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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Directors of VOA and RFE/RL visit Kyiv, criticize state of press freedom in Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – In an unprecedented move, the directors of the two major United States broadcast services held a joint press conference in Kyiv on March 31 to level heavy criticism on the current state of Ukraine's press freedoms.

"It is true that the directors of Voice of America and RFE/RL do not hold joint press conferences," explained David Jackson, Voice of America director. "But, while we are different organizations, we share the same values. Those values are liberal democracy, free speech, free assembly and freedom of thought. What has taken place here is a serious blow to those values."

Mr. Jackson and Tom Dine of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty told journalists that the sudden termination of a broadcast contract with Radio Liberty by the Ukrainian station Radio Dovira after it changed ownership, followed by the forcible closing of the station Radio Kontyent, to which RL moved afterward – which also resulted in VOA being taken off the air inasmuch as it had broadcast on that station's airwaves – forced the two directors to travel to Kyiv.

They believed they needed to assess the extent to which Ukraine's state leadership may have been involved in the closings, as had been alleged, as well as to find new avenues for the broadcast of their news and information programs.

Mr. Dine said that, based on what he had determined, Ukrainian state officials were intricately involved with the termination of the RL contract at Radio Dovira and the subsequent closing of Radio Kontyent.

"When Radio Liberty agreed with Radio Kontyent to bring Ukraine radio programming again, Ukraine's leadership at the highest levels decided to bring the thing down," explained Mr. Dine. "It was a decision made by the Ukrainian leadership at the highest levels to suppress the press."

Mr. Dine cited figures, which he said refuted claims by the new owners of Dovira Radio that RL news programming was not commercially profitable. He explained that the relationship with the former owners had been fruitful for 5 years and that the RL programs remained popular.

The RFE/RL director noted that RL programs on Dovira Radio had received an 8.4 percent audience share in 2003, when most commercial stations consider a five percent audience share acceptable. He rejected reports that the new owners wanted to attract a younger audience noting that a good portion of the new listeners RL programming had attracted belonged to the younger generation.

"Most commercial radio stations would do anything to get the influential, well-informed, youthful audience we

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Armitage to Kuchma: free and fair elections will be benchmark of U.S-Ukraine relations



AP/Efrem Lukatsky

President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine shakes hands with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage during their meeting in Kyiv.

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told Ukrainian authorities during his one-day stay in Kyiv on March 25 that future relations between Ukraine and the West are dependent on how the country's presidential elections proceed.

"It's our view that the nation of

Ukraine has committed herself to certain standards as she addresses European Union and North Atlantic integration and the NATO action plan," explained Mr. Armitage during a press conference. "We would be able to develop a political relationship if there were fair, free, open and democratic elections. It's a very important milestone for Ukraine, I believe."

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Kwasniewski opens Year of Poland in Ukraine



AP/Efrem Lukatsky

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, Liudmyla Kuchma and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma during a ceremony at the Shevchenko monument.

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Poland's President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma opened the Year of Poland in Ukraine by noting the historic ties between the two countries and the need to stimulate much closer and deeper economic development between them. The presidents' statements at the Shevchenko National Opera House in Kyiv on March 30 were followed by a concert of Polish classical music.

President Kwasniewski emphasized that the fates of the two countries were historically entwined and would continue to be in the future. He said that Poland and Ukraine needed to continue to develop along the same path.

"There is no independent Poland without an independent Ukraine and no independent Ukraine without an independent Poland," asserted Mr. Kwasniewski, who added "Poles and Ukrainians are unified by a deep European likeness."

President Kuchma, who followed

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Seven new members welcomed into NATO; Russia reacts negatively

RFE/RL Newswire

WASHINGTON – The prime ministers of seven new member-states delivered accession documents to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell in Washington on March 29, formalizing their membership in NATO and expanding the Atlantic military alliance into countries once under the Soviet sphere of influence, international news agencies reported.

The move brings the number of NATO members to 26, all pledged to defend each other militarily if any member comes under attack.

In a White House ceremony marking the historic expansion – the fifth since NATO's founding in 1949 and the first since Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary joined in 1999 – U.S. President George W. Bush welcomed Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania,

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ANALYSIS

Lazarenko protected money from president, says banker

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Organized Crime and Terrorism Watch

The second week of the landmark money-laundering trial in a U.S. court of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko (May 1996-July 1997) got under way in San Francisco on March 22 with testimony from a Geneva bank officer who claims Mr. Lazarenko requested an \$85 million bank wire to protect the funds from President Leonid Kuchma.

Mr. Lazarenko is charged with using U.S. banks to launder at least \$114 million stolen from Ukraine, but he insists the proceeds were earned legally and that he is being persecuted for having mounted a political challenge to Mr. Kuchma's presidency ahead of a 1999 election.

Andre Walkowicz was the bank officer at Credit Suisse who handled the accounts of Mr. Lazarenko and his business partner, Petro Kirichenko. In a videotaped deposition, Mr. Walkowicz claimed Mr. Lazarenko was willing to pay substantial penalties in the late summer of 1998 for early withdrawal in order to rush the \$85 million to an offshore account in Guernsey in the British Channel Islands. In a private conversation the same day, Mr. Walkowicz said Mr. Lazarenko told him that he was taking the unusual step to protect his money from the Ukrainian president, whom he accused of seeking to punish him for his political temerity.

Mr. Walkowicz was asked whether Credit Suisse took steps to conduct due diligence on the source of the money in Mr. Lazarenko's and Mr. Kirichenko's accounts, and what level of management made the decision to deal with those two clients. Mr. Walkowicz replied that such decisions were made at the highest levels of the bank, for only they had access to reliable information about such funds. In order for Messrs. Lazarenko and

Kirichenko to open accounts, Mr. Walkowicz testified, they needed senior approval at Credit Suisse, which has been accused by critics of failing to safeguard sufficiently against illegal transactions.

Swiss banks have long been accused of lax efforts to combat illegal transactions. Anonymous coded or numbered accounts present major hurdles to law-enforcement agents trying to combat the laundering of ill-gotten funds, particularly funds flowing out of post-Communist Europe and Russia. The Kremlin property manager under President Boris Yeltsin in the early 1990s, Pavel Borodin, was accused of using Swiss accounts to launder some \$30 million in illicit proceeds in connection with the Mabetex Kremlin-reconstruction scandal. Mr. Borodin was found guilty by a Swiss court and ordered to pay a fine of \$700,000, but refused to comply with that order. Swiss police confiscated \$743,000 from the Swiss account of Russian State Duma Deputy and singer Josef Kobzon late last year, insisting that those funds stemmed from illegal activities.

In his deposition, Mr. Walkowicz said another customer of his bank was Konstantyn Hryhoryshyn, a prominent Ukrainian businessman living in Russia who presented himself as a "partner of Mr. Lazarenko." Mr. Hryhoryshyn is also regarded as a business partner of Viktor Medvedchuk, the head of President Kuchma's administration, and oligarch Hryhorii Surkis, who is also among the leaders of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party.

Mr. Hryhoryshyn was briefly held in Kyiv last year on gun and narcotics-possession charges. Mr. Hryhoryshyn said the charges were trumped up and that the real reason for his arrest was his refusal to provide money to Mr. Medvedchuk for political campaigns.

Lazarenko trial reveals information on gas sales between Ukraine, Russia

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Organized Crime and Terrorism Watch

On March 25 and 26, the jury at the money-laundering trial of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, which is being held in the Federal Building in San Francisco, was given a heavy dose of often confusing testimony on how natural gas was bought and sold between Ukraine and Russia.

The ponderous videotaped testimony was taken in Kyiv on May 30, 2003, from Anatolii Minchenko, former minister for industry, fuel and energy during Mr. Lazarenko's tenure as prime minister. It should be noted that any attempt to explain the inner workings of the gas sector in Ukraine and Russia in the mid-1990s to an American jury is a very daunting task since even most Ukrainians or Russians do not understand the opaque deals that take place in this highly corrupt sector.

Mr. Minchenko explained that in the mid-1990s, with hyperinflation rampant and money being worthless, most gas trade was conducted on a barter system and Ukraine piled up huge debts to Gazprom, the Russian gas monopoly.

Roman Kupchinsky is the editor of RFE/RL Crime and Corruption Watch.

These debts were being incurred by independent Ukrainian companies that had been given licenses by the Ukrainian State Committee for Oil and Gas to import and distribute gas in Ukraine. Gazprom was not being paid and threatened to cut off the gas supply.

To control this dangerous situation, the Ukrainian side created a consortium of gas traders in order to narrow the number of players in this sector and ensure that Gazprom would be paid. The consortium, as a legal entity, was not chartered to buy gas, it was merely a clearinghouse of companies. One of the members of this consortium was Unified Energy Systems of Ukraine (UESU), then headed by Yulia Tymoshenko, who is presently one of the leaders of the opposition in Ukraine.

By 1996 the debt, along with late payment penalties, had risen to some \$1.4 billion, and Gazprom began demanding that Ukraine provide guarantees that the debt would be repaid and that this should be done with a prominent Western bank. The Ukrainian delegation that went to Moscow to negotiate with Gazprom on the matter of payments knew that the Ukrainian government did not have the money to apply for the bank

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NEWSBRIEFS

Our Ukraine stages protest rally

KYIV – Some 9,000 people turned up for an anti-government protest rally organized by Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine in front of government headquarters in Kyiv on March 31, Interfax and UNIAN reported. Mr. Yushchenko told the rally that poverty is the single biggest problem in Ukraine, and demanded that Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet raise wages and pensions. He also appealed to Ukrainians to continue protests if the government fails to heed that demand. According to Mr. Yushchenko, the government is hiding 10 billion hrv (\$1.9 billion) in budget revenues. "Today we have to secure a victory – to make the government bring 10 million hrv out of the shadows," Mr. Yushchenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Bloc to form 'European-model' party

KYIV – Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko announced that his bloc has begun to create a new, "European-model" party, Interfax reported on March 29, quoting the Our Ukraine press service. According to Mr. Yushchenko, taking part in a parliamentary election under a fully proportional party-list system is a key political task for Our Ukraine. "In order not to lose time, we should now formulate a response to this challenge," Mr. Yushchenko said. The Ukrainska Pravda website quoted Borys Tarasyuk, leader of the Ukrainian National Rukh, which is a constituent of Our Ukraine, as saying on March 30 that the idea to set up a political party based on Our Ukraine before the 2004 presidential election is "political suicide." He commented: "This [idea] will divert organizational and human resources from the main goal – preparing the victory of [Our Ukraine's presidential] candidate." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Soros receives cool reception

KYIV – U.S. financier and philanthropist George Soros, who is currently on a visit to Ukraine, said on March 30 that he bears no grudges for obstacles he faced to holding a roundtable on human rights in Yalta, Crimea, earlier the same day, Interfax reported. The management of the Livadia Palace, where the roundtable was scheduled to take place, announced on March 29 that the palace will be closed until April 1 because firemen are using it for training. The palace eventually hosted the event only after an order from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Mr. Soros said the inhospitality with which he was confronted was inspired by presidential-administration chief Viktor

Medvedchuk. On March 31, before the inauguration of a forum of human rights activists in Kyiv, two assailants claiming to belong to the organization Brotherhood splashed water and glue on Mr. Soros. (RFE/RL Newsline)

IMF approves \$605 million loan

KYIV – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a one-year, \$605 million credit facility to Ukraine, Interfax reported on March 30. "Ukraine has achieved a broad-based and sustained economic recovery, and has subdued inflation following the 1998-99 financial crisis," IMF acting Managing Director Anne Krueger said, praising Ukraine for macroeconomic stability, a strong balance of payments, and the replenishing of international reserves. The Ukrainian government will use the loan primarily to cover high-interest government bonds issued during the late 1990s, the DPA news agency reported, quoting Finance Minister Mykola Azarov. Meanwhile, Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko commented that the IMF decision on the loan is "groundless," adding that "shadow turnover in the fiscal-policy sphere" has become the official course of Ukrainian government policy, according to Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Has Ukraine lost track of missiles?

KYIV – Ukrainian Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk said in an interview with the Kyiv-based newspaper Den on March 25 that after assuming his post in June he ordered an inventory to be taken of Ukrainian military property. Mr. Marchuk said his inventory revealed a 900 billion hrv (\$169 billion) gap with the inspection made six months earlier under his predecessor, Volodymyr Shkidchenko. "Unfortunately, even such exotic things happen today as [that] we are looking for several hundred missiles," Mr. Marchuk said. "They were removed from military service, but we cannot find them. They are said to have been utilized. But where are [the] results of their utilization?" Former Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk told the Ukrainska Pravda website on March 26 that Mr. Marchuk's revelations are "nonsense." "I will not even comment on such nonsense. We have this habit of washing our dirty laundry in public," Mr. Kuzmuk said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Marchuk: missing missiles could not fly

KYIV – Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk said on March 30 that the mis-

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Armitage to Kuchma...

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Armitage emphasized that he believed that a good economic and security relationship already exists between Ukraine and the U.S. He added that if Ukraine held democratic elections free of "media intimidation and opposition intimidation," relations between Washington and Kyiv could "get back to the type of relationship we envisioned when Ukraine became free more than about a dozen years ago."

Mr. Armitage's trip encompassed nearly all the priority issues in Ukraine's foreign policy towards the West, including its participation in the Iraq stabilization force; business contracts for rebuilding Iraq that Kyiv would like awarded to Ukrainian businesses; European Union and NATO membership for the country; and the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline.

During a day on which he met with top state and government officials, as well as with opposition leaders, Mr. Armitage repeatedly stressed free and fair democratic elections as the benchmark that would determine Ukraine's future integration with the West.

After speaking with Minister of Foreign Affairs Kostiantyn Gryshchenko, Mr. Armitage rejected notions that Ukraine sent troops to Iraq to appease the U.S. He emphasized that it was Washington's understanding that Kyiv did so in response to the menace of international terrorism and to express its commitment to fighting the threat.

While meeting with President Leonid Kuchma, the U.S. State Department official gave the Ukrainian state leader a letter from U.S. President George W. Bush and thanked Mr. Kuchma for "his brave decision to send Ukrainian soldiers to Iraq."

With Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, Mr. Armitage discussed the

reconstruction of Iraq and contracts for Ukrainian businesses. Ukrainian officials have complained that Ukrainian companies have been ignored in the bid process for contracts. He told the head of the Ukrainian government that Washington would soon send experts to Ukraine to provide support to Ukrainian businesses in developing more successful bids on Iraqi reconstruction contracts.

Later, during his press conference, Mr. Armitage said he believed that the two issues – Ukrainian participation in the Iraq peacekeeping effort and Iraqi reconstruction contracts – needed to be separated. He explained that he also wanted to dispel any notion that Ukraine committed to participation in the Iraq stabilization mission to obtain business contracts.

"I have a higher feeling and opinion of the people of Ukraine," explained Mr. Armitage. "I do not think that Ukrainian soldiers, the sons of Ukrainian mothers, went to Iraq in order to get contracts."

The deputy secretary of state, the highest ranking U.S. official to visit Ukraine since the Iraq war, said the reason that so few top level Bush administration representatives had visited Kyiv in the last few years had to do with what Washington had perceived as a questionable dedication to democratic development by Ukraine.

"We didn't have a high-level dialogue with the president, and one of the reasons was that we had some real questions about the commitment to democracy," explained Mr. Armitage.

The U.S. undersecretary of state emphasized that Ukraine's commitment would be further tested through the October 31 presidential vote. He noted that he had discussed with President Kuchma the intimidation of the Ukrainian mass media and the opposition forces by government bodies. He told journalists in his last appearance in Kyiv

that he supported a limited ban on government oversight of opposition organizations, including by the State Tax Administration and the various law enforcement bodies, until after the elections.

Mr. Armitage said the opposition leaders with whom he had met – Viktor Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine Bloc and Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous political bloc, along with several top supporters – impressed him with their dedication and sincerity.

"My impressions are that the opposition is very tense, very dedicated, troubled," explained the U.S. official. "It wants to be sure that the international community is watching very closely to see that generally recognized European standards for elections are upheld."

Mr. Armitage said he believes that the political reform process, which the presi-

dent and the parliamentary majority supported and the opposition was attempting to block, was ill-timed. He expressed the belief that constitutional changes should always proceed "carefully and only after considerable study," and never in an election season.

Mr. Armitage also touched on the subject of the Odesa-Brody pipeline with Ukrainian officials, which was the focus of considerable international attention in the last several months. He expressed support for the decision by Ukraine to commit to using the Odesa-Brody pipeline in its originally planned direction and its rejection of a controversial effort to have it flow in reverse.

"The specter of oil going to Europe without it having to go through the Bosphorus is an advantage," said Mr. Armitage, who added that it was good for the environment, too.

Directors of VOA, RFE/RL...

(Continued from page 1)

were attracting," said Mr. Dine.

The RFE/RL director explained that during their visit he and Mr. Jackson had met with several commercial radio stations located in different parts of Ukraine about transmitting RFE/RL and VOA news and information programs. He confirmed that the two men had spoken with representatives of Voice of Kyiv as well, but would not state whether the parties were close to an agreement.

Mr. Dine suggested that what was taking place in Ukraine in the run-up to the presidential election in October was the stifling of independent mass media based on the methodology that had been used in Russia by the presidential administration of recently re-elected President Vladimir

Putin. Most international observers agree that Mr. Putin has taken control, directly or indirectly, over much of Russia's largest mass media outlets in the last year.

Both Mr. Dine and Mr. Jackson tied the takeover of Radio Dovira and the closing of Radio Kontyent – which had carried the transmissions of most of the major foreign state broadcasters in addition to RFE/RL and VOA, including BBC, Deutsche Welle and Polish Radio – directly to the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine.

"I have been coming here for 10 years," explained Mr. Dine. "I have heard a basketful of proclamations that this is a democracy. But that is not the case when there are questions of a free press."

Mr. Jackson added, "The world is watching what is going on in Ukraine."

Kwasniewski opens...

(Continued from page 1)

President Kwasniewski to the podium, emphasized the need to deepen economic relations between the two countries. He noted that Poland ranked only a weak 11th among the top foreign investors in Ukraine, while Ukraine's investments in Poland remained a paltry \$1 million.

"We must boost joint economic projects," declared Mr. Kuchma.

The Year of Poland in Ukraine, which should be followed by a similar program in Poland next year, will proceed under the motto: "Poland and Ukraine Together in Europe." The yearlong series of events, which will coincide with Poland's entry into the European Union in May, are designed to increase trade turnover and stimulate cultural, educational and economic exchanges.

The Ukrainian government has stated that it would nonetheless like to utilize Poland's experience in increasing foreign investments and in developing further political and economic relations with the EU, with the ultimate aim of obtaining membership for Ukraine as well.

