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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

UNA to participate in UCCA congress

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — This weekend, Friday through Sunday, September 24-26, the Ukrainian National Association will participate in the 19th Congress of Ukrainian Americans — the quadrennial convention of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

As readers may recall, at the 2003 annual UNA General Assembly meeting held November 21-23, at Soyuzivka, assembly members voted to restore the UNA's decades-long relationship with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) on the same basis and status as had been established during its original membership. A UNA statement released after this important vote noted: "It is our sincere hope that this step will serve as an incentive for others to seek common ground on which to build mutual cooperation for the good of our community. For, let us remember, only with unity comes strength."

The statement also underscored: "Only from a position of strength and cooperation can we, as a community, have a powerful, united voice in the public arena. As such, the Ukrainian National Association, mindful of the fact it represents a body of over 45,000 members of diverse and varied viewpoints, believes it is essential to foster a cooperative and unifying spirit within our community."

Yushchenko victim of chemical poisoning

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — National Deputy Yuri Kostenko said on September 21 that the presidential campaign team of Viktor Yushchenko had information that ricin was the chemical agent that nearly killed the presidential candidate.

"I would like to say that this is merely a portion of the information that we have gathered," explained Mr. Kostenko in an interview broadcast on Radio Liberty. Mr. Kostenko is chairman of the National Party, which is a primary member of the Our Ukraine political bloc headed by National Deputy Yushchenko. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Power of the People coalition, the political organization spearheading the

Yushchenko presidential candidacy.

Mr. Yushchenko, puffy-faced, drooling and teary-eyed, made his first public appearance on September 18 after being released from a Viennese hospital, where he had been treated for an acute and still mysterious case of chemical poisoning as well as pancreatitis, colitis and gastritis, all a result of the poisoning.

The current leader in the race for the presidential seat told a crowd of some 15,000 supporters that he would not be stopped in his quest to win the presidency, no matter what methods might still be used by those out to restrain him.

"You will not poison us. You do not have enough bullets and KamAZ trucks. You cannot break us," said Mr. Yushchenko, his voice strong and unwa-



Viktor Yushchenko speaks during a rally in Kyiv after being released from a Vienna hospital where he was treated for poisoning.

Ukraine's defense minister is out

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma announced on September 22 during a visit to a rocket fuel-reprocessing factory that he had accepted the resignation of Minister of Defense Yevhen Marchuk.

"Today I said that I have accepted Marchuk's resignation in connection with what is happening here," Mr. Kuchma said after meeting with officials of the plant, located in Pavlohrad, just outside of Dnipropetrovsk.

Mr. Kuchma explained that the move came as a result of the defense minister's failure to take control of massive weapons storage problems in the country, including poor administration of the reprocessing of solid rocket fuel from Ukraine's now defunct nuclear arsenal.

He noted that the issues surrounding the Pavlohrad plant were part of a larger problem of ammunition disposal in the country, which included the explosions that rocked the city of Melitopol on May

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vering, although he did not look well. Throughout his speech he dabbed a handkerchief to swollen eyes and partially paralyzed lips that did not allow him to speak or swallow properly.

Mr. Yushchenko told the rally, which was simulcast to about a half million Ukrainians gathered in town and city centers throughout Ukraine, that "the bandit state authorities want one thing: to continue to rule at all costs."

In an appearance that had been planned before the onset of the ordeal that nearly

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Tribute to Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky held in New York

by Helen Smindak

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

NEW YORK — In a moving tribute to an unforgettable dance personality and her remarkable legacy, the Ukrainian Institute of America bestowed its first Lifetime Achievement Award on the late Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky on Sunday, September 12.

The presentation took place at a festive luncheon in a setting ideally suited to the memory of a diva known for her gracious manners — the stately Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Park Avenue. Bouquets of deep red roses, evoking the love and respect of students and admirers for the Ukrainian community's "Pani Roma," adorned tables throughout the room.

