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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Anti-Kuchma protests continue

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The anti-Kuchma protest movement appeared to lose some momentum on October 21 when 5,000 people took part in a candlelight demonstration to call for the resignation of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

The turnout was far smaller than earlier protest rallies. The previous week about 25,000 Ukrainians dissatisfied with the policies and actions of the Kuchma administration had turned out to voice their displeasure.

The demonstration came two days before the Constitutional Court of Ukraine remanded a complaint filed by an appellate judge, which levels criminal charges against the Ukrainian president, back to the appellate court where it originated. It also came four days before the Verkhovna Rada agreed to hear the demands put forth by national deputies of the opposition movement who had sought a parliamentary hearing to voice their grievances.

Members of the opposition, who have called for the ouster of the president by impeachment or his resignation to be followed by pre-term elections, blame Mr. Kuchma for complicity in the disappearance and subsequent death of journalist Heorhii Gongadze and for developing a political climate characterized by extensive political corruption and intimidation of the press, including beatings and killings of dozens of journalists.

The point behind this fourth rally in a series that has proceeded under the slogan "Arise, Ukraine," was to commemorate 10 years since Mr. Kuchma took his first leadership post in the Ukrainian government as prime minister, a move that catapulted him to the presidency less than two years later. This rally, like the previous three, took place before the Presidential Administration Building, this time on a rainy Saturday evening.

National Deputy Oleksander Moroz, head of the Socialist Party and a leading figure in the opposition movement, said that he had not expected a large turnout.

"No one set a goal this time to get as many people as possible to come out," explained Mr. Moroz. "This was more an informational-symbolic action."

Mr. Moroz, along with Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous political bloc and Petro Symonenko of the Communist Party – the three lawmakers who have led the demonstrations calling for the ouster of President Kuchma for what they consider autocratic rule and corrupt practices – laid candles before a memorial plaque, which supporters attached to the façade of the Writers' Union Building located across the street from the presidential offices. The plaque stated: "On this spot a memorial will be built to the victims of the Kuchma regime."

Oleksander Turchynov, a leading member of the Tymoshenko Bloc, said the

plaque would remind future Ukrainian leaders of their responsibility to the nation. "All subsequent leaders of the country will pass this memorial while traveling to their residency and will be reminded what comes of a one-man dictatorship in Ukraine," said Mr. Turchynov.

Demonstrators had gathered at twilight on European Square, located a few blocks from the presidential offices, and had marched with lit candles to the rally site. After the plaque was nailed to the wall, opposition supporters made a path of candles from the entryway to the grounds of the government offices to a main Kyiv thoroughfare several hundred yards away.

Yushchenko denies press reports

The Our Ukraine political bloc led by popular lawmaker Viktor Yushchenko took no part in the latest protest action. Our Ukraine has reduced its participation in the opposition movement's actions since it threw its wholehearted support behind the first one on September 16. Mr. Yushchenko continues to maintain that street demonstrations should be the last alternative after all manner of negotiations are exhausted. This was the second time that neither Mr. Yushchenko nor any of his top political lieutenants were present at an opposition rally.

However, Mr. Yushchenko continued to state that he and his political organization remain part of the opposition. He took to the floor during the parliamentary hearing on the current political situation in Ukraine held on October 23 to refute reports in the Ukrainian press that during a visit to Moscow the previous day he had changed his stance and agreed not to support the resignation of President Kuchma.

In a statement to The Ukrainian Weekly, Mr. Yushchenko's press secretary Iryna Heraschenko, called "absolutely untrue" allegations made in the newspaper Den and reprinted in the RFE/RL Newsline that Russian Duma member, Irina Khakamada and Boris Nemtsov had convinced Mr. Yushchenko to change his stance toward the Ukrainian president.

In addition to Mr. Yushchenko, the three opposition leaders had their say before the full parliamentary session, as did Mr. Turchynov and National Deputies Leonid Kravchuk and Stepan Havrysh of the pro-presidential majority.

While Mr. Moroz called on the Ukrainian president to step down, Mr. Kravchuk reminded the lawmakers that they had been elected to legislate and not to play out personal antipathy and even old scores.

In an example of how divided the Parliament remains over the issue of the Kuchma presidency and its future, two draft resolutions were being prepared for discussion the following day. One resolution demanded that the president either resign or face impeachment proceedings and called for reforming the political system, while the other one called for allow-

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Verkhovna Rada agenda will include bill on recognition of Ukrainian Insurgent Army

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – As many Ukrainians celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), lawmakers who belong to the National Rukh of Ukraine Party announced they had finally succeeded in putting a draft bill to officially legitimize the UPA as a World War II Ukrainian fighting force on the agenda of Ukraine's Parliament.

"The Verkhovna Rada has a unique chance to begin the process of eliminating the half-century of opposition to recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army by veterans of the Soviet Army," explained National Deputy Yaroslav Kendzior on October 14, two days after he had finally succeeded in introducing the bill.

Mr. Kendzior along with National Deputies Bohdan Kostyniuk and Ivan Stoiko, all of whom belong to the National Rukh of Ukraine, a part of the Our Ukraine faction in the Verkhovna Rada, had an uphill battle getting the draft law put on the parliamentary agenda because many lawmakers raised on a steady diet of anti-UPA Soviet propaganda in the post-war years resisted the initiative.

The bill was given impetus after it received support from the government of Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh. The prime minister recently stated that, "the historical record needs to be corrected" regarding the UPA.

This was not the first time a bill to legitimize the UPA had met resistance in the legislature. There have been several unsuccessful efforts since 1997 to introduce similar bills. Last year a piece of legislation on the recognition of the UPA never reached the legislative floor for consideration.

If a majority of national deputies were ever finally to support the bill, the UPA would be recognized as a Ukrainian fighting force on par with members of the Soviet forces and the Communist underground that fought on Ukrainian soil during World War II. The several thousand surviving UPA veterans would then become eligible for government benefits and pensions.

Although outwardly a simple piece of legislation, it is doubtful that this session of the Verkhovna Rada will be capable of approving an UPA bill. Not only are most

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Project Roll Call seeks survivors of World War I internment operations

CALGARY, Alberta – The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) is launching Project Roll Call at the House of Commons in an effort to move Canadian government action on acknowledging the injustice of the internment operations during World War I that imprisoned thousands of Ukrainians and other East Europeans on suspicion that they were "enemy aliens."

The kick-off to the project, which seeks to find survivors of the internment operations and their descendants, will take place in Ottawa at the House of Commons in the Charles Lynch Room (Center Block) in Ottawa on Tuesday, November 5, at 10 a.m.

Over 35,000 postcards are to be mailed out to Canadian households identified as having the same or similar surnames to those of over 8,000 European immigrants interned needlessly during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920.

The project, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, aims to inform Canadians of the UCCLA's ongoing efforts to secure the federal government's acknowledgement of this injustice and restitution in the form of various educational and commemorative projects.

"Project Roll Call is intended to engage the imagination of Canadians and remind them, whether or not they are descendants of internees, of the importance of safeguarding the civil liberties and human rights of ethnic, religious and racial minorities, particularly in times of domestic and international crisis," said Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, UCCLA's director of research.

The postcard urges Canadians whose family members were (or may have been) interned to call the UCCLA toll-free to confirm or add any information they may have to Roll Call, a list of all known internees. It also urges all Canadians to support Bill C-331, the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act.

"The UCCLA has undertaken this project in order to bring to the attention of Canadians a chapter of their country's history which many still know little or nothing about," said Dr. Luciuk. "To that end, we encourage all Canadians to contact us if they have any information about their interned relatives and to write to the Right Honourable Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, reminding him of his 1993 promise to support redress to the

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ANALYSIS

The most dangerous workplace in the world: Ukraine's coal mines

by David Marples

The coal mines of the Ukrainian Donbas have a lamentable reputation as the most dangerous of all workplaces in the modern world. Since Ukraine became independent in 1991, almost 4,000 miners have died in accidents, many as a result of the hazards of mining coal at depths of more than one kilometer and poor safety records at the mines.

Last month my visit to Donetsk coincided with the "Day of the Miner," August 25. Placards and window boxes displayed photographs of leading government officials, "hero miners," pole-vaulter Serhii Bubka, and the local soccer team Shakhtar Donetsk, proud winners of the Ukrainian championship last year. While children paraded by with banners from the various local regions, a loudspeaker played popular songs from the Soviet past.

Donetsk forms the center of a vast coalfield that extends into the Rostov region of Russia. In honor of its founder, Welsh entrepreneur John Hughes, the city was known as Yuzovka until 1924. Then it became Stalino, after the new Soviet leader, and only in 1961, after Nikita Khrushchev denounced Joseph Stalin, did it acquire its present appellation. Its main street is called Artem, after

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a professional revolutionary, Fedor Andreyevich Artem (1883-1921) though Artem was actually born in the Kursk region and only in 1917 did he become linked to Donetsk as the chairman of the Bolshevik party organization.

The region has a proud tradition. Some 13 years ago it was the center of the coal miners' strike, the first successful workers' strike in Soviet history. It was followed by the creation of an independent trade union, regarded at the time as a potential Solidarity: the Regional Union of Strike Committees of the Donbas, located in the town of Horlivka, north of Donetsk.

Seeking information about that union, I traveled to Horlivka with a Ukrainian friend. It could be reached from Donetsk by means of a dilapidated mini-bus and at a price of 3 hrv for a journey of some 80 kilometers. Next to me on the back seat was an old woman with five grocery bags. It was stiflingly, breathlessly hot and the van bounced us around like stones in a teapot. It broke down about halfway to our destination, but the driver nonchalantly tinkered with the engine and it sputtered back to life.

Two statues greet visitors to Horlivka. One is of the founder, Pyotr Gorlov (born 1839), a talented mining geologist born in Irkutsk, who explored and planned many of the mines of the Donbas region. The second is of a local hero, Nikolay Izotov, an initiator of record-breaking labor in the region in the early 1930s. Allegedly he was armed only with a pick and his "superhuman" efforts helped to

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Can trade unions protect Ukrainian miners' rights?

by Boris Dodonov

RFE/RL (Un) Civil Societies

Coal has been extracted in Ukraine for about 150 years. The tragically high number of coal miners' deaths in recent years means attention to peoples' lives has not improved since the 19th century. About 3,700 coal miners have been killed since Ukraine gained its independence in 1991; 190 have died so far this year. While mining accidents with large numbers of casualties have receded into history in the developed world, for Ukraine they are in today's news.

Not only do miners face abysmal safety conditions, they have less jobs. Since 1990 coal production has been cut by about 50 percent. On the one hand, there is a shrinking demand for metallurgy and fossil-fuel power plants, and on the other hand, Ukrainian coal is difficult to extract and of low quality. It makes Ukrainian coal non-competitive, and it also makes it extremely inefficient due to the very high labor intensity needed for the production. According to the World Bank, in 1995 production costs of about 40 percent of all coking coal-producing and 35 percent of all steam coal-producing mines were higher than those of comparable imports.

A major factor working against

improvement in the miners' lives is the price at which coal is sold in Ukraine. It does not cover the costs of extraction, and, therefore, the production is subsidized; the planned state budget subsidies are five and seven percent of the state budget's total expenditures in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

Are such subsidies in the miners' interests? In fact, it is a vicious circle. Generally, subsidies do not create any incentives to improve production efficiency, and in fact have ruined the finances of the better-performing mines. Production subsidies, in turn, result in very high labor intensity, and both coal miners and managers have found they have a common interest in blocking restructuring and cutting corners.

Before the break-up of the Soviet Union, coking coal and coke were delivered according to state purchasing orders. After 1991, the situation changed significantly. Today, a few firms acting as intermediaries control virtually 100 percent of the market. Intermediaries gave commodity credits in the form of equipment to the coal mines when the mines were cash-strapped due to non-payment for the coal supplied and non-payment of the government's planned subsidies from the budget. Now the coal mines must deliver coal to the intermediaries to pay for the credits.

There was no transparency in granting these credits, nor any open tenders in order to obtain the necessary equipment. Unions

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Boris Dodonov is a research associate in the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting Department of Structural Reforms in Kyiv.

NEWSBRIEFS

Piskun says he has convinced U.S. experts

KYIV – "I feel I have managed to convince American experts and lawyers that Ukraine didn't sell Kolchugas to Iraq," Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun told journalists on October 22, referring to his trip to Washington last week. Mr. Piskun also announced that a group of U.S. experts is to come to Kyiv "soon" to consult Ukrainian officials investigating the murder of Heorhii Gongadze. Moreover, Mr. Piskun said Ukraine has proposed to the United States that a group of German and Russian experts, with the participation of specialists from the United States and Ukraine, examine the authenticity of audio recordings allegedly made by former presidential security officer Mykola Melnychenko in Mr. Kuchma's office. (RFE/RL Newsline)

100,000 Ukrainian kids are homeless

KYIV – Valentyna Shevchenko, chairwoman of the State Committee for Family and Youth Matters, said on October 22 that there are more than 100,000 homeless children in Ukraine, UNIAN reported. Ms. Shevchenko noted that nearly 20 percent of these children have lost both of their parents. She also said there are nearly 70,000 families in Ukraine that are poorly provided for. "We need to work with such families, since most homeless children and child beggars come from families that are socially dysfunctional, have many children, or have lost at least one

parent," Ms. Shevchenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada majority meets with president

KYIV – Ukrainian lawmakers from the officially announced 226-strong parliamentary majority met on October 21 with President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh, the UNIAN news service reported. The meeting took place behind closed doors, and no official news conference was held after it concluded. The gathering was reportedly attended by 211 legislators. "The majority exists only de jure; it does not exist de facto," Social Democratic Party-United caucus member Oleksander Volkov commented. Answering a question on whether the majority is going to reappoint the heads of parliamentary committees, Mr. Volkov said such a move has been postponed in order not to disrupt the dialogue between the majority and Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine. National Deputy Oleh Bespalov from People's Power faction also confirmed that the continuation of the dialogue with Mr. Yushchenko was discussed at the meeting, but he did not elaborate. Our Ukraine's Yurii Kostenko commented on October 22 that the meeting of the "so-called parliamentary majority" with President Kuchma has blocked the process of creating a "democratic parliamentary majority" with the participation of Our Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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Quotable notes

"President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma is guilty of violating Ukraine's Constitution and laws, since his deeds are punishable under the Criminal Code of Ukraine: Article 109 (actions oriented toward a violent change of the constitutional system); Article 110 (encroachment on territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine); Article 111 (state betrayal); Article 112 (violence to the life of a state official); Article 115 (premeditated murder); 120 (compelling to suicide); Article 129 (threat of murder); Article 157 (obstructing the execution of election legislation); Article 160 (violating the referendum law); Article 161 (violating the equality of citizens irrespective of their ethnic origin); Article 163 (violating the confidentiality of telephone calls); Article 170 (impeding the lawful activity of political parties and public organizations); Article 171 (impeding the lawful professional activity of journalists); Article 185 (theft); Article 191 (embezzlement of property, abuse of office); Article of 208 (illegal opening of bank accounts outside Ukraine); Article 209 (money laundering); Article 212 (tax evasion); Article 344 (interference in the activity of a state official); Article 351 (impeding the activity of a national deputy and a local-council deputy); Article 364 (abuse of power and office); Article 365 (abuse of official powers); Article 368 (bribe-taking); Article 377 (threatening a judge); Article 442 (genocide)."

– From the "sentence" handed down by the opposition rally in Kyiv on October 12, as reported by the Ukrainska Pravda website and cited by RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report.

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Verkhovna Rada...

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Communists and a good portion of the Socialist members of the Verkhovna Rada still against recognizing a military organization they consider to be anathema to their ideology, but centrist, pro-capitalist lawmakers also remain wary of recognizing the UPA.

"I doubt that even many of them will be able to support an UPA bill if only because of their ignorance. They simply do not know Ukrainian history," explained National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko, the leader of the National Rukh of Ukraine.

Mr. Udovenko noted that the Ukrainian government has considered recognizing UPA veterans as World War II combatants for five years – without any results or final conclusions. The Rukh leader explained that the government committee charged by the president in 1997 to review all historical aspects and make conclusions has simply stopped working.

"It has met and the facts have been discussed, but no one is ready to make decisions," explained Mr. Udovenko. "I believe this matter will be decided only when the president steps in with an executive order."

Mr. Udovenko said that almost every European country had freedom fighters who fought the German Nazis. He mentioned French and Polish underground movements as examples. Ukraine, tragically, had to fight on a second front, as well – against the totalitarian regime of

the Soviet Union. The war that lasted well into the 1950s, long after the West had, for all practical purposes, forgotten about the UPA.