The first investment hurdle that the two countries needed to overcome to continue along a smooth path of strategic development was to iron out the misunderstanding that has occurred over the privatization of the Polish steel mill, Huta Czysta.

President Kwasniewski took the first step in that direction when he announced the day after the evening ceremonies that he had ordered a halt to the privatization process of the Polish steel mill until an independent commission had reviewed how the tender had been awarded.

After a Ukrainian firm, Industrial Union of Donbas (IUD), was informed it had submitted the highest bid for the right to pur-

chase the mill from the Polish government, Polish government officials announced after a delay of several days that a British-Indian concern, LNM Group, would be awarded the tender. IUD accused the Polish government of favoring LNM Group and allowing it to adjust its offer upwards after the IUD bid had been received. The controversy escalated when the Ukrainian government became involved.

President Kuchma noted that he believed the controversy had been blown out of proportion by the mass media, but nonetheless thanked President Kwasniewski for attempting to resolve the issue fairly. "We want to see fair and transparent rules here," explained Mr. Kuchma.

The two-day visit by President Kwasniewski originally had been planned as a three-day state visit, but was downgraded to a working visit after Polish Prime Minister Leszek Miller announced his resignation on March 27 to allow President Kwasniewski to return to Warsaw sooner to begin to organize a new government.

The two presidents also announced that they would work to hold the 2012 European Football Championships jointly in both countries. The two state leaders noted, however, that essentially it would be up to the two countries' football (soccer) federations to win the right to host the championships together, as well as to obtain the financing to cover costs.

Mr. Kwasniewski, who sat for an interview broadcast on Ukrainian State Television during his visit to Kyiv, said that one of his goals has been and would continue to be to pull Ukraine into European structures.

"After my presidency is over and I look back on it, I want one of the shining moments to be Ukrainian-Polish relations," stated President Kwasniewski.

Year of Poland: from trade to culture

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Officials of Ukraine and Poland announced here on March 22 that they would commence a Year of Poland in Ukraine beginning on March 30 in order to stimulate closer economic, political and cultural cooperation.

"The development of a closer relationship with Poland is important to us as a primary strategic partner especially in conjunction with its entry into the European Union," explained Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk.

The Ukrainian vice prime minister noted that Poland has most enthusiastically supported Ukrainian membership in the EU and worked with Kyiv to help Ukraine begin to meet the minimum requirements. He said that one of the goals of the Year of Poland in Ukraine was to intensify the process.

"The purpose is to use the successful Polish example in completing political and economic reforms," explained Mr. Tabachnyk. He said that similar events in conjunction with Russia held in 2002 and 2003 in Kyiv and Moscow had proved very successful, particularly in developing economic relations.

The Ukrainian government official said that another goal with Poland would be to tighten the relationships between civic organizations and the divergent elements of society, as well as to further heal the historical acrimony between the two nations.

Poland's ambassador to Ukraine, Marek Ziulkowski, noted that the Year of Poland in Ukraine would proceed under the slogan, "Poland and Ukraine together in Europe." Mr. Ziulkowski explained that

as Poland entered Europe it did not want to leave Ukraine behind. "We want our friendship in Europe to be as effective and successful as it has been in the last 12 years," he said.

Mr. Tabachnyk explained that he and Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage Waldemar Dombrowski had signed an agreement on March 15 in Warsaw that delineated an extensive program of business, economic, political and cultural events for the next 12 months.

The economic and business aspects would include conferences, exhibits and forums aimed at developing further business contacts and trade ties between the two countries. Mr. Tabachnyk noted that Ukraine's trade turnover with Poland grew by 40 percent last year – the largest increase with any country. In comparison, 2003 trade with Russia in goods and services grew by 32 percent.

The Year of Poland in Ukraine also involves an extensive cultural program. It will include concerts by contemporary Polish musicians, conductors, and orchestras; photo and art exhibits, including the works of Jewish-Polish writer and artist Bruno Schultz, whose mural was uncovered in 2002 in Drohobych; literary evenings; drama and film presentations.

Several Polish film directors, including internationally regarded Jerzy Hoffman, have agreed to give workshops in Kyiv for aspiring young Ukrainian directors.

Among the highlights of the year is a Festival of Polish Music scheduled for September-October in Kyiv. The event will focus on the contributions of Polish minorities to its cultural heritage, with Ukrainian ensembles receiving much of the attention. Ukrainians are considered the largest ethnic minority in Poland.

U.S. officials air concerns about Ukraine at Action Ukraine Coalition meeting in D.C.

WASHINGTON – The first of a planned series of working lunches focusing on Ukraine and U.S.-Ukrainian relations was held here on Wednesday, March 17, at the initiative of the Action Ukraine Coalition, comprising of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, the Ukrainian Federation of America and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

The luncheon was to have featured Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), co-chair of the Ukrainian Congressional Caucus, member of the House Armed Services Committee, and chairman of its Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee. Although a crucial committee session in the House of Representatives prevented Mr. Weldon from attending the AUC luncheon, the participants engaged in a dynamic and fruitful wide-ranging analysis and debate on Ukrainian issues.

The close to 50 attendees represented U.S. government agencies, including the

departments of State, Treasury and Commerce, contractor organizations working through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Office of Personnel Management and the Library of Congress. Representatives from international organizations, development banks, think-tanks, the media, and the Embassy of Ukraine also participated. The Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs provided a conference room at its Washington headquarters.

Morgan Williams, AUC coordinator and editor of AUC's Action Ukraine Report 2004, organized the event. Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, served as moderator.

The meeting covered considerable ground, including the upcoming Ukrainian presidential election, the controversial constitutional reforms of the Ukrainian political system, attitudes of the U.S. government towards Ukraine,

Ukraine's membership in Euro-Atlantic institutions, freedom of the press, access to Ukrainian radio audiences for U.S. government broadcasters (VOA and RFE/RL) and economic issues, among others.

Mr. Gawdiak opened the session by asking what, if anything, can be done by the U.S. government to ensure a truly fair and democratic election campaign preceding Ukraine's fall presidential election and to influence a more democratic and judicious approach to the controversial "reforms" being contemplated in Ukraine.

Vera Andrushkiw, director of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's Community Partnership Project, pointed out that it is important in attempting to understand the current situation to take into account the effect upon Ukraine of the accession of the country's neighbors to the European Union.

Dr. Bill Gleason, chair, Advanced Ukrainian Studies, and coordinator of Eurasian Studies of the Foreign Service Institute at the State Department, noted that, at a conference co-sponsored a week earlier by FSI, "great concern was expressed by several members of the conference that the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] is not moving aggressively enough and that it is focused too much on the final election result and not enough on the events leading down to the election."

He emphasized that this is what needs to be talked about now; otherwise, the "damage will be done, or could be done, and it may be too late" to ensure a fair election in Ukraine. He also noted that some participants at the FSI conference felt that the Azeri model – between "East and West" with a lot of control in the hands of the presidency – is the most pertinent model for the Ukrainian situation.

This last assertion was categorically opposed by Nadia Diuk, director for Central Europe and Eurasia, at the National Endowment for Democracy, Stephen B. Nix, director for Eurasia at the International Republican Institute, and by Ukrainian Embassy representatives Olexander Scherba, political counselor, and Volodymyr Samafalov, first secretary and head of Information Section, as an inaccurate model.

"Ukraine fatigue?"

The Ukraine Desk political officer at the U.S. Department of State, Dr. Paul Carter, emphasized that the U.S. also views the coming election in Ukraine "as a critical event in Ukraine's history," that "will set the stage for Ukraine's relationship not only with the U.S. but internationally for years to come." He pointed out that, "if the election does not go well, this could set Ukraine's membership in NATO back for quite some time."

Furthermore, he said, "there are certain psychological factors at work here. It's not just a question of the formal things, like memberships in certain organizations or not, that's important here. If this election goes poorly, Ukraine will be lumped in with other countries – I don't want to pick out any particular country to the East – that have not done well on the democracy front, and 'Ukraine fatigue' so to speak will set in. People will just not be interested. There is an awful lot hanging on this for Ukraine."

Dr. Carter described a recent series of bilateral meetings with Ukraine at the State Department. These meetings, known as the Foreign Policy Committee, are held semi annually, and it was the U.S.'s turn to host the talks. Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Yelchenko led the Ukrainian delegation at the two-day

meetings, which covered the upcoming election, NATO and U.S. briefings on a broad range of issues, including South Asia and Iraq.

"We stressed throughout the importance of the elections. We don't support any particular candidate; our interest is in a free and fair electoral process. We would be willing and quite happy to work with whoever is elected in a free and fair electoral process," Dr. Carter continued. "One thing in terms of the election to keep in mind is Ukraine's aspiration toward a closer relationship with Euro-Atlantic institutions, including NATO. Ukraine has expressed interest in joining NATO and the United States supports this action."

It is a matter of timing, he said. "If the election goes well, and we have made this point quite often, the U.S. will be much more inclined to support an early decision regarding membership in NATO for Ukraine."

Dr. Carter went on to note: "One of the participants on the Ukraine side at the Foreign Policy Committee meeting said, 'There is too much focus on this election in the international community. Who remembers what happened to the election in Poland in 1939?' Our response to that was that we certainly don't think that is a good way to look at it. But if this election does go poorly, maybe we won't remember it. Fifty years from now, we may think of it only as another bad election in that part of the world. That this election went nowhere and Ukraine went nowhere."

Responding to a query, Dr. Carter avowed that the Bush administration has certain sanctions in the planning stage should the upcoming presidential election indeed prove to have been fraudulently carried out. He declined to offer any details.

On the positive side, Dr. Carter gave recognition to many in the room who are carrying out important, "workaday" assistance to Ukraine in the attempt to build a civil society and promote democratic reform. Another positive sign, he said, was President Leonid Kuchma's recent move to cut inspections of the mass media by the tax police. "But," he added, "we are watching the implementation of this very closely."

Mr. Scherba, political counselor at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, responded to Dr. Carter's remarks by noting that the United States tends to emphasize everything that is negative about Ukraine but ignores positive developments in that country. Mr. Scherba stated the U.S. pays far more attention to Russia than to Ukraine, and that it ignores Ukraine's considerable and steady economic progress. Everyone, he said, is aware that this year Ukraine faces critical changes.

As for the coming presidential elections, Mr. Scherba stated that a potential presidential election victory for Viktor Yushchenko is not viewed in Ukraine as some completely remote possibility. The United States, therefore, should not be telling Ukraine how to behave and threaten it with some sort of sanctions, but should treat Ukraine as an important partner and accept the results of the coming elections as a legitimate expression of the Ukrainian electorate.

Dr. Carter admitted to this unequal treatment but countered by saying that the U.S. administration is harsher on Ukraine than on Russia because of Ukraine's stated desire to become part of Europe and join European institutions. Thus the question of democratic progress in Ukraine is very important for the

(Continued on page 28)



At the Action Ukraine Coalition meeting (from left) are: Stephen B. Nix of the International Republican Institute; Christopher Grewe of the Treasury Department; and Dr. Paul Carter of the State Department's Ukraine Desk.

Press freedom found to be deteriorating in Eastern Europe and the Middle East

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

WASHINGTON – Press freedom conditions continued to deteriorate in Eastern Europe and the Middle East during 2003, according to two experts from the Committee to Protect Journalists. The panel, which included Alex Lupis, Europe and Central Asia program coordinator, and Joel Campagna, senior program coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, told an RFE/RL audience that safety concerns, a culture of fear and self-censorship place journalists in increased danger.

Mr. Lupis asserted that government corruption contributes to the poor media conditions, citing the example of two journalists in Russia who were allegedly killed because of their reporting on corrupt practices. He said that a rise in the level of fear among journalists has also led to a steady decline in investigative reporting throughout what used to be the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, some governments have restricted the ability of news organizations to report on poverty, organized crime and armed conflict occurring within their borders. For example, several branches of the Russian government intimidated reporters trying to cover the war in Chechnya, said Mr. Lupis.

The physical safety of the working press was the dominant concern in the Middle East last year, according to Mr. Campagna, who said that the war in Iraq resulted in the death of more than a

dozen reporters.

The practice of "embedding" reporters with military units was seen as a success by both media organizations and the Pentagon, Campagna said. He noted, however, that "embedded" journalists were able only to provide a localized view of what they themselves were experiencing. "Unilateral" journalists, on the other hand, who attempted to cover the war independently of the military, had a more "mixed" experience in Kuwait and Iraq.

After the end of the war, working as a journalist in Iraq remained very risky – the CPJ considers that country to have been "the most dangerous place to work" in 2003.

Mr. Campagna noted, however, that despite the war-related risk to journalists' safety, the media in Iraq has prospered since the fall of the Hussein regime. He said that Iraqis are now gaining access to the uncensored Internet and that ownership of satellite dishes has risen dramatically in Iraq – an act that carried criminal consequences during the rule of Hussein.

The same sort of progress has not occurred in Iran, according to Mr. Campagna, where the hardline judiciary continues to use its powers to harass and arrest journalists, as well as to censor and close newspapers. Mr. Campagna added that the situation for journalists in Iran has degenerated so badly that their lives are in danger, noting specifically the death in detention of Iranian Canadian freelance photographer Zahra Kazemi.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA'ers



Alexander B. Kuzma and Irene Kytasty-Kuzma enrolled their three children into UNA Branch 277 in Hartford, Conn. The children are: Alina Lubov (above left), Teryn Nadia (above, right) and Maya Victoria (below, left).



Hanna Alexa Bazylevsky, daughter of Christine and Bo Bazylevsky, is a new member of UNA Branch 171 in Jersey City, N.J. She was enrolled by her grandparents the Rev. George and Oksana Bazylevsky.

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.



Insurance Matters

by Joseph Hawryluk

Don't cash surrender!

Dear Osyp:

I purchased a \$1,000 Ukrainian National Association P20 (life) policy for my granddaughter in January 1984. After 20 years of payments, I finally have it all paid up!

My granddaughter did get UNA scholarships every year she was an undergraduate, but now that she is a graduate student, she is no longer eligible for UNA scholarships. But the expenses are still there.

Should I cash in this \$1,000 policy and give her that money for graduate school?

— Concerned Grandfather

Dear Grandfather:

That P20 (life) policy is all paid up for a \$1,000 death benefit. Due to your granddaughter's young age, the policy will only pay out \$359, its current cash value, if you cash surrender now. If you had purchased a 20-year endowment policy, the premiums would have been higher, however, your granddaughter would receive the entire \$1,000 after 20 years.

Once you cash surrender her P20 there will be no \$1,000 death benefit, no cash value and no UNA member benefits (a 10 percent Soyuzivka discount, a \$10 subscription discount on Svoboda, a \$10 subscription discount on The Ukrainian Weekly, etc.).

Also, your granddaughter may want to consider purchasing her own life insurance policy. At her young age, premiums are very low, she is healthy and you'd be surprised how difficult it is sometimes to get life insurance at a later age because of unfavorable medical circumstances, etc. And, the approximate cost of an average funeral is approaching \$10,000!

So, my advice is don't cash surrender the policy. Let it accumulate cash value. Instead, I wish you luck in helping her find a good paying summer internship!

— Osyp

Joseph (Osyp in Ukrainian) Hawryluk is an advisor on the UNA General Assembly, chairman of the Buffalo UNA District and secretary of UNA Branch 360. This is the first of an occasional column on insurance that will appear in The Ukrainian National Association Forum.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 254

As of April 1, 2004, the secretary's duties of Branch 254 were assumed by Mr. Adam Platosz.

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

Mr. Adam Platosz
37 Olive Street
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-9258



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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

NATO: toward "a Europe whole and free"

It was a historic week as NATO welcomed seven new members, bringing the number of its member-states from 19 to 26. But even more significant was the fact that these new members – Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia – comprised countries once considered to be part of the Soviet sphere of influence and states that once were part of the USSR (though we must underscore that the U.S. never did recognize the USSR's forcible incorporation of the Baltic states).

Taken together with the previous group of countries admitted in 1999 – Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary – this means that 40 percent of NATO is now composed of formerly Communist states. Set up in 1949 as a counterbalance to the USSR's military prowess, the alliance has moved well beyond its Cold War-era raison d'être toward a partnership in global affairs, though mutual defense remains its fundamental purpose.

"When NATO was founded, the people of these seven nations were captives to an empire," said President George W. Bush during the accession ceremony held on March 29 in Washington. "They endured bitter tyranny. They struggled for independence. They earned their freedom through courage and perseverance. And today they stand with us as full and equal partners in this great alliance."

To be sure, the expansion is something that President Vladimir Putin's neo-imperial Russia is none too happy about. (Of course, Russia wasn't pleased either with the first round of NATO expansion after the disintegration of the USSR.) CNN reported that Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov commented that Russia might have to revise its defense policy unless NATO revises its military doctrine. RFE/RL noted that Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said his country is particularly concerned by NATO's decision to base warplanes in Lithuania to patrol the Baltic states' airspace. Air Force Gen. Anatolii Kornukov was quoted by RFE/RL as saying, "We must take the most decisive measures. And this includes in relation to the alliance's aircraft. If they violate our border, they should be shot down and that's it."

Konstantin Kosachiov, chair of the Russian Duma's International Affairs Committee said that NATO "has recently been making steps that are unfriendly to Russia," adding that "it cannot be ruled out that Russia ought to look at the possibility of taking corresponding measures." And, by a vote of 305-41, with two abstentions, the Duma adopted a resolution that calls upon NATO to "genuinely take into account [Russia's] concern over the alliance's expansion." According to RFE/RL, the resolution says that if NATO fails to do these things, the legislature will recommend that the government revise Russia's defense policies, "including re-evaluating the expediency of the Russian Federation's continuing participation in international conventional-arms-control treaties and a review of the structure of Russia's armed forces toward increasing their potential for nuclear deterrence," and calls on the Russian Security Council to consider deploying additional forces to regions bordering NATO member-states.

Russia's reservations and threats aside, most commentators this week welcomed NATO's expansion and looked ahead to the next round. As noted in an online discussion on washingtonpost.com by Robert Hunter, NATO ambassador during the Clinton administration, the expansion "is a further step in fulfilling the potential – and the promise – of a 'Europe whole and free.'" Those were the words, readers may recall, of President George H.W. Bush as he outlined NATO's new mission in 1989 – before the fall of the Berlin Wall.

We hail NATO's new members, and look forward to the day when, in keeping with the open door policy reiterated this week by President George W. Bush, Ukraine can join its ranks. And we urge the United States and other NATO members to redouble their efforts toward making that integration a reality and reuniting Ukraine with Europe.

April
7
1996

Turning the pages back...

