the president and the Parliament that succeeded in moving these two branches of power out of a deadlock. He added, "We have reached a point in time that a fundamental law [i.e. constitution] is necessary for us to get united." [The Constitution of Ukraine was adopted on June 28, 1996.]

He spoke of the need for a vigorous foreign economic policy, and further development

(Continued on page 23)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Remembering Kingston's Moses and Canada's internment camps

by Lubomyr Luciuk

I never met him but I know he had chutzpah. His name was Isaac Cohen. He owned a scrapyard on Montreal Street in Kingston's North End. I lived south of Princess but played with other kids at the Bagot Street Ukrainian Hall. Fondly, I remember buying penny candies from the grumpy old guy who ran the long-gone North Street corner store, or sneaking around the Davis Tannery, across from Ivan and Motria Gadowsky's home, sometimes trekking further, in odyssey to the very gates of Cohen's domains, though never daring a venture in.

Those North End neighborhoods were populated by all sorts of East European families, by boys with surnames as odd-sounding as mine – Polomany, Tanovich, Tarvycz, Yankovic. Not that we were friends. Sure, they were Catholics, but their kind hadn't been good to Ukrainians in the "old country." So it wasn't until I went to high school, to Regi, that we met. But they remained Polacks or Russkies, and I a Bohunk, expletives deleted. Decades passed before those attitudes faded. Prejudices are perennials.

And there were the Irish, lots of them. The red-haired, much-freckled Brian O'Brien not only treated me to buttered bread, oven-toasted and powdered with cinnamon, but boasted that the Irish had their own North End plot, Skeleton Park. That sounded cool. Years would pass before I swooned for an Irish-Canadian lass or understood why the bones of Celtic immigrants came to be sewn into the soil of Kingston's working class quarter.

I knew nothing of the Cohens. The only Jews I met were the family of Harold Marans, my father's boss at Brock Jewelers, a friend to the Luciuks. He taught my dad to drive, brought our first black and white TV, helped when I went to Queen's, and, for years, broke matzo bread with us at Passover.

I knew that had to do with the Biblical Hebrews fleeing bondage and being determined not to forget it. But why include us? Because, I was taught, Jews had been driven from their homeland, much as my parents had been forced from Ukraine, a country which, in those days, nobody except others like us would even admit existed. So, rich or poor, Jew or Christian, we were much alike – exiles, outsiders.

We had nothing in common with Kingston's patricians, the "Old Stones." True, some Ontario Street corners were rough in the 1960s. Positioning yourself outside the Indian Room saloon almost guaranteed a Saturday evening's spectacle, "the fights." But those domiciled in the more genteel reaches of this city's very own South, the "Blue Bloods" of Sydenham Ward, denizens of venues like the Yacht Club, otherwise lived lives truly off limits to us proletarians. Even if

Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk teaches geography at the Royal Military College. His most recent book is "In Fear of the Barbed Wire Fence: Canada's First National Internment Operations and the Ukrainian Canadians, 1914-1920" (Kashtan Press, 2001).

a few "foreigners" ran boarding houses around Queen's, those Kingston cantons were turf rarely intruded upon, save for occasional trips into the public space of Macdonald Park, there to clamber onto its sentry lion.

I never wondered why that bronze beast was posted there, defiantly roaring at those living on the other side of Lake Ontario. This most unconditional reminder of British Empire, a rampart guard, was just another in a cityscape infused with telltales of who this city's and country's rulers were. Obviously, not us.

An even more imposing presence perched above. Sometimes we got a Sunday visit there, to Fort Henry. Running around the walls and clambering into surrounding moats was a lad's delight. I did not know this fortress had been the first of 24 camps into which "enemy aliens" were herded during Canada's first national internment operations. Although German POWs were detained, most were "second-class" civilian internees, Ukrainians intermingled with Serbs, Croats, Hungarians and other Eastern Europeans, categorized as "Austrians" since most came from the multinational Austro-Hungarian Empire.

When I began master's research, I met a survivor of the fort, Nykola Sakaliuk. He recalled what was done to him and the others. Thousands of men, and some women and children, were rounded up, compelled to do heavy labor under trying conditions, to others' profit. What little they had was confiscated. Mr. Sakaliuk never learned that a portion of that looted wealth remains in the Bank of Canada's coffers.

I was never taught this. These internment operations had a crippling impact on Ukrainian Canadian society. Yet establishment historians have ignored evidence like an RCMP report which confirmed that, even decades later, many Ukrainians were still "in fear of the barbed wire fence."

While investigating this blank page in our nation's history I, by chance, read an amazing story in the *Daily British Whig*. Within a few weeks of the war's outbreak, in mid-September 1914, when wartime xenophobia was intense, Isaac Cohen marched manfully up Fort Henry hill. A Jew was held there, misidentified as German. This hapless fellow, Mr. Cohen reassured the powers that were, was actually Russian. So he was freed. While others would later be paroled, as labor shortages grew acute following the slaughters in the abattoir that was the Western Front, I know of no other instance of anyone plucky enough to secure an internee's release.

My notes about Mr. Cohen's pilgrimage up the very same hill I so naively ran down as a boy were discarded, long ago. But he reportedly intervened again that winter, to deliver three more captives, Galician Jews, in time to celebrate Chanukkah. And so I have come to think of Isaac Cohen as Kingston's Moses, a North End Jew with the chutzpah to enter a Canadian concentration camp out of which he led his people to freedom, during the very peculiar Passover that took place in what once was the King's Town.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter re OST patch brings back memories

Dear Editor:

After reading Inger Kuzych's letter in the March 3 edition of The Ukrainian Weekly I decided to write about my own experiences with the OST patch, which may interest some of your readers.

In 1943 I was sent to forced labor in Graz, Austria, and ended up working as a house maid for Herr Spee, the chief inspector of the Labor Administration for the District of Steiermark. He was a German from Stuttgart and a highly decorated Nazi.

His wife was a plain country girl, not particularly interested in politics. She was a kind woman, gave me some of her clothes, including a winter coat, and told me that I did not have to wear the OST patch.

One Sunday afternoon, on my half-day off, I boarded the electric train going to Puntigam, a Graz suburb where my mother and sister were doing forced labor at an airplane factory. The train was packed, so most of us had to stand. Next to me stood a young German soldier who was on leave. He picked up a conversation, asking me where I was from. Jokingly I said, "You guess." He tried several places, then gave up and said that he was from the North.

I happened to know a song in the Northern dialect and was happy to demonstrate my knowledge to him by singing:

Wor die Möven schrien/gell in Storm
Gebrus./dor is mine Heimat/dor bin ick
zu Hus.

(The English translation would be something like "Where the seagulls shriek gaily in the storm breeze, there is my native land, there I am at home").

The soldier was obviously delighted and pressed on with his query about my place of origin. So, finally I told him that I was from Ukraine. As soon as I uttered that word I heard a voice, "And where is your OST patch?" The man asking this question obviously had overheard our conversation.

I had no time to give him an answer, for he said, "Come with me. You will have to answer to the Gestapo." And so we went back to Graz and there, at the Gestapo headquarters, the officers began questioning me. Being young and naive, and sure of my innocence, I did not feel too much fear and told them that it was Frau Spee who allowed me not to wear the patch. The Gestapo men knew, of course, who Herr Spee was, so they let me go with a warning that if I didn't wear the patch from now on I would be punished.

Incidentally, Frau Spee showed me the instructions which she received on how to treat the Ostarbeiter such as myself. No conversations were allowed except giving orders. The poor woman had no one to talk to all day long since the Austrian women avoided her company. So she ended up occasionally talking to me after all, asking me about my family

and my life in Ukraine.

Some day I will write the complete story, but here I just wanted to give a further illustration of what Inger Kuzych said in a letter: that some German agencies "proposed to abolish the odious OST symbol." As my experience shows, not only agencies, but also some decent German individuals were opposed to this degrading practice.

Assya Humesky
Ann Arbor, Mich.

No UNA candidates or platforms in sight

Dear Editor:

We are about two months away from the next quadrennial convention of the Ukrainian National Association and there are no lists of candidates or their respective platforms and credentials in site. It is not only disturbing, it is outright alarming that we are once again led in the dark about whom we are to elect and how are we to make an informed decision come May 24.

A repeat of the last convention does not hold a promise for some miraculous solution. Quite the contrary.

The confusion regarding leadership and any proposal to change the UNA's organizational structure from a community-oriented body to a corporate structure remains unresolved and undiscussed at the branch level of the UNA. This, in itself, needs a much more thorough study by the membership than a convention can allow. In the absence of strong leadership, the choice of a corporate structure looks rather attractive, but at the same time is doubtful because of too many unanswered questions regarding its relationship and affect on the community aspect of a fraternal organization. If the UNA structure, as it stands today, is too cumbersome in size to effectively manage the organization's dual business and community responsibilities then that, too, needs more than a day of discussion of delegates in Chicago.

An organization of the size and prominence of the UNA is too important to go down the path of some other fraternal organizations in our recent experience. The UNA management has to face up to its responsibilities and lead the discussion of viable choices that the membership can intelligently support. Apathy and inertia are frequently the result of confusion and lack of direction.

It is now late March. I call for clarification of the proposals before the UNA Convention so that I could still pass my opinion onto the delegate from my local branch of the UNA. For a start, many of us would like to know who the candidates are and what programs are they offering to re-energize the UNA so that the organization may grow.

Roma M. Hayda
Easton, Conn.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Myron Diduryk: a soldier once ... and young

"He was eager and aggressive yet totally professional; over the next three days he would emerge as the finest battlefield company commander I had ever seen, bar none."

Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore was describing Capt. Myron Diduryk, hero of the Battle of Ia Drang Valley in 1965, the first significant military engagement between American troops and the North Vietnamese Army. The citation is from Gen. Moore's battle memoir, "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young," co-authored by Joseph L. Galloway, and first published as a hardback in 1992.

The recently released Hollywood film "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson as then Lt. Col. Moore, is based on the book. Both the publication and the film are about the 457 men of Col. Moore's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, being dropped into a small clearing in the Ia Drang Valley on November 14, 1965, and the bloody battle that erupted when they were immediately surrounded by 2,000 enemy soldiers under the command of Nguyen Huu An, today a lieutenant general in the Vietnamese army.

The assault raged for four days in two major areas of the valley, Landing Zone X-Ray and Landing Zone Albany in the remote highlands of Vietnam near the Cambodian border. When the smoke cleared, the Vietnamese had lost some 2,000 men, the United States 234. The number of Americans killed at Ia Drang, according to the authors, was more than the number killed in any regiment, North or South, in the Battle of Gettysburg. The names of the dead can be located on panel three of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington.

As commander of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, Capt. Diduryk, called the "Mad Cossack" in the book, and his second command, Lt. Rick Rescola, were initially flown in as reinforcements for surrounded U.S. troops pinned down by enemy fire. "The Ukrainian Diduryk and the Englishman Rescola," write the authors, "were destined, over the next 72 hours to become battlefield legends in the 7th Cavalry — as much for their style as for their fearless leadership under fire."

Although the Americans won, the battle, remembered and fully described in a commemorative, 25th anniversary U.S. News and World Report on October 29, 1990, it was a "fatal victory." The battle convinced Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and other Washington bureaucrats that their "search and destroy" policy produced an acceptable 12 to one kill ratio that would eventually win the war. The Vietnamese knew better.

"The victory in the Ia Drang Valley degenerated into a decade of bloody frustration that sent 58,000 Americans home in shiny aluminum Army-issue caskets, ruined one American president, deeply scarred another, and turned the nation against itself," concluded the authors of the magazine article. Capt. Diduryk's exploits received considerable coverage in the report. Suspecting that the Vietnamese were sneaking up on his position under cover of darkness, he ordered flares to illuminate the sky. "Diduryk's men poured rifle and machine-gun fire on the attacking North Vietnamese while Diduryk and Lund [his artillery observer] directed artillery fire back and forth across the killing zone. The North Vietnamese broke and ran."