Invocations were offered by the Rev. Andriy Kulyk of All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Rev. Bernard Panchuk of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Speakers cited Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky for her dedication to teaching Ukrainian folk dance and transmitting her love and knowledge of Ukrainian dance traditions to thousands of young people in the diaspora. The former prima ballerina of the Innsbruck State Opera House in Vienna, who passed away in May following a serious illness, devoted 40 years to ballet and Ukrainian dance instruction — 25 of those as director of the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dancers of New York.

As more than 400 guests looked on, UIA president Walter Nazarewicz presented a statuette of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky to her daughter, Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych, and son, Boris Bohachevsky, paying tribute to a woman "who helped to preserve,

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24 candidates registered for final presidential ballot

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ten minutes before a September 20 deadline was to pass, three final announced candidates for the post of president of Ukraine submitted the 500,000 petition signatures required by Ukrainian election law to continue in the process, which culminates with a general election on October 31.

The three, Mykhailo Brodskyi, Mykola Rohozhynskyi and Mykola Hrabar, joined Serhii Komisarenko and Natalia Vitrenko, who also submitted their petitions on the final day, to bring to 25 the number of candidates for the post of president. Three days later the number was reduced to 24 when Vitalii Kononov withdrew from the race.

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ANALYSIS

Was there a second attempt on Viktor Yushchenko's life?

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

On Saturday, September 18, opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, the front-runner in the October presidential elections, spoke in front of 70,000 supporters in Kyiv upon his return from Vienna. Mr. Yushchenko warned the authorities, "We will not be poisoned!" Bullets or KamAZ trucks would not destroy those like himself, Mr. Yushchenko added, as many thousands more would follow in the footsteps of Vadym Hetman (the National Bank of Ukraine chairman murdered in 1998), Vyacheslav Chornovil (a nationalist killed in a mysterious car accident in 1999), Heorhii Gongadze (the opposition journalist murdered in 2000) "and many, many more good people of Ukraine" (Ukrainska Pravda, September 18).

Mr. Yushchenko's use of the word "poisoning" was deliberate. His election campaign believes he dodged a assassination attempt, this time by poison. Oleksander Zinchenko, head of Yushchenko's campaign, told a press conference, "There is enough evidence to say that it was an attempt on the life of presidential candidate Yushchenko" (Reuters, September 17).

On September 6, Mr. Yushchenko became acutely ill, and Ukrainian doctors diagnosed him as having food poisoning.

Nevertheless, his health failed to improve. On September 10, Mr. Yushchenko was sent to Vienna to be consulted by Austrian doctors at the Rudolfinerhaus clinic.

Eleven highly qualified Austrian doctors diagnosed his illness as "acute pancreatitis accompanied by interstitial edematous changes" (Interfax-Ukraine, September 17). The mortality rate from this condition is 15 percent; when it is not treated the mortality rate is as high as 80 percent (UNIAN, September 17). The Yushchenko team was quick to point out that an autopsy had diagnosed Our Ukraine National Deputy Oleh Oleksenko, who died in 2002, to have suffered from the same illness as Mr. Yushchenko.

Tests revealed that Mr. Yushchenko's ill health was "due to a serious viral infection and chemical substances which are not normally found in food products," Mr. Zinchenko claimed (Reuters, September 17). In other words, Yushchenko's illness was not due to food poisoning, as Ukrainian doctors initially claimed, but to chemical poisoning.

Political commentator Mikhail Pogrebynsky, a consultant to Viktor Medvedchuk's Social Democratic United-Party (SDPU), denied that this

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Yushchenko continues to lead in Ukrainian presidential race

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Opinion polls are again at the center of Ukraine's 2004 presidential elections. The gap between Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich continues to remain stable at 5-8 percent (Ukrainska Pravda, September 9). Throughout the year Mr. Yushchenko's ratings have increased from 21 to 30 percent, and Mr. Yanukovich's from 9 to 27 percent.

If the election goes into a second round, Mr. Yushchenko would obtain 40.2 and Mr. Yanukovich 33.2 percent, according to a new Democratic Initiatives-Socis (DI-Socis) poll (Ukrainska Pravda, September 7). This lead would not necessarily ensure outright victory for Mr. Yushchenko, as it is commonly thought that state "administrative resources" could add up to 10 percent to Mr. Yanukovich's final tally.