Eight years ago, in April 1996, President Leonid Kuchma once again confirmed that there is no going back for Ukraine – that it will stay the course of economic and democratic reforms. That was the principal message of his annual state of the state address to the Parliament on April 2, 1996. "Integration into Europe – this is our conscious and strategic choice," he underscored.

His remarks came on the same day that the presidents of the Russian Federation and Belarus signed a treaty of reintegration, in what many see as the first step in reviving the Soviet Union, reported our Kyiv Press Bureau correspondent at the time, Marta Kolomayets. In sharp contrast to the events taking place in the Kremlin on that day, Mr. Kuchma, sounding confident, said: "We consider and firmly hold the position that any attempts to reanimate the Soviet Union carry no historic perspective and only harm the development of normal integration processes."

In his state of the state address, Mr. Kuchma delineated some of Ukraine's most pressing problems and listed its most crucial policies, both domestic and foreign. "Ukraine has passed the point of historic return, and there will be no going back. However, the danger of attempts to return to the past cannot be excluded; in fact, both internal and external forces must be considered," he cautioned in his opening remarks.

The Ukrainian leader also underscored the importance of a consensus regarding fundamental values, which includes a common understanding of the national idea, devoid of "isms," and a search for compromise based not only on world experience, but also on Ukrainian political culture. "We should begin – finally – moving not in a direction which pulls us apart, but in one that brings us together and unites us," said Mr. Kuchma.

In conclusion, the Ukrainian leader said: "Today Ukraine and its people need not prophets, but people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and work."

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

EASTER PASTORALS

Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ

Paschal Letter of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine to the venerable clergy and devout faithful of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

May the Light of the Risen Lord, shining in splendor, illumine your every good and holy work so that those who behold them may glorify our Father in heaven!

Each year at Pascha, we are reintroduced to the genius of the author of the Paschal Canon, the Venerable John of Damascus, a Christian teacher of profound faith. In the splendid verse of that canon, which proclaims profound spiritual realities, we are invited to declare and to spiritually relive and reap the fruits of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's Resurrection. We proclaim anew to the culture in which we live that, "Indeed Christ is Risen!" Our celebration far surpasses the mundane and fleeting concerns of this life for "this [our Passover]

is a chosen, sacred day, the unique Sabbath of the King and Lord, the Feast of all feasts" for on it our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ rested from His labor – His saving passion and death endured voluntarily for the life of the world and our salvation – saw that it was good, and through His Resurrection brought us "from death to life and from earth to heaven," giving us a taste of eternity (Song I and VIII of the Paschal Canon).

Each year the words of this spiritual masterpiece invite us all: "Come! Let us purify ourselves and then shall we behold Christ ... celebrate the Resurrection of Christ ... for in Him is our foundation."

We, in these first years of this 21st century, need to remind ourselves that Christ is indeed the foundation of our Orthodox Christian way of life as a particular tradition and heritage made holy by the Risen Lord through the presence

(Continued on page 35)

Let us live as Easter people

Easter 2004 pastoral message of Metropolitan Stefan Soroka to the most reverend bishops, the reverend clergy and religious, and the faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America.

Christ is Risen!

Have you noticed how much running there is in the Easter story?

The women rush to the tomb early in the morning, before sunrise. Guards at the tomb run to tell the Pharisees about the earthquake and the stone being moved. Peter and the Beloved Disciple race each other to the tomb to check out the story told by the women. Why all this running, and yet in a cemetery? Usually, people walk quietly and slowly in a cemetery. The Gospel tells us of much running and activity at the cemetery that first Easter morning.

Easter is a day that makes us get up and move! This is the day that we loudly announce that Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! We process around the Church three times on Easter morning, proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ. We face the closed doors of the Church. The Church itself represents heaven on earth, God's

holy house. The doors were closed, just as the gates of heaven were closed to mankind after original sin. We incense the doors and joyously proclaim the Resurrection of Christ. With the loud knock on the church doors with the cross, and the proclamation that Christ is Risen, the doors are opened for us, the followers of Christ.

At this time, something very different occurs. The bishop and priests, who represent Christ, enter first into the Church, and the procession of the faithful follows, singing "Christ is Risen!" We arrive to find the Royal Doors of the Iconostasis, as well as the deacons' doors, wide open. This signifies that the doors of the heavenly kingdom are wide open to all followers of Christ during Easter Bright Week.

The Risen Christ also faced closed doors on that first Easter morning. His closest friends, the apostles, and Mary, his mother, and Mary Magdalene, were all locked behind closed doors that morning. They were afraid and they were confused. The atmosphere of that room was shattered! Christ entered the room, stood before them, and said, "Peace be with

(Continued on page 29)

The Risen Christ is always with us

Easter pastoral letter of Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

"Christ is Risen – Indeed He is Risen" is our Easter season greeting. We say these words so often, but I wonder, do we really ever ponder their meaning? Do we take this fact of our faith for granted?

Not too many years ago, Communists assumed that they had destroyed the faith of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. My family once told me of an incident that they had witnessed. One Easter morn, a Communist Party functionary came to their village. He ordered everyone to the local meeting hall, where he delivered an impassioned lecture on atheism. Ending his talk and confident that he had convinced the villagers that they should reject Christ and embrace atheism, he turned the meeting over to the parish priest. The priest complimented him on his eloquence, then, turning to the assembly, he dismissed them with the words, "Christ Is Risen!" The people instinctively thundered back, "Indeed He Is Risen." No matter what had been said to them,

they knew in their hearts the Good News that Christ had risen. After 45 years of suppression and persecution, our Church in Ukraine – kept alive by those who nourished it with their very blood – has risen from the ashes and is now vibrant and flourishing. Our Church is witness to the world that no matter how the forces of evil try to destroy the church, they will never prevail.

Too, in our own life, no matter how hopeless matters seem, we have Christ with us. He will never abandon us, whether we struggle with poverty, with illness, with family, with society, with self. The firm foundation on which our faith is based will not crumble; it will support us despite the trials with which life assails us. Easter, joyously celebrated with candles, processions, incense and song, reminds us, once again, that Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

With my fervent wish that the Risen Christ will bless you in a special way, I remain, Yours in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Basil H. Losten D.D.
Bishop of Stamford
(New York and New England)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Worries for safety of Patriarch Lubomyr

Dear Editor:

That the pope will not, anytime soon, be recognizing the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) as a patriarchal Church is no surprise for watchers of West-East ecclesial developments. It's interesting, however, that Blazhennishyi Lubomyr, regardless of the outcome, believes the Pope to be a supporter of a Greek-Catholic Patriarchate in Kyiv (February 29). So, too, does another important Catholic voice.

Father Robert Taft, S.J., of the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, portrays John Paul II as a willing party to such recognition, contingent on other considerations.

The Rev. Taft, described as "a pioneer in Eastern liturgical studies and a veteran of East/West dialogues" and "one of the leading [Catholic] experts on Orthodoxy" spoke at length on the plight of the UGCC in an interview posted on the National Catholic Reporter's online edition, <http://www.nat-cath.com/mainpage/taft.htm>. His views, however intemperately and definitely not very diplomatically expressed, will interest both partisans and opponents of patriarchal status for the UGCC.

Father Taft reminds us how most patriarchates that came into being after the establishment of the major historic sees of the Mediterranean world were uncanonical in their origins. Ukrainian historians have long known that the Muscovite Patriarchate existed uncanonically from the get-go, for more than a generation, and was recognized only under duress, after the visiting patriarch of Constantinople had been held hostage on orders of the tsar.

What is bold is Father Taft's suggestion that the UGCC also act on its own, declare itself a patriarchal Church and let recognition (and, therefore, full canonicity) come when it may. Novel is his added advice to Patriarch Lubomyr's office: accept no mail that is not properly addressed to the patriarch, to the Patriarchate; simply return to sender until they get it right.

Father Taft expresses one concern: that the UGCC first assure itself that all her bishops are supportive of the initiative. Unity is important, but difficult: despite the efforts of the Kyivan Church in 1596, even then several bishops turned away from the Union at Brest.

My own bigger worry is for the safety of Patriarch Lubomyr as he navigates the shoals between Lviv and Kyiv and beyond. Father Taft speaks generally of a "lunatic fringe" in the Orthodox Church. Living in Russia almost two years now, I can attest to this. I've seen various media reports (see <http://www.stremba.us/churchOutsItself.html>) that make you wonder where are the lines demarcating the real thinking of Church leadership from craziness among primitive elements.

It often seems the Muscovite Church leadership not only tolerates but humors or even, at worst, adopts as its own the craziness of its fringe. It truly pains me to see that, to say that, for there is much about the Russian Orthodox Church I find admirable.

That said, I still sense a murky milieu, stretching from Russia throughout what the Muscovite Church regards as its canonical territory, namely the whole Kyivan See. I hope our Church leaders will take the best security measures as they go from place to place in this vast area. The Greek-Catholic Churches don't need more martyrs now. Rather, we need men and women alive with intelligence, energy and conscience.

Matthew-Daniel Stremba
Yekaterinburg, Russia

1596 Union of Brest a bad miscalculation

Dear Editor:

Myron Kuropas in "Back to square one" (March 14) iterates the complicity of the Vatican with other agents in preventing the establishment of a Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Patriarchate. Also is mentioned an earlier revolt of Ukrainian Catholics against Rome.

A more complete historical understanding of this consternating conflict may be obtained from the 33 Articles of the Union of Brest that defined the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in 1596, at a time when faithful Ukrainians suffered under Polish rule (www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1595brest.html).

Article 9 and others of that document insist on a married priesthood and unaltered liturgical practices. Articles 25, 10 and 32 ask for restitution for destroyed Ukrainian churches and monasteries, allow the selection of bishops by the Polish king, and request him to prevent entrance to Greek priests who are coming to excommunicate the clergy who signed these Articles of Union.

In an interview by Prof. Antoine Arjakovsky at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv on January 26 (www.risu.org.ua/content.php?pageid=164&1=en&print=yes) Cardinal Lubomyr Husar stated ambivalently: "If we take Uniatism in this classical way of trying to establish unity, we as well do not accept it. We were tricked into it. It was not the intention of our bishops at the end of the 16th century. But this was the political situation within the Polish kingdom of that time." He added, "Our attitude presently is that between the Orthodox and ourselves there is no difference in faith."

For nationalist Ukrainians who consider the Treaty of Pereiaslav (1654) to be a tragic mistake, then the Union of Brest is a bad miscalculation.

Alec Danylevich
Worcester, Mass.

Thanks for articles on Ukrainian philately

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank The Weekly and Inert Kuzych for the marvelous philatelic articles, especially the one in the March 7 issue. Being a lifelong philatelist who in 1991 converted all his philatelic energy to collecting Ukraine. I needed a primer on the fine points of Ukrainian philately, and I found all I wanted in The Weekly.

The Weekly is truly a newspaper that has something for everybody be it community news and views, arts, Ukrainian sports, music review and, yes, stamps. I enjoy the well-written philatelic articles, which are well researched by Dr. Kuzych. Stamps teach us so much: Ukrainian history, arts, geography, traditions, historical figures and more. I save every article that is published.

Ukrainian stamp collecting should be encouraged in our Saturday schools, and at Plast and SUM meetings. Those boring "hutiirky" can come alive with stamps of Ukraine. In this hobby you collect whatever interests you, and your imagination takes you to mythical places and events. Dr. Kuzych should be considered for the UCCA Shevchenko Prize for his philatelic service to the Ukrainian community.

Zenko Halkowycz
Teaneck N.J.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



A Ukrainian thumb on the electoral scale

With the field for the presidency now narrowed to George W. Bush and John Kerry, the country will be subjected to seven months of rallies, bumper stickers, yard signs, tracking polls and interminable commercials that market the candidates like a dose of Viagra or an herbal shampoo. That's when the campaigns aren't denigrating the other guy. Already, we've had accusations, distortions, attacks, counterattacks, with pundits dissecting what might have been said or done a year, a decade, a generation ago.

Yet for all the spin and hoopla, elections are a vital exercise, challenging the country to consider serious issues that go to the heart of what many interest groups care about most. For farmers, it's crop supports; for union members, the minimum wage. The NRA cares passionately about guns; the Brady Campaign wants to restrict them. Right to Life and NARAL have intense and opposing views on abortion. For seniors, it's Medicare. Most Cuban Americans look for candidates to condemn Castro. Most Jewish voters won't even consider them unless they support Israel. And so on, issue after issue.

Candidates weigh the different interest groups, promise to create jobs and protect national security, then hope they've assembled a coalition that can win a majority in the Electoral College. Well, I happen to belong to an interest group with strong views about Ukraine. So without apology, let me press my own thumb on the electoral scale.

Not so long ago Ukraine was a really hot issue — rightfully so. In 45 years of the Cold War, the U.S. and the "Free World" invested trillions of dollars and countless lives in an epic struggle against the "Evil Empire." For Ukrainian Americans and other ethnics who had long contended that liberation of the Captive Nations would be the key to victory, Ukraine's independence in 1991 was sweet vindication, providing as it did the ultimate blow that knocked the underpinnings from under the Soviet Union. Out of the rubble, a new strategic alignment emerged, with Ukraine squarely at the center.

In his 1995 book, "The Grand Chessboard," former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski saw Ukraine's independence as essential to Russian democracy and critical to the unfettered, sovereign development of Poland, the Baltic states, the countries of the Caucasus, etc. Nearly a decade later, in a March 1 article, Jackson Diehl of The Washington Post makes a similar argument: "As giant Ukraine goes, so, likely, will slip most of the other former Soviet states that now live uneasily between the expanding European Union and Russia ..."

Those who follow events even casually know that Ukrainian democracy is in crisis. The independent press is being strangled. Opposition candidates and their supporters are harassed, even arrested on spurious charges. The ruling party is pushing dubious constitutional reforms to try to strip the next president of authority and shift power to the Parliament, after having bribed, manipulated and coerced its way into control two years ago, defying the electorate which had voted in an opposition slate.

Hovering over the growing mess is the specter of a rejuvenated Russian Empire, led by a former KGB operative who is openly pursuing a neo-authoritarian, neo-imperialist policy and finding resonance for both

among his allies and agents in Ukraine.

All of this is an ominous departure. Despite shortcomings as leaders, both Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma had worked to orient Ukraine toward the West, with the goal of someday joining NATO and the European Union. But for that, Kyiv needs strong support from the United States, the world's only superpower.

Recognizing what was at stake, the Clinton administration went to great lengths to strengthen Ukrainian sovereignty and democracy. Ukraine became the third largest recipient of American foreign aid, behind Israel and Egypt, and was a major focus of attention at the highest levels: President Bill Clinton visited Kyiv three times; First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton four times and Vice-President Al Gore five. The various secretaries of State and Defense visited Ukraine no less than 15 times. Senior Ukrainian officials reciprocated with visits of their own. Ukrainian Americans enjoyed the spotlight as well, with frequent visits to the White House, the Executive Office Building and the State Department to meet with National Security staff, Cabinet secretaries, the vice-president, indeed with the president himself.

Sadly, the Bush administration has dropped the ball on Ukraine. Aid to Ukraine has been cut by more than 50 percent. High-level visits to Kyiv have dropped from more than 25 (in eight years) to a mere two: both from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, largely on Middle East matters. Even on the symbolic Famine issue, the administration falls short, withholding support from Senate Resolution 202, which is blocked in committee because of apparent objection to the word "genocide."

And so Ukraine drifts. The Bush administration, to be sure, is not the only reason or even a principal cause for the sorry state of Ukrainian democracy or Vladimir Putin's neo-imperialism, but it's also clear that America's turn from Ukraine has been a significant contributing factor — one that's puzzling and deeply disappointing. Surely, Ukraine's failure as a state is not in America's strategic interest; a reconstituted Russian empire, even less so.

After a recent trip to Kyiv, former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright argued persuasively that democracy in Ukraine is just as important for America as Middle Eastern democracy. Ukrainian American Republicans need to send that message to President George W. Bush as he seeks support in battleground states like Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Florida, etc., where Ukrainian voters, working in coalition with others who oppose a rejuvenated Russian empire, can make the difference between victory and defeat. A campaign ad in The Ukrainian Weekly is no substitute for an active policy.

As for Sen. Kerry, Bush administration neglect of Ukraine has given him an opening to an energized constituency, but it's only an opening. Although U.S. support for Ukraine should be a no-brainer, the candidate still has to prove himself. Sen. Kerry's early co-sponsorship of the Senate's Famine Resolution is a positive sign, but it's just a start, a symbolic gesture. Ukrainian American Democrats need to let him know that.

Candidates will say and hopefully do what they sense the electorate wants, particularly when it's good for America. First, though, voters have to weigh in. So go ahead and put your thumb on the electoral scale. Mine's already there.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is: fedynsky@stratos.net.

FOR THE RECORD: Bishop Basil Losten's open letter to Orthodox patriarchs

Following is the text of an open letter to Orthodox Patriarchs by Bishop Basil H. Losten, chairman, Ecumenical Commission, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Synod of Bishops. The letter is dated March 1.

Your Holiness/Your Beatitude!

The basic principle of the ecumenical movement in Christianity relies upon seeking the truth in a spirit of charity. The movement itself depends upon honesty in acknowledging those wounds of the past that did not foster unity; an openness in the present to dialogue about all matters that affect the welfare of the Church; and a burning hope that the future might bring about Our Lord's most fervent desire: *ut unum sint!*

The recent chain of events set off by the Moscow Patriarchate and the massive polemical reaction it engendered in the Orthodox world is a step back from this most basic principle. The concept of a Ukrainian Catholic patriarchate in the city of Kyiv has been assailed universally in the Orthodox world even before it was even brought forth as a point of dialogue in the 21st century.

The polemics of the Moscow Patriarchate remind me of the famous say-

ing of President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States at a critical point in the history of the United States, "My fellow citizens. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!" I am also reminded of another age-old adage: "There are three sides to every story: there is my side and your side, and then there is the truth!"

It is fear and not dialogue that has been conveyed to your office by the Patriarchate of Moscow. I, just as you, have had the same opportunity to read the many statements made by Orthodox hierarchs that appeared on Internet news services and am certainly flabbergasted by them! Could this tempest be anything farther than derailing us into a paralysis of fear of seeking the truth and relating to one another in a spirit of charity? I find it significant that there have been no verbal attacks upon the Moscow position either from the Holy Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops nor from the Office of the Patriarch of First Rome!

The position of the Holy Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops under the omophorion of the Patriarchal See of Rome is clear: our Church is an ecclesia sui juris within the internal structure of Eastern Catholic Churches in full communion with the Patriarchal See of Peter. Its bishops

have unanimously stated their declaration of a patriarchal structure to meet the needs of its faithful scattered throughout the world in many different canonical territories. This declaration has been formally presented from the Synod to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, for confirmation in the person of its Primate: His Beatitude Lubomyr Cardinal Husar, the Catholic Metropolitan of Kyiv and Halych (Ukraine).

The polemics advocated by the Moscow Patriarchate presents an ecclesiological view that exists in a vacuum in the globalized world of today! It is a position that is based upon past privileges granted by Russian imperialism and godless Communism. There are no exclusive canonical territories either in the East or the West in the world of today – there are only territories of ancestral lineage. That is why any Patriarchate of the Orthodox or Catholic world may have a jurisdiction of influence anywhere in the world dictated by its own sacred canons. There are no boundaries for the exercise of spiritual patrimony!

The ancestral line of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to the metropolitan see of Kyiv is as valid a claim as any other pretenders! It was the metropolitan see of Kyiv (including present territories in Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania) gathered in synod of its bishops-suffragans that freely renewed full ecclesiastical ties with the See of Rome in 1595-1596. It was this see that had only one metropolitan bishop which was Catholic for a decade until the Patriarchate of Constantinople re-established an Orthodox hierarchy there in the early 17th century. It was in the 17th century that the Catholic and Orthodox metropolitan of Kyiv entered into dialogue on the question of the canonical establishment of a Kyivan patriarchate. It was in 1684 that the "Third Rome" usurped the relationship of the Orthodox Metropolitanate of Kyiv with the Patriarchate of Constantinople – by subjugating the ancestral see under its omophorion by decree of the tsar and the intrigues of the Kozak hetmanate.

The polemics of "Uniatism" are once again rearing their ugly head. The only Uniate Church that exists in the world today is that which is deeply imbedded in the Orthodox psyche. The concept of one Church sui juris being not just united with

but actually absorbed by another Church sui juris is a relic of the past and a deep scar in the history of all parties involved. The Second Vatican Council clearly identifies the Eastern Churches in communion with the See of Rome under a different term: Eastern Catholic Churches. Since that historic gathering, the sacred canons of the Eastern Catholic Churches as well as all official documents of the See of Rome pertaining to its Eastern churches sui juris reveal a clear policy trumpeting the preservations and growth of each such Church in its traditions "whole and entire." To accuse the Ukrainian Catholic Church of being "a Uniate wolf in sheep's clothing" in this day and age is tantamount to accusing the Moscow Patriarchate of being "Uniate" in the 1980s because of its public policy of tolerating and using latinized practices in Ukraine as a way of keeping the local populace "happy" and satisfied with its jurisdictional leadership.

It is ironic how easy it is to sway from the ecumenical path of dialogue through polemical propaganda! It is much more difficult to remain in dialogue – to walk on a path together to Emmaus, dialoguing with the Lord who opens our hearts and minds to understanding rather than stopping still in the mud of our tracks. The world outside of the canonical territory of the Moscow Patriarchate offers wonderful examples of what can be hoped for in dialogue.

I cite but a few examples: the Melkite Catholic Patriarchate with the Orthodox Patriarchates of Antioch and Jerusalem, the unofficial Congresses of the Syrian Catholic and Orthodox Churches brought together by "Pro Oriente"; the positive dialogue taking place between Greek-Catholics and Ukrainian Orthodox regarding the use of church properties of Zakarpatska Province [Zakarpattia Oblast] of Ukraine; the present fraternal encounters between the Ukrainian Catholic bishops of the Northern Hemisphere under the omophorion of the First Rome with the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops of the Northern Hemisphere under the omophorion of New Rome!

His holiness, Pope John Paul II, has constantly repeated one scriptural verse – from the opening sentence of his acceptance as the successor of Peter to virtually every

(Continued on page 26)

The Passion of Christ: a look at other sources

by Msgr. John Terlecky

STAMFORD, Conn. – Mel Gibson's film "The Passion of the Christ" has opened to much-hyped publicity and an astounding \$200 million plus dollars of business in the first 10 days of its release. Recently a group of 30 Ukrainian Catholics attended a special showing of the film at a local cinema in Stamford, Conn. The special screening was playing at 9:15 a.m. and all six movie screens of the theater had been rented by a number of church groups. There were no tickets to be bought, for all seats were previously reserved.

I was not among those attending. I had my regular religion class of eight children in grades 3 and 4 at St. Vladimir's Saturday School of Ukrainian Studies. It was important to teach the children how to do "poklony" (solemn prostrations) and other practices associated with the Great Fast. In speaking with my parishioners who viewed the film, I heard a genuine excitement and a pitch of religious fervor that is appropriate for the Lenten season.

I intend to see the film, but at my pace and selection of time. I will wait for all the brouhaha to quiet down and sit in a theater where I won't be crowded and when I can honestly form an independent evaluation of the film.

I've read a lot of reviews of the film. Among the positive comments I have heard is that of the value of the religious experience: "It was like being at the foot of Calvary, watching and feeling everything as an eyewitness." Among the salient critical comments I heard was that Mr. Gibson presented the who, what, were, when and how of the Passion, but overlooked the why of the Passion in his account. It is significant to note that the Office of Broadcasting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

approached the film with a reserved recommendation.

The film can do much good in the spiritual life of an individual believer. Any vehicle that causes us to honestly reflect on the Passion of our Lord and God Jesus Christ must be given the benefit of the doubt in its favor. I was not surprised to hear that the much-ballyhooed charge of anti-Semitism did not result in a single case reported over the news telecasts of the first week of Great Lent.

The film needs to be followed up with additional reading materials. The film is made available in print in the form of a pictorial book simply called "The Passion" by Mel Gibson. There also is the soundtrack of the film with its haunting score. Both are readily available in bookstores or from online book services.

For those looking for a less visceral presentation of the Passion of the Lord, I strongly recommend a book that I was introduced to us a student in a high school seminary over 30 years ago: "The Day Christ Died" by Jim Bishop. It is an hour-by-hour account of the day of the Passion told in the style of a newspaper reporter.

For those seeking something more on the spiritual plane, I highly recommend the 19th century classic "What Jesus Saw from the Cross" by the Dominican priest the Rev. A.G. Sertillanges. While Mr. Gibson's film and so many other works deal with the Passion from a person's point of view, Father Sertillanges approaches the Lord's Passion from the divine perspective as backed by scripture and the physical environment of salvation history. It is a book that I enjoyed reading the first time and enjoy reading every time since.

All three titles are readily available from amazon.com and cost less than \$20. The only book that exists in audio form is "The Day Christ Died" at a price of \$58.95 with no guarantee of delivery – it is a fairly rare item that has to be hunted down!

Msgr. John Terlecky is librarian at the St. Basil College Library in Stamford, Conn.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date the information is to be published.
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Please call or send query via e-mail before electronically sending anything other than Word documents. This applies especially to photos, as they must be scanned according to our specifications in order to be properly reproduced in our newspaper.

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Radio Canada International's Ukrainian program faces cuts this fall

by Christopher Guly

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

OTTAWA – After October 31, the day Ukrainian citizens head to the polls to elect their next president, Montreal-based Radio Canada International's Ukrainian-language program could be broadcasting less frequently to Ukraine.

Lina Gavrilova, head of RCI's Ukrainian section, told The Weekly that Ukrainian programming is scheduled to drop from 30 minutes a day, seven days a week to a total of one hour per week.

She said RCI officials have yet to decide whether the 60 minutes of airtime will be presented in its entirety or divided into two 30-minute segments.

It's also unclear whether the Ukrainian program will continue to be heard over short-wave.

In addition to that format, the daily shows are transmitted over the Internet and via satellite, and appear on Ukraine's National Radio Company's regular schedule.

NRC's president Viktor Nabrusko is expected to meet with RCI director Jean Larin in Montreal this summer to discuss arrangements for broadcasting the Canadian Ukrainian-language program.

As well, the RCI-Ukrainian section's staff will be cut in half when the programming changes take effect this fall. Two casual employees have been dropped, leaving only Ms. Gavrilova and Luba Demko, both of whom serve as announcer-producers.

In early February, RCI, the international radio service for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) and its French-language, pub-

licly funded Radio-Canada counterpart, officially announced that it was "repositioning" its programming and added a new Portuguese-language program "specially tailored to Brazilian audiences" last month.

RCI was originally scheduled to reduce Ukrainian programming around that time. But an 11th-hour intervention by Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham to CBC president and chief executive officer Robert Rabinovitch kept the programming intact until after the forthcoming Ukrainian election, said Ostap Skrypnyk, executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

In an early March meeting with Mr. Graham in Winnipeg, where the UCC is headquartered, Mr. Skrypnyk reiterated the UCC's opposition to RCI's cuts to the Ukrainian program and was "pleased" when Mr. Graham informed him that he had talked with Mr. Rabinovitch about the matter.

"Mr. Graham understood that RCI is an important part of Canada's foreign policy and said it's important for Ukrainians to have information in the lead-up to the election in October," Mr. Skrypnyk said in an interview.

Last September, when RCI began reviewing its programming, the UCC began a lobby campaign to keep the Ukrainian program intact and sent the minister a letter asking him to use his "influence" to keep the status quo.

In reply, the congress was told the federal government has an "arm's length" relationship with RCI. (The Department of Canadian Heritage funds CBC-Radio Canada, which in turn funds RCI. Foreign

Affairs provides an advisory role, often through its diplomatic missions.)

But while he's grateful for the reprieve, Mr. Skrypnyk is not pleased that RCI's Ukrainian program, which last year marked its 50th anniversary, has been slashed. "Some might say something is better than nothing, but when it's cut to a few minutes a week should we be happy?"

He says that ever since RCI introduced programming for post-World War II Ukrainians in the Soviet Union, it has given them information about life in Canada and how Canadians of Ukrainian descent actively and freely participate in the country. "It has told them a lot about civil society," Mr. Skrypnyk said.

And it still will, said RCI spokesman Denis Pellerin. "Those who claim that Ukrainians need to have access to Canadian values should know that we will still be broadcasting in Ukrainian," he explained, adding that a "large part of the Ukrainian population speaks Russian" and can also listen to RCI programming in that language.

"I'm not sure if the Ukrainian community really understands the changes that we are looking at and is afraid that RCI will eventually stop broadcasting in Ukrainian, which is not the case. The Ukrainian program is an important part of RCI," he continued.

Mr. Pellerin said the changes, which have yet to be completely finalized, to the Ukrainian section reflect the "normal management" of RCI's resources and programs, and will help the Canadian international radio network "invest in what we think is crucial, which is to broadcast in Portuguese

for our Brazilian audience."

On March 26, RCI launched a weekly 30-minute program that covers news and information in Canada and Brazil. Through an agreement with Radio Netherlands, the show is broadcast on 300 AM and FM stations throughout Brazil, and is also aired live via short-wave on Friday afternoons, and on weekends via satellite and the Internet.

With a growing population of nearly 180 million (compared to the estimated 50 million people living in Ukraine) and home to the fifth-most spoken language in the world (Portuguese), Brazil is an "important part of the world" for RCI programming, said Mr. Pellerin.

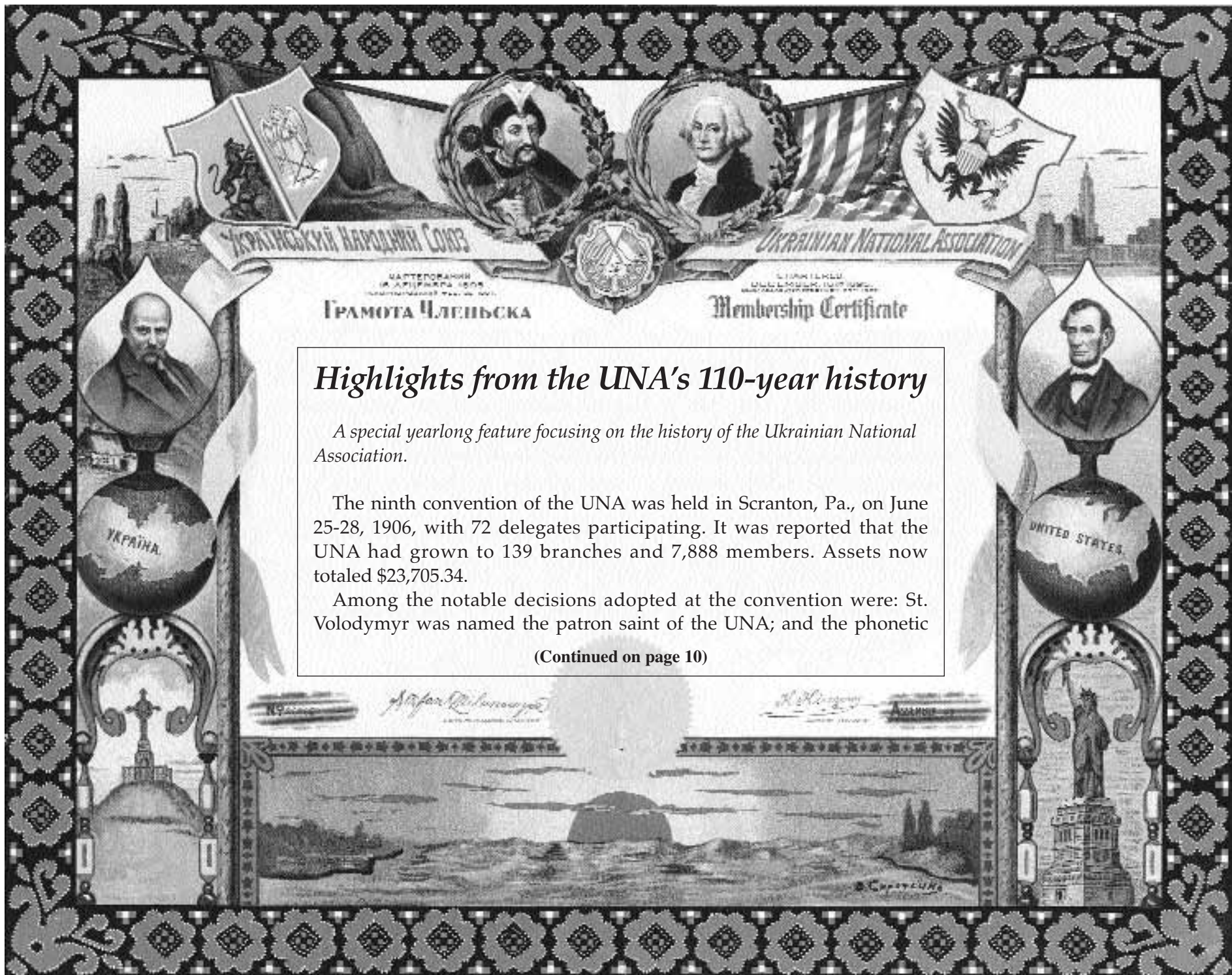
In addition to the new Portuguese show, RCI has also redirected its English-language programming to India and sub-Saharan Africa instead of the United States, which will now have short-wave access to CBC's domestic radio programs.

Through a new agreement with German international radio broadcaster, Deutsche Welle, RCI is also now reaching major capitals in French-speaking North and sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Pellerin noted that the Ukrainian program is not the only one to face the ax. One of the Chinese programs will be cut as RCI looks to develop more partnerships with Chinese radio. "We are doing less news and more context of news and current events," he added.

With Portuguese, RCI now broadcasts in nine languages, including English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Mandarin,

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Ukrainian Canadian completes ascent of Kilimanjaro, continues fund-raising for children of Chornobyl

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Ukrainian Canadian Bohdanna Zwonok reached Mount Kilimanjaro's 19,340-foot-high summit at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 15, completing her goal of climbing Africa's highest peak in order to raise money and awareness for victims of the 1986 nuclear disaster in Chornobyl, Ukraine.

"Some of the most touching support and donations came from individuals within the Ukrainian community: anonymous donors, friends and family. Without them, such a journey would simply not have been as rich and nurturing," Ms. Zwonok said in an e-mail message sent to The Ukrainian Weekly.

"I am very proud and touched by the Ukrainian community's response. It reminded me of the power of solidarity, which is an essential element for humanitarian work," she said.

While Ms. Zwonok and her Canadian climbing friend Vivian Elferink, who accompanied Ms. Zwonok on the climb, have yet to raise their \$19,340 goal — a dollar for each vertical foot climbed up the mountain — they have said they are nonetheless determined that they will reach that amount.

The two climbers agreed to split the fund-raising responsibilities equally among themselves, and Ms. Zwonok said that to date she has raised \$6,500 of her \$9,670 goal, but plans to have raised the entire amount by the end of the year.

The money raised by the Ukrainian Canadian, who turned 51 the day she summited Mount Kilimanjaro, will go toward supporting rehabilitation programs, medical clinics and equipment, relief for orphanages and summer camps in Ukraine. "I have complete confidence in the distribution of funds by CCCF in Canada and by CCRF in the U.S. to the institutions and children whose needs are most pressing," Ms. Zwonok said.

"If it hadn't been for the thought of the children of Chornobyl, reminding myself that I was dedicating my climb to a cause higher than just a sports challenge, that my pain was nothing to compare to what the children are going through, I would have turned back. Putting my pain and discomfort into a wider perspective made me feel that the climb was not difficult," Ms. Zwonok said in an e-mail.

In a diary Ms. Zwonok kept while climbing the mountain and subsequently shared with The Weekly, she wrote, "On each of our four days of upward climbing on Kili, we will be crossing four seasons and climates; on day one it was a tropical ... rain forest. Today, it is slowly turning into a temperate, warm day and cool night. Tomorrow will be a cooler ... day and a cold night, close to the freezing point. And the last day and night will be no less harsh than a freezing arctic environment."

The last leg of the climb to reach the summit started at midnight and took more than seven hours of ascending through freezing temperatures and thin, oxygen-deprived air. Over the course of their 11-day expedition on Mount Kilimanjaro, the two climbers were accompanied by a guide, an assistant guide, a cook and three porters.

Asked if she spoke with other climbers about her reasons for climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, Ms. Zwonok said, "I had a sign sewn onto the back of my backpack before I even left Canada. I wore it every day and was approached and recognized by other climbers throughout the trip. There was talk about me and the children of Chornobyl, about the disaster, also many questions asked, interest spurred by my initiative. I encouraged many of the climbers who elected to suffer in many of their adventurous treks to at least suffer for a humanitarian cause."

The Ukrainian Canadian climber said that once her fund-raising goal has been met she will announce plans for her next



Benny Raozo

Viviane Elferink (left) and Bohdanna Zwonok on Mount Kilimanjaro's Uhuru Peak, Africa's highest point at 19,340 feet.



Viviane Elferink

Bohdanna Zwonok and assistant guide Benny Raozo rest for a picture during an expedition on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Seven new members...

(Continued from page 1)

Slovakia and Slovenia into the alliance.

"The people of these seven nations were captives to an empire. They endured bitter tyranny. They struggled for independence," President Bush said. "They earned their freedom through courage and perseverance, and today they stand with us as full and equal partners in this great alliance."

President Bush stressed NATO's openness to further expansion. Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia are likely candidates for the next round of expansion.

Prime Ministers Juhan Parts of Estonia, Indulis Emsis of Latvia and Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania participated in the NATO-accession ceremonies in Washington.

"Latvia's accession to the alliance is a great day for our nation," BNS quoted Mr. Emsis as saying as he deposited the country's accession documents with the U.S. State Department. "It is a day for celebration, a long-awaited moment and fulfillment of a long-cherished aspiration."

Lithuanian Parliament Speaker Arturas Paulauskas, who was among parliamentarians and foreign dignitaries assembled at the Parliament building to watch the event live on television, said: "When we heard NATO planes roaring today, while sitting at a radio station studio, we understood that NATO is a reality."

Meanwhile, in Russia, officials and commentators reacted negatively on March 29 to the admission of seven new members to NATO, Russian media reported. Duma Foreign Relations Committee

Chairman Konstantin Kosachev (Unified Russia) noted that four of the new members — the Baltic states and Slovenia — have not signed the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) and that this failure could produce "a gray zone" that would worry Moscow, ITAR-TASS reported.

Duma Defense Committee Chairman General Viktor Zavarzin (Unified Russia) said Russia must rethink its defense posture now that the Baltic states have joined NATO. "Taking into account NATO actions, we can adjust our military-construction plans. Moreover, I believe outlays for national defense should be boosted," Mr. Zavarzin was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying on March 29.

As NATO's expansion was being formalized, four Belgian F-16 fighter jets landed at Lithuania's Zokniai airport near the northern city of Siauliai on March 29, shortly before NATO-accession ceremonies in Washington, Lietuvos Rytas reported on March 30.

The aircraft will patrol the airspace over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Lithuanian armed forces commander Major General Jonas Kronkaitis and Air Force commander Colonel Edvardas Mazeikis attended a ceremony at the airport to welcome the pilots.

The defense ministers of the three Baltic states on March 29 issued a joint statement in Washington in which they welcomed the beginning of NATO air patrols over their territories and gave assurances of their states' readiness to provide technical and legal support in implementing the airspace-surveillance system.

expedition, which she has planned for early 2005. "You can count on the next peak being higher, even more difficult to attain."

Ms. Zwonok chose two charity organizations as beneficiaries for any funds she raises during the "Climbing for a Cause" campaign, which will continue through 2004. The Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), which is headquartered in Short Hills, N.J., is the beneficiary of any donations made to the campaign from individuals or businesses located in the United States, while donations made from Canada will go to the Children of

Chornobyl Canadian Fund (CCCF).

Individuals interested in donating to Ms. Zwonok's campaign should contact either of the two organizations directly. Interested donors can make donations out to "Kili Project."

CCCF may be reached by e-mail at cccf@idirect.com and its mailing address is: CCCF, 2118 Bloor St. W., Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario M6S 1M8.

CCRF may be contacted by e-mail at info@childrenofchornobyl.org and its mailing address is: CCRF, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

(Continued from page 9)

alphabet was adopted for use by Svoboda and the UNA — that is the alphabet used in all Ukrainian schools, books and newspapers.

Also, the UNA would henceforth accept Canadians as members, the benefit amount to be paid out on insurance policies was increased to \$1,000, and members were to contribute 2 cents per month to the Reserve Fund and 1 cent each to the Indigent Fund and the newly created National Fund. Convention delegates also voted to contribute \$100 to the Liberation Fund in Halychyna.

Constantine Kyrchiv was re-elected to his second term as UNA president.

A Svoboda editorial commented: "This convention reorganized the UNA, giving it a firm foundation and thus assuring further growth and a bright future."

Source: "Ukrainian National Association: Its Past and Present, (1894-1964)," by Anthony Dragan (translated from the original Ukrainian by Zenon Snylyk). Jersey City, N.J.: Svoboda Press, 1964. The border featured in this special feature is reproduced from a UNA membership certificate dating to 1919.

Graduate student symposium on Ukraine – a North American first

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Two graduate students from Ukraine – one in literature, the other in political science – recently organized the first graduate student seminar on Ukraine.

University of Toronto students Olena Nikolayenko, a Ph.D. student in comparative politics from Donetsk Oblast and Oksana Tatsyak, a Ph.D. student in Ukrainian literature from Lviv, conceived the idea a year ago – to bring together graduate students working in Ukrainian-related fields so that they could find out about each other and showcase their research to a wider public.

The students found support for their idea at the Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) at the University of Toronto and sponsors in the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine and the recently created Wolodymyr George Danyliw Foundation. Helping them in the administration of their project was Larysa Iarovenko, who runs the Petro Jacyk office at CREES.

The Graduate Student Symposium, titled “Exploring Ukrainian Identity: Gender, Ethnicity and Statehood” was held on March 12-13 at CREES, with 12 presentations from graduate students at various universities. The symposium consisted of four panels, each featuring three students, a faculty chair and a faculty discussant – a very ambitious and full program. In addition, there were two keynote speakers: Prof. Serhy Yekelchuk (University of Victoria) and Prof. Dominique Arel (University of Ottawa). Writer Mykola Riabchuk, who was in Toronto to deliver the Wolodymyr George Danyliw lecture, provided remarks on the panel presentations.

Thus the graduate gathering involved a total of 23 participants and a further 55 persons who registered for the symposium. Of the graduate students taking part in the program, seven were from Canada and five from the United States, and five of the total had received their undergraduate education in Ukraine.

The presentation topics, which centered around the main theme of identity, were extremely varied. Mark Andryczyk and Oksana Tatsyak, both from the University of Toronto, discussed identity as revealed through contemporary Ukrainian literature.

Mr. Andryczyk focused on the importance of language for the so-called “Visimdesatnyky” who emerged in the 1980s out of the grayness of the waning Soviet Ukraine. For them, using the Ukrainian language was a way of underlining their “otherness” from the Soviet reality, an “otherness” that was an important part of their identity. They came from the “anti-sovok” underground which regarded the Soviet Ukrainian language as a false language. They accepted a metaphysical and sacral view of language rather than a practical one. For them, language was a moral source; using Ukrainian meant “serving a cause.” (This was the view of language that was prevalent in the diaspora.)

Ms. Tatsyak analyzed Oleksandr Irvanets’ satirical novel: “Rivne/Rovno-Stina” in which the author paints the western Ukrainian city of Rivne as split by a wall, not only physical but also symbolic – a wall in the head. She pointed out that surzhyk, the popular slang mixing Ukrainian and Russian, is an example of this split identity and emphasized that such fragmentation has precluded progress in identity-building.

In the second panel, which dealt with factors influencing identity change, Oleksandr Melnyk (University of Alberta)



Symposium participants (from left, back): Ilya Khineiko, Nadia Zavorotna, Rory Finnin, Oleksandr Melnyk, Anita Petroski, Olena Nikolayenko, Mark Andryczyk, Chrystyna Dail, Oksana Tatsyak, (front) Mykola Polyuha, Margrethe Sovik, Prof. Dominique Arel, Prof. Serhy Yekelchuk, Scott Orr, Oksana Babenko and Marko Stech.

used the experience of World War II in Kherson oblast to show how Soviet defeat fragmented identity. Whereas Soviet mobilization when Germany attacked the USSR on June 22, 1941, resulted in a large numbers of volunteers, this “patriotic unity” lasted only until July when the war arrived in Kherson. Mr. Melnyk pointed out that the behavior of the defeated Soviet army – widespread desertions and surrenders – showed not only the inherent disloyalty of the Soviet soldier but the weakness of Soviet identity that buckled quickly under a real threat.

The topic of gender and its interplay with identity was dealt with by Rory Finnin (Columbia) in the context of the problem of the trafficking of women. Because data on who is trafficked is hard to come by, he used studies in migration intention to show that there exists an inverse relationship between being Ukrainian and wishing to migrate (the lowest percentage of women wanting to migrate was from western Ukraine, the highest from Kyiv and eastern Ukraine). He questioned the tie of trafficking to the economic situation as women from economically underperforming areas in Ukraine did not exhibit as high an inclination to migrate as those from areas economically more secure.

The panel on “Empirical Studies of Nationalism” examined the influence of social identities on attitude to language and language usage (Margrethe Bakstad Sovik, University of Alberta/University of Stockholm); regional differences in the attitude to national symbols (Ilya Khineiko, University of Alberta); and national pride (or patriotism) as an element influencing language usage in the public domain (Olena Nikolayenko, University of Toronto).

There other interesting presentations such as the study of the “vertep” as cultural performance and how it was transferred to immigrant communities in the U.S. as a tie to home (Chrystyna Dail, University of Maryland) and an examination of personal ads in Ukraine as a guide to the language of male and female identity (Oksana Babenko, University of Alberta).

By examining and comparing ties between NGOs within Ukraine and Latvia, Scott Orr (Ohio State) claimed that a state where people have multiple identities which are not mutually exclusive and which encourage horizontal ties means that the society is more democratic. (Ukraine won this one).

Anita Petroski (Columbia), who served in the Peace Corps in Odessa, pointed out that because Ukraine is essentially bilingual – 48 percent use Russian daily, 40 percent use Ukrainian and 12 percent use surzhyk – state policy on language has been necessarily relaxed

on the use of Russian.

Finally, Mykola Polyuha (Penn State) spoke on “Ukrainian Internet Identity.” Although it is too soon to speak of this being an influential indicator of identity because of the low use of the Internet in Ukraine (where there are 1.2 internet users per 100 persons whereas in the US the rate is 50.1, Canada – 46.7, Poland – 9.18, Russia – 2.9 and Germany – 37.4), he pointed to questions that could be pursued in the future: Does the cybernation exacerbate existing imperfections in society? What does the current divide between those that have access and the huge “other” that does not do to national identity?

In his summing up remarks, visiting writer Mykola Riabchuk pointed to the internationalization of Ukrainian studies, which no longer are “Slavs teaching Slavs about Slavs.” He suggested more use should be made of post-colonial methodology as a tool for the analysis of processes in Ukraine such as the concepts of post-colonial trauma dominant discourse.

The symposium ended with a roundtable discussion among seven professors and two CIUS editors on the topic of: “Have Ukrainian Studies a Future?”

“Historian Olya Andriyewska (Trent University) focused on the changes in society and in the institutions of higher learning which are influencing Ukrainian studies. Ukrainian studies began as a cold war project, she said, sponsored by the diaspora and the shift of the center of such studies to Ukraine has not yet occurred. The loss of interest in the USSR, retreat from the study of national histories, the abandonment of Eurocentrism in the academe, the corporate management of universities are all placing Ukrainian studies at the crossroads.

Some of the discussants saw the current situation as one of opportunities, albeit different ones than in the past. Sociologist Wsevolod Isajiw (University of Toronto, retired) saw the future in joint projects of the diaspora with Ukraine and pointed to the establishment and support of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv and the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv as examples.

Marko Stech (CIUS) stated that more books than ever are being published on Ukrainian topics in the West and saw a bright future in research. He suggested that it was the responsibility of the current professors in Ukrainian studies to outreach and find people and money for such projects to continue.

Both historian Paul Magocsi (University of Toronto) and Roman Senkus (CIUS) referred to the number of tenured faculty as proof of the robustness of Ukrainian studies. Prof. Magocsi doffed his academic cap to the “genius of the Galicians” who institutionalized Ukrainian studies in North American universities. Mr. Senkus pointed out that currently there are 23 tenured positions held by Ukrainianists in North America.

New contexts for Ukrainian studies were mentioned by historian Serhy Yekelchuk (University of Victoria) and political scientist Dominique Arel (University of Ottawa). Prof. Yekelchuk said that, since independence, Ukraine has been comfortably positioned in Eastern Europe for the study of history, while Prof. Arel claimed that Ukrainian studies are undergoing a shift from the humanities to the social sciences. As evidence, he pointed to the fact that of 12 papers presented at the symposium, eight were in the social sciences.



Symposium organizers (from left) Olena Nikolayenko, Larysa Iarovenko and Oksana Tatsyak.



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Ingerit Kuzych

Pysanky on stamps: one good turn deserves another

PART II

The first good turn

In addition to the 192 countries on this globe that print postage stamps to move their mails, the United Nations organization also produces stamps for postage, and these are recognized around the world. However, the U.N.'s stamps are valid only for letters and packages mailed from U.N. buildings (see sidebar). U.N. stamps are avidly collected by many philatelists worldwide.

In late October of last year, the United States philatelic press featured numerous articles of new personalized United Nations stamps that would be released sometime in November at the U.N.'s New York headquarters. These stamps would display an attached tab that could be customized with a personal photograph. Each stamp pane was to include 20 stamps (of 37-cent denomination) with five different designs: one stamp showing the U.N. emblem, while the other four depicted different photographs of U.N. headquarters (Figure 1).

It was one of these photos that caused consternation to members of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS). Depicted on it were the national flags that line First Avenue in

front of the U.N. headquarters. These flags are in alphabetical order, with Afghanistan at the level of 48th Street and Zimbabwe at 42nd Street. The flags shown on the stamp began with "U" countries and proceeded through the "T" countries and then on in reverse alphabetical order. What was so irksome was that the very first stamp – that from Ukraine – showed the old Soviet Ukrainian banner, not the present-day sky blue and yellow.

I had received my copy of Linn's Stamp News announcing the new personalized stamps on Monday, October 27, 2003, and noticed that the stamp in question looked a bit funny. I thought it might be the old flag of Belarus or Ukraine, but I didn't think it was possible that such an old image of U.N. flags could be used. I then got distracted and didn't get back to the article. On Wednesday evening, I received a phone call from UPNS's Adjudicating Committee Chairman, Borys Fessak, who also saw the article and who pointed out to me that the first flag on the stamp in question had to be the old Soviet Ukrainian flag and could something be done about it? I re-examined the stamp illustration in the article to confirm to myself that it indeed was the Soviet Ukrainian banner and then told him I would see what I could do.



FIGURE 1: Part of a UN Postal Administration ad publicizing the launch of Personalized Stamps at its New York headquarters. The product was developed to provide a special sheet of souvenir stamps to the many thousands of tourists who visit the U.N. in N.Y. each year. It consists of a gummed stamp sheet containing 20 U.N. stamps with blank tabs next to each stamp. Five stamp designs are repeated four times each on the sheet (it was one of these designs showing U.N. flags that had to be altered). At a Personalized Stamp Shop in the public visitor area of the U.N. building, a photo can be taken and within 90 seconds applied to the blank tabs on the souvenir stamp sheet.



FIGURE 2: A first day cover of the only previous U.N. stamp to depict a Ukrainian topic – the old Soviet Ukrainian flag – in 1981.

The following day (October 30, 2003) I phoned the U.N. Postal Administration (UNPA) and asked for whoever was in charge of stamp design. I was given the name of a Mr. S whom I then contacted. After introducing myself as the president of the UPNS, I explained the potentially embarrassing situation to him. He promised to get back to me shortly, and about 10 minutes later I received a call from Mr. G, chief of the UNPA in New York. I again spelled out the nature of the offensiveness on the stamp and he promised to see what could be done.

In a phone call with Mr. S the following day, he admitted the photo used was an old one – dating to 1985. He also intimated to me that he entirely sympathized with our situation, but that the bottom line was that the stamps were already printed and the administration was loath to have to destroy them (initial printing was 100,000 panes).

He mentioned that one proposal was to add a copyright symbol and the year "1985" in a little subscript at the bottom of each of these flag stamps, to show the age of the image. He didn't sound too enamored of the idea, however, and I added I didn't think it was really an acceptable solution.

Mr. S also mentioned that the original photo left out several other new countries, such as Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, that would have been in such a flag photo had it been taken more recently. So, there was another potential problem of additional countries being offended. He reassured me, however, that they would keep working on the predicament and would get back to me the following week.

In the meantime, Borys Fessak had e-mailed about a half dozen other UPNS members, urging them to contact the U.N. about the potential problem. He also sent an alert to Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations. How many UPNS recipients acted on his message is not known. The response Mr. Fessak received via e-mail from the UNPA was a standard form letter thanking him for his message.

All weekend I wondered what the result of our mini-campaign would be. By Monday I was sorely tempted to phone once more to see what was happening, but decided to wait and give the U.N. folks some more time. On Tuesday, November 4, 2003, I received a call from Mr. S informing me that the stamps had been pulled. A new, different flag design would be substituted. Apparently, in the preceding days, Ukrainian U.N. Mission representatives had visited the U.N. Postal Administration to also express

their concern.

I thanked Mr. S very much for his assistance in resolving this matter so promptly (only six days passed from when I made my first call to when they got back to me about withdrawing the stamp). It could not have been an easy decision to go ahead and destroy such a heavily publicized issue. Frankly, I was very impressed with the courtesy they showed me under somewhat trying circumstances.

The return favor

After the flag stamp situation was resolved, a very appreciative Mr. G asked me if there was anything the UNPA could do for the UPNS, or at least for the members who had participated in contacting his office. After thinking about it for a day or two, I got back to him with the following proposal. Wouldn't it be nice if the U.N. could release a stamp featuring some sort of Ukrainian topic? The only previous U.N. stamp with anything of the sort was released in 1981 as part of the U.N. stamp series showing the flags of U.N. member-states. Of course, the ensign depicted was the old Soviet banner of the time (Figure 2).

Mr. G was happy to inform me that just such a Ukrainian-themed stamp was planned as part of the ongoing U.N. Indigenous Art series. Ukrainian Easter eggs (pysanky) would be shown along with many other artistic representations from this year's designated part of the world – Europe. I was delighted to receive this news but asked if he could forward to me a copy of the image so that I could verify that the eggs were indeed from Ukraine. (Having narrowly avoided one faux pas, I wanted to make sure another one wasn't inadvertently created.)

As it turns out, I was happy I made the request. The scan that was sent me showed eggs that were indeed from Ukraine, but the picture was, in a word, awful. Of the half dozen or so eggs in the scene, three were so shadowed that they looked black. I quickly got back to the U.N. representatives and told them that the image was of Ukrainian eggs, but that it seemed extremely dark. I had slides of pysanky that were much brighter than theirs and would they like to have a look at them. If they found something they liked, they could use it at no charge.

Although they sounded just a trifle skeptical, I had by now developed a friendly relationship with the U.N. folks and they agreed to have a look. I quickly

(Continued on page 13)

Concerning U.N. stamps

The postage stamps and postal stationery of the United Nations do not serve the postal system of a single country, as most stamps do. Instead, U.N. stamps carry mail sent from the offices of an international organization that represents many different countries and billions of people all over the world.

The stamps of the United Nations often feature designs that promote the world causes of peace and justice, international cooperation, environmental and health issues, assistance for developing countries and similar concerns.

Most of today's United Nations stamps are issued in three versions for three different U.N. offices, New York, Geneva (Switzerland) and Vienna (Austria). Stamps for use at the United Nations headquarters in New York City are denominated in U.S.-dollars and cents, and the postage rates correspond with United States rates.

Stamps for use at the U.N. European Office (also known as Palais des Nations) in Geneva, are denominated in Swiss francs and centimes, and are inscribed with the name of the organization in French "Nations Unies."

The third set of stamps is created for use at the U.N. Donaupark Vienna International Center, or the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. These issues are denominated in Euros, and are inscribed in German "Vereinte Nationen."

The stamps of the United Nations cannot be used outside of U.N. offices. Mail bearing a stamp from the New York U.N. office must be deposited into the mail stream at U.N. Headquarters on Manhattan's East Side, not in a U.S. mailbox or a U.S.-post office elsewhere in New York.

Source: Linn's Stamp News, April 17, 2000.

Pysanky on stamps...

(Continued from page 12)

sent out a plastic slide holder of 20 stamp images I had taken for a project many years ago. Sure enough, about a week later, I learned that the UNPA had decided to use one of my most colorful slides prominently featuring a bright red egg. Not only that, they would use the image on the cover of their next Philatelic Bulletin (Figure 3) advertising forthcoming U.N. stamp releases. Needless to say, I was ecstatic (or should I say “eggstastic.”)

Stamp details

The Indigenous Art stamp series originated from a “Voices” exhibition, which was prepared for the first Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in May 2002. In collaboration with several working artisans and musicians, the “Voices” exhibition highlighted basic issues of indigenous rights, with the primary focus being preservation of culture. Issues addressed in the exhibition were: the right to preserve and maintain ceremonies and traditions, the right to protect intellectual property, the right to protect lands and the environment, and the right to maintain spiritual ceremonies and sites. The first stamps from this series, released in 2003, featured native art of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The U.N. has two other headquarters buildings around the world in addition to the one in New York City: in Geneva and in Vienna. Eighteen stamps were released on March 4 as part of this year’s Indigenous Art stamps, six to a souvenir sheet and one sheet assigned to each city. “My” stamp was assigned to the Viennese souvenir sheet, which seemed entirely

appropriate (Figure 4). After all, I’m only half Ukrainian, the other half is Austrian!

All 18 stamps in this year’s series are square in format (35 by 35 mm in size). The Viennese souvenir sheet displays the word “Eingeboreneskunst” (Indigenous Art) in large letters across the top and a U.N. emblem at the bottom center. Stamp designers were Rorie Katz and Robert Stein. A total of 133,000 souvenir sheets were prepared for the Austrian U.N. office (798,000 stamps) by Joh. Enschede Stamps Security Printers B.V. in the Netherlands.

The Vienna stamps received a value of 0.55 euros (about 70 cents) and the souvenir sheet (item number 792.2972) was assigned a price of \$4.31 in the Philatelic Bulletin catalogue. Jumbo first day covers with the Austrian U.N. souvenir sheet (item number 892.2972) acquired a price of \$5.30. Orders may be placed at the U.N. Postal Administration, P.O. Box 5900, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-5900 or at www.un.org/Depts/UNPA. This site has all the pertinent information about the Indigenous Art release, as well as lots of color images. A \$3 postage and handling charge is added to all U.N. philatelic orders.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Borys Fessak and any others who lobbied the U.N. last fall concerning the original inappropriate flag stamp.

No one won the pysanky pane and souvenir sheet offered in last month’s “Focus on Philately” column. The correct number of animals depicted on both items was 42: 41 on the pane and one on the souvenir sheet.

Inger Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 or at his e-mail address: ingert@starpower.net.



FIGURE 4: The U.N. souvenir sheet issued in Vienna that included the pysanky stamp to portray native art of Ukraine.

Our traditions in literature: Shevchenko and pysanky

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

If you need to think of a Ukrainian poem describing the beauty of the Ukrainian village and countryside, a poem by Taras Shevchenko (of course!) usually comes to mind: “Selo, i serte odpochyne, selo na nashii Ukraini, nenache pysanka, selo...” [A village, and the heart is at peace, a village in our Ukraine, a village like a pysanka...]

In another poem, “Na Velykden, na solomi...” [on Easter, on the straw...] Shevchenko describes how children brag about what gifts they received for Easter. The essence of the poem comes through in the English translation. But what will not and cannot come across in English is the beauty of Shevchenko’s work. The phrase “lost in translation” is certainly true here. The melody and beauty of the Ukrainian language – and how Shevchenko incomparably used it – defies translation. Ukrainian and Italian are regarded as the two most musical languages in the world, for singing, for opera and, I think, for poetry. This poem is in the C.H. Andrusyshen/Watson Kirkconnell translation, which retains the rhythm of the original:

On Easter Sunday among the straw
Out in the sun the children played
With Easter eggs in colors brow
And each of them loud boasting made
Of gifts received. One, for the feast,
Was given a shirt with sleeves of white;
One with a ribbon had been pleased,
One with a garment, laced and tight;
This boy was given a lambskin cap,
That one a pair of horsehide boots,
And one a jacket to unwrap.
Only one child among their bruits,
An orphan, had no gift of bliss;
Her hands are hidden in her sleeves.
She hears: “My mother bought me this,
My father got me that.” (She grieves.)
“My good godmother made a blouse
Embroidered gay with dainty thread.”
“The priest has fed me at his house,”
At last the little orphan said.
[Kos Aral, 1849, in exile]

It was traditional to dress in your finest clothing on a Sunday, especially in a white “sorochka,” a linen shirt – meaning not one for everyday, which may have been of hemp and slightly grayish. Those who could afford it wore the finer, white linen, instead of the cheaper, grayer hempen cloth.

For Easter, you wore everything new. The children bragging about their “obno-

va” [something renewed] are talking about the new clothing and accessories they received as gifts. Being an orphan himself, Shevchenko often wrote about “syroty,” “syritky” (orphans) and their sad life. The poor orphan has nothing to show off, nothing to brag about, other than the remarkable thing that she was invited for Easter breakfast at the priest’s home.

At the beginning of the poem, the children are playing with *krashanky*, the solid-colored eggs that are cooked and meant to be eaten. Shevchenko describes the custom correctly, because later, through the years, some people thought that it was the *pysanky* that you played with at Easter. This is incorrect. *Pysanky* are the symbolically decorated raw eggs, usually done by the batik process, which are reverent, ritual objects, symbols of the rebirth of nature, the power of the sun and the Resurrection. Traditionally these are not to be played with.

Because of their symbolism *pysanky* were so revered that they were to remain raw, unemptied, so as not to destroy the embryo inside the shell. In our time, to prevent old *pysanky* from exploding or oozing, we do empty them. Some *pysanka* writers wait to empty their *pysanky* until after Easter, after the blessing of the Easter basket and its contents, and the breakfast – thereby respecting the symbolism at least during the holy days.

Vadym Shcherbakivsky emphasized this in his 1926 work “Osnovni Elementy Ornamentatsiyi Ukrainskykh Pysanok i Yikhnie Pokhodzhennia” [The Basic Elements of the Ornamentation of Ukrainian Pysanky and Their Origin], Pratsi Ukrainskoho Istorychno-Filolohychnoho tovarystva v Prazi. Volume 1, Prague 1926. “The *pysanka* was never baked or cooked, and when this did occur, obviously it was from the degeneration of the custom. *Pysanky* were never played with, not in the games ‘bytky’ nor ‘kotky.’ The reason for this was not only that the *pysanka* is raw, but also, to my mind, that it was not proper [ne hodytsia] to break the portrayal, the symbols of the sun on the *pysanka*, it would just not be proper for a Christian to break a cross or an icon, or the impropriety of breaking any kind of talisman.”

In his book “Ornamentyka Ukrainskoyi Khaty” [Ornamentation of the Ukrainian House] (Rome, Bohoslovnia

(Continued on page 26)

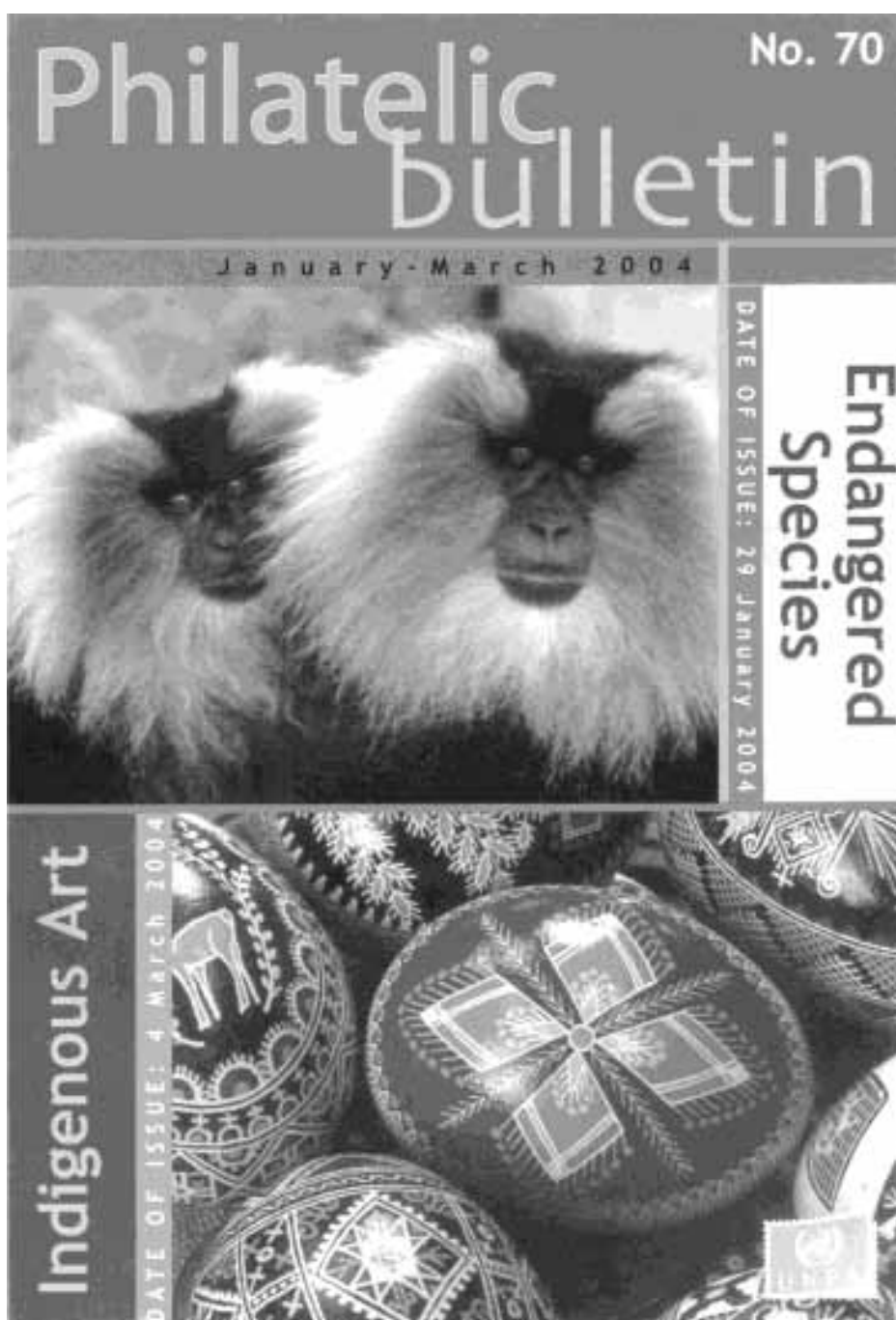


FIGURE 3: The cover of the U.N. Postal Administration’s January-March 2004 Philatelic Bulletin used the pysanky stamp to represent its Indigenous Art issue.



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*Roma Lisovich with children
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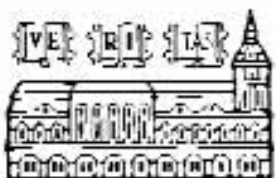
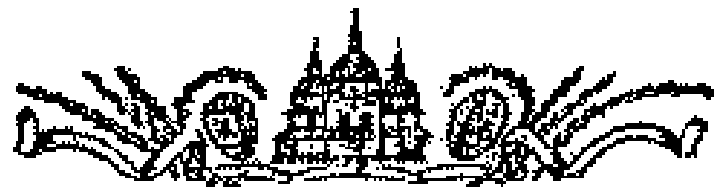
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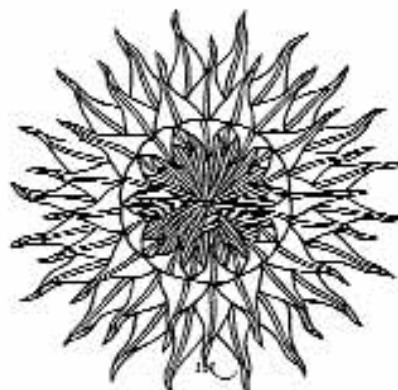
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ПЛАСТ – УКРАЇНЬСЬКА СКАВТСЬКА ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯ

вітає

з радісним празником Христового Воскресіння

Ієрархів Українських Церков і їхнє Духовенство,
Начального Пластуна, Голову Головної Пластової Ради
і Головної Пластової Булави, Крайову Пластову Старшину
в Україні й в усіх країнах, де діє Пласт, проводи і членство
українських установ і організацій, усіх пластунів, розкинутих по
світі, весь український народ на рідних землях і в діяспорі,
складаючи рівночасно найкращі побажання
радісних і щасливих свят

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пл. сен. ІГОР МИКИТА, Голова
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 В ЙОНКЕРСІ, СПРІНГ ВАЛІ, СТЕМФОРДІ
 ТА ОКОЛИЦЯХ

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на терені Америки й України.



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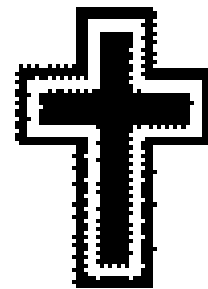
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

siles that went missing in the 1980s pose no threat because they could not fly, Interfax reported. Mr. Marchuk was commenting on his revelation last week that the Ukrainian military cannot account for "several hundred missiles." (RFE/RL Newsline)

CIS foreign ministers meet

MIENSK – The CIS Council of Foreign Ministers held a session in the Belarusian capital of Minsk on March 26 to discuss draft documents on cooperation to combat crime, conduct peacekeeping operations, and monitor elections, Belapan reported. The session also reportedly addressed the coordination of Commonwealth of Independent States members' stances on nuclear non-proliferation as part of preparations for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference scheduled for 2005. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who met with CIS ministers before the session, said he regards the quick establishment of a free-trade zone as the CIS's top priority. "We do not need any new declarative documents – it is necessary to finalize domestic procedures for the ratification of agreements that were signed earlier," RFE/RL's Belarusian Service quoted Mr. Lukashenka as saying. Mr. Lukashenka also expressed his hope that recent changes in the Russian government will contribute to furthering Belarusian-Russian relations. "We can prove to the whole world that we can advance considerably in our relationship," he said after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma cites unfulfilled promises

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said on March 26 that Ukraine will complete two reactors at the Rivne and

Khmelnyskyi nuclear-power plants on its own, Ukrainian Television reported. "Basically, this amounts to us making a challenge to the world, above all, to the G-7, which undertook a commitment but has not yet honored it," Mr. Kuchma said. "They promise to give us money this summer or autumn. Well, they may keep it for themselves. We will do it without them. I have no doubt about that." The Ukrainian president was referring to an earlier pledge by Western governments to assist Kyiv in completing the two reactors to make up for the power loss caused by the closure of the Chernobyl power plant in 2000. Mr. Kuchma threatened to sack Deputy Prime Minister Andriy Kliuyev "with a bang" if the reactors are not started "on time." The government previously pledged to complete the Khmelnytskyi reactor in August and the Rivne reactor in October of this year. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poll reveals attitude toward government

KYIV – Ukraine's Social Research Institute and Social Monitoring Center found in a March 6-12 poll that 14 percent of respondents have a positive attitude toward Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet, while for 32 percent describe their opinion as more positive than negative, Interfax reported on March 23. Of those polled, 16 percent said their evaluation of the government is negative. The poll also examined the presidential prospects of Ukrainian politicians under two scenarios: a) Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko runs as the single opposition candidate and there is no single pro-government candidate; b) Mr. Yanukovich runs as the single pro-government candidate and there is no single candidate from the opposition. Pollsters predicted that, under the first scenario Mr. Yushchenko would win 30 percent of the vote; Mr. Yanukovich, 14 percent; Communist Party leader

Petro Symonenko, 12 percent, National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhytko, 3 percent; and presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk, 2.5 percent. Under the second scenario, Mr. Yushchenko would be backed by 25 percent of voters; Mr. Yanukovich by 18 percent; Mr. Symonenko by 10 percent; Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz by 7 percent; Yulia Tymoshenko by 6 percent; and Radical Socialist Party Chairwoman Natalia Vitrenko by 3 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada OKs government program ...

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada voted 239-38 on March 16 to approve the government's action plan for 2004, called "Consistency. Efficiency. Responsibility," Interfax reported. The vote simultaneously acknowledged the performance of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet in 2003 as satisfactory. Most lawmakers from Our Ukraine, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc did not participate in the vote. A separate motion by the opposition to rate the government's performance last year as unsatisfactory was supported just by 109 lawmakers, well below the 226 votes required for approval. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... and suspends media audits

KYIV – Also on March 16, 294 legislators voted to impose a moratorium on

official audits of media outlets in Ukraine during the 2004 presidential-election campaign, UNIAN reported. A similar resolution, which was proposed by Mykola Tomenko from Our Ukraine and Ivan Bokii from the Socialist Party, was rejected by the Parliament earlier this month. President Leonid Kuchma issued an instruction to state authorities on March 15 to introduce a similar moratorium. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada extends ban on sale of farmland

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada voted overwhelmingly on March 3 to extend a ban on the sale of agricultural land until 2010, reported the Kyiv Post on March 18. Under the nation's land code, the ban, introduced at the end of 2001, was to expire by the end of this year. In the first of three required readings, 299 parliamentarians from the right and left opposition blocs, as well as pro-presidential forces, voted to extend the moratorium on the land sales. In the debate on the bill, lawmakers expressed concerns that existing land law was insufficiently developed for sales to take place, and fears that wealthy individuals would take advantage of the opportunity able to buy up land at low prices. Many lawmakers, including members of opposition blocs Our Ukraine and the Socialists said that tens of laws needed to be passed before Ukraine was ready for agricultural land sales. (ARTUIS)

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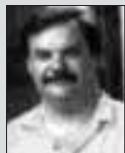
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Our traditions...