A biographical article about Myron

Diduryk by Kristina Lew was published in The Ukrainian Weekly on February 3, 1991. Born in Muzhliv, western Ukraine, in 1938, Myron immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1950. He was a member of Plast and later joined "Siromantsi," a Plast fraternity. A beloved leader in Plast circles, Myron helped organize branches throughout northern New Jersey. He also worked part-time at Svoboda and Soyuzivka.

Myron graduated from St. Peter's College in Jersey City in 1960 with a degree in physics. While at St. Peter's he joined the ROTC, rose to the rank of brigade commander, and was one of the few ROTC cadets in his class to be commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After serving in Europe for several years, he transferred to Vietnam.

Following the Battle of Ia Drang, he was promoted to major and returned for a second tour of duty. "Assigned as the operations officer of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, Diduryk was killed in action on April 24, 1970, in a Huey helicopter at an abandoned fire base," write Messrs. Moore and Galloway. "The battalion commander had ordered his command helicopter to land and check out a North Vietnamese soldier killed by the door gunner. As the helicopter touched down, other NVA soldiers opened up; Myron Diduryk was struck in the stomach in the doorway of the chopper. Thus died one of the finest officers who fought in Ia Drang." Major Diduryk is buried at the Fort Benning cemetery. His widow, Delores, lives in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Everybody who knew Myron loved him. People who worked with him in Plast, like my wife, Lesia, or at Soyuzivka, like my sister, Vera, will never forget his friendliness, easy-going nature and dedication.

Capt. William Shucart, a medical officer met Capt. Diduryk in Vietnam. Col. Moore describes the officer's impressions as follows: "One of the people Shucart really liked was Myron Diduryk. 'He was wonderful. He loved military strategy. He got me reading S.L.A. Marshall, 'Men Against Fire,' all that. We would talk about what makes men in combat do what they do. He liked to talk like a tough guy off the New Jersey streets, but he was a very thoughtful, very clever guy. I was proud of the people I knew in the officer corps, very impressed with them.' It is obvious that Myron Diduryk had an impact on many people. There are a total of 28 references to him in the index of the Moore/Galloway memoir.

In their prologue, the authors describe their book as "a love story. We were the children of the 1950s and we went where we were sent because we loved our country. We were draftees, most of us, but we were proud of the opportunity to serve our country just as our fathers had served in World War II and our older brothers in Korea."

Suggestion, dear reader: see the film "We Were Soldiers" now, while it's still in a theater near you, and see if you can spot Myron Diduryk. Then read the book. Both will make you proud to be an American with Ukrainian roots.

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

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

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Myroslav Marynovych to lecture on religion and politics in Ukraine

LVIV – Myroslav Marynovych, co-founder of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and now director of the Institute of Religion and Society in Lviv, will be lecturing on Ukrainian religion and politics in Washington, Philadelphia, Boston and New York in April.

As vice-rector of the Lviv Theological Academy Prof. Marynovych has been particularly involved this year with the academy's transformation into the Ukrainian Catholic University. During this process he has frequently worked with political figures and government ministries in Lviv and Kyiv.

In New York, on April 13 at the Ukrainian Institute, he will give his insights on the state of human rights and today's political situation following the parliamentary and local elections. In Philadelphia, the former prisoner of conscience will speak about the current role of dissidents in Ukraine.

Prof. Marynovych will also be hosted by two major universities, speaking at Catholic University in Washington in the first week of April and at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute on April 11.

In recent years, Prof. Marynovych has been the advisor on ecumenical issues for Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. During last year's papal visit to Ukraine, he was involved in organizing the arrival of the Vatican delegation and he was head of the Papal Text Service. In May 2001 he gave reports at the Papal Gregorian University

and the Papal Oriental Institute on social problems and ecumenism in Ukraine. He was also invited to participate as an official auditor at the Synod of Catholic Bishops held in Rome on September 30 to October 27, 2001.

The decisive moment in Prof. Marynovych's life came 25 years ago, when he joined the original Ukrainian Helsinki Group to monitor human rights abuses in then-Soviet Ukraine. In August 1975 in Helsinki, Finland, 33 European nations, the United States and Canada signed the Helsinki Accords, which defined new parameters of international relations.

On November 9, 1976, in a Moscow apartment in the presence of foreign journalists, the creation of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group was announced. There were 10 members at that time; Mr. Myroslav Marynovych was one of the youngest.

As Mr. Marynovych explained, the task of the Helsinki monitoring group was "to follow up on how the Helsinki Accords signed by the Soviet Union were being observed. First of all, it focused on that chapter of the accords that spoke about different aspects of the rights of the human person, in particular freedom of speech, movement and religion."

From the very start the group was up front about its activities. Contact information on all its members was published with the group's first announcement. This openness made the KGB's work easier, but it also clearly revealed the undemocratic approach of the Soviet government.

Mr. Marynovych recalled the founding of the group: "I recall that clear night when we were invited to join the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. We thought about the choice: to agree, that meant arrest, no doubt; not to agree meant loss of self-respect, loss of our human face. I was 28 at the time. I said to myself 'yes.' And now I am happy with the choice I made, because in fact that decision laid the foundations for my future."

Some of the most blatant human rights abuses were directed against religious groups. During his time with the group, Mr. Marynovych reported on the liquidation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and its underground activities, the liquidation of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the persecution of the Baptists. The Helsinki group's members were under constant surveillance, their homes were bugged, they awaited inevitable arrest.

On February 5, 1977, Mr. Marynovych was detained in Kyiv and warned that he would be arrested if he didn't stop his activities. He didn't stop and two months later he was arrested. The Soviets gradually arrested all the other members, even 76-year-old Oksana Meshko.

But the group was not destroyed; others took the place of the arrested human rights activists. A total of 41 people became members of group.

With the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachev



Prof. Myroslav Marynovych

and glasnost in the 1980s, Mr. Marynovych was freed and in 1991 was officially rehabilitated. He continued to observe the human rights and religious situation in Ukraine and in 1997 founded the Institute of Religion and Society in Lviv.

For more information on Prof. Marynovych's lectures in the United States, please contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; telephone, (773) 235-8462; e-mail, ucef@ucef.org.

Ivano-Frankivsk...

(Continued from page 1)

Frankivsk, most of them disabled former prisoners of the Soviet gulag.

The All-Ukraine Jewish Congress, which has vehemently protested the decision, organized a rally on March 27 at the Monument to the Unknown Soldier in Kyiv to protest the city council move. Vadim Rabinovich, president of the congress, called the decision "a crime against the Ukrainian and Jewish people."

During the meeting, held with several hundred mostly disinterested looking students in attendance, Ukrainian Jewish leaders read a statement from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, located in Los Angeles, which read in part: "Those who volunteered to fight on the side of Germany and Hitler are the moral equivalent of Bin Laden and the terrorist cells of Al Qaeda."

It could not be determined whether the students were forced or paid for their presence or whether they came voluntarily.

Moscow also came out strongly against the local decision. Interfax reported that the Russian Foreign Ministry condemned the move by Ivano-Frankivsk city officials on March 20, calling it "a shameful act of betrayal" of millions of Nazi victims. The statement said that Russia could not accept recognition of a fighting force that had murdered thousands of "our fathers and grandfathers."

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meanwhile, responded to the charges by stating on March 26 that the issue is an internal matter, which should not have a bearing on relations with other states, while underscoring that satisfying all sides in the matter of who should be considered Ukrainian veterans of World War II is not an easy task.

"The issue is not limited to the Halychyna Division, but extends to the broader question, which includes the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and its role, as well," explained Ihor Dolhov, ministry spokesman. "It is a deeply national, deeply moral issue, one which involves

matters of historical accuracy and national reconciliation, as well as respect for veterans of liberation movements on Ukrainian territory."

In an interview with The Weekly, Ivano-Frankivsk City Council Press Secretary Ihor Pasichniak criticized Moscow for twisting the facts and turning the matter into a pre-election issue.

"This is a provocation and it is meant to intrude on the electoral process," explained Mr. Pasichniak.

He explained that at no point were additional pensions or subsidies considered for members of the Waffen SS Halychyna Division. All references, without exception, were for government pensions and subsidies to members of the Halychyna Division of the Ukrainian National Army, which developed from the remnants of the Waffen SS military unit after it was, for all practical purposes, wiped out by the Soviet Army at the Battle of Brody. Those Ukrainian National Army division members who did not flee to Western Europe as World War II ended were eventually absorbed into the UPA.

The matter of pensions and subsidies for veterans of Halychyna Division came up at the tail end of a regular session of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council on March 19. When the council addressed the last point on its agenda, "Miscellany," Councilman Zinovii Boichuk tabled the matter of the compensation, which was duly voted upon and supported.

With the events in Ivano-Frankivsk evolving as the election season climaxed, some media outlets in the fiercely polarized and caustic Ukrainian press – and several Russian ones, as well – quickly labeled the move as representative of the "fascist tendencies" of the supporters of Viktor Yushchenko, the head of the Our Ukraine election bloc, which has much support in the western regions of Ukraine and the city of Ivano-Frankivsk.

However, a city dweller who wished to remain anonymous told The Weekly that Mr. Boichuk belongs to the Ukrainian Republican Party, which is associated with the Yulia Tymoshenko election bloc.

Saskatoon artist to represent Ukraine at Sao Paulo biennale

KYIV – The Ukrainian presence at the XXV Biennale de São Paulo to be held March 23-June 2, will be represented by Saskatoon-based artist Taras Polataiko who will present his project – "Bird's Eye View," with Jerzy Onuch, curator of the presentation.

The "Bird's Eye View" project is based on the biennale's curatorial concept of the "11 Metropolises." The show will open as an empty space with 11 mirrors mounted on the walls of the presentation space. At the commencement of the Biennale, 11 local workers will be contracted to gradually cover the mirrors by piecing together the jigsaw pieces, made of 11 infrared satellite photos of the 11 metropolises. Work will proceed on a daily basis until the puzzles are completed, so that by the close of the Biennale there will be eleven abstractions in the space. Divorced from their content, these abstract images will be reminiscent of pop artist Gerhard Richter's paintings.

As noted in a statement regarding the presentation, it is through the images, materials and process that the artist intends to draw attention to the marginalised population created by world-wide urban progress, concurrently exploring the problem of relationship between the content of the image and its formal properties. The project will bring up the question of the nature of the image in contemporary culture as well as that of the artist's relationship with the context, narrative, and the agendas of the art world.

Mr. Polataiko is a Ukrainian Canadian artist, born in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, who, since emigrating to Canada in 1989, has been living in Saskatoon. Mr. Polataiko has had solo exhibitions at leading galleries and museums of contemporary art in Canada and New York and his work has been widely reviewed by leading North American and international publications. Among his projects are "Glare" (1994), "Mole" (1997), "Cradle" (1999), "Him" (1999-2002). Most recently, his work was exhibited as part of the "Brand 'Ukrainian'" exhibit held at the CCA in Kyiv, December 16, 2001 – February 10.

A solo exhibit titled "Taras Polataiko" was held at the Art Gallery of Hamilton and the Winnipeg Art Gallery in the fall of 2001.

Mr. Onuch since 1997 has been the director of the Center for Contemporary Art in Kyiv. Born in Lublin, Poland, he lives in Kyiv and Toronto. Among his latest curatorial projects are "ID" (1999), "Painting" (2000), and "Brand 'Ukrainian.'"

Ukraine's presentation at the biennale and the Polataiko project is supported by the Center for Contemporary Art, Kyiv, Saskatchewan Arts Board and The Canada Council.

Kyiv art exhibit highlights interdisciplinary approach

KYIV – The "Matrix of Collaboration," an exhibition focusing on the interdisciplinary approach to art production, opened on March 9 at the Center for Contemporary Art at the National University of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, where it was on view through March 31.

Presented by CCA's Alternate Visual Studies, the exhibit is curated by Ludmila Motsiuk. The exhibition presents installations by artists collaborating with professionals from other fields, using an interdisciplinary approach in their work.

