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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Vatican reported to be unlikely to approve Ukrainian Patriarchate

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The Vatican is unlikely to recognize a Patriarchate for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, it was learned this week in the wake of meetings in Moscow between officials of the Holy See and the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC).

The Catholic News Service (CNS) quoted Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, as stating that "I have absolutely no doubt the holy father would like to establish the Patriarchate, but he also wants to keep the dialogue with the Orthodox open."

CNS correspondent Cindy Wooden wrote that Vatican officials also told her there is no doubt about the pope's admiration for the fidelity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and for the traditions of the Christian East, including the fact that mature Eastern Churches are led by patriarchs.

Nonetheless, Vatican officials have cited unease about relations with Orthodox Churches and concern about Catholics in Russia as reasons to not recognize the Patriarchate at this point in time.

The Associated Press quoted Pope John Paul II as saying on February 22 that working to bring unity among Christians is his "indispensable mission." At the same time, Vatican sources told the news service that Rome is paying serious attention to Russian Orthodox complaints about the state of Catholic-Orthodox relations.

Interfax Moscow reported that ROC Patriarch Aleksei II had complained that decisions taken at Orthodox-Catholic meetings "have remained only on paper," that an agreement stipulating that the Catholic Church would notify the ROC when "new Catholic structures are set up in the canonical territory of the Russian Orthodox Church" was being ignored and that the Catholic Church was engaging in "direct proselytism."

The Associated Press added that among the issues raised by Russian Orthodox leaders was the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church's expansion into eastern and southern Ukraine, which the ROC considers traditionally Orthodox territory.

The Russian Orthodox Church laid the groundwork for meetings in Moscow with Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the

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Yushchenko and Yanukovich square off at international affairs conference in Kyiv

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's two leading — yet undeclared — candidates for president offered serious criticisms of each other's political intentions on February 21 in what could have been the first debate of the presidential election season.

Before a debate could begin, however, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, currently the odds-on favorite to get the nod to run as the candidate from the pro-presidential, parliamentary majority force, left the hall.

He had just completed his address to an international conference on "Ukraine, Europe and the World" attended by many international political and economic leaders, including former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, former Swedish Prime Minister Karl Bildt and noted economist Anders Aslund.

Mr. Yanukovich did not hear his political rival, Viktor Yushchenko, head of Our Ukraine and unofficial leader of the political opposition, offer his rebuttal. Mr. Yushchenko is currently the most popular politician in Ukraine by far, according to most every pre-election survey, and will almost certainly run as the candidate from Our Ukraine.

In his remarks, Mr. Yushchenko questioned the current government's initiative on a Common Economic Space with

Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan, and its halting steps towards European integration.

"Ukraine has not succeeded in jumping on the train that its neighbors have ridden into union with Europe," explained Mr. Yushchenko. "Ukrainian authorities derailed the train and have pointed it in another direction. The last stop is authoritarianism, dictatorship, poverty and isolation."

Mr. Yushchenko questioned the way the majority coalition in Parliament, which staunchly supports the prime minister, had pursued political reform. He charged that the majority had illegally rammed through the first reading of a draft bill on amending the Constitution, while ignoring parliamentary procedures on floor debate and voting.

He also expressed disapproval for how the pro-presidential forces had taken control of the Verkhovna Rada by buying the allegiance of unaligned national deputies after the Our Ukraine political bloc had received a majority in popular support in the elections.

"The results of the parliamentary elections of 2002 gave a distinctive and conclusive result: the government had lost," asserted Mr. Yushchenko during his address to the conference, which was

(Continued on page 3)

VOA cutback is rescinded

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Citing "a crack-down on media" in Ukraine, the organization that oversees Voice of America radio broadcasts to Ukraine made it known on February 24 that it would rescind an earlier decision to cut that service in half.

"We are committed to seeing that millions of Ukrainians continue to receive trusted news and information that is vital to helping them make decisions about their lives and their country," said Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), the federal agency that oversees all U.S. international broadcasting, including VOA and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL).

Mr. Tomlinson's remarks were part of a statement released on the BBG's website on February 24. The statement, headlined "BBG seeks to enhance broadcasting to Ukraine," said that "U.S. international broadcasting officials are exploring new ways to reach listeners in the Ukraine in the wake of a crackdown on media."

The statement said that "VOA ... will continue to produce two hours of Ukrainian programming daily," and that their programs would be carried on Ukrainian state radio, on 12 FM affiliates across the country and on shortwave.

Just three weeks ago, on February 8, The Weekly reported on an announcement made on February 3 by VOA Director David Jackson. The VOA director said that his organization's Ukrainian radio service would reduce its daily broadcast from two hours to one hour per day beginning on March 1.

Mr. Jackson was quoted in the February

(Continued on page 16)

Ukrainian American leaders' roundtable discusses Ukraine in 2004

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — The problems and critical choices facing Ukraine in 2004, and how the United States and the Ukrainian American diaspora should respond to them, were the subject of a roundtable discussion here by a group of prominent observers of developments in that country. Held on February 17 in a conference room of the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, the event was co-sponsored by Archbishop Stefan Soroka, the metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, and the three founding member-organizations of the Action Ukraine Coalition: the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, the Ukrainian Federation of America and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

The panel of presenters included Judge Bohdan Futey of the U.S. Federal Claims Court; former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine William G. Miller; Orest Deychakiwsky, staff advisor with the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe; Nadia Diuk of the National Endowment for Democracy; and two former congressmen and members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Bob Schaffer of Colorado and Charles F. Dougherty of Pennsylvania.

Opening the evening, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council President Ihor Gawdiak indicated that the meeting was organized because of the Ukrainian American community's concern for the welfare of the people of Ukraine and for "the survival of democracy" in Ukraine.

"We feel that it is urgent that in this critical year for

Ukraine there is a need for all of us to come together, to speak with one voice, so our efforts will be more effective and more meaningful," Mr. Gawdiak said. The call for unified action was echoed by Metropolitan Soroka in his brief opening remarks.

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Yaro Bihun

Nadia Diuk, of the National Endowment for Democracy, discusses the deteriorating situation in Ukraine during a recent roundtable discussion in Washington. Former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine William Miller was among the discussants.

ANALYSIS

Ukrainian president backs down in wake of harsh PACE resolution

by **Taras Kuzio**
RFE/RL Newline

A Council of Europe group of rapporteurs headed by Hanne Sevreinsen visited Ukraine on January 18-20. They reported their highly critical findings to the Council of Europe on January 26, and, on the basis of their report, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) voted to hold a debate on "the political crisis in Ukraine." (The planned topic had been "the constitutional crisis in Ukraine.") Following the PACE debate on January 29, delegates adopted by a vote of 46-13 a damning resolution on Ukraine.

That PACE resolution expressed support for Kyiv's "sincere aspirations" to conduct democratic reforms. But at the same time it made clear that PACE and other Western organizations and governments view the reforms currently being implemented as an attempt at blocking a victory by leading opposition candidate and former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko in the presidential election to be held in October 2004. The PACE resolution questioned the timing of political reforms in an election year.

The resolution asked Ukraine to begin cooperating with the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (the so-called Venice Commission), whose advice Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn requested, but subsequently ignored, regarding proposed constitutional amendments that would pave the way for Parliament to elect the president in 2006.

Ukraine's Parliament effectively ignored the commission's advice to retain the system under which Ukraine's president is elected by popular vote by approving on December 24, 2003, those draft constitutional amendments. PACE condemned this action in its resolution, stating in point 50 of its resolution that the authorities "had no intention whatsoever to follow any of the recommendations of the Venice Commission" adopted on December 13, 2003. This, the resolution points out, "casts serious doubt as to the real willingness of the Ukrainian authorities to cooperate with the Venice Commission in any meaningful way."

The second point of the PACE resolution expressed regret that Ukrainian authorities, including President Leonid Kuchma and the Foreign Affairs Ministry, "consider the activities of the Council of Europe, namely the assembly's monitoring procedure, the visits of the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, and their statements" as "interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine." In response, the resolution reminded the Ukrainian leadership that it voluntarily accepted the obligations of the Council of Europe when it joined in 1995. Consequently, "the assembly finds such a stand of the Ukrainian authorities ... groundless and unjustified."

Other issues raised in the resolution dealt with the lack of independence of the judiciary, the need to hold presidential elections as scheduled this year, and called on the secretary-general of the Council of Europe to appoint a special representative for Ukraine. The resolution criticized the removal of Mukachiv Mayor Vasyl Petyovka, who was aligned

with the opposition bloc Our Ukraine. The resolution ended by threatening to suspend Ukraine if it does not hold elections this year or if it continues to force through constitutional changes.

During their January visit to Ukraine, the Council of Europe rapporteurs also focused on two other issues. First, they called on President Kuchma not to run for a third term. Both Poland and the United States have declared their disagreement with the December 30, 2003, Constitutional Court decision allowing Mr. Kuchma to do so based on their ruling that he is only in his first term.

Second, the rapporteurs criticized the lack of any progress in the investigation into the killing in autumn 2000 of opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze. The media situation in Ukraine has considerably worsened since Gongadze's killing, with the opposition excluded from appearing on state- and oligarch-controlled television.

Point 12 of the PACE resolution called, among many other things, for a "nationwide popular discussion" on constitutional changes, especially on television and radio. This is a welcome call, as television coverage of what the Ukrainian authorities call political reform has been conducted in traditional Soviet style, with workers' collectives and other state bodies being forcibly made to sign petitions in support of such "reform" and in condemnation of the opposition.

The PACE resolution, therefore, presented the Ukrainian authorities with a difficult dilemma, particularly as it was followed by strong statements and comments from the European Union (backed by acceding countries and European Free Trade Association members), NATO, Poland, and the United States. Faced with this widespread Western condemnation, the Ukrainian authorities had two choices.

The first choice was to continue to ignore the Venice Commission and to continue to condemn Western "interference" in Ukraine's internal affairs, as well as carry on railroading constitutional changes through Parliament. Such a step would have possibly led to Ukraine's suspension from the Council of Europe and a deterioration of relations with the United States, EU and NATO. Ukraine would have de facto become a second Belarus. Social Democratic Party-united parliamentary faction head and former President Leonid Kravchuk recently warned that following such a path of isolation from the West could lead to the undoing of his work in 1991-92 that brought Ukraine's independence.

Ukraine's second option was to yield to PACE pressure and drop the most contentious issues in the proposed constitutional changes, under which the procedure for choosing the president would be changed from popular vote to election by Parliament.

The authorities responded by taking the second option, with the Verkhovna Rada voting on February 3 to remove the articles pertaining to electing the president by parliamentary vote and also approving a resolution to hold elections this year through popular vote for a five-year term. These reworked constitutional changes would continue to transfer power from the executive to the prime minister, meaning that the president elected this year might merely turn out to

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NEWSBRIEFS

Rada forms Central Election Commission

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on February 19 approved two new members of the Central Election Commission (CEC), thus bringing the body to its full strength of 15 people, Ukrainian media reported. Last week, the legislature approved 10 other members of the CEC. The CEC reportedly comprises 11 members delegated by pro-government forces, two by the Communist Party, and one each by the Socialist Party and Our Ukraine. The CEC on February 19 unanimously elected Serhii Kivalov as its chairman. Mr. Kivalov, 49, who has until recently been a lawmaker, is head of the High Council of Justice and president of the Odesa National Law Academy. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma abolishes security posts

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree abolishing the Soviet-era practice of assigning special-service agents to top-level government bodies – the Parliament's staff, the presidential administration, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Procurator General's Office, the staff of the National Security and Defense Council, and central executive agencies – Interfax reported on February 18. The decision was reportedly made to enhance democratic civil control over the activity of law-enforcement and intelligence agencies, honor Ukraine's international commitments to integrate into the European Union, and eliminate the negative legacy of the Soviet KGB. Ihor Smeshko, who heads the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), said all agents who lost their jobs under the presidential decree will be offered equivalent positions within the SBU. (RFE/RL Newline)

Russian picketers want Crimea back

SYMFEROPOL – Some 100 demonstrators who want Crimea to rejoin Russia held a demonstration in Symferopol on February 19 to commemorate 50 years since Crimea became part of the Ukrainian SSR, Interfax reported. The picketers held Russian flags and posters reading "50 Years of Deportation of the Russian People of Crimea," "Crimea and Russia Must Unite," "Vladimir Putin, Return Crimea to Russia," and "Russian Language Must Be Given State Status." (RFE/RL Newline)

Kontyent complains about jamming

KYIV – Serhii Sholokh, head of the radio station Kontyent, charged on February 19 that a jammer was switched on at 10:30 a.m. the same day when Kontyent began broadcasting a program by the Ukrainian service of Deutsche Welle, in which intelligence officer Valerii Kravchenko accused

President Leonid Kuchma's regime of spying on opposition and Cabinet members, Interfax reported. "Jamming was reported in all districts of Kyiv," Mr. Sholokh said in a statement. "Soviet-era means are being used to hamper the radio station's information activity and ... the citizens' constitutional right to receive information is being violated." (RFE/RL Newline)

Schroeder promises support to Kyiv

BERLIN – German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder promised Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in Berlin on February 20 that the German government will support Ukraine's efforts to be recognized by the European Union as a market economy, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. Mr. Kuchma repeated his former pledge that he will not run in this year's presidential election or appoint a successor. "I'm not a tsar like they had in the Russian Empire, and I am not handing my authority over to a successor," he told journalists. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma denies he ordered spying

BERLIN – While in Berlin, where he met with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, President Leonid Kuchma denied accusations by former Ukrainian intelligence officer Valerii Kravchenko that he ordered Ukraine's special services to spy on Ukrainian opposition activists abroad. He said Ukraine does not need to spy on opposition figures abroad because anything they say can be read in the press, the DPA news agency reported. (RFE/RL Newline)

Yushchenko seeks EU's assistance

KYIV – Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko on February 21 appealed to the European Union to render Ukraine assistance in conducting transparent and honest presidential elections in 2004, Interfax reported. "[Ukraine's ruling] regime is afraid of only one thing – the West's reaction to what is taking place in the country," Mr. Yushchenko said at the international "Ukraine in Europe and the World" conference in Kyiv. "[The regime] does not react to anything else. There is no freedom any longer; Radio Liberty is being closed; the key opposition channels have already been closed," Mr. Yushchenko noted, adding that constitutional reform in Ukraine was initiated with the single purpose of allowing the current authorities to remain in power. (RFE/RL Newline)

Thousands protest tax intimidation

TERNOPIL – The regional office of the State Tax Administration in Ternopil,

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Yushchenko and...

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organized by the Institute for European Cooperation, a think-tank headed by Ukraine's ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk, who is currently a member of the Our Ukraine faction in Parliament.

Mr. Yushchenko added a bit later: "If the government would have recognized the will of the electorate and heeded our advice, on the eve of presidential elections the country would have already looked much different. But the authorities decided to pursue the path of retaining power."

The head of Our Ukraine criticized the manner in which state leaders and the government were suppressing press freedoms. He pointed to extensive control of the mass media through ownership of the largest broadcast companies by individuals close to the state leadership and through news directives sent to the major broadcast outlets from the presidential administration on a weekly basis.

He also criticized the government for failing to proceed with judicial reform and the development of municipal self-rule.

The former prime minister, who headed the Ukrainian government in 1999-2000 and is credited with beginning the economic reforms that have led to recent economic growth, said he is sure the Our Ukraine coalition could take the presidential seat in the October elections if the vote was free and fair. He asked Europe to closely monitor the election process and assure that it was "democratic and honest."

In his address to the conference, Prime Minister Yanukovich stressed the achievements of his government over the last two years, including strong economic growth and low inflation in 2003, which has continued into 2004. He said that while the problems that had arisen as Ukraine "moved from one social-political system to another" could have been foreseen, nonetheless, the last 12 years have been a dark period for Ukraine. Mr. Yanukovich said that despite repeated attempts by the opposition to divide the country, it remained united.

"What unites us is the fate of Ukraine, the fate of a young political nation that is searching for its place in Europe," confirmed the prime minister, "the common

pain over the wasted opportunities of which there have been many in the last 12 years, the expectation that Ukraine has entered the highway of development."

Mr. Yanukovich said that if 9 percent economic growth and 16 percent economic growth continued this year as expected, reforms would soon be a term of the past.

In striking contrast to what Mr. Yushchenko would assert afterwards, the current Ukrainian prime minister stated that the parliamentary elections of 2002 had laid the groundwork for the improved economic situation in the country.

"In 2002 a new system of government began to work. As the head of government, I could now count on both the president and the Parliament to support my work," explained Mr. Yanukovich. "Our combined efforts were more effective and efficient."

The prime minister dismissed criticism leveled at his government and the parliamentary majority for undertaking constitutional reform in an election year by calling the criticism undeserved and irrelevant.

While Mr. Yanukovich said he welcomed healthy political competition from a valid political opposition, he could not accept the "twisted form" of the current political opposition. He accused opposition forces of gauging their success by the amount of criticism against Ukraine they could elicit from various European political institutions.

"Our successes would have been far greater if the political opposition had not blocked the work of the Ukrainian government," said Mr. Yanukovich.

He also blamed European political leaders for getting in the way, and criticized the West for failing to follow through on promised aid in the nuclear power sector after Ukraine closed the nuclear station at Chernobyl.

Mr. Yanukovich warned that the current political opposition has neither a vision nor a plan for Ukraine, only a desire to assume power. He asserted that the opposition did not want to see an economically powerful and politically viable country.

"Under the slogan, 'the worse, the better,' they question every move by the president or the government," said Mr. Yanukovich.



Viktor Yushchenko (left) and Viktor Yanukovich at the Kyiv conference on "Ukraine, Europe and the World."

Kuchma denies charges that Ukraine's intelligence services spied on opposition

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said on February 25 that charges made by a general in the Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym, SBU) stationed in Berlin who alleged that his intelligence service was spying on the Ukrainian political opposition, were absolutely baseless.

"I give my permission for Kravchenko to publish in the press all that he has in his possession. Believe me, he has nothing. This is all nonsense," stated Mr. Kuchma during a monthly press conference.

Mr. Kuchma's comments came in response to assertions made by SBU Gen. Valerii Kravchenko, the chief liaison officer between Ukrainian and German intelligence services in Ukraine's Embassy in Berlin, that he had documents in his possession to prove Ukraine had spied on members of its political opposition when they traveled abroad.

Gen. Kravchenko's allegations, made on February 18 in an interview with Deutsche Welle radio a day before President Kuchma met with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Berlin, received extensive coverage in the German press.

Speaking after he had unexpectedly entered the Deutsche Welle studios, Gen. Kravchenko said on air that he had information on illegal spying by Ukrainian officials and secret documents in his possession to prove it.

"The head of the SBU, Ihor Smeshko, and the chief of the Central Intelligence Directorate, Oleh Syniarskyi, in contravention of enacted legislation give their staff abroad orders to track representatives

of the Ukrainian opposition, as well as members of government at the ministerial level and higher," said Gen. Kravchenko during the interview on German state radio, according to Dzerkalo Tyzhnia.

The Ukrainian news weekly also printed a telephone interview it had with the general in which he explained the orders more specifically.

"At first the order was to track Ukrainian delegations and then 'ministers and higher' to gather information about with whom they were meeting and for what reason. The most important matter was whether they were criticizing Ukraine and the current leadership and whether they supported the opposition," explained Gen. Kravchenko, who is currently in hiding in Germany.

Gen. Kravchenko said he would not allow the materials to be published in the press because they were classified "secret" and, therefore it was unlawful for him to do so. However, he said he was ready to turn the information over to the Procurator General's Office. He said he would trust them with several lawmakers as well, including Borys Oliynyk of the Communist faction, Ihor Yukhnovsky of Our Ukraine or National Deputy Mykola Tomenko, who heads the parliamentary Committee on Press Freedoms.

Mr. Kravchenko's statement came two days before President Kuchma signed a decree banning the assignment of SBU intelligence officers to Ukrainian government offices. Virtually all Ukrainian government ministries, departments, military installations, as well as embassies and consulates – and even banks – had intelligence

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Opposition calls for protests on March 16

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The political opposition in Ukraine called for nationwide demonstrations on March 16 to protest amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine, expected to be approved by the Parliament's majority coalition that day.

"On the day of the final vote on the draft law for the Constitutional changes the whole nation should rise up to prevent constitutional upheaval," declared National Deputy Yulia Tymoshenko on Hromadske Radio on

February 24.

Ms. Tymoshenko is a central figure in the country's opposition movement and the leader of the Tymoshenko faction in the Verkhovna Rada. The opposition has for years criticized President Leonid Kuchma and his administration while calling for his resignation on allegations ranging from illegal financial transactions to the murder of a Ukrainian journalist.

The latest call to action came after the majority coalition in the Parliament, which

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Quotable notes

"So I have yet to understand why this president [George W. Bush], other than that he didn't like Saddam Hussein, went into Iraq.

"... Saddam Hussein is a terrible person, terrible human being. So is Robert Mugabe; so is the guy who runs the Ukraine, Kuchma; so is Lukashenka, who runs Byelorussia, or Belarus.

"... So there's a long list of people that you could go after. And we don't do that, as a matter of course. Why Saddam?"

– Howard Dean, then a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, speaking on "Meet the Press" on February 1, with Tim Russert.

"The Embassy of Ukraine in the United States expresses astonishment at the statements made by Howard Dean, the former governor of Vermont, on February 1, 2004, in the program 'Meet the Press' on NBC. His comparison of Leonid Kuchma, the president of Ukraine, with Saddam Hussein who 'is a terrible person,' is absurd in terms of the content, incorrect in terms of the tone and tactless with regard to the leader of a country that is a U.S. ally in Iraq. The Embassy hopes that Howard Dean's statements are merely a regrettable misunderstanding, brought about by him lacking reliable information about Ukraine and the position of the president of Ukraine on human rights and democracy, displayed in Ukraine's participation to promote these principles after ousting Saddam Hussein."

– Response from the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, February 3.

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

Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union.

Canadian engineer brings Ukraine to the world via the web

by Christopher Guly

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

OTTAWA – Working in the United States as a radio-frequency engineer for the cellular-phone company Nextel Communications, in the late 1990s, Vasyl Kapeniak searched high and low for a way to watch televised games of Ukraine's national soccer team from his home in Detroit.

Much to his surprise, he couldn't find a single satellite-television provider that offered such coverage – and Mr. Kapeniak vowed he would one day correct that deficiency.

He kept that promise.

In mid-December of last year, the 33-year-old, Ternopil-born electromechanical engineering graduate from the Technological University of Kyiv launched his own TV channel of sorts over the web. Called UkrainaTV Premium (www.ukrainatv.com), it will soon provide coverage of live events from Ukraine, including concerts and his beloved soccer, on a pay-per-view basis.

Already, anyone with Internet access can visit the site any time of day and watch Ukrainian-language music videos, commercials, short films and documentaries (including "Scarred by History," which tells the story of his late grandmother, Maria Sywanyk-Kapeniak, who spent 25 years in the Soviet gulag), comedy spots, talk shows and daily news programs all from Ukraine.

Though it's a paid service, UkrainaTV offers a one-week free trial before charging



Vasyl Kapeniak (second from right) with his two sons while on a visit to Ukraine.

subscribers \$7.77 (U.S.) a month to tune into the 24/7 video channel.

As a no-fee bonus, the package includes Top 10 "Vazhka Dilianka" (Hard Zone), a weekly Ukrainian-language radio program featuring popular music, entertainment news and interviews, and "FDR Mix," a daily music program featuring Ukrainian songs from a Kyiv-based radio studio.

Eventually, Mr. Kapeniak, who is now based in Markham, Ontario, just north of Toronto, plans to create separate video channels each for movies, news and music. He is also in the process of devel-

oping an online radio service that would deliver music and news/current events from Ukraine 24 hours a day over the Internet.

At the moment, though, he's focused on attracting eyeballs to UkrainaTV, which he says is unparalleled in terms of content and technological capability and leaves what little competition there is out there in the dust of cyberspace.

For instance, Ukraine's 1+1 TV channel delivers limited video over the web. And while Montreal-based JumpTV.com plans to soon add Ukraine's InterTV to its list of live online international TV chan-

nels, it streams the video signal live from its server at a rate as high as 256 kilobits-per-second.

UkrainaTV relies on different technology to transmit images and audio over the Internet. Through a partnership with New York-based Wavexpress Inc.'s TVTonic broadband media distribution service, UkrainaTV sends programming directly to a computer's hard drive.

Once a subscriber clicks on the activation icon at the site, it automatically downloads Wavexpress's WX Client software that stores, manages and plays a program's media files. The video and audio are then stored as cache in a subscriber's desktop or laptop computer for viewing at any time.

However, in order to receive the files, one requires a high-speed (broadband) cable or DSL (digital subscriber line) connection.

"You can also watch UkrainaTV on your TV," Mr. Kapeniak explained. "All you need is a couple of cables to connect your PC's video and audio cards directly to your television."

He added that subscribers with older computers that don't have video cards can purchase an external scan converter for under \$100 (U.S.) to transform the PC's output into a compatible format for TV.

In terms of programming also UkrainaTV is unique.

Rather than relying on a single source to obtain content, Mr. Kapeniak is digitizing tapes from independent filmmakers and acquiring video from several

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Український Народний Союз
МАРТЕЛОВАНИЙ ІВ АПРІЛА 1894
ГРАМОТА ЧЛЕНЬСКА

Ukrainian National Association
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

With this week's issue, we inaugurate a special yearlong feature focusing on the history of the Ukrainian National Association, which this year marks its 110th anniversary. (The border used here is from a UNA membership certificate that dates to 1919.)

The UNA was founded on February 22, 1894. At its Supreme Assembly's mid-year meeting on January 15, 1895, it was announced that the fraternal society's income during its first year of operations was \$1,142.75 and that disbursements totaled \$1,007.22. Total membership stood at 505 members, of whom 66 had been suspended for non-payment of membership dues.

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Home Office organizes special seminar on annuities



Participants of the daylong seminar on annuities held at the UNA Corporate Headquarters.



Robert Mitchell discusses annuities and how they may be used.

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Local and regional officers, along with employees of the Ukrainian National Association, attended a special seminar on annuities held here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on Saturday, January 31.

The daylong seminar featured Robert Mitchell, a certified senior advisor (CSA), who covered the technical aspects of the annuities and IRAs, as well as presented ideas on how to market annuities.

According to UNA National Secretary Christine E. Kozak, the seminar was designed to give participants answers to all those questions they face when selling annuities. Thus, the seminar was geared toward UNA branch secretaries, district

officers, organizers and employees of the UNA Home Office – the people who deal with annuities on a daily basis.

The attendees included UNAers from Connecticut, New Jersey and New York state, including the metro New York City area, as well as regions upstate and in the western part of the state.

All participants received helpful handouts, including a 30-page presentation that described various types of annuities – all the better for these UNAers to serve the members interested in purchasing annuities.

Mr. Mitchell has over 30 years of knowledge and experience in the insurance industry and especially the annuity

market. He is executive vice-president for sales and marketing, of Western Catholic Union (WCU), a fraternal benefit society like the UNA.

Mr. Mitchell is the author of the informative booklet titled “Annuity

Owner Opportunities: Tips and Ideas that Could Save You Thousands.” He has also written numerous articles for the WCU Record and The Fraternal Monitor and has been heard on Community Focus-WTAD Radio.

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.

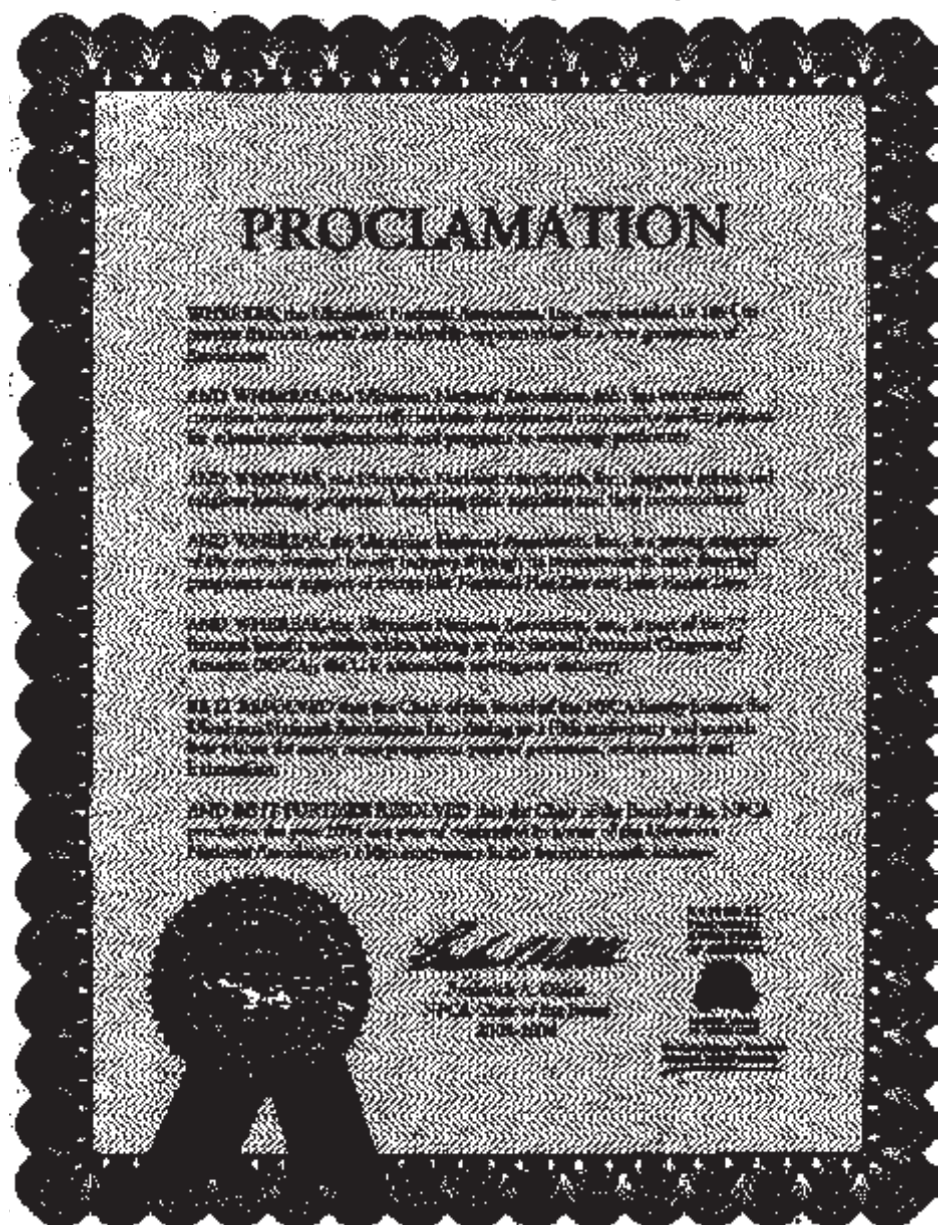
As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.



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National Fraternal Congress greets UNA



THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A welcome reversal

In a complete reversal of a decision formally announced three weeks ago, the Broadcasting Board of Governors released a statement earlier this week saying that Voice of America's Ukrainian radio service would not undergo a dramatic cut in half to one hour of broadcasting daily, saying only that the service "will continue to produce two hours of Ukrainian programming daily."

The news was buried at the end of a press release from the BBG, the federal agency that oversees all U.S. international broadcasting, including VOA and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and ran under the headline "BBG seeks to enhance broadcasting to Ukraine."

With all due respect, we would like to remind the BBG that the decision not to cut VOA radio broadcasts to Ukraine – only seven months prior to a crucial presidential election, we should add – is not an enhancement of broadcasting, but rather a continuation of what had already been established.

The BBG's decision to restore radio broadcast time to Ukraine, citing "a crackdown on media" in that country, does come as welcome news and should be commended. However, the manner in which the news was made known leaves us questioning the real reasons behind the BBG's decision.

We wonder: Had the Ukrainian FM Radio Dovira network not dropped all RFE/RL programs from its line-up, would the BBG still have made the decision to leave VOA's Ukrainian radio broadcasting untouched? We may never know. At press time *The Weekly* was still waiting for a response from a VOA spokesman regarding this and other questions.

By burying the announcement that VOA Ukrainian radio service would be left untouched deep in a statement about enhancing broadcasting to Ukraine, it appears that the BBG had every intention to very quietly correct its own mistake. Moreover, VOA Ukrainian radio staff themselves were never given the courtesy of learning the news prior to the BBG's February 24 statement.

We are also deeply troubled that the BBG's February 24 statement made no mention of the future of VOA's Ukrainian radio service staff and funding for that organization. Following the original announcement to cut VOA Ukrainian radio service, the organization moved three staffers to VOA television, while two other staffers were bought out, leaving the remaining VOA Ukrainian radio service staff overworked and exhausted for what was thought to be a short period, that is, through March 1, when its programming was to be halved.

We hope that the BBG will not use this staffing situation as an opportunity to further undermine VOA Ukrainian radio.

If the BBG is sincere and, as BBG Chairman Kenneth Tomlinson has said, "committed to seeing that millions of Ukrainians continue to receive trusted news and information that is vital to helping them make decisions about their lives and their country," VOA Ukrainian radio service staff must be restored and funding must be in place for that organization to continue providing Ukrainians with what has been an invaluable service.

March
5
1997

Turning the pages back...

March 5, 1997, was designated Ancestry Day on Capitol Hill by the Working Group on Ancestry in the U.S. Census, a coalition of over 80 organizations, including the Ukrainian National Association. The project's aim was to support the

preservation of ancestry data in the U.S. Census.

The 1980 Census was the first U.S. census to ask a question about ancestry, thereby providing data about the ethnic origin of Americans. The long form, sent to one out of six households, asked the respondent to list (up to three) countries of origin.

As part of the timeline for the 2000 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau was required, by April 1, to submit to Congress the topics to be included on the survey for the year 2000. The bureau expressed its intention to include the ancestry question as a required topic. But, while there was no organized opposition to the ancestry question, there was a concern in Congress about the cost of the long form. Experts cited estimates that the long form would cost an additional \$300 million due to the lower level of voluntary compliance than with the short form. While some members of Congress suggested eliminating the long form, others recommended simply reducing the number of questions.

In an effort to demonstrate congressional support for the ancestry question, on March 5, 1997, Rep. Constance Morella (R-Md.) introduced a resolution urging the secretary of commerce to retain the ancestry question in the 2000 Census. A similar resolution was later introduced in the Senate.

Ancestry Day, coordinated by the Arab American Institute Foundation and the National Italian American Foundation, involved visits to congressional offices, a press conference with sponsors of the Ancestry Resolution, and a luncheon for the Working Group and members of Congress.

Two days later the National Italian American Foundation hosted a meeting of the Working Group with the director of the Bureau of the Census, Martha Riche, who underscored the Census Bureau's commitment to the ancestry question and outlined the overall procedure for finalization of the questions to be contained in the forms. Ms. Riche also pointed out that ethnic communities and organizations would be vital in the outreach program planned for the millennial head count.

It should be noted that, ultimately, the 2000 Census asked the same questions about ancestry as the population counts of 1980 and 1990, providing an opportunity to analyze trends for the last 20 years.

Source: "Ethnic coalition supports preservation of ancestry question on 2000 Census," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 16, 1997, Vol. LXV, No. 11.

Rough draft

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

Instilling self-respect in Ukraine

The morning after our infant child was rushed to the hospital, accompanied by my wife, the head nurse entered the room where the two had spent the night – in a damp ward more akin to a jail cell, which hadn't seen a coat of fresh paint or new tiles in at least 30 years – and sternly demanded to know why the room hadn't been cleaned and the floors washed.

When I replied equally sternly that we were still waiting for the cleaning lady, the "sanitarka," she rebutted that in this ward the mothers of the children cleaned the rooms. I was aghast that a medical worker could be so rude and that the hospital had no qualms about mothers of sick children getting on their hands and knees to scrub dirty floors. A bit later, as I left, I couldn't help but notice several "sanitarky" idly chatting near a stairwell.

It was only after I told some friends about this incident that I understood that for most Ukrainians my experience was not unusual. It was just another aspect of living in a post-Soviet country.

Ukraine's service sector, while growing markedly over the last five years in step with the development of Ukraine's economy in general, still leaves much to be desired. While the variety of services offered has expanded, the quality of the service often remains dismal.

Today you can get everything from pizza delivery to in-home massages, from flood insurance for your apartment building to limousine service for your wedding. The luxury stretch vehicle may be a 1988 Lincoln Continental with a well-worn paint job, but the chauffeur, more likely than not, will aim to please. The pizza may get to you cold once in a while, but it is much better than what was produced with old Soviet-era recipes even a mere seven years ago. And what can you say when an insurance company forces you to take flood protection for your 14th story dwelling because it comes in a package with the fire insurance?

When considered on the same level as the rest of the world, the new service sector of Ukraine is developing in a normal manner. It is the old service sector that remains problematic – the one that included care for basic human needs, such as medicine and education, much-trumpeted as the glory of the Soviet system. Today, shorn of the gloss of Soviet propaganda, it is considered part of the dismal Soviet legacy, a system that had a cold disregard for quality-of-life issues, including little respect for the most basic levels of human dignity.

The jarring tumble in the standard of living for most workers that resulted as Ukraine missed economic opportunities after the Soviet Union disintegrated and the bitterness that many hold due to the fate they have been dealt has led to a qualitative decrease in the way workers in the old service sector approach their jobs and responsibilities. The result has been even more aloofness and lack of diligence and care by service workers – at times reaching levels of gross negligence.

In the medical services one must still contend with Ukrainian doctors and nurses colder than the stethoscopes they press to your chest. Yet, the problems run still deeper today. The medical community has been severely disillusioned by the extremely low wage its doctors continue to earn. While doctors earned less than

the ambulance driver who brought in their patients during the Soviet era, today their earning potential has dropped further.

The result is unmotivated, uncaring medical professionals performing surgery poorly, accepting bribes openly and even taking part in rare, but much-publicized black-market sales of body parts and newborn babies.

Corruption has become almost endemic in the country's old service sector, most notably in medicine and education. While one can rationalize giving a low paid doctor a few hryvni in appreciation for a job well done, it is more difficult to explain being forced to purchase a term paper from a university professor in order to pass a class. Today, tragically, this is a normal occurrence in Ukraine's education system at the university level.

To a large extent the university system is driven by bribes – from the time you apply, which might include the need to shower a couple of thousand dollars upon strategically positioned deans and professors to ensure your acceptance, through to arranging gifts for the members of the review board before whom you defend your dissertation when completing a doctoral thesis.

Another problem that contemporary Ukraine must contend with is the Soviet attitude and mentality of many workers. Today disgruntled service workers, who learned to put up with the abuses the Soviet bureaucracy meted out by turning cold and unresponsive, take out their current grievances on customers by treating them with what at times seems like even less civility than before.

We all recognize the stereotype of the Soviet-era saleslady: secure in the knowledge she can never be dismissed, she gabs endlessly with her co-workers unconcerned that customers are waiting. That person still lives in the new Ukraine, and I believe that, just as many strains of influenza will do, she, too, has mutated into an even more virulent form.

I came upon her several Saturdays ago as I caught sight of a rather pleasant-looking deli in a local department store. I approached the counter only to find the salesperson in a corner in conversation with a co-worker. After patiently waiting several minutes I approached her to ask – rather condescendingly I'll admit – whether it would be okay if I received some service.

She turned her head towards me in reply but never acknowledged me. Instead, she returned to her station, where another customer had approached, and politely proceeded to serve him first. My jaw dropped.

Rarely one to show reserve when emotion can be utilized, I asked her with raised voice what on earth she was doing? Hadn't she seen me? Her calm and measured reply left me speechless. "Just don't go and ruin my morning already."

My Ukrainian-born wife disagrees with my assertions that the coldness and harshness of the Soviet "service" structure is still in place. She explains that it is I who am searching out its few remnants by approaching older, more hardened looking workers when I go to purchase something and in effect challenging them

(Continued on page 14)

COMMENTARY

After "The Passion"

by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk

Who killed Christ? The Hebrews? The Romans? All of us? Some, none, all of the above? I have no idea. Let Biblical scholars, theologians and philosophers muse over such mysteries.

Did Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion of the Christ," provoke pogroms? No.

Is Mel Gibson an anti-Semite? No. He knows Nazis murdered millions of Jews and others.

Yet there's the rub. Mr Gibson hasn't forgotten the many millions of non-Jewish Holocaust victims and those of other crimes against humanity. In the March issue of Reader's Digest he says: "The second world war killed tens of millions of people. Some of them were Jews in concentration camps. Many people lost their lives. In Ukraine several million starved to death between 1932 and 1933. During the last century 20 million people died in the Soviet Union."

For such sentiments he is pilloried.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, while claiming no desire to engage "in competitive martyrdom," wanting only "historical truth" to be known, nevertheless rejected any comparison between his people's suffering and others. Rabbi Shmuley Boteach went further, denouncing any equation of the "horrible casualties of war with a government program of genocide." Abraham Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League was blunter: "[I]t was ignorant ... it's insensitive. And ... he doesn't get that either. He doesn't begin to understand the difference between dying in a famine and people being cremated solely for what they are."

Verily, it is Mr. Foxman and friends who are in need of sensitivity training and history lessons. Lacking their chutzpah, I will not venture an opinion as to whether being starved to death is worse than being murdered by poison gas. On matters of unnatural mortality, however, these gentlemen would do well to learn that probably more Ukrainians were liquidated during the politically engineered Great Famine in Soviet Ukraine than all the Jews killed in the second world war. They were the chosen in a Stalinist terror campaign directed against the Ukrainian peasantry. And it was the Ukrainian nation that suffered the greatest loss of

Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk was once an altar boy at St Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Parish, in Kingston, Ontario.

life during World War II, concluded the distinguished British historian, Prof. Norman Davies.

Today we do, and should, remember the Six Million. Yet we tend to forget the Twenty Million, a conservative estimate of victims of Soviet tyranny, about whom Martin Amis wrote in "Koba the Dread." Some scourged him for that.

What is troubling about the anti-"Passion" polemicists is that, beneath the cacophony, their agenda was not to stop Mr. Gibson's film from being shown (they couldn't), nor even to cripple its box office success (the controversy they stoked guarantees good fortune). The fount of this campaign is instead rooted in trying to get the rest of us to agree that the Jewish people's suffering was "unique" and that Christians, in particular, must feel guilt and atone for what "we" did to "them" over many centuries past.

While I disagree with any concept of blood libel, I do insist these men are free to believe whatever they want and even to preach it, as long as the line between legitimate criticism and hatemongering is not violated. Some have already crept close to that edge. Still I champion freedom of speech over censoring that right — theirs, Mel's and mine.

I also want them to understand something. As a Catholic, and a Canadian-born son of Ukrainian political refugees, I was raised believing all victims of evil must be hallowed. Those who persecute the innocent must be punished. How a people were slaughtered, or what the intent was of any regime, left or right, that orchestrated genocide, does matter, but less. Neither my parents, priests nor teachers ever said that a particular group of martyrs was somehow more deserving of remembrance than others. No one counseled us to elevate the millions of Ukrainians enslaved or murdered by the Nazis and the Soviets above others who endured similar horrors. I do concede that I do not know as much as I should about the many tribes, peoples and nations who suffered mass murder before, during and after the 20th century, in Europe, Africa, Asia and elsewhere, at least not in comparison to what I know happened to my own. However, the Christian spirit that should inform my behavior obliges me to pray for all victims, without preference.

Still I am only human, and, like most

(Continued on page 21)

FOR THE RECORD: UCCA president's letter to the editor of The New York Times

Below is the text of a letter to the editor of The New York Times published in that paper on February 11. It was written by Michael Sawkiw Jr. president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on February 5.

To the Editor:

You quote Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League, as saying in response to a remark by Mel Gibson about the Holocaust, "He doesn't begin to understand the difference between dying in a famine and people being cremated solely for what they are" ("Gibson to Delete a Scene in 'Passion,'" Arts pages, February 4).

Mr. Gibson had said in an interview:

"The second world war killed tens of millions of people. Some of them were Jews in concentration camps. ... In the [sic] Ukraine several million starved to death between 1932 and 1933."

Comments like Mr. Foxman's undermine the gravity of the atrocities committed against the Ukrainian people. Between 7 million and 10 million Ukrainians were systematically starved to death in 1932-1933 simply because of who they were and because of their resistance to Soviet dominance.

To play down and deny that shows a blatant disregard and insensitivity to a nation that suffered under an oppressive regime.

Mr. Foxman should realize that all genocides should be reviled rather than categorized.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Happy birthday, Batko Soyuz!

If you weren't paying attention, you probably missed it. The Ukrainian National Association turned 110 on February 22.

The first UNA anniversary celebration was held in 1895, in Olyphant, Pa., then the heartland of the rapidly expanding Rusyn/Ukrainian community. Originally known as the Ruskyi Narodny Soyuz, the UNA had some 2,800 members at the time and 75 branches.

Svoboda published an announcement about the upcoming convention, emphasizing cultural and economic development:

"A very important moment will soon be upon us members of the only national Rusyn organization [in the United States]. It was a little over a year ago that we, recognizing our spiritual, national and economic needs, gathered under one flag and became united within Soyuz, one large Rusyn family, in order to stand as one in support of Rusyn national rights and to shine the light of truth and knowledge among our brothers and scattered by fate to all corners of the United States. The time has come to determine how far we have come to look at our cultural development in the United States and to determine our economic standing ..."

The celebration included a concert featuring a choir of 70 voices, a drama titled "Germanized George," and a presentation by Father Nestor Dmytriw titled "The Cultural Role of America."

The UNA's membership increased and, in the years that followed, the organization purchased Svoboda, established reading rooms and classes for illiterates, and gradually transformed approximately 40 percent of America's Rusyns into conscious Ukrainians.

The 10th anniversary of the UNA was celebrated in Shamokin, Pa., in 1904. A special 18-page jubilee issue of Svoboda was published on May 26 with an editorial titled "The Feast of the RNS and Svoboda." Authored by Father Ivan Ardan, the editorial mentioned Ukraine as a "land that is today enslaved; whose children are divided by mountains, wide rivers and a deep ocean but which, despite its many enemies, has not perished but lives on, aware of its unity and its strength."

"Now the nation stirs and tests the strength of the chains that bind it. And the time is near when it will break the chains and crush its enemies. And it will emerge a nation free and happy. And it will build a home of its own. And in this home there will be no tsar, no overlord, but Equality, Brotherhood and Liberty. ...

Then we shall celebrate a greater feast — a feast of unity and glory. We here must also make our contribution to bring about this feast of greatness and of glory ... Let us pledge today that we shall work constantly for the good of our great nation to bring about as soon as possible the greatest of all great days when we shall celebrate the freedom and independence of Rus'-Ukraine."

The highlight of the 20th anniversary celebration in 1914 was the name change, from the Ruskyi Narodny Soyuz (Little Russian National Union in English) to the Ukrainskyi Narodny Soyuz in Ukrainian, and the Ukrainian National Association in English.

When Ukraine declared its sovereign-

ty in 1917, Svoboda, by then a daily publication, reported every development faithfully and succinctly.

The 40th UNA anniversary celebration was the most productive. It was also the longest because it lasted for almost the entire decade. The UNA published a 752-page commemorative almanac for the occasion. Edited by the legendary Svoboda editor Luke Myshuha, the monumental publication included short histories of every single UNA branch then in existence, as well as fascinating articles devoted to Ukrainian history, music, culture, women and youth. Memoirs of UNA pioneers were also included. The table of contents was in both Ukrainian and English. Authors included celebrated American-and European-born men and women, all of whom focused their written thoughts on the UNA, Ukraine and the role of the Ukrainian immigration in preserving the Ukrainian heritage. The extraordinary almanac remains the single most significant publication produced by Ukrainian Americans.

Other UNA accomplishments worthy of mention during the 1930s include the establishment of The Ukrainian Weekly in 1933, the creation of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America that same year, and the funding of various sports activities, primarily softball teams. What makes these endeavors so extraordinary is the fact that they occurred during America's Great Depression.

The most extravagant UNA anniversary celebration was the 75th. The theme was "In tribute to the pioneers, with eyes toward youth" and membership at the time was at an all-time high of 88,000. An entire issue of The Ukrainian Weekly was devoted to the celebration. Plans were under way to build a new 15-story headquarters in Jersey City. A series of events were planned for Shamokin, birthplace of the UNA, including the unveiling of a bronze plaque honoring UNA pioneers, a divine liturgy, and a gala concert and banquet. The UNA commissioned Ulas Samchuk, a distinguished Ukrainian author to write a popular history of the UNA. The result was "In the Footsteps of the Pioneers: A Saga of Ukrainian America," published in 1983. The UNA also commissioned an opera. The result was "Anna Yaroslavna," an opera in three acts recalling relations between Rus'-Ukraine and France in the 10th century. Written by Antin Rudnytsky and Leonid Poltava, the opera debuted at Carnegie Hall on May 24, 1969.

One hundred years ago our UNA pioneers dreamed of a free Ukraine with "no tsar, no overlord, but Equality, Brotherhood and Liberty." Today, Ukraine is a sovereign nation with no tsar. There are overlords, however, who are undermining brotherhood and liberty. Hopefully, this will change with the October elections.

Nothing of significance happened during the past 110 years in the Ukrainian community without the UNA. A history of the UNA is available in English, and a Ukrainian edition is forthcoming. Read it. Why? Because we can't know where we are today, or where we are going, without knowing where we've been.

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

Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 1)

The legal aspects of the major story of the past year, including attempts to change the presidential election provisions in the Constitution of Ukraine, were addressed at the outset by Judge Futey, who was a consultant in Ukraine's constitution-writing process in the mid-1990s.

Judge Futey has written a number of articles criticizing the proposed constitutional election "reforms" initiated last year in the Verkhovna Rada and upheld by Ukraine's Constitutional Court, which would allow the president to run for a third term and have Parliament, and not the people, elect the president. Under intense international and domestic pressure, the Verkhovna Rada in early February reversed itself on the question of popular election of the president.

But even that issue remains questionable, Judge Futey said, because two appeals have been filed in this matter. He said that while the election issue was getting most of the attention in recent months, there remain many other troubling provisions in the legislation. One provision, he said, would strip the president of his power by allowing him to name only three ministers of the government. There are also some problematic transitional provisions, as well as questions of jurisdiction for the adjudication of election disputes, for which special courts have been established on paper, but they have yet to set up their opera-

tions and procedures, and have not been fully staffed with new judges and personnel.

Judge Futey also suggested that the democratic opposition forces in Ukraine are not very well versed in such legal matters. Nevertheless, he said, "I'm still an optimist" about 2004. He said he hopes that this year will not be a "step backward" for Ukraine, as predicted by the Venice Commission, but a step forward.

Ambassador Miller, who left for Kyiv the next day to participate in an international conference on Ukraine's future role in Europe, said Ukraine finds itself at an "extraordinary crossroads." He noted, "They can go back and follow the path of totalitarian rule, selfishness, oligarchy, disdain for the popular will and the popular need, or they can go forward towards a civil and just society." For Ambassador Miller, that is the crux of the issue. "The election is about that. The people of Ukraine, as I've come to know them, understand that," he said.

Mr. Deychakiwsky indicated that there is a general consensus by U.S. and European governments that developments in Ukraine's democracy "will have a direct impact on Ukraine's aspirations to join NATO and on relations with the United States and Europe."

He stressed the importance of keeping the pressure on the current government in Ukraine. "We shouldn't really worry about criticizing Ukrainian powers-that-be for non-democratic behavior," Mr.

Deychakiwsky said. "And we should continue to make the distinction between the Ukrainian authorities, the 'vlada', and the people."

"I really firmly reject the idea that by criticizing the corrupt regime and clans, we are somehow driving Ukraine into Russia's orbit, or hurting Ukraine's image, for that matter," he added.

The best guarantee of Ukraine's independence, Mr. Deychakiwsky said, "is a democratic Ukraine in which human rights are respected and the rule of law is paramount, a country with market economy and flourishing civil society." "The worst thing the international community could do - governments, non-governmental organizations and the diaspora - would be to remain silent, and not press them to live up to freely undertaken commitments." For the Ukrainian authorities, "silence implies consent," he said. "So you have to stay on message and keep talking about the importance of Western values."

Dr. Diuk, who deals with Ukraine and other countries in the region at the National Endowment for Democracy, focused on how Ukraine compares with some of its neighbors.

In this post-Soviet region, excluding the Baltic states, she said, Ukraine is the major country that "still has a vibrant political opposition" and "a thriving civil society." But, she added, "it's a country that really, genuinely is, at the moment, hanging in the balance." Ukraine always seemed to have a question mark about it

in the past, she added, but this year "is even more crucial than ever."

Among the indications that democracy is being tested in Ukraine are the stifling of the media, blocking access to the media for opposition politicians, the recent closing of FM transmissions of Radio Liberty, the closing of the newspaper Silski Visti and evidence of non-governmental organizations being placed under official scrutiny. "I would report that that situation is actually deteriorating and will deteriorate even more, because I think the ruling powers are so intent on maintaining power they will look for any instrument to keep a hold of that power in the next few months," Dr. Diuk said.

She discounted the possibility of Ukraine having something like the recent democratic revolution in Georgia. On the other hand, she said, it looks better compared with Russia, "where, from the perspective of democratic transition, we can see that the situation really has come to a dead halt."

"Isn't it time that the role of Russia was reviewed again?" Dr. Diuk asked. "I know that there has been a little bit of a shift with the State Department moving back from its support for Russia. But it really does put Ukraine in a different perspective."

Former congressman Schaffer, who was co-chairman of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and was an observer at the last elections to the Verkhovna Rada, recalled some stories about President Ronald Reagan's uncompromising stand toward the "evil empire" and the persecution of Soviet dissidents. "I mention that because I really believe that the people in Ukraine need to hear that kind of leadership from America, and they need to hear it right now," he said.

Mr. Schaffer said that, while it is not politically beneficial for a congressman to devote time to foreign affairs, nevertheless, he added, "it is critical and important that the legislative branch of our government play a greater role in providing leadership to countries like Ukraine."

Mr. Dougherty, who was instrumental in the formation of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, concurred with the other presenters that it was indeed a "critical time" for democracy in Ukraine, but he cautioned Ukrainian Americans to focus on the future and not the past, and to not be defensive. Ukrainian Americans should never forget that "Ukraine is vital to the strategic and economic interests of the United States and the European Community ... and that it is in the significant strategic interest of the United States that Ukraine not become the junior partner of a new Mother Russia," he said.

The former congressman criticized the State Department for the U.S. policy formulation towards Ukraine and suggested that if Ukrainian Americans want to change that policy they can best do it through the Congress by developing personal relationships with members of Congress. "It's all politics," he said. "And to the degree that this community chooses to be involved in the process, this community can impact on the process."

The Action Ukraine Coalition was formed in 1999 by the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, the Ukrainian Federation of America and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation during the debate in Washington over the certification of U.S. foreign aid for Ukraine. The Coalition's stated goals were to strengthen U.S.-Ukrainian ties and to develop a sustained and pro-active relationship between the Ukrainian-American community and the U.S. Congress.

A Special Fundraising Event to benefit Soyuzivka Estate

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Organized by Plast Kurin Spartanky

"Holiday Cooking in the Ukrainian Tradition"

With Honored Guest Lecturer Lubow Wolynetz
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Program will include:

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- Registration deadline March 20th
- For further information, please email spartanky@yahoo.com

Please reserve Weekend Room/Meals by directly calling Soyuzivka 845-626-5641

Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox hierarchs meet in Fraternal Encounter II

by Hieromonk Daniel Zelinsky

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic hierarchs of the Northern Hemisphere met here on February 6-7, for their second Fraternal Encounter. Notable from the very beginning was the strong spirit of fraternity, which marked the hierarchs' first Encounter in July 2003, for which the participants offered thanksgiving to God.

Participating in this second Encounter, which was hosted by Bishop Robert Moskal, were the following hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the U.S.A. and Canada: Archbishop Stefan Soroka, metropolitan Church, Ukrainian Catholic in the U.S., Archeparchy of Philadelphia; Bishop Basil Losten of the Eparchy of Stamford, Conn.; Bishop Moskal of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat, Parma, Ohio; Bishop Cornelious Pasichny, OSBM, bishop emeritus of Toronto and Eastern Canada; Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, of the Eparchy of Westminster, British Columbia; Bishop Richard Seminak of the Eparchy of St. Nicholas, Chicago; and Auxiliary Bishop David Motiuk of the Archeparchy of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Participating from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. were: Metropolitan Constantine, primate and metropolitan of the Central Eparchy, Parma, Ohio; Archbishop Antony, Consistory president and archbishop of the Eastern Eparchy, South Bound Brook, N.J.; and Archbishop Vsevolod of the Western Eparchy, Chicago.

All the hierarchs expressed their regret that several hierarchs were unable to be present for this Encounter and in particular sent their best wishes to Metropolitan Wasyly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and Metropolitan Michael Bzdel of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada, who were experiencing health problems.

The hierarchs' first act during the Encounter was the issuance of a message to the faithful of the two Churches,

which is intended to serve as a conclusion to the year-long commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the genocidal Famine created by Joseph Stalin against the Ukrainian nation in 1932-1933.

After outlining the history of one of the worst holocausts of the bloody 20th century, one which took the lives of 10 million innocent Ukrainian men, women and children simply because they strove to retain their individual human rights in the face of man's inhumanity to man, the hierarchs called upon the government of Ukraine, the Churches of Ukraine and all Ukrainians both in Ukraine and beyond its borders, "to work hand in hand to confirm the sanctity and dignity of life and the right of free people to live in peace and in justice, without fear."

The hierarchs scheduled a special memorial service, inviting the faithful of the local Orthodox and Catholic parishes to pray with them for the victims of the famine. They designated St. Thomas Sunday/Providna Nedilia — April 18 — as a day of prayer and commemoration. Ukrainians around the world will be encouraged to each light a candle on that day so that at least 10 million candles are lit around the world, which will illumine the memory of the 10 million children of God who perished during the most sorrowful years of Ukraine's history.

Further, the hierarchs reviewed the recent study presented by the Catholic/Orthodox Dialogue concerning the history and development of the "Filioque" ("and the Son") clause added by some in the Western Church to the Nicene Creed of Faith, stating that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father "and the Son." They affirmed that the Creed as proclaimed by the Second Ecumenical Council in Nicea reflects the true dogmatic understanding of the Church concerning the procession of the Holy Spirit. The bishops said they welcome and support this study, noting the omission of the Filioque clause in the liturgical services of most Ukrainian Catholic eparchies, and pray that the findings will eventually impact upon the



Hierarchs of Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches at their Fraternal Encounter II meeting in St. Petersburg, Fla.

liturgical traditions of all branches of Christianity.

Ever concerned with the unity of the faith, the hierarchs will appoint a special commission to develop a proposal for a week of prayer for Christian unity, which will call upon Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic parishes in local communities around the world to join in prayer in each other's churches as evidence of their sincerity when they pray during each divine liturgy: "For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God and for the unity of them all, let us pray to the Lord."

Considering the benefit for clergy of both Churches to nurture the spirit of fraternity begun among themselves, a spirit, which when developed, edifies and contributes to understanding and sensitivity, the bishops set into motion plans to hold a joint conference of all the clergy of their respective eparchies in the year 2005. This conference, to be spiritual and educational in nature, is seen as an opportunity to enlighten the clergy of both churches concerning those things held in common, encouraging open dis-

cussion and acceptance of one another in a setting free of the history of judgment and condemnation, which, in the past, may very well have injured the faithful entrusted to their spiritual care.

In the framework of open discussion and acceptance of one another, the hierarchs also considered the recent decision of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine to locate its spiritual center in the capital city of the country, Kyiv. The hierarchs emphasized that they stand firmly on the foundation of freedom of religion, which is often taken for granted in Western society, where all Churches have equal rights to conduct their ministry in the manner appropriate to their particular beliefs and needs. The hierarchs confirmed their belief that these rights must prevail in independent and free Ukraine, whose constitution also guarantees freedom of religion. They urged the faithful of their traditional ecclesiastical bodies of Ukraine to act in the Love of Christ rather than in fear of or in judgment of one another. There is a nation to build, and Christ's Church

(Continued on page 16)

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SPORTSLINE

Boxing

British boxer and World Boxing Council heavyweight title holder Lennox Lewis announced on February 6 that he was retiring from the sport of boxing, ending months of hype and speculation regarding a rematch with Ukrainian heavyweight Vitalii Klitschko.

Less than a week after Lewis' announcement, the Associated Press reported that Klitschko and Corrie Sanders have started to discuss a bout between the two boxers with the winner claiming the vacant WBC title.

Sanders, a former World Boxing Organization champion from South Africa, knocked out Klitschko's brother, Volodymyr, in the second round of a bout last March in Hanover, Germany. According to boxing promoter Vernon Smith, discussions for a fight between the elder Klitschko and Sanders began on February 10. The Associated Press also reported that Smith hopes for an April 24 fight date, preferably in New York or Las Vegas, with an HBO broadcaster.

Figure Skating

The Associated Press reported on January 29 that Victor Petrenko, the winner of the men's gold medal in figure skating in the 1992 Winter Olympics, was charged with drunken driving after his sport utility vehicle crashed into a utility pole and fence on January 28. The 34-year-old Petrenko, who lives in Simsbury, Conn., complained of a minor injury following the accident but declined treatment, the Associated Press reported.

As a result of the accident Petrenko applied for an alcohol education program on February 9, the website of The Hartford Courant reported on February 10. According to the newspaper, if Petrenko is accepted into the program he will take either a 10- or 15-class course. The charge of drunken driving would be dismissed once Petrenko successfully completes the course. Petrenko is due back in Superior Court in Enfield, Conn., on March 15 for a hearing on the application.

Petrenko was found on the night of his

arrest at around 11:30 p.m. in a wrecked Mercedes-Benz vehicle that had crashed into a utility pole and then hit a chain-link fence, the Hartford newspaper reported.

The Ukrainian figure skater failed several field sobriety tests, including walking a straight line, and refused to take a breath test to measure the level of alcohol in his blood. As a result of that refusal, his license was automatically suspended, Simsbury Police Chief Peter Ingvertsen said, according to The Courant.

Volleyball

Ukrainian Lena Ustymenko was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-Midwest Region First Team on December 10, 2003. Ustymenko is a sophomore middle blocker and outside hitter on the University of Louisville's varsity volleyball team. Additionally, Ustymenko earned First All-Conference USA honors and was named Conference USA tournament most valuable player, leading her team in kills and attacks. The

Louisville Cardinals volleyball team won the Conference USA tournament title and a share of the regular season crown, finishing the season with 25 wins and six losses en route to their 14th trip to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament.

The official website for the University of Louisville reported that Ustymenko helped the Cardinals to their third league title in school history. She finished the year ranked third in the conference with an average of 4.26 kills per game and fifth with 4.94 average points per game.

According to the school's website, Ustymenko, a gifted student who finished high school in her hometown of Kyiv at the age of 15, played for the under-20 Ukrainian National Team during 2002. Ustymenko, who was born on October 11, 1986, qualified for the European World Championships as a member of the Ukraine Youth Sports Club at the age of 15 in the under-18 category.

Swimming

Yana Klochkova took first place in the women's 200-meter backstroke event at a Federation Internationale de Natiation (FINA) World Cup event held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on February 6-8. Klochkova finished the race in 2 minutes and 9.40 seconds, while Jenny Mensing of Germany took second place with a time of 2:12.03. Charlene Wittstock of the Republic of South Africa took third place with a time of 2:12.06.

Klochkova then took another first place by winning the women's 200-meter butterfly with a time of 2:09.50. Korea's You Ri Kwon took second place with a time of 2:09.62, while Georgina Bardach of Argentina took third place with a time of 2:12.52.

Klochkova took first place in the women's 200-meter individual medley by finishing the race in 2:09.75. Amanda Beard of the United States took second place with a time of 2:10.03, and Joanna Maranhao of Brazil took third place with a time of 2:15.77.

Klochkova next won the women's 400-meter individual medley with a time of 4:38.15. Bardach of Argentina took second place with a time of 4:40.65, and Maranhao of Brazil took third place with a time of 4:42.26.

Klochkova also captured second place by finishing the women's 100-meter individual medley with a time of 1:02.31. Beard of the United States took first place with a time of 1:01.85, while Hanna Eriksson of Sweden took third place with a time of 1:02.42.

On the men's side, Serhii Fesenko of Ukraine took third place in the 400-meter freestyle at a FINA World Cup event held in New York on January 30-31. Fesenko finished the race in 3:47.78, while Chad Carvin of the United States won the race with a time of 3:40.87. Dragos Coman of Romania took second place with a time of 3:44.21.

Fesenko then took third place in the men's 1,500-meter freestyle with a time of 15:03.34. Romania's Coman took first place with a time of 14:44.69, and Christopher Thompson of the United States took second place with a time of 14:47.40.

Klochkova took first place in the women's 200-meter individual medley by finishing the race in 2:09.79. Ukrainian Canadian Joanne Malar took second place with a time of 2:11.63, and Alenka Kejzar of Slovakia took third place with a time of 2:12.22.

(Continued on page 14)

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Ukrainian Olympic swimmer prepares for Athens, trains in U.S.

by John Fedynsky

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Like a submarine silently churning underwater and only occasionally coming up for air, Ukrainian Olympian Serhii (known also as Sergey) Fesenko has quietly trained in preparation for what could be a golden moment at the 2004 Summer Olympics this August in Athens, Greece. That moment did not happen for him when he competed in Sydney in 2000, but things are different now. He is older – 21 – and ranked at or near the top of his events, the 200-meter, 400-meter and 1,200-meter freestyle.

From the beginning of January until the middle of February, he trained with the Wolverine Club, a group of Olympic-caliber, non-collegiate swimmers from all over the globe. The club trains in Ann Arbor on the campus of the University of Michigan at Canham Natatorium, a world-class facility.

“Sergey could definitely be a finalist at Athens,” said Jon Urbanek, the club’s coach and outgoing coach of varsity swimming at the University of Michigan. Urbanek, whose family background is Hungarian, has a distinguished 22-year record as coach at the University of Michigan and an international reputation for helping to train future medalists. He has also consistently been an assistant coach for the U.S. Olympic team and will likely be selected again this year.

“He is a good kid,” said Urbanek. “I really enjoy coaching him.” Fesenko, for his part, credited Urbanek for being “nice, professional and educated” and “for approaching everything with intelligence.”

Fesenko, who is modest but by no means shy, sent Coach Urbanek an e-mail message at the end of 2003. That bit of initia-



Ukraine's Serhii Fesenko with Coach Jon Urbanek at the University of Michigan.

tive led to the opportunity to train with the Wolverine Club, a chance that many other top swimmers do not get. Urbanek knew of Fesenko's father, who is also named Serhii and also a swimmer. The father was a gold medalist at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

“My father has a big influence on me,” said Fesenko, noting that from before he could remember he was in a swimming pool learning techniques and discipline from his father. He listened to his father's stories and became “infected” with a desire to swim competitively.

“Sergey is a very disciplined swimmer

and a good role model for other kids,” said Urbanek. Indeed, at a pizza dinner with members of the University of Michigan Ukrainian Students Club, Fesenko allowed himself only a 10ml shot of cognac and insisted on being home by 10 p.m. He is usually at the pool before 8 a.m. and swims a total of over 14 kilometers in morning and afternoon sessions every day except Sundays, not to mention weight training and other exercises.

Other individuals and institutions of the Ukrainian American community of southeastern Michigan welcomed Fesenko to the area, arranging visits to Detroit and to local

Ukrainian churches, a radio interview, a visit to Saturday school to meet with Ukrainian American students and other such social events.

“The Ukrainian community here left me with very nice impressions,” said Fesenko. “They are hospitable, helpful and genuinely care about Ukraine despite their geographical distance from it.” He said that he would like to thank in particular the Hewko, Hryciw and Kizyma families for their support and hospitality.

His impressions of America are similarly positive. “I very much like America,” he said. “It is much better than I expected.”

The Ukrainian swimmer's English is good. Urbanek claimed that there was no language or cultural barrier for Fesenko. “He's blended right in,” Urbanek said. “He jokes with the kids all the time – he takes it and dishes it out too.”

While in America, Fesenko competed at the World Cup in New York City and at the National Championships in Orlando, placing in the top three in three events and posting a personal best in the 1,500-meter freestyle.

In the middle of February, Fesenko returned to Kyiv for about three weeks to train and compete in the Ukrainian National Championships. He then plans to go to Mission Viejo, Calif., to work with a club similar to the Wolverine Club. In May he will compete at the European Championships in Madrid. Then he will join his Ukrainian Olympic teammates on Crete to train and get accustomed to the climate of Athens before the Olympics begin in August.

Be sure not to blink when this human submarine surfaces in Athens for a moment in the international spotlight. You might just miss him.



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Paris to Kyiv brings its unique sound to Quebec City Carnaval



Mike Reshitnyk

Paris to Kyiv performs at Carnaval with the Rosheen ensemble, known for its Celtic music.



Kattialine Painchaud of Rosheen duels with Richard Moody of Paris to Kyiv



Alexis Kochan with CBC/Radio Canada host Mario Paquet.

by Mike Reshitnyk

QUEBEC CITY – An intricate weaving of Ukrainian, Irish and French-Canadian musical culture highlighted the 50th anniversary of Quebec City's world-famous winter Carnaval at the historic Le Capitole theater and cabaret on Thursday, February 12, with an unusual concert held before an appreciative crowd of 1,200.

The concert was the fruit of a cross-cultural collaboration between CBC Radio, the French sister service, Radio-Canada and the Carnaval de Québec featuring Winnipeg's Paris to Kyiv, Quebec City's Rosheen Celtic band and the Shannon Irish Dancers. The concert was broadcast live on Radio-Canada Chaîne Culturelle's Radio Concerts, and on the program "In Performance" on CBC Radio Two the following day, and was hosted by Radio-Canada's Montreal bilingual producer, Mario Paquet. Mr. Paquet had previously worked in Regina, and was a natural choice to MC this cross-cultural event.

The concert was co-produced by Winnipeg's CBC producer, Sandy Thacker, and Radio-Canada's Chantal Bélisle.

The timing for the event couldn't have been better. Organization of the schedules of CBC/Radio-Canada, Paris to Kyiv, Rosheen and the Shannon Irish Dancers had to converge, complicated by the availability of the Le Capitole venue. Planning looked promising to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the modern era of Quebec City's Carnaval. As an added bonus, the Carnaval's featured international country this year happened to be Ireland. Quebec City is blessed with a sizeable historic Irish presence within both the anglo and franco communities.

Recall that Ireland shares many similarities with Ukraine's historic experiences – famine, religious strife, occupation by a foreign power, exodus of its population to points world-wide, language assimilation, a rich rural, folk and cultural tradition, to name a few.

It was only logical that a Celtic flavor was sought for this concert, and ironically, Alexis Kochan's Paris to Kyiv contribution fit the bill magnificently.

Paris to Kyiv's musical style, and instrumentation compliments well with Rosheen's Celtic heritage. Richard Moody's viola matched the fiddles of Rosheen, Julian Kytasty's sopilka went head to head with Rosheen's tin whistle while his bandura complimented the Celtic strings.

Ms. Kochan's Ukrainian vocals symbiosed flawlessly with that of Rosheen's singer-songwriter Lynn Vallières, who sings both in French and English.

But, without question, the inherent Celtic influence of Paris to Kyiv's Martin Colledge on cittern and Northumbrian pipes was key to the success of the performance.

To ensure a seamless blending of the two ensembles, Mr. Kytasty spent a few days with Rosheen last January to tutor them on Paris to Kyiv's music and the Ukrainian words of their songs. Incredibly, the two groups performed without a hitch after only several hours of practice together.

Even the popular Shannon Irish Dancers' performance could draw parallels to our beloved Ukrainian folk dancing, reinforcing cultural similarities.

And to cap the evening's performance, the Carnaval's rotund ambassador, Bonhomme Carnaval made an appearance to enthusiastic cheers and applause by the partisan crowd.

Following the Quebec City performance, Paris to Kyiv left for Montreal where they performed on Sunday, February 15, before leaving for a New York engagement.

Ukrainski Barvy ensemble concertizes in Florida

by Oksana Piaseckyj

MIAMI – The Ukrainian community in this region traditionally celebrates the Julian calendar New Year with a zabava (dance), attracting snowbirds from Canada and the northeastern states. The Ukrainian American Club and Ukrainian Dancers of Miami hosted this year's festivities on January 17, with an outstand-

ing band/folk ensemble, Ukrainski Barvy. The energetic, accomplished foursome performed on a variety of folk instruments and sang popular and traditional songs and dances to the delight of an enthusiastic dancing audience.

The following day Ukrainski Barvy presented a concert of Christmas koliadky and schedrivky at the parish hall of

Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Miami. They entertained with traditional Christmas carols and a variety of ancient schedrivky interspersed with jubilant, heartwarming greetings to all. The richness of Ukrainian traditions and religious celebrations in their musical form transported Miamians to the snow-covered Ukraine of long ago.

Both occasions were a feast for fans of good folk music. These classically trained musicians from Kyiv have been performing together for the last four years. They are graduates of the best music schools in Ukraine. Frequently they perform as soloists with various orchestras, such as the National Philharmonic of Ukraine. The group has recorded five CDs and audiotapes.

The ensemble has three male instrumentalists, Roman Kuka, Serhij Tsukhai and Denys Boyev – who entertain with ease on an assortment of instruments, such as the clarinet, violin, accordion, saxophone, flute, pan flute and sopilka. Mr. Kuka also does some of the vocals, either solo or with his wife, the featured soloist and violinist Oksana Stebelska.

The ensemble's Ukrainian folk music is in the forefront of what is current today in the folk genre. Just as Sinead O'Connor has woven her Gaelic roots into modern form or the South African Bantu choirs have enriched popular Broadway musicals, Ukrainski Barvy blend the ancient pre-Christian with modern modalities. Their interpretation is fresh and more sophisticated, raising the level of folk singing to a concert performance. Listening to Ukrainski Barvy you hear the



Members of the Ukrainski Barvy ensemble on the cover of their recent recording.

(Continued on page 15)

Continuum presents works of Valentin Bibik and Leonid Hrabovsky in concert at Merkin Hall



Valentin Bibik

NEW YORK – The internationally acclaimed music ensemble Continuum will present a concert of leading Ukrainian contemporary composers Valentin Bibik and Leonid Hrabovsky on Saturday, March 6, at 8 p.m. at New York City's Merkin Concert Hall. The event is presented in cooperation with the Ukrainian Institute of America and is part of its "Music at the Institute" series.

An ensemble known for its commitment to Ukrainian contemporary music, Continuum arranged this special opportunity to bring these innovative, highly original composers to a wider New York public. A poignant aspect in the planning was the fact that Mr. Bibik was battling a critical illness, and it was hoped that the concert would offer encouragement at a difficult time. Sadly, his death occurred last spring, and thus the concert has become a memorial.

The double portrait concert will vividly display and contrast two fascinating and very different musical personalities. At the heart of Mr. Bibik's music is

melody, counterpoint and traditional tonality, developed in a highly personal manner. His music can be at once strikingly simple and hauntingly expressive and dramatic. The powerful struggle of a spiritual journey is felt in many of his works. Mr. Hrabovsky has a daring surrealistic visionary imagination and seems to create a new musical vocabulary and form for each composition. His music is often aphoristic, filled with evocative images and sardonic wit.

The works Continuum has selected of Mr. Bibik show his mastery of both intimate and monumental structures, the former especially in "Little Concerto" for violin, cello and piano (1975) – in its New York premiere – and "Two Psalms of David" for soprano, clarinet, violin, and piano (1996, written for Continuum), and the latter in the String Quartet No. 2, receiving its U.S. premiere.

Continuum will perform Mr. Hrabovsky's "Trio" for violin, double bass and piano (1964-1975); "Hlas II – Obituary in Memory of Dmitri Shostakovich" for bass clarinet (1994); and as grand finale, a dramatic song cycle "And It Will Be" for mezzo-soprano and ensemble (1993), written for Continuum on fantastical poems in Ukrainian by Mykola Vorobiov.

Mr. Bibik was born in Kharkiv in 1940. After graduating from the Kharkiv Conservatory, he joined its faculty of composition, becoming a beloved mentor of young composers. As secretary of the Composers' Union, he was a significant force in the promotion of contemporary Ukrainian composers. In 1994 he accepted an invitation to head the Department of Recording Arts at the University of St. Petersburg.

Continuum was privileged to have Mr. Bibik present in New York in 1996 on the occasion of the group's 30th anniversary concert, which featured a work he wrote for Continuum. Mr. Bibik and his family emigrated to Israel three years later, where he became active in the country's rich musical life. He joined the faculty of Tel Aviv University, where word had it that not long after his arrival

he was lecturing in fluent Hebrew. His untimely death after an extended illness last spring cut short a new period of creativity.

Mr. Hrabovsky, born in Kyiv in 1935, attended the University of Kyiv, earning a degree in economics, while at the same time studying composition with Borys Liatoshynsky at the Kyiv Conservatory. He won national recognition in 1959 as the winner of an all-union composition competition.

In Kyiv he was on the faculty of the Conservatory and wrote film scores for Kyiv studios. A person of enormous curiosity and intellectual energy, he became conversant with as many of the major aesthetic trends of the West as he had access to, and was known as a bold pioneer of the avant garde movement in the Soviet Union.

In 1981 Mr. Hrabovsky moved to Moscow, but the harsh conditions there were extremely unfavorable for artistic development.

In 1987 Continuum commissioned one of his most important works "Kogda," which the ensemble premiered at the Saarbrücken Festival in Germany. The same year Continuum premiered a larger version of the work in its Lincoln Center concert of new Ukrainian composers.

Continuum members actually met Mr. Hrabovsky on his first visit to the U.S. in 1987 when Virko Baley, conductor of the Las Vegas Symphony, invited Mr. Hrabovsky and Continuum to Las Vegas for performances of Mr. Hrabovsky's music. A few years later Mr. Hrabovsky was to call New York his home, and he recently became a U.S. citizen.

Continuum, now in its 38th season and co-directed by Cheryl Seltzer and Joel Sachs, has a long history of interest in Ukrainian composers and the unique creativity of their music. Continuum's commitment goes back to the organization's landmark concert of 1981, "USSR: Unveiling the Avant Garde," presented at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. This concert showcased extraordinarily gifted progressive composers, virtually



Leonid Hrabovsky

unknown in the U.S., who produced striking, innovative music, often under great personal hardship, and whose performances had to be of a private, "underground" nature.

When Continuum received a trove of scores through a private channel, directors Joel Sachs and Cheryl Seltzer were stunned by the quality of the music, and finally narrowed down their program to representative works by Ukrainians Hrabovsky and Valentin Silvestrov, along with colleagues Sofia Gubaidulina, Alfred Schnittke, Edison Denisov and Arvo Pärt. The concert was a revelation and received national attention as the subject of a major article in Newsweek magazine.

The tremendous response led Continuum to present individual retrospectives in New York of Silvestrov, Hrabovsky, Schnittke, Gubaidulina, Galina Ustvolskaya, and in the 1990s Ukrainian-born Virko Baley and composers from other republics of the former Soviet Union.

Because Ms. Seltzer and Mr. Sachs considered contemporary Ukrainian music as worthy of special focus, they presented a concert "The New Ukrainians" in 1987, again at Lincoln Center, with music by Levko Kolodub, Bibik, Silvestrov, and Hrabovsky, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Institute of America and with invaluable assistance in arrangements and programming from Mr. Baley.

Continuum also enriched its active touring in the United States, and abroad with Ukrainian repertoire, and brought these discoveries to many parts of the world, often in topical concerts of Ukrainian music and progressive music of the former Soviet Union. Sponsors in diverse parts of the globe specifically asked for a hearing of this music.

In the fall of 1990 Continuum had the special privilege of traveling for the first of several times to Ukraine. Again, thanks to arrangements by Mr. Baley, the ensemble had memorable visits to Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv and Odesa, giving concerts and meeting composers and other musicians, some of whom would become lifelong friends. It was on this trip that Continuum was hosted in Kharkiv by Mr. Bibik, and could get to know much more of his unique music.

Continuum has since performed again in the Kyiv Festival, in Odesa's "Two Days and Two Nights of New Music" (a virtual round-the-clock marathon at a popular discotheque) and last season at Lviv's "Contrasts" Festival.

Continuum has also produced portrait



The Continuum music ensemble

(Continued on page 16)

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Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

(Continued from page 4)

Supreme officers reported that the first year had been extremely difficult since the UNA was short of workers. The only two employees of the UNA at that time were the Rev. Gregory Hrushka, editor of Svoboda, and the Rev. Ivan Konstankevych, supreme secretary.

By the time of Soyuz's second convention, held in Olyphant, Pa., on May 30, 1895, total assets of the UNA were \$605.60. The convention elected Ivan Glova of Excelsior, Pa., as its supreme president; Theodosius Talpash of Shamokin, Pa., the UNA's first chief supreme president, took over the post of supreme vice-president. Mr. Glova had previously served as the organization's first supreme treasurer.

At the UNA's third convention, which took place in Mount Carmel, Pa., on January 2, 1896, it was reported that during the first two years of its existence the UNA had paid out \$2,300 in death benefits to beneficiaries of members. Thus, the mortality rate in the UNA was 12 members per 1,000. The average age of UNA members was 35. Delegates to the third convention set minimum and maximum age limits for UNA members, respectively, 16 and 45. The age limits were an attempt to decrease the UNA's potential mortality rate.

The third convention also decided to establish an Indigent Fund to help needy members; funds came from deducting 10 cents from monthly membership dues. Mr. Glova was re-elected as supreme president.

Source: "Ukrainian National Association: Its Past and Present, (1894-1964)," by Anthony Dragan, Jersey City, N.J.: Svoboda Press, 1964.

Sportsline

(Continued from page 10)

Klochkova also won the women's 400-meter individual medley with a time of 4:33.58, while Julia Smit of the United States took second place with a time of 4:36.18. Canada's Malar took third place with a time of 4:36.85.

Klochkova then finished the women's 200-meter butterfly in third place with a time of 2:09.94. Georgina Lee of the United States won the race by finishing with a time of 2:08.03, and Jennifer Button of Canada took second place with a time of 2:09.20.

Klochkova then finished the women's 200-meter backstroke in fourth place by finishing with a time of 2:10.51, while Canada's Elizabeth Warden won the event with a time of 2:08.19. Sarah Price of Great Britain took second place with a time of 2:09.63, and Slovakia's Kejzar took third place with a time of 2:10.17.

Track and field

Ivan Heshko of Ukraine took first place in the men's 1,500-meter event at the Norwich Union Grand Prix in Birmingham, England, on February 20. Rui Silva of Portugal took second place by finishing the race in 3 minutes and 35.83 seconds, and Britain's Michael East took third place with a time of 3:36.42. Heshko finished the race in 3:35.40.

Ukraine's Zhanna Block took fourth place in the women's 60-meter event, finishing the race in 7.31 seconds, while Kim Gevaert of Belgium won the event with a time of 7.13. Marion Jones of the United States took second place with a time of 7.16, while her teammate Angela Daigle took third place with a time of 7.27.

Fencing

Candlewood Fencing Center, a Connecticut-based training facility for fencers of all levels, announced recently the schedule for its Annual Summer Fencing Intensive. The organization also released the names of coaches participating in the summer program, which includes six Ukrainians. Among them are Orest Stetsiv, a former junior Olympic Soviet sabre coach; Laslo Stankovich, a four-time world champion and Olympic silver medalist; Alek Ulanovskiy and Serge Hritsaev, Ukrainian master coaches; Alex Fotiyev, a four-time Ukrainian national champion; and Oleh Stetsiv, the 1995 Ukrainian national champion.

— compiled by Andrew Nynka

Instilling self-respect...

(Continued from page 6)

to cross me.

Perhaps she is right, and I am indeed obsessed with a personal mission to transform a system that is already in the process of change. Substantial evidence exists that a new breed of service worker has appeared: responsive, attentive and polite. These are mostly younger people who generally work for or were trained by firms that are Western-organized or originating in the West. They are bright-eyed, ambitious types who understand that in pleasing the client you assure his return business. They realize that the effort at civility offers rewards.

So, all is not lost. The future is not dire. Ukrainians simply need time to make the attitude adjustment, to learn what the Soviet fog forced them to forget and, most importantly, to raise their standards of living and give themselves some self-respect.

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Opposition calls...

(Continued from page 3)

supports President Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, succeeded in forcing through initial approval of a controversial political reform law on February 3.

The draft legislation calls for changing the Constitution to mandate that the Verkhovna Rada should have a working majority coalition, which would appoint the prime minister. It also gives the president the right to dismiss the legislative body if it should fail to fulfill the requirements within a stated period of time.

In the first reading, the draft bill succeeded in receiving more than 300 votes, which is the constitutionally mandated two-thirds threshold it would need to be approved in the vote scheduled for March 16.

The opposition, which in addition to the Tymoshenko political bloc includes the Our Ukraine political bloc led by National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko, has strenuously opposed the process in the belief that the parliamentary majority has undertaken political reform during a presidential election year in order to sway the balance of power to a strong parliamentary system of government and away from a strong presidential system. Mr. Yushchenko, by far the most popular politician in Ukraine is a probable presidential candidate.

Opposition members have repeatedly stated that the reform effort is a cynical attempt by the political/business clans that surround Mr. Kuchma to assure that they retain power after the president leaves office. Some opposition members believe that Mr. Kuchma would like to remain for a third term even though the Constitution limits a sitting president to two terms.

In December, in a decision that has been extensively criticized in the West, Ukraine's Constitutional Court ruled that Mr. Kuchma could run again because the new Constitution of Ukraine was enacted while he was in office, effectively giving him only a partial first term. Mr. Kuchma has repeatedly stated that he will not run for re-election – most recently during a press conference on February 25.

The United States and the European

Union also have questioned the rationale for a major constitutional reform initiative during a presidential election year. Mr. Kuchma reminded journalists during his most recent press conference that his political reform initiative is not new, but began nearly five years ago when he first proposed a national referendum to expand presidential powers and limit parliamentary authority.

"Parliament ignored the referendum even though nearly 90 percent of the nation supported it," explained President Kuchma.

The national referendum, which was held in April 2000, received voter approval of more than 80 percent. The Verkhovna Rada failed to bring it to a ratification vote for final approval of the four proposals on the referendum ballot, as was required by the Constitution. Most Western political observers deemed the vote fraudulent.

The opposition has said that the two parliamentary votes that have been held to approve the first reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution also were illegal. It has accused the majority coalition of ramrodding the bill through the Parliament by not allowing for floor debate and a procedurally acceptable vote. The Council of Europe has supported the opposition's claims.

The March 16 demonstration will not include the red banners of two long-time opposition forces, the Communists and Socialists. Both leftist parties, which had been in a loose but unwieldy opposition coalition with the center-right Our Ukraine and Tymoshenko blocs, have thrown their support behind the political reform legislation. In addition, the Communists have stated that they would never consider supporting Mr. Yushchenko should he run for president. Oleksander Moroz, head of the Socialist Party, is a perennial presidential hopeful and has indicated that he is considering another candidacy.

Mr. Moroz, who appeared on Hromadske Radio with Mrs. Tymoshenko, explained that his opposition to the March 16 demonstration was grounded in the evidence that mass actions have failed to resolve Ukraine's problems in the past.

"It is dangerous to stage mass protests in order to solve political problems because they can lead to disappointment," explained Mr. Moroz.

with the Venice Commission.

Unlike the December 24, 2003, vote, which was backed only by the pro-presidential majority and the Communist Party, the February 3 vote was also backed by the Socialists, who argued that political reform should be undertaken before the presidential elections.

The opposition is now even more divided, with only the right – Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc – continuing to insist that political reform be undertaken only after the elections. This position is backed by PACE, the European Union and the United States.

Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, New York, Washington, New Haven, Conn., Houston, Phoenix, Rochester, N.Y., South Bound Brook, N.J., St. Petersburg, Fla., Cleveland, Detroit and Pittsburgh, among other venues.

The ensemble was invited to conduct workshops and present a concert at the Harvard University Ukrainian Summer Institute in July 2003. This spring and summer they plan to tour the Canada provinces.

Ukrainian president...

(Continued from page 2)

be a figurehead. The pro-presidential majority in Parliament, therefore, would continue to hold real, effective power through their control of Parliament and government, while the opposition would inherit a highly weakened executive.

This scenario permits President Kuchma to continue to maintain a modicum of balance between Russia and the West. Mr. Lytvyn promised to cooperate with the PACE special representative on Ukraine, once that official is named, and

Ukrainski Barvy...

(Continued from page 12)

richness of earthy bluegrass and become connected to the mountains and villages of Ukraine.

Ukrainski Barvy have traveled extensively throughout the United States the last three years, performing at Yale University, San Diego's House of Ukraine festival, in

Notice to publishers and authors

It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

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Vatican reported...

(Continued from page 1)

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, by asking leaders of other Orthodox Churches to speak out on the issue of the Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate. CNS reported that, in letters published in February, a dozen Orthodox leaders asked Pope John Paul II not to name the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church a patriarch. Many of them noted that this would be seen as an attack on Orthodoxy and would severely damage relations with Rome.

The Associated Press reported that the responses, all negative, were posted on the Moscow Patriarchate's website in advance of Cardinal Kasper's Moscow meetings, which were aimed at improving ties between the two Churches. Recent strains in the relationship had prevented the pontiff from traveling to Russia, a long-held dream of Pope John Paul II.

Before those meetings Cardinal Kasper told the AP that the Catholic Church did not have a "purposeful policy" of attracting Orthodox faithful, while noting that his Church "has the right to exist in the countries of Eastern Europe, with their Orthodox majority, and fulfill its mission." He added, "Both sides must respect religious freedom and freedom of conscience."

Meetings in Moscow

Cardinal Kasper, the highest Vatican official to visit Russia in four years, met with Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, who chairs the ROC's Department for External Relations, on February 19. His meeting with Patriarch Aleksei II took place three days later.

On February 21, the Holy See issued a statement noting that "Both parties have agreed that, in order to solve any issues that may arise in the future with regard to relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church, a work group will be set up featuring members of both Churches. The aim of the group will be examining and solving these issues."

Citing the BBC Monitoring Service, the Religious Information Service of Ukraine (RISU) reported that, during his meeting with Patriarch Aleksei, Cardinal Kasper said that the Catholic Church would not set up a Greek-Catholic Patriarchate in Ukraine. At

the same meeting, Patriarch Aleksei complained that "proselytism in the territory of Russia and other CIS countries is spreading more and more widely and broadly."

According to ITAR-TASS, the ROC leader underscored that the establishment of a Greek-Catholic Patriarchate in Ukraine will give up for lost relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Vatican. The patriarch is concerned about "the union spreading into east[ern] Ukraine, Russia and Kazakstan," noted ITAR-TASS.

Responses from Ukrainian Catholics

The Catholic News Service secured a reaction to the latest developments from Cardinal Husar. Speaking on February 24, the Ukrainian Catholic leader said: "We certainly do not wish to have our Patriarchate recognized at the expense of someone else; we would not want others to suffer."

However, he said, "the Patriarchate is not a prize, but a pastoral tool," and the Vatican must evaluate whether the dialogue with the Orthodox is promising enough to make it worthwhile to put the needs and the desires of Ukrainian Catholics in second place. "It would be very difficult to explain to our people if the decision were put on hold. ...They feel we are being sold."

"We do not want our Patriarchate to be the ultimate blow to unity, but on the contrary, we would use it to work for unity on an equal footing" with the Orthodox Churches who follow a patriarch, he said. "We are willing to help ensure it does not become an obstacle, but there must be a plan." He added, "'Not now' is not an answer."

A response came also from the Office of the Apocrisarius (representative) of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rome in the form of a statement that recounted the topics of discussion between the Vatican and ROC leaders. The statement underscored that "thus far, no decisions have been made."

Meanwhile, in Lviv, at the Ukrainian Catholic University, Vice-Rector Myroslav Marynovych on February 25 told Matthew Matuszak of the Religious Information Service of Ukraine (RISU) that the ROC likens the development of the UGCC to "the spread of a dangerous virus."

Mr. Marynovych commented on the situation for RISU as follows:

"The address of Patriarch Aleksei II is restrained, in a key traditional for the Russian Orthodox Church. If the 'Uniate' Church is allowed to exist, this will be, to put it offensively, only 'under the table' of history, in its own special regional ghetto. Though natural for an era of migration, the Church's extensive development is treated like the spread of a dangerous virus that threatens Christian peace. It is not possible to accept such an interpretation.

"However, the obstinacy and ultimatum-like character of the patriarch's language is, in my opinion, not only the result of the worries of those leaders of the ROC

who refuse to reconcile. Some Roman Catholics in the West with whom I have conversed express their unease with the supposedly unreasonable acts of Eastern Catholics. In their understanding, Greek-Catholics should avoid actions that could aggravate the Moscow Patriarchate. The UGCC's struggle to have its Patriarchate established and to transfer the patriarch's see to Kyiv, unfortunately, is received by some Roman Catholics not as an element of the normal development of the UGCC, but as unmotivated steps in the direction of confrontation. This creates a background against which the obstinacy of patriarchal Moscow looks understandable.

"However, this result of the discussions in Moscow, seemingly negative for the UGCC, is in fact an important step towards the normalization of inter-Church relations. It has brought forth some conclusions: the Moscow Patriarchate is making efforts to return relations with the Vatican to the old rut of Ostpolitik, and the hypnotic dependence of Vatican propositions on the ultimatums of the Moscow Patriarchate contradicts the spirit of the modern era. I am convinced that, both in Catholicism and in world Orthodoxy, dissatisfaction with the way the discussions in Moscow were conducted will grow. Therefore, there will still be changes."

Continuum...

(Continued from page 13)

CDs of Messrs. Bibik and Hrabovsky for Mr. Baley's pace-setting TNC recording label, a company which has already made enormous strides in its promotion of Ukrainian composers and performing artists.

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Continuum's soloists on March 6 will be Wonjung Kim, soprano; Bo Chang, mezzo-soprano; David Gresham, clarinet; Ms. Seltzer, piano; and Mr. Sachs, piano, conductor.

Tickets – at \$15; \$8, students and seniors – are available at the box office, Merkin Concert Hall, Goodman House, 129 W. 67th St., (212) 501-3330 (tickets and information). Continuum's website is www.continuum-ensemble-ny.org.

Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox...

(Continued from page 9)

must be the moral conscience of that building process, they noted.

Having reflected on the culture of immorality, which directly undermines the sacredness of the family – the foundation of society – the bishops affirmed that the Holy Mystery of Marriage, which Christ manifested as an honorable estate by His presence at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, is a union which manifests the relationship between Christ and His Church and can exist only between a male and female. They further affirmed the sacredness and dignity of life from conception to natural death, considering those who approve of or cooperate in abortions as unworthy of receiving the Holy Eucharist. The hierarchs condemned those who conduct the prostitution of children and young adults throughout the world.

The hierarchs discussed the political life of Ukraine after 12 years of independence and offered their prayers that the Holy Spirit would guide both political and ecclesiastical leaders there during what appears to be a looming constitutional crisis over such issues as the election of the nation's president. Finally, the hierarchs considered current developments in the Ukrainian commu-

nities of the Western Hemisphere in which they live, work and lead. They expressed concern about an apparent attitude of secularization of community life in recent years. The bishops affirmed the extremely important nature of the Church's involvement in all aspects of community life and the absolute necessity of frequent consultation between the community's secular leaders and the hierarchs, where the support of the Church is expected or needed.

The Ukrainian hierarchs set the date of Fraternal Encounter III for August 6-7 at a location to be announced. They closed Encounter II in prayerful thanksgiving to Almighty God for the opportunity given to gather as brothers in the Lord and to establish a working relationship, which can only benefit the flocks they lead.

On Saturday, February 7, the hierarchs visited Holy Epiphany Ukrainian Catholic Church in St. Petersburg, to pray with hundreds of the faithful of both Churches for the victims of the genocidal Famine of 1932-1933. Prior to the memorial service, Metropolitan Constantine and Metropolitan Soroka blessed a beautiful mosaic of the Baptism of our Lord in the River Jordan over the main entrance on the exterior of the church. The two hierarchs then read the message from the Encounter about the Famine to the faithful.

also quoted in the BBG statement, saying that he supports U.S. broadcasts to Ukraine. "We want to and will be a part of the Ukrainian mass media," Mr. Dine said.

Mr. Dine's comments came following news last week that the privately owned Ukrainian FM Radio Dovira network dropped all RFE/RL programs, a move that Mr. Dine earlier called a "deeply disturbing political development and serious setback to freedom of expression in Ukraine."

Mr. Dine also called Dovira's decision "a political act against liberal democracy, against free speech and press, against RFE/RL, and show, once again, that Ukraine's political leadership is unable to live in an open society and is compelled to 'control' the media as if it were the good old days of the Soviet Union."

VOA cutback...

(Continued from page 1)

24 BBG statement saying that "VOA's news broadcasts will be available to the Ukrainian people on every medium: radio, television and the Internet," but did not elaborate further. Mr. Jackson could not be reached for a comment on the decision to leave VOA broadcasting untouched, and VOA spokesman Joe O'Connell was not available.

The staff of VOA Ukrainian radio, meanwhile, has already been reduced by five people and has worked that way for over two weeks. Sources close to the VOA Ukrainian Service say it will take some negotiating in order to hire five employees back to the service.

RFE/RL President Thomas Dine was

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

western Ukraine, was picketed by 10,000 people to protest what they say is "tax repression" against businesses associated with lawmakers from the Our Ukraine opposition bloc, UNIAN reported, quoting the press service of the Ukrainian National Party, a component of Our Ukraine. The rally reportedly demanded that "fabricated criminal cases" against Ternopil-based businesses associated with Ukrainian National Party parliamentarians Yaroslav Dzhodzhuk and Oleh Humeniuk be closed and that a team of tax officers who were dispatched to Ternopil from Kyiv be recalled. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Officer accuses regime of spying

KYIV – Gen. Valerii Kravchenko told Deutsche Welle in Berlin on February 18 that he possesses "evidence of criminal activities" by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's regime, Ukrainian news agencies and the Ukrainska Pravda website reported. Gen. Kravchenko alleged that Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) chief Ihor Smeshko and Main Intelligence Directorate chief Oleh Syniarskyi have been ordering their subordinates abroad to spy on Ukrainian opposition lawmakers and Cabinet members "starting from ministers and higher up." Mr. Kravchenko claimed that he, as an intelligence officer and adviser to the Ukrainian Embassy in Berlin, has also received such an order. He declared that he is ready to hand over the evidence to the Ukrainian Procurator General's Office and the Verkhovna Rada's Human Rights Committee. Later the same day, the SBU called Gen. Kravchenko's statement "absurd," Interfax reported. The SBU acknowledged that Gen. Kravchenko, born in 1945, is its officer, adding that earlier this month he was ordered to return to Kyiv but refused to obey the order. The SBU suggested that Gen. Kravchenko is pursuing "mercantile interests" in publicizing his revelations. (RFE/RL Newsline)

SBU general denounced by ex-boss

KYIV – Volodymyr Radchenko, former head of the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) and current head of the National Security and Defense Council, has denounced SBU General Valerii Kravchenko's recent revelation that he received secret instructions from his superiors to gather information on members of the Ukrainian opposition as "unbefitting an officer of the SBU," Interfax Ukraine reported on February 24. Mr. Radchenko told the news agency that the political implications of Gen. Kravchenko's revelations were created artificially by his desire to remain in Germany for another year to save money to finish renovating his apartment in Kyiv. Mr. Radchenko said he signed the orders that sent Gen. Kravchenko to Berlin and took the general's recent actions "very painfully." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pro-government forces issue statement

KYIV – As reported last week, leaders of pro-government parties and parliamentary caucuses in the Verkhovna Rada signed an agreement on February 18 establishing a "coalition of democratic forces," Ukrainian news agencies reported. The signatories pledged to implement proposed constitutional reform, guarantee the victory of a coalition candidate in the 2004 presidential election, and create favorable conditions for the stable and effective functioning of the coalition government. The document was signed by Party of Regions leader Viktor

Yanukovich and Regions of Ukraine caucus head Raisa Bohatyreva, Agrarian Party leader Ivan Kyrylenko and Agrarian Party caucus head Kateryna Vaschuk, National Democratic Party leader Valerii Pustovoitenko, Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs leader Anatolii Kinakh, Labor Ukraine Party leader Serhii Tyhypko, Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs – Labor Ukraine caucus leader Ihor Sharov, Social Democratic Party-United leader Viktor Medvedchuk, and Social Democratic Party-United caucus head Leonid Kravchuk, Democratic Initiatives caucus leader Stepan Havrysh, People's Choice caucus leader Mykola Hapochka and People's Power caucus leader Bohdan Hubsnyi. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Romania and Ukraine at impasse

BUCHAREST – Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana told journalists on February 18 that Romania and Ukraine have made "little progress" in talks on sharing the oil-rich continental shelf in the Black Sea, AFP and Mediafax reported. Mr. Geoana spoke after talks with visiting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko. Mr. Geoana said Romania cannot under any circumstances agree to what he called "attempts by Ukraine to change the international judicial status of Serpents Island (Zmiinyi Ostrov)." Romanian media reported earlier this week that Ukraine is populating the uninhabited island in order to be able to claim an exclusive economic zone around it under international maritime legislation. Mr. Gryshchenko, who also met with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, said the dispute is ultimately an "economic one" and "therefore one about money." Mr. Geoana said the Ukrainian side has brought new proposals that experts in Bucharest will study, but stressed that considering that no agreement has been reached in 21 meetings over the disputed island, it is likely that Bucharest will have to ask the Hague-based International Court of Justice to rule on the matter. (RFE/RL Newsline)

UkrNafta projections released

KYIV – Ukraine's state oil-producing company, UkrNafta, announced on February 24 that it is planning to increase oil production to almost 3 million tons in 2004, or about 62,800 barrels per day, according to Interfax Ukraine. A company spokesperson said this would constitute an increase of 3.6 percent over 2003 production by the company, which produces 93 percent of Ukraine's crude oil. Ukraine consumed 290,000 barrels of oil per day in 2001, roughly equal to the amount consumed that year by Hong Kong, and had proven reserves of 197.5 million barrels, according to the CIA "World Factbook." UkrNafta also announced that it will increase natural gas production by 2.3 percent to 3.3 billion cubic meters. Ukraine consumed 74.1 billion cubic meters of gas in 2001, with the difference imported from Turkmenistan by Naftohaz Ukrainy, the state natural-gas monopoly. Meanwhile, the "Russian Oil and Gas Report" of February 20 reported that Ukraine is about to establish a national oil company with full-cycle capability – from oil production to sale of petroleum products on the Ukrainian domestic market. The formation of such a company was first announced in 2002 by the government of former Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh. The new, as yet unnamed entity, will be based on UkrNafta and state-owned stakes in the Kremenchukyskyi, Nadvirianskyi, and Drohobychskyi refineries. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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Похорон відбувся 13 січня 2004 р. при участі о. Лончини. Тіло Покійної спочило на Meadowridge Memorial Cemetery, Elkridge, Maryland.

Залишені у смутку:

дочка – ІРЕНА ІВАСИШИН-АНДРЕАДІС
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Для дочки Ірени була надзвичайною мамою і товаришкою.

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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Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union

Ukrainian engineer...

(Continued from page 4)

Ukrainian TV broadcasters, including Channel 5 (Kanal 5), which provides rare domestic coverage of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine reform movement.

Though Mr. Kapeniak's prime intent is to bring Ukraine to the diaspora over the web, he says he recognizes that Ukrainian citizens and residents are starved for news and information that is not filtered through a government lens.

"I was in Ukraine in early December and some of the things I saw on television there were disgusting – it's like it used to be under the Soviet Union," he commented.

"They were calling Yushchenko a Nazi and spreading dirt about him and Nasha Ukraina on this channel partially owned by Medvedchuk," he continued



The UkrainaTV logo.

Last year, Mykola Tomenko, chairperson of Ukraine's parliamentary Committee for Freedom of Speech and Information, accused Viktor Medvedchuk, President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff, and National Deputies Viktor Pinchuk and Hryhorii Surkis of controlling six Ukrainian TV channels (1+1 among them) in violation of Ukrainian legislation.

By law, an individual or legal entity may not be a founder or co-founder of television and radio companies broadcasting on more than two TV channels or in excess of three radio frequencies.

A preliminary report by the Verkhovna Rada's anti-monopoly committee found no wrongdoing on the part of the three men.

To determine whether UkrainaTV is filling a void on Ukraine's TV landscape or providing an online novelty for Ukrainian web surfers would require Mr. Kapeniak asking subscribers why they are visiting his site.

For him, it's more important that they come. And they are.

Attracting web visitors

Every day, UkrainaTV is attracting about 200 unique visitors and some 2,000 clicks. That means one person on average is clicking on the site 10 times on a daily basis.

And they leave comments in the customer-review section, particularly about the music video offerings where it's clear Ukrainian superstar pop-rock group Okean Elzy has a loyal following back home.

"OE is the No. 1 ambassador for the Ukrainian language right now," wrote Mr. Kapeniak. "Even my 'Russian speaking friends' love them, so 'Mnohaya Lita' Okean Elzy!"

Mr. Kapeniak said he's gratified by the glowing comments, penned in English, Ukrainian, Polish and Russian, which he receives from Ukrainians and other Eastern Europeans visiting UkrainaTV.

"What gives me even more inspiration is that the site has received visitors from as far away as Saudi Arabia and Taiwan," he added.

"It makes me feel good, especially

when I get homesick for Ukraine."

Actually, Mr. Kapeniak hasn't lived there since 1992, when he graduated from university and left Ukraine for the U.S. as an exchange student to learn about Western-style business at the University of Madison in Wisconsin.

Mr. Kapeniak decided to stay on this side of the Atlantic and work in the cellular-phone industry. He spent three years as a systems engineer at Motorola Inc. in Illinois and another three years in Detroit with Nextel and then VoiceStream Wireless, now known as T-Mobile USA Inc.

In 1999, Mr. Kapeniak, a Ukrainian Catholic, graduated with a master of business administration (MBA) degree jointly awarded by the Catholic post-secondary institutions, Loyola University Chicago and the University of Detroit Mercy.

While spending 2000 and 2001 rolling out broadband Internet networks in Belgium and the Czech Republic for Broadnet, he applied for landed immigrant status in Canada and arrived here in 2002, when he joined the management team of Canada's largest satellite-TV provider, Bell ExpressVu.

But within a year, it closed the technology unit responsible for delivering satellite TV to townhouses and apartment buildings, and Mr. Kapeniak and about 14 of his colleagues were out of work.

So, with some savings stashed away, he decided to pursue an idea that had been percolating in his head for four years – not to mention the desire of bringing Ukrainian soccer to North American viewers – and created UkrainaTV last year.

Married since 1997 to Lithuanian-born Rasa, with whom he has two young sons, Mr. Kapeniak runs the business out of his home and now gets more time to hang out with his boys: 6-year-old Lucas and 4-year-old Julius. They are now regular viewers of dad's video channel.

Preserving the culture

"Since they're growing up in Canada, I want them to preserve the language and culture of their ancestral homeland," Mr. Kapeniak explained.

After all, UkrainaTV's slogan is "Ukraina tam, de my!" ("Ukraine is wherever we are).

As Mr. Kapeniak proudly boasts: "Our slogan has a double meaning: You can be Ukrainian and get Ukrainian multimedia content wherever you are."

ПОВІДОМЛЕННЯ

Звичайні Річні Загальні Збори Членів
Української Федеральної Кредитної Кооперативи "САМОСЛУЖБЯ"
з Філіалом в Філадельфії, Пенсільванія

відбудуться в неділю 28-го березня, 2004 року, в годині 2-ї години
в залі Українського Освітньо-Культурного Центру
700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA.

Регістрація членів починається тоді ж в годині 1-ї години

Кращим за часом: обов'язково прийдіть членські квиточки!

ТЕМАТИКА ЗБОРІВ	АГЕНДА
1. Вітання Зборів	1. Call to Order
2. Створення Протоколу Зборів	2. Affirm Quorum
3. Підготовка до Протоколу Зборів з Підприємств Зборів	3. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Regular Annual Meeting
4. Звіт Голови Зборів	4. Report of the Chairman of the Board
5. Звіт Членів Зборів	5. CEO / Treasurer's Report
6. Звіт Керівної Комісії	6. Supervisory Committee Report
7. Звіт про Діяльність	7. Questions and Discussion
8. Звіт Комісії з Номінацій	8. Nominating Committee Report
9. Інші Членські Діяльності	9. Elections to the Board of Directors
10. Заключення	10. Adjournment

NOTICE

The Regular Annual Meeting
of the Ukrainian Self-Help Federal Credit Union in Philadelphia, PA
will be held on Sunday, March 28, 2004, at 2:00 in the afternoon
at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center
700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA.

Registration will begin promptly at 1:00 PM. Please bring your passbooks.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE
of
UNA BRANCHES OF DETROIT, MI
announces that its
ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
will be held on
Sunday, March 14, 2004, at 1:00 p.m.
at the Ukrainian Cultural Center
26601 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI

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

20, 92, 94, 146, 165, 174, 175, 292, 303, 309, 341

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:
Dr. Alexander J. Serafyn – UNA Auditor
Anatole Doroshenko – Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly

DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Dr. Alexander J. Serafyn, District Chairman
Roman Lazarchuk, Secretary
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Tamara Denysenko
General Manager/CEO

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Kuchma denies...

(Continued from page 3)

officers assigned as security officers, a legacy of the Soviet Union and its KGB.

Many Ukrainian opposition newspapers speculated that the decree came as a result of Gen. Kravchenko's revelation. Dzerkalo Tyzhnia in its article on the matter stated that the lights of the SBU headquarters "were on all night" after the airing of the interview.

However, President Kuchma dismissed assertions that the decree was hastily prepared to minimize possible political reverberations, including those from the West, and called the two events coincidental.

"Such a decree cannot be prepared quickly. It takes a lot of time," Mr. Kuchma said in answer to a question during the press conference.

Gen. Kravchenko explained that he was acting from a sense of duty and responsibility, and the belief that the rule of law must be maintained in revealing the nature of some of his duties. President Kuchma, however, said the Ukrainian general had been disconsolate that he would not be able to stay abroad to earn the extra pay to which government workers were entitled.

Mr. Kuchma explained that Gen. Kravchenko had received special clearance for his current assignment abroad. It was his second such posting, which is generally not allowed, but at times given to senior officers nearing their retirement. According to the president the general received the special clearance through National Security and Defense Council Secretary Volodymyr Radchenko, then head of the SBU. Gen. Kravchenko wanted the increased pay officers working abroad received because he had previously received a government apartment but lacked the money to remodel it.

The president added that the general was ordered to return to Kyiv on February 11 for a review of his work performance after he had refused to take part in an investigation into a death threat against the Ukrainian

president that was received before a trip to the German resort of Baden-Baden in December. Mr. Kuchma spent a month during the holidays at the sanitarium recovering from stomach surgery.

NSDC Secretary Radchenko confirmed in a statement to Interfax-Ukraine that Gen. Kravchenko, a personal friend, had called him from Berlin two weeks before the radio interview and had complained that after a "conflict with the head of the presidential guard when he was in Baden-Baden he had been recalled to Kyiv," and that he was not ready to return because he needed another year of work abroad to gather enough money for his apartment.

"There was no talk of any political problems to the effect that someone makes him track people," said Mr. Radchenko. "[The discussion] was simply of household problems."

In the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia interview, Gen. Kravchenko noted that he was ordered to return to Kyiv on February 13 to receive a security briefing on the upcoming visit to Berlin by President Kuchma. Fully aware that such preparations take place months in advance of a presidential trip abroad, he decided not to go, especially after friends in the SBU told him that upon his return he would be fired. The same day he appeared on Deutsche Welle radio, the SBU dismissed Gen. Kravchenko for failing to show up in Kyiv as ordered.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Markian Lubkivskyi said on February 24 that the ministry had officially informed the German government that Gen. Kravchenko was no longer an employee of its Embassy. He also noted that the Ukrainian SBU general had taken with him a government-issued cellphone and an automobile when he went into hiding.

National Deputy Yuri Karmazin told reporters on February 24 that he had requested that an ad hoc parliamentary committee investigate the allegations leveled by Gen. Kravchenko.

After "The Passion"

(Continued from page 7)

of us, flawed. Whether that is a metaphysical consequence of original sin, or just a reflection of a basic orneriness that is all too human, I have no clue. So it is hard to resist that most satanic of sentiments, the desire to take an eye for an eye. In retort to those who want to impel me to accept that the shed blood of their innocents is somehow more important

than the spilled blood of mine I lust to roar: "No! More of mine died in a year than all of yours in six, and mine mean more to me and mine than all of yours!"

But those are un-Christian thoughts. When provoked into harboring them I know of only one refuge: prayerful reflection on words spoken by another rabbi during His Passion, just before His death. Jesus, the Christ, said: "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." I can try.

In honor and celebration
of

ANNA JAKOWIW'S

80th BIRTHDAY

We, her children, grandchildren and
great-grandchildren, wish her many more healthy
and joyful years.

MNOHAYA LITA!

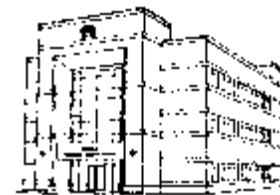
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Stamford Branch:

Ukrainian Research Center
39 Clovelly Road, Stamford, CT 06902
Phone/Fax: (203) 969-0498
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday:
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Spring Valley Branch:

SS Peter & Paul Ukr. Catholic Church
41 Collins Ave., Spring Valley, NY 10977
Phone/Fax: (845) 425-2749
Tuesday, Friday:
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Board of Directors SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union

38th Annual Membership Meeting of the Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union

**Sunday, March 28, 2004
at 2:00 p.m.**

(Registration begins at 1:00 p.m.)

**Ukrainian National Home
142 Second Ave., New York, NY**

PROPOSED AGENDA:

1. Call to order.
2. Verification of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting.
3. Reports:
 - a. President's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
 - c. Manager's report
 - d. Loan Department's report
 - e. Supervisory Committee's report
4. Discussion.
5. Election of three members to the Board of Directors.
6. Desired suggestions for new business.
7. Adjournment.

Refreshments will be served



CHERYL SELTZER & JOEL SACHS, DIRECTORS

VALENTIN BIBIK
(IN MEMORIAM)

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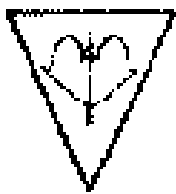
LEONID HRABOVSKY

FEATURING THE PONG CYCLE AND IT WILL BE ON POEMS OF VOROBIOV



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- Дитина мусить мати закінчених 4 роки життя до 31-го серпня 2004 р. Виянтьків немає.
- Дитина мусить мати усі приписані щеплення.
- Дитина, яка склала Заяву Вступу до новацтва, не може брати участі в таборах для пташат.

**Табір відбудеться на СОЮЗІВЦІ у двох групах:
від 27 червня до 4 липня 2004 р., та від 4 до 11 липня 2004 р.**

У справі кімнат просимо порозуміватися прямо з Адміністрацією Союзівки.

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**Mrs. Oksana B. Koropeckyj, 1604 Forest Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21207.
Tel. (410) 744-0644 (7:30 до 9:30 веч.)**
- Реченець зголошень: Перша група: 24 березня 2004 р.
Друга група: 31 березня 2004 р.
- Число учасників обмежене.

КАРТА ЗГОЛОШЕННЯ НА ТАБІР ПТАШАТ- 2004

Ім'я і прізвище дитини
по-українськи і по-англійськи

Дата народження

Адреса.....

Телефон.....

від 27 червня до 4 липня 2004 р. від 4 до 11 липня 2004 р.

Величина таборової сорочки дитини: 6-8, 10-12, 14-16.

Залучую чек на суму \$..... Резервую кімнату на Союзівці

Ім'я і прізвище матері (подати дівоче прізвище)

Завваги.....

Підпис батька або матері

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 24)

Monday, March 8

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture given by Vitaly Chernetsky, research fellow, HURI, titled "The Anguish and Yearning of Diasporic Displacement: The (Re)construction of Identity in the Prose of Vasyl Stefanyk and Joseph Conrad." The lecture will be held in the HURI Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For additional information contact HURI by calling (617) 495-4053 or e-mailing huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Friday, March 12

EDMONTON: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Edmonton are sponsoring a lecture by Mykola Riabchuk, political commentator, editor and journalist from Kyiv, and John Kolasky Memorial Fellow, who will deliver the 38th annual Shevchenko Lecture titled "From Dysfunctional to Blackmail State: Paradoxes of the Post-Soviet Transition." The lecture will take place at the University of Alberta, 2-115, Education North, at 7 p.m. For more information, call (780) 492-2972, or e-mail cius@ualberta.ca.

EAST HANOVER, N.J.: A Ladies' Night Out to benefit New York City's Ukrainian Museum will be held at the Ramada Inn, Route 10, beginning at 7 p.m. The \$50 admission includes everything – drinks, appetizers, main course (chicken or salmon), dessert and coffee. Don't miss this relaxing evening with good food, old friends, and great conversation – all for a terrific cause. To confirm attendance and make a dinner selection, call Slavka Hordynsky, (973) 761-7500 or (973) 376-7956, by March 10.

NEW YORK: In celebration of the 190th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, the Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and Mayana Gallery invite the public to a literary evening featuring actors Larysa Kukrytska and Volodymyr Lysniak in a reading of the poem "Naimychka" (The Woman Servant). The program will also include music by composer Volodymyr Tkachenko. Donation: \$7; students, \$5. The Gallery presents an exhibit of etchings by Taras Shevchenko (reproductions) and illustrations to Shevchenko's poetry by Vitaliy Lytvyn (linotypes). The evening will take place at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (212) 260-4490; log on to <http://www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/>; or e-mail ukrartlitclub@aol.com.

Friday-Saturday, March 12-13

TORONTO: The Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto, presents an interdisciplinary graduate student symposium titled "Exploring Ukrainian Identity: Gender, Ethnicity and Statehood." The symposium will provide a forum for graduate students to meet future colleagues in the profession and interact with scholars who are shaping the agenda of Ukrainian studies in North America. The symposium is sponsored by the Wolodymyr George Danyliw Foundation and the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine. The symposium is free, but registration is required. The symposium program and registration may be accessed at www.utoronto.ca/jacyk/. For more information call (416) 946-8113.

Saturday, March 13

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America New York Metro Chapter, in cooperation with the Self Reliance Association of American Ukrainians, New York City Branch, will hold another of its series of community-based medical lectures at 98 Second Ave. at 2 p.m. The featured physician, Dr. Eugene Holuka, will discuss "What Everyone Should Know About Diabetes." Admission is free, and refreshments will be served. For further information contact

Dr. Ihor Magun, (516) 766-5147.

Sunday, March 14

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: Pianist Valentina Lisitsa will appear in concert at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., in Old Town Alexandria in a program of works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Lyсенко, Mozart and Ravel. The concert begins at 3 p.m. Suggested donation: \$15; students, free. The concert is presented by The Washington Group Cultural Fund under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, as part of their 2003-2004 music series. (A free "Dash" Shuttle bus is available every 15 minutes from King Street Metro Station in Alexandria, Va. – on Blue and Yellow lines – to Washington and King Street, one block from The Lyceum). Seating is unreserved. For more information contact Laryssa Courtney, (202) 363-3964.

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents the classical music concert titled "Natalia Khoma & Friends," which will be held at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2 p.m. For additional information call (773) 227-5522.

Monday, March 15

TORONTO: The Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto, presents the Wolodymyr George Danyliw Lecture, featuring Mykola Riabchuk, political commentator, editor and journalist from Kyiv, and John Kolasky Memorial Fellow, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. The lecture, titled "From Dysfunctional to Blackmail State: The Post-Soviet Transition in Ukraine," will be held at the Vivian and David Campbell Conference Facility, Munk Center for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place, at 6 p.m. For more information access <http://www.utoronto.ca/jacyk/> or call the center, (416) 946-8113.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, March 20

CHICAGO: The Chicago Business and Professional Group is sponsoring a presentation by Anne Applebaum titled "The Gulag: What We Know Now and Why It Matters." A columnist and member of the editorial board of The Washington Post, Ms. Applebaum is author of "Gulag: A History," considered the first up-to-date scholarly study of the central terror institution of the Soviet regime. In her presentation, Ms. Applebaum will discuss the experience of individuals and national groups in the forced labor camps and examine the disturbing question of why the Gulag has remained relatively obscure in the West. The presentation will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 7 p.m. Books will be available for purchase at the event. Refreshments and socializing will follow the presentation. Admission: \$10, members; \$15, non-members and guests. For additional information call (847) 359-3676.

WASHINGTON: The Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Washington Branch, is sponsoring an ice skating party at the Wheaton Regional Ice Arena, 11717 Orebaugh Ave., Wheaton, Md., at 2:30-4 p.m. Admission is free; rental skates will be available for a fee of \$3 plus tax. Directions to the rink are available at <http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/skate.shtm>. For additional information call (301) 585-4430.

CORRECTION:

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presentation of the classical music concert "Natalia Khoma & Friends" was incorrectly listed in the February 22 issue of The Weekly as taking place on February 15. The concert, which will be held at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2 p.m., is slated for Sunday, March 14.

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Ukrainian St. Nicholas a hit in Scranton

SCRANTON, Pa. – A crowd of 200 people gathered at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton, Pa., on November 30, 2003, to meet St. Nicholas and to learn more about Ukrainian customs and culture. The event, co-sponsored annually by the museum and the Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania for some 15 years, attracted audiences of many ages and traditions.

A performance by Kazka, a Ukrainian Folk Ensemble from Allentown, Pa., included traditional Ukrainian carols sung in both English and Ukrainian and a skit, before St. Nicholas entered, dressed in his impressive vestments amid much bell-ringing. Accompanied by angels, the kindly bishop greeted everyone as he proceeded through the assembly and briefly told the story of the historical person. Children were then invited to meet him personally and receive a bag of gifts St. Nicholas is known to have given, such as gold coins, coal, fruit and a small toy, as well as have their photos taken.

An exhibit depicted the customs surrounding caroling in the Ukrainian celebration of the Christmas season and mounds of pastry on the refreshment tables demonstrated the hospitality so characteristic of the Ukrainian people.

A school group from Weatherly, Pa., an

hour's drive from Scranton, attended the event in conjunction with their study unit on Ukrainian culture. A Ukrainian mother attended, bringing her adult children who she felt had missed some of their heritage.

The long-standing relationship between the museum and the Ukrainian Heritage Council works to the benefit of both organizations in fulfilling their mission in the region.

Vera Krewsun, council member, stated that "There is genuine interest in the community and sharing our traditions enables us to enlighten those who may not be familiar with our customs."

Chester Kulesa, the museum's administrator, said he sees the partnership as a model after which he would like to develop educational partnerships with other ethnic groups. He noted: "This museum exists to celebrate the experience of the diverse ethnic groups in the Anthracite Region and the partnership with Ukrainian Heritage Council enables us to do that with authenticity."

The longstanding annual program was featured in Happenings Magazine, a local publication that spotlights events in the area. Titled "Meet the Santa of the [sic] Ukraine," the article was illustrated with a photo of St. Nicholas in his traditional vestments.



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

February 28, 2004

SUNY New Paltz Sorority
Semi-Formal Banquet

March 6-7, 2004

Plast Kurin "Khmelnynchenky"
Annual Winter Rada

March 20, 2004

Grace Church Men's Retreat

March 27-28, 2004

"Cooking in the Ukrainian Tradition"
– sponsored by Kurin Spartanky.
Open to parents and children
15 and older.

March 27-28, 2004

Brooklyn Ukrainian Group
– Spring Cleaning Volunteer
Weekend

April 10, 2004

Easter Celebration and Easter Brunch

April 17, 2004

Wedding – Nancy Medwid
and Jonathan McFall

April 19-21, 2004

Spring Clergy Days

April 21-23, 2004

SUNY New Paltz
– Migrant Special Education
Program

May 7-9, 2004

2nd Annual
Cinco De Mayo Festivities

May 14, 2004

Ellenville High School Junior Prom

May 15, 2004

Wedding – Stephan Kowalczuk
and Alex Raut

May 28-31, 2004

Memorial Day Weekend
BBQ & Dance



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Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!

As in the past three years, The Ukrainian Weekly is planning to publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's debutantes. The 2004 debutante ball section will be published in March.

The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 1.

GET WITH IT!

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, March 1

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture by Dr. Roman Szporluk, Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History and HURI director. Dr. Szporluk's lecture, "The Making of Modern Ukraine: The Western Dimension," will be held in the Seminar Room of the institute, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. The seminar will feature a discussion of the speaker's paper, available in hard copy at the institute's main office and in electronic form on the institute's website: <http://www.huri.harvard.edu>. For more information, contact HURI by calling (617) 495-4053 or e-mailing huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Friday, March 5

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America and the United Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater New York invite the public to a town hall-type meeting with Oleh Rybachuk, national deputy of Ukraine and chief of staff of the Our Ukraine opposition bloc, which is headed by leading opposition candidate and former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. The general topic of discussion will be the pre-election situation in Ukraine in the general context of the presidential elections that are to be held October. The meeting will be held at the UIA, 2 E. 79th St., starting at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 6

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Science in the U.S. (UVAN), Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University (HICU) invite the public to the 24th annual Taras Shevchenko Conference. Among the topics to be presented at the conference are the following: "Shevchenko Studies in the 1990s," Dr. Ivan Fizer, NTSh; "The Poetry of Shevchenko in Italian: Reflections on Translations and Translatability," Giovanna Siedina, HURI; "Foreigners on Shevchenko," Eugene Fedorenko, UVAN; and "Shevchenko's Poem 'Kavkaz' and Jacob de Balmen," Rory Finin, HICU; with opening remarks by Dr. Olexa Bilaniuk, president, UVAN, and closing remarks by Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, president, NTSh. The conference will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), at 4 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

NEW YORK: The internationally acclaimed music ensemble Continuum, Cheryl Sletzer and Joel Sachs, directors, will present a concert of leading Ukrainian

contemporary composers Valentin Bibik and Leonid Hrabovsky at Merkin Concert Hall, Goodman House, 129 W. 67th St., at 8 p.m. Soloists at the concert are Wonjung Kim, soprano; Bo Chang, mezzo-soprano; David Gresham, clarinet; Ms. Seltzer, piano; and Mr. Sachs, piano, conductor. Tickets at \$15 and \$8, seniors/students are available at the box office; for tickets and information call (212) 501-3330. Continuum's website is www.continuum-ny.org. The event is held in cooperation with the Ukrainian Institute of America as part of its "Music at the Institute" concert series.

Sunday, March 7

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America and the United Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater New York invite the Ukrainian American community to a program celebrating the 190th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko. The Ukrainian Studio of Drama, under the direction of Ivan Bernatsky, will present a program, titled "Dole, de ty? Dole, de ty?" – an exploration of the theme of fate and destiny in the work of Shevchenko. The presentation will be held at the UIA, 2 E. 79th St., at 3 p.m.

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Morris County Branch, is holding a Spring Concert, featuring performances by members of the Plast and SUM youth organizations, the local Ukrainian Studies School and the Samotsvit vocal quartet. The concert will be held in St. John's Church Hall, Route 10 (eastbound) and Jefferson Road, at 1:15 p.m. All are welcome. For more information contact Michael Koziupa, (973) 723-4387.

PHILADELPHIA: Called "oddly perfect" by The New York Times, Mariana Sadovska makes a rare Philadelphia appearance, performing ancient folk songs from her native Ukraine. Ms. Sadovska spent 10 summers traveling through small villages, learning the songs from old women she met along the way. Also appearing will be Philadelphia's own She-Haw, an original country duo of Tennessee native Amy Pickard and Texas native Beth Case. She-Haw has performed with Neil Young and the Pretenders, and has appeared on NPR and the BBC. The concert will be held at Tritone, 1508 South St., at 8 p.m. Tickets, at \$10, will be available at the door. Only those age 21 and over will be admitted, with identification. For more information call (215) 545-0475 or visit <http://ardmore.cambria.com/mariana>.

(Continued on page 22)

The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's

Wedding Announcements

will appear on March 21, 2004.

For an engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by March 12, 2004.

Along with wedding announcements, we will include greetings from friends, family members, bridesmaids and ushers – from all those who wish to share in the excitement of a new marriage. Also welcome are anniversary and engagement greetings

Rates for announcements and greetings:

One-column announcement: \$100

Two-column announcement: \$200

Greeting: \$75

For further information or to request a brochure, please call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040 (Maria).

Visit www.ukrweekly.com to view a wedding announcement sample page.