(Continued from page 13)

Publishers, 1980), he wrote: "In recent times, i.e., in the 20th century, the people already lost the understanding of the difference between a krashanka and a pysanka, not understanding them, as did the recorders of folklore - including Sumtsov - because they did not understand the meaning of the images on the pysanky."

A few of our artists also were not aware of this, because in some Ukrainian Easter cards, children are depicted as playing with pysanky, instead of krashanky. Even some curators and museum directors forget the difference, or perhaps just describe what the more recent custom was. The late Oleksii Solomchenko, long-term director of the Kosiv College of Folk and Decorative Arts, worked on his book about pysanky for many years, even after retirement.

"Pysanky Ukrainskykh Karpat" [Pysanky of the Ukrainian Carpathians] (Uzhhorod: Karpaty, 2002. ISBN 966-671-031-5) is well-illustrated, sometimes with not-so-authentic pysanky. In the text, Solomchenko writes that "pysanky were not just for exchange. They were played with in 'chokalky' and 'navbytky'" [tapping two together to see whose egg breaks first].

The pysanky that Shevchenko saw in his youth were not the intricate, ornate ones from the Hutsul region. His pysanky were simpler, in fewer colors and lines, but no less beautiful and interesting. They were from the Cherkasy region. This writer's review of "Pysanka," a book on these pysanky by Vadym Mytsyk and Oles Fysun (Kyiv: Rodovid, 1992) appeared in The Ukrainian Weekly (April 22, 2001). The book is still available through www.Rodovid.net.

Shevchenko wrote simply, elegantly, beautifully, intelligently, bluntly and very bravely. His work is both sophisticated and simple. It is as if he were talking to you. No wonder he is revered by all spectra of Ukrainian society throughout the world, and no wonder it was his Kobzar, along with or without, the Bible that was taken on the journey from the homeland. And, in his works, among all the rich imagery, symbolism and stories - the pysanka tells its story, too.

Bishop Basil Losten's...

(Continued from page 8)

document he has issued "Be not afraid!" Any future dialogue about the internal needs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in communion with Rome as well as with all other Sister Churches that bear the signs of unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity does not frighten us, for we are not a Church of proselytizers, nor do we seek anything that is rightfully ours. Perhaps the model of a decade-long growing existence of a Ukrainian Greek-Catholic parish in the city of Athens, Greece, ministering to thousands of its faithful emigrating there for economic reasons can speak more about the intentions of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to preach the Gospel without prejudice or proselytism than any statement issued by the ecumenical officers of each respective Church.

We approach you in the fraternal spirit of charity, of love for one another. Our Slavic heritage sprang from the same land; the blood that courses through our veins nourishes the life we profess for our faith; our roots fed the same liturgical tradition. Let us meet together at the same table and share our fears, our thoughts and our aspirations as brothers in blood and in Christ. May our mutual love and respect for one another be so profound that the word will see that we are truly "children of God."

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Marsha Skrypuch's "Silver Threads" available as fund-raiser for UCCLA

BRANTFORD, Ontario – Marsha Skrypuch's first children's book, "Silver Threads," was published in 1996. Illustrated by award-winning Canadian artist Michael Martchenko, "Silver Threads" was the first children's story to be published dealing with the imprisonment of Ukrainians during Canada's first national internment operations.

The book has been out of print and unavailable for several years, but now there is a revised edition. With an updated historical note, this edition combines the original color artwork, including portions left out of the original edition, with a list of resources that parents, educators and others will certainly find of use.

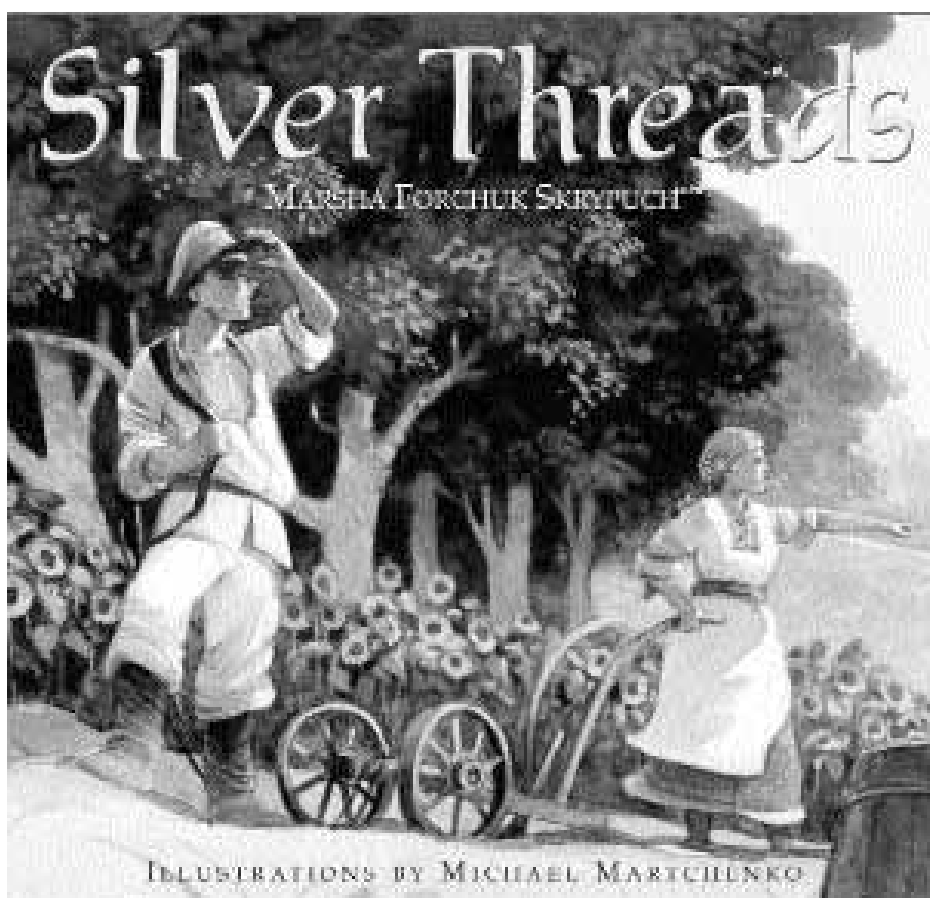
For a limited time, autographed copies of this new edition of "Silver Threads" will be available by mail-order in support of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, which has stood at the fore-

front of community efforts aimed at commemorating this unhappy episode in Canadian history and securing recognition from the federal government.

Each dollar raised through the sale of this edition of "Silver Threads" will go toward installing a plaque at the site of an internment camp or for related UCCLA educational efforts. The book makes an ideal gift for children of all ages.

To make a donation to UCCLA readers may buy one or more copies of "Silver Threads." The prices (shipping and tax included) are: one copy (softcover), \$13; two copies (softcover), \$23; one copy (hardcover), \$26.

Checks or money orders made payable to "UCCLA," along with requests for autographs and return addresses should be sent to: UCCLA, c/o Marsha Skrypuch, 274 Lynden Road, Brantford, Ontario, N3T 5L8.



The Ukrainian Museum to present pysanka-making demonstrations

NEW YORK – One of the most beautiful traditions lovingly perpetuated by Ukrainians throughout the world is the decorating of the Easter eggs. In every phase of this process, tradition is preserved, from the application of ancient designs and colors, to the time-honored method of "making a pysanka."

To share the secrets of the traditional Ukrainian pysanka, The Ukrainian Museum presents a demonstration in the making of pysanky on April 10, at 2-5 p.m. at the museum, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY (between 12th and 13th streets).

The fee is: \$4.50 for adults; seniors and students over 16, \$3; children under 12, free. Museum members receive a 15 percent discount.

The demonstration is a fun-filled event for the entire family. While experienced artisans create beautiful pysanky, visitors will have the opportunity to observe this process from the beginning to the end. Questions are always welcome and for those who are willing to try their hand at this ancient art form, supplies (beeswax, kistka, dyes, instruction booklets) will be

available for purchase either on the floor or in the Museum Gift Shop. For others, ready-made pysanky bearing simple or complex designs may be purchased as well.

During the demonstration an award-winning film by Slavko Nowytski, "Pysanka" is scheduled to run continuously during museum hours.

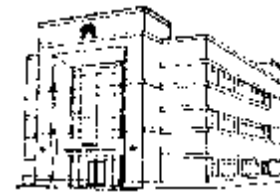
Pysanka comes from the Ukrainian word "pysaty," to write. The design is written on a white egg with a special writing tool called a kistka. Its funnel-shaped tip is filled with melted beeswax and transferred to the egg surface. The egg is dipped in color solutions, from the lightest to the darkest, with the wax protecting each applied hue. Finally, melting the wax over the hot candle flame reveals the majesty of the colors and the mystery in the design of the pysanka.

For further information about the demonstration, please contact The Ukrainian Museum at: telephone, (212) 228-0110; fax, (212) 228-1947; e-mail, info@ukrainianmuseum.org; or visit the museum's webpage at www.ukrainian-museum.org.

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U.S. officials...

(Continued from page 4)

United States.

He responded to a question on what was meant by "if the elections go well," by saying that it was what would lead up to the election that is important – what things have to stop, like pressure on journalists, harassment of opposition at rallies, as happened at Donetsk, and the like. If these things were to stop, that would be a very positive step he noted.

Christopher Grewe, international economist and Ukraine Desk officer at the U.S. Treasury Department, agreed with the two participants from the Embassy of Ukraine that Ukraine has been doing well economically. He noted that the beneficial influence of the policies set in place in 2000 and 2001, under Mr. Yushenko's term as prime minister, are still being felt and that the first half of last year was also a good period for economic policies.

Ukraine's macroeconomic policy has been good, Mr. Grewe observed, and Ukraine has also been "very lucky." Ukraine has a good central bank that has been reasonable and has had a fairly good fiscal policy. "You have to have stability if you are going to have economic growth. Our concerns are for the future. While we applaud what has happened, we always point out that Ukraine is not there yet; some substantial distortions still exist," he said. The time to address these distortions is now because some of these reforms will cause pain, so it is better to suffer that pain when the economy is doing well, observed Mr. Grewe.

Misdirected resources

For U.S. Treasury officials looking at Ukraine's situation, the energy sector is a major concern. "It is still one of the least transparent, most corrupt sectors in the economy" and provides subsidies to Soviet-era industries, even so far as to make them turn a profit. These resources are being misdirected," Mr. Grewe asserted.

The second major area to improve is the business climate. Mr. Grewe stated that there is a tremendous amount of potential in Ukraine for people to set up new businesses. He pointed to great trade ties with the EU and former Soviet republics, and the fact that the old Soviet system did not kill the entrepreneurial spirit. Instead of favoring some groups over others, however, there needs to be a transparent way for the government to obtain the funding that it needs.

On the political side, the Treasury

Department's concern is that free and fair elections support a free market economy. This is a well-established correlation throughout the world. "You can get economic growth without a democracy, as we have seen many times, but a really well functioning market economy really requires a free society, otherwise resources can't move within the economy because they are blocked by political concerns," Mr. Grewe noted.

Acknowledging the positive side, Mr. Grewe observed that Ukraine has had its fifth year of growth. It's a balanced growth with growth in consumption, in investments and in exports. All these different parts of the economy growing are very encouraging signs, especially in view of the economic situation in Ukraine in the 1990s. "In looking at this growth and the good outcomes, one of the questions we have asked is what is driving this? Where is the growth coming from?" Mr. Grewe said. It is really coming from Russia. Russia is growing in a very stable manner. Ukraine has reduced its share of exports to Russia, but Russia is still its major trading partner, he concluded.

Arriving at the meeting representing Rep. Weldon, Xenia Horczakiwskyj, the congressman's legislative director, relayed his apologies and explained that legislative priorities required him to stay on Capital Hill. Ms. Horczakiwskyj heard direct appeals about broadcasting concerns from participants who spoke on behalf of the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

Asta Banionis, special assistant to the president for public outreach at RFE/RL, and Jaroslaw Martyniuk, regional research manager, InterMedia, which does audience research in Ukraine for Radio Liberty and Voice of America, both spoke about Ukraine's clampdown on media outlets in Ukraine for international broadcasts.

Mr. Martyniuk observed that the only means of getting the signal to Ukraine currently is by short wave, but that the short wave signal to Ukraine for Ukrainian broadcasts is much weaker than the one for Russian-language broadcasts, as it has always been. Since 1996, broadcasters found a way around this through access to FM stations, but now that these are no longer available, the strength of the short wave signal is a critical issue.

He urged that the U.S. assign a stronger frequency to Radio Liberty, at least to the Ukrainian short wave, but warned that this would have to be done almost immediately in order for the U.S. to have an impact on elections six months ahead.

Ms. Horczakiwskyj promised to relay this appeal to Rep. Weldon and to work directly on the problem. She also announced that the Congressional Record for March 17, carried a floor statement by Mr. Weldon regarding his views on the troubled media situation in Ukraine.



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Let us live...

(Continued from page 6)

you!" Then Christ showed them the scars in his hands and his side. And Christ repeated to them, "Peace be with you!"

The Risen Christ's appearance to the apostles and His assurance of His peace upon them, comforted them, reassured them, and also challenged them. They were comforted with the knowledge that the living presence of Christ was always with them. They were reassured that eternal life in heaven with Christ was a sure thing. And they were challenged. It meant that Christ's way of life must become their way of living. Christ's resurrection is a divine stamp of approval upon everything Jesus said and did. Now Christ is among us as a living presence to help us do with our lives what Jesus did with his.

Easter means that loving one's enemies is not some novel idea. It is God's way. It is what God expects all of us to do. Easter means that forgiving 70 times is not an idealistic goal. It is God's way, and the way He wants us all to deal with our hurts and resentments. Easter means that greatness through service is more than just a lovely slogan. It is God's standard. It is what we are all called to do as followers of Christ – serve one another.

Let us all joyfully receive the comfort and reassurance of the meaning of Easter. Let us also embrace the challenge of Easter. Let each of us resolve to live as Easter people! Easter people are people who choose life in Christ. They try and live out their faith in all they say and do. Yes, there are times when we may make mistakes, or fail, or go into a slumber. We are all human. Easter people do not stay down. They rise above their faults and limitations, and try and make the living presence of Christ felt among us! And that is what we are called to be as a Church – bringing forth Christ's living presence among us.

Our Church needs Easter people! Resolve to let the Risen Christ work through you to bring forth His living presence in your church, in your homes, in your community. Resolve to become more involved with people and to show more interest in the well-being of other people and of your church. And always do it joyfully! Choose to live as Easter people! Not only will you share and give life to your family, parish and community, but you will gain life – everlasting life that the Risen Christ promised to all those who love Him!

That is my prayer for you and for me this Easter – that we live as Easter people for Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

+Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan-Archbishop

Radio Canada...

(Continued from page 9)

Cantonese and Ukrainian.

Those involved with the latter language take little comfort from RCI's assurances. The UCC's Mr. Skrypnyk said he is worried about the future of a shortened Ukrainian program that might not be readily available to people living in Ukraine.

"There is a need for Ukrainians to have access to unbiased information and learn about the Ukrainian community in Canada. If RCI relies on buying space on Ukrainian stations, there's a risk that bad people running them can cut off broadcasts of the Ukrainian program," he underscored. "RCI has to be on short-wave so that it's available to everybody."

The lingering uncertainty surrounding an already tough situation has left the Ukrainian program's employees "stressed," said Ms. Gavrilova, who joined the show in December 1993. "I don't know what to feel anymore – I'm sad."

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TENNIS CAMP kicks off the summer with 2 weeks of intensive tennis instruction for boys and girls ages 12-18. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, expert lessons and a life time of memories are included!

June 20 - July 2, 2004

\$540 UNA Members, \$590 Non UNA Members

\$120 Instructors Fee/ Per Student

EXPLORATION DAY CAMP— a new day camp for boys and girls ages 7-10, with 6 hours of supervised day fun!

Week One: June 28- July 2, 2004

Week Two: July 5- July 9, 2004

\$100.00 Per Week/Per Child OR \$25.00 Per Day/Per Child

ADVENTURE CAMP is a brand new sleepover camp for 13-16 year olds and will focus on the outdoors. Like the Kozaks of old, daily life will include outdoor, overnight campouts with cooking & fireside storytelling. Will include wilderness survival skills, a kayak river trip, hiking, rock climbing lessons and more!

Week One: July 17 - July 24, 2004

Summer Camps 2004

Week Two: July 24- July 31, 2004

\$425 UNA Members, \$475 Non UNA Members

DISCOVERY CAMP a new sleepover program modeled after the Adventure Camp but geared for 8-12 year olds. This camp offers exposure to Ukrainian heritage & outdoor instruction. Daily life is filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, organized sports & games, bonfires, song and much more. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, and a life time of memories are included!

Week One: July 10- July 17, 2004

Week Two: July 17- July 24, 2004

Week Three: July 24- July 31, 2004

\$375- UNA Members, \$425- Non UNA Members

CHIMNEY YOUTH DAY CAMP a returning favorite for boys and girls ages 4-7. Kids will be exposed to Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games. Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.

Week One: July 18 - July 23, 2004

Week Two: July 25 - July 30, 2004

\$135 Per Camper

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\$400 for Course

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DANCE CAMP this sleepover camp has been a Soyuzivka favorite for over 25 years. Taught by Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, an internationally recognized dancer and choreographer, and offers instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced students ages 8-16. Attendance is limited to 60 students. Room, board, 24-hour supervision, expert lessons and loads of fun are included.

August 8- August 21, 2004

\$610- UNA Members, \$660- Non UNA Members

\$250 Instructors Fee Per Student

\$75 Deposit Required to Register Child into a Camp.

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Connecticut ballet production features Ukrainian talents



Areta Bojko (center) performs with American Ballet Theater stars Jared Matthews and Sarah Lane in the production of "The Snow Queen" at St. Joseph's College in Hartford.

by Alexander Kuzma

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — On January 10, at the Carol Autorino Center on the campus of St. Joseph College, the Connecticut Dance Project and Premier Dance Studio produced a new ballet production titled "The Snow Queen."

Under the direction of two recent émigrés from Ukraine, Alla Nikitina and Boris Gershman, this original ballet related the timeless story by Hans Christian Andersen of a cruel snow queen who resents the growing love between two youngsters (Gerda and Kai). She casts a wicked spell on Kai and carries him off to her ice castle, forcing his heartsick friend Gerda to set out on an arduous journey through dangerous and mysterious lands before she can break the spell and win back his heart.