Apart from installations by artists groups from Switzerland and Estonia, who took part in Venice Biennale 2001 – Com & Com's Johanness Hedinger and Marcus Gossolt, Ingeborg Lusher and Liis Semper, among participating Ukrainian artists in the exhibition are: Iliya Chichkan, who with Piter Style of Poland presents a multi-media installation titled "Atomic Love," that looks at prospects of human reproduction in a radioactive environment; Dmytro Dulphan's light installation "Beating Heart"; Radio Eurasia's Kirill Protsenko and D.J. Derbastler collaboration with musicians titled "Football Game"; and Natalia Holibroda's and Solomia Savchuk's video installation "Swimming Pool."

Shevchenko Society conference features scholarly lectures and book presentations

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – The 22nd annual scholarly conference dedicated to Taras Shevchenko was hosted by the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America (NTSh) in its building in New York City on March 10. The program was co-hosted by the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN), the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University. It was chaired by Dr. Anna Procyk, a vice-president of NTSh.

In her opening remarks Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych, president of NTSh, credited the tradition of the Shevchenko conferences to the initiatives of the late NTSh President Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch and his collaboration with Dr. George Grabowicz of HURI, which was then headed by Prof. Omeljan Pritsak. According to Dr. Onyshkevych, this year's scholarly lectures, complemented by the presentation of two new NTSh publications devoted to the works of Shevchenko, are evidence of the apparently inexhaustible legacy of the society's patron.

The capacity audience was addressed briefly by Natalia Martynenko, a vice-consul of the Consulate General of Ukraine, who noted that a multi-volume set of the works of Shevchenko was published recently in Kyiv.

Dr. Oleh Ilnytskyj, a professor of Ukrainian literature at the University of Alberta, presented a lecture titled "The

Word 'Zhyd' in the works of Shevchenko." Although "zhyd" is a neutral term for "Jew" in traditional Ukrainian (as well as in Polish and most Slavic languages), it happens to be an offensive term in Russian.

One of the myriad examples of the Russification of the Ukrainian language in the Soviet era was the compulsory replacement of the word "zhyd" by the Russian "yevrey," which Shevchenko had never used. As a result, there have been critics, who in their ignorance of history and linguistics, have tried to pin anti-Semitism on Shevchenko because of his usage of "zhyd" and its derivatives. Such allegations are groundless on the basis of linguistics alone. However, Dr. Ilnytskyj also pointed out that Shevchenko was known to protest in writing against anti-Semitism in the Russian Empire.

"Shevchenko and Post-Colonialism" was the topic explored by Prof. Vitaly Chernetsky of the Harriman Institute of Columbia University. He said the term "post-colonial" is being applied by many to today's independent Ukraine. Colonialism can manifest itself not just by racial discrimination against the subjugated majority or ethnic group, but also by the relegation of the latter to a second-class status in its own country, impeding its upward mobility and denationalizing its elites. What is important for a post-colonial society, said Prof. Chernetsky, is to regain its national dignity and culture. These goals were promoted by Shevchenko, the first Ukrainian national

intellectual who managed to define Ukrainians as a national entity – an idea without precedence at the time. This is why Shevchenko's legacy is so relevant today and deserving study in a multidisciplinary approach, concluded Prof. Chernetsky.

Prof. Grabowicz of HURI spoke on "The Current State of Scholarly Research on Shevchenko: Some Thoughts on the Subject of Recent Publications and Presentations." Although a multitude of new publications have appeared recently on Shevchenko, there is a dearth of works of high quality. While not entirely devoid of value or interest, many of the publications are amateurish and parascholarly, even anti-scholarly, according to Dr. Grabowicz.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of two quality books on Shevchenko published by NTSh in 2001 (in Ukrainian). They are: "The Worlds of Taras Shevchenko," Vol. 2, a collection of articles edited by Dr. Onyshkevych, Prof. Assya Humesky and Dr. John Fizer, and "The Concordance to the Poetic Works of Taras Shevchenko," compiled by Oleh Ilnytskyj and George Hawrysch. The Concordance is an alphabetical index of all the words used in Shevchenko's poetry, listed in a context comprising three lines of text: the line in which the word appears as well as the preceding and succeeding one. The present work is the first ever concordance in the Ukrainian literature. It was published jointly by the NTSh and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Some worrisome closing thoughts were shared by Dr. Olexa Bilaniuk, UVAN president, who traced the history of the struggle of the Ukrainian language for survival in the face of the imperialist Russian onslaught. Realizing that "the word is mightier than the sword," said Dr. Bilaniuk, tsarist Russia in the 19th century banned the Ukrainian language both from print and public speech. After a brief rebirth in the 1920s, the Ukrainian language fell victim to a new wave of compulsory Russification beginning in the early 1930s when, among other measures, some 40,000 Ukrainian terms were specifically excluded from usage by Moscow's edict. Russification reached its peak in the Brezhnev era, when the unconcealed policy of the Soviet regime was to mold all Soviet peoples into one Russian-speaking nation.

"We all had expected," said Dr. Bilaniuk, that upon gaining national independence Ukraine would restore its original language and orthography but, sadly, this has not happened. A project of the Orthography Commission of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine which proposed a partial de-Russification of the Ukrainian orthography has just been canceled by Ukraine's government and the commission itself, was suddenly disbanded.

Thus, the struggle for the Ukrainian language has gone a full cycle. Dr. Bilaniuk tried to end on a positive note, expressing the hope that the words of Taras Shevchenko will help preserve the Ukrainian language after all.

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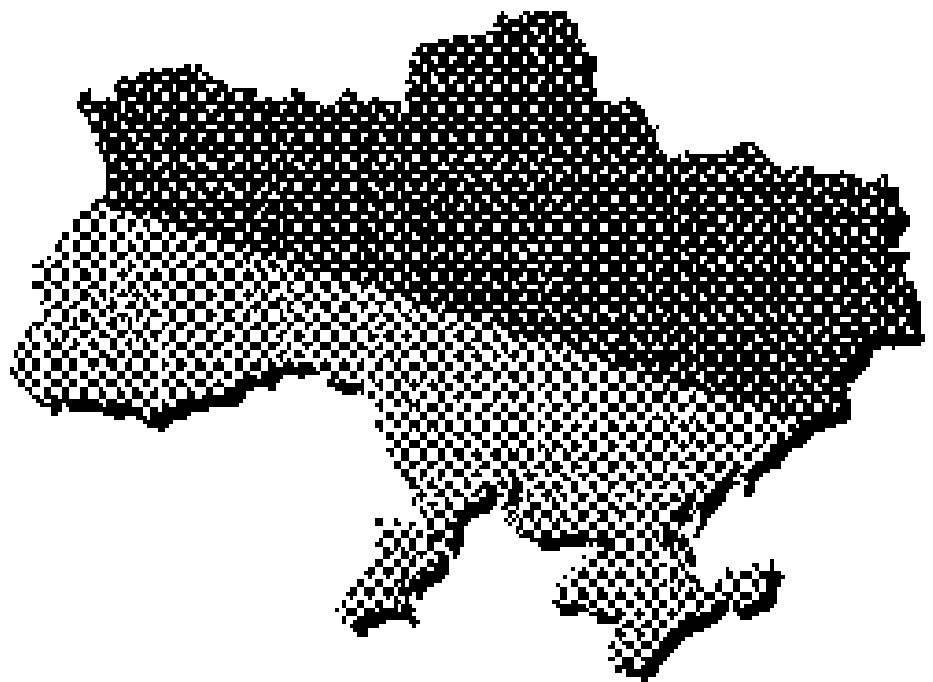
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New Jersey UAV post remembers its patron and other Vietnam veterans

by Anna Krawczuk

FREEHOLD, N.J. – Ukrainian American Veterans Post 30 based in Freehold, N.J., is the only UAV Post in Monmouth County. Founded in 1989 in Holmdel, N.J., the membership chose Maj. Myron Diduryk, who was killed in Vietnam on April 26, 1970, as their honored patron.

From its inception the post supported the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, and participated in its dedication on May 7, 1995.

On the walkway to the memorial are two bricks with an inscription dedicated to Maj. Diduryk; his name is inscribed also on the memorial, which honors all New Jersey residents who served in Vietnam. The memorial especially honors the 1,556 soldiers who never returned home, among them Ukrainian Americans Bohdan Kowal, Mikolaw Melnyk, George M. Smyrychynski, Nicholas Szawaluk and Julius Zaporozec (there must be others that we do not know about).

The Vietnam Era Educational Center at the memorial includes eyewitness and oral historical accounts, a multimedia resource center and other educational material. UAV Post 30 has donated the book "Ukrainian American Veterans 1948-1998 – Historical Analysis and Evaluation" to its library.

The post is compiling biographical data on the fallen heroes and is actively seeking information about Ukrainian Americans whose names are inscribed on the memorial in order to submit it to the center.

Readers having this information may e-mail: UAV.Post30@worldnet.att.net, or write to UAV Post 30, P.O. Box 172, Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172.

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center is located off the Garden State Parkway at Exit 116 in Holmdel, N.J. and is visible from the parkway.

In pursuit of a federal charter for the Ukrainian American Veterans that has evaded the organization for many years, UAV Post 30 wrote to all New Jersey congressmen, seeking their co-sponsorship. Most of the New Jersey Congressmen complied. Since the prior bill had expired, a new bill, H.R. 818, was introduced on March 1, 2001, during the 107th Congress, by Michigan Rep. David Bonior. It became necessary for UAV Post 30 to approach all the New Jersey Congressmen once again.

Last October post representatives had an opportunity to meet with Rep. Rush Holt in Freehold, N.J., and to thank him for his support and present him with the UAV history. Since that time the post has exchanged correspondence with Rep. Holt, and he has been very supportive.

Post officers have pledged to pursue this matter, but the support of Ukrainian American veterans, even those who are not members of the Ukrainian American Veterans organization, is needed. Supporters are being asked to help by writing to their respective U.S. representatives and urging them to support recognition of the UAV by the federal government. Details about H.R. 818 are available on the Internet at <http://www.theorator.com/bills107/hr818.html>.



UAV activists at a meeting with their congressman: (From left): Jurij Jacus, UAV Post 30 finance officer, Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV post commander, Rep. Rush Holt and Anna Krawczuk, UAV vice-commander.



Bricks with an inscription dedicated to Maj. Myron Diduryk on the walkway to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, N.J.

Controversy erupts...

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Chernomyrdin made his statement before a meeting with leaders of the Party of the Winter Crop Generation, one of the 33 political organizations vying for seats in the Ukrainian parliamentary elections. He had previously met personally with most of the other political candidates, as he and Russian authorities in Moscow continued to keep close tabs and comment extensively on the Ukrainian elections, which he and other Russian officials were loathe to consider interference into Ukrainian elections on their part.

On March 20, he had told ITAR-TASS that he was worried about the Our Ukraine Bloc's expected victory in the elections. "Yushchenko says that he favors broad democracy and supports President Leonid Kuchma, but when we look at the structure of his bloc we see who is in it and what statements they make and it begins to worry us," said Ambassador Chernomyrdin, according to RFE/RL.

Making light of Mr. Chernomyrdin's seemingly full involvement in the pre-election campaign process in Ukraine, the Russian newspaper Sevodnia last week called the Russian ambassador "the biggest expert on the elections."

"Those with whom he has met, have been guaranteed seats in the Parliament," noted the newspaper on March 26, according to the Kyiv daily newspaper Den.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was not the only Russian voice directed at Ukrainian elections in the last week, however.

National Deputy Dimitrii Rogozin, the head of the Russian State Duma International Relations Committee, echoed the envoy's views, though his comments were harsher, comparing Ukrainian nationalism to Chechen extremism.

From his perch in Moscow, Oleksander

Voloshyn, the head of President Vladimir Putin's administration, also had something to say about Ukrainian elections, specifically which political organizations he wanted to see in the next Verkhovna Rada, among which he named the Communists, the Social Democratic Party (United) and the pro-presidential For a United Ukraine bloc.

Moscow Mayor Luzhkov made his semi-regular appearance in Crimea on March 25 to remind residents of that autonomous region of Ukraine that he had not forgotten about them. Instructed by Ukrainian authorities to stifle his opinions on Russian citizenship for Crimeans or face revocation of his visa, Mr. Luzhkov quipped with Sevastopol residents only half in jest that, "Crimea is a Russian home, err, I mean Ukrainian home," reported Novyi Kanal's Reporter program.

Boris Nemtsov, a member of the Russian State Duma from the Union of Rightist Forces, traveled to Ukraine as well, spending a day in Kyiv on March 23 "to walk the streets of the city and speak with the people to assess the mood of voters," as he explained.

Ukraine's Central Election Commission, responding to Mr. Nemtsov's visit, finally reacted to the various moves and comments by the Russian politicians and issued a statement on March 25 that non-Ukrainians have no right to campaign or to take part in the general pre-election debate.

The same day, during a visit to St. Petersburg, Russia, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch also reacted and said that the statements by the Russian officials "could be construed to be interference in Ukraine's domestic affairs."

On March 26 Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov added his thoughts to the mix when he told journalists in Moscow that "Russia has never and never will intrude in the internal affairs of a country, more so when it is a friend," reported Novyi Kanal.

Diduryk cited in "We Were Soldiers ..."

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Readers are no doubt familiar with the movie "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson as Lt. Col. Harold G. Moore, which documents the first major battle fought by the U.S. forces in Vietnam: the November 1965 battle of the Ia Drang Valley.

In Ia Drang, U.S. troops, outnumbered seven to one, withstood a relentless attack by the People's Army of Vietnam over three days and two nights. It was a costly victory, as 234 Americans and 2,000 North Vietnamese were killed.

"Fatal Victory," the October 29, 1990, special report in U.S. News & World Report noted that the victory "helped convince the generals in Saigon and the policymakers in Washington that U.S. soldiers, using the air cavalry's search-and-destroy tactics, could hunt down the enemy, grind him up and win the war that America's South Vietnamese allies were losing."

The U.S. forces at Ia Drang comprised the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry Regiment. Among those who fought in "the valley of death," was a Ukrainian American, Capt. Myron Diduryk, 27, leader of the Bravo Company of the 2nd Battalion, who was later described by Lt. Gen. Moore as the best battlefield commander he had ever known.

Capt. Diduryk's key role in the battle is noted in the best-selling book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young," written by Lt. Gen. Moore (ret.) and Joseph L. Galloway, the only journalist on the

scene during the battle. The similarly titled movie is based on the book, which was originally published in 1992 and whose paperback edition is now on the best sellers' list, attracting renewed attention thanks to the box office.

Though there are numerous citations for Capt. Diduryk in the book, as well as a photograph of the young soldier and a diagram of the battle on November 16, 1965, titled "Diduryk's Men Hold the Line," movie-goers will not see a Diduryk character. There is a reference to Capt. Diduryk, however, in a line in the movie, as Lt. Col. Moore addresses the departing troops and notes that the unit includes "a captain from the Ukraine."

Maj. Myron Diduryk was born in 1938 in Ukraine and emigrated to the United States at age 12 with his family. Locals remember him as a member of the Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization.

He entered the ROTC at St. Peter's College, Jersey City, N.J., and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1960. He completed paratrooper and Ranger training, and served in Germany and at Fort Benning, Ga., before Vietnam.

Capt. Diduryk survived the battle of Ia Drang and returned to fight in the Vietnam War as major with the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Assigned as operations officer of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, he was killed by a sniper during his second tour of duty on April 26, 1970, as the Huey helicopter he was in landed at an abandoned fire base near the Cambodian border.

Batkivshchyna on the move again as it prepares for its next adventure

by Natalka K. Pollock

FARMINGTON, Conn. – It had always been his dream to travel down the Mississippi River in his own boat and see with his own eyes the country described by Mark Twain. Even though he was advised that the Mighty Mississippi was too swift and wide and highly trafficked to allow a small tall ship safe passage, Capt. Dmytrii Birioukovitch persisted and realized his dream unscathed at the end of last summer.

Getting into Tampa Bay and finding dockage, after crossing the Gulf of Mexico from New Orleans, was another challenge that required the help of friends, old and new, to surmount. All along his travels throughout the United States the helmsman of the *Batkivshchyna* has depended on the kindness of strangers and the help of new friends. Despite the obstacles, he has never lost his optimism and his faith in the goodness of his fellow man and woman, as he often relates.

He called me on the eve of his departure from Louisiana, asking for the coordinates for the dock that he had been promised alongside the ship *Victory* in Tampa. I called the museum ship and dutifully wrote down the information, so that I could pass it on to him when he called back at the pre-arranged time. He thanked me and told me he expected to arrive at his destination in five days.

I know next to nothing about boats. The little I know I learned from having helped to organize a few welcoming events for the Ukrainian schooner, on behalf of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. The partnership seemed perfect for both groups last summer – the captain had an opportunity to further his mission of raising the awareness of Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians about his fatherland, and CCRF benefited from rallying Ukrainian communities along his route to organize fund-raisers and create marketing opportunities.

I did not count on becoming close friends with the captain and his crew when I began working with them as a CCRF volunteer. So when they turned to me for help, I knew I could not dismiss them. That connection to Ukraine and to my upbringing through my friendship with them was too strong to ignore. A few days after my call to Florida, The *Victory's* marketing director called me back. "What do you mean by free dockage next to us? What boat? What arrangement?" she said to me.

I was stunned. I pictured the captain, his wife and crew sailing into Tampa Bay in a few days and finding out that they had no place to tie up. I could not imagine what they would do. They had neither the contacts nor the funds to arrange for alternate space at the public dock. And I knew next to nothing about boats.

I pleaded their case, and the woman from the *Victory* reluctantly agreed to help. I was not convinced that her efforts would be enough. I had to tap all my resources. I found out through the schooner's network of U.S. friends that the reason for the captain's interest in docking in Florida was to spend the winter and participate in the Americas' Sail Regatta in 2002.

So I also called a Connecticut board member of the regatta organization, Doug Brown. Doug is the former director of the Port of New London, now enjoying early retirement in Norwich. He had met the captain when the *Batkivshchyna* had sailed into New London for OpSail 2000. As do most port personnel, I have found out, he has a



Capt. Dmytrii Birioukovitch and Natalka R. Pollock are welcomed by Ukrainian community members in St. Petersburg, Fla.

can-do attitude and a straightforward manner, both of which come in handy in a crisis situation. He became my adviser, my mentor and my support system through the next 10 days that it took to resolve the ensuing logistical morass.

The *Victory* had a pilot, ship's agent and port director at its behest. Doug knew one of the vessel's board members who owned a private dock as part of an exclusive waterside condominium project. The dock owner was prevailed upon to offer free dockage for a few days, and then it seemed that, with the team of professionals we had assembled onsite, we would be able to get the *Batkivshchyna*

settled at least temporarily until more permanent space could be located.

Five days came and went, and my contacts in Tampa Bay reported no sighting of the schooner. Another day and then another, and there was still no word of its whereabouts. I was getting worried. My phone calls to Tampa were becoming more frequent. Surely they were not lost at sea as they had been for two weeks on the way to OpSail 2000 in New York? Should we ask the Coast Guard to search for them now as they did then? These thoughts were running through my mind.

Finally, they sailed into view, and were abruptly stopped by the Coast

Guard upon entering the main channel in Tampa Bay – the one used by major oceanliners, the one leading to MacDill Air Force Base, which, after September 11, was being used to launch B52 bombers into flight to Afghanistan. For several hours, we had no contact with the boat. The Coast Guard, now on high alert, was not very happy to find this unannounced foreign vessel in the way. They asked The *Victory* team of boat people for a stateside contact for The *Batkivshchyna*, and by default, that became me.

So the Coast Guard began calling me on a regular basis, requesting information and giving instructions. I must say, despite the fact they are essentially government employees, they were good to work with – educated, professional, well-mannered, and with their priorities ultimately in the right place – to ensure the safety of our boat and the people on it.

Meanwhile, the *Batkivshchyna* was required to remain anchored far offshore and out of the flight path of our country's fighter planes until a suitable location could be found for them. The temporary dockage was rejected by the Coast Guard because it would become too shallow during low tide and the boat would list, endangering its crew, so they said. Now the Coast Guard began calling me more frequently. The help promised by the *Victory* seemed to be evaporating and no other alternatives for dock space were materializing.

Doug called on a contact within the Office of the Tampa Mayor. I sent out an emergency e-mail to as many Ukrainians in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area as I could find, asking for information and

(Continued on page 14)

On the campaign trail ...

(Continued from page 1)

levers of power, including organizational and financial resources, available to the vertical national-to-local governmental network of the president's administration.

Throughout the campaign, Mr. Antonov has been throwing around money, cars and computers to hospitals, schools, charities and churches. His generosity, although legally questionable, has been gratefully accepted by most recipients. Some influential local leaders have joined the Antonov campaign, because he is a successful, fresh face, who has financial resources the other candidates can only dream of. Mr. Antonov's campaign literature is full-color and looks expensive. His smiling, Ken-doll face adorns every second storefront in Stryi.

Yet the connection between Mr. Antonov and For a United Ukraine is absent from the propaganda. Acknowledging Mr. Yushchenko's popularity, the Antonov campaign team has deliberately distanced the candidate from the "parties of power," and is trying to jump on the Yushchenko bandwagon by associating the successful, young businessman with the successful, young banker that is Mr. Yushchenko. "We studied at the same university," Antonov told an audience of potential voters. "I will work with Mr. Yushchenko and support his course." Mr. Antonov also claims the support of the local organization of Mr. Ostash's own Reforms and Order Party – a member of the Our Ukraine bloc.

Mr. Antonov faces some hurdles of his own. First, he is an ethnic Russian (although his Ukrainian language skills are impeccable), whose parents arrived in Stryi in the 1950s, when the Soviet Union deliberately settled western Ukraine with ethnic

Russians and other non-native groups in an effort to control the independence-minded population. Secondly, the local population was not impressed with flashy advertising in 1998. In those elections, Mr. Ostash's main opponent was Bohdan Puzhak, also a successful businessman with lots of nice posters. In those elections, Mr. Ostash beat Mr. Puzhak by 4 percent in a field of 18 candidates. Mr. Ostash won with nearly 43,000 votes, while Mr. Puzhak secured just over 37,000.

According to the conservative estimates of Mr. Ostash's own public opinion polls, he leads Mr. Antonov by some 10 to 15 percent. With less than ten days to go in the election campaign, some 10 percent of voters still were undecided – thus, the lead was far from comfortable.

A local journalist, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity, notes some differences between the 2002 and 1998 campaigns. First off, Mr. Antonov is spending far more money than Mr. Puzhak did in 1998. Secondly, it seems Mr. Ostash is spending less. "Money is playing too important a role in these elections," the journalist said, "Ostash may be spending too little, too late. When Mr. Antonov began his campaign in December, the consensus was that his chances were minimal. Now it's anyone's race – Stryi has never seen this kind of public relations."

The journalist's demand for anonymity also is telling – Mr. Antonov has practically bought out all the local newspaper, radio and TV outlets. "He pays us, we print it," the journalist explained. When asked why he prefers to remain anonymous, the journalist explained that he is not sure what will be after election day.

Mr. Antonov's campaign has resorted also to tactics such as sending a group of four teenagers to sabotage Mr. Ostash's town hall meetings. They follow him

around from village to village, and begin catcalling when Mr. Ostash starts his talk. In most of the villages the locals chase them out themselves, but the atmosphere remains tense and confrontational throughout the meetings.

Mr. Ostash's campaign is further complicated by the appearance of a "twin" on the election ballot – Ivan Ostash. This "political technology" has been imported from Russia, and is intended to confuse voters, particularly the elderly, and split votes between the "twins." Mr. Ostash's people see Mr. Antonov behind the scheme; Mr. Antonov charges that Mr. Ostash is trying to draw attention to himself. As it turns out, Antonov and the other Mr. Ostash studied together at Professional Technical Institute No.8.

Voters are further confused by both candidates claiming to be responsible for the single largest investment in Stryi by the German firm Leoni AG. The investment of 80 million DM that will create over 5,400 jobs has become a central issue in the campaign. In reality, both Mr. Ostash and the members of For a United Ukraine lobbied for the building of a state-of-the-art automotive wiring factory.

It is too soon to call a clear winner in district No. 127. The results will answer some interesting questions: Can an ethnic Russian win a seat in Western Ukraine? Have the priorities for the electorate there changed from "national idea" issues to be more about money?

Thus far, one thing is clear: the campaign in district No. 127 has proven President Leonid Kuchma's pre-campaign prediction that these elections will be a very dirty affair, to be very true.

Stephen Bandera is the editor of RCC Political Review, a free e-publication from Romyr Consultants Corp., produced in Kyiv.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK: Olympic moments with Ukraine's TV journalists

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – I had never met or spoken with cameraman Oleksandr (Sasha) Berezhnoy or commentator Yukhym (Fima) Sharpansky prior to my arrival in Salt Lake City, Utah, on February 1. Through a mutual contact, I agreed to make the six-hour trip from Salt Lake, taking the two Ukrainian TV journalists to the quaint snow-covered mountain ski town of Sun Valley, Idaho, to report on Ukraine's preparations for the Winter Olympics.

Looking back, it was one of the best decisions I made while covering the Olympic Games – and one of the most educational.

The trip, along with the ensuing stay in Sun Valley, brought the three of us close together. So close, in fact, that when the rest of their 13-member crew arrived back in Salt Lake City for the start of the Winter Games, they suggested I stay with them for the duration of the Games – an offer I quickly agreed to.

As representatives of Ukraine's national television station, UT-1, they enjoyed access and manpower I could only dream of. However, I provided them with knowledge of a foreign culture and guided them through daily inconveniences potentially mind-numbing without the advice of someone familiar with the local culture – from shopping and translating to, more importantly, finding a reasonable substitute for salo.

Common needs brought us together, but the deeper bond that keeps us in contact grew from our personalities. They lacked the stereotypical character traits with which recent generations of Ukrainians seem burdened among them, a self-serving motivation usually tinged with ulterior motives. Sasha, like only a brother watching over his younger sibling could do, would frequently drape an arm around my shoulder, lean in close to my ear and remind me that I had my work to do. "Sometimes they don't realize it," he would say of his colleagues, "but they may ask for your help without realizing there's 13 of them and one of you. Make sure they understand you also have your work to do," he would say.

They allowed my entrance into their circle and treated me with a respect and hospitality our diaspora grandparents frequently spoke of when reminiscing about the "old country." It seemed a nightly occurrence – after work came the onions, tomatoes and the raw bacon used to substitute for salo. There was also the "horilka" (vodka) they brought from home, along with cans of Kyivan shproty and cheese. No matter how hard I tried, however, there seemed to be no substitute for the black bread of home.

As professionals, however, they're struggling to walk a fine line between their belief in journalistic responsibility and a government-controlled, but comfortable, job where high-level bureaucrats impose opinion onto reportage. On several occasions 25-year-old Lviv native Oleksandr Hlyvynsky, found himself in this situation. His minor rebellions in refusing to read questionable text during cross-county commentary inevitably resulted in reprimand and a loss of commentary duties for several days.

The crew worked hard. Often Sasha and Vadym (Vadyk) Plachynda, the group's ice hockey expert, (the two I shared a room with) would rise by 5 a.m. only to return to the hotel by 11 p.m. Vadyk loved the game of hockey

and every night he'd ask the meaning of various English-language hockey slang he had overheard that day. "Glove save?" he would ask me wondering if his pronunciation was right. "Stack the pads" seemed a favorite.

But we had our opportunities to play as well. Sasha seemed much more comfortable and happy with the small-town feel of Sun Valley versus the rustling, always busy atmosphere of the Games in Salt Lake City. It was in Sun Valley, with a beautifully bright blue sky, that Sasha and I grabbed a neighbor's snow sled left propped against our condominium and trekked up a local ski

hill to take turns barreling down the foot-deep powder winded by the thin, dry Idaho air.

We took side trips when the time allowed. It was on one such outing, searching for buffalo on a small island on the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake, that local police officials graciously notified me that my rate of speed was slightly above the legal level. I had barely stopped the car when my Ukrainian passengers came flying out, cameras in hand, turning my traffic ticket into a memorable photo opportunity. The officers were thrilled enough to ask questions and leave me with a

warning to slow down.

Their humor was often dry, but creatively full of wit and sarcasm. Fima, in particular, although in his early sixties, still had the vigor and vitality to charm most any woman he spoke with. He also seemed the most respected and well-informed among the group, having covered six Olympics dating back to the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain.

In the end, my time with the Ukrainian national television crew created some of my most memorable Olympic moments, and I look forward to meeting them again in the near future.



Andrew Nynka

Members of the UT-1 television crew: (standing from left) Vadym Plachynda, Olena Stepanyshcheva, Oleksandr Hlyvynsky, Mykhaylo Revenko, Valeriy Kostinov, Serhiy Derepa and Kostyantyn Dupak; (seated) Yukhym Sharpansky, Andriy Kovalenko and Oleksandr Berezhnoy.



After having been pulled over by Utah police officers, members of the Ukrainian national television station UT-1 pose for a group photo.

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Batkivschyna...

(Continued from page 12)

help. No luck. After three days of being anchored out at sea in the sweltering heat, the crew was showing signs of anxiety. I had no idea if they had any food or water left, and the sanitary conditions were, no doubt, unpleasant at best. Every time I spoke with the Coast Guard, I asked them to send words of encouragement to the crew, and the Coast Guard began calling me every hour, pressing for a resolution.

There seemed to be no solution, but yet I knew there had to be one. Doug and I finally reasoned that we had exhausted every possibility in Tampa, and we should research nearby St. Petersburg. I called the Port office there at 4 p.m., threw myself at their mercy, and by 4:50 p.m. we had free dockage for The Batkivschyna for an unspecified length of time in the port of St. Petersburg.

After wintering in St. Petersburg along the University of Southern Florida's seawall and at no cost because we were able to make the case that they were an educational vessel, the schooner is now getting spruced up, in preparation for its next event – the Americas' Sail Regatta in June. Before he embarks on his next leg to Jamaica and Curacao and then back to St. Petersburg as part of the regatta, the captain hopes to find a dry-dock so that he can repair some damage on the small keel and take care of routine maintenance.

Shortly after their arrival in Florida last fall, the Ukrainian communities in the area invited the Captain and Mrs. Birioukovitch to a festival at the Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, led by Andrij Slywka, director of the Kalyna Dance Troupe. Some of the new friends they made there invited them to their homes over the winter, and the staff of the Port of St. Petersburg has assisted them with their needs these past several months. One couple in particular, Ruslana and Volodya Panov, who emigrated from Ukraine just a few years ago, have devoted countless hours and resources to their new friends. As always, the crew of the Batkivschyna is dependent upon and grateful for the kindness of strangers, who more often than not become lasting friends.

After the Americas' Sail regatta, the Ukrainian tall ship will be westward ho, eventually stopping in various ports on the West Coast. Ultimately, the captain plans to visit Hawaii and some family members in Australia, before returning to Ukraine two or more years from now. This January, after several weeks of verbal gymnastics and governmental red tape, a new crew member was imported to repair the electrical system on board, thus freeing the captain and his wife to make their annual visit to their home in Kyiv. As part of this country's new security measures, they were told that no foreign vessel could be left for 24 hours or more without someone on board to assume responsibility for it. The rest of the crew had left several weeks earlier to take care of their own personal matters in Ukraine.

Mrs. Birioukovitch, 67, has been at her husband's side from the beginning of this journey, and the limitations of boat life are wearing on her, but she will return to the Batkivschyna with her husband in February to prepare for their next adventure.

Although she may not share his drive to complete this transoceanic voyage, she understands her 65-year-old husband's vision and admires him for it. As a former mountain climber, he is driven by a need to reach the next summit, she explains, and he never runs out of ideas for ways to achieve his goals.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

March 25. The administration said a publishing company controlled by the bloc is involved in money laundering, adding that prices for the bloc's printed campaign materials were kept artificially low. "This conscious lie is made for only one reason – to withdraw the bloc from the elections, or to issue compromising materials taking into account that we have no time to tell the truth," the Associated Press quoted Oleksander Turchynov of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Duma deputy cites 'nationalist forces'

MOSCOW – Dmitrii Rogozin, the head of the Russian State Duma's International Relations Committee, suggested on March 20 that if "nationalist forces" win the upcoming parliamentary election in Ukraine, Moscow and Kyiv may face problems in bilateral relations, Interfax reported. "Ukrainian nationalism has similar roots to Chechen extremism," Mr. Rogozin said, adding: "We have encountered Ukrainian nationalists in the Chechen mountains. They are not taken prisoner as they have committed especially cruel atrocities against Russian servicemen." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moscow worried about Our Ukraine

KYIV – Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin said on March 20 that Russia is with those parties and election blocs in Ukraine that call for the development and deepening of relations between the two countries, ITAR-TASS reported. Mr. Chernomyrdin noted that there are also forces in Ukraine that do not pursue such a goal, adding that "this cannot but worry us." According to him, Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine is a cause for such concern. "Yushchenko himself says that he favors broad democracy and supports President Leonid Kuchma. But when we look at the structure of [his] bloc, we see who is in it and what statements they make, and this is beginning to worry us," Ambassador Chernomyrdin said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Documentary says 'tapegate' was set-up

KYIV – On March 17, the private ICTV Television, which is part owned by President Leonid Kuchma's son-in-law Viktor Pinchuk, aired a 75-minute documentary called "Pi Ar" (PR) dealing with Ukraine's tape scandal and the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze. The documentary, written and produced in the West by former Financial Times journalist Charles Clover, suggests that the tape scandal was used by the United States, NGOs and figures like financier George Soros to exert pressure on Mr. Kuchma in order to depose him and install Western-leaning Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. Mr. Kuchma, who was interviewed in the film, said the crisis connected with former bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko's tapes was effectively over when Mr. Yushchenko was sacked as prime minister by the Parliament in April 2001. The film suggests that Russia used the tape scandal to provide support for the embattled President Kuchma, thereby securing better relations with Ukraine to the detriment of the United States. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. Embassy responds to TV report

KYIV – "The film 'Pi Ar,' shown on ICTV on March 16 and 17 makes implications about the objectives of U.S. policy in Ukraine that are inaccurate and misleading. It is not our normal practice to comment on false allegations. However, the nature of the allegations raised in the film requires a

response," the U.S. Embassy stated on March 20. The statement also noted: "U.S. engagement with Ukraine is and always has been based on specific policy goals: support for an independent, democratic, market-oriented Ukraine, integrated with the Euro-Atlantic community. Our engagement is not focused on support for individual leaders or blocs. That is a choice for the Ukrainian people to make. U.S. election assistance in Ukraine, provided at the invitation of the Ukrainian government, is focused on supporting a free and fair election process that allows Ukraine's citizens to select its leaders. The United States does not support individual leaders, parties or blocs in any of its assistance programs. ... The United States does not support opposition forces or rallies in Ukraine. When a Ukrainian TV program aired such allegations in April 2001, allegations that were repeated in 'Pi Ar,' the U.S. Embassy immediately made clear that U.S. officials cover political events in Ukraine in accordance with the Geneva Convention to ensure that we portray events accurately and to be able to advise American citizens of any dangers. ..." The statement concluded by underlining: "Political intrigue has no role to play in advancing core Ukrainian or American interests." (Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy)

600 non-existent voters listed in Kyiv

KYIV – The electoral commission of constituency No. 90 in Kyiv has found out that the number of voters on a list supplied by the district authorities exceeds the actual number of voters living in the constituency by 561 persons, the Our Ukraine press service reported on March 26. Our Ukraine campaign coordinator Roman Bezsmertnyi warned that listing non-existent voters may be one of the methods used by the authorities to rig the March 31 ballot. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Nearly 1,000 observers in Ukraine

KYIV – The Central Election Commission (CEC) has registered 944 international observers to monitor the March 31 presidential election, UNIAN reported on March 23, quoting CEC Chairman Mykhailo Riabets. Mr. Riabets added that it is the highest number of international election monitors in Ukraine's 10-year history of independence. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko: officials aim to split society

KYIV – Our Ukraine election bloc leader Viktor Yushchenko said on March 22 that the current authorities are working toward splitting society in Ukraine, the Our Ukraine press service reported. According to Mr. Yushchenko, the authorities "have paralyzed the election procedures" and are hindering Our Ukraine's campaign and repressing its supporters. Meanwhile, Yurii Kostenko, the leader of the Ukrainian National Rukh, which is a constituent of the Our Ukraine election bloc, said the same day that Our Ukraine is counting on 120-140 mandates in the new Parliament. (RFE/RL Newsline)

SDPU discrediting front-runner?

KYIV – The Ukrainska Pravda website on March 25 accused the election staff of the Social Democratic Party (United), led by Viktor Medvedchuk of implementing a plan to discredit Viktor Yushchenko, whose Our Ukraine bloc is tipped by opinion polls to win the March 31 parliamentary ballot. To support its accusation, Ukrainska Pravda quoted alleged instructions by the SDPU election staff regarding the presentation of Mr. Yushchenko and Our Ukraine on the private 1+1 and Inter television channels, which are controlled by the SDPU. By comparing programs on both channels and the quoted instructions, Ukrainska Pravda concluded that the plan

for discrediting Mr. Yushchenko has actually been implemented. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Was Gongadze killing planned abroad?

KYIV – Procurator-General Mykhailo Potbenko assured journalists in Donetsk on March 26 that the murder of independent journalist Heorhii Gongadze will be solved, UNIAN reported. Mr. Potbenko said investigators are now working on a version according to which the kidnapping of Mr. Gongadze was "planned abroad." Answering a question about why he is running for the Parliament on the Communist Party's election list, Mr. Potbenko said this list includes "no bribe-takers or those who are responsible for embezzling government properties," ITAR-TASS reported. "In this respect I feel more comfortable than I

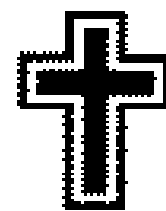
would have felt, say, in alliance with former Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Court reinstates two candidates

KYIV – The Supreme Court has reinstated former Soviet dissident Stepan Khmara from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc as an election candidate, UNIAN reported on March 25. The court also reinstated Viktor Chaika, a leader of the right-wing populist Yabluko Party, as an election candidate. The Central Election Commission disqualified Messrs. Khmara and Chaika last week, saying they submitted false declarations on their income and possessions. (RFE/RL Newsline)

(Continued on page 16)

Ділимося сумною вісткою, що у вівторок, 19 березня 2002 р. відійшов у вічність на 76-му році життя наш найдорожчий МУЖ, БАТЬКО, БРАТ, КУЗИН і ВУЙКО



бл. п.

ТЕОДОР ЯЦКІВ

ПАРАСТАС відбулася в п'ятницю, 22 березня о год. 7:30 веч.

похоронному заведенні Музики у Чикаго, Іл.

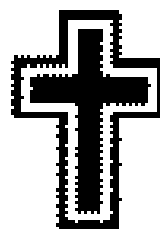
ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ – в суботу, 23 березня о год 10:30 ранку в церкві свв. Володимира і Ольги у Чикаго, Іл.

Залишилися у глибокому смутку:

дружина – ОЛЬГА

доня – ХРИСТЯ

та ближча і дальша родина в Америці, Канаді, Україні і Польщі.



З невимовним жалем і смутком ділимося сумною вісткою, що в середу, 13 березня 2002 р. відійшов у вічність наш найдорожчий МУЖ, БАТЬКО, БРАТ, ВУЙКО і ЗЯТЬ

бл. п.

ІВАН ОЛЕГ БОРИС КЛЮФАС

нар. 14 березня 1943 р.

„Надзвичайний Служитель Св. Причастя“ в церкві св. Івана Хрестителя в Ньюарку, член пластового куреня „Чота Крилатих“.

ПАРАСТАС відбувся в п'ятницю, 15 березня 2002 р. в церкві св. Івана Хрестителя.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися в суботу, 16 березня 2002 р. в церкві св. Івана Хрестителя, а відтак на цвинтарі св. Андрія Первозваного в С. Бавнд Бруку, Н.Дж.

Горем опечалені:

дружина – ХРИСТЯ з ПІНКОВСЬКИХ

донька – МАРТА

сестра – КСЕНЯ ДРАГАН з родиною

теща – НАДЯ ПІНКОВСЬКА з родиною

та численна родина Ключасів, Сайкевичів, Цибрівських, Доберчаків, Савицьких, Цариків та Надрогів в США, Канаді та Україні.

Вічна ІВАНОВІ пам'ять!

В пам'ять бл. п. Івана родина просить складати пожертви на звукову систему в церкві св. Івана Хрестителя, або на „Доляр на Україну“ – для бідних дітей.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

to be published in The Ukrainian Weekly – in the Ukrainian or English language – are accepted by mail, courier, fax, phone or e-mail.

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(NB: please do not include post office box if sending via courier), Parsippany, N.J. 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510; telephone, (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com.

The Ukrainian Institute of America

SYMPOSIUM

Ukraine at the Polls: The March 2002 Parliamentary Elections and the Future of Democracy

A discussion with:

Professor Paul d'Anieri, University of Kansas

Dr. Taras Kuzio, University of Toronto

Prof. Alexander Motyl, Rutgers University

Moderated by:

Adrian Karatnycky, President of Freedom House

**Wednesday, April 10, 2002
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Ukrainian Institute of America
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 15)

Anti-American Front created

KYIV – The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) on March 26 gathered 65 delegates from western Ukraine (the Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi and Volyn oblasts) and Kyiv to launch an organization named the Anti-American Front of Ukraine, UNIAN reported. According to the news agency, the main goal of the new organization is to counteract “the U.S. expansion into Ukraine,” and to prevent “the transformation of Ukraine into an American ghetto.” The delegates elected Vitalii Tsapovych, the editor in chief of the OUN press organ Neskorena Natsiya, as the head of the Anti-American Front of Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tymoshenko bloc appeals to world

KYIV – The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc has sent an open letter to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, and the embassies of the United States, Canada, Japan and a number of European countries, as well as international election observers in Ukraine, appealing to them to ensure that the March 31 parliamentary election is fair. “We are forced to appeal to you for help and ask that you make a real estimation of Ukraine’s situation, [and] intervene in the process to the extent of your authority not to allow total unlawfulness during the election campaign,” the Associated Press quoted from the appeal. “We have been informed by confidential sources that in the near future, following an instruction from the administration of President Leonid Kuchma, a [politically motivated] court resolution will be prepared to disqualify the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc from the election,” UNIAN quoted from another passage of the appeal. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Our Ukraine cites provocations

KYIV – The Our Ukraine press service on March 21 said provocative actions against the Our Ukraine bloc and its leader Viktor Yushchenko have become more frequent in the last weeks of the parliamentary election campaign. The press service cited incidents in Kirovohrad Oblast and Kyiv where some individuals, who had nothing to do with the bloc, disguised themselves as campaigners for the bloc and offered alcoholic drinks to passers-by to drink “to Yushchenko’s health.” The press service added that such actions were recorded by television crews to be broadcast by television channels controlled by Our Ukraine’s rivals in order to accuse Yushchenko’s bloc of violating the election law. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Our Ukraine candidate is arrested

KYIV – Police on March 21 arrested former State Reserve Committee head Yevhen Chervonenko, who is running for the Parliament as Our Ukraine’s candidate. Deputy Procurator-General Yurii Haisynskyi said recently that Mr. Chervonenko was wanted by the Prosecutor’s Office because he had failed to appear there for questioning. Mr. Chervonenko denied receiving any summons from prosecutors. The same day, the Central Election Commission rejected a motion to oust Mr. Chervonenko from the race on charges that he allegedly is an Israeli citizen and has failed to inform the commission of this fact. Mr. Chervonenko commented that Our Ukraine rivals, by playing “the card of anti-Semitism,” intended to sow discord in the bloc. Meanwhile, the National Movement of Ukraine (led by Bohdan Boiko) has accused Petro Yushchenko, the brother of Viktor Yushchenko, of

being a link in siphoning funds from the bankrupt bank Ukraina. “It is hardly a coincidence that Ukraina paid for [Mr. Yushchenko’s daughter] Vitalina Yushchenko’s education, and that funds from this bank ended up in Petro Yushchenko’s accounts,” Inter TV commented on March 21. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Court reinstates Yabluko candidate

KYIV – The Supreme Court on March 21 complied with a complaint from Yabluko Party leader Mykhailo Brodskyi and reinstated him as a candidate in the parliamentary election, UNIAN reported. Last week, the Central Election Commission disqualified Mr. Brodskyi, saying he provided a false declaration on his income and possessions. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moscow mayor supports Hrach

SYMFEROPOL – Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov on March 21 visited Symferopol and expressed his support for Crimean Parliament Chairman Leonid Hrach, who was disqualified from the election to the Crimean Supreme Council by a court decision last month. Mr. Luzhkov said he views the court decision on Mr. Hrach as a political, not a legal, action, STB Television reported. Mr. Hrach met Mayor Luzhkov in the Crimean Parliament and introduced him to the public as the mayor of the capital of the formerly common motherland. Mr. Luzhkov noted that the 10 years of Ukraine’s independence have ruined Russian-Ukrainian relations. “The Crimean Republic is a special Russian region,” the Moscow mayor said, but then corrected himself and said it is “a special Ukrainian region.” Mr. Luzhkov’s slip of the tongue provoked stormy applause in the parliamentary hall. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Potebenko comments on candidates

KYIV – “Half of those running for Parliament could be jailed today for what is going on at the moment. Just take a look at the election lists!” Ukrainian Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko told the pro-presidential daily Stolichnie Novosti on March 19. Mr. Potebenko himself is running on the election list of the Communist Party. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Complaint filed against Tymoshenko bloc

KYIV – Central Election Commission Chairman Mykhailo Riabets on March 20 said the commission received a complaint that the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc has violated the election law in the campaign by using resources other than those in its official election fund, UNIAN reported. Meanwhile, Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc activists, including lawmaker Oleksander Turchynov, warned media earlier the same day that the presidential administration has issued an “instruction” to disqualify the bloc from elections. According to the activists, the reason for the disqualification may be a book about Ms. Tymoshenko that was published several months ago. They suggest that the bloc will be charged with sponsoring this publication and subsequently ousted from the election race by a court resolution. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine has 36.8 M eligible voters

KYIV – Central Election Commission Chairman Mykhailo Riabets on March 14 said 36.8 million people have been entered on the lists of voters to participate in the parliamentary election on March 31, UNIAN reported. Mr. Riabets said that this figure may be corrected, but not significantly. He said there are 33,055 polling stations in the country, including four in military units, 132 in prisons and 730 in sanatoriums. Also, 58 polling stations have been set up on ships that will be at sea on the day of the election, and there are 89 polling stations abroad. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Palatine's Ukrainian American Youth Association gets a huge surprise: \$100,000 state grant

PALATINE, Ill. – Everyone had a great time on Saturday, February 23, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Palatine, Illinois, home of the Dmytro Vitovsky Branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, as the youth organization had planned the evening as a social event for members and their families.

The evening would have been a great hit just by virtue of the unbelievably tasty spaghetti dinner prepared by Mychajlo Jareckyj, Myron Wasiunec, Ihor Fedaj and Petro Tokarczyk, fathers who know how to cook.

Nevertheless, the big surprise of the evening was yet to come. The guests of honor at the evening were Illinois State Sens. Walter Dudydz and Wendell Jones, both familiar figures in the local community. The senators joined everyone for dinner and chatted among friends.

The evening continued as Dr. Alex Strilchuk greeted everyone present and introduced Olya Fedaj, president of the SUM organization, who thanked everyone for such enthusiastic participation. She introduced Fedir Stupen, a longtime Dmytro Vitovsky Branch member who recently returned from Ukraine after a two-year stint in the Peace Corps.

Mr. Stupen briefly introduced both senators to the gathering and reminded everyone that Sen. Jones was instrumental in helping secure the building permits for the Cultural Center. Sen. Jones' relationship with the Ukrainian community was enhanced when he learned of Sen.



SUM members with State Sens. Walter Dudydz and Wendell Jones, who sponsored a state grant of \$100,000 for the building fund of the youth group's branch in Palatine, Ill.

Dudydz's Ukrainian heritage.

Both guests addressed the membership and quickly had everyone on their feet as they revealed a facsimile of a check in the sum of \$100,000 from the Illinois First Member Initiative Fund, an initia-

tive by Gov. George Ryan which puts funds into the hands of legislators to disburse to worthy causes in their communities as they see fit. Each of the senators was sponsoring \$50,000 designated for the building fund. The donation was a

pleasant surprise that will rank among the biggest events in this community.

Mr. Luszcak closed the evening by underlining Sen. Jones' close relationship with the Ukrainian community in Palatine.

Need a back issue?

If you'd like to obtain a back issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, send \$2 per copy (first-class postage included) to: Administration, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 269

As of April 1, 2002, the secretary's duties of Branch 269, will be assumed by Mr. Vladimir Kaploun.

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

Mr. Vladimir Kaploun
100 Montgomery St., Apt 18-M
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 432-7357

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 15

As of April 1, 2002, the secretary's duties of Branch 15, will be assumed by Mrs. Maria V. Lischak.

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

Mrs. Maria V. Lischak
1900 S. Eads St., # 604
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Philadelphia: Sunday, March 31, and Sunday May 5, 2002
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Chicago: Monday, April 1 and Monday May 6, 2002
7:00 p.m. – WFBT-TV, Channel 23

Sacramento: Saturday, May 4, 2002
7:00 p.m. – KVIE-TV, Channel 7

Happy Easter to all my viewers, listeners, sponsors, supporters; civic and Church organizations, associations, and all Ukrainian people.

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Yushchenko's...

(Continued from page 2)

transformation has been so thorough that the only similarity left between the old Rukh-1 and Our Ukraine is that pop singer Taras Petrynenko continues to close all of Our Ukraine's rallies with Rukh's unofficial anthem "Ukraine, Ukraine!"

"Our Ukraine is more popular than Rukh-1 for a number of reasons. Unlike Rukh-1, Our Ukraine has a socio-economic program, and about two-thirds of Mr. Yushchenko's typical campaign stump speech is devoted to laying out this program.

The Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) and the oligarchs voted no-confidence in Yushchenko's government in April 2001, despite his record as prime minister in 1999-2001, when he paid back wages and pensions and presided over Ukraine's first period of economic growth in a decade. This track record seems to be working in Our Ukraine's favor.

In Mr. Yushchenko, Our Ukraine has a charismatic leader who is able to bridge the gap between citizens and rulers – a gap that was already large during the Soviet era and that grew wider in the 1990s. Our Ukraine has managed to reunite the two wings of Rukh and the successor to the CNDS, the Christian Republican Party. Our Ukraine now includes 25 political parties, including liberal, patriotic and Christian-democratic factions, as well as the Federation of Trade Unions.

It has also broadened Rukh-1's old social base by incorporating pragmatic bankers and others from the financial sector, as well as representatives of business and state officials. Roman Bezsmertnyi, political coordinator of Our Ukraine, is still the president's representative in Parliament and is a former member of the Republican Party and of the National Democratic Party (NDP). Mr. Bezsmertnyi resigned from the NDP after he joined Our Ukraine and the NDP aligned with For a United Ukraine.

Pragmatists have been attracted to Our Ukraine because it defines itself as an alternative – rather than an opposition – in a country where optimism for a better future has all but evaporated. If Rukh-1 could be described as romantic, Rukh-2/Our Ukraine is purely pragmatic, Ukraine's first real alternative to either a sort of return to the past, as envisioned by the CPU, or continued muddling along with no clear strategy, as favored by the oligarchs.

It was always a mistake for Western and Russian commentators to categorize post-1992 Rukh-1 as "nationalist," a holdover from the Soviet era, when a "Ukrainian nationalist" was by definition from western Ukraine, spoke Ukrainian and supported center-right parties. It is also a mistake to define Our Ukraine as "nationalist." Our Ukraine supports the Jewish former mayor of Odesa, Eduard Hurfits, who is now running on the Our Ukraine party list. In mid-March, Our Ukraine condemned anti-Semitic leaflets that had been circulated against Mr. Hurfits. Our Ukraine's party list also includes Crimean Tatars and ethnic Russians. Volodymyr Hryniov, a Kharkiv-based former head of the Russophile Social-

Liberal (SLON) alliance during the 1998 elections, is now supporting Our Ukraine.

The hard-line national-democratic and nationalist parties have joined Tymoshenko's bloc, not Our Ukraine. A comparison of public opinion polls conducted by several organizations in mid-March by the Internet publication *Ukrainska Pravda* gave Our Ukraine a popularity rating of between 24 and 33 percent, far higher than pro-presidential blocs or the CPU and an increase from 18.8 percent a month earlier. Some observers predict that this could reach as high as 29.3 percent, due primarily to Mr. Yushchenko's personal popularity. Unlike Rukh-1, Our Ukraine's more pragmatic program has generated support in eastern and southern Ukraine, albeit far less than in western Ukraine, where polls give it 50 percent support.

Mr. Yushchenko has refrained from criticizing the government, and his bloc's only criticism is directed at oligarchic groups such as the Social Democratic Party (United) [SDPU] and former Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoytenko's NDP, which is one of five parties that make up For a United Ukraine bloc.

"The SDPU is as likely to evolve into social democrats as sea lions into lions," Mr. Yushchenko tells his supporters at rallies. Mr. Yushchenko has also ridiculed the claim that the 1997-1999 Pustovoytenko government laid the foundation for Ukraine's economic revival, claiming that Ukraine was on the verge of bankruptcy when Mr. Yushchenko became prime minister in December 1999.

It is also wrong to consider Our Ukraine "nationalist" because its support for radical economic and political reforms and for Ukraine's integration into European and trans-Atlantic structures are hardly traditionally nationalist positions. Our Ukraine simply seeks to take back from the oligarchs control of a country that was propelled to independence by Rukh-1 in 1989-1991. That is what Mr. Yushchenko means when he tells supporters at rallies, "This is your Ukraine! This is your Ukraine!"

Our Ukraine argues that the national revolution successfully launched by Rukh-1 needs to be completed now by a democratic revolution led by Rukh-2. One of the priorities for Ukraine is to overcome its "crisis of power" and change its "momentocracy" from a medium- to long-term plan. "Over the last 10 years, no system has been created that would guarantee Ukrainian democracy," Mr. Yushchenko wrote in the weekly *Zerkalo Nedeli/Dzerkalo Tyzhnia*.

Our Ukraine has entered Ukraine's political arena during a generational change similar to that experienced by Russia in the late 1990s. Our Ukraine is a young bloc, with an average age of 40 among its candidates. The generation represented by former President Boris Yeltsin in Russia and Messrs. Kravchuk and Kuchma in Ukraine will go into retirement in two years' time. The generation following them, represented by Vladimir Putin in Russia and Mr. Yushchenko in Ukraine, is now taking their places.

If Our Ukraine does well in the elections, it could serve as a powerful launch pad should Mr. Yushchenko decide to run for the presidency in 2004.

Ukraine's economy...

(Continued from page 3)

said that to reach that mark by 2011 would require a 400 percent increase in Ukraine's current GDP, which amounted to an average annual increase of approximately 10 percent, or an economy on fire for a decade at world record levels.

"I think that the rate of growth needed to get to Europe by 2011 is a fantasy," said Mr. Sidenko. "I believe that until 2015, perhaps a bit earlier, we will still be climbing out of the depths. We are currently only

halfway out of the hole."

Mr. Intriago, meanwhile, agreed that even 2015 was an optimistic date and said that today Ukraine was at least a decade behind its western neighbor, Poland, in economic development and five years behind Russia. He added, however, that Ukraine would have an advantage over Russia in future development because it could count on more direct support from Europe and the West.

"This is the last frontier. Russia will always be Russia, and Ukraine is strategically important to Europe," explained Mr. Intriago.

UACC's executive...

(Continued from page 4)

the restrictions imposed by the Jackson-Vanik Amendment that prevent Ukraine from receiving a permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) status.

The Action Ukraine Coalition is also presently involved in setting up contacts in Ukraine for an upcoming congressional delegation to Ukraine and in the preparation of a conference in the fall of this year with the participation of U.S. business firms to stimulate greater U.S. investment in Ukraine.

Mr. Gawdiak also informed the executive committee that a new organization, the Association of American Friends of Ukraine, headed by a former Pennsylvania congressman, Charles Dougherty, had just joined the Action Ukraine Coalition.

Finally, Mr. Gawdiak underscored UACC's and Action Ukraine Coalition's continued close and friendly cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington on issues of common interest to Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community.

The February meeting of the executive committee was the first to be attended by Dr. Vasyl Lopukh, the newly elected head of the Association of Ukrainians in America and, therefore, a statutory member of UACC Executive Committee. It was also the first meeting for Roma Shuhan, the new manager of the UACC's New York office, who has replaced Damian Lishchynsky, whose resignation was necessitated for reasons of health. Both newcomers were warmly welcomed by the committee.

In closing, the committee commended Mr. Lishchynsky for his longtime dedication and hard work for the UACC.

Credit union's N.J. Advisory Board donates \$10,000 to Newark school



NEWARK, N.J. – The New Jersey Advisory Board of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union recently donated \$10,000 to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J. Seen above during the presentation of the donation at an assembly of students are credit union representatives and parochial school representatives (from left): Michael Szpyhulsky, Joseph Trush, Executive Vice-President Ihor Laszok, Principal Sister Evelyn, the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, Orest Ciapka, New Jersey Advisory Board Chair Andrew Hrechak and Antin Tymkewycz.

Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

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A comparison...

(Continued from page 2)

to back FUU, and by proposing that he would be prepared to head For a United Ukraine after it is transformed into a party. But while Mr. Kuchma's presidency will come to an end in two years' time, Mr. Putin was seen as an up-and-coming candidate to fill the political vacuum left by the retirement of President Boris Yeltsin. In addition, President Putin never stated his intention to lead Unity.

According to Article 103 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the president cannot head any party, and President Kuchma's suggestion that he would head FUU flew in the face of the president's well-known negative attitude toward the role of parties. This trial balloon, therefore, was more a product of internal problems and panic in the presidential administration than of the low popularity of FUU. This became clear after a January poll by the Center for Economic and Political Studies gave it only 3.9 per-

cent, meaning it would not get through the 4 percent barrier in the half of seats elected proportionately. Mr. Lytvyn explained away these low ratings for FUU by saying that "sociology, just like academia, prostitutes itself (in Ukraine)."

Another major difference between the situations of Russia in 1999 and Ukraine today is that in Ukraine there is a strong alternative to the "party of power." Our Ukraine occupies the same space on the political spectrum as both Russia's liberal Yabloko and the Union of Rightist Forces - which includes Russia's Choice, the country's first "party of power." Our Ukraine is different also because it can be more clearly understood as "Rukh-2" with an economic platform and a charismatic and popular leader, Viktor Yushchenko.

The combination of national and democratic ideologies within one program was peculiar to the non-Russian republics of the former USSR, but not to Russia. The Winter Crop Generation bloc, a Ukrainian attempt to emulate Russia's Union of Rightist Forces funded by oligarch Viktor Pinchuk,

Mr. Kuchma's son-in-law, has failed to attract popularity. Pure reformist blocs (in contrast to those combining national and democratic agendas, such as Our Ukraine) have little public support.

Unity and FUU both had or have unrivalled access to "administrative resources," privileged access to the media and the support of regional state administrations controlled by the executive. Both aim to transform their election blocs into political parties after the elections, and both had vague "centrist" programs that emphasized "stability" and stood for a corporatist status quo.

The similarity in ideology ends there. Appealing to Russia as a "great power," Unity lamented the demise of the Soviet Union, something FUU or any Ukrainian oligarch group would never do. The largest group of voters to switch to Yedintsvo, therefore, was from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (KPRF), a party whose ideology links Russian nationalism and Marxism. The CPU is hostile to Ukrainian independence and any defec-

tors would go to other left-wing parties, not to FUU. Yedintsvo manipulated Russian state and ethnic nationalism at a time when Russia felt affronted by NATO's unilateral military action in Kosovo and a new Chechen conflict had begun. It is impossible for FUU to manipulate state nationalism in Ukraine.

For a United Ukraine, therefore, more closely resembles an earlier Russian "party of power," Our Home is Russia, rather than Russia's Choice, which preceded it, or Unity, which succeeded it. Our Home is Russia received only 10.3 percent of the vote in the 1995 elections. Polls commissioned by FUU have given it an inflated popularity of 10 percent, although its true popularity is only some 4 percent, according to other polls. For a United Ukraine may obtain as much as Our Home is Russia did in 1995 because of President Kuchma's backing and election malpractice, but this would still be far less than the 30 percent that FUU leaders optimistically predicted the bloc would obtain when it was formed.

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UNWLA members in Florida busy preparing for national convention



UNWLA Convention Committee members: (first row, from left) Lusya Harasymiw, Nellia Lechman, Nadia Iwanchuk, Maria Nawarynska, Orysia Swystun, Mstyslava Vam Meggelen; (second row) Halia Korol, Iwanna Holowata, Lida Bilous, Luba Ingram, Vira Bodnaruk, Tania Silecky, Roxolana Yarymowych and Slawa Maluk.

NORTH PORT, Fla. – The Convention Committee of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Inc. (UNWLA) has been meeting regularly here since February of last year, diligently planning every detail of the upcoming 26th National Convention to be held in Sarasota, Fla., during Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27.

This will be the first time that such an important event is held in Florida. Hosting this convention will be Branch 56 of North Port (with 102 members, the majority of whom live in North Port, Warm Mineral Springs, Venice and

Osprey), in cooperation with Branch 17 of Miami (which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary) and the newly formed Branch 124 of St. Petersburg.

Many delegates and guests from across the United States are expected to attend, as are guests from other countries. An array of programs and seminars is planned for this event, along with “extracurricular” activities for family members who may take advantage of this event and come along for the fun.

The Convention Committee, made up of 14 members of Branch 56, is headed by Tetiana Silecky of North Port.



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 24)

793-2285, or Iko Labunka, (773) 680-2637.

CHICAGO: The University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Cook County Hospital will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of their Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health. The centers are currently engaged in many research and training programs in Ukraine. The evening gala will commence with open exhibits, a strolling international buffet, and entertainment by the Chicago Children's Choir, Hromovytsia and jazz band. The Great Lakes Center's Director, Dr. Daniel Hryhorczuk, will present corporate and labor leadership awards in occupational and environmental health. Gov. George Ryan, Mayor Richard Daley, and Cook County Board President John Stroger are the honorary chairs of this event. Tickets for the evening gala are \$150; proceeds will be used to support the education, research and service programs of the Great Lakes Centers in their role as the Chicago-based World Health Collaborating Center in Occupational and Environmental Health. To reserve tickets, call (312) 996-7887 or reserve online at www.uic.edu/sph/glakes.

Sunday, April 14

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents the concluding concert of its 2001-2002 classical music series, featuring pianist Mykola Suk in a program of works by Mozart, Liszt, Revutsky and Kolessa. The concert will take place at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2:30 p.m. (Please note that this is a change from our customary 2 p.m. performance time).

YONKERS, N.Y.: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 30 is holding its annual Easter bazaar and bake sale at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 8 a.m.-noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase unique gifts, contemporary art from Ukraine, greeting cards, pysanky, honey and supplies for making pysanky – wax, dyes and kistky for the Easter season. There will also be a raffle for a woodcut created by Vitaliy Lytvyn as well as work by featured artists from Ukraine: Feodosii Humeniuk, Ivan Micyk, Mykola Tytov, Katia Havrylenko, Maryna Sochenko, Oleksander Kropko, Svitlana Berdnyk, Ivan Baldukha and Rochester, N.Y.-based artist Darka Hanushevska. For more information contact Nadia Cwiach, (203) 975-8388.

Friday-Sunday, April 19-21

LEHIGHTON, Pa.: The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society will hold its 15th annual Zustrich-Meet at the Ukrainian Homestead

Resort, 1230 Beaver Run Drive, (610) 377-4621. This get-together of East Coast philatelists (some of whom stay all three days) is open to anyone interested in acquiring, selling, trading or just learning more about Ukrainian stamps, banknotes and coins. The Ukrainian Weekly's own "Focus on Philately" columnist Dr. Ingerit Kuzych will be on hand with some of his interesting and unusual acquisitions, and to answer questions. For further information call Mike Matus, (610) 927-3838, or e-mail michael.matus@verizon.net.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday, April 21

RINGWOOD, N.J.: "Stride and Ride to Build" – a walk/bike-a-thon for The Ukrainian Museum Building Fund, will be held in Ringwood State Park. Registration: 9 a.m. The walk covers an easy three-mile course. The mountain bike route is a challenging seven-mile ride. Bikers must be at least 14 years old. A picnic will follow with a visit from Ron Cahute and Pan Barabolya. Participants are asked to raise \$150 per individual and \$250 per family. There will be terrific prizes for top fund-raisers. Non-participants are welcome to join the picnic and entertainment. Suggested donation: \$50 per family. More information at www.ukrainianmuseum.org or call Olenka Terleckyj, (973) 771-1156.

Wednesday-Friday, August 21-24

YAVORIV, Ukraine: The organizing committee for the third world meeting of both former and present inhabitants of Yavoriv and environs will be held August 21-24 in Yavoriv, Ukraine. The 2002 meeting is the first to take place in Ukraine. Interested participants are asked to register their presence by contacting the organizing committee in Yavoriv by May 31: telephone; 380-3259-21-1254; fax; 380-3259-21-369; e-mail, Elukashyk@ICMPLVIV.UA. For more information in the United States, contact Mykola Jejna by calling (585) 544-1549, or e-mailing mjejna@rochester.rr.com.

CORRECTION

Thursday, April 4

CHICAGO: The day for the Julian Kytasty concert, featuring music from Mr. Kytasty's new CD, "Black Sea Winds – The Kobzari of Ukraine," was incorrectly listed in the March 24 issue of The Weekly as taking place on Saturday. The concert, sponsored by the Ukrainian Artistic Center, will take place on Thursday, April 4, at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10; students, \$5.

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Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

of trade and economic relations, with CIS members and Russia in particular. A top priority is increasing foreign investment in Ukraine, said Mr. Kuchma, who urged the Parliament to create a favorable climate for foreign investors.

He also scolded the Ukrainian Parliament for the slow pace of privatization, urging deputies to reduce the list of enterprises they had disqualified – over 6,000 objects, and he noted that another top objective in the sphere of economics is the formulation of a new tax policy. He also promised that Ukraine's officials would continue to aggressively fight organized crime.

"Today Ukraine and its people need not prophets, but people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and work," Mr. Kuchma underscored.

Source: "Kuchma reaffirms determination to stay the course on reforms" by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, Vol. LXIV, No. 14, April 7, 1996.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, April 5

WASHINGTON: The Catholic University of America will host a lecture by Prof. Myroslav Marynovych, vice-rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, titled "Religious Freedom in Ukraine: Obstacles and Encouraging Signs." Prof. Marynovych, who spent 10 years in the Soviet gulag as a founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, is a leading commentator and author on human rights and ecumenical affairs in Ukraine today. He is the founding director of the Institute of Religion and Society at the Lviv Theological Academy, the basis of the new Ukrainian Catholic University. The presentation will take place at 4:30 p.m. in Caldwell Lounge on the campus of the Catholic University of America. For more information contact Jurij Dobczansky, (202) 707-3080, or Iko Labunka, (773) 680-2637.

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and Mayana Gallery invite the public to "Oleksa Novakivsky (1872-1935): Commemorative Exhibits in Lviv (1985, 1997)," a videofilm featuring art historian Vasyl Hlynchak (film director) and his interviews with members of the Novakivsky family, composer Mykola Kolessa and painter Volodymyr Patyk. Donation: \$7. The exhibit, which includes painting reproductions and photographs of members of the Novakivsky Art School, will be on view in the gallery through April 7. The evening begins at 7 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. Gallery hours: Friday, 6-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For more information call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 777-8144, or e-mail ukrartlitclub@aol.com. Website: www.brama.com/mayana.

Friday-Sunday, April 5-7

TORONTO: The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (UBC) of Detroit will hold a bandura workshop for male bandura players in Toronto, focusing on Kharkiv bandura playing and musicianship skills and introducing the players to challenging new repertoire. The workshop will also feature repertoire the UBC is preparing for its concert tour of Western Europe in 2003, and at the same time give participants an opportunity to audition for the UBC. The workshop will work in three stages: beginning Friday, workshop participants will have an opportunity to work one-on-one with Oleh Mahlay, artistic director and conductor of the UBC. That evening, all workshop attendees will rehearse together; they will continue rehearsing Saturday morning. Joining the workshop attendees on Saturday afternoon will be the current UBC instrumental ensemble. The workshop will culminate Sunday afternoon. For more information contact Anatoli W. Murha, UBC president, at (734) 358-6452 or e-mail UBCworkshop@bandura.org. Visit www.bandura.org for schedule and location information.

Saturday, April 6

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society is sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Osyp Moroz, former director of business affairs and chief fiscal officer, State University of New York at Purchase, N.Y., and consultant to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (1994-1995), titled "Leonid Kravchuk's Doctrine." Also taking part in the presentation will be Prof. Taras Hunczak, Rutgers University, and Dr. Anatolii Rusnachenko, University of Linguistics and Law, Kyiv, and Fulbright Scholar, Columbia

University. The event will be held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For more information call (212) 254-5130.

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) National Office will hold a regular meeting of its board of directors in conjunction with the New York Metropolitan Chapter of UMANA at 4 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. At 6 p.m., all New York Metro members are invited to a get-acquainted reception to meet the officers and learn about the activities of UMANA's other 17 chapters. For more information call (773) 278-6262 or visit the website www.umana.org.

PHILADELPHIA: The Philadelphia Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America cordially invites the public to attend a spring reception celebrating the 25th anniversary of The Ukrainian Museum in New York. The cocktail-buffet reception and musical program will be held at 4 p.m. at the Ukrainian Education and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Donation: \$25 per person. Proceeds to benefit The Ukrainian Museum Building Fund. For reservations call (215) 884-8140.

Monday, April 8

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will present a special roundtable discussion, "Ukrainian Parliamentary Elections of March 2002: Some Preliminary Assessments." The scheduled speakers are: Dominique Arel, assistant professor (research) of the Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University; James Clem, executive officer of the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Harvard University; Volodymyr Kulyk, senior research fellow, Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; and Stephen Shulman, assistant professor of political science, Southern Illinois University and Shklar Fellow, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. The symposium will be held in the institute seminar room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For more information call the institute, (617) 495-4053, or e-mail huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Saturday, April 13

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, invite the public to a presentation by Prof. Myroslav Marynovych, former dissident and prisoner of conscience and currently, vice-rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, who will deliver a lecture titled "Ukraine after the Elections: Old Concerns and New Aspirations." Prof. Marynovych was co-founder of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, which recently marked its 25th anniversary, and at age 28, one of the youngest members of the group to be arrested, incarcerated, tried and sentenced to hard labor and exile in the Soviet gulag in the Perm region of Russia. Upon release, Mr. Marynovych returned to his homeland and founded Amnesty International in Ukraine. The presentation will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Refreshments will follow. For further information contact Jaroslav Kryshchalsky, (718)

(Continued on page 23)

REMINDER REGARDING REQUIREMENTS:

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

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