Commemorations in honor of the Ukrainian freedom fighters – a force that some say numbered nearly 200,000 at its peak strength at the close of the second world war – occurred in many parts of Ukraine on October 14, including in the town of Brovary, outside of Kyiv, where a conference on the UPA was held, and in Khmelnytskyi. Mr. Udovenko noted that recognition of the UPA as a heroic fighting force today exists in areas outside the Halychyna region of western Ukraine, where the UPA and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, were most active during and after the war.

"This shows that a wider and wider circle of Ukrainian society recognizes the importance of the UPA in the fight for Ukrainian independence," explained Mr. Udovenko.

The largest commemorations were held near the town of Malyi Stydyn in the county of Kostopil, Rivne Oblast, the location of the first headquarters of the UPA and the area where the first detachments of the UPA were organized in the fall of 1942. (Some historians maintain that armed groups of the UPA were already organized by 1941.) There some 10,000 people gathered for the blessing of a monument called the "Kurhan Slavy" (Burial Mound of Glory) by Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

Former Prime Minister and now National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko gave the keynote address. He noted that the UPA was perceived as posing such a serious threat to the Soviet Union that 146 undercover Soviet secret police groups operated clandestinely throughout western Ukraine in 1945-1946. Disguised as UPA soldiers they wrecked havoc on the local population by murdering, raping and pillaging local communities in order to destroy popular support and trust for the UPA freedom fighters.

He said that while he doesn't necessarily believe there is hope that still living Soviet army and UPA veterans could reconcile their differences, he expects that their grandchildren will not become enemies over what uniforms their grandfathers wore. He also said the historical evidence about the UPA as a national liberation force must become better known.

"The truth about the UPA must become known – not only for national reconciliation but for normal neighborly relations [between citizens]," said Mr. Yushchenko.

Businessman says he was framed

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – A Russian businessman with extensive dealings in Ukraine's energy generating sector accused Viktor Medvedchuk, the head of the presidential administration, of orchestrating his arrest and having illicit drugs and a weapon planted on him as an act of vengeance. Mr. Medvedchuk denied any complicity.

Kostiantyn Grigorishin, a 36-year-old multi-millionaire born in Ukraine who maintains Russian citizenship, said on October 20 that his refusal to help fund the re-election campaign of the Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) headed by Mr. Medvedchuk led to his arrest on October 12 after he left a Kyiv restaurant with a Ukrainian lawmaker.

When asked during a hastily called press conference whom he blamed for what he considered his baseless arrest, he named President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff.

"I mean the person in the name of Viktor Vladimirovich Medvedchuk, the head of the presidential administration, who had personally threatened me, including with arrest, several times," said Mr. Grigorishin.

The Russian businessman, who took over much of the energy-generating businesses, including several regional energy providers in Ukraine owned by former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko before he fled the country, said he had several investment partnerships with the business conglomerate owned by Mr. Medvedchuk and Hryhorii Surkis. Mr. Surkis, in turn, obtained many of Mr. Lazarenko's oil and gas businesses.

Mr. Grigorishin explained that Mr. Medvedchuk approached him about a year ago, prior to the parliamentary elections, to provide financing for the SDPU. He said he declined because he wanted to stay away from Ukrainian politics in as much as he is not a Ukrainian citizen. Immediately afterwards, relations between the partners soured and ties began to come undone.

"I wanted to dissolve our business partnership in a civilized manner," explained Mr. Grigorishin, "but I was told: we will not allow you to do business in Ukraine, we will take everything and you will be imprisoned."

While Mr. Surkis made a public announcement acknowledging that he and Mr. Grigorishin had once had several common business dealings and that some common investments remain even today, his partner, Mr. Medvedchuk, refuted all allegations made by the Russian businessman that implicated him in any way in Mr.

Grigorishin's arrest or any suggested threats. According to Interfax-Ukraine, Mr. Medvedchuk said he was sorry the Russian businessman had stooped to such accusations as the price he had to pay to join another political team.

Some politicians have said that Mr. Grigorishin has taken up with the political opposition, either with the political forces of Yulia Tymoshenko or Viktor Yushchenko, in order to find another "cover" for his business empire. Both consider Mr. Medvedchuk a mortal political enemy. Mr. Grigorishin denied any political ties.

Mr. Grigorishin was arrested outside a Kyiv restaurant after he and National Deputy Volodymyr Syvkovych left the establishment and entered the lawmakers late model German-made luxury vehicle. Plainclothes state militia officers immediately surrounded the automobile and forcibly removed Mr. Syvkovych from the car, even after he showed his credentials.

Mr. Syvkovych, a staunch supporter of President Kuchma, announced of the incident on October 22 that he had resigned the pro-presidential parliamentary majority in response to what he considered an illegal act by law enforcement officials against a national deputy.

Mr. Grigorishin claimed that, as he was being manhandled out of the car, a state militia officer placed a gun in the back of his pants, while the officer in charge of the operation delved into his coat pocket and came out with several packets of a white substance in his hand. Mr. Grigorishin was then arrested.

Law enforcement authorities have not yet explained the pretense for their search of Mr. Grigorishin, although the Kyiv newspaper, Den reported that witnesses saw some 40 police officers surround the car before the arrest took place.

The following day, however, the president's press service announced that in connection with the illegal arrest, Mr. Kuchma had ordered the firing of Mykola Dzhyha, the first deputy state secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. National Deputy Syvkovych had stated that one of the requirements for his return to the parliamentary majority would be Mr. Dzhyha's removal.

Mr. Grigorishin, whose release was as unexpected as his arrest, told journalists that he was not certain of his current status, although he believed he was a free man. He explained that he was told documents ordering his arrest were canceled. However, Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, assistant chief of staff in the Kuchma Administration, said during a regularly scheduled briefing at the presidential administration the next day that Mr. Grigorishin, while free, still had to answer to the charges brought against him.

Mr. Grigorishin, who asked for the protection of Ukraine's Security Service after his release from jail, became ill that evening and was hospitalized.

Anti-Kuchma...

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ing the president to finish his term, and noted "the aggravation of the political situation in Ukraine."

Supreme Court sends case back

Two days earlier, the Supreme Court ruled on a complaint filed by Appellate Judge Yurii Vasylenko, which brings 11 criminal charges against President Kuchma in regards to the Gongadze case, as well as corruption and blackmail.

While Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun appealed to the court to dismiss the charges as a "mistake," the court remanded the case to the Kyiv District Appellate Court to correct procedural errors. Opposition leaders have said they would like the case heard at the appellate level.

Prospects for political dialogue remain vague

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Last week, Warsaw hosted a two-day international conference called "Ukraine in Europe," which was organized under the patronage of Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana. The forum, devoted to relations between the European Union and Ukraine, gathered representatives of the Ukrainian authorities, including presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk; National Defense and Security Council Secretary Yevhen Marchuk, and the opposition, including Oleksander Moroz and Viktor Yushchenko; as well as participants from Romania, Slovakia and Hungary.

Originally, Poland planned to organize a sort of "roundtable" discussion between the authorities and Ukrainian opposition on the current political standoff in Ukraine but it quickly backed off the idea after President Leonid Kuchma charged Warsaw with

interfering in Ukraine's domestic affairs. As a result, the conference took place at a "square table" and was devoted exclusively to mulling Ukraine's place in Europe in the context of the upcoming NATO and EU expansion.

Mr. Solana took advantage of the forum to voice some of the harshest criticism of Kyiv for what he said is "playing with the rules" of democracy. "We would like one day to embrace your country [Ukraine], but we have to know what country you are. ... But at this time, I have to tell you this is impossible," Mr. Solana said at a joint news conference with Presidents Kwasniewski and Kuchma in Warsaw on October 16.

As for the "two main Ukrainians" at the Warsaw forum, Messrs. Medvedchuk and Yushchenko, they made statements signaling that they may look for some form of dialogue after returning to Kyiv.

"A success of this conference is in inaugurating dialogue between the [Ukrainian] authorities and the opposition," Mr.

Medvedchuk told journalists in Warsaw.

Mr. Yushchenko the leader of Our Ukraine, also said the conference has proved that "dialogue is the only way out of Ukraine's crisis – the gravest in the past 11 years."

Later, in Kyiv, Mr. Yushchenko said Our Ukraine could sit at a negotiating table with Mr. Medvedchuk's Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU), adding that "Medvedchuk is a Ukrainian reality."

And President Kuchma, who did not participate in the Warsaw forum but arrived in Warsaw after its conclusion to meet with President Kwasniewski and Mr. Solana, noted that he supports dialogue between the government and opposition groups but at the same time ruled out yielding to what he called "ultimatums" – an apparent reference to opposition demands for his resignation.

Thus far, however, Messrs. Yushchenko and Medvedchuk have not met for any

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Project Roll Call...

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Ukrainian Canadian community. Doing so now would enable him to forge a very positive part of his legacy, much as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney did at the end of his tenure in office, by offering our fellow Japanese Canadians a redress settlement, thus establishing the precedent for our efforts."

Former internees or descendants of internees can call toll-free, 1-877-344-4434, and add their information to Roll Call. To review the Roll Call list and Bill C-331, as well as other information about Canada's first national internment operations, readers are directed to the UCCLA's website, www.uccla.ca.

OBITUARY: Hryhoriy Kostiuk, 99, prominent literary scholar and editor

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

SILVER SPRING, Md. – Hryhoriy Oleksandrovych Kostiuk, prominent émigré literary scholar and editor, who wrote extensively on Ukrainian literature and politics in interwar Soviet Ukraine, died here on October 3, at the age of 99.

Prof. Kostiuk was an active participant in the life of the literary organizations of the Ukrainian cultural renaissance of the 1920s – a most intense and dynamic period of Ukrainian literary development that was fostered by the revolutionary era and the policy of Ukrainianization. He was instrumental, as an émigré, in editing new editions of the work of some of the leading writers of the time who fell victim to the Stalinist terror and whose works had been banned from publication in Soviet Ukraine.

Prof. Kostiuk was editor-in-chief of the first complete edition of the works of Mykola Khvylioviy (1893-1933), the single most important writer and polemicist of the cultural renaissance. (A national communist, Khvylioviy, advocating independent development for Ukrainian literature, called for a turning “away from Moscow” toward Western Europe, as the orientation where Ukrainian culture should seek its true inspiration.) The five-volume edition of Khvylioviy’s works appeared in the years 1978-1986.

Prof. Kostiuk also edited new editions of works by Valerian Pidmohylny (1954), Mykola Kulish (1955), Mykola Plevako (1961), Pavlo Fylypovych (1971) and Mykhailo Drai-Khmara (1979).

Equally important was his contribution to maintaining interest in the West in Volodymyr Vynnychenko (1880-1951), writer and statesman, head of the Directory of the Ukrainian National Republic (1918-1919). Under Prof. Kostiuk’s guidance, the standing Commission for the Study and Publication of the Heritage of Volodymyr Vynnychenko was established at the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States. Prof. Kostiuk served as chair and subsequently as chair emeritus of the Vynnychenko archive, which was transferred in 1956 from Mougins, southern France, and today is housed at Columbia University in New York.

Prof. Kostiuk also edited several volumes of Vynnychenko’s previously unpublished literary works and diaries, the latter which came out as two of the planned four-volume “Schodennyk” (Vol. 1, 1980; Vol. 2, 1983).

Hryhoriy Oleksandrovych Kostiuk was born October 25, 1902, in the village of Boryshkivtsi, in the Podillia region of



Prof. Hryhoriy Kostiuk in 1989.

Ukraine. He studied at the Kyiv Institute of Popular Education (1925-1929), followed by graduate studies in literature at the Shevchenko Institute of Literature in Kharkiv (1930-1932).

He worked closely with the writers of the Free Academy of Proletarian Literature, or VAPLITE (Vilna Akademiya Proletarskoi Literatury), the avant-garde writers’ organization founded by Khvylioviy that existed in Kharkiv in 1925-1928. He was also a member of the Union of Workshops of the Proletarian Literary Front, or Prolitfront, an organization inspired by Khvylioviy, which published an eponymous journal.

Upon completion of his graduate studies, Prof. Kostiuk was lecturer of Ukrainian literature at the Prosvita Ukrainian Pedagogical Institute, the All-Ukrainian Association of Marxist-Leninist Scientific Research Institutes (VUAMLIN) and the Institute of Journalism.

From 1927 to 1931 his literary reviews and essays appeared in such journals as Zhyttia i Revolutsiya (Life and Revolution), Molodniak, Chervonyi Shliakh (The Red Path), Krytyka (Critique), and Prolitfront; he also worked as editor for Molodyi Bilshovyk (Young Bolshevik).

Prof. Kostiuk taught Ukrainian literature at Kharkiv University (1932-1933) and at the Luhansk Pedagogical Institute (1933-1934).

Arrested in Kyiv during the Stalinist terror and accused of “nationalism” and “Khvyliovism,” he spent the years 1935-

1940 in a Soviet prison and concentration camps in Vorkuta in the Komi ASSR, above the Arctic Circle, where he did forced labor as a miner.

Memoirs of his imprisonment, “Okaianni Roky” (Accursed Years) appeared in 1978.

After serving his sentence, Prof. Kostiuk, not allowed to go to any major city in Ukraine, settled in Sloviansk in the Donbas region. With the eruption of World War II, he left Sloviansk with his wife, Raisa née Butko, going first to Kyiv and from there, in 1942, to Lviv. In Lviv he became a member of the Writers’ Union and the Association of Journalists.

A post-war refugee in West Germany beginning in 1944, Prof. Kostiuk was among the co-founders of the Ukrainian Art Movement, or MUR (Mystetskyi Ukrainskyi Rukh), a literary organization of Ukrainian émigré writers founded in Fürth, Germany, in 1945 and was a founding member of the Ukrainian Revolutionary Democratic Party (URDP), serving as its head in 1947-1948. As a member of its left-wing faction, he was co-founder in 1949 of the monthly Vpered.

Upon emigrating to the United States in 1952, Prof. Kostiuk taught two lecture cycles at Columbia University as part of its Research Program on the USSR, 1954-1957, which dealt with the formation of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR, and their respective cultures.

Prof. Kostiuk was a founding member of the Slovo Association of Ukrainian Writers in Exile (Obiednannia Ukrainskykh Pysmennykiv v Emigratsii Slovo), which was founded in 1954 in New York with the aim of continuing and developing the activities of its European predecessor, MUR. Prof. Kostiuk served as president of Slovo from 1954 to 1975 and as editor-in-chief, starting in 1962, of the association’s non-

periodic eponymous almanac, serving in that capacity for Vols. 2 (1964) and 3 (1968).

Prof. Kostiuk wrote extensively in the fields of literary history and criticism, and political thought. Many of his essays, which appeared in several émigré periodicals, were republished in his collections: “Volodymyr Vynnychenko ta Ioho Doba (Vynnychenko and His Age, 1980); “Na Magistraliakh Doby” (On the Thoroughfares of an Age, 1983); “U Sviti Idei i Obraziv” (In the World of Ideas and Images, 1983); and, “Z Litopysu Literaturnoho Zhyttia v Diaspori” (From the Chronicle of Literary Life in the Diaspora, 1972).

He was the author of the work “Stalinist Rule in the Ukraine: A Study of the Decade of Mass Terror, 1929-1939” (1960) and of “Teoria i Diisnist” (Theory and Reality, 1971).

Among his English-language publications were: “Stalinism in Ukraine: Origins and Consequences” (1995) and “The Fall of Postyshev” (1954).

Prof. Kostiuk was a member of the board of PEN Club International. He was a full member of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States (UVAN) and the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Upon Ukraine’s independence, he was inducted as a member of the Writers’ Union of Ukraine and an academician of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

A laureate of the Omelan and Tetiana Antonovych International Foundation for his memoirs “Zustrichi i Proschannia” (Meetings and Leave Takings), which came out in 1989, Prof. Kostiuk was also awarded the Volodymyr Vynnychenko Prize by the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation of Kyiv in 1990.

Prof. Kostiuk was predeceased by his

(Continued on page 6)

The most dangerous...

(Continued from page 2)

pioneer the Stakhanov movement of that decade.

Horlivka consists of a series of bleak, ramshackle tenement houses and wide streets. They were practically devoid of traffic. The town resembles a forgotten and neglected wasteland. Reminiscent of Soviet times, its population walks with heads bowed, unwilling to offer conversation. At the only new building in the town, we spoke with Eduard Kashtanovsky, editor of the miners’ newspaper Kochegarka, who monitored the 1991 strike and its results.

He informed us that most of the mines at Horlivka had now closed down. Wages have dropped dramatically in real terms since 1989, and often miners are not paid at all. What happened to the Regional Union, I asked? “Nothing,” he responded. The leaders had been “bought off” with promises of apartments and cars,

and the union disintegrated. Above all, the miners no longer had bargaining power since they represented an industry in deep decline.

Today the mines are in a deplorable state, but the miners have nowhere else to go. There are no retraining programs, and there is no logical alternative employment. The Kyiv government of President Leonid Kuchma is regarded with the same sort of contempt reserved for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1989, but the miners lack the organization and fervor of that period.

Given the current catastrophic casualty rates in the Donbas mines, early closure would seem a worthwhile economic sacrifice. One senses, however, the local sentiment that such an action would betray the industrial past and defy the myth of the hero miner. Thus, the tradition of Stakhanov lives on in this forlorn region, celebrated annually with parades, speeches and, most notably, mass consumption of beer around the statue of Lenin in the center of Donetsk.

Prospects...

(Continued from page 3)

political talks. And it is not surprising that they are not eager to talk with each other. Apart from harboring a reportedly deep mutual dislike of one other, the two men pursue conflicting political goals. Mr. Medvedchuk is involved in constructing a viable parliamentary majority centered on nine pro-presidential caucuses run by oligarchic clans (including his SDPU), whereas Mr. Yushchenko wants to split Labor Ukraine and Ukraine’s Regions from the pro-presidential parliamentary alliance and build a parliamentary coalition centered on Our Ukraine.

“These [three] democratic forces are able to propose the idea of a democratic coalition as an open [proposal] around which other forces could group,” Mr. Yushchenko commented earlier this month. He did not mention what other forces he had in mind, but they are more likely to include the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc or Oleksander Moroz’s Socialist Party rather than Medvedchuk’s SDPU.

Both Mr. Medvedchuk and Mr. Yushchenko have thus far seemed to be rather unsuccessful in their endeavors. Formally, a razor-thin pro-Kuchma majority composed of 226 deputies was announced earlier this month, but it has proved to be quite ineffectual in passing legislation in the Verkhovna Rada. Our Ukraine jointly with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Socialists and the Communists, was able to effectively disrupt parliamentary work by boycotting votes.

According to Ukrainian media reports, however, the State Tax Administration in the Lviv Oblast (headed by Serhii Medvedchuk, Viktor Medvedchuk’s broth-

er), has instigated a number of criminal investigations into companies owned or managed by national deputies of the Our Ukraine bloc, in an apparent attempt at pressuring some of them into joining the parliamentary majority constructed by the presidential administration chief. That this pressure is a real danger to Our Ukraine’s coherence was graphically demonstrated by a protest rally organized by Our Ukraine in Lviv on October 21, at which some 4,000 people demanded Serhii Medvedchuk’s dismissal from the post of chief tax inspector in the region.

On the other hand, there have been no clear signals from Labor Ukraine or Ukraine’s Regions that they want to quit the pro-presidential majority and side with Mr. Yushchenko to form a new coalition.

In essence, what Mr. Yushchenko wants is to persuade two oligarchic groups from eastern Ukraine to abandon their “clannish solidarity” with Mr. Medvedchuk and to leave their political alliance with the SDPU. If Mr. Yushchenko were to succeed in doing this, he would get a solid political foothold in eastern Ukraine and would immensely improve his chances in the 2004 presidential elections. And this is exactly why any sensible dialogue between Messrs. Yushchenko and Medvedchuk seems to be completely impossible.

For Mr. Medvedchuk, who reportedly also has presidential ambitions, the emergence of a parliamentary majority centered on Our Ukraine spells the end of his political clout in the country. Therefore, it is more likely that Mr. Medvedchuk will obstruct any attempts at political dialogue in Ukraine as long as possible, simultaneously trying to split Our Ukraine and compromise Mr. Yushchenko as a political troublemaker.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Cleveland UNA Branch 102 celebrates its centennial



UNA officers at the centennial celebration of the Brotherhood of Ss. Peter and Paul, Branch 102, in Cleveland: (from left) UNA Advisor Wasyl Liscynesky, Branch President Dan Bobeczko, past UNA Advisor Taras Szmagala, Jr., Branch Recording Secretary Mary Bobeczko, longtime Branch Financial Secretary Nicholas Bobeczko and honorary member of the UNA General Assembly Taras Szmagala Sr.

by Daniel S. Bobeczko

CLEVELAND – The Centennial celebration of the Brotherhood of Ss. Peter and Paul, Branch 102 of the Ukrainian National Association, was held on Sunday, October 6, at the Ukrainian Museum Archives in the Tremont area of Cleveland.

The first Ukrainian American organization in the city of Cleveland and the State of Ohio was founded on October 18, 1902, with eight charter members. Over the past century, there have been thousands of members.

Throughout its proud 100-year history, UNA Branch 102 has provided insurance for members and their families, and has remained strong in its commitment as a fraternal society to help members, and to provide leadership and service to Cleveland's Ukrainian community.

The open house and reception had a very nice turnout from the community and conveyed many warm feelings for this historic event. The guest speaker was Taras Szmagala Sr., honorary member of the UNA General Assembly, representing the Home Office of the Ukrainian National Association in New Jersey.

In his eloquent remarks, Mr. Szmagala pointed out that the Brotherhood, which is starting a second century of service, is indeed one of the oldest organizations in Ohio. He presented Branch 102 President Dan Bobeczko with a proclamation from Ohio governor Bob Taft, as well as a proclamation from Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio.

In turn, Mr. Bobeczko saluted everyone who devoted so much time and energy to the organization over the past century, making special mention of his parents. Mary Bobeczko has served as recording secretary of Branch 102 for the past 21 years, and Nicholas Bobeczko has served as financial secretary for the past 56 years.

A congratulatory letter from former UNA President Ulana Diachuk was also read. The president of Cleveland's United Ukrainian Organizations, Wasyl Liscynesky, who is also UNA advisor, presented a historical perspective about the Ukrainian community and pointed out that his own organization will be celebrating its 75th anniversary next year.

Other UNA branches from the area were represented by Alice Olenchuk from 112, Luba Mudri of Branch 222, Mr. Liscynesky of Branch 240, Vera Napora of Branch 291, Taras Szmagala Jr. of Branch 358, Wlademer Wladyka of Branch 364 and Estelle Woloshyn of Branch 230.

The host for the celebration was Andrew Fedynsky, director of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives and a columnist for The Ukrainian Weekly.

Mr. Fedynsky welcomed many distinguished guests, starting with Ward 7 Councilman Joe Cimperman, who presented Branch 102 with a Cleveland City Council proclamation and introduced the new congresswoman for Tremont, Stephanie Tubbs Jones. She had warm remarks for the group and generously offered to help the Ukrainian Museum-Archives with federal support. State Sen. Dan Brady and State Rep. Shirley Smith, offered to do the same on the state level.

In a humor-punctuated talk, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora paid tribute to Ukrainian culture and the Ukrainian community, comparing it favorably to his own Italian heritage, and also offered the county's assistance in any expansion plans the museum might have.

Among ethnic friends of the Ukrainian community who attended the event were Irish Judges Sean Gallagher and Bridget McAfferty, and Albanian Councilwoman Dona Brady. Rep. Dennis Kucinich was

(Continued on page 18)

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ARE YOU A WEEKLY BOOSTER?

Become one by enrolling a new subscriber during The Ukrainian Weekly's special subscription drive in October-November. (Please mark any new subscriptions sent in with the notation "Weekly Booster.")

All readers who enroll new subscribers during the campaign will have their names published on a special thank-you list of Weekly Boosters.

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

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

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

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our hromada – a cooperative effort

Seems like it was just summer ... and here it is: the end of October. Our "normal" community life, which was on summer hiatus, has resumed and is in full swing.

We're back to our familiar community routines: Ukrainian studies school, meetings of our youth organizations, such as the Ukrainian American Youth Association and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, folk dancing lessons, and so forth. And that doesn't include all the non-Ukrainian activities like music lessons, sports and various extracurricular activities that are the norm for our youths.

And it's not just our kids who have so many diverse activities. There's plenty for the adult members of our community to do, whether that involves work on the parish council, or with the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, or for a favorite charity, not to mention our various professional societies and other special-interest groups.

Whew! No wonder we needed a rest during the summer (even though that "rest" is not necessary restful, but just a change of pace as those of us with kids spend the summer getting them from one camp/workshop/seminar to another).

As far back as we can recall – and perusing our history books underscores this fact, life in the Ukrainian community, our hromada, has been based on cooperative efforts. We, the members of our community, are the ones who plan and direct our community programs. We are the ones who make them happen and the ones who ensure their success. It's not as if we pay someone else to run our community programs! Now, with the resumption of our community activity after the long summer break, it's time for each of us to reconsider our involvement, or lack thereof.

We are truly blessed to have a vibrant community life that we can choose to make a part of our lives and our children's lives. Thanks to that community, we have the "enrichment" that so many Americans desire and seek. Thanks to our community we have scores of friends, acquaintances and colleagues, which stands in marked contrast to the mere handfuls of friends that our non-Ukrainian peers can claim – a circle of friends that often is limited to those from the workplace, the school and the neighborhood. And our friends are located around the country, even around the globe – not just down the block or one office over.

Indeed we have much to be thankful for. And what better way to express our thanks and demonstrate our appreciation than by giving back to our community? Ask yourself: What does our community need more than anything else? The answer is really very simple: volunteers. We need volunteers of all ages, of all backgrounds and professions, of all talents and skills. Our community can benefit greatly from creative applications of our manpower.

Each of us can play a role – whether in a leadership position, as an assistant or adjunct, or even on an ad hoc basis specifically geared to one project or another. There are so many tasks that need doing. Perhaps it's about time you headed an organization, ran a school fund-raiser, planned a special program for a youth group, taught a class at Ukrainian school, cleaned up the parish hall, took charge of a special project.

Why not get involved? Take on a function, or a project. Ask how you can help within your club, parish, organization or local community. All of them are cooperative efforts that deserve your input of manpower. All of them will welcome the contribution of your efforts.

So, stop talking about what we as a community can and should do better. Get in there and do it!

Nov.
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1998

Turning the pages back...

It was four years ago that the Ukrainian government first officially acknowledged the legitimacy of the 1918 Western Ukrainian National Republic with a visit to Lviv by President Leonid Kuchma on November 1 to celebrate the WUNR's 80th anniversary.

The president brought a large political contingent, including members of the Cabinet of Ministers, national deputies of the Verkhovna Rada and the mayor of Kyiv, Oleksander Omelchenko, who joined his Lviv counterpart, Vasyl Kuibida, on the dais.

Appearing before a packed auditorium of political, cultural and business dignitaries at the Lviv Opera House, President Kuchma recognized the contributions of the western Ukrainian state toward Ukraine's democratic development. "In its significance, political ramifications and impact on the future development of Ukraine, the establishment of the WUNR foretold of the coming freedom," he said. In more than seven years of independence, reported our Kyiv Press Bureau chief, Roman Woronowycz, no Ukrainian government leader had officially acknowledged the Western Ukrainian government, which united with the government of the Ukrainian National Republic in Kyiv on January 22, 1919.

In his address, President Kuchma united the past with the present. He complimented the leaders of the WUNR for putting aside political differences in the interest of building a strong state and called on current political leaders to follow their example. He quoted Symon Petliura, the supreme commander of the Ukrainian National Republic Army and the president of the Directory of the UNR: "Symon Petliura ... said, 'First of all we need a common understanding, without which we will not be able to mobilize for our common cause.' These words are accurate today, as well," said Mr. Kuchma.

The president also placed a wreath at the monument to Taras Shevchenko, located in Freedom Square, where he was officially greeted by nationalistic organizations, including veteran soldiers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA); members of the Ukrainian Kozak Movement in their historical garb; and the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen Organization.

Roman Pankevych of the Lviv Brotherhood of the UPA said he hoped that the president would officially acknowledge the World War II Ukrainian freedom fighters' place in Ukrainian history. "The president still has not recognized that we exist. We want a declaration from the Verkhovna Rada. The president can begin that process by initiating a bill."

Source: "Ukraine marks 80th anniversary of Western Ukrainian National Republic," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 8, 1998, Vol. LXVI, No. 45.

IN THE PRESS

Kyiv judge comments on criminal case opened against President Leonid Kuchma

On October 17, *Ukraina Moloda* published an interview with Kyiv Court of Appeals Judge Yurii Vasylenko, who opened a criminal case against President Leonid Kuchma accusing him of violating a dozen articles of Ukraine's Criminal Code. The following excerpts were provided by RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report.

What legal consequences may the opening of this case entail?

None, of course. I opened the case; they will close it. But I could not fail to open it since there were enough reasons laid down in the motion of [opposition parliamentary] deputies and additional materials for opening [this case].

Is it against the law to close a case without an investigation?

Under the law, this is impossible. In other words, appropriate investigative steps must be taken to ascertain if there is

evidence for bringing the accusation, or if there is evidence indicating that the accused man is not implicated in the crime.

What are the legal scenarios for concluding this criminal case?

Taking into account how justice [in Ukraine] is administered now, there are virtually no such scenarios. In theory, there are four scenarios as a minimum: 1) prosecutors close the case without explanation (a realistic scenario); 2) prosecutors launch a real investigation (a fantastic scenario); 3) prosecutors suspend the pretrial investigation for an indefinite time (a realistic scenario, too); 4) different political forces find a compromise and agreement (but this is not a legal solution).

Do you believe that the case will take the course it has to take, not the course ordered by Kuchma?

Do I look like an idiot? Of course I don't believe that.

Declassified documents indicate Stalin proposed alliance with Hitler against U.S., U.K.

RFE/RL Newline

Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin secretly offered Adolf Hitler a separate peace in February 1942 and proposed that the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany join forces against the United States and the United Kingdom, Komsomolskaya Pravda reported on October 17, citing recently declassified Soviet intelligence documents published in a new book by veteran military-intelligence officer Vladimir Karpov.

In a document dated February 19, 1942, which was one of the lowest points of the war for the Soviet Union, Stalin offered a complete truce on the eastern front. Further, he offered to undertake a joint military offensive against the other Allies "to restructure the world" by the end of 1943 under the pretext of accusing "world Jewry of war-mongering."

In a second document, dated February 27, 1942, Vsevolod Merkulov, a chief of the Soviet security apparatus, reported on

a meeting with a high-ranking Nazi figure, SS Gen. Karl Wolf, in Mtsensk, in Belarusian territory that was occupied by German forces. Merkulov reported that Wolf elaborated German counterproposals under which Stalin should "solve the Jewish question" in the Soviet Union before Germany would agree to an alliance against the Allies.

Wolf reportedly said that Berlin would be willing to make territorial concessions to the Soviet Union in Europe and to change the color of the swastika on the Nazi flag from black to red. Merkulov also reported that Berlin was insisting on "unacceptable" demands, including German control over Latin America, the Arab world and North Africa, and Japanese control over China.

Despite these revelations, Mr. Karpov's book, "Generalissimo," comes across as a panegyric to Stalin, as the author refrains from criticism and ignores the victims of Stalin's repression, Komsomolskaya Pravda commented.

Hryhoriy Kostiuk...

(Continued from page 4)

wife, who died on November 8, 1998. He is survived by his son, Theodor, and daughter-in-law, Oleksandra (née Dobrianska) Kostiuk.

A commemorative literary evening dedicated to Prof. Kostiuk will be held in

New York on December 1 under the auspices of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States. Taking part in the memorial event will be Dr. Mykola Zhulynski, director of the Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and former vice prime minister of Ukraine, and other members of the academy.

Want to see your name in print?

Then why not become a correspondent of The Ukrainian Weekly in your community?

We welcome submissions from all our Ukrainian communities, no matter where they are located. Let the rest of us know what you're up to in your corner of the Ukrainian diaspora!

Any questions? Call The Weekly, 973-292-9800, ext. 3049.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Weekly needs little bit of spice

Dear Editor:

I have read the Weekly with enthusiasm in the past. I don't read much of it anymore. I questioned renewing my subscription, but did so one more time "for the cause."

There just isn't much that captures my interest. Ukrainian news of any significance has hit the web days, if not weeks, before we receive The Weekly here in Canada. Well then, what would I like to see in the newspaper?

A glimpse into everyday life in Ukraine would be nice. We see practically nothing about the everyday life of "Ivan" and "Marusia" in Poltava or Kherson or Kyiv. What's their lifestyle? How do they make ends meet? What do their kids do? There are few articles about business, popular music, TV or culture of today's Ukraine.

There is more to Ukraine than tawdry politics and sad tragedies, themes that seem to dominate in The Weekly. Everyday life has improved for many in Ukraine. There are world-class shops, clubs, and so forth. But you wouldn't know that from reading The Weekly.

On the diaspora side, how about a page or two regularly dedicated to Ukrainians around the world to keep us in touch with one another? Similar to your "Newsbriefs" feature, write-ups should be brief with pictures if available. Not only are half-page articles unnecessary for every "chayochok," it's hard to get somebody to write that much. Getting these to you from anywhere is relatively easy in this digital age. Encourage people to do so!

The Weekly does many things well. It publishes materials that are not in the mainstream press to inform both Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians. News articles are presented in a fairly objective manner. The material is well-written, albeit somewhat dry.

Conclusion? It's time for a makeover. Not just for the sake of cosmetics, but to stay relevant and to survive.

Build on your solid foundation. Trim some of the politics – we're not all political junkies. Give us a glimpse of everyday life in Ukraine, from "seliany" to mystifying "tycoons." Introduce color – even The New York Times did! Replace boring UNA reports with articles that explain and promote UNA products.

The steak is there. Add a little tabasco, a few side dishes, and voila!

Eugene Cholkan
Toronto

Singer Vika Vradii deserves apology

Dear Editor:

I honestly felt that my photo of Vika Vradii – one of four published in the September 22 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly along with my report on the Requiem 2002 protests in Washington – was a forceful, and true, illustration of the intensity of her performance of "Hanba," the signature piece with which she once chastised Ukraine's pre-independence leaders and now, presumably, leveled also against its current leadership.

Dr. Ivan Holowinsky of Somerset, N.J., saw it differently (Letters, October 6.) and chastised Ms. Vradii for raising a "clenched-fist salute," and thereby – albeit unknowingly – mimicking the Bolsheviks of the 1920s and the "misguided" U.S. student and black groups of the 1960s.

Even though I was shooting Ms. Vradii from a distance of only 10 to 15 feet, I can't recall seeing the "salute" Dr. Holowinsky

saw in the photo. But I can't deny the fact that for one-sixtieth of a second my flash did freeze her raised left hand, and there certainly is a clenched fist at the end of it. I'm not sure, but aren't salutes made with the right hand?

I reviewed the hundred or so frames I shot of Requiem 2002. There are 11 shots of Ms. Vradii, and her left hand has a clenched fist, which is pointing every-which-way, in the "salute" and all but one photo of her. (Prometheus on the bas-relief behind her also has his fists clenched, but they're shackled.) The only shot without a clenched fist is a head-and-shoulders close-up in which Ms. Vradii's eyes are shut. As with the "salute," I can't recall her taking a nap that evening either.

It may well be, as they say, that a picture is worth a thousand words, but it's not worth a damn if it misleads or gets misinterpreted. I apologize to Dr. Holowinsky if I misled him.

I think Ms. Vradii also deserves an apology from Dr. Holowinsky.

Yaro Bihun
Washington

Writer's opinion same as officials'

Dear Editor:

Ihor Dlaboha wrote (Letters, October 13) that the demonstrations in Ukraine aimed at toppling "the duly-elected president of Ukraine are akin to mob politics, which does not bode well for Ukraine's or any other country's image in the world. The diaspora should be concerned that attempts to isolate President Kuchma from international affairs will only contribute to the global impression that Ukraine, as a geopolitical national entity, is far from ready to join the circle of democracies."

The Melnychenko tapes provide clear evidence that President Leonid Kuchma was not elected freely and fairly in 1999. This view is upheld by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe which described the 1999 elections as not free and fair. It is President Kuchma's policies and duplicity since the late 1990s that have progressively isolated Ukraine – not the actions of the opposition. Mr. Kuchma has been semi-isolated since the Kuchmagate crisis began in November 2000 and now, after the Iraqi arms scandal, is set to be fully isolated and treated as an international pariah.

To blame the opposition for Ukraine's international isolation is surprisingly similar to the view espoused by the Ukrainian authorities. Interfax reported on October 14 that President Kuchma said, "Unlike Estonia, we, judging from massive actions and moves by individual politicians, have confirmed the European Union's opinion that Ukraine is not ripe for membership in the EU." At the same time, Interfax noted, Viktor Medvedchuk, the head of the presidential administration, attending a conference on Ukraine in Warsaw also blamed the opposition protests for de-railing Ukraine's European drive.

I leave it up to the readers to attempt to comprehend why Mr. Dlaboha is singing the same tune as the Ukrainian authorities. I, for one, fully agree with Javier Solana, a friend of Ukraine when he was head of NATO and who currently is in charge of the European Union's foreign policy, who said at the same Warsaw conference that Mr. Medvedchuk attended: "The course Ukraine is taking is not getting it closer to European institutions" and "Ukraine is not playing by the rules but with the rules."

Dr. Taras Kuzio
Toronto

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Who was Ivan Mazepa?

Back in the old Ukrainian SSR, Leonid Kravchuk was in charge of policing ideological purity. In practice, that meant going after people who were too vocal about Ukraine's cultural and political status. No doubt, Mr. Kravchuk's fingerprints were on many an arrest warrant in the relentless campaign against "Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism." That's what they called it back then. Carried over from the old Russian Empire, "nationalism" was a catchall crime whose definition changed with the political winds. Regardless, it was a very serious accusation. Under Stalin, "bourgeois nationalists" got a bullet to the back of their heads. What a delicious irony then, that the man responsible for preserving ideological purity turned out to be the biggest heretic of all!

In his 1997 book, *Resurrection*, the *Struggle for a New Russia*, reporter David Remnick gives some fascinating background. It was December 7, 1991, a week after Ukrainians had overwhelmingly approved a referendum on independence. Mr. Kravchuk, Ukraine's Communist Party chief, had crafted the language and campaigned vigorously for its passage. Now he was meeting Russia's Boris Yeltsin and Stanislav Shushkevich from Belarus to dissolve the Soviet Union.

That evening at dinner, Mr. Remnick writes, Mr. Yeltsin supposedly got so drunk that he fell out of his chair. Messrs. Kravchuk and Shushkevich were dragging his inebriated body to the couch just as the Russian foreign policy team was entering the room. Mr. Kravchuk greeted them, coolly assumed the chairman's seat and offered up a short speech about how the three countries that founded the USSR in 1922 had decided to end it. Oh, and please try to limit Mr. Yeltsin's alcohol intake in the future, he urged. So much depends on it.

Who would have thought? The ideology chief was a bourgeois nationalist. But then, based on the referendum, so were nine out of 10 Ukrainians.

All this recent history comes to mind because of the stir surrounding, "A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa," the 152-minute, \$2.3 million movie about an earlier Ukrainian leader who kept his feelings to himself, then turned his back on Moscow when he had the chance. Director Yuri Illienko calls his film a "phantasmagoric dream of history."

The Washington Post describes it as "a circus hall of mirrors in which characters and scenes are twisted, warped, distorted." Variety, the voice of the film industry, gives it thumbs down: "[the director's] indigestible style here dooms what could have been an impressive saga." It acknowledges "moments of strange beauty," but they are offset by "cacophony – an almost amateurish disregard for audience sensibilities." According to The Ukrainian Weekly, many who saw it at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute this summer didn't know what to make of it.

I'm no film critic, so I won't comment on the film as entertainment or art. Instead, I'm interested in it as a political statement, which the director's son explains, asks, "Who was Mazepa and what was his role in Ukrainian history and what is Ukraine's place in Europe and the world?"

Ivan Mazepa (1639-1709), of course, was Ukraine's hetman during the reign of Tsar Peter I. For 22 years he did the tsar's bidding and, as a result, became powerful and wealthy, commanding the affection of beautiful women who were decades

younger.

Then, to everyone's astonishment, Mazepa cast his lot with King Charles XII of Sweden when the latter invaded Russia in 1709. It all ended disastrously at the Battle of Poltava, with King Charles seriously wounded and the combined Swedish and Ukrainian forces fleeing into Moldavia [present-day Moldova], where Mazepa died three months later.

Russians went on to honor Peter by adding "the Great" to his name, while Mazepa for them became synonymous with "traitor." Poet Alexander Pushkin's epic poem, *Poltava*, describes him as "sly," "cruel," "cunning," "cold," "destructive," "wily" and a "snake." In Peter Tchaikovsky's opera, *Mazepa*, based on Pushkin's epic poem, the basso villain comes across just as Pushkin describes him. In fact, Russians were so upset with Mazepa's brand of treason that the Russian Orthodox Church held an annual ceremony for nearly three centuries where the hetman's soul was condemned to hell.

Ukrainians see Mazepa completely differently; his face is on their national currency and postage stamps, and now there's this movie, generously subsidized by the government. In the film, Mazepa is depicted as a hero, while Peter is a lunatic and a psychopath. Ukraine's leading actor, Bohdan Stupka, plays Mazepa. Stupka, a former minister of culture, was also Bohdan Khmelnytsky in the joint Polish-Ukraine production of Henryk Sienkiewicz's classic "With Fire and Sword" and Tevye the milkman in the Ukrainian version of the Shalom Aleichem classic, which is widely known as *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Although *A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa* received mixed reviews as entertainment, it seems to work just fine as a political statement. They certainly noticed it in Moscow. The Orthodox Church cast Mazepa into everlasting darkness nearly 300 years ago, and the Russian government repeats the favor today. "The Ministry of Culture believes this film is anti-Russian and turns the known history of Russian-Ukrainian relations on its head and therefore does not recommend that it be shown in Russian theaters," said the ministry. Sigh – as the French would say, the more things change the more they stay the same.

"So who was Mazepa?" the movie asks. Quite simply, Mazepa is the eternal Ukrainian who quietly sizes up his situation relative to Russia and then, to the extent he's forced to, cooperates with Moscow within the framework of whatever the empire allows. Give him half a chance, and he'll opt for independence.

This was the case with Mazepa, and it turned out to be the case with Leonid Kravchuk, a man who was both enforcer of ideological purity for the empire and the father of Ukraine's independence.

Now that's a movie I'd love to see! Imagine the scene where Messrs. Kravchuk and Shushkevich drag a passed-out Mr. Yeltsin onto a couch. (Russians would see it as tragedy; Ukrainians as farce.) Only who plays President Yeltsin? I can't decide between Marlon Brando and Jack Nicholson. As for Mr. Kravchuk? That's easy: who else but the man who can play both Tevye the Milkman and Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky? I'm thinking of Ivan Mazepa himself, Bohdan Stupka. I bet the Russian Ministry of Culture wouldn't like that movie any better than they like *A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa*.

Day 2 of the third annual roundtable on Ukraine highlights relations with NATO, WTO and U.S.

by Andrew Nynka

WASHINGTON – Academics and foreign policy experts representing Ukrainian, American and European organizations and governments gathered here for a roundtable on “Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood” on October 8-9 to discuss Ukraine’s place in Europe.

The third annual roundtable, hosted by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and a number of sponsors and organizers, drew over 300 individuals to the heart of the U.S. capitol to evaluate and discuss Ukraine’s attempt to integrate with the Euro-Atlantic community.

Below is the second of a two-part series covering the roundtable, “Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood.” Coverage of the first day’s topics, in an article published in last week’s (October 20) issue of *The Weekly*, included: the progress Ukraine has made in moving toward Euro-Atlantic structures by examining the country’s market economy, military structures and democratic polity; the investment and business climate in Ukraine; and an assessment of European Union-Ukraine relations.

Coverage of the second day’s topics, in this week’s article, includes: Ukraine’s relations with the United States, specifically, the development of a strategic partnership, U.S. assistance for Ukraine’s effort to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the contributions Ukraine has made to the U.S.-led global war on terrorism; media freedoms from the vantage point of Ukrainian journalists; and NATO’s relationship with Ukraine in terms of expansion and NATO-Ukraine cooperation.

Opening the morning session on October 9, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, in emphasizing his support and “great respect” for what the Ukrainian nation had done to preserve and maintain its religion, identity and language, offered suggestions on how to move Ukraine closer to the European community.

Ukraine is at a disadvantage by not having most-favored-nation trade status with the United States, Sen. Levin said. “By drawing Ukraine into normal trade relations,” the chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee said, “we could help Ukraine to achieve greater economic

reform.”

Sen. Levin also called the Jackson-Vanik amendment – U.S. legislation adopted in 1974 to promote free emigration from the Soviet Union – “simply outdated and, when applied to Ukraine, inappropriate and wrong.” He said Ukraine had allowed, for many years, its people to enter and exit the country.

U.S.-Ukraine relations

While Sen. Levin commended Ukraine for a willingness to join Euro-Atlantic structures, such as NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Sarah Lenti, the associate director for European and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council, said there was reason to be skeptical about the actual level of commitment from the Ukrainian leadership, at the highest levels, to Euro-Atlantic values of security and democracy.

Specifically, Ms. Lenti said, Ukraine’s heavy arms transfer to Macedonia in October 2001 and January 2002, despite previous assurances by President Kuchma to senior U.S. and NATO officials on the suspension of such transfers, had deeply troubled U.S. officials and strained the U.S.-Ukraine relationship.

But the foremost factors straining U.S.-Ukraine relations, many panelists said, are the continued allegations of corruption and impropriety in the Ukrainian presidential administration regarding the still unsolved murders of several Ukrainian journalists and the possibility of illegal arms sales to Iraq.

Hennadii Udovenko, who currently chairs the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, Ethnic Minorities and Interethnic Relations, said that relations can be strengthened only by strengthening Ukrainian statehood, which can be done by encouraging democratic and economic reforms.

However, many roundtable participants, including Ms. Lenti, made a distinction between the present Ukrainian leadership and Ukraine’s civil society. Ms. Lenti said that civil society, as opposed to the Ukrainian leadership, is “showing a genuine movement towards democracy.”

“There exist in Ukraine people who are committed to democracy, free markets and security,” Ms. Lenti said. She cited teachers, farmers, regional leaders, government workers, hard-working parents and committed students as examples.

Ms. Lenti added that the U.S. would work with Ukraine’s leadership and its people to continue reform efforts. “Our ability to do so,” she added, “will be a function of the quality of our partners.”

Several roundtable speakers noted that, although the current state of U.S.-Ukraine relations had soured, the strategic partnership between the two countries had produced constructive results, such as the decommissioning of Ukraine’s nuclear arsenal, and Ukraine’s participation in international peacekeeping missions and cooperation in the U.S. campaign against terrorism.

That same relationship, noted Shaun Donnelly, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for economic and business affairs, would play an important role in helping Ukraine gain membership in the World Trade Organization.

Mr. Donnelly said that, while Ukrainian membership in the WTO is also in America’s interests, the U.S. would not ease standards for Ukraine’s entrance. He added that no country had done more to help Ukraine along the path to the WTO than the U.S.

“But Ukraine still remains highly resistant to imports and has earned the reputation of being more protectionist than [pro]-free trade,” Mr. Donnelly said.

Other significant issues hampering



James Sherr of England’s Oxford University during his presentation on NATO-Ukraine relations.



Retired U.S. Army Gen. Nicholas Krawciw (far left) joined Maj. Gen. Oleh Sivoschenko of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (middle) and Maj. Michael Donnelly of the United States European Command on the military panel to discuss reforms in Ukraine’s armed forces.

Ukrainian membership in the WTO are left unresolved, American and European panelists said. The issue of intellectual property rights, Mr. Donnelly added, is so serious and resistant to significant progress that the U.S. imposed economic sanctions on Ukraine in January.

Also, Ukraine’s selective enforcement of tax laws has remained a rather large impediment, not only to foreign investment, Mr. Donnelly said, but to attaining the standards required by the WTO for candidate countries.

Re-establishing the partnership that panelists said once existed between the United States and Ukraine would be a first step toward gaining American support in Ukraine’s quest for WTO membership.

Many of these same issues, specifically arms sales and allegations of executive-level corruption, have led experts to question a U.S.-Ukraine security partnership, while the United States is looking for geostrategic East European and Mideast partners in the fight against terrorism.

Ukraine could figure prominently in such a strategic role – indeed some panelists said, it already has by granting overflight rights – others question the Ukrainian government’s ethics as a security-related issue.

“Can such a government be a friend and ally to the U.S. in a difficult security period?” asked Ariel Cohen, a research fellow in Russian and Eurasian studies at the Heritage Foundation.

Nonetheless, many panelists suggested that Ukraine’s contributions to the war on terrorism were a separate, and positive, component of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship.

“Ukraine has embedded itself in the international web of mechanisms against terrorism,” said Nicholas Krawciw, retired U.S. Army general. Ukraine has also shown “a concrete record of support in reshaping an Afghan National Army” and, Gen. Krawciw added, the nearly 5,000 flights of U.S. planes over Ukraine since the U.S. war on terror began had been very useful.

Gen. Krawciw, who is currently president of the Dupuy Institute, said that recent assurances from “the highest levels of the Ukrainian government” that U.S. investigations into the Kolchuha affair would receive “complete cooperation” from Ukrainian officials, could begin to resolve the current “crisis of confidence” in U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Freedom of the press

While there seemed to be no doubt among roundtable participants that journalists in Ukraine lack the freedoms of the Western media, a relatively new issue has emerged regarding Ukrainian journalism. The idea of “temnyky,” while not new to Ukrainian journalists, has morphed into a new tangible form, panelists said.

Ukrainian broadcast journalist Andrii Shevchenko of Novyi Kanal said that use of temnyky – which he later speculated to be an “official government press release” – was an attempt by government officials to continue influencing journalists. While previously calls were made in order to instruct journalists to report on certain issues and not others, now, Mr. Shevchenko said, tem-

(Continued on page 9)



Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer.

Day 2...

(Continued from page 8)

nyky are anonymously printed and widely distributed, eliminating the need for time-consuming phone calls.

Mr. Shevchenko said that Ukrainian journalists are currently in "a war for our profession." He also described the situation as an "ongoing battle to do our jobs." Panelists, however, also offered suggestions for improving the situation for journalists in Ukraine.

The need for professional schools of journalism and foreign aid for independent media in Ukraine seemed to top the list of suggestions to improve the current condition of Ukrainian journalists; some panelists also noted these could lay a foundation for building democracy in Ukraine.

A number of Ukrainians hear only about pro-presidential party candidates during elections and information on opposition parties often does not reach the Ukrainian masses, said Oleksander Kryvenko of Hromadske Radio, a Ukrainian radio station modeled after National Public Radio in the U.S., because large media organizations that have the ability to distribute their message to much of Ukraine are almost exclusively tied to certain politicians and promote specific political interests.

Mr. Shevchenko even suggested that both the UNIAN and Interfax news services were experiencing some form of influence over their coverage of Ukrainian news.

Ukraine-NATO relations

While some panelists said Ukraine stands ready to join the next wave of new NATO members, others said Ukraine's place in NATO will be determined solely based on the actions Ukraine's leadership takes to correct numerous internal problems.

Some fears were raised that if Ukraine is not included in the next round of NATO expansion, a disenfranchised Ukraine could discard its reform efforts and the country might look to Eurasian treaties and institutions for diplomatic and economic survival.

Dr. Angela Stent, director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies and professor of government at Georgetown University, said Ukraine now has the choice of seeking membership in European institutions such as NATO or signing on to the Tashkent Treaty, a collective defense commitment created in 1992 among some of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which would be seen as a move away from Europe. Dr. Stent said, however, that the next round of NATO enlargement would not result in Ukraine's isolation.

James Sherr, lecturer of international relations at Oxford University in England, said the current situation in Ukraine makes it highly unlikely that the country could become a NATO member. Ukraine must escape its Soviet past and make reforms to military, political and diplomatic structures, he said.

Mr. Sherr added that Ukraine can make reforms and move towards NATO and the Euro-Atlantic community by recognizing its own distinct nature, as opposed to emulating the path to NATO taken by Russia or other former Soviet states. He said that NATO would not move toward Ukraine, but that Ukraine must be the one to re-energize its stalled reform efforts.

Mr. Sherr, who is also a fellow at the United Kingdom's Defense Academy, did say, however, that NATO membership for Ukraine is possible because the country understands its problems well and knows what is necessary to fix them. It just requires the right political force to make those changes.

Serhii Pyrozhkov, deputy secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, said NATO had provided guidance and assistance to Ukraine. He also said

that through military cooperation and joint exercises, both NATO and Ukraine had begun to trust one another.

Robert Legvold, a professor of political science at Columbia University, said Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic destiny is in its own hands. He said Ukraine's international, strategic and military environment is the best it's ever been and that the Ukrainian government is now committed to Europe.

Dr. Legvold said NATO member-countries welcome that Ukraine would choose a Euro-Atlantic path, but he said NATO members differ on whether Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic membership is feasible.

Dmytro Tabachnyk, chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Foreign Relations, said that NATO double standards towards Ukraine were working against the country. He said he recognizes the need to create a constructive alliance between Ukraine and NATO, but said that, while other countries infringe on their Membership Action Plans and are not held to task, Ukraine is often reproached for doing so.

"Ukraine seems to have high demands placed on it and double standards it must battle. This needs to be overcome," Mr. Tabachnyk said. "We understand the benefit to the Ukrainian people of NATO standards and benefits, but we must have strict adherence to regulations and then we can make the move to NATO."

In the end, the panel seemed generally to agree that any serious consideration of Ukraine as a NATO candidate is premature. Currently the question of whether Ukraine has attained NATO standards seems less of an issue because recent events in Ukraine indicate the country must now demonstrate sound democratic principles.

U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon said in his keynote address that both he and a core group of members of both major political parties in the U.S. Congress will support Ukraine for the duration of their Congressional terms. He also added that "Ukraine must understand that it needs to be a strategic partner," and he underscored that it is the Ukrainian citizenry who will decide the country's future.

Mr. Udovenko said that while the roundtable may strongly contribute to the improvement of U.S.-Ukraine relations and "possibly give a better understanding to the current U.S. administration that Ukraine – despite the scandals – is important for the U.S."



Panelists during a working lunch on October 8 discussed Ukraine's investment climate.



Chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on European Integration Borys Tarasyuk.



Ukrainian journalists discuss their work and the situation in Ukraine during a working lunch on October 9. Holding the mike is Roman Woronowycz of The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau.



Wedding and Engagement Announcements



Walter and Katheryna Suchenko Bula
of Columbus, New Jersey,
are proud to announce the marriage of
their son
Alexander Wolodymyr
to
Jaime Pamela
daughter of Donald Schoeffling
and
Pamela and Wayne Wilson
of Delran, New Jersey,
on Saturday, the eighteenth of May,
two thousand and two,
at St. George Ukrainian Orthodox
Church,
Yardville, New Jersey.



Mr. & Mrs. Dymitr Kot of Ansonia,
Connecticut, proudly announce the
engagement of their daughter
Joanna Kot to William Platosz,
son of Mr. & Mrs. Mirosław Platosz of
New Britain, Connecticut.
An August 23, 2003 wedding is planned.
William is a member of UNA Branch 254
New Britain, CT.



Wowk Photography

Christina Jancew of Clifton, New Jersey and Christopher Richard Iwanik of Newington, Connecticut, have announced their engagement and plan to marry on September 27, 2003, at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Britain, Connecticut.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Vasil Jancew of Clifton, New Jersey, and the late Jaroslawa Jancew. She is the granddaughter of Helen Korostil Kuszniir of Piscataway, New Jersey, the late Mychajlo Korostil, and the late Fedor and Alexandra Jancew. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Kean University in Union, New Jersey. Christina is the Sports Director on the National Board of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM), Vice President of CYM Passaic Branch, and is employed at KPMG.

The groom-to-be is the son of Richard and Olga Iwanik of Newington, Connecticut. He is the grandson of Anna Biluszcak of Newington, Connecticut, the late Ivan Biluszcak, and the late Jurko and Helen Iwanik. Christopher is a UNA member-Hartford, Connecticut Branch, and a member of the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford. He is a Managing Partner with SolvIt, Inc.

The couple will reside in Connecticut.

Congratulations to the newly married and engaged couples!

May they have the best
of fortune and share the joy of love
throughout their life together!

— The Ukrainian Weekly

* * *

Wedding, engagement and
anniversary announcements are
published several times a year in
The Ukrainian Weekly. The next
Wedding Announcements section
will be published in January
2003.

To receive a brochure about plac-
ing an announcement, or for fur-
ther information, please call:
(973) 292-9800,
ext. 3040.



Wedding Announcements



Laura Bak-Boychuk, daughter of Luba and Michael Bak-Boychuk, married Michael Steuch at the historic Adamson House in Malibu, California, on July 27, 2002. Laura, born and raised in Palos Verdes, California, and Michael, born in Copenhagen, Denmark, are both attorneys in Los Angeles.



Mr. And Mrs. Jaroslaw Mulyk, Mrs. Wanda Baxer and Mr. Thomas Baxer along with their families are excited to announce the marriage of their children, Marta Halyna Mulyk to Christopher Paul Baxer. The wedding was held at Soyuzivka on June 15, 2002. We wish them many years of health, love, and happiness together. Mnohaya Lita!

VESILLIA: Ukrainian weddings in Manitoba over the last century

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

PART I

In addition to the obvious necessities of life that they were able to take on the journey to their unknown new home on the Canadian prairies, Ukrainian pioneers brought three items: the Bible, Taras Shevchenko's *Kobzar*, and a handful of soil tied into a handkerchief. Each of these symbolized the spiritual necessities and make-up of Ukrainians – no matter where in the world they were or were going to be. The Bible and the “*Kobzar*” represented the spiritual and national character of the people. The Ukrainian soil was the tangible, emotional link to Ukraine and its traditions, that are an integral part of every Ukrainian.

These traditions remain with the individual throughout the year and throughout every phase of life – from birth to death. It is remarkable how many customs and traditions there have been since prehistory, how many have faded away, and yet how many have remained and are practiced in a modern 21st century non-Ukrainian environment, a continent away from the homeland.

One tradition that has been a constant over the more than a century of Ukrainian presence in Canada, especially on the prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, is the Ukrainian wedding. Non-Ukrainians are thrilled to get an invitation to a “real” Ukrainian wedding, because they know it will be something special, and truly a happy occasion.

A marriage, in any society, joins not only two individuals but also two immediate and extended families. The varied customs and rituals of marriage have their roots in ancient, even prehistoric times. For example, because the ancient Romans believed that the fourth finger of the left hand was directly connected to the heart, that is where the wedding ring was worn. In Central and Eastern Europe, the right hand is the prominent one, and most couples wear their wedding bands on the fourth finger of the right hand. Rice, confetti or now, in our environmental correct times, bird seed is thrown at the newly-married couple as an echo of the ancient wish for the couple's fertility.

Most Ukrainian wedding customs can be traced to the matrilineal culture of the Trypillian period, in which the two mothers play the prominent role, with the fathers participating only in the blessing of the couple. The bride's brothers are also involved in specific rituals. Other customs originated in medieval times. Many ritual wedding songs are about the *kniaz'* (king), i.e., the groom, his *kniahynia* (queen), i.e., the bride, the *boyary* (noblemen) or what now would be called ushers, and riding to the hunt. The chroniclers of the 10th through 12th centuries recorded the earlier courting and marriage practices of the various tribes of the ancient Slavs, including the abduction of women from one tribe by men of another. Usually these abductions took place near bodies of fresh water and, in time, were not a surprise. Slightly later practices involved the purchase of brides.

The statement “I do not wish to unshoe him,” is recorded in 1128 in the *Lavrentiiski Litopys* (chronicle) about Rohnidas original refusal of the proposal of Volodymyr the Great. “Unshoeing” is one of the symbolic phrases still used to indicate betrothal. It represented the practice of the bride ritually removing the boots of her new husband on their wedding night. There must have been something about feet and shoes, because one of the special gifts to the bride, and sometimes to her mother, were boots from the groom. The *hahilka* (spring song) “*Verbovaya Doschechka*” ends with the young woman's expectation of receiving red boots from her betrothed.

Because the chroniclers were Christian monks, their depiction of these “heathen” pre-Christian practices was quite biased. However, Ukrainian pre-Christian traditions were so rooted in the people's psyche over the millennia that, in spite of official Church opposition and edicts well into the 15th to 17th centuries, these practices persisted. For example, these included caroling the ancient *koliadky* and *shedrivky* (now a Christmastime tradition), and the blessing of baskets of food and spring ritual dances (now done at Easter). The Church finally accepted this dualism, and the practices were incorporated into Christian rituals.

There is no way one could cover all the rituals of the Ukrainian wedding – just describing them would take almost as many days as the wedding itself. Yes, days, because a Ukrainian wedding, both back in Ukraine and on the Canadian prairies, is not over in a few hours.

The power of tradition was so strong that in Ukraine, well into the 19th century, the family and community did not consider a couple married just because they went through the religious marriage ceremony in church if they had not also gone through the many stages of the traditional family “*vesillia*” at home (the matchmaking, betrothal/engagement and wedding). Even the word *vesillia* is descriptive – *vesillia* means wedding, and has as its root the verb “*veselytysia*” to merry, to be joyful.

The church ceremony was just a religious and legal requirement. It did not marry the couple in the eyes of the community. With just a church wedding, the couple continued to live in their respective parents' homes, and behaved as unmarried individuals until the traditional ritual *vesillia* took place. In 1991 I spoke with a Winnipeg woman whose son had just married in a civil ceremony in Toronto. She was a mass of nerves, planning a “proper” wedding for him and his bride here in Winnipeg. And even though the church ceremony was important to her, it was the *vesillia* with family and friends that would make this marriage “proper.” The word “*shliub*” (*shliubuvaty* – to promise) denotes the marriage ceremony in church, and the word *vesillia* refers to the ritual family and community wedding ceremonies.

The traditions of the ancient *vesillia* have stayed so strong that many non-religious, pre-Christian rituals



Bride in a wedding wreath from the Stanislaviv (Ivano-Frankivsk) region of Ukraine, as depicted by artist Slava Gerulak. (Copyright Ukrainian National Women's League of America)

became part of the church ceremony itself. By the turn of the 19th to 20th century the church ceremony became an integral part of the *vesillia*. In “*Syny Zemli*” (*Sons of the Soil*), his classic novel about Ukrainian Canadian pioneer life, Illia Kyriyak has the parents worrying that there is no church and no priest to marry their children, “so that I and the people would see them saying their vows, because that is the way it has been from time immemorial, and should be always.” But the church ceremony was not enough. A father fretted that his daughter married quickly in church, and believed it was his holy obligation to give her a wedding according to the customs of the ancestors, “as it should be.” The mother complained that she did not see who dressed and prepared her daughter for the church ceremony, “so we should at least welcome our guests according to our ancient *vesillia* custom ...”

After a detailed description of the wedding customs intertwined with phrases from ritual wedding songs, Kyriyak concludes the chapter: “And the ancient ‘kings’ and ‘noblemen’ never even dreamed that their descendants, their common descendants, would follow their wedding custom after hundreds of years in a foreign land, in a new world.”

And follow the wedding customs they did. Some of the basic elements of the Ukrainian *vesillia* on the Canadian prairies – with some variations in the rest of North America – are: the social; *divych vechir* (young women's evening) or “*vinkopletyny*” (plaiting of the wreaths), an evening for the bride and her friends; the blessing of the couple by the parents and grandparents before leaving for church; ritual songs and instrumental folk music accompaniment; periwinkle and/or myrtle wreaths, or gold crowns (a later element); the “*korovai*” (wedding bread) and other ritual breads; *hiltse* (decorated tree branch), a tree of life and fertility; “*darovannia*” (which has developed or deteriorated into the “*presentation*”); and the “*popravyny*” (reception on the day following the wedding).

The “social” is a Manitoban phenomenon (with some roots in Saskatchewan). It's a fund-raising *zabava*, or dance. It is held a month or more before the wedding, and is organ-

(Continued on page 22)

Annychka rocks 100,000 at Ukrainian Festival in Toronto



Youngsters of the Ukraina Dance Ensemble.



The festival's house band, Dunai, performs at the 1,000-seat festival garden.



The Baturyn Band is ready to start the festival parade.



"Bohdan's Bar" – the smaller 500-seat beer garden.

by Jurij Roman Klufas

TORONTO – Pop star Annychka from Lviv was the feature act during the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival's kick-off concert on Friday night, September 13, in Toronto. "It's so much fun to be performing on a professional stage and to such a large and enthusiastic crowd," she commented.

Indeed, by early Saturday afternoon one of Canada's national TV networks CTV was announcing attendance of 50,000 in its national news coverage of the start of the event just after the festival's opening ceremonies. By the end of the day festival organizers were pleased that attendance had comfortably topped well over 100,000 visitors.

One of the festival's main attractions was the four-hour live broadcast from the festival site, Toronto's west end on Bloor Street, by Canada's most prestigious radio station CFRB.

CFRB "Morning Man" Ted Woloshyn was this year's festival parade marshal, and CFRB announcer Christina Chernesky, after finishing her on-site broadcast, rushed home to freshen up and returned to MC the evening's gala concert.

Mr. Woloshyn said: "It feels great to be contributing in this way to the community and it's fantastic that this Ukrainian Festival is now a mainstream event. This is great business for the station!"

The chairman of Toronto's Business Improvement Association and the longtime president of the Bloor West Village BIA, Alex Ling, also pointed out: "You may have started this festival for yourselves, but now, six years later, this has turned out to be a party event for all people and one of this city's better events."

The seven-block festival's main attraction continued to be the huge 40-square-foot stage, which offered a perfect setting for the all-day concert and full line-up of feature performers: pop soloist Annychka from Lviv, the Telnuk Sisters from Kyiv, the Todaschuk Sisters from Winnipeg, Ihor Bohdan from Calgary, Lvivski Muzyky folk ensemble from Lviv, pop singer Taras Kurchyk from Lviv, Emmy award-winning artist Roman Klun and the festival's house band, Dunai.

There were many others including the dance ensembles Desna, Ukraina, Vesnianka, the Ukrainian Academy of Dance, Arkan and Barvinok from Mississauga, London and Windsor.

This year's parade was led by the Baturyn Band and for the opening ceremonies the Avanguard Band played the Ukrainian, United States and Canadian National anthems with a special tribute to the United States in memory of the September 11 tragedy of last year.

A new festival feature this year was the Friday evening concert sponsored by

Ukrainian Credit Union, featuring Annychka and her excellent renditions of traditional Lemko Folk melodies.

Saturday morning started off with another innovation: a free gourmet breakfast for the first 1,000 festival visitors sponsored by Buduchnist Credit Union.

The most visible addition to the festival was the huge 10-square-foot video wall sponsored by the So-Use Credit Union that allowed festival patrons to comfortably continue their conversations, dinners and drinks in the 1,000 seat festival garden without missing any of the stage performances.

The Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival – North America's largest Ukrainian street festival – is presented by Kontakt Television. It is a free event for all festival patrons and therefore is very grateful for all corporate sponsors that share and support the festival's vision. The main sponsors whose support paid for the professional stage were Northland Power, and Acuity Investment Management, who have been the festival's sponsors since day one, and newcomer Meest. This year was the first year that Ukrainian credit unions supported the festival in a significant way and this allowed for several innovations to the annual event. Other sponsors whose support contributed to the overall infrastructure were: Western Union, Slavutych, the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation, Dock Edge, Cardinal Funeral Homes and Coffee Time Donuts. The elegant new Lviv Ukrainian restaurant provided both meeting and office space for festival headquarters, not to mention exquisite food.

The festival management and staff – made up of about 200 volunteers from the Toronto Ukrainian community also focuses on the concept of community partnering. Last year's partners, St. Joseph Health Center Foundation and St. Vladimir Ukrainian Institute, were joined by the Ukrainian School Board, St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Demetrius Foundation and the Ukrainian Care Center.

A very significant boost to the 2000 festival organizers was the approval of a two-year grant from the Ontario Provincial Government's Trillium Foundation. Festival General Manager Raya Shadursky explained: "The Trillium Foundation grant of \$115,000 over two years enables and specifically directs us towards building a long term infrastructure for the festival's organization. So far we have been able to raise corporate financial support specifically for the expenses of the festival days, but not for long term professional planning."

Next year's plans call for expansion of the seven-block festival further eastward along Bloor Street in Toronto. The idea is to present an exhibition of both individual and corporate international Ukrainian business achievement from both sides of the Atlantic. Both the ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, and the new consul general of Ukraine in Toronto, Ihor Lossovsky expressed their commitment to find contributing exhibitors in Ukraine.

Plans call for outdoor structures that represent Ukrainian community and corporate life; structure could range from a 20-foot-high model of a Ukrainian church or domed bell tower to a street sized model of a Ukrainian credit union lobby.

Dr. Ostap Hawaleshka of Winnipeg, the first and founding director of the internationally funded Science and Technology Center for Ukraine, when approached about building a street-sized model of a Ukrainian-made airplane for this new festival project responded: "This is a great idea." Then, reflecting for a while, grabbed his head with his hands and sputtered: "How am I going to make a 'small' model of the world's largest airplane, the Antonov 225 Mria?"



The festival's headliner: Annychka.



The Ukrainian Academy of Dance performs.



Young flag-bearers carry three nation's flags.



Plast members livens things up during the parade.



Markian Shwec, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Toronto Branch, and Olya Odynsky-Grod, festival VP.



The Karpaty Ukrainian Sports Club marches in the parade.



All-day concert MCs Myron Genyk (left) and Roman Dykyj (right) with back stage manager Larissa Chalupa.

Fesitval photos by Marta Stangret, Ivan Korec and Petro Lopata.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Turkey extradites former UES execs

ANKARA— Four former executives of the United Energy Systems of Ukraine were extradited from Turkey on October 21, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. The four, who were jailed in Turkey in June following a request from the Ukrainian Procurator General's Office, include former Board Chairman Yevhen Shaho and Hennadii Tymoshenko, the father-in-law of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko. They are suspected of hiding hard-currency profits and stealing state assets while working for the energy company. Ms. Tymoshenko had requested that Turkish authorities grant the four asylum, claiming the arrest warrant is a politically motivated attack against her opposition activities. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rally demands president's ouster

KYIV – Several thousand people gathered on Independence Square in Kyiv on October 19 for a rally organized by the opposition as part of the ongoing "Arise, Ukraine" anti-presidential protest campaign, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. Opposition leaders appealed to demonstrators to sign a resolution urging President Leonid Kuchma to resign on October 21. Demonstrators subsequently moved to the presidential administration headquarters on Bankova Street, where they lit candles and set up a plaque reading, "On this street a memorial will be erected to honor victims of the Kuchma regime." The rally coincided with the 10th anniversary of Mr. Kuchma's coming to power. In October 1992 the Ukrainian Parliament had appointed Mr. Kuchma as prime minister. He left the post of prime minister in 1993, and in 1994 was elected president of Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian miners halt strike

KYIV – Ukrainian coal miners suspended a general strike on October 18 after the Verkhovna Rada approved the first reading of a 2003 budget draft that pledges more financial support for the sector, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Last week miners at approximately 130 of Ukraine's 170 coal mines refused to ship coal to consumers or halted their work completely to protest what they said was insufficient funding for the coal-mining sector in the budget draft proposed by the government. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Experts assess Kolchuha allegations

KYIV – U.S. and British experts have completed a fact-finding mission in Ukraine, but need at least a week to establish whether Ukraine sold a Kolchuha radar system to Iraq in contravention of United Nations sanctions, Reuters reported on October 21, quoting U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual. "[The experts] are in the process of reviewing a very large volume of data and information which they collected. They need to assess it, they need to determine if there are any gaps, they need to determine if any additional information is necessary and they will then at that point reach conclusions," Ambassador Pascual told journalists. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Did Kuchma help fund Putin campaign?

MOSCOW – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma allegedly provided \$50 million to \$60 million to help finance

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

President Vladimir Putin's 2000 election campaign, Kommersant-Daily reported on October 18. The daily's report is based on the controversial tapes that former security officer Mykola Melnychenko claims to have recorded in Mr. Kuchma's office between November 1999 and September 2000. The Kuchma administration has repeatedly denied that the tapes are authentic. The newspaper printed what it alleges to be a transcript of a conversation between President Kuchma and two officials that was recorded on July 15, 2000. "Before the elections we paid Russia at Putin's request, I don't know, about \$50 million or \$60 million," Mr. Kuchma is quoted as saying. The transcript also says the money was allegedly laundered through Itera, a controversial offshore company tied to Russian natural-gas giant Gazprom. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada approves 2003 draft budget...

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on October 17 passed the first reading of a surplus-budget bill for 2003, Ukrainian media reported. The bill calls for revenues of 55.2 billion hrv (\$10.4 billion) and expenditures of 53.3 billion hrv. The bill was supported by lawmakers from pro-presidential caucuses and Our Ukraine, while the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc did not participate in the vote. (RFE/RL Newsline)

...forms commission to probe arms deals

KYIV – A total of 221 lawmakers – well above the required 150 – on October 17 endorsed a resolution creating a 12-member temporary commission to investigate whether Ukraine illegally sold arms to Iraq, reported the UNIAN news agency. The resolution did not specifically mention President Leonid Kuchma, whom the U.S. State Department accused last month of authorizing the sale of a Kolchuha radar system to Iraq. The commission is headed by National Deputy Borys Andresiuk of the Social Democratic Party-United. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Medvedchuk prepared for dialogue

KYIV – Presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk, who also heads the SDPU, has told journalists that his party is prepared to enter a dialogue with Our Ukraine regarding the current political crisis, UNIAN reported on October 17. Mr. Medvedchuk was responding to Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, who said following the "Ukraine in Europe" conference in Warsaw that Our Ukraine could sit at a negotiating table with the SDPU. "Medvedchuk is a Ukrainian reality. He is a fact, pardon my saying so," UNIAN quoted Mr. Yushchenko as saying on October 16. Mr. Medvedchuk said he has "only one personal request" to Mr. Yushchenko and explained that he wants the Our Ukraine leader to withdraw his signature under the opposition's September 16 resolution calling on President Leonid Kuchma to resign. It is not clear from the UNIAN report whether Mr. Medvedchuk considers this withdrawal a necessary precondition for entering talks with Our Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

A Russian consulate in Transdnier?

TIRASPOL – Citing confidential sources, Flux reported on October 16 that the Russian Federation had begun diplomatic procedures for opening a consulate in Transdnier. According to the

reports, Russian Ambassador to Moldova Pavel Petrovskii spoke with Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin about the issue on October 11, after the Russian Duma adopted a decision to open a consulate. Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada is expected to vote by the end of this week on opening a consulate in Tiraspol. Previously, both the Moldovan authorities and opposition parties opposed the opening of foreign consulates in the Transdnier, as doing so would mean official recognition for the breakaway region. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Split in Parliament continues to grow

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on October 17 failed to place on the agenda discussions of the current political situation in Ukraine, a motion proposed by opposition groups, the UNIAN news service reported. The motion was supported by 205 deputies – 21 votes short of the number required for approval. The parliament also did not endorse a proposal by Our Ukraine to change parliamentary regulations to prohibit lawmakers from voting for absent colleagues using their magnetic voting cards. The opposition alleged that such cases of voting took place on September 26. Despite the controversy, Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn signed several legislative acts adopted that day, UNIAN reported on October 17. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Money-laundering blacklist updated

MOSCOW – The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) removed Russia from the list of countries that fail to combat money laundering, Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksei Kudrin told journalists on October 11. Meanwhile, the FATF also threatened "countermeasures" against Nigeria and Ukraine, unless they took steps to enact or expand existing anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering legislation. Earlier this year, the Russian Federation established a Financial Monitoring Committee and the State Duma passed an anti-money-laundering law. According to the Financial Times of October 14, "FATF President Jochen Sanio said it was obvious Russia had 'invested a lot of money, a lot of technology and the best staff available' in the new agency." Mr. Sanio added, according to the paper, "The progress should be given a standing ovation," adding that "Moscow could become a full member of FATF by next year." The FATF is an agency comprising 31 member-states that was set up by the G-7. The agency's current list of "non-cooperative" states includes 11 countries. (RFE/RL Crime and Corruption Watch, The New York Times)

Ukrainian president visits Macedonia

SKOPJE – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrived in Skopje on October 22 for a two-day official visit, MIA news agency reported. Mr. Kuchma met with President Boris Trajkovski, Speaker of Parliament Nikola Popovski, and outgoing Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski. Mr. Kuchma's talks focused on future economic relations. At a joint press conference, Presidents Kuchma and Trajkovski said relations are good – as was evident during the conflict in Macedonia in 2001, when Ukraine supported the Macedonian army with helicopter gunships, fighter jets and pilots. President Kuchma stressed that both countries were in constant touch with NATO regarding their military cooperation during that conflict. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Romania may seek world court's ruling

BUCHAREST – Prime Minister Adrian Nastase said on October 7 that

Romania might ask the U.N. International Court of Justice (ICJ) to rule on the country's dispute with Ukraine over the delimitation of their border in the vicinity of Serpents Island in the Black Sea as well as control over several islets in the Danube River estuary, RFE/RL's Bucharest bureau reported. Mr. Nastase spoke after meeting in Bucharest with ICJ President Mohamed Bedjaoui. In September President Ion Iliescu agreed with his Ukrainian counterpart, Leonid Kuchma, during a visit to Kyiv that, in line with the provisions of the 1997 basic treaty between their countries, experts representing the two sides would try to reach an agreement by June 1, 2003. The 1997 treaty includes an option for asking the ICJ to rule on the matter in the event that the sides fail to reach agreement. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Court case on Ukraine-Moldova border

CHISINAU – Moldova's Constitutional Court on September 19 began hearings on the appeal of Popular Party Christian Democratic leaders Iurie Rosca and Stefan Secareanu against the border re-delimitation agreement reached last year with Ukraine, Infotag reported. The plaintiffs said the Moldovan authorities have no right to cede to Ukraine part of a highway near the village of Palanca, since this is "unalienable Moldovan territory" and the agreement thus infringes on Article 10 of Moldova's Constitution. Yurii Stoikov, chairman of the Parliament's State Security Commission, told the court that Moldova has received much larger chunks of land in exchange for the ceded territory. (RFE/RL Newsline)



Alexander V. Holuka

A Parastas service was held October 2, 2002, at St. Irene Byzantine Catholic Church, Portland, Oregon, for Alexander Vladimir Holuka, who died September 28, 2002.

Alexander was born August 12, 1928, in Lviv, Ukraine, and came to the US in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army from 1948 to 1954. He graduated from Seton Hall University. With his first wife, Dana, he had two sons, George and Andrew. Dana is deceased.

In 1986 he married Diana Lee, who survives him.

Alex moved from New Jersey to Portland, Oregon, in 1966, after working for many years in New York City. In Portland, he worked for Pitney Bowes and Robert Randall Property Management, retiring in 1992.

Alexander is survived by his wife, Diana Lee Holuka, his sons, and seven grandchildren.

Private interment was October 15, 2002, at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.



Michael Titorenko

Retired Financial Officer

Michael Titorenko, 83, died Friday, October 18, 2002, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. Born in Gomel, Belarus, he came to the United States in 1949, settling in New York City, where he resided before moving to Somerset, N.J., in 1984. Mr. Titorenko began his career as a financial officer in Ukraine for several years, before working for Simon-Holland Steel Co., Brooklyn, N.Y., as a laborer until his retirement in 1963. He was a member of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, South Bound Brook, N.J., and St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church, New York, N.Y. He also was a member of the Board of Directors for the Ukrainian Orthodox Federal Credit Union, South Bound Brook, N.J., and a member of the Board of Trustees for St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church, New York, N.Y. Surviving are his wife of 66 years, Pasha Wasilcova Titorenko, a son, Alexander Titorenko and daughter-in-law Marcia of Albany, Ga., a daughter, Helen McNamara and son-in-law Frank of New Hyde Park, N.Y., three grandchildren, Michael Titorenko, Michelle Cox and Gregory McNamara. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, October 22, 2002, at Conroy Funeral Home, 21 E. Second St., Bound Brook, N.J., followed by a divine liturgy at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, South Bound Brook, N.J. Interment was at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery, South Bound Brook, N.J.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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For more information about Harmonia, visit their website at www.harmoniaband.com.

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BOOK NOTES

Volume records history of USCAK and its involvement with sports in Ukraine

"USCAK i Sport v Ukraini" (USCAK and Sport in Ukraine), edited by Omelan Twardowsky. Newark, NJ: USCAK, 2002. 472 pp., \$35 (hard cover).

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Sports enthusiasts and, specifically, Ukrainian sports historians alike should find USCAK's most recent publication, "USCAK i Sport v Ukraini," compiled by Omelan Twardowsky, a welcome and valuable resource.

The mostly Ukrainian-language book is a collection of published articles, documents, letters and reports pertaining to the activities of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK).

In the introduction to the book's English-language section, Dr. Orest Popovych writes: "The present collection offers to average readers as well as historians a selection of original sources, which provide a first-hand account of what the leadership and the members of USCAK have accomplished for the good of Ukrainian sports."

For Ukrainian sport statistic junkies, "USCAK i Sport v Ukraini" is a must. Mr. Twardowsky, USCAK's press officer, has compiled USCAK's 45-year history, including facts and statistics on athletes and competitions, into what Dr. Popovych calls "the most significant published articles and other documents pertaining to the activities of USCAK."

The book includes valuable information on diaspora athletes and looks at competitions in soccer, tennis, volleyball, swim-



ming, chess and Olympic games, to name a few. But, the book also includes information pertinent to USCAK's history, its value and work with sport in Ukraine.

The price of the book includes postage. Anyone interested in a copy should write to: USCAK, 68 Tuxedo Parkway, Newark, NJ 07106-2823. Library of Congress catalogue card number: 02-141123.

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NEW RELEASES

Didyk's new CD, "Misha"

by Bohdan Markiw

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – The recently released CD recording, "Misha" was launched by the successful and professionally very busy young Ukrainian tenor and opera star Mykhailo (Misha) Didyk on the Discovery label. On the strength of acclaimed operatic performances in Rigoletto and "La Bohème" at the New York City Opera, "La Traviata" in Michigan and "Madama Butterfly" and "The Capulets and Montagues" with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, together with appearances in Israel, Kyiv and France, Mr. Didyk's vocal gifts are by now well-known internationally. Now, with this new CD, one can continue to marvel and enjoy his vocal opulence. His virile ringing tenor is full of passion and love, and penetrates sublimely into the listener's soul.



The Symphony Orchestra of the Ukrainian Radio Company provides an excellent instrumental accompaniment for tenor Didyk. Included on this recording are works from such famous operas as La Bohème, "Tosca," "Madama Butterfly" and "Turandot," all by Puccini. Here Mr. Didyk has ample opportunity to display the eloquence of his refined musicianship which, at its finest, has an uncanny ability to illuminate the emotional core of a musical work. Especially noteworthy are the "Che gelida manina" from "La Bohème," and "E Lucevan Le Stelle," the final aria from Tosca, as well as "Nessun Dorma," (Luciano Pavarotti's signature aria from Turandot). These vocal renditions of familiar Italian opera arias are beautifully rendered as a result of the singer's thorough comprehension of the lyrics and his excellent diction.

Mr. Didyk performs three arias from Verdi operas in true verissimo fashion. These are "Lunge da Lei" from La Traviata and two arias from Rigoletto, "Parmi Veder Le Lagrime" and the ever popular "La Donna e Mobile."

For a contrast in singing style, there is a thoroughly dazzling rendition of "Una

furtiva lagrima" from Donizetti's opera buffa "L'Elisir d'Amore." In this aria, Mr. Didyk took a unique approach – he saved his exquisite pianissimo for the very end, following an elaborate bel canto run. There is also one aria sung in French, "L'Amour, l'Amour!... Ah Lève-toi, Soleil" from Gounod's opera Romeo and Juliet. Here his voice takes on a richer, darker tone with more body. He sings with lyrical ardor, yet stylistic refinement. To conclude, there are two arias by Tchaikovsky: "Prosty Nebesnoie Sozdanie" from Pique-Dame and "Kuda, Kuda," Lensky's aria from Eugene Onegin. In these pieces Mr. Didyk has no equal – this is his turf, and no foreigner can outdo him.

Mr. Didyk favors the listener with an encore – an interesting rarity, the Ukrainian folk song, "Chornii Brovy, Karii Ochi." The music is skillfully orchestrated to give the soloist a sympathetic accompaniment. He sings every note with deep feeling and in a tone that is gloriously rich from top to bottom. He ends the number with a ravishing, shimmering, ethereal, sustained pianissimo.

On the whole, this is an excellent disc of classical opera arias, and certainly one that fans of opera and fans of Mr. Didyk alike will treasure for many years.

The current disc is available at leading Ukrainian sources such as Yevshan and Kolos, as well at www.mishadidyk.com.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

announces that the

**PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT
FALL ORGANIZING MEETING**

will be held on

**Saturday, November 9, 2002, at 1:00 p.m.
at the UARC**

1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA

Obligated to attend the meeting are District Committee Officers, Branch Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**10, 45, 62, 83, 116, 128, 153, 154, 156, 162, 163, 173, 216, 231, 239,
245, 247, 248, 261, 268, 321, 331, 339, 347, 362, 378, 397**

THE MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

**Christine E. Kozak – UNA National Secretary
Stefan Hawrysz – UNA Advisor
Pawlo Prinko – UNA Advisor
William Pastuszek – Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly**

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Ostroh Academy officials on speaking tour

OSTROH, Ukraine – Profs. Ihor D. Pasichnyk and Natalia Lominska, rector, and vice-rector respectively, of the National University of Ostroh Academy, will be visiting various U.S. cities in November.

After a visit to Minneapolis (October 27), they will travel to Cleveland (November 1), Pittsburgh (November 3), Philadelphia (November 9) and Washington (November 10).

Dr. Pasichnyk was born in the village of Hlynky, Rivne Region, in 1946. He attended Kyiv State University, Lviv State University and the Rivne Pedagogical Institute. He received his candidate's degree in 1981 and his doctorate in psychology in 1993. He has published more than 50 scientific articles and his book, "The Psychology of Stage Formation, Operation and Structure in Systematization" was published recently by Ostroh Academy.

Dr. Pasichnyk has served as rector of the academy, now called the National University of Ostroh Academy, since its resurrection in 1994. This unique educational institution has prospered under his leadership. In 1999 the National University received the prestigious "Outstanding

Quality Award" from the International Trade Leaders Club.

Prof. Lominska was born in Ostroh, Rivne Oblast, in 1969. She graduated from Lviv State University with a degree in philology. She was hired as a professor of English at Ostroh in 1994. In 1997 she was one of three Ostroh professors who enrolled at Northern Illinois University as part of the NIU-Ostroh project in "Democracy and Education," funded in part by the Eurasia Foundation.

While at NIU she taught courses to undergraduates as a member of the Leadership and Educational Foundations faculty, attended classes and worked on her thesis. She graduated with a master of science degree in education in 1998. Her NIU thesis, "Language Education in Ukraine and National Identity: An Historical Analysis" was completed under the direction of Dr. Myron B. Kuropas. The thesis was translated into Ukrainian and published in 2002 in both languages by Ostroh Academy Press. Prof. Lominska was appointed vice-rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy in 1999.

Cleveland Branch...

(Continued from page 5)

represented by his district director, Pat Vecchio.

Mary Boyle, former county commissioner and now candidate for state treasurer, also joined the celebration and personally greeted everyone at the event.

In addition to the fixed exhibits, the Ukrainian Museum-Archives, an organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Ukrainian heritage and culture, had on display historical docu-

ments and artifacts collected by the Brotherhood of St. Peter and Paul over the past 100 years. More details of the history of this UNA branch and many of the documents, photographs and certificates on display for this special exhibit may be viewed on line at www.umacleveland.org.

The major source of funding for the museum is from membership donations. All proceeds from the celebration were designated for the museum to facilitate more special exhibits and historic celebrations in the future. Catering for the event was provided by Taras Kowcz.



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Ukrainian-American Heritage Foundation receives state grant for dance workshop

LEHIGHTON, Pa. – The Ukrainian-American Heritage Foundation of the Lower Anthracite Region, based in Schuylkill County, Pa., was recently awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Regrant Program to support its annual Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp and Workshop. The camp, held annually during in July at the Ukrainian Homestead in Lehighton, Pa., attracts over 75 children and young adults.

Grant money will be used to bring in special guest instructors, David Woznak of the Kashtan School of Ukrainian Dance in Parma, Ohio, and Andrij Dobriansky of

the Syzokryli Ensemble of New York.

The PPA program is a partnership initiative between local arts organizations and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. State government funding for the arts comes through an annual appropriation by Pennsylvania's General Assembly and from the National Endowment for the Arts. PPA is administered locally by the Berks Arts Council.

For information about the workshop, contact Dr. Paula Holoviak via e-mail, holoviak@kutztown.edu; or phone, (570) 708-1992.



Deborah Bertolet (left), president of the Berks Arts Council board of directors, with Dr. Paula Holoviak and Joseph Zucovski of the Ukrainian-American Heritage Foundation.

Immersion camp hones adults' language skills

REGINA, Saskatchewan – Many accolades are being directed at the organizers of the second Adult Ukrainian Language Immersion Camp (AULIC) by those who attended the program, held on August 8-11 at the Trident Camp in Crystal Lake, Saskatchewan.

The increased level of interest in the AULIC has been notable. The first such camp, held in 2001, attracted 11 registrants. This year that number more than doubled to 24. There were even five U.S. registrants who paid the modest registration fee of \$150 – just a fraction of their expenses, which included airfare from such cities as Baltimore, Seattle and Detroit.

This year the AULIC program offered three levels of instruction: beginners, intermediate and advanced. The instructor for the Beginners level was Anita Drebot, a teacher with many years of teaching experience from Regina, while Lilia Kompritchevska, the administrator of the Petro Mohyla Institute in Saskatoon, coached the Intermediates, and Iryna Pyvovar, a teacher of Ukrainian from Lviv, directed the advanced class.

The program was not all class work. The evenings included singing sessions, learning the finer points of making such

things as borsch, varenyky, holubtsi and torte plus playing cards.

The above activities were complemented with a trip to the Ukrainian Museum in Canora, where the AULIC students were treated to a thorough, entertaining and enlightening tour of the museum's collection by Lillian Kobrynsky. After leaving the museum the group visited the local Ukrainian Catholic church.

Those interested in learning more about the AULIC program should contact any member of the organizing committee: Ed Lysyk, Wayne Hydeman, Ken Mazur or Tony Harras at: (306) 586-6805; fax, (306) 585-7945; e-mail, harras@sasktel.net; or by writing to AULIC, 455 Habkirk Drive, Regina, SK S4S 6B2.

The AULIC is a joint project of the Ukrainian Orthodox Men's Association of Regina and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Regina. Financial support was received from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council, and Regina Branch, Saskatchewan Lotteries and the Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages.

The next AULIC has been tentatively set for August 7-10, 2003.



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Can trade unions...

(Continued from page 2)

and parliamentary opposition were not strong enough to demand such conditions. As a result, the value of the credits could be substantially exaggerated. Widespread corruption within this system, and an exploitative relationship to the mines and the workers become the most urgent problems.

The State Oversight and Review Department has revealed that the state subsidies given to the coal industry are not spent for the stated purpose. The Audit Commission has accused the government of misappropriating World Bank loans for coal industry restructuring. The World Bank's loan of \$300 million approved in 1996 was supposed to go towards implementing mine closures, and social and environmental mitigation. There was one key problem: lack of transparency, especially regarding the social funds, still being investigated.

Open books are not the only issue. The actual accounting procedures are questionable: investments in the coal mine's development are not included in the balance sheet before profit/loss estimation, and actual social costs are not shown against profits, but reported separately or under-reported.

Like other large industrial enterprises inherited from the Soviet era, coal mines finance wages and pensions, but also day care, hospitals, schooling, apartments, stadiums, health centers, and so on. The companies try to shift these costs to local government, but not always successfully; the life of the whole town depends on the mines.

Into this bleak and challenging landscape step the four main trade unions in the coal-mining industry now: the Trade Union of Coal Industry Workers which is a member of the Federation of Trade Unions of

Ukraine (which inherited the Soviet trade unions); the Independent Union of Miners of Ukraine, a member of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Ukraine; the Independent Union of Miners of Donbas; and the Trade Union of Technical Staff and Employees of the Coal Industry. Once powerful enough to force the dismissal of the president and the Parliament in 1994, these unions can no longer protect workers' interests for several reasons.

The government learned its lessons, too, from the strike era of 1993 and 1996-1997 and is striking back itself. First, state-controlled prosecutors launched criminal cases against the strike leaders of 1996, pronounced some guilty and conditionally sentenced them to several years of jail. Second, the government has also resorted to intimidating workers' leaders before strikes, and some of their protest actions were stopped through police force and violence, leading to several miners' hospitalizations. And third, the state has used the well-tested principle of "divide and conquer." The government will give financial support to a trade union to prevent it from joining another's strikes. For example, the government transferred funds to the Trade Union of Coal Industry Workers for buying gifts for the coal miners killed, and the Ministry of Fuel and Energy issued an order calling for the transfer of part of the revenue from the sale of coal to the union to finance coal miners' vacations in sanatoria. As a result, the union is negotiating with the government about wage arrears and providing political support, in exchange for some benefits.

The Independent Union of Miners of Ukraine is the most active defender of coal miners' rights among the trade unions. Its leader, Mykhailo Volynets, constantly accuses government authorities and the managers of coal mines of neglecting safety standards in pursuit of profit. Although

he does attract a certain amount of attention to the deplorable state of the coal industry, the ability of the union to actually affect change in the industry is rather dubious.

First, such union leaders have little opportunity to inform the public at large about the troubles in the coal industry because the major mass media, owned or controlled by state or business groups, are silent about these issues.

Second, the mines' managers are appointed by the Ministry of Fuel and Energy. Their mission is to exploit the mines, and they do not feel responsible to their employees, simply ignoring union requirements about safety conditions, payment of arrears, wage increases, and so on. It is very difficult for coal miners to find other jobs in the depressed Donbas region in case of layoffs and they are forced to work under these poor conditions.

The independent union was the first trade union that started linking political to economic demands, and Mr. Volynets has long defended coal-miners' rights. Currently, he is a member of the parliamentary faction of Ms. Tymoshenko, who is in strong opposition to President Leonid Kuchma and his government. Tymoshenko was the deputy prime minister responsible for the energy sector in the Yushchenko government for a year and had some success in cleaning up the energy industries but was unable to get at the coal industry, which she called the most corrupt sector. Ultimately, she faced prosecution herself, which she battled and now faced again in August as the government tries to suppress her political challenge.

Another union leader, Yurii Pivovarov, leader of the Solidarnost trade union, was accused of stealing money and found guilty. His lawyer said the charges are based on unlawfully obtained evidence, because his arrest came within days of his leading a demonstration of 10,000 people urging the resignation of the head of the

Donetsk state administration.

In sum, the depressed economy, the misappropriation of funds, and the absence of public oversight – all issues which trade unions alone cannot battle – lead to poor safety conditions, which in turn lead to accidents and large numbers of deaths among miners. The situation in the coal industry reflects the economy as a whole, as other sectors are declining as well. Without deep political reform and an end to repression, it is extremely difficult for trade unions to protect the labor and human rights of the coal miners. State and mine managers do not feel any responsibility for the miners, and safety rules are neglected in pursuit of profits.

The newly created trade unions represent workers' interests in better fashion than the old Soviet unions, but they constantly struggle against various state agencies and employers, on the one hand, and against the Confederation of Trade Unions on the other. The confederation inherited all the property of the old Soviet unions, and they treat the new unions as competitors, although the Constitution of Ukraine does establish equal rights for all trade unions. The legislative framework needs to be improved, however, to enable them to more effectively protect workers' rights.

The subsidies to coal industry should be transparent and follow a schedule as well as be a subject to public control. Trade unions can play a role, and an end to government harassment of them and the political forces they rely on in Parliament is crucial. Credits from international financial organizations like World Bank can mitigate the social consequences of industry restructuring and closing coal mines. However, as Ukrainian experience has shown, a portion of them might be spent on other purposes or simply stolen. Therefore, their distribution must also be subject to government and public oversight.



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The public is cordially invited to also attend the official opening of a multi-media exhibition on *The Renaissance of Kyiv*, arranged in cooperation with the City of Kyiv, on Friday, December 6, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

For information and tickets for the Man of the Year 2002 banquet please call the Ukrainian Institute of America at (212) 288-8660. Tickets: \$150 per person.

Baczynskyj is USCAK's 2002 chess champion

by Dr. Orest Popovych

GLEN SPEY, N.Y. – The 2002 chess championship of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) took place on October 5 at the Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y. The 12 participants included representatives of five Ukrainian American sports clubs plus two unaffiliated recent arrivals from Ukraine.

Five rounds of composition using the Swiss system produced a clear winner in Borys Baczynskyj (Tryzub, Philadelphia), a chess master and winner of many Ukrainian tournaments, who posted a score of 4:1. Although Mr. Baczynskyj was upset in Round 1 by Alex Pelekhaty, 12, a recent arrival from Ukraine, he recovered by winning the remaining four games, which included victories over the reigning USCAK champion, Olexa Podebryi, and Peter Radomskyj, the only

other master in this year's event. The winner's prize was \$200.

Tied for second through fourth places, with 3.5 points each, were Peter Radomskyj (Chornomorska Sitch), Dr. Ihor Podebryi (Popel Club, Buffalo, N.Y.) and Alex Pelekhaty (Brooklyn, N.Y.). All three were awarded prizes of \$100 each.

Twelve year-old Alex, who won the top junior prize, is receiving professional coaching and enjoying top-level competition in New York, all of which promises a bright chess future.

Tied for fifth-seventh places were the Rev. Marian Procyk, Olexa Podebryi (both of the Popel Club) and Stepan Pelekhaty (Alex's father) at 2.5 points. Mr. Pelekhaty won the \$100 prize for the top player rated under 2000.

There followed: eighth-ninth (tied), Sydir Nowakiwsky (Tryzub) and Dr. Roman Andrushkiw (Sitch) at 2 points; 10th-11th, Leonid Charzenko (Sitch) and

Orest Kociuba (Ukrainian Center, Passaic, N.J.), 1.5 points; and 12th, Lew Markiw (Dovbush, New Haven, Conn.), 1 point.

The participants heard addresses by Omelan Twardowsky, president of Chornomorska Sitch, Newark, which sponsored the tournament, and Myron Stebelsky, president of USCAK.

Mr. Stebelsky stressed that the activity of the USCAK Chess Division extends to Ukraine as well, in the form of sponsorships. To date USCAK has provide major financial assistance to three international chess tournaments in Lviv dedicated to the memory of Stepan Popel. Also, one-time grants were provided to several young Ukrainian chess stars, among them the current world champion, Ruslan Ponomaryov. The other USCAK grant recipients were Tetiana Kononenko, Andriy Volokytin, Anya Muzychuk and Kateryna Lahno.

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Ukrainian weddings...

(Continued from page 11)

ized by the bridal party and friends of the couple. Tickets are sold in advance (usually about \$10), and the liquor tickets, silent auctions and raffles at the event raise even more money. The net amount is presented to the couple. The social is held in a hall, and usually a few hundred people attend. In Manitoba, other than the main wedding social, other socials are held to raise funds for all kinds of organizations or special causes, from the Orchid Society of Manitoba Social, to the Gay and Lesbian Club Social, to those sponsored by political parties. Others are special fund-raisers for an accident victim, or an orphan, or some other charitable goal.

Vinkopletyny, or divych vechir, is an evening before the wedding for the bride and her female family members and friends, at which the wedding wreaths are plaited. Myrtle (mirt) and periwinkle (barvinok) symbolize eternal love, purity, and fertility. Periwinkle is an evergreen ground-covering vine, and is probably older in Ukrainian tradition than myrtle, which is a Mediterranean shrub kept as a house plant in Ukraine.

Wreaths for both the bride and groom, to be worn during the marriage ceremony, were plaited during vinkopleteny, with each participant of the evening helping to weave in at least one sprig. Originally, only the bride's unmarried female friends were present to bid farewell, to plait the wreaths and to decorate the hiltse (the cut top of a tree adorned with ribbons, flowers, herbs, and other ornaments). In Canada this practice had fallen by the wayside, to be replaced not only by the bridal shower, but by the monster hall shower, which seems to have prairie origins (with even major appliances presented as shower gifts).

Over the last three decades or more, the terms vinkopleteny and divych vechir have resurfaced. There are even invitations

specifically for this occasion, now in essence a combination of shower and wreath plaiting. While few women now know or remember the ritual songs to accompany this evening, these also are being revived. In 1989, the Voloshky Singers and friends of Vancouver, under the musical direction of Ann Kvitka Kozak, recreated vinkopleteny in a stage production. An audiocassette and booklet of this unique and beautiful "Vinkopletennia" production is available. "Vinkopleteny" refers to the entire ritual, while "vinkopletennia" is the plaiting of the wreath.

The wreaths are placed on the heads of the couple by the priest during the marriage ceremony. In some churches, large golden crowns are used instead. Depending upon custom or personal preference, the wreaths and crowns are either placed directly on the heads, or are held above the heads by the best man and maid of honor, or the "starosty" (the elder matchmakers). The wreaths and crowns indicate that the bride and groom are the queen and king of their family. The periwinkle wreaths are a much more ancient symbol than the crowns, the latter stemming from medieval times.

The blessing of the couple by the parents before departure for the church represents respect for parents and elders, and the unity of the family. Originally, the bride and groom were blessed separately in their respective homes, and arrived at the church separately. In the last century, and now in traditional North American Ukrainian weddings, the groom is blessed by his parents (and grandparents, if living) in his home, then arrives with them at the bride's home, where either her parents bless them, or all parents bless the couple together. Usually the couple travels to the church together (there are no superstitions about the groom seeing the bride before church).

The bride is not led down the aisle and given away by her father. The priest greets the couple in the vestibule, where what was

once a separate betrothal ceremony takes place. Equality of the bride and groom is seen in the old word for both husband and wife "druzhyna," from the root "druh," which means companion or friend. Often a program is distributed in church for the wedding guests, listing the wedding party and explaining the ceremony and rituals. This is done specifically to provide information for non-Ukrainian guests.

"Rushnyky" (embroidered ritual cloths) played and still play an integral role in wedding customs. In pre-Christian times, the rushnyky with their symbolic embroidered or woven designs were considered sacred objects, talismans that protected, influenced fate, and warded off evil spirits ("nechysta syla," or, literally, the unclean power). In various rituals, the rushnyk accompanied a person from birth to death.

During the wedding ceremonies, it was worn tied diagonally across the upper body of the starosty and "druzhby" (groomsmen); tied around the upper arm of the groom; worn as a sash by the bride, and used to hold the icons during the parental blessing. The rushnyk was stood and knelt upon in church (the lyrics of a few folk songs indicate this when the young woman sings "I want to stand on a rushnyk with you"); it symbolically bound the hands of the couple as they were led around the tetrapod (the small table in front of the altar) three times; and it held the korovai and other wedding breads, because bread – especially ceremonial, ritual bread – is not to be held in bare hands.

Special motifs were embroidered especially for wedding rushnyky. Myroslava Stakhiv, an expert embroiderer, explained that the motif of two birds facing each other represented the bridal couple. The number of little birds surrounding the main design indicated the number of children being wished for the couple.

For Ukrainians, bread is holy and reverent; it is to be treated with the utmost

respect. As with the rushnyky, there is a special bread for every holy day of the year and for every family occasion from birth to death. The wedding breads are especially varied and ornate. There was not only the main bread, the korovai, but also special breads for the bride, the groom, the bridesmaids, the druzhby, the parents and other members of the wedding party. Now in North America, in general, usually only the korovai is baked.

The korovai was originally a sacrifice, with its root in the Sanskrit "kravya," or meat, and blood ("krov," in Ukrainian), or in the Sanskrit "kr," to make or do. It is a large round bread (the roundness represents the sun), its top ornately decorated with symbolic baked-on dough ornaments, especially little birds and pine cones. Wheat stalks, herbs, nuts, flowers and fruit also were attached. The style and ornamentation of the korovai depended upon region.

The sharing of the korovai by all the guests, done with great ceremony and ritual, was the actual culmination of the vesillia (as illustrated by M. Zynoviev in an etching, "Rozdacha Korovayu" – the serving of the korovai, 1891 in Nyva). During war or hardship, when a wedding was impossible, the blessing and sharing of bread was enough to constitute a marriage in the eyes of the community.

By the 1930s on the prairies, under pressure for Ukrainians to assimilate, the white wedding cake generally replaced the ritual bread. Later, both the korovai and a wedding cake were part of the wedding reception, with the former remaining symbolic, and the cake being served. But, beginning in the late 1960s, the korovai again became an integral part of the wedding tradition. But instead of the old custom of druzhby ceremoniously approaching each sitting guest with the korovai, it is now distributed by the couple as the wedding guests greet them during the presentation. Often guests receive little baked dough birds or tiny "kolachi" (another type of ceremonial bread) as a remembrance. These birds are either removed off the korovai, or are separately baked especially for this purpose, and have an attached tag with the names of the couple and wedding date.

Since "small" Manitoba weddings have about 200 to 300 guests, there is a lot of baking ahead of time. Often there is one korovai for serving and one to be kept by the couple permanently (it dries out). Many women are expert korovai bakers. When ordering a korovai the bride is asked whether she wants one for eating, or for drying." This is because the dough would be prepared differently. I had the pleasure of tasting a korovai in Lviv, and cannot get over the lush, rich bread with a touch of honey. The small dough birds given as favors to the guests along with the korovai and cake are no comparison to the favors distributed to guests in some U.S. cities.

Sometimes, hand-painted individually signed ceramic dessert plates in Ukrainian designs are prepared to order for each of the hundreds of guests. In less politically correct times, small individual ash trays, in Hutsul or Trypillian motifs, were the favors.

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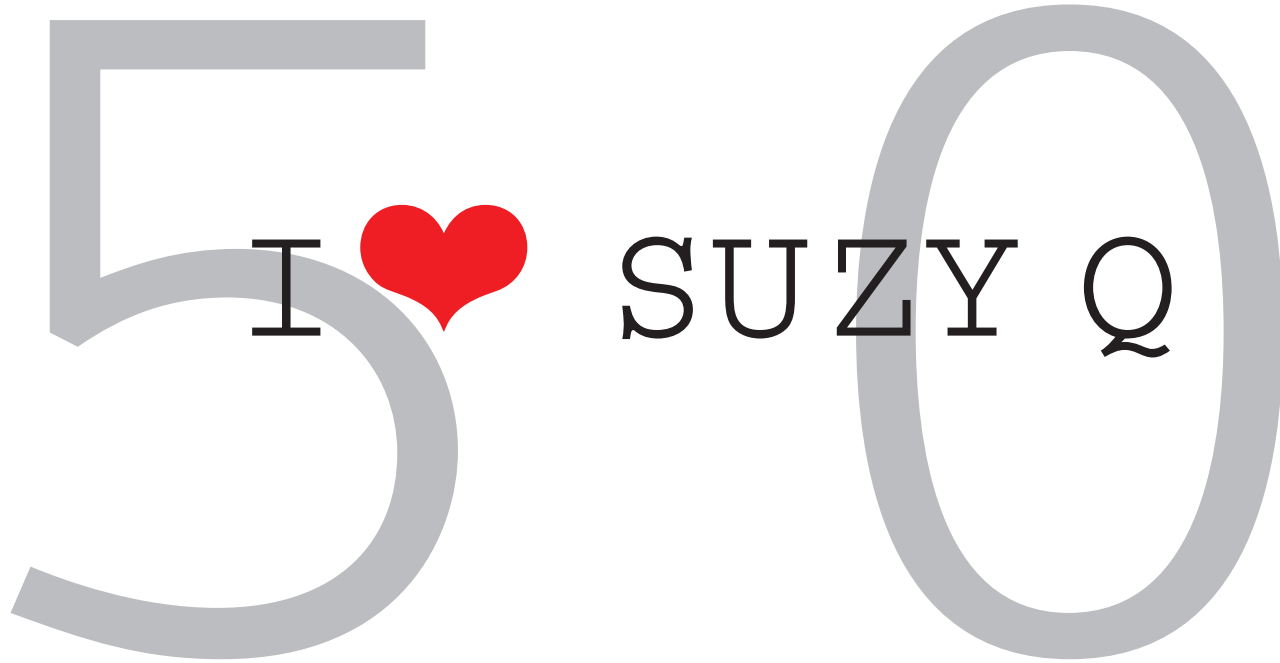
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 2

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society is sponsoring a roundtable discussion on the state of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine and in Russia. The participants are Dr. Oleksandra Palka (Lviv), an IREX Fellow in the department of Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Virginia, and Dr. Oksana Ostapchuk, a research fellow at the Center for Ukrainian Studies at the Institute of Slavic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, who is currently a Shklar Fellow at Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. The presentation will be held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For more information call (212) 254-5130.

Sunday, November 3

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 4 will present a unique show of original wearable art, titled "Regal Fantasy," at 1 p.m. in the small reception hall adjacent to St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church on Main Street. Featured will be original knitwear created by the Ukrainian designer Tamara, whose work draws on inspiration from Ukraine's ethno-cultural heritage. Her son Andrei, an accomplished artist in his own right, will be showing some of his original paintings. Included is a hot luncheon served with light beverages, as well as musical entertainment and a raffle of fine items. Price of admission: \$25 per person. For tickets and information contact Luba Siryj, (908) 534-3728. Please order your tickets early, as seating is limited and tickets will not be available at the door.

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Hamonia ensemble will perform traditional folk music of Eastern Europe — from Ukraine, Hungary, Croatia, Romania and the Slovak Republic at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., at 3 p.m. A reception for the artists will follow the program. Free admission; donations welcomed. The concert is presented by The Washington Group Cultural Fund, under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, as the opening concert of their 2002-2003 Music Series. For information contact Laryssa Courtney, (202) 363-3964.

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America invites everyone to the annual Halloween Costume Party for Children with Marta Sawycky, director of "Music and Me," as master of ceremonies. Festivities begin at 2 p.m. and include: costume parade, musical program, age-appropriate activities, fun and games for toddlers, pre-school and school-aged children, Magic Show featuring Ihor the Magician, snacks and refreshments. Admission: \$25 per family; space is limited and reservations are highly recommended. The UIA is located at 2 E. 79th St. (diagonally across from The Metropolitan Museum of Art.) For more information and reservations call the UIA, (212) 288-8600.

Friday, November 8

MONTREAL: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Shevchenko Scientific Society of Montreal and UCPBA of Montreal invite all to a book launch of Volume 8 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus'." Special guests are Dr. Frank Sysyn, editor-in-chief, and Marta Olynyk, translator, of Volume 8. The event will be held at McGill University Faculty Club, 3450 McTavish St., at 7 p.m. Reception will follow. For information call

Prof. Yarema Kelebay, (514) 488-3989, or Zorianna, (514) 481-5871.

Saturday, November 9

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian Human Rights Committee and the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center invite the public to a meeting with Ihor Pasichnyk, Ph.D., rector and Natalia Lominska, M.S.Ed., vice-rector, of the National University of Ostroh Academy, located in Western Ukraine. The guests will address the topic "Educating Future Patriotic Leaders in a Democratic Ukraine"; the presentations will be in Ukrainian and English. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 700 Cedar Road., Jenkintown, Pa. For more information call (215) 782-1019.

COATESVILLE, Pa.: Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church at 399 Charles St. will hold its annual Fall Bazaar at 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Ukrainian kitchen will have delicious varenyky, holubtsi, halushky, kovbasa, soup, paska, and nut and poppy-seed rolls and much more. Church tours, craft tables and a bookstore with religious articles and gifts for the holidays also will be featured. For information call Irene, (610) 384-7285.

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble is hosting its annual Autumn Ball at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road. The dance will begin at 9 p.m. with music by Fata Morgana. The Voloshky Ensemble will perform during the early evening. Tickets: adults \$30; students, \$25. Included in the ticket price is a light buffet. Proper evening attire is required. For table reservations call Katria Kowal, (215) 413-2504.

Saturday-Sunday, November 9-10

BALTIMORE: The Telnyuk Sisters vocal duo presents its new program, "Firebirds," at the parish hall of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 2401 Eastern Ave., at 2 p.m., as part of the parish celebration of St. Michael Archangel Day. Divine liturgy will be celebrated at 10:15 a.m., followed by a parish sponsored lunch at noon. Concert tickets: \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door, seniors and students, \$12; free admission for children. The concert program combines vocals, poetry and classical music, as well as folk instruments, in a distinctive style that breaks the barriers between soft rock, jazz and folk music. For more information call (410) 747-7279. Prior to the concert, there will be a meeting with the artists on Saturday, November 9, at Ze Mean Bean, 1739 Fleet St. Table reservations at the café may be made by calling (410) 675-5999.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Monday, November 18

TORONTO: The annual Ukrainian Famine Lecture will be presented at the University of Toronto by Hiroaki Kuromiya, department of history, University of Indiana. Titled "The 1932-1933 Famine and Ukrainian National Sentiments," the lecture will be held in Room 108, North Building, Munk Center for International Studies, Devonshire Place at 4-6 p.m. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Toronto Office, the Ukrainian Congress Committee, Toronto Branch; and the Peter Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine, University of Toronto.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$10 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. PLEASE NOTE: As of November 1, the charge for a listing in "Preview of Events" will be raised to \$20. (See our editorial of October 13 for a full explanation of this new rate.)

Listings of no more than 100 words (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510.