The ballet featured a promising young star in Areta Bojko of Glastonbury, Conn., as Gerda. Ms. Bojko danced flawlessly and with charming grace, having to hold her own in the company of seasoned virtuosi such as Sarah Wroth of the Boston Ballet, who convincingly played the role of the Snow Queen, and Jared Matthews and Sarah Lane of the American Ballet Theatre. (Ms. Lane and Mr. Matthews traveled from New York City to perform a stunning pas de deux in the roles of the Prince and Princess). Another standout in the production was Anastasia Teterichko, who danced in the role of the chieftain of the Child Robbers who steal Gerda's possessions on her journey north. The chieftain's role demands tremendous energy yet subtlety as she eventually takes mercy on Gerda and commands her gang of robbers to return the stolen items.

In addition to their training with the Premier Dance Studio, Ms. Teterichko and Ms. Bojko are both members of the Zoloty Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Hartford under the direction of Orlando Pagan, formerly of Syzokryli and currently a member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Other Ukrainian American children in the Snow Queen cast included Olya Lyba and Orest Markiv.

In describing their motivation for the new ballet, Ms. Nikitina and Mr. Gershman stated that they were looking for an alternative to Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" that might be of interest to the public during the winter season. "We grew up in a time and a place, Ukraine, where this particular story was very popular. The powerful impression that this story made on us then inspired us to create and choreograph it for the stage."

The creative process that led to the successful production was quite daunting, according to Ms. Nikitina. "It was a great pleasure to work on this ballet, but it was also an enormous challenge. First of all,

there was no musical score ... we had to put one together with the music of Glazunov and Shostakovich. [Other excerpts included Dvorak and Chopin.] We had to listen to hundreds of CDs in order to select from them the golden passages of melody that reflect the mood and events of the story. Furthermore, as a new arts organization in the Greater Hartford dance community, we didn't receive any funding for our venture, and so our budget was, literally, zero. We had to borrow costumes, instead of having them made especially for this work, and we had to rent scenery, as well, instead of having it custom-built for our purposes," she related.

In addition to the 60 members of the Premier Dance Studio, "The Snow Queen" also drew on the talents of the Hartt School of Music – Dance and Theatre Division, Dance Connecticut, the University of Hartford, and Ethel Walker School in Simsbury.

The sold-out crowd at the Autorino Center rewarded the performers with a well-deserved standing ovation. At a time when few ballet companies are willing to risk original new productions, much less in the classical tradition, the audience was left to wonder what exciting new creations Ms. Nikitina and Mr. Gershman may produce in the future.

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Lazarenko trial...

(Continued from page 2)

guarantees that Gazprom was insisting upon.

The transcript states:

“Question: So [then Gazprom head Rem] Viakhirev wanted bank, prime bank guarantees, but you got him to accept sugar, vegetable oil, butter, pork and beef instead?”

“Answer (Minchenko): Yes. The food-stuff.”

Mr. Minchenko explained that the consortium had Ukrainian state guarantees for barter payments for 2.5 billion cubic meters of gas monthly. The monthly needs of Ukraine were 7 billion cubic meters. But this guarantee was only in case Ukrainian commercial structures, members of the consortium, failed to pay Gazprom.

In the transcript, Mr. Minchenko says:

“Answer: The text of the guarantee, the supply of the goods under this guarantee starts after notification from Gazprom to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the 15th day of the following month about the debt of wholesale buyer, and are carried out within 30 days from the indicated day.

“Question: And if you look at the sentence right above that one, can you explain that provision?”

“Answer: In case any of the wholesale buyers carry – has debts – has debts under the contracts specified above, and the amount of debt is 40 percent or more of the overall amount of supplies to any one of them, the Ukrainian government pays off the debt with the goods in accordance with the nomenclature agreed with Gazprom.”

Mr. Minchenko was then shown a document and asked if he had seen it earlier. He replied that, yes, he saw it, but since it was an internal memo of UkrNaftoGasProm, then the state gas company, and not from his ministry, he did not bother to read it carefully.

The document describes how the consortium, as a legal entity, was now actively trading gas. When asked how this came to be, the former minister for fuels and energy replied that he did not know.

Afterwards, according to the transcript of the deposition, Mr. Minchenko was asked:

“Question: (Martha Boersch, the U.S. prosecutor): And when you worked for the government were you aware that in 1997 \$13 million was paid by [UESU] to accounts controlled by Mr. Lazarenko in the United States?”

“[Harold] Rosenthal [a former member of the Lazarenko defense team]: Objection. Argumentative. It assumes facts not in evidence.

“Answer (Minchenko): Why?

Certainly not. I didn't know this.

“Question: Were you aware that in 1996 approximately \$84 million was paid into accounts controlled by Mr. Lazarenko and a man named Peter Kiritchenko [Petro Kirichenko] by Somolli Enterprises. [Somolli Enterprises is described in Mr. Lazarenko's indictment as an offshore company controlled by Ms. Tymoshenko.]

“Rosenthal: Now, this is just sheer argument.

“The interpreter: By whom? Sorry. I didn't get the name.

“Boersch: Somolli Enterprises.

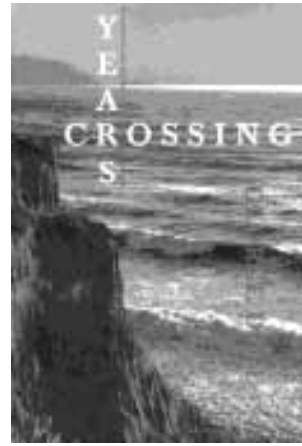
“Answer: Well, I never knew this. And I don't know this today. I have no idea. I have no idea about these things.”

On March 26, Interfax-Ukraine reported that Ms. Tymoshenko stated that she would not attend the trial in San Francisco as a witness, giving as her reason her busy schedule in Kyiv. She added that she had given testimony already in Kyiv that she believed in Mr. Lazarenko's innocence.

After the deposition of Mr. Minchenko, Harold Rosenthal was visibly angry at the behavior of Oleh Ukrainets, an investigator from the Procurator General's Office in Ukraine, during the interrogation of an earlier witness, Volodymyr Karpovtsev, a functionary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

According to the transcript of that deposition on May 30, Mr. Rosenthal said: “There were at least 55 other questions that we had to ask of him – and I can go through those in a second – but the most – one of the – the troubling aspect of it, though, was the fact that Mr. Ukrainets, again, and the record will speak for itself, made statements that in my estimation encouraged Mr. Karpovtsev in his non-cooperation, including the statement that he could walk out at any time that he wanted to, that he didn't have to answer any questions, which was first introduced into the mix by Mr. Ukrainets.”

The prosecution in turn reminded Mr. Rosenthal that he had numerous occasions to cross-examine Mr. Karpovtsev. Mr. Karpovtsev later appeared in person in San Francisco to testify, at which time he said that he was pressured by his superior at the Cabinet of Ministers, who in turn was being pressured by Mr. Lazarenko, to endorse an inflated payment chit for six homes purchased by the Cabinet of Ministers from GHP Corp., a company controlled by Mr. Kirichenko, then Mr. Lazarenko's partner. The purchase price on the inflated voucher was \$1.4 million, while the actual price of the homes was \$542,763. The difference, \$889,749, according to the indictment, was split, with half going to an account controlled by Mr. Lazarenko.



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UAVeterans post in Palatine engaged in diverse activities

PALATINE, Ill. – The Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35 located in Palatine, Ill., has established itself in the community via diverse activities.

The post has been involved in the local "Yellow Ribbon" project which sends out care packages to soldiers in the Iraqi theater of operations.

The veterans are also involved in training local citizens to respond to terrorist and natural disasters through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) sponsored by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The CERT training includes: search and rescue, terrorism, disaster psychology, medical care and a final realistic exercise.

On March 7 members of Post 35 attended a special military divine liturgy at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, Ill., whose pastor, the Rev. Bohdan Kalynyuk, is the chaplain for the Palatine post.

The UAV post members also continue to encourage the Ukrainian government to recognize the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and to provide full benefits to these veterans.

In the future, UAV Post 35 plans to hold a conference on World War II and to organize leadership meetings with youth groups.

Veterans in the Chicago suburban areas may join the Palatine post, named for 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor, by contacting the commander, Roman Golash, at romangolash@cs.com.

Morris County UCCA concert celebrates arrival of spring



Performers of the spring concert organized by the Morris County Branch of the UCCA.

by Antin Bilanych and Michael Koziupa

WHIPPANY, N.J. – On March 7, with nature starting to stir after a long winter's sleep, a concert to greet spring was organized here by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Morris County Branch.

The event took place in the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church hall. The performers were members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), Whippany Branch; Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Newark branch; School of Ukrainian Studies; and the local singing quartet

Samotsvit.

The concert started off with a greeting and general introduction by Michael Koziupa, vice-president of the Morris County Branch of the UCCA.

First on stage, prepared by their counselor, Katia Kucyna, were the younger members of the SUM Whippany Branch, who performed a short play titled "Three Butterflies" and also sang two songs. They were followed by members of Plast organized by Nusia Paszczak Denysyk. An excerpt from Taras Shevchenko's "Son" (Dream) was read by Adrian Sirko. Members of the girl's troop Berizky read an excerpt from Ivanna Savytska's "Vesnuvannia."

Next to perform was a choir composed of children from the younger grades of the Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies under the direction of Oksana Telepko. The choir sang three songs. Last to perform was the local quartet

Samotsvit, whose members are Zoryana Kovbasniuk, Ms. Telepko, Orest Kucyna and Mr. Koziupa, who also accompanies the group on the accordion. The quartet performed four songs expressing a variety of musical styles and emotions.

The last number of the concert was the well-known song "Chervona Ruta." All the performers came on stage and the audience stood to sing this song together in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of the death of the song's composer/lyricist, Volodymyr Ivasiuk.

With raised spirits the audience left the hall believing that the soon-to-be-built Ukrainian Cultural Center in Whippany will be utilized to help preserve the Ukrainian culture for succeeding generations.

A hearty thank you was expressed to Ms. Kovbasniuk (events organizer for the local UCCA branch, Linda Kleban and Mr. Koziupa for decorating the stage.

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Celebrate the Resurrection...

(Continued from page 6)

and preaching of His First-called Apostle Andrew in our native Ukraine. We need to remind ourselves that reducing Christ – risen from the dead – to some formula, some sort of nominal and convenient belief system, be it personal or societal, does injustice to His Gospel of Life, the spiritual constitution of every Christian.

The society in which we live today, though technologically advanced, is confronted by the same ills that confronted the people of Christ's era and the earliest Christians following Pentecost. Poverty, injustice, amorality, revolutions, military occupation, religious communities with a political agenda, slaughter on a grand scale – they all plagued society then as they do now. The followers of the Risen Christ proclaimed the Gospel of Life to the troubled and confused world of their time, especially by example of their personal way of life. They had no political agenda, they coerced not. The secret of their success was their loyalty to Christ resurrected. They were formed by faith, convinced that all life is sacred and that true religion – the binding of one's self to God – is, paraphrasing Apostle James, in helping others to know that God is Love and to love is to serve.

These followers of Christ purified themselves first and repented or simply put – changed their attitude – served the least of Christ's brethren, regardless of race, gender or religion. They remained faithful to the spotless Bride of Christ – His Church – and thereby altered the course of history and the face of civilization, creating a strong, positive impact on all aspects of social life.

We now live in an age of convenient compromises. Marriage, the foundation of society, sanctified by Father, Son and Holy Spirit from the very beginning and affirmed by the Son of God in Cana of Galilee, has and is being distorted, slowly compromised and redefined. Abortion is a matter-of-fact occurrence, just another form of family planning. The Church, often harmed by the actions of its members – clergy and laity alike – is the object of slow and methodical marginalization, its forms of worship, Western or Eastern, being reduced to exotic and charming trappings of a bygone era – an "unenlightened" period in human history.

Pascha 2004 challenges us to be faithful to the Gospel and to the Kingdom of God of which we became inheritors at our Baptism. Our predecessors – men and women, fathers, mothers and children of faith, once altered the face of the world. Is it so difficult to believe that the world in which we live and work out our salvation can again be enhanced by a new generation of apostles and disciples – people of faith – who after personal purification, could be enabled to behold Christ in their fellow man? Is it so difficult to believe that we can overcome the evils of our time instead of enabling them?

We believe, we are convinced that we can accomplish as much as our predecessors in the faith if only we will, in the words of St. Paul, "behave in a manner fitting our vocation" and be convinced that we and all who celebrate this "day of Resurrection" in the U.S.A., Canada, England, Latin America, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Ukraine are "a particular people ... a holy nation," purified and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, called to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, called to witness the truth despite the climate of our time.

May this day of Resurrection, Pascha, sanctify us and bring us ever closer to Christ and through Him to each other, as we proclaim: "Christ is Risen from the dead trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life!"

- + **Wasyly, Metropolitan**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + **Constantine, Metropolitan**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora
- + **John, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + **Antony, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.
- + **Vsevolod, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.
- + **Ioan, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora
- + **Yurij, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + **Jeremiah, Bishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy in Latin America

Need a back issue?

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

SPA WEEKEND ESCAPE!

Soyuzivka Resort • Kerhonkson, NY

April 30 – May 2, 2004

Ladies, let's escape for a weekend of fun, leisure, and physical fitness!

Branch #95 UNWLA
invites you to join us!

We will have many exciting and innovative activities including walks, yoga, makeovers, gourmet organic cooking, massages, therapies, etc.

Treat yourself for Mothers' Day!

Activities will include but are not limited to:

- Massages
- Therapies
- Hot Stone
- Reflexology
- Salt Glow
- European Facials



(All are given by licensed therapists.)

Fees start at \$35 per 30 minutes session.
(Payable at the time of each session.)

Advanced scheduling recommended.
Please contact:

Sonia at Soyuzivka at 845-626-3641
to schedule your appointment.

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$40 for the weekend
Covers demonstrations (makeover by Coty, gourmet cooking by our "Emari", aesthetician consultation, etc.) and classes (yoga, tai chi, etc.)

ROOM AND BOARD:

\$150 pp. standard double occupancy
Includes Friday night wine and cheese, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner and Sunday breakfast.

Both payable in advance with registration form. PLEASE!!!

For further information please contact:
Cathy Gorham at 845-485-8457
E-mail: cgorham@tvc-ny.com

Please respond by: April 16, 2004

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

April 10, 2004

Easter Brunch – \$17.00
+ tax & gratuities per person
Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

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

April 30-May 2, 2004

UNWLA Branch 95, Kerhonkson,
N.Y. sponsors a Spa Weekend

May 7-9, 2004

2nd Annual Cinco De Mayo
Festivities – outside performance
and zabava with LUNA

May 9, 2004

Mother's Day Brunch
Traditional Ukrainian Meal
– \$15.00

May 14, 2004

Ellenville High School Junior Prom

May 15, 2004

Wedding – Stephan Kowalczyk
and Alexandra Raut

May 21, 2004

Rochester Fire Company Banquet

May 21, 2004

Ellenville Retired Teachers Lunch

May 22, 2004

Girls Scout Fashion Show

May 28-31, 2004

Memorial Day Weekend
Friday pub night with band,
Saturday with Fata Morgana, and
Sunday with Askold Buk Trio

June 3, 2004

Ellenville Teachers School
Related Association Banquet

June 7-10, 2004

Clergy Days

June 13, 2004

80th Birthday Party, Tony Percoco

June 14-18, 2004

UNA Seniors' Week

June 18-20, 2004

Adoptive Parents' Weekend,
sponsored by the Embassy
of Ukraine and the UNA

June 20, 2004

Father's Day Program

June 20 - July 2, 2004

Tennis Camp

June 22, 2004

Girls Scout Fashion Show

June 27 - July 4

Plast Camp – Tabir Ptshat,
Session One



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 141
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 14

TORONTO: The Center for Russian and East European Studies and the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine in cooperation with the consulate general of Ukraine in Toronto, present a panel titled "Evolution of Canadian-Ukrainian Economic Relations: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective." The panel will be chaired by Dr. Ihor Lossovskiy, consul general of Ukraine in Toronto, and will touch upon the following issues: "Bilateral Trade Flows in the Global Context," Dr. Oleh Havrylyshyn, CREES visiting scholar and deputy director, International Monetary Fund, with Andrew Shipilov, Ph.D. candidate, Rotman School of Management; "History and Prospects of Economic Relations between Ukraine and Canada," Mykola Kryzhanovskiy, head of the Trade and Economic Mission, Embassy of Ukraine, Canada; "Business Experience and Legal Procedures," Bohdan S. Onyschuk Q.C., Gowlings, and CREES advisory committee; and, "A Historian's Perspective," Orest Subtelny, professor, departments of history and political science, York University. The panel will be held in Room 208, North Building, Munk Center for International Studies, University of Toronto, 1 Devonshire Place, at 4-6 p.m. Please RSVP to larysa.iarovenko@utoronto.ca or call (416) 946-8113.

Friday, April 16

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and Mayana Gallery present "Literature as an Educational Tool in a Child's Development," a program featuring Ulana Starosolska, former editor of "Our Life," who will speak about the children's section of the magazine; and Lubov Dmytryshyn-Chasto, editor of "The National Tribune," who will discuss the current need for a children's maga-

zine in the Ukrainian language; with introductory remarks by Jaroslawa Gerulak. The audience is invited to participate in the discussion. Donation: \$7; students, \$5. The gallery presents the "Ukrainian Literature for Children" exhibit. The program will take place at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor, at 7 p.m. For more information call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 777-8144; log on to www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/; or e-mail ukrartlitclub@aol.com.

Monday, April 19

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) is pleased to announce that this year's Vasyl and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr. Yaroslav Hrytsak, director, Institute for Historic Research, Ivan Franko National University, Lviv. The lecture, titled "A Ruthenian Peasant in a German Outfit: Ivan Franko and the Making of Ukrainian Identity," will be held in the Thompson Room, Barker Center, Harvard University, at 4-6 p.m. The Barker Center is located at 12 Quincy St. For more information call HURI at (617) 495-4053 or e-mail huri@fas.harvard.edu.

TORONTO: The Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the University of Toronto presents the workshop "Media and Politics in Ukraine," with Prof. Marta Dyczok, departments of political science and history, University of Western Ontario, and Dr. Mykola Riabchuk, Center for European Studies, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Kolasky Memorial Fellow, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. The workshop will be held in Room 108N, Munk Center for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place, at 4-6 p.m. For more information visit the program's website at www.utoronto.ca/jacyk/.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (**\$20 per submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

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

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$20 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information and payment should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

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11:30-Doors Open
\$17++ per person
Brunch featuring
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Salmon & More
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