Polls cited by Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc give a wider lead for Mr. Yushchenko of 35-41 percent in both rounds versus 23-29 percent for Mr. Yanukovich (razom.org.ua, August 18). The Yushchenko election team believes that his true level of support is higher than polls suggest because, "Some today are afraid of saying that they are for Mr. Yushchenko, while others are embarrassed to say they are for Yanukovich" (Ukrainska Pravda, September 9). Opinion polls are often conducted by telephone, but many voters are suspicious as to who is actually asking the question. Voters who work in the state sec-

tor have been warned not to vote for Mr. Yushchenko if they want to keep their jobs.

One factor working in Mr. Yushchenko's favor is his status as an underdog. When asked which candidate had been given the best campaigning conditions, 64.3 percent said Mr. Yanukovich and only 4.9 percent for Mr. Yushchenko, according to the DI-Socis poll. This imbalance reflects the fact that only 12.5 percent of Ukrainians actually believe the elections will be held in a free and fair manner.

Acrimony over opinion polls has rested upon whether the gap predicted for a runoff between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich is growing or narrowing. The Razumkov Center found that the gap had slightly increased from 7.4 to 7.7 percent between June and July (Ukrainska Pravda, August 3). The gap recorded by DI-Socis was higher at 9.3 percent, while the Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology reported a 12 percent gap in round two (Channel 5 television, August 10).

These positive results gave grounds for the opposition to celebrate what they believed was growing support for Mr. Yushchenko. The opposition newspaper Ukraina Moloda (July 26) reported that Mr. Yushchenko's popularity in the second round was now growing five times faster than Prime Minister Yanukovich's.

With that trend, it is understandable that the Kyiv International Institute for Sociology (KIIS) was sharply criticized for reporting that the second-round gap between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich had actually dropped (Ukrainska Pravda, August 2). KIIS found that Mr. Yushchenko and Mr. Yanukovich would receive 29.9 and 25.2 percent, respectively, in the first round of voting. For the second round the gap between the candidates had fallen to only 2.8 percent, with the candidates receiving 39.3 percent

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NEWSBRIEFS

Parliament continues to regroup...

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn announced on September 22 that 17 lawmakers in the Democratic Initiatives-People's Power party have dissolved their group and formed a new caucus called United Ukraine (Yedyna Ukraina), Interfax reported. The current division of deputies in the Ukrainian legislature is: Our Ukraine, 100; Ukraine's Regions, 63; the Communist Party, 59; the Social Democratic Party-United, 40; Labor Ukraine, 30; the Popular Agrarian Party, 21; the Socialist Party, 20; the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, 19; the Soyuz group, 18; the National Democratic Party – Party of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists, 17; and the Center group, 16. Also on September 22, three lawmakers from the National Democratic Party – Party of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists announced their withdrawal from the pro-government parliamentary coalition. "The political fata morgana of the [pro-government] parliamentary majority elicits irony," Serhii Shevchuk said. "We are not a component of the non-existent structure [parliamentary majority] any longer." It is not clear whether Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet can currently count on support from a majority of deputies (226 votes) in the Verkhovna Rada. (RFE/RL Newswire)

...as PM accuses it of sowing instability

KYIV – Prime Minister and presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich said on September 22 that the Verkhovna Rada is destabilizing the situation in Ukraine, UNIAN reported. "The developments taking place in Parliament do not give us hope that we will have normal cooperation until the end of the election campaign," Mr. Yanukovich said. "Unfortunately, Parliament has recently become a constant factor contributing to the destabilization of the situation." Three major pro-government groups – Ukraine's Regions, the Social Democratic Party-United and Labor Ukraine – refused on September 21 to vote on any bills on the session agenda, including some sponsored by the government. Opposition lawmaker Mykola Tomenko alleged that deputies from these factions had been deprived of their magnetic voting cards. According to National Deputy Tomenko, Prime Minister Yanukