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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## ***Patriarchal Sobor concludes in Lviv, adopts code of social responsibility***

by Roman Woronowycz

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV — Representatives of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church called on the Vatican to recognize its status as a patriarchal Church in a letter drawn up at the conclusion of the final session of a special convocation of the UGCC laity and leadership, held on June 30-July 4.

The meeting, the final session of the three-part Patriarchal Sobor held over the course of six years, approved a total of four documents, including an ethical code of social responsibility and two addresses, one to the primate and the other to the Church's faithful.

During a press conference after the conclusion of the Patriarchal Sobor, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar — whom many UGCC faithful already refer to as "patriarch," even while the Vatican officially refers to him as archbishop major — expressed confidence that the wishes of the UGCC will be acknowledged by the Mother Church.

"We are taking appropriate measures to come to an understanding with the Holy Father and Vatican authorities," explained Cardinal Husar, according to a UGCC press release. "In the last year this matter

has gathered new momentum. It has become clear to all that we have a living Church, and in accord with the tradition of the Eastern Churches it should have the structure of a patriarchate."

The UGCC primate also stated his satisfaction with the just-completed sobor and the recommendations it had made to the UGCC leadership. He said that its most important characteristic was the expression of unity within the Church.

"The sobor was seriously disposed to the problems of the Church, not only in Ukraine but in the diaspora. The whole Church felt the importance of the sobor," said Cardinal Husar.

Nearly 200 delegates attended the sobor, held at the UGCC Seminary of the Holy Spirit, about 30 kilometers outside of Lviv in the small town of Rudno. Beneath a banner that read "Jesus Christ, the Source of the Renewal of the Ukrainian People," the delegates — laypersons, representatives of monastic orders, clergy and Church hierarchy from the nine UGCC eparchies and exarchates of Ukraine and 17 additional ones in North and South America, Europe and Australia — reviewed the situation with-

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## **Kuchma returns from EU summit, reporting progress in relations**

by Roman Woronowycz

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma returned from Copenhagen on July 5, where he had attended the sixth European Union-Ukraine summit, satisfied that he had moved relations forward between the two sides and laid the groundwork for EU membership for the country.

The Ukrainian president did not receive market economy status, nor did he get any indication that Ukraine would soon become an associate member of the economic union. What he received, however, was the first clear signal from European leaders that they were willing to move forward in developing strategic relations with Ukraine.

"This was the first time that the development of further Ukraine-EU relations was placed on the agenda," said Mr. Kuchma, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

The final statement signed by the two sides also focused on increasing cooperation. The last sentence of that document reads: "In the end, taking into account the progress Ukraine has achieved on the path to democracy, the positive development of its economy and its keen pro-European choice, as well as the expansion of the EU, we will strive to develop a new and invigorated measure of our strategic partnership."

Ukraine avoided criticism for the first

time in several years for the slow pace of economic reforms, its dubious press freedoms or other problems in its democratic development, and even received congratulations for showing progress in meeting the demands of the Council of Europe and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe regarding the parliamentary elections held in March of this year.

Nonetheless, Ukraine again failed to obtain free market status, which Russia obtained last month. Without this status Kyiv cannot go forward in its effort to obtain membership in the World Trade Organization and increased trade with EU member-states will not be possible.

President Kuchma, however, maintained an optimistic note, explaining that the problems that led to lack of movement in the area will be overcome. He said the EU had agreed with Ukraine for the need to increase the practical aspect of work in Ukraine's priority areas: development of market status, accession to the WTO and eventual associate membership in the EU.

"We have agreed to intensify our work in outlining future cooperation in these areas," explained the president.

His economic aide, Anatolii Orel, was even more optimistic. He told journalists that market economy status is "merely a matter of time."

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## **NATO-Ukraine summit reassures Kyiv as it seeks membership in alliance**



NATO Secretary General George Robertson (right) with Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko.

by Roman Woronowycz

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV — NATO Secretary General George Robertson and the ambassadors to NATO from its 19 member-countries spent two days in Ukraine on July 9-10 for the second NATO-Ukraine summit. NATO used the meeting — held on the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Charter on Distinctive Partnership between Ukraine and NATO — to assure Ukraine that it is wanted in the international security alliance and to encourage Kyiv to take the needed practical steps towards membership.

"NATO is willing to go as far as Ukraine is willing to go," Mr. Robertson emphasized several times during the course of two days of meetings with various state and government leaders, as well as at a conference on NATO-Ukraine relations. He also stated repeatedly that it was time to move from rhetoric to practical cooperation.

After the conclusion of the formal session of the Atlantic Council's NATO-Ukraine Commission at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building in Kyiv, which included a review of the past five years of cooperation, Mr. Robertson told reporters that Ukraine needs to approach the issue of membership constructively and vigorously.

"I say this emphatically, the NATO-Ukraine relationship has entered a new, very dynamic stage, but the rate of progress will depend primarily on Ukraine itself," explained Mr. Robertson. "It will be based on your needs and capabilities, your choices and possibilities and your determination to proceed on reforms."

The NATO chief said that while defense reform and military changes are essential elements of the transitions that must take place in Ukraine, completing overall political and economic reform, entrenching democratic principles, developing rule of law

and securing freedom of the press are the central issues in the first step towards NATO.

"It is not simply about incorporating defense systems, it is about value systems," explained Mr. Robertson during a meeting with scholars and NATO experts at the Rus

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## **35 killed in mine fire; negligence is alleged**

by Roman Woronowycz

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV — In yet another mining disaster — which have become all too common occurrences in Ukraine's most neglected industrial sector — 35 miners lost their lives on July 7 after a fire swept through a colliery of the Ukraina mine in the small town of Ukrainsk, Donetsk Oblast.

The mine's director and several lower-level managers were arrested and could face up to eight years in jail for negligent homicide if convicted.

The catastrophe occurred in the wee morning hours with a shift change under way and the mine filled with workers. Most of the 114 miners below the surface at the time managed to escape the mine, but 35 — some in an elevator and only meters short of safety — were not so lucky as hot flames raced upward from the

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## ANALYSIS

## Debating the undebatable? Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933

by Dr. David Marples

This summer marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of one of the most tragic events of the 20th century, the Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933, in which an estimated 4 to 6 million inhabitants of Ukraine lost their lives. From Kyiv to Edmonton, there are memorials to the victims of the Great Famine. In academic circles, however, and particularly on the Internet, a new debate over the origins of the Famine is in full swing.

It is only fair to add that there is a clearly discernible ethnic element to the Famine debate in that scholars of Ukrainian background have accused several American scholars of being Russocentric, while the retort has generally been that émigré sources, particularly those written long after the event, are unreliable.

Information about the Famine was a state secret in the USSR until the end of 1987. In the West, historians took up the 50th anniversary to launch several studies, the most notable of which was Dr. Robert Conquest's book, "Harvest of Sorrow," a Canadian edition of which was published by the University of Alberta Press.

By the end of the Soviet period, a conference of Western and Ukrainian scholars concluded that the Great Famine had been an act of genocide, a

*Dr. David Marples is a professor of history and director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta. A version of this article was published by the Edmonton Journal on June 28.*

deliberate policy of Stalin to starve Ukrainians, the most troublesome group in the Soviet Union.

In Washington, the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, led by historian Dr. James E. Mace, which conducted hundreds of interviews with Famine victims, came to the same conclusion. Yet this viewpoint has never been fully accepted by the scholarly community. There is no consensus today on the causes of the tragedy.

For some scholars, discussing the factors behind the Famine is as nauseating as questioning the Holocaust of Jews during world war II. Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko, a former University of Alberta professor who heads the Academy of Public Administration that functions under the aegis of the president of Ukraine, described the debate as "immoral and absurd." Dr. Mace has dismissed the main arguments against the genocide theory as "garbage" and founded on "baseless statistical circumlocutions."

Though several scholars have entered the debate, the most prolific has been Mark B. Tauger, an associate professor of history at West Virginia University. Dr. Tauger has worked in Ukrainian archives over a number of years and has published several major articles in Slavic Review and other journals. He has also written a major article on the Ukrainian Famine of 1928-1929, an event that is virtually unknown in the West.

Prof. Tauger's main argument on 1932-1933 runs as follows. The Famine arose because of harsh grain requisitioning.

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## Does Ukraine need more nuclear-power reactors?

by Vera Rich

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

The expansion of Ukraine's electrical generating capacity by the construction of new reactors at the Rivne and Khmelnytsky nuclear power stations will "benefit only Germany and Russia," claims an article in the Ukrainian opposition newspaper Svoboda on June 11. The article was originally written last December when an environmental group, the Youth Committee for National Safety, held a "people's hearing" in Kyiv to discuss the expediency of completing the new reactors. Until now, however, the author, Yevhen Zelinskyi, had been unable to find a publication willing to print it.

The organizers of the December event had wanted to call it a "public hearing," but to do so would have required the authorization of the state authorities. Their requests for this authorization were ignored, however, so, to stay within the law, they redesignated it a "people's hearing." This change of name gave the bodies most concerned with the nuclear program, the Ministry of Fuel and Power, the Enerhoatom state nuclear power monopoly, the State Committee for Nuclear Regulation, and the relevant parliamentary committees, a pretext for ignoring the hearing.

Had it been a "public" and not a "people's" hearing, they claimed, they would

have sent representatives. Even the "green" environment minister, Serhii Kurykin, ignored the event, though he is said to have doubts as to the expediency of going ahead with the reactors. The only person who came from the "nuclear" side was an engineer from the Khmelnytsky station, who could discuss technical matters but was hardly in a position to deal with larger policy issues. As a result, the questions raised by the hearing remain unanswered.

These questions addressed more than the issue of safety – which, since the explosion at the Chornobyl nuclear power station in April 1986, has held a dominant place in the Ukrainian national psyche. The hearing duly noted that the new reactors are being built in accordance with an outmoded (1984) Soviet design (not, incidentally, that of the ill-fated Chornobyl station), and that other similar reactors in Ukraine are still operating on only a temporary license. Furthermore, the hearing asserted, the state environmental inquiry regarding the new networks had not yet presented its report. Hence, their construction was both premature and illegal, and should be halted immediately.

When challenged over nuclear safety, however, those concerned with Ukraine's energy strategy, particularly in the early years of independence, have repeatedly argued for the need to balance conflicting threats: the possibility of deaths arising from a future nuclear accident and the certainty of winter deaths from hypothermia

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Ukraine has new procurator general

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on July 6 signed a decree appointing Sviatoslav Piskun as Ukraine's new procurator general, Interfax reported. The Ukrainian Parliament overwhelmingly approved Mr. Piskun's candidacy on July 4 with 347 votes in favor, Ukrainian media reported. In addition to the pro-presidential United Ukraine bloc, which unanimously voted for the Kuchma-proposed candidate, Mr. Piskun was supported by 73 members of the Our Ukraine faction led by Viktor Yushchenko, 60 Communist Party members, and 10 independent deputies. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was the only faction to vote against Mr. Piskun, a former lieutenant-general of the Tax Police who had served as deputy head of the State Tax Administration since May. The post of chief prosecutor became vacant in April when Mykhailo Potebenko of the Communist Party was elected to Parliament. During his meeting with national deputies prior to the vote, Mr. Piskun promised to solve the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze "in six months" and vowed to stamp out corruption in the country. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Officials of Ukraina mine arrested

UKRAINSK – The director and the chief engineer of the Ukraina mine in Ukrainsk where 35 miners died on July 8 in an underground fire were arrested on charges of gross negligence and manslaughter, Interfax reported on July 9. According to the DPA news service, regional prosecutors said on July 9 that they believe they will be able to prove that the two mine managers grossly violated safety regulations, and are responsible for the 35 deaths because they allowed the mine shaft to operate with outdated equipment. However, Donetsk media carried stories arguing that the charges are an effort by regional coal tycoons to deflect responsibility by setting up a pair of low-level mine managers as scapegoats, the DPA reported. RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on July 9 that experts in Donetsk said the miners could have been rescued and that they perished due to poorly organized rescue procedures in the first moments after the fire broke out. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Mine fire reported near Kryvyi Rih

KYIV – Reuters cited Ukrainian media as reporting that a fire broke out on the night of July 6-7 at a coal mine, near Kriviy Rih, in which 60 men were rescued. Ukraine's Labor Safety Committee reported that 116 miners were killed in

industrial accidents in Ukraine from January through June of this year. Some 300 miners were killed in mining accidents last year, according to Reuters. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Moscow hopes to bring Ukraine into EEC

MOSCOW – Eurasian Economic Commonwealth Secretary-General Grigorii Rapota told journalists in Moscow on July 9 that his organization wants to upgrade the observer status of Ukraine and Moldova to full membership, RIA-Novosti and other Russian news agencies reported. However, he said that Ukraine needs time to "understand what we are doing." He added that the five members of the commonwealth – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Russia and Belarus – are working to create a unified economic space with a single customs and transportation-tariff regime. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### DV Lottery winners notified

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of State has released information on the number of winners by countries in the 2003 Diversity Visa Lottery, and the winners were being notified via mail sent out in May and June. A total of 4,035 persons from Ukraine now have a chance to apply for immigration visas to the United States. Not all of the winners will ultimately receive visas, as they have to meet eligibility requirements and file the required information to qualify. The Diversity Visa program is aimed at ensuring that the United States receives a balanced mix of immigrants. (U.S. Department of State)

### Iraq reportedly sought Ukrainian arms

LONDON – The Financial Times reported on July 9 that a high-level delegation of Iraqi officials that visited Ukraine in June was openly shopping for weapons. The daily cited local media reports that quoted Ukrainian government sources as saying the Iraqi delegation offered to buy ships and aircraft. "For some years there was an intensive defense-technology relationship between Ukraine and Iraq. This appears to be re-emerging and we don't want to repeat the mistakes of the past," the newspaper's website quoted former United Nations weapons inspector Timothy McCarthy as saying. Ukraine recently opened its Embassy in Baghdad and in September 2001 signed a treaty with Iraq on trade and cooperation. During the 1990s a Ukrainian citizen, Yurii Orshanskyi, was

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# UABA files amicus curiae brief to fight wrongful characterization of Rukh

by Peter Steciuk

PHILADELPHIA – The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) recently filed an amicus curiae brief to challenge a U.S. immigration court's characterization of the Popular Movement of Ukraine (Rukh) as an anti-Semitic, persecutory organization.

That derogatory and unfounded characterization comes from a 1998 decision that by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) affirmed an immigration judge's opinion in the "Matter of O-Z & I-Z," an asylum case filed by two former Ukrainian nationals. The BIA's decision is now legal precedent, and can result in the denial of asylum, and even admission to the United States to members (or former members) of Rukh, an organization formed in the late 1980s to promote democratization in the USSR during the Gorbachev era.

The UABA seeks to remove the anti-Semitic and persecutory labels from Rukh, so that otherwise eligible individuals who wish to immigrate to the United States will not be faced with possible exclusion based on involvement with that organization.

The author of the brief, which was filed on April 22, is Andre Michniak, president of the UABA. Mr. Michniak has been practicing for 20 years in the areas of immigration law and civil litigation, and is a member of The Washington Group, as well as various professional organizations.

According to Mr. Michniak, the UABA became involved because the decision characterizing Rukh as an anti-Semitic organization is considered legal precedent. As it stands today, a court or the INS can deny not only asylum but also residence in the United States to applicants based solely on membership in Rukh. Mr. Michniak fears that this is a likely scenario considering the number of courts that have cited "Matter of O-Z & I-Z" in their decisions.

However, Mr. Michniak said the UABA hopes to greatly minimize the effects of the BIA decision. The UABA's "friend of the court brief" has provided accurate information on Rukh to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which might be utilized in future decisions. Mr. Michniak said the UABA also hopes to limit what it considers an inaccurate characterization of Rukh to the facts of the case in which the characterization was originally made.

If the BIA agrees with the UABA, the characterization of Rukh as anti-Semitic might become limited to a certain time and place, and to specific events; it would not be applicable to every member of Rukh. In other words, even if some Rukh members might have used the organization for isolated anti-Semitic actions, the organization itself would be considered neither anti-Semitic nor persecutory. As a result, in order to deny asylum to members of Rukh on the basis of participation in the commission of persecutory acts, INS attorneys would need to show that the person applying for asylum actually participated in persecutory acts rather than relying simply on the applicant's membership in Rukh.

## Response to 2001 case

The UABA's amicus curiae was filed in response to the case of Volodymyr Bolyuk, which was decided in May 2001. Mr. Bolyuk was a 41-year-old Ukrainian who crossed into the United States from Ukraine via Mexico in April 2000 and then applied for asylum. Mr. Bolyuk, a dentist with a wife and two children, had been a member of Rukh since December 1990. He claimed that he had suffered

persecution as a result of his membership in Rukh and that he feared returning to Ukraine for that reason.

Mr. Bolyuk testified that he spoke at a rally the day after the death of Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil, where he accused the government of planning the car accident that took the life of Mr. Chornovil. After the rally, state security officials allegedly took Mr. Bolyuk to a secluded place in the woods and beat him, telling him not to get involved with politics. Mr. Bolyuk again blamed the government for Mr. Chornovil's death at a rally marking the 40th day since the Rukh leader's death. Mr. Bolyuk claimed that the police beat him outside his apartment, calling it a last warning and threatening his health and that of his family.

Fearing reprisals for Mr. Bolyuk's political activity, his wife and children moved in with a friend in another town, and in 1999 Mrs. Bolyuk moved to the United States. Mr. Bolyuk testified that he left Ukraine in 2000 because of the disappearance and murder of several Rukh members.

The U.S. immigration judge ruled against Mr. Bolyuk, denying him asylum. The UABA brief neither contests this outcome nor debates the merits of Mr. Bolyuk's case. It does, however, complain about the way in which the decision was reached.

For example, the court found no evidence to support Mr. Bolyuk's claim that political opponents of the Ukrainian government had been killed or kidnapped. However, the court had reviewed the Ukraine entry in the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices only for 2000, even though Mr. Bolyuk's claims regard the year 1999, not 2000. The UABA's amicus curiae brief points out that the country report for 1999, unreviewed by the court, does indeed note that, "the 1994 disappearance of Mykhailo Boichyshyn, a prominent leader of the Popular Movement of Ukraine party, remains unsolved."

What led to the filing of an amicus curiae by the UABA was that the court had considered denying Mr. Bolyuk asylum solely on the basis of his membership in Rukh. The court decision in the Bolyuk case states that, in order to be granted asylum, individuals must "establish either past or future persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." The court went on to write, "certain aliens are barred from receiving asylum, including aliens who ordered, incited, assisted or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person..." If there is evidence that the applicant for asylum might have persecuted others, the burden of proof shifts to the applicant to show that he did not participate in such persecution.

The INS argued that Mr. Bolyuk was ineligible for asylum because, according to the former decision, Rukh was characterized as a pro-nationalist organization that is anti-Semitic and persecutes Jews. Thus, Mr. Bolyuk would be considered guilty of persecution by virtue of his involvement with Rukh, regardless of whether he personally participated in the acts of persecution. The INS compared this to the guilt of Nazis who enabled persecution by serving, for example, as fund-raisers.

The court decided that the burden of proof in this matter shifted to Mr. Bolyuk, because evidence existed that Rukh is an organization that persecutes Jews. Referring to the prior decision, the court wrote, "The Board of Immigration Appeals decision indicates that the Rukh is a nationalist, anti-Semitic organization."

The court also questioned whether Mr.

Bolyuk's involvement in Rukh propaganda might have included anti-Semitic propaganda. Mr. Bolyuk denied that he had ever been involved in any anti-Semitic acts; he also argued that Rukh condemns anti-Semitism and assists Jewish schools and cultural centers.

Although the court ultimately found that Mr. Bolyuk had satisfied his burden of proof, it added that the court's decision was "a very, very close call." Although it was on other grounds that Mr. Bolyuk was denied asylum, he was very nearly denied asylum solely as a result of his membership in Rukh. The court decision strongly

implied that such a result could be justified, depending on the particulars of a case. Therefore, the distinct possibility exists that current or former members of Rukh could be denied asylum because of their involvement in Rukh, Mr. Michniak explained.

## Precedent set in 1998

The characterization of Rukh as an anti-Semitic organization is the result of a 1998 decision by the Board of Immigration Appeals. According to the UABA's amicus curiae brief, that charac-

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## UCCLA calls for official Canadian commission of inquiry on Soviet/Communist war criminals

TORONTO – The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) has called for an official commission of inquiry on Soviet and Communist war criminals in Canada, and, if the evidence merits it, for the denaturalization and deportation of those who lied about their criminal activities upon entering Canada.

This request comes in light of recent evidence of individuals now living in Canada who were members of SMERSH, a Soviet formation responsible for the executions of Red Army soldiers and of thousands of anti-Communist civilians in Eastern Europe. One of the most well-known victims of SMERSH was Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved Hungarian Jews during World War II.

"We are calling on the Canadian government to determine how many of these alleged Soviet war criminals and collaborators are in Canada, how they came to be here and why they continue to enjoy the privileges of Canadian citizenship," said Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, director of research for UCCLA.

"We are also calling for their denaturalization and deportation, if the evi-

dence warrants it. There are people in Canada today who have publicly admitted to having committed atrocities while serving with SMERSH and the murderous Soviet secret police, the NKVD. Some have even written books, in English, boasting of their roles in liquidating anti-Soviet Lithuanians and Ukrainians," Dr. Luciuk added.

Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section has not taken any known action against alleged Communist war criminals in Canada, despite several requests by UCCLA.

"The UCCLA urges the federal government to establish a Commission of Inquiry on Soviet and Communist war criminals in Canada. The ethnic, religious or racial origins, or the place or period when these persons may have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes are irrelevant. They should be given exactly the same opportunity to explain their behavior as were those accused of collaborating with the Nazi occupation in Eastern Europe during the second world war. Justice must not be selective," said Dr. Luciuk.

## UCCLA and UCC to issue joint position on redress for World War I internment

WINNIPEG – At its annual meeting in Winnipeg on June 22, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress agreed to refine a joint position in cooperation with the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association regarding redress for the World War I period internment operations.

The cooperative effort is being led by attorney Andrew Hladyshevsky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. For several months, the director of research for the UCCLA, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, and Paul Grod, first vice-president of the UCC, have worked with Mr. Hladyshevsky to ensure that a thorough and comprehensive redress package is ready for presentation to the government of Canada sometime later this fall.

Commenting after the meeting, Mr. Hladyshevsky said: "We now have a very

positive measure of support from the national board of UCC and from UCCLA to develop a common front that will represent what our community expects from the federal government with respect to acknowledgment and redress for Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920. Once completed, this document will represent a united statement from the Ukrainian Canadian community which, once agreed to, will bring closure to this issue by righting this historical injustice."

During Canada's first national internment operations, members of the Ukrainian Canadian community and other Europeans were imprisoned, had their assets confiscated without just cause, were disenfranchised and subjected to various other state-sanctioned censures.

This issue of The Ukrainian Weekly is reaching all members of the U.S. Congress thanks to the generous sponsorship of

**Ukrainian Future Credit Union of Warren, Mich.**

## IN MEMORIAM

# Savella Stechishin, Ukrainian Canadian pioneer and feminist

SASKATOON – Ukrainian Canadian pioneer and feminist Savella Stechishin died on April 22 in Saskatoon at the age of 98. The history of Ukrainian women in Canada was personified in Mrs. Stechishin, who for three-quarters of a century was a forerunner, a woman ahead of her time, a perennial mover and shaker.

An immigrant to Canada in 1913, she became an active advocate of women's rights, an ethnic leader, journalist, author, teacher, home economist and community organizer who dedicated her life to bringing women of Ukrainian descent, together with their cultural heritage, into mainstream society at a time when only men were leaders. She could be described as an ethno-cultural social maternal feminist.

Mrs. Stechishin was born in western Ukraine on August 19, 1903, and came to Canada at the age of 9. Her family settled on a homestead in Krydor, Saskatchewan, where she lived until 1918.

In the 1920s she went against the prevailing view that a married woman's place was to be in the home, and not to pursue a higher education. She was married at the age of 17 while in grade 10 and had her first child when she was 18. However, by the time she was 26, she had completed high school and teachers' college and had obtained a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

She was the first Ukrainian Canadian woman to graduate from the University of

Saskatchewan (1930), and the first Ukrainian woman in Canada to graduate with a specialization in home economics.

During the time she was studying and raising a family, she also served as dean of women at St. Petro Mohyla Institute alongside her husband, who was the rector. Her determination to preserve Ukrainian culture in Canada led her at age 20 to found and head a young Ukrainian women's student group, Mohylianky, at the institute. She was responsible for organizing evening courses in many aspects of Ukrainian culture. Public speaking sessions and debates were held to help these young women learn to express themselves and develop their self-esteem. All these activities were stimulating for the teacher trainee residents.

Seeing the difficulties Ukrainian pioneers had integrating into their new lives in Canada, Mrs. Stechishin was the leading initiator of the first Ukrainian national women's non-denominational organization, the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, in 1926. Under her leadership with many former Mohylianky on board, the organization took root and branches quickly mushroomed throughout Canada.

The association's motto was: "self-help, self-reliance, and self-respect."

She encouraged women to take advantage of the educational possibilities available to them in their new homeland. She inspired them to take pride in their rich

cultural heritage at a time when multiculturalism was still unheard of in Canada, and prejudice and bigotry were rampant.

During this time, Mrs. Stechishin corresponded with leading women writers of various publications in Ukraine. She was inspired by them to continue her mission in Canada and, likewise, inspired the women in Ukraine by supporting them morally, financially (through the sales of their embroidered goods, books and almanacs) and educationally (via studies of such subjects as home economics and the life of Ukrainian Canadian women).

She was instrumental in laying the foundation for the Ukrainian Museum of Canada that later came under the auspices of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada. This museum, the only ethno-cultural museum in Canada to have branches, has its headquarters in Saskatoon and branches in Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. This museum has preserved many thousands of artifacts for future generations of Canadians to treasure and enjoy. The emphasis that Mrs. Stechishin placed on retaining the traditional Ukrainian folk arts in Canada did much to raise them to the respected position that they now occupy among other heritage folk arts in Canada's multicultural mosaic.

She started teaching in Saskatchewan country schools and later taught home economics in Saskatoon public schools. In



Savella Stechishin wearing some of her numerous awards.

addition, she instructed Ukrainian language courses at the Mohyla Institute and was a sessional lecturer of Ukrainian language at the University of Saskatchewan.

After obtaining a B.A. degree in 1930 with a specialization in home economics, Mrs. Stechishin joined the Department of Women's Services at the University of Saskatchewan and used her training to engage in outreach work for many years. As a home economist she tried to improve the living conditions of Ukrainian immigrant settlers by instructing them in the importance of a healthy lifestyle and nutrition. Lessons about cooking and general homemaking practices also were stressed.

Mrs. Stechishin was the editor of the Women's Page of the Ukrainian Voice, a widely read Ukrainian language newspaper published in Winnipeg, and contributed weekly columns for more than 25 years on a broad spectrum of topics: nutrition, homemaking trends, immigrant issues and the preservation of the Ukrainian language and culture in Canada. Through her informative and challenging newspaper columns she assisted women in adjusting to the expectations of Canadian society, informed them of their rights as Canadian citizens and raised their awareness of the issues of the day.

She made significant contributions to Ukrainian women's magazines, such as *Our Life (U.S.)*, *Promin* (then located in Winnipeg) and *Zhinocha Dolia (Ukraine)*. During world war II, she served as a journalist on nutrition and health for the Consumer Information Service of the Wartime Services in Ottawa. Her columns were printed in various Ukrainian-language newspapers in Canada.

Mrs. Stechishin was also the author of four books, the best known of which is "Traditional Ukrainian Cookery." This cookbook has already served three generations as a source of carefully researched information about Ukrainian cuisine, culture and traditions. Since its first publication in 1957, it has been reprinted 18 times, and over 80,000 copies have been sold throughout the English-speaking world. It is considered to be the most authoritative book on Ukrainian cuisine and it is now being discovered in newly independent Ukraine where younger generations are studying their Ukrainian heritage after years of Russification.

In 1950, Ms. Stechishin wrote a 133-page Ukrainian-language book titled

(Continued on page 18)

## OBITUARY: Peter and Nadia Woroby, Saskatchewan activists

by Nadia Kazymyra-Dzioba

REGINA, Saskatchewan – In a very short period of time, the Ukrainian Canadian community lost two members who made significant contributions for over 50 years. Dr. Peter Woroby, professor emeritus of the University of Regina, passed away after a long illness on May 5, Julian Calendar Easter, exactly five months after the death of his beloved wife, Nadia Woroby, who passed away unexpectedly on December 5, 2001.

Dr. Woroby was born in Starhorod, Ukraine, and attended university in Berlin and Goettingen, where he received his Ph.D. in economics after World War II. In 1949 he took a position at the University of Manitoba, and in 1952 became director of economic research for the Saskatchewan Power Corp.

He joined the faculty of economics at the University of Regina in 1965 and became professor emeritus in 1987. He is the author of numerous scholarly publi-

cations and government studies (in urban economics and demography), and was a contributor to two royal commissions.

During his full and productive life, Prof. Woroby was recognized many times for his professional accomplishments, and for his service to community organizations. He was a founding member of the Regina chapter of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Club, headed the Ukrainian Canadian Committee in Regina, and served in its executive at the national level.

In 1990 he was appointed special advisor to the government of Saskatchewan on Ukraine, and served in this capacity until 1995. He traveled to Ukraine frequently, where he lectured on economic reforms, provided consultation to Parliamentarians and academic institutes, and initiated several significant Canada-Ukraine partnerships.

On May 8, the Regina Leader-Post interviewed several individuals in an

article reporting Prof. Woroby's death. A former student, Orest Warnyca, noted that Dr. Woroby was a "congenial, compassionate individual ... He had all kinds of time for you whenever you needed anything. He was very culturally minded and very worldly in his knowledge and very interested in promoting the betterness of the community, not only for the Ukraine group, but for all groups."

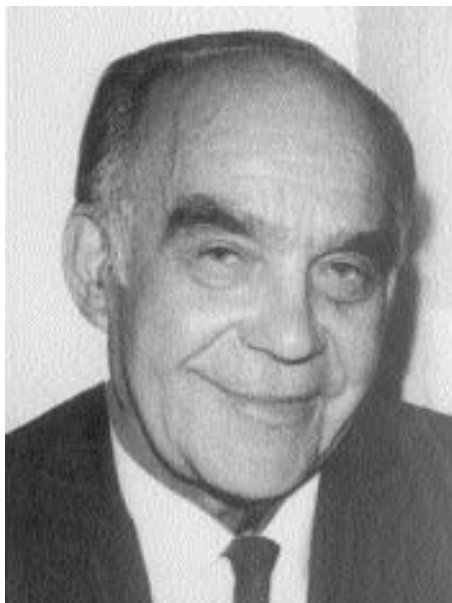
Ed Klopoushak of the University of Regina added, "He'll be missed in the Ukrainian community. He was a stalwart for many, many years."

Nadia Woroby, nee Cherniak, was born in Kovel, Ukraine. She came from a musical family and received her higher education in Lutsk. She was also involved in theater throughout her early adult life. She met and married her husband in Goettingen, Germany before immigrating to Canada in 1948. The Worobys settled first in Winnipeg, then moved to Regina in 1952, where they resided until their deaths.

During her life in Canada, Nadia was active in the Regina Musical Club, the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches, community organizations, and was a strong supporter of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Regina Conservatory of Music.

The Worobys are survived by three daughters, Tania Woroby of Montreal, Tamara Woroby of Silver Spring, Md., and Katya Reeson and her husband, Richard, of Edmonton, as well as several grandchildren and other family members.

They will be missed not only by the community that they served, but especially by those who knew them. Mrs. Woroby was a beacon of warmth and cheer. She had an indomitable spirit, and lit up a room with her elegant radiance. Dr. Woroby was a true gentleman, with a keen intellect and a tender and gentle heart. Both had an extremely strong sense of family and friendship.



Dr. Peter Woroby



Nadia Woroby

## Manhattan Borough president awards \$125,000 to The Ukrainian Museum

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – The Manhattan Borough President's Office awarded The Ukrainian Museum in New York City \$125,000 in capital funds to support its new building project on East Sixth Street in Lower Manhattan. The more than \$8 million project is currently in the construction phase, with completion scheduled for the summer of 2003.

The projected three-story building will become the new center for the activities of the museum, which for 26 years has preserved and presented the cultural legacy of Ukrainian Americans through exhibitions, educational programs, publications and community related events.

In a letter announcing the award, C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough president, wrote "Thank you for the vital role the museum continues to provide to our community. There were many requests for capital funding this year and this award represents a commitment my office has made to The Ukrainian Museum and to the Borough of Manhattan: to build and improve the infrastructure so that we may enjoy One Manhattan for All."

Olha Hnateyko, president of The Ukrainian Museum's board of trustees said that the museum family is very grateful for this award, which not only helps the new building project financially, but is a strong endorsement of the museum's purpose and goals.

"Our new building project is being realized during a very propitious time to become an important partner to the recovery efforts in New York City following the September 11 terrorist attacks. Because the new museum facility represents an investment of private and public funds in the future of the great city of New York, we will have the opportunity to create favorable returns on these investments both for the Ukrainian community and the city."

Maria Shust, director of The Ukrainian Museum, explained that in its new facility the museum will have the potential to develop into a showcase of the Ukrainian arts and cultural achievements – a source of pride for Ukrainians everywhere. She went on to say: "The expanded, multi-faceted programming in the new museum building will generate increased visitations, thus adding to the benefits of tourism not only locally, but



In the Manhattan Borough President's Office (from left) are: Marta Baczynsky, The Ukrainian Museum's development officer, Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields, and Maria Shust, director of The Ukrainian Museum.

also to the overall economy of the city."

As a token of appreciation for the award, Ms. Shust presented the borough president with a beautiful pysanka decorated with a Hutsul design. Ms. Fields

graciously accepted the gift and promised to come to the museum in its present location and also visit its projected new home to "see how else we can help this institution."

## Patriarchal Sobor...

(Continued from page 1)

in the Church at the dawn of the new millennium and identified some directions it needed to take to reach full rebirth.

The Rev. Ivan Dymyd, secretary of the sobor, set the tone for its work on the opening day when he called on the faithful to become activists within their Church and society.

"Indifference to religion and the needs of the people is a negative factor that has arisen in Ukrainian society," said the Rev. Dymyd.

In a document titled, "A Social Guide for the Faithful," the delegates addressed the problems of relativism, and wavering moral and ethical standards in the post-Modern age, and the need for social responsibility. The manuscript laid out 10 social commandments modeled after the original Ten Commandments to which the UGCC faithful should adhere, including: a sincere life in union with Jesus Christ; respect for human life and dignity from birth through death; sanctity of the family; avoidance of desecration of the human body with alcohol, tobacco, sex and drug abuse; respect for the natural wealth of the Earth; opposition to force of all types; and opposition to bribery and blackmail.

The Patriarchal Sobor began with an archiepiscopal divine liturgy at St. George's Cathedral in Lviv, the seat of the UGCC. That evening the convocation listened to opening remarks by Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, the Vatican's papal nuncio to Ukraine, who greeted the sobor on behalf of Pope John Paul II. Afterwards, Cardinal Lubomyr called on the Church "to address the urgent social needs of the contemporary world."

The results and recommendations of the third session of the Patriarchal Sobor were passed on to the Synod of UGCC Bishops, which began meeting in Kyiv on July 7-12. The bishops' meeting carries historic underpinning, as it is the first synod of the UGCC in the country's capital in more than 100 years.

This was the final of three sessions of the Patriarchal Sobor that Cardinal Husar originally called in 1996 when he was still administrative head of the Church. Two earlier sessions were held in October 1996 and August 1998. The next Patriarchal Sobor is expected to be called in five years.



Roman Woronowycz

The scene at the third and final session of the Patriarchal Sobor that began in 1996 and 1998, and concluded this year.



Some of the nuns who attended the Patriarchal Sobor in Lviv.



The sobor's youngest participants take notes.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Famine denial

It may seem incredible, but it's true: denial of the Great Famine of 1932-1933, which took the lives of up to 10 million people in Ukraine and ethnographically Ukrainian areas, continues to exist.

Most recently, beginning in April and continuing into this month, it was manifested on the Internet on a scholars' discussion list after one participant mentioned a new primary source about what she referred to as the "genocidal Holodomor" (the Ukrainian word for death from hunger) and posed a question to colleagues about other sources of information. One colleague responded that the "Ukrainian Famine" [his quotes] was not limited to Ukraine, was neither man-made nor artificial, and was not genocide.

Unfortunately, neither these types of statements questioning the facts about the Famine – from its very occurrence to its targets, its intentionality or its severity – nor the players who make them are new. In fact, they are disconcertingly familiar. For example, Mark Tauger of West Virginia University and Grover Furr of Montclair State University, have made their opinions well-known on prior occasions.

What is most troubling is that this famine denial rages on, despite decades of work to enlighten the public, governments, scholars, etc. Furthermore, it is distressing to see that, as the Great Famine's 70th anniversary is upon us, there are those who – in the face of new information from post-Soviet and newly independent Ukraine, scholarly publications by such notables as Dr. Robert Conquest, the findings of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, and the reports of various expert inquiries and scholarly conferences worldwide – continue to vehemently practice famine denial.

Prof. Tauger, writing in response to an article by Dr. Taras Kuzio that was disseminated by RFE/RL and was published in this newspaper last week (that article commented on Prof. Tauger's comments to the Internet discussion group), states: "The evidence that I have published and other evidence, including recent Ukrainian document collections, show that the famine developed out of a shortage and pervaded the Soviet Union, and that the regime organized a massive program of rationing and relief in towns and in villages, including in Ukraine, but simply did not have enough food. This is why the Soviet famine, an immense crisis and tragedy of the Soviet economy, was not in the same category as the Nazis' mass murders, which had no agricultural or other economic basis. This evidence also explains why it is false to describe me and other Western scholars as 'deniers' of the famine. There is nothing 'immoral' or 'absurd' about this evidence which comes directly from Ukrainians and other villagers at the time, and it is in no way comparable to a denial of the Holocaust."

Dr. James Mace, who served as staff director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, replied to Prof. Tauger's article: "The issue is precisely one of Holocaust denial. Change the people, the place, and the time, but the issue remains the same: millions of people dead for political ends." (See Dr. David Marples' analysis on page 2 of this issue for another reaction to Prof. Tauger's position.)

Perhaps the most succinct response to the discussion group came from Prof. Elizabeth Haigh of St. Mary's University: "To deny the genocide of Jews quite rightly brings opprobrium. Surely to deny the Terror-Famine of 1932-1933 ought to provoke the same response."

Surely it is time for famine deniers to cease their repulsive activity in the face of irrefutable evidence about the causes and consequences of the Great Famine, a political famine planned and executed by the Soviet regime – one of the most grisly episodes of genocide the world has ever known.

July  
18  
1996

### Turning the pages back...

Six years ago, speaking in Washington at a "town meeting" for regional news media, State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns said the biggest mistake of both the Bush (the first one, that is) and Clinton administrations with respect to the new independent states of the former Soviet Union was in remaining Russocentric for too long to the detriment of developing important relationships with Ukraine and the other republics.

A related mistake, said Mr. Burns, was in being too slow in marshaling the resources necessary for building strong ties with the new countries of that region, reported Yaro Bihun, *The Weekly's* Washington correspondent.

The frank admission by Mr. Burns, a career foreign service officer who dealt with Soviet and NIS affairs for five years on the National Security Council under the Bush and Clinton administrations, came during a discussion of U.S. policy toward Russia, Ukraine and the new independent states (NIS) at a U.S. foreign policy conference for regional media. The daylong affair, which included presentations by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other key State Department officials on various aspects of U.S. foreign policy, took place on July 18, 1996, at the State Department.

The Clinton administration has been "up front" about its initial failure, Mr. Burns said. "We have said that probably in 1993 we should have spent more time talking to the Ukrainian leadership, putting more emphasis and more money into our relationship with Ukraine," he told the gathering of journalists.

"I wish we had come to that in the Bush administration; and I wish we had come to that sooner in this administration," Mr. Burns said.

Acknowledging that U.S. relations with Russia are paramount in that region, Mr. Burns said that while Russia must remain the "No. 1 preoccupation" of the United States, "we would make a very foolish mistake indeed if we allowed ourselves to be Russocentric in how we look at our policy and our opportunities there."

"Ukraine is a pivotal state that requires an independent relationship, which I believe we have. And oddly enough – surprisingly enough after everything I've said about engaging with Russia – we are actually going to spend more money to promote economic reform in Ukraine this year than we are in Russia, because the stakes are so high," he noted.

Source: "State Department spokesman says Russocentrism was biggest mistake," by Yaro Bihun, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 28, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 30.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### On airing Ukraine's negatives in public

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment on the efficacy of airing Ukraine's present-day negatives in the American media and government fora, submitted for public discussion recently in *The Ukrainian Weekly* by Roman Kupchinsky (June 23) and Orest Deychakiwsky (July 7).

Mr. Deychakiwsky suggests that a difference in opinion on this matter is generational and that his position is supported by most Ukrainian Americans. Mr. Deychakiwsky has been in Washington much too long. Mr. Kupchinsky, on the other hand, at least does not purport to speak for the community. Still, when making suggestions to that community, he should disclose his U.S. government relationship.

Firstly, Ukraine's negatives are relative, given its long-term Russian and Soviet legacy. I would suggest a comparison with the other 11 former Soviet republics except the Baltic states, which were annexed to the USSR only in 1940. Let's compare President Leonid Kuchma with all his shortcomings (and there are plenty) to Presidents Vladimir Putin, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Islam Karimov, Saparmurat Niyazov and others. By the way, President Karimov of Uzbekistan, who was re-elected with more than 90 percent of the vote and is suspected of having his political opponents murdered, is one of the United States, most important allies. On the other hand, assuming irrefutable authenticity, the Melnychenko tapes, in essence, convict President Kuchma only of foul language.

This type of lack of relative perspective was the major incongruity in the U.S. Congressional resolutions, on the March elections in Ukraine. The resolutions were unprecedented. Only the Lukashenka election in Belarus received similar treatment. Further, the resolutions misquoted from a recent report of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The OSCE report, essentially, praised Ukraine's election law. In any event, given only 10 years of independence and little opportunity to build a lasting democracy, Ukraine has held its fair share of quasi-democratic elections. Not so long ago in the city of New York, municipal employees, e.g. police officers and building inspectors, were earning the bulk of their salaries on the streets. Even today widespread corruption exists in this country, except that we have come to accept it as patronage. The recent mayoral election in Newark was marred by glaring misuse of incumbency and administrative resources.

Secondly, both Mr. Kupchinsky's and Mr. Deychakiwsky's positions misrepresent (disingenuously, since both are on U.S. government payroll directly or indirectly) that U.S. foreign policy is predicated on some moral ideology or commitment to a democratic and independent Ukraine. U.S. foreign policy is based on perceived national interest, political expediency and electoral influence. Thus, leaders like Messrs. Karimov and Putin, Pervez Musharraf, Ariel Sharon and others become our friends. The most striking characteristic of many elected officials in this country is that foreign policy issues are for them truly "foreign" President George W. Bush is a good case in point.

Finally, what is the efficacy of "Ukraine bashing" on Capitol Hill or in the media by Ukrainian Americans. I recall the ranting of House foreign operations Subcommittee Chairman Sonny Callahan:

"Not a nickel for Ukraine until it gets its act together." So, foreign aid for Ukraine (a misnomer, since most of it goes into American pockets anyway) has dwindled. Ukrainians in Ukraine have come to realize that former President George Bush's exhortation in 1991 against "suicidal" nationalism was not an aberration and that the United States is not a real friend of Ukraine. As a result, anti-American feelings are intensifying in Ukrainian society.

If the U.S. has sought to cultivate a friendship and alliance with the Ukrainian people, it has gone about it in a bizarre manner.

Askold S. Lozynskyj  
New York

*The letter writer is president of the Ukrainian World Congress.*

### FIFA and Ukraine: where's the fairness?

Dear Editor:

Just before the World Cup, several soccer publications hit the newsstands in Australia. They had a two-page preview of each of the 32 teams participating in the tournament.

I was surprised that each of them predicted Russia would win and move through to the second round. I say surprised because I was aware, as are most people who follow soccer, that Russia had not won any World Cup qualifying games. In fact, during the Moscow Cup held in May the results were: Belarus, two wins; Ukraine, one; Yugoslavia, one; and Russia, zero.

But what was even more surprising to me was that each one of the publications in their summary listed Russia as representing the Soviet Union before 1991 (the year of the break-up of the USSR). I always thought the Soviet Union represented Russia and not the other way round.

What made this table even more incorrect is that the bulk of the USSR team was regularly made up of Ukrainians. In 1986-1990 between 15 and 16 Ukrainians, mostly Dynamo Kyiv players, represented the Soviet team. In addition, the manager was the late Valerii Lobanovskiy of Ukraine.

When I rang the editors and asked who supplied their information they replied that FIFA had released it.

If you are disappointed with FIFA, then join the club. Because when Ukraine chose the date for its referendum of Independence (December 1, 1991) FIFA went ahead and made the draw for the 1994 World Cup one day earlier on November 30, thus automatically excluding Ukraine from the qualifiers.

When Ukraine applied for registration immediately after December 1, 1991, FIFA made it provisional only. This, of course, allowed Russia to draft six top Ukrainians and qualify. Among them was Oleh Salenko from Dynamo Kyiv who scored a record five goals in one match.

When FIFA was asked why Russia was chosen to replace the Soviet Union and why there were no play-offs among the former republics, there was no response.

I believe it is the responsibility of every Ukrainian to contact FIFA, make it clear they are changing history, being completely unfair, totally incorrect and reintroducing Russification.

FIFA's address is: Federation Internationale de Football Association, P.O. Box 85, Hiltzweg 11, CH-8030 Zurich, Switzerland.

Nestor Jaworskyj  
Australia

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## Farmers' aid program must also consider the national economy

by Ihor Dlaboha

The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee's "Farmer's Project" (The Weekly, May 19) is a well-intentioned grassroots initiative to help small farmers in Ukraine. But for the effort to have a more decisive and lasting impact, it needs to be significantly expanded. Any discussion of revitalizing the agricultural industry in Ukraine must take into account the national economy.

It is not enough to initiate projects that would provide technological and planting assistance to the small farmer in Ukraine when he is incapable of contributing to the gross domestic product with his crops because he uses them almost exclusively for his family or his livestock. That kind of assistance by any other name is welfare, and it will not help Ukraine in the long run. Ukraine's celebrated agricultural prowess is a historical fact, but in its current shape it neither attracts attention nor makes an impact.

Ukraine's agricultural industry should only be discussed in the context of the entire national food chain, which must be rebuilt and developed anew beginning with the producer, and then the food processor, distributor, retailer, food service operator and, ultimately, the consumer. To be sure, there are many small farmers in Ukraine who grow what regionally amounts to tens and hundreds of tons of potatoes in one year and then store the crops in their cellars. What is not consumed by the family or bartered away is fed to the pigs.

One small farmer in the western Ternopil region – an oblast, like others, with an expanding restaurant business – grows 2.2 tons of potatoes in one season on nearly a half an acre of land. Small farmers in his town cumulatively produce a crop of 1,584 tons (U.S.) of potatoes, none of which is used in the local economy. Using the U.S. benchmark farm price for potatoes of \$4.50 per hundredweight, the potato crop from this town could be used to stoke the local economy and put money in the farmers' pocket.

It would be more beneficial to the Ukrainian national economy to help these local farmers create produce co-ops or marketing groups, such as the American body called Pro\*Act, located in Monterey, Calif., which would supply regional food processors and distribution companies, who would then supply regional retail stores and restaurants. This would mean that an agricultural rescue plan for Ukraine would have to take into account the development of the attendant infrastructure of national highways, trucking companies, food processors and distributors, along with trade organizations and media, as well as retail stores, and commercial and non-commercial restaurants.

The foodservice industry should not be overlooked in its prospective contributions to the GDP. If developed properly, it could also help Ukraine's economic growth. In the United States the foodservice distribution industry had a collective sales volume of \$170 billion in 2001. American restaurants of all sizes and categories are expected to ring up \$407.8 billion in sales this year, and they are the largest single employers outside the federal government.

The Ukrainian agricultural industry is in dire straits, but it is improving and does offer the potential of productivity and prof-

*Ihor Dlaboha is executive editor of ID (Institutional Distribution), New York, a monthly business-to-business magazine in the foodservice distribution industry.*

itability for all participants.

John R. Block, president of Food Distributors International located in Falls Church, Va., and former secretary of agriculture in the Reagan administration, attended a Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs conference in Kyiv this spring. He offered the following positive comments about farming in Ukraine:

"After some tough times this country's agriculture is starting to turn the corner. This is a very important turn of events, because this is a rural state. We've been driving south from Kyiv and we're headed to the port city of Odesa on the Black Sea. And all we've been able to see in a whole day of driving has been miles and miles, and acres and acres of rich black land. Farmers raising wheat and corn and soybeans and barley. They are trying to put their act together.

"They've had some real problems because communism messed up this agriculture something terrible. We have abandoned farms where the pig barns are empty, the poultry barns empty. The grain elevators were owned by the government and they mismanaged those. But now this is being turned over to private hands. They are starting to see some real improvement."

Food Distributors International and the International Foodservice Distributors Association, two related trade organizations located in Falls Church, as well as the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association of Chicago, the American

(Continued on page 19)

## Chemical plant in Lviv Oblast poses danger to Stebnyk region

by Danylo Kulyniak

STEBNYK, Ukraine – It was not so long ago that the Polyminal State Chemical Plant in Stebnyk, Lviv Oblast, was among the largest in the world. Yearly about 1 million tons of kainite ore, a natural salt used in the manufacture of potassium fertilizers, is taken out of the earth.

During the course of several decades 30 million cubic meters was removed, leaving a network of gaping tunnels 40 to 650 meters below the surface that snake through the earth for dozens of kilometers.

The tunnels and caverns extend to the neighboring towns, Truskavets and Boryslav, beneath which there are vast holes filled with combustible gas, the result of extensive oil extraction in the past.

Today the danger exists that the towns of Stebnyk and Truskavets, and a series of other small towns and villages in the area, could simply collapse into the earth. The danger, which is quite real, could be alleviated relatively easily. But what is needed is what is too often lacking in Ukraine: financing, motivation and a transparent economic playing field.

Back in February 1994 a hole more than 20 meters in diameter and 30 meters deep opened up suddenly near a mineshaft opening owned by Polyminal. Since then smaller cavities have regularly

*Danylo Kulyniak is a freelance writer from Ukraine who has written for The Weekly about notable Ukrainians.*

appeared in the area, swallowing buildings and pieces of roadway.

The problem stems from 1978 when the appearance of underground waters in the chasms destabilized the existing shafts by washing away veins of mineral salts still left in the earth. To stabilize the situation, large water pumps were utilized to empty the cavities. As long as Polyminal remained solvent, it had the money to pump out the water and take care of the problem.

In 1992, when Ukraine's economic slide began, the situation slowly turned catastrophic, because money to run the pumps evaporated. With no extraction devices working to keep the underground holes dry, the underground water could eventually erode the subcutaneous layers to the extent that major movements in the earth's crust could occur and end in an earthquake that some predict could reach 8 points on the Richter scale.

A domino effect could take place, causing the collapse of the tunnels to Boryslav and the explosion of the unstable gas mixtures beneath the town. It would be a catastrophe affecting all of Europe.

In order to avoid this, the area must be transformed into an ecological disaster zone, and funds must be gathered to stabilize the region. It is also important to restart the Polyminal plant and resume mining of kainite ore. The earth extracted in the mining process could be used to fill the unstable voids beneath the surface from Stebnyk to Truskavets.

For Polyminal to become profitable, it needs to sell approximately 300 thousand tons of kainite annually. While the plant's directors are asking for Kyiv to extend 1 million hrv in finances to the facility, the central government has responded that there is no money.

The irony here is that last year the state fund for maintaining the environment failed to spend 14 million hrv of its budget money that was appropriated specifically for ecological catastrophes, which is what may develop in Stebnyk.

There is another paradox that exists here. Even during economically difficult times, Ukraine's agricultural sector has continued to purchase 2 million tons of kainite-based fertilizers in Belarus at \$75 a ton, even while the kainite mined for the Polyminal plant goes for \$11 a ton. Cozy links between Belarus and Ukrainian politicians and businessmen make it more lucrative for Ukraine to continue the current situation than for it to purchase the cheaper fertilizer made by its own plant.

Mykola Yakovlev, the director of Polyminal, said that if he were to receive orders for 80,000 tons of kainite annually, with advance payment, he could easily get the plant up and running. He explained that the plant could become profitable with a demand of 7,000 tons a month, which would also guarantee jobs for thousands.

In the end, the government must shoulder the blame for the current bankrupt state of affairs at Polyminal. In effect, it brought about the demise of the chemical enterprise by failing to pay for minerals it took on credit for Ukraine's agricultural sector. In 1994, a total of 94,000 tons of kainite was given to the country's agricultural sector under government guarantees; in 1995 the government took another 173,000 tons valued at 1.8 million hrv. To date nothing has been paid for.

The unreturned credit proved fatal to Polyminal, and the plant has ceased production. Today there is no money

(Continued on page 18)

## ACTION ITEM

### Ukrainian Leadership Program

Future generations of Ukrainians will determine the fate of that country's economic and political development. These young civic-minded leaders of Ukraine require experience and an understanding of the fundamentals of democratic governance, the rule of law and civic duty. Such is the impetus for the Ukrainian Leadership Program (ULP), which would bring civic leaders from Ukraine to visit the United States for a two-week period to observe the principles and mechanisms of the American governmental system. This exposure for Ukraine's newest politicians will lead to new democratic ideas and practices, thus supporting further reform efforts to benefit the country of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) urges the Ukrainian American community to contact their members of Congress and bring this issue to their attention. Please write, fax, call, or e-mail your U.S. senator requesting support for the ULP. A sample letter is provided below. Please refer to <http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm> to contact your Senator via e-mail. Should you have any questions, please call UNIS at (202) 547-0018 or e-mail at [unis@ucca.org](mailto:unis@ucca.org).

#### SAMPLE LETTER

The Honorable (name)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (name):

I would like to bring to your attention an initiative to create a Ukrainian Leadership Program (ULP), an exchange program designed to bring young civic-minded leaders from Ukraine to the United States to gain knowledge about and experience in American governance. This program will effectively spur the development of democracy in Ukraine based on the principles of grassroots activity, while also building better relationships between American and Ukrainian businesses.

The Ukrainian Leadership Program will also serve as an effective instrument of the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States, thus forging greater security and cooperation in Central Europe.

As a Ukrainian American, I am interested in the improvement of bilateral relations between Ukraine and the United States. I am also interested in seeing Ukraine develop into a truly free, democratic and economically viable state. As your constituent, I ask you to support the Ukrainian Leadership Program within the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you in advance for your attention to this worthwhile matter.

Sincerely,  
(name)

– submitted by the Ukrainian National Information Source

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Viktor Pobedinsky/AP

Ambassadors of NATO member-states seen during talks with Ukrainian government leaders aimed at deepening the NATO-Ukraine relationship.

## NATO-Ukraine...

(Continued from page 1)

Hotel later that day.

He also said that the process for Ukraine would take time, and that Kyiv should not expect an invitation to join the alliance at NATO's Prague Summit in November.

Ukraine has regained a spot on the North Atlantic alliance's agenda with the somewhat unexpected announcement by its National Security and Defense Council on May 23 that it would move for membership in NATO. President Leonid Kuchma formalized the declaration with his signature on July 8. Many foreign policy experts had said prior to May 23 that Ukraine might have lost its strategic status within NATO after the defense alliance signed a special relationship with Russia that gives Moscow a seat at the NATO table on certain matters.

Mr. Robertson used his time in Kyiv to emphasize that NATO understands Ukraine's important geostrategic role in securing peace and stability on the European continent. He refuted an assertion made in the respected Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* that many ambassadors of NATO member-states do not support membership for Ukraine. He told reporters that every action by NATO comes only after consensus within its membership, adding that encouragement to Ukraine to join the organization must also be viewed this way.

"What I tell you today are not only the private views of the secretary general of NATO, but of all its members. When we move forward we move forward together," explained Mr. Robertson.

That view was reflected in the statement released by the Atlantic Council – the political decision-making body that consists of member-states' and ambassadors to NATO plus the secretary general – after the official NATO-Ukraine Commission session, in which they suggested "deepened political and practical cooperation to be included in a new NATO-Ukraine action plan that would take the NATO-Ukraine relationship to a qualitatively new level."

Meanwhile, comments by various Ukrainian leaders indicated that the country does not expect quick approval of its membership and realizes that while countries

such as the Czech Republic and Hungary may have short-cut NATO procedures by not being required to complete reforms in the military realm, Kyiv would have to go the full route.

Kyiv's current priority, however, is to have an agreement for a new special charter between Ukraine and NATO ready for approval in Prague in November, explained Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko. NATO ambassadors said they would support such a new charter.

During the Atlantic Council session, Mr. Zlenko read a statement from Mr. Kuchma in which the Ukrainian president told the NATO ambassadors he understood well what would be required of Ukraine.

"We understand that the way to NATO is a long, step-by-step process, and we are doing everything to make the interests of Ukraine and NATO closer step-by-step. This will guarantee irreversibly establishing in Ukraine the fundamentals of civil society, the supremacy of law and an effectively working market economy," said Mr. Kuchma.

Yevhen Marchuk, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, told reporters outside the Rus' Hotel, after the conference on NATO-Ukraine relations had just finished, that the process is detailed and exacting. He explained that a country must first submit a formal application, which could come before or after an official invitation is extended from NATO. After that it must fulfill a lengthy list of requirements called a Membership Action Plan, which involves the completion of political as well as technical requirements. He explained that a country must show that there is no chance that a pronouncement of intention to join could be subsequently retracted, and there must be no evidence that the country might leave NATO at some point.

He said that NATO also must make a determination on whether a decision to join was possibly made for internal political opportunity or benefit. He noted that one of the unbending requirements is that polls taken within the country must consistently show that at least 50 percent of the population supports NATO membership.

Ukraine has a considerable way to go to meet the last standard. A survey conducted by the Razumkov Center for Economic and

Political Studies between June 17 and 25 involving 2,006 respondents suggested that Ukrainians are equally divided over NATO entry, with 32 percent for and 32 percent against. Another 22 percent said, "It is hard to say" whether they could support accession to NATO in a popular referendum.

During an address to the conference, however, Foreign Minister Zlenko noted to what extent attitudes over NATO membership by Ukrainians have changed over the last five years.

"The news [of wanting to join NATO] was not overly sensational. One may agree or disagree with the intention of Ukraine to join NATO, but nobody was taken by surprise," explained Mr. Zlenko. "If on [May] 23 the national council had declared Ukraine's intention to join the Tashkent Treaty [on defense ties with the CIS], that would have been a real sensation."

Indeed, protests over the visit of the NATO delegation to Ukraine were few and far between, and the rhetoric from the political left lacked the conviction of earlier days. About 100 demonstrators, mostly from the Communist Party and fringe leftist political organizations, protested before the Presidential Administration Building in Kyiv as the 19 NATO ambassadors and Mr. Robertson met with Mr. Kuchma. At the Rus' Hotel, site of the NATO-Ukraine conference, about 10 Green Movement activists

protested NATO's role in Kosovo.

In Donetsk, where Mr. Marchuk escorted the NATO secretary general on the second day of his visit, Ukraine's chief national security official said that he was somewhat stunned by the lack of vociferous response from Russia.

"It is hard to believe that our decision did not beget hysteria in Russia," said Mr. Marchuk, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

In Donetsk Mr. Robertson visited a factory that will eventually be responsible for destroying some 400,000 anti-personnel land mines and turning their parts into kids' toys. Mr. Robertson said he wanted to visit Donetsk because it is in the most heavily populated region of Ukraine with much of the country's economic potential.

The anti-personnel mine effort is one of the various programs that NATO has undertaken in Ukraine as relations with Kyiv have deepened. The two sides are also deeply involved in flood control, as well as civil and natural disaster relief.

While some of the NATO ambassadors joined Mr. Robertson in Donetsk, others traveled to Lviv and Kharkiv. In each city the delegations held roundtables with political officials and residents. The point of the trips was two-fold: to give the delegations a better sense of the country, and to give Ukrainians some exposure to NATO and its leadership.

## Kuchma returns...

(Continued from page 1)

The Ukrainian president also went out of his way to inform the EU leadership that Ukraine's new relationship with the Moscow-oriented Eurasian Economic Community is strictly as an observer and that Ukraine has no obligations or commitments in that organization.

During his presentation, Mr. Kuchma underscored that relations between the EU and Ukraine have already outgrown the framework of the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and that a new instrument of interaction must be prepared.

The EU did not disagree and in its joint statement said the expansion of the EU "opens new possibilities" in various areas of cooperation. It openly acknowledged that a

goal is for Ukraine to achieve status as a market economy so that more open trade between the two will result. And, for the first time, the organization acknowledged that Ukraine could even achieve a simplified border control regime with the EU.

Besides the joint statement, the leaders of the EU-Ukraine summit – President Kuchma, EU Council Secretary Javier Solana, European Commission President Romano Prodi and EU Council of Ministers Chairman Andres Fogh Rasmussen (who assumed control of the revolving chairmanship as prime minister of Denmark) – signed an agreement on cooperation in the realm of science and technology. The document envisages mutual exchanges of scientists, joint implementation of projects, and joint seminars and conferences.



# Wedding Announcements




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*to Tatianna & Dorian  
Powzaniuk*

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Areta and Yaremij Trytjak*



*Misho Stawnychy  
and  
Laura Murray*

*Married on November 3, 2001,*

*at Vassar Chapel*

*in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*

**MNOHAYA LITA!**

*Mama & Tato Stawnychy*



*Alex and Halia Redko  
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to Kristine Marie Stefansic,  
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on Saturday, the first of June,  
two thousand two,  
at the  
Ukrainian National Association Estate  
Kerhonkson, New York.*

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throughout their life together!*

*— The Ukrainian Weekly*

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

the "honorary council" of Iraq in Kharkiv. He lobbied for technical aid to Iraq and even prepared a number of contracts for selling to Iraq components that could be used in the construction of nuclear reactors. These contracts were discovered by U.N. inspectors and Ukraine was forced to cancel them. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Iran, Iraq mentioned on recordings*

LONDON – The "Financial Times" also reported on July 9 that after listening to recordings of what appears to be a conversation in 2000 between President Leonid Kuchma and Yuriy Alekseyev, the director of the Yuzhmash rocket-building plant in Dnipropetrovsk, the men mention Iraq, Iran and rockets (Mr. Kuchma was director of Yuzhmash prior to Ukraine's independence). The recordings were made in President Kuchma's office by former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko. Messrs. Kuchma and Alekseyev have denied that they supplied missile technology to Iraq. Earlier this year, in recordings made by Mr. Melnychenko of conversations between Mr. Kuchma and the head of the Ukrainian arms-sales company Ukrspetseksport, Valerii Malev, the president was heard giving the go-ahead to covertly sell Iraq three units of the Kolchuha radar system developed by the Ukrainian company Topaz that can detect stealth aircraft. Ukrainian authorities have vehemently denied these accusations. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Monument to pope unveiled in Lviv*

LVIV – Some 10,000 people attended the unveiling ceremony of a monument to Pope John Paul II in Lviv on June 25, Interfax reported. The event took place a year after the pontiff's historic visit to Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Moscow concerned broadcast rules*

MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry expressed concern on July 9 over a decision by Ukraine's National Council for Television and Radio Broadcasting to require that within the next year all domestically produced television and radio programs be in Ukrainian. Foreign Ministry spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko said at a briefing, "basically this step limits the right of the millions of ethnic Russians who live in Ukraine and the many Ukrainians for whom Russian is their native language to receive information in their primary language," Interfax reported. Mr. Yakovenko added that such a measure contradicts the spirit of Russian-Ukrainian cooperation, as well as international standards for defending the rights of ethnic minorities, gazeta.ru reported. Mr. Yakovenko also expressed the hope that Ukrainian officials will take Russia's concerns over the issue into consideration. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Kyiv rebuffed at EU summit ...*

COPENHAGEN – The European Union reiterated on July 4 at the European Union summit in Copenhagen that it welcomes Ukraine's interest in joining the EU, but said more reforms are needed before it can join, the Associated Press reported. "There is a need for adjustment in Ukraine in relation to the European Union," said Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark, who currently holds the six-month rotating EU presidency. Javier Solana, the EU's chief of foreign and security policy, also took part in the meeting. Through an interpreter, President Kuchma told reporters that "by 2011, we want to be ready to meet the standards." Mr. Fogh Rasmussen said the EU also supports Ukraine's desire to enter the World Trade Organization. "It is of interest for both of us," he said. "The best way to combat poverty is to stimulate economic prosperity." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *... gets support in Riga on NATO*

RIGA – At a meeting of prime ministers of NATO-aspirant countries held in the Latvian capital on July 5-6, "The Declaration of Riga" was adopted. According to the summit's website (<http://www.rigasummit.lv>), the declaration stated: "We [the "Vilnius 10"] are proud that our reforms and commitment to democracy may serve as a guide for other nations in Europe and beyond who are seeking a closer partnership with Euro-Atlantic institutions. We are particularly delighted to welcome Ukraine as a guest at this summit. We have been impressed by Ukraine's decision to build closer ties with European structures and we look forward to our close cooperation in the future to advance this commendable goal." (RFE/RL Newsline)

# Shevchenko Society sponsors conference on law in Ukraine

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – Why is foreign investment in Ukraine still lagging below normally expected levels and is anything being done to correct this anomaly? These questions, the legal framework and administrative mechanisms that determine the present business climate in Ukraine were analyzed by legal experts from the United States and Ukraine at the second annual Law Conference held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) headquarters in New York on June 1.

Andrij Szul, Ph.D., J.D., international business trial lawyer and chairman of the NTSh Law Advisory Committee, organized and chaired the event. The marquee speaker of the conference was Judge Bohdan A. Futey of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington and author of the book "Establishing the Rule of Law: Ukraine 1991-2001," published in Kyiv in 2001 (in Ukrainian). Four speakers from Ukraine – a law librarian and three young jurists – shared with the audience the knowledge and insight into the complexities of Ukraine's business laws.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Szul recalled the First Law Conference at the NTSh, held on December 2, 2000, that was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, a jurist and a longtime president of the society. Dr. Szul offered a brief review titled "Business Law in Contemporary Ukraine: Challenges on the Road to Viability."

Dr. Szul noted that the conference is devoted to a timely topic because following the adoption of the Constitution of Ukraine on June 28, 1996, three years later Ukraine erected a second pillar of its modern jurisprudence – a new Civil Code. This code makes it possible, according to Ukraine's former Minister of Justice, Serhii Holovaty, to establish an order of priorities in judicial policy that places the individual first, followed by family, society and the state – which is exactly the reverse order from that under Soviet jurisprudence. Now one can begin to speak of a realistic chance to build a civil society in Ukraine, said Dr. Szul.

In the past, foreign investment had faltered in Ukraine, in part because early laws regulating business activity sounded good, as vaunted though vague declarations, but were toothless in their practical applications, according to Dr. Szul. However, a number of improved investment laws have appeared in the last three years.

On the bright side, Dr. Szul cited the recent pronouncements of the World Bank, which gave Ukraine a favorable rating. Thus, in 2001, the annual growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Ukraine reached a record 9.1 percent, while during the first 120 days of 2002, it was still 4.1 percent. An improvement in the transparency of business activity as well as financial discipline in both the government and private sectors were credited by the World Bank for this turnaround.

The first guest speaker was Myroslava Kryvonos, an information specialist and librarian at the Ukrainian Legal Foundation in Kyiv, who is presently completing her research as a visiting scholar at the New York University Law School Library. Speaking on "Modern Information Science and Jurisprudence," Ms. Kryvonos observed that it is insufficient to have good laws on the books if they are not promulgated and applied in real life.

At the very least, people should have access to basic current legal information, she added. This is one of the objectives



Panelists who discussed business law in Ukraine: (from left) Dr. Andrij Szul, Judge Bohdan Futey, Attorneys Olena Scherbyna, Mykhailo Kharenko and Olena Kibenko.

of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation, which has the only specialized legal library in Ukraine that is open to the public and is free of charge. It holds over 80,000 titles, including texts of all significant legislative acts, official documents, specialized magazines and teaching material dealing with legal issues. Ms. Kryvonos described the further need in Ukraine for an information service center based on the Internet, which could be supported by legal firms and civic organizations in Ukraine and abroad.

In his presentation, "Analysis: Ukraine's newest 'Law on the Judiciary,'" Judge Futey outlined the organizational system of the courts of general jurisdiction in Ukraine. It comprises local courts, courts of appeal, a cassation court, higher special courts (including commercial courts), and the Supreme Court of Ukraine. There is a separate Constitutional Court, which has the right to pass on the constitutionality of laws and actions of the executive branch, and also to interpret laws. A positive step was the adoption last year of the Land Code, providing for private ownership of land. The new court system does represent progress as compared with the past.

A persistent problem for Ukraine's judiciary is the lack of a reliable mechanism for enforcing court decisions. Furthermore, there exists a possibility of conflict, as the State Court Administration, which administers the budget of the Judiciary, will be part of the executive branch. What Ukraine needs is the establishment of an independent, apolitical judiciary, without which there cannot be a state based on the rule of law, stressed Judge Futey.

According to Judge Futey, there are several reasons for the difficulties foreign investors have been experiencing in Ukraine, among them the absence of adequate legislation, e.g., civil and commercial codes, a tax code and a procedural code. Dr. Futey said he is optimistic that Ukraine's judiciary can be reformed, in particular with the aid of professional organizations of lawyers, judges and academic jurists.

Corporate management laws and a search for transparent mechanisms for the protection of investors' rights were the topics explored by Dr. Olena Scherbyna, a jurist from the Kyiv National University Law School, and a

practicing attorney, whose specialty is corporate governance and international business law.

In the Ukrainian model, the general assembly of shareholders constitutes the supreme organ of corporate governance, while a monitoring council represents and protects the rights of investors. In reality, said Dr. Shcherbyna, the monitoring council is often appointed by the management, while a lack of provision for voting by proxy makes it difficult for shareholders' meetings to offer a counterbalance. As a result, shareholders have little control over the actions of the management.

What is indispensable for Ukraine, said Dr. Shcherbyna, is further substantive and procedural reforms of the legislative basis for corporate management, which would enact the necessary legal codes taking into account international experience.

"Ukraine's Developing Tax Laws vis-à-vis Dynamic Stimuli for Business Development" was the subject discussed by Dr. Mykhailo Kharenko, a jurist from the Kyiv National University and the Columbia University Law Schools. Dr. Kharenko is an expert on Ukraine's financial and banking laws, and has practiced in Ukraine and London.

Dr. Kharenko traced the development of business in Ukraine as a function of the changing tax laws. The tax abatements for foreign and joint investments introduced in 1992 led to an increase in the investment activity, but they were repealed in 1996. Subsequent tax policy has focused on favoring small and medium-sized businesses. A positive innovation was the creation of free economic zones, which enjoy favorable treatment regarding taxes, import-export duties and currency exchanges.

The speaker called for a number of complex reforms in the area of taxation, especially the adoption of a tax code. Investors in Ukraine must be convinced that their capital is protected by a judicial system that serves as a reliable guarantor of stability, and a predictable taxation system, concluded Dr. Kharenko.

The last speaker was Dr. Olena Kibenko, associate professor of securities/corporate law at the Kharkiv National Law University and a senior visiting scholar at the law schools of both West Virginia University and the

University of Baltimore. Dr. Kibenko, who serves as counsel to Ukraine's Monetary Fund and is a widely published expert on corporate and securities laws in Ukraine as compared to the common law systems in Great Britain and the United States, took polite issue with some of the negative depictions of Ukraine's current foreign investment climate that were offered by preceding speakers.

She stated that in the past decade Ukraine has conducted a progressively proactive legislative policy of attracting foreign investments into its national economy, as evidenced by some 300 legislative acts and 44 bilateral international agreements that were enacted to promote and protect domestic and foreign investment. The many favorable, but self-conflicting, laws affecting foreign investment in the early 1990s were mostly replaced by 1999, she explained, creating a bad investment image of Ukraine as a country that reneges on its legal obligations, and that image continues to linger.

The years 2000-2002, however, have seen a dramatic positive turnaround. Foreign investments have increased in various free economic zones, as well as in the majority of the territories and industries selected for priority development. Moreover, laws have been passed to allow participation by foreigners in the privatization process, added Dr. Kibenko. This development also included the lifting of the long-standing prohibition against foreign ownership of non-agricultural land.

Prof. Kibenko noted that as of January 2002 foreign investment in Ukraine amounted to only \$4.4 billion, corresponding to \$85 capita of the country's population – well below the corresponding figures for other East European countries and Russia. Nevertheless, in the year 2001 foreigners realized a 57.1 percent return on their investments in Ukraine, prompting the J.P. Morgan International Investment Bank to place Ukraine at the top of the list of most attractive countries for overall investment.

The current more favorable investment climate in Ukraine has led some financial analysts to compare Ukraine to the "Asian Tigers," referring to it as "Crouching Tiger II" – all cause for guarded optimism, concluded Dr. Kibenko.

# Volodymyr Klychko in Atlantic City: the view from the stands

by Adrian Bryttan

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. – “Klychko, Klychko!” The true believers were assembled here to bear witness. “Klychko, Klychko!” Every eye in the Mark G. Etess Arena at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City was focused on the passage where he would make his entrance. Four rows of the press corps were poised behind their glowing laptops and phone lines. On two elevated platforms HBO had set up its cameras and the pre-fight interviews were winding down. The chants of the faithful grew more insistent. “Klychko, Klychko!”

Sporting blue-and-yellow T-shirts, a phalanx of Ukrainian supporters from Chicago was working the crowd into a trance. In every direction you could see blue and yellow flags, pennants, war paint on faces and shaved skulls, yellow tridents on arms, blue-and-yellow capes and jogging suits. Some more temperate fans showed up in embroidered shirts and one blonde girl pinned a red poppy behind her ear. After all, this was Ukraine’s 1996 Olympic boxing champion and the World Boxing Organization’s heavy-weight champion.

The hypnotic mantra kept trying to win over the gods of fortune. “Klychko, Klychko!”

(Meanwhile, in the main casino right across the hallway from the arena, thousands more also were courting their luck over hundreds of gambling tables and oceans of slot machines with names like Betty Boop’s Big Hit, Betty Boop’s Roaring ‘20s, Born to Boop and this mind numbing medley: Diamond Winners, Double Diamond, Double Double Diamond, Triple Diamond, Triple Double Diamond and the supreme Triple Diamond Deluxe. The gamblers’ mantra was the unrelenting barrage of metallic and twangy buzzes, bells, drones, bells, jangles and whistles from all these machines, flooding the ear like a nightmarish amalgamation of Hare Krishna processions and gamelan orchestras from Bali.)

In the arena, the time of reckoning was close at hand. “Klychko, Klychko!” The 5,000-seat arena verged on the frenzy of a revival meeting, rallied by the Ukrainian fans. Volodymyr Klychko (spelled Wladimir Klychko based on the German rendering of his name, since he trains in Germany), 26 years old and WBO champion (“the biggest one on the way up” and “the only one who might beat Lennox Lewis,” according to some TV oracles) would soon make his appearance. His opponent, Ray Mercer, had already climbed into the 18-foot-ring but he was not the zealots’ chosen one.

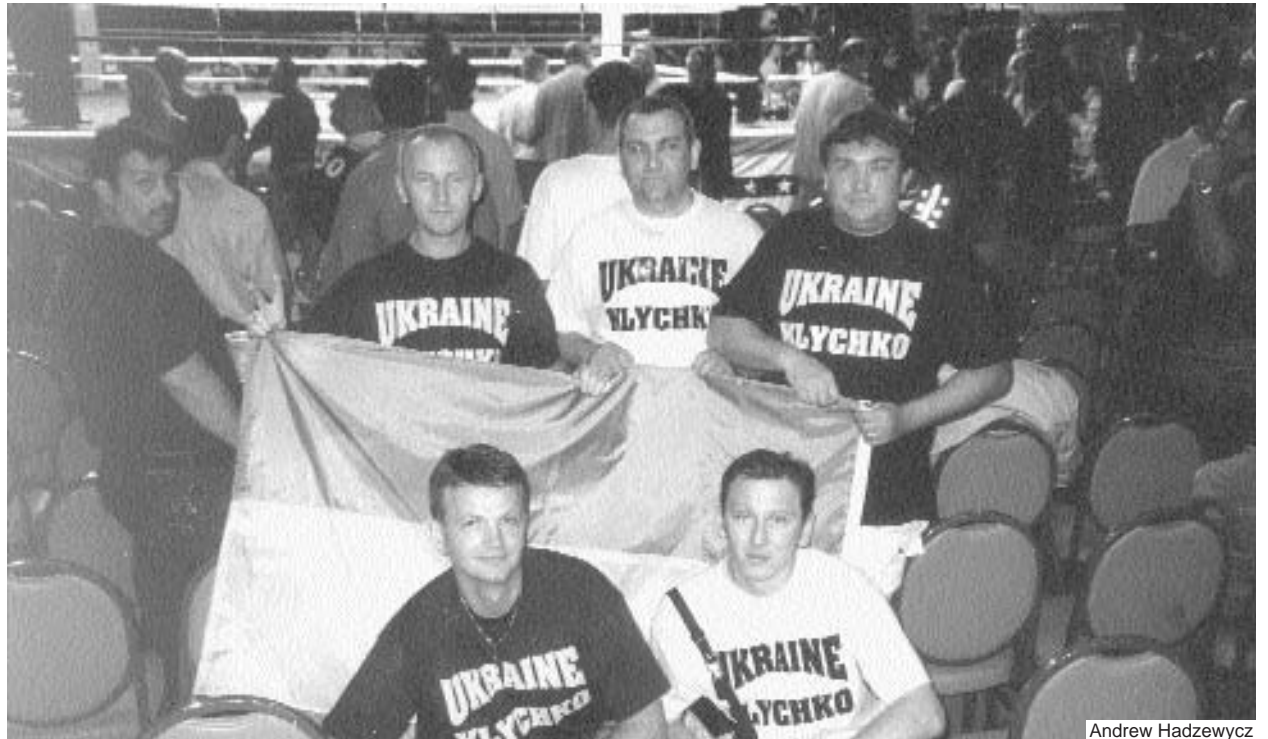
One poster predicted: “Klitschkos’ Power Is Coming.” (Perhaps a reference to the two Klychkos, Volodymyr and his brother, Vitalii.) His flock clamored with new ardor for their prophet. “Klych-ko, Klych-ko, Klych-ko!!!!” Suddenly his trainer and cornermen materialized and the ritual was almost complete. Now the chants mutated into “U-kra-i-na, U-kra-i-na ... Klych-ko, Klych-ko!” A wave of noise and screams piled on the decibels as the gladiator for the 21st century, Volodymyr Klychko, in a centurion-red robe with gold trim began his resolute march towards the squared circle.

Just a short escalator ride from the arena and casino is a memorabilia gift shop where you can buy anything from autographed movie posters for \$850 to a guitar once strummed by Elvis for \$75,000. Also available is the sword used in the film “Gladiator” for \$25,000. As it turned out on that night of June 29, not even Russell Crowe’s Roman body armor complete with shield would have protected the overmatched 41-year-old Ray Mercer from his rival’s sharpshooting skills. Klychko needed just 16 minutes and 8 seconds to inflict a bloody TKO on his frustrated and out-classed adversary in the sixth round.

After the fight I had an opportunity to interview Teddy Atlas, the expert commentator seen every week on ESPN2’s “Friday Night Fights.” Mr. Atlas has over 30 years’ experience in the world of boxing and is a leader in the movement to establish a Federal Commission which would set and enforce standards and clean up the sport.

Our first topic, naturally, was the Klychko-Mercer bout. The crowd noise was deceptive because, according to Mr. Atlas’ sources, the fight was not well attended and only half of the 5,000 seats were filled. While the HBO broadcasters praised Klychko after the fight, they maintained that a future fight with Lennox Lewis would have to take place in Europe because there is not enough support here for Klychko.

(Now just imagine if only a couple thousand more Ukrainian fans had come to Atlantic City that Saturday night to add to the relatively few but vocal enthusiasts. Here was a lost opportunity to draw attention to the Ukrainian presence which could have ramifications far beyond the world of boxing. As it was, HBO did not broadcast the picture of Klychko draping a blue-and-yellow flag over his shoulders after the bout.)



A group of dedicated fans from Chicago who traveled two days by car to support Volodymyr Klychko.

“The Mercer fight was more like a controlled sparring session in a training camp,” Mr. Atlas said. “Ray Mercer is 41 years old and he’d have trouble getting licensed again after that performance, I would hope. Now, having said all that, Klychko has good size, talent, speed and power, and possesses a certain technical understanding. But he wasn’t really tested that night. He was shaken by a couple of jabs and I noticed he can get hit with right hands over jabs.”

“I don’t think he’s ready yet for Lennox Lewis,” Mr. Atlas continued. “At some point in every round he stands straight up and can get hit. I could envision Lewis knocking him out with right hands. But remember, at this time it’s a barren landscape with many corrupt and splintered organizations. So it’s still possible he’ll get a title without being truly tested.”

“Boxing is the server of truth, however, and sooner or later the truth will come out,” he noted. “There remains the question of Klychko’s quitting once in a previous fight. Now, maybe he’s matured but so far there’s no evidence that he has and no evidence that he hasn’t. Someone will have to test him and we will see if he graduates through more difficult situations.”

“We all want to see people tested and overcome difficulties by sheer will and determination,” he continued. “In our own lives we might have to stand up to our boss or in other personal situations and so we get hope. We say ‘I wish I could do that’ and use the same resolve that we see in the ring. We recognize the pitched battle in all its nakedness: all birthrights, all privileges are taken away and you are left only with your will, your mind and your ability to develop your skills. Even though you may have been born with less physique, less brains or whatever – still, with resolve, disci-

pline and training, there is hope.”

There were six bouts that evening in Atlantic City and tickets were from \$75 to \$350. It was all packaged, of course, as “entertainment”: elegantly tuxedoed and stentorian announcers, dramatic entrance music, gleaming red and white ring ropes, siliconed ring card girls, even the fairy tale themes (“Casbah,” “Taj Mahal,” “Caesar’s Palace”) of the casinos themselves. The only magical thing about the casinos is how swiftly your money will disappear.

As the preliminary bouts progressed, the show biz element increased with the higher skill levels. Welterweight Anthony “The Messenger” Thompson danced into the ring dressed in gold and silver bearing the star of David on his robe. His cheering section from Philadelphia included women and little girls (some also in gold and silver robes), evidently there for his spiritual needs as well as to provide encouragement during the fight. They stood, swayed, hopped around and filled the arena with screeches and yells for all four rounds. (One particularly volatile woman looked like she herself might have given either one of the combatants a good tussle in the ring.) Thompson’s congregation sounded like a combination of a crowd at a street fight and a revival meeting. After four punishing rounds, The Messenger’s opponent was shown the error of his ways. But the penance was stiff and he was pretty much a mess at the end, spitting blood into a white Taj Mahal plastic gambling bucket between the later rounds.

This was not like the “Rocky” movies where boxers get hit with hundreds of solid, audio-enhanced, blows and walk away with only puffed lips and black eyes. What about the medical trauma, injuries and deaths, and what

(Continued on page 13)



Among the banners and blue-and-yellow trappings brought by Ukrainian fans into the arena was this one, foretelling a Klychko victory.

# Klychko resoundingly defends his WBO title in bout against Mercer

by Jaroslav Kernitski

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. – More than 500 people joined the Klychko Brothers Fan Club on Saturday, June 29, to support Volodymyr Klychko in his defense of the World Boxing Organization heavyweight championship title against Ray Mercer at the Trump Taj Mahal arena.

Ukrainian national flags were all around the arena, especially in the fan club section, which was blooming with blue and yellow. Klychko said after the fight that he had never seen so many Ukrainian flags before, and that fan support helped him in the fight.

The 26-year-old Ukrainian retained his title, winning by technical knockout (TKO) with 1 minute, 8 seconds left in the sixth round. Mercer, whose record was 30-4-1 with 22 knockouts, was bloodied and humbled. In defeating Mercer by TKO, Klychko (whose record before this bout was 38-1 with 35 knockouts) did what no other fighter in the world had ever done.

The Ukrainian lowered the steel hammer on Mercer late in the first round, knocking him off his feet with two quick, stunning left hooks. Mercer lay flat on his back, but got up at the count of six. "I hit him and I was surprised he fell down," Klychko said. "He took a lot of punches and made the fight longer. It was not so much healthy for him, but he had to make that decision."

"He caught me with a big punch in the first round and I never regrouped," Mercer said.

Klychko was powerful and quick, but he also took tough punches. Mercer gave Klychko a welt over his right eye. However, Klychko dominated in punches thrown, 429 to 124, and in punches landed, 193 to 54.

"I never faced a guy with such a strong chin," Klychko said at a press conference after the fight. "It's the strongest chin in the world. It's like punching wood."

The performance by the 6-foot-7-inch, 243-pound Ukrainian again proved his reputation as the heavyweight division's next big thing.

"This was tough work for me, but I was ready for it," said Klychko, who earned \$1.2 million for the fight while Mercer received \$650,000. "It was very important to be here – every European fighter wants to fight here because America is the mecca for boxing. This was a beginning.



Jaroslav Kernitski

Ray Mercer challenges Volodymyr Klychko in the bout billed as "Guts and Glory."

Professional boxing is a show," Klychko said, "and people want to enjoy the show."

Tommy Brooks, who once trained Mike Tyson and is now on the Klychko team, said he would prefer to see Klychko fight at least once or twice more before engaging Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation champ. He said Klychko's career is taking the form of "the dance, the prom and then the big ball. Klychko is at the prom stage."

"I feel myself very safe, very prepared, very ready to fight against Lewis," Klychko said. "The thing everyone has to remember is that Lennox Lewis could stop boxing at any time, at any moment, on any day. I do not want to take that chance. I don't think it would be so easy for Lewis to fight me. I have a quicker jab. I have what it takes to beat him."

Klychko thanked all the fans who had travelled to Atlantic City for his fourth defense of his WBO title and asked them to bring more fans for the next fight.



Volodymyr Klychko and his brother, Vitalii, triumphantly hold aloft the WBO championship belt.

## Volodymyr Klychko...

(Continued from page 12)

about the bloodlust of some of the fans?

"I'm not going to tell you that boxing isn't dangerous and that people don't get hurt," Mr. Atlas said. "Football is more hazardous, but it's not fashionable to discuss the very real risks there. A study conducted by the University of North Carolina covering the last 30 years found, on the average, 18 deaths per year among high school football players. This doesn't include serious injuries like paralysis, nor does it include college and pro players. I don't think there were that many deaths in boxing over the last 10 years combined."

"Yes, it's dangerous," he continued, "but we're trying to make it as safe as we can. At least in boxing, unlike football, you see when it's coming at you. Think of that next time you hear football fans scream 'great hit!' and the player cartwheels through the air before being slammed to the ground."

"Boxing serves to help a lot of young men find their way. It's a lot cheaper than some politically contrived programs that cost taxpayers millions of dollars but don't necessarily help those people nor society," Mr. Atlas offered. "On the other hand, Klychko is an educated man ... other boxers

have also been lawyers and other professionals as well. They do it because of the glory of the sport: overcoming difficulties and overcoming getting hit by displaying mental and physical courage."

For the past four years, Mr. Atlas has been a leader in calling for the creation of a national commission to clean up boxing. Recently the International Boxing Federation was indicted by federal courts and found guilty of racketeering and selling ratings after being caught on video accepting money in a hotel room. For a long time people had thought that corruption existed; now all doubts were removed.

Sen. John McCain stated that at least we knew in the past who the champion was, but what we have now with all the alphabet soup splinter groups is "just a mockery." The senator was interviewed by Mr. Atlas on ESPN2. Sen. McCain was an amateur fighter and wants to restore boxing to the "sweet science when it was at its best" and to clean up the bad mismatches, judging and refereeing. "There are too many stories of boxers manipulated, abused and then left by the wayside."

Mr. Atlas recently submitted testimony to the Senate in support of the bill introduced by Sen. McCain to create a Federal Boxing Commission.

"The WBA and WBC are similar institu-

tions, and we need to get rid of them too," explained Mr. Atlas. "All these splinter organizations are disgraceful, and we need to put the ratings in control of legitimate people. Right now in boxing we have a situation like the 'Wild West.' We must create a national commission to provide leadership and structure, to establish and enforce strict guidelines. Judging has been inconsistent. We should set criteria and suspend the bad judges. We need unilateral medical standards. One state may require CAT scans and heart exams, while in another state all you need to show is a pulse.

There should also be stricter guidelines on who can be a trainer. Trainers can stop the fight before the referee and right now some people are doing terrible damage because of their lack of knowledge or experience. Also there should be more monitoring in gyms; suspended fighters often continue training even though they are forbidden to set foot in the gym."

"The world is changing," HBO's Larry Merchant stated after the fight, referring to Klychko's comment about prize fighting becoming global. Volodymyr Klychko is a charming and personable young man with a good sense of humor and has the potential to become a media star. (He suggested a pre-fight chess match with Lennox Lewis to be refereed by Gary Kasparov. And before

this last bout, he smilingly told the TV audience: "please watch this fight because every second ... anything can happen" – a refreshing change from the prefight insults and brawls some boxers have incorporated from the world of professional wrestling.)

With all the growing attention focused on Volodymyr Klychko, and the concurrent efforts by people like Sen. McCain and Teddy Atlas to clean up the sport and bring back the "golden era" to boxing, it would be fortuitous if the Ukrainian government and sports bodies allied themselves with Mr. Atlas and the senator. Wouldn't it be admirable if Ukraine became the model nation for all the needed reforms in boxing?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if whenever the Klychkos and others like them fight, Ukrainian fans throughout the world would not only pack the arenas but also make their will known to the officials in Kyiv and spearhead the movement to do something beneficial and far-reaching for the sport and for themselves? It's a unique opportunity at this point in time.

As Mr. Atlas might say: "with resolve and will, there is hope."

Adrian Bryttan's e-mail address is a.bryttan@att.net.

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## UABA files...

(Continued from page 3)

terization of Rukh is not warranted based on the evidence of the case. The action was an appeal by the INS of a 1996 case in which a father and son, both Jewish, had applied for asylum to the United States.

In their asylum application, the father and son recounted several instances of anti-Semitic action against them. The father claimed that, in addition to being Jewish, he was persecuted because he had made a public speech advocating unification with Russia. However, the UABA contends that this evidence does not warrant labeling Rukh as persecutory. In two of the incidents, both beatings, the attackers used anti-Semitic and anti-Russian terms, but in neither incident were the attackers identified as Rukh members. Another complaint involved the son's school forcing him to read "nationalist literature promulgated by Rukh," in 1991. The decision left unclear just what this meant, so the UABA questioned whether it was simply literature favoring Ukraine's independence and democratization.

The following excerpt from the court's decision was used to justify its characterization of Rukh: "On February 12, 1992, he [the father] attended a political rally at which he gave a short speech promoting democracy and unification with Russia. Immediately after he finished his speech, someone grabbed him and began to beat him. He recognized the insignia on the clothing of his attacker as a symbol of 'Rukh,' a nationalistic, pro-Ukrainian independence movement. ... That evening he discovered a leaflet from Rukh in his pocket with the message 'Kikes, get away from Ukraine.' He testified that he began to receive similar anti-Semitic leaflets at home in his mailbox or slipped under the door. ...

"In March 1992, a month after the attack at the rally, the respondent's apartment was vandalized. The door had been broken down, furniture was ripped open, some of his possessions were stolen, others were smashed, and a half dozen leaflets from Rukh were left at the scene. The leaflets warned that 'kikes' and 'Moskali,' a derogatory term for Russian nationals living in Ukraine, should leave Ukraine to the Ukrainians."

The UABA complains that the conclusion that Rukh was responsible for these acts is unjustified. It is possible that another group simply purchased a Rukh insignia, which Mr. Bolyuk testified is available at any corner store, in an effort to cast Rukh in an anti-Semitic light. Also, it is unlikely that such an attack would have occurred in Kharkiv. Kharkiv is a largely Russian area, so it would not make sense for Rukh to alienate its base of potential members by attacking people partly because of their Russian ethnicity. Lastly, even if the attackers were members of Rukh, it does not mean that they were acting on behalf of Rukh. The UABA brief compares the court's decision to labeling the Democratic Party in the United States as racist because a few party members committed violence against African Americans.

The UABA brief also expresses concern that, although the court cited the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1996 to show that Jews had received death threats in Kharkiv, it did not mention that no Country Report has ever accused Rukh of anti-Semitism. The UABA also wrote that it knows of no human rights organization that has made such a characterization.

The UABA argues that labeling Rukh as anti-Semitic is antithetical to the real

(Continued on page 15)

## UABA files...

(Continued from page 14)

nature of Rukh. Formed by members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and what the brief refers to as the cultural intelligentsia, Rukh's purpose was the democratization of the Soviet Union and, later, the independence of Ukraine.

The Rukh program that appeared in *Literaturna Ukraina* on February 16, 1989, clearly demonstrates that the fundamental ideology of Rukh opposes anti-Semitism:

"The Popular Movement [Rukh] of Ukraine for Perebudova [perestroika, restructuring] is a mass voluntary organization based on the patriotic initiative of the citizens of the Ukrainian SSR – Ukrainians, Russians, Jews, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Poles, Moldavians – of all nationalities living on Ukrainian territory. ...

"The main goal of the movement is to assist the Communist Party in the creation and functioning of the democratic mechanism and the promotion of societal development. The democratic mechanism is to be founded on genuine people's power and on a balanced economy. The movement opposes any infraction in the social, political, national and ecological rights of the individual. The movement aspires to raise the level of consciousness, the political culture and the public activism of the Ukrainian nation [narod] and of all the nationalities living within the Ukrainian SSR; to revive and consolidate national awareness and internationalist convictions in all the republic's citizens. The movement will vigorously oppose any attempt to assimilate any national minority living within Ukraine. It will support the development of the culture and education of every single minority. In areas in which minority populations are highly concentrated, the movement supports minority self-government. The movement condemns all propaganda of national annihilation and nihilism as amoral and inhuman. ...

"Repressions of any kind – for political, social, racial, national or religious reasons – are inadmissible.

"The movement defends the people's right to espouse any religious faith or to be non-believers, to take part in religious services or to propagate atheism."

This commitment to the rights of minorities continues to this day, the UABA argues. The UABA brief cites Prof. Taras Kuzio as writing of the Our Ukraine election bloc, a successor to Rukh: "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 Hurfits. Our Ukraine's party list also includes Crimean Tatars and ethnic Russians."

The UABA brief even questions the characterization of Rukh as being "nationalist," quoting again from Prof. Kuzio: "Center-right parties, such as Rukh, should not be defined as 'nationalists' but as center-right conservatives or republicans. Their nationality policies are far more liberal than those commonly found among center-right parties in liberal democracies (which makes their definition as 'nationalists' difficult to square)."

The UABA states that it is also difficult to reconcile the court's characterization of Rukh as a persecutory organization whose members can be automatically barred from receiving asylum with the respect United States officials exhibited for Mr. Chornovil, the leader of Rukh, after his death.

President Bill Clinton wrote to Atena Pashko, Mr. Chornovil's widow: "It was with great sorrow that I learned of the tragic death of your husband, Vyacheslav

Chornovil. He elicited our greatest respect for his courageous defense of human rights and the hardships he endured during the Soviet period.

"Mr. Chornovil was also much admired for his devotion to the task of building a democratic Ukraine. He will be well and long remembered for his contributions to his people and to the cause of freedom in Ukraine," he noted.

Similar statements, the UABA adds, were issued by former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine Steven Pifer and William Green Miller.

### Hopes of influencing the BIA

As Mr. Michniak emphasized, the UABA cannot have the decision characterizing Rukh as an anti-Semitic organization overturned, since it has already become precedent. However, in filing the amicus curiae brief, Mr. Michniak said it is possible to convince the BIA that the characterization of Rukh as anti-Semitic and persecutory should not be applied to the case of Mr. Bolyuk, since the prior characterization was limited to the facts of the case of the Jewish father and son. The BIA might be persuaded that the attacks on the father and son notwithstanding – even if these were indeed perpetrated by Rukh members in the name of Rukh – that Rukh itself did not sanction the attacks and Rukh's ideology is opposed to such acts.

The UABA president said he hopes the BIA decides that the immigration court should not have focused so much attention on Mr. Bolyuk's involvement in an allegedly persecutory group. After all, he went into the court seeking asylum for persecution and left trying to demonstrate that he himself was not involved in persecution. The UABA wants to make sure that no one can be labeled a persecutor based on membership in Rukh alone without specific evidence regarding the case at hand. The action of the UABA is specifically limited to the case of Mr. Bolyuk, but a decision of the BIA regarding the issues raised in amicus brief could become precedent if the BIA so chooses, Mr. Michniak noted.

The UABA brief will also provide the courts with information in their libraries that they can reference should they ever need information on Rukh. This is important, since the characterization of Rukh as anti-Semitic is applicable not just to asylum cases, but could also be used to deny immigrants residence in the United States.

Unfortunately, the UABA was not able to file an amicus brief earlier when the "Matter of O-Z & I-Z" was being reviewed by the BIA in 1998, Mr. Michniak said, because it is difficult to find out about such cases. Generally they are publicized only after the decision is published. At that point it is not possible to have any input on the case since it has already been decided. The UABA was able to find out about Mr. Bolyuk's case because a member of the UABA Board of Governors knew the attorney representing Mr. Bolyuk in Connecticut.

The UABA has been involved in asylum cases in the past, most notably when Ukrainian sailor Myroslav Medvid was sent back to the USSR after twice applying for asylum in the United States. The UABA sued the United States secretary of state for his handling of the matter.

In addition to such legal action, the UABA – an organization of Ukrainian American attorneys, judges and law students – organizes conferences, provides opportunities for networking, and awards scholarships to law students. The association also assists the U.S. government and private foundations who are trying to implement rule of law projects in Ukraine, as well as establishing contacts between members of the legal profession in the United States and Ukraine.



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### 35 killed...

(Continued from page 1)

570-meter level where the fire began. Most died from the toxic fumes. Eleven miners were hospitalized, none with life-threatening injuries.

Because the fire continued to burn four days after the initial incident and temperatures hovered around 600 degrees early on, rescuers did not have access to the bodies and the source of the inferno for 24 hours. While the cause was still unknown, emergency workers and coal miners were speculating that a short circuit in a conveyor belt had caused the disaster.

On July 10 First Vice Prime Minister Oleh Dubyna visited the devastated mine and said that the shoddy conditions in the mine and the terrible work discipline were to blame for the tragedy.

"The deaths could have been averted very easily," he told reporters, according to Studio 1+1 Television.

Investigators are speculating that if certain workers responsible for safety had been at their work stations they could have easily extinguished the fire when it first broke out. According to Studio 1+1 Television, experts at the scene investigating the tragedy said they believed a bucket or two of water could have extinguished the blaze. Mr. Dubyna blamed the mine's management for a laissez-faire attitude to the mine and its workers.

The Ukraina mine has relatively new coal dust screens and ventilation systems, but the essential machinery that mines the coal and carries it to the surface is among the oldest in Ukraine, according to various news accounts.

Although an article in the Parliament newspaper Holos Ukrainy quoted Serhii Luniov, director of the Donetsk department of the State Department for Labor Safety, as saying that the mine met all safety standards for toxic and coal dust emissions, it also noted that two months ago, during a joint session of the Ministry of

Energy and Mr. Luniov's agency, the Ukraina mine was singled out as the area's least safe.

On July 9 President Leonid Kuchma declared a day of mourning for the deceased miners, while Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh announced that the relatives of the deceased would be extended government financial support.

In his first words after setting down on Ukrainian soil, NATO Secretary General George Robertson expressed his condolences to the relatives after arriving at Kyiv's Boryspil Airport on July 8. Two days later, during a previously scheduled visit to Donetsk, he honored Ukraine's miners with a visit to a monument to their dead. There he explained that he knew well their plight and the plight of the families from his 21 years representing a mining region in the British Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Verkhovna Rada opened its weekly session on July 9 with a moment of silence in memory of the dead. Afterwards, the national deputies voted to donate a single day's compensation from their monthly salaries of 1,400 hrv. Because 34 lawmakers voted against such a proposal, each national deputy was asked to make his declaration with the legislative secretariat individually.

More than 3,400 miners have died in various disasters related to their work over the course of the last decade, according to Interfax-Ukraine. Citing a July 6 government resolution on a program of enhanced workers' safety in the mining industry, the report noted that there have been 702 underground fires, 38 coal dust explosions, 78 methane explosions and 1,400 cave-ins and avalanches in Ukraine in the last 10 years.

While Ukraine ranks 10th in the world in coal extraction, it is first in deaths, according to Interfax. Of the 190 working coal mines in Ukraine, 90 percent contain dangerous levels of methane and 60 percent exceed safe coal dust levels.



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# Yevshan choir performs annual concert at West Hartford Town Hall

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. – The Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble appeared in its annual spring concert at the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium. Comprising 34 singers from eight parishes across Connecticut, the choir drew an enthusiastic response from a diverse audience of music lovers.

The first half of the May 19 program featured liturgical works by Bortniansky, Leontovych, Koshetz and Stetsenko, as well as a premiere of a new liturgical work by Ohio-based composer Yuri Hodovanec. The ensemble also performed an early motet "The Body of Christ" (Tilo Khrystove) that traces its roots to a Slovenian monastery. The first half concluded with Bortniansky's rousing Easter choral concerto No. 34, "Let God Arise" (Khai voskresne Boh).

In the second half of the concert, Yevshan performed a wide variety of rarely heard folk songs and secular works, including new arrangements by Julian Kytasty and Yevshan's music director Alexander Kuzma. For its final three selections, the choir was joined by a talented trio of sibling bandurists from Yonkers, New York. Boyan, Ruslana and Vsevolod Makarenko, reinforced



The Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble under the direction of Alexander Kuzma at a recent concert in West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium.

Yevshan's bandura trio of Daria Richardson, Christina Jamahian and Irene Kytasty-Kuzma in a performance of "Woe to the Lapwing" (Oi Hore Tii Chaitsi) and a humorous minstrel ballad "Trouble" (Pro Bidu) by Demutsky, arranged for choir and bandura ensemble by Mr. Kytasty.

The concert received extensive advance publicity on Connecticut's public radio stations as well as a full-length feature article in the Connecticut Post that delved into the history of the bandura and the revival of Ukrainian musical traditions.

Yevshan has been invited to perform in a joint concert on December 8 with the highly regarded ensemble, Chorale Connecticut, at Welte Auditorium on the campus of Central Connecticut State University. The program, entitled "An Old World Christmas" will feature carols and classical works from Ukraine, England, Germany and Italy. For more information, or to audition for "Yevshan" contact Ihor Stasiuk at (860) 621-0661.



A brigade of young ushers who distributed programs for the Yevshan concert. From left to right: Lida Kowinko, Yuri Slabickyj, Ojes Kowinko, Alina Kuzma, Stefko Slabickyj, Oles Fylypiw, with Maria Norton and Kerry Ann Bennett.

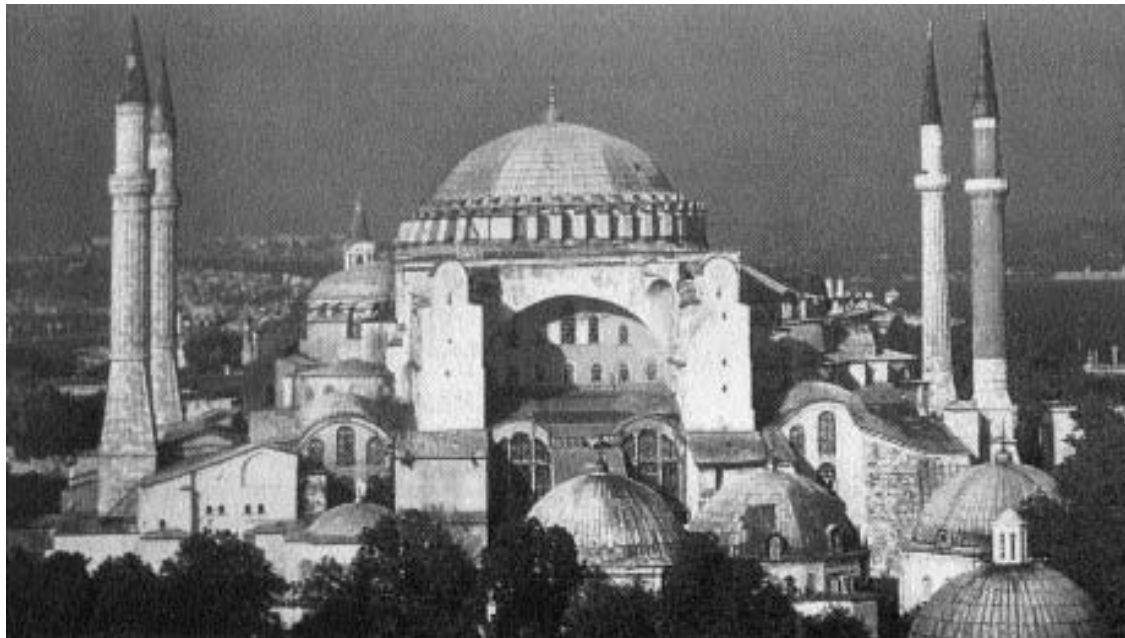
## Correction

In the July 7 news story about the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), which should have been credited to Dr. Orest Popovych, a phrase was missing from the second paragraph. The text should have read: "Although such a convention of USCAK had been tentatively scheduled for October 2002, and registration forms as well as questionnaires pertaining to it were sent out to all Ukrainian sports and youth organizations, the response has been so disappointing that the convention had to be postponed until the spring of 2003."

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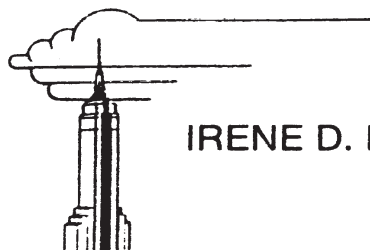
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## Savella Stechishin...

(Continued from page 4)

"Cultural Treasures: Ukrainian Embroidery" that was based on her avid interest in Ukrainian folk arts and her determination to make them an integral part of Canadian culture.

In 1975 she published a Ukrainian-language book documenting the history of the first branch of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, "The Fifty-Year (1923-1973) Anniversary of the Ukrainian Women's Association, Olha Kobylanska Branch in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan."

Mrs. Stechishin assisted her husband in writing a 500-page textbook titled "Ukrainian Grammar" (1951), which was used by English-speaking schools, colleges and universities throughout the world.

After the untimely death of her husband, Mrs. Stechishin took it upon herself to assume responsibility for an ambitious project that he had started: to research and write a book titled "The History of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada." Undaunted by the magnitude of the task, she persevered and successfully completed the project. The original book was published in Ukrainian in 1971; in 1992 it was published in English translation.

Her late husband, Julian, was a lawyer, writer, author, scholar, lecturer, teacher and community activist. He was one of the original founders of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada in 1918 in Saskatoon. Mrs. Stechishin assisted him and, at her death, was the last remaining member of this original group.

The leadership role that Mrs. Stechishin played in all the organizations she established or helped to establish involved much work and personal sacrifice. The types of demands that were placed on her time and her energy were wide-ranging: formulating goals, organizing meetings and conferences, traveling throughout Canada, the United States and Ukraine delivering speeches, and contributing articles concerning women's issues to various Ukrainian newspapers and periodicals, both in Canada and in western Ukraine prior to its incorporation into the Soviet Union at the beginning of the second world war. With a family comprising three children, she had to be very well organized and prepared to do a lot of juggling and improvising.

Mrs. Stechishin received numerous awards throughout her lifetime. The most notable among them were the following:

- 1962 – The Taras Shevchenko Medal was presented to her by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. This is the highest award bestowed by the Ukrainian Canadian community on individuals who have made an outstanding effort and accomplished extraordinary deeds in the Ukrainian Canadian community. It is a public recognition of a lifetime of tireless and selfless work because it was given freely out of love for the community and not for personal gain.

- 1974 – The Kelowna, British Columbia, branch of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada was named the Savella Stechishin Branch.

- 1975 – She was named Woman of the Year (during International Women's Year) by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

- 1975 – She was named Outstanding

Saskatoon Woman by the Civic Committee on the Status of Women, City of Saskatoon.

- 1976 – She received an honorary doctorate of canon law from St. Andrew's College, University of Manitoba.

- 1980 – She was named a Notable Saskatchewan Woman on the province's 75th anniversary in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the development of Saskatchewan.

- 1989 – She was named to the University of Saskatchewan Faculty of Home Economics Living Hall of Fame on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary.

- 1989 – She was appointed to the Order of Canada, the country's highest distinction for citizens of outstanding merit and public service.

- 1992 – She was awarded a medal commemorating the Ukrainian centenary of settlement in Canada as one of 100 outstanding Canadians of Ukrainian heritage who contributed to the development of Canada.

- 1992 – She was awarded a medal by the governor general of Canada commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada.

- 1995 – She was presented the Nation Builders Award from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council, in recognition of her contribution to the development of Saskatchewan.

- 1997 – She was honored in Kyiv for her many contributions in the field of Ukrainian culture and to the Ukrainian women's movement.

- 1997 – She was inducted into the Saskatoon Council of the Women's Hall of Fame on Person's Day.

- 1997 – She was selected as the subject for a master's thesis in history by Natalie Ostryzniuk (University of Regina) devoted to the most productive years of her life (1920-1945) and their far-reaching effects.

- 1998 – She was appointed to the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honor.

Mrs. Stechishin's legacy lives on. She passed on her love of her heritage to her children and grandchildren and to the countless women whose lives she touched.

She will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, Zenia, of Toronto; son, Dr. Myron (and wife Emily) of Edmonton; grandchildren, Danovia (Scott) Stefura of Toronto, Gordon Stechishin of Edmonton, John (Susan) Stetch/Stechishin of New York City, Gregory (Jo-Ann Sturko) Stechishin of Edmonton, Andrea (Anton) Lakusta of Edmonton, and Dr. Mallory Stechishin-Kozoriz (Grant) of San Francisco; great-grandsons, Eliajah and Gabriel Stefura; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Stechishin joins in peaceful eternity her husband, Julian; son, Anatole; parents, Trofym and Eva Wawryniuk; half brother, John; half sister, Mokryna Worobey; brothers, Thomas (Apolonari) Warnock and Eugene Warnick; sisters, Mary Charko-Nowosad, Helen Worobetz and Stephania Magus; and daughters-in-law, Olha and Claudia.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Andrew's College (Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary), University of Manitoba, 29 Dysart Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2M7, or any charity of the donor's choice.

## Chemical plant...

(Continued from page 7)

even for the electricity needed to keep the pumps working to remove the water that has accumulated in the vast chasms beneath the surface.

The Lviv Oblast energy company Lvivoblenerho regularly shuts down electrical supplies to Polymineral and has

threatened to turn off the power for a full day, which could lead to the flooding of the current kainite reserves, thought to number 2 billion tons, not to mention a steep increase in the risk of a regional calamity. And while no threats have been executed to date, neither has anyone discovered a way out of the predicament and the danger that confronts the Stebnyk region today.

## Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at U. of Illinois to discuss Ukrainian archives in North America

URBANA, Ill. – “Ukrainian Archives in North America: Their Development and Their Future” will be the main theme of the 21st annual conference on Ukrainian subjects to be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, July 19-20.

The conference is being organized by the Ukrainian Research Program at the University of Illinois under the chairmanship of Prof. Dmytro Shtohryn and will be held within the framework of the Summer Research Laboratory on Eastern European countries.

Its sessions and panel discussions will be conducted by the following members of the program committee: Halyna Myroniuk (Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota), Myron Momyrk (National Archives of Canada), Taras Hunczak (Rutgers University at Newark), Jaroslav Rozumnyj (University of

Manitoba) and Lubomyr Wynar (Kent State University).

The conference proceedings are being sponsored by the Foundation for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Illinois under the leadership of Raisa Bratkiv.

On Sunday, July 21, the foundation will hold a special roundtable at the Cultural Center in Chicago. Its main topic will be the “Political and Economic Situation in Ukraine After the Last Parliamentary Election in the Opinion of the Ukrainian Scholars in the United States and Canada.” Discussants will be Profs. Hunczak, Rozumnyj, Vasyl Markus and Petro Potichny.

All interested in participating in the conference proceedings and/or the roundtable should call (217) 356-9195 or (847) 991-3136.

## Canadian students’ group to meet at 49th annual congress in Ottawa

OTTAWA – A unique location and proximity to Ukrainian hubs may mean the difference for Canada’s largest Ukrainian student organization.

On the eve of its 50th anniversary, the Ukrainian Canadian Students’ Union (known by its Ukrainian acronym, SUSK) is holding its 49th, but perhaps its last, annual congress this month in Ottawa.

The number of registrants committed to attending the July 19-21 has not yet reached a number which would demonstrate that the future of the organization, at least for the next year, can be considered stable.

Begun in 1952, the national organization has gone through many ups and downs in the last half-century. But this year, with the national executive stepping down, and no expressed interest yet for a new incoming one, the future looks bleak for the union, at least in the short term.

“That can all change very quickly – it has happened many times before in SUSK’s history,” said outgoing President Pavlo Horbal, adding that SUSK shares many similarities with SUSTA, its U.S. counterpart. “So long as we dedicate ourselves to finding enthusiastic people to take over our jobs,” he added.

“I think we need to do anything possible to encourage young blood to get involved,” he noted.

Mr. Horbal said that most of the outgoing executive, who number 13, have either graduated or are masters degree students – not the main focus group of a union which seeks to serve undergraduate students. He also noted that rising costs in airfare and tuition fees over the last few years may play a large role in discouraging students to spend the money necessary to travel across the country to participate in the three-day event.

But Mr. Horbal and the congress organizing committee hope that a number of factors will bolster attendance this year in Ottawa. Having the event in the capital, which is close to eastern Ukrainian

Canadian hubs like Montreal and Toronto, should help increase attendance from last minute “road trippers,” they believe. Also, having it in a non-traditional location like Ottawa should encourage students who have not explored the capital to extend their stays and see the city as well.

“We’re hoping that students will be attracted to this congress based on the fact that it’s in Ottawa,” said congress organizing committee member Norman Villegas. “There’s a lot to see and do here, like the many museums, Parliament, the summer festivals and Quebec.”

The event begins Friday evening, July 19, with its traditional wine and cheese party. Congress proceedings will take place all day Saturday, when new delegates can get a feel for what SUSK is all about. Saturday night will feature a short reception with the Chair of Ukrainian Studies from the University of Ottawa, which helped tremendously in the organization of the weekend. Saturday night will be an evening out on the town in Ottawa’s trendy Byward Market. The incoming executive will meet for a short roundtable meeting on Sunday morning.

The cost of the congress this year, as in all years, is \$100. This includes all meals, two-nights’ accommodations and entertainment. Mr. Villegas added that anyone wishing to extend their stay in Ottawa before or after the event is welcomed to contact him and arrangements will be made with the local Ottawa Ukrainian student population.

Mr. Villegas, a graduate student of political science at the University of Ottawa, is serving out his last few weeks as vice-president for the Laurentian region. “It’s been a great two years, but I feel that a younger, hipper student would better fill my shoes in the future,” he stated.

Students (and others) can e-mail Mr. Villegas at paulnormanvillegas@hotmail.com, or contact the SUSK Congress Hotline at (613) 722-6142 to register or for more information.

farm-to-table program that would improve not only the livelihood of Ukrainian farmers, but also the national economy.

Long-term development of the Ukrainian agricultural industry, or specifically the food chain, will undoubtedly contribute to the gross domestic product, boost Ukraine’s economic image and invigorate the national spirit. But the formula must be based on the entire chain.

## Farmers’ aid project...

(Continued from page 7)

Bakers Association of Washington, the American Frozen Food Institute of McLean, Va., National Food Processors Association of Washington, and the Grocery Manufacturers Association of Washington, are among the American trade associations that could help put together a

The Carpathian Ski Club of New York  
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#### TABLE of EVENTS

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Club/Youth Association \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_ Entry time \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_ Entry time \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_ Entry time \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this entry form with entry fee  
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# Debating...

(Continued from page 2)

tions in Ukraine, despite the fact that the 1932 harvest was relatively good, at around 68.9 million tons of grain. However, the figures are misleading because they are based on estimated rather than actual yields. Prof. Tauger has collected figures from individual collective farms that reveal the actual harvest to have been much lower, perhaps around 45 million tons.

Like other scholars, Prof. Tauger points out that the grain shortage was widespread in the USSR, and the Stalin regime launched a "massive program of rationing and relief." Thus, in his view, there was nothing unique about the situation in Ukraine, as the country faced an insuperable problem of grain shortages

that led directly to a famine situation. Soviet leaders offered political explanations of the famine because they did not comprehend the environmental causes.

Prof. Tauger bases his statistics on data from 40 percent of collective farms in the USSR, including Ukraine. But documents released since the collapse of the Soviet Union indicate that only in Ukraine did starvation become so endemic that many villages emptied of population looking for food, only to find borders closed.

Some writers claim that Ukraine was unique because official secret police reports make reference to a forthcoming major rebellion and to the machinations of "nationalists" and "Petliurites" allegedly working with the support of foreign agents to extract Ukraine from Soviet control. In short, there was a national and ethnic dimension to the

Ukrainian Famine not present elsewhere in the USSR.

These comments do not minimize the effects of the famine outside Ukraine. There is no doubt residents of Russia went hungry in 1932. But they did not die in millions as occurred in Ukraine the following year. Thus, it appears that the "massive program of rationing and relief" was selective, a fact made evident from OGPU reports, indicating

that the provision of food, even in Red Cross hospitals, was directed to those with a chance of recovery and swift return to the fields for labor.

There may still be viable debates about the precise causes of the Great Famine. That it occurred primarily in Ukraine, however, is undeniable, and to argue otherwise shows an appalling lack of sensitivity to its victims seven decades ago.

# Does Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

due to a lack of generating capacity. The surviving reactors at the Chornobyl station would then have to be kept in operation until the new reactors at Rivne and Khmelnytskyi (based on a less hazardous reactor design) are ready to replace them.

The people's hearing, therefore, challenged the necessity and economics of the new reactors, saying that nuclear generators have to operate around the clock and that Ukraine now has more than sufficient around-the-clock capacity. The hearing questioned why Ukraine would construct an additional 2-megawatts capacity of nuclear power that operates around the clock, when what Ukraine needs is more top-up power to be brought on line at times of peak demand - power that could be conveniently provided by modernizing the country's conventional generators that run on Ukraine's own coal.

Finally, the hearing also raised political issues. Germany, it said, is committed to phasing out its own nuclear power over the next 20 years and will have to import more energy; Russia wants to sell its obsolete reactors that no other country "except possibly Iraq" will buy, together with fuel and spare parts over the next 40 years. It is they who will benefit, while Ukraine takes the risks. President Leonid Kuchma, the hearing alleged, is prepared to accept this situation in order to meet the needs of his "precious, too precious friends," Russia and Germany.

The hearing last December also had a topical context: President Kuchma had just castigated the former Cabinet for agreeing to a loan to finance the new reactors with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on terms that, he said, were tantamount to "slavery," and for confirming that the reactors would be completed with Russian help.

During the past six months, however, the issue has not lost its topicality, as a postscript to the original article indicates. On March 29, it reports, six people appealed to Kyiv's Pecherskyi District Court, seeking the restoration of their right to "a safe life and environmental safety," which, they said, had been placed at risk by Enerhoatom upon the construction of the new reactors at Khmelnytskyi and Rivne. They offered documentary evidence that the construction is illegal and called on the court to halt the financing and construction of the reactors unless, and until, the state environmental enquiry gives its clearance.

On April 24, however, the court rejected the appeal, noting that, "the plaintiffs addressed the court in the interests of society," but they did not have the authority to make such an appeal.

Less physically hazardous, but not

without its own dangers for Ukraine, are the plans for a consortium of Russia, Ukraine, and Germany to manage gas transit through Ukraine. At first glance, it seems set to benefit all three parties: Russia will supply and Germany will receive the gas, without the danger of unauthorized Ukrainian siphoning; and Ukraine will be ensured the financial benefits of transit, without the threat that Russia will reroute all its west-bound gas through Belarus.

A document to this effect, signed by the Russian and Ukrainian prime ministers on June 21, guarantees gas transit via Ukraine of at least 110 billion cubic meters annually. Russia, likewise, guarantees to ensure the steady supply of gas to Ukraine under contracts already concluded between Ukraine and Central Asian suppliers. Furthermore, according to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the creation of the consortium will make it possible to attract in the near future the \$2.5 billion of foreign capital needed to upgrade Ukraine's dilapidated pipeline system.

However, the newspaper Segodnia warns that setting up a consortium implies the "imminent corporatization of the gas transportation system," which, in turn, may well prove the "first step toward privatization" of Ukraine's main gas pipelines. It is unclear what stakes the participants will have in the consortium and if future European partners will come up with "big money." Ukraine needs to walk warily, or one day it may find that "the money-spinning pipeline is no longer ours, but simply runs across our territory."

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# UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## Rochester student is bound for Australia as young ambassador

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Stephen Fedyk, soon to be a seventh grader, is heading Down Under in July for two weeks as a participant in the People to People Student Ambassador Program. He will meet government officials, interact with other students and participate in numerous educational activities while representing the United States.

In September, Stephen received a letter saying that he was being offered a chance to be part of the program. After submitting recommendations from his teachers and going through an interview, he received the exciting news that he was accepted into the program.

There are 39 other seventh graders who were chosen from upstate New York that will be part of his delegation.

The People to People Ambassador Program was founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in an effort to bring citizens around the world together to work toward world peace. He



Australia-bound Stephen Fedyk

believed that ordinary citizens of different nations, if able to communicate directly, would solve their differences and find a way to live in peace. He wanted people to know and understand that while we are all very different, our values, goals, and day-to-day issues are very much the same. This simple thought – that people can make the

difference where government cannot – is People to People's foundation.

President George W. Bush, who is honorary chairman of this student ambassador program, recently told students they, too, had a part to play in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, by establishing friendships with boys and girls all across the world.

Stephen has been meeting once a month with the program leaders and fellow students. He has had many assignments to prepare for his trip. So far, some of the topics he has researched and documented in his journal have been about Australia's climate, government, currency and economy.

Of all the things Stephen will do while in Australia – visiting the Sydney Opera House, spending a day with an aborigine tribe, snorkeling off the Great Barrier Reef, spending a day with an Australian student – Stephen is especially excited about getting to see the

unusual animals that live there. He did his school science fair project on "Unusual Australian Animals" so he says he can't wait to see some real live wombats, kangaroos and koalas.

Stephen has just completed sixth grade with high honors. He is a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Yevshan Dance Ensemble and attends the "Ridna Shkola" Ukrainian Saturday school.

Stephen also enjoys playing sports. He plays on a Penfield major league baseball team and his team won first place in its division this year. He also plays on the Penfield Rangers travel soccer team and the Catholic Youth Organization basketball team.

Stephen also is learning Isshin Rye Karate and is hoping to get his black belt in a couple of years.

His parents, Oksana and Ihor, and his younger brother, Nicholas, are all very proud of Stephen and his many accomplishments!

## Plast youths form clean-up brigade at local parish



The clean-up brigade outside St. John's Church hall with newly potted geraniums.

Lesia Lebed

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Young members of the Newark branch of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization recently marshalled their forces during a special clean-up day here at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish, where they hold their weekly meetings and other activities.

The clean-up crew was composed primarily of members of the girls' troop, as well as several boys – all of whom gladly performed this community service in gratitude to the parish that gave their Plast groups a home after their branch sold its headquarters in Newark, N.J.

The "yunaky" and "yunachky" cleaned up the church hall and kitchen, as well as meeting rooms located in the church basement. They also planted flowers in large pots to beautify the church grounds.

They were assisted by several younger kids, 10-year-old "novaky," who were assigned to a litter patrol, as well as a number of adult Plast members, as well as members of the "Ti Scho Hrebli Rvut" Plast sorority, who organized the clean-up day.

## 16-year-old scientist's passion shows in award-winning research

PARMA, Ohio – Ulyana Horodyskyj, 16, a junior at Padua Franciscan High School in Parma, Ohio, has a passion for science, math and computers that has taken her to places few others of her age have been.

For the past three years, she has been working on an independent science research project involving solar sails, a cutting edge method of space propulsion that needs no fuel. She has presented her results to NASA at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and at the John Glenn Research Center in Cleveland.



Ulyana Horodyskyj

This year's research was titled "Evolution in Motion: Orbital Optimization Using Genetic Algorithms." It dealt with computing orbits for sending solar sails to Mars not only when rockets can make the trip, but also during times when the Red Planet is not accessible to rockets.

In March Ulyana competed with over 500 students from grades 7-12, in the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair at Cleveland State University. She earned first place in the Earth and Space category, received five special awards, and won the grand award in Physical Science.

She will now represent Ohio at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Louisville, Ky., on May 12-18. This is the equivalent of the Olympics for students interested in science and engineering. Over 1,200 talented students from around the world competed for awards and scholarships in this year's event. Projects were on display to the public at the Kentucky International Convention Center.

At the Western Reserve District Science Day at the University of

Akron, Ulyana received a superior rating, first place in the Earth and Space category, and an award for Outstanding Achievement in Education from Scientific American. She advanced to the State Science Day held on May 11 at Ohio State University in Columbus.

The first week of April saw Ulyana traveling to the University of Toledo for the Ohio Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, where she once again earned the Outstanding Paper award for the third year in a row, a feat that will certainly go down in the history of the Ohio Symposium.

The last weekend in April, it was off to San Diego, Calif. for the National Symposium, where her research earned second place in the Earth and Space Sciences category. Her award was a college scholarship. During the previous two National Symposiums (in Washington and Orlando) Ulyana had earned college scholarships for her original research, and she was also selected to represent the United States at the London International Youth Science Forum in England.

Her work has been noticed by other organizations as well. The Astronomical League gives young students between the ages of 14 and 19 whose schools do not offer astronomy as a field of study the chance to have their research screened and evaluated by a national panel of professional astronomers. In the league's Young Astronomers Award program, Ulyana took third place in the nation. This award was an unexpected but welcome surprise.

Last, but definitely not least, Ulyana has been chosen by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, based in Washington, to travel to Seoul, South Korea, this summer. She will be one of 21 students selected in a nationwide search to represent the United States in this unique cultural and scientific cooperative venture between the two countries.

The program's goal is to provide U.S. and Korean students with a demonstrated interest in science an international research experience. They will work in teams under the supervision of researchers and graduate and postdoctoral students in seven thematic areas: robotics, bioinformatics, physics, environmental sciences, chemistry, planetary and aerospace sciences, and zoology.

## Young artist gets international exposure

MARLBOROUGH, Conn. – Budding artist Yuri Weselyj was the proud recipient of a national award for his art creation titled "Road to Paradise."

The artwork was submitted by his art teacher into the International Children's Art Exhibition sponsored by Pentel America.

This year 3,053 students from the United States entered their creations while more than 280,000 works were submitted from around the world. The United States won 310 awards.

These artworks, including Yuri's silver award-winning painting, will be traveling in a worldwide exhibit that starts in California and ends in Japan.

Yuri is a sixth grader at Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementry school

in Marlborough, Conn., where he lives with his family. His proud parents are Oleh and Luba Weselyj.



Yuri Weselyj

## Mishanyna

B	R	O	S	E	P	H	I	J	T	R	U	N	K	S	F
A	A	L	F	H	O	M	E	O	L	Q	G	O	A	L	L
L	U	V	O	I	S	A	B	E	L	S	I	D	X	Y	A
S	I	D	O	K	O	R	K	R	I	T	O	K	P	T	S
O	X	A	D	E	N	S	H	A	P	O	V	A	L	T	H
N	H	L	I	J	T	H	G	F	E	R	O	L	P	I	L
G	Z	E	S	W	I	M	S	Y	T	I	C	U	O	M	I
D	J	A	G	E	R	A	I	N	E	E	J	C	N	S	G
M	A	L	L	B	C	L	E	V	X	S	N	I	C	I	H
Q	C	U	S	R	R	L	T	R	U	N	B	T	H	D	T
C	A	T	O	O	B	O	N	F	I	R	E	E	O	P	S
T	M	A	C	N	K	W	Z	E	L	B	R	O	S	Q	F
M	P	B	C	S	B	S	A	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M
A	I	T	E	O	I	C	H	A	Z	P	A	C	K	C	H
X	O	Y	R	N	W	A	T	E	R	F	A	L	L	S	I

To solve this month's Mishanyna, find the capitalized words in the letter from camp that appears below.

Dear Mom and Dad:

CAMP is fun. Yesterday during the SOCCER game I scored a GOAL. Then it started to RAIN, so we had to get our PONCHOS. Later that night it stormed so hard that the power went out. We sat in a circle with our FLASHLIGHTS and told STORIES.

Tonight we're having a BONFIRE. Our counselor taught us a new SONG to sing there. We're also going to roast MARSHMALLOWS. I can't wait!

Next week we're going on a hike to the WATERFALLS. My counselor said that we can PACK our TRUNKS and go for a SWIM.

I miss HOME, but I'm having a great time.

Love,  
Andriyko

P.S. The FOOD is better at home, but here we get ICE CREAM every day after dinner.

### OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated August 11, please send in your materials by August 2.

Contact: UKELODEON, c/o The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510. Call us at (973) 292-9800; or send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. (We ask all contributors to please include a daytime phone number.)

# UKRAINE 2002

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Ongoing through Sunday, September 15**

**DETROIT:** The Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit invites the public to view the exhibit titled "The 'Tree of Life' Motif in Embroidered Ritual Cloths (Rushnyky) of Central Ukraine." The exhibition, which will include original antique ritual cloths from the Kyiv, Poltava, and Chernihiv regions dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, will be on view at the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum, 11756 Charest St., Hamtramck, Mich., through Sunday, September 15. Exhibit hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission: adults, \$3; students and seniors, \$2; children age 12-18, \$1; museum members, no charge. For more information call (313) 366-9764.

**Thursday, July 18**

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a special guest lecture by the ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak. The lecture, free and open to the public, will take place at 7 p.m. in the Thompson Room of Barker Center, 12 Quincy St., Harvard University. For more information contact the Ukrainian Research Institute, (617) 495-4053, or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

**Saturday at the Boston Radisson Hotel** located on Stuart Street. Burya will provide entertainment at the zabava; tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. On Sunday, Ron Cahute will perform his Barabolya concert at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 24 Orchard Hill Road, Jamaica Plain. For more information call (617) 489-2613, or e-mail skondratiuk@aol.com.

**Sunday, July 21**

**CHICAGO:** The Foundation for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Illinois invites the public to a roundtable discussion titled, "Political and Economic Situation in Ukraine after the Last Parliamentary Elections in the Opinion of the Ukrainian Scholars of the United States and Canada." The following scholars from the 21st annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois will participate: Profs. Taras Hunczak, Vasyl Markus, Petro Potichnyj and Jaroslav Rozumnyj. The event will take place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave. The roundtable discussion begins at 1 p.m., following a light luncheon, which will be served at noon. The suggested donation is \$20 per person. For more information call Raisa Bratkiv, (847) 991-3136.

**Friday-Sunday, August 2-4**

**KERHONKSON, N.Y.:** The ninth annual exhibit of paintings by Edward and Jerome Kozak will be displayed in the library of the Main House at Soyuzivka. For more information, call (518) 263-4156.

**Saturday-Sunday, July 20-21**

**BOSTON:** The 55th annual convention of the Ukrainian Orthodox League invites the public to attend its dance at 9 p.m. on


**PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:**

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

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

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

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## At Soyuzivka: July 19-21

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Soyuzivka continues its summer season with a day of special activities for children on Saturday, July 20, under the rubric of "Chemney Day," named in honor of the resort's beloved Collie.

On Friday night, July 19, the resort's house band, Vidlunnia, will play for the enjoyment of guests to the upstate New York resort of the Ukrainian National Association.

The next evening, Saturday, July 20, will feature a dance to the music of the Chornozem band, beginning at 10 p.m.

Sunday is a day to relax by the pool or enjoy the spectacular view of the landscape from the patio of Soyuzivka's Veselka Pavilion.

For information about Soyuzivka programs, or to make reservations for accommodations at the UNA estate – located in the Shawangunk Mountains of New York state's Catskill region – call (845) 626-5641. Information is available also on the Soyuzivka website, www.soyuzivka.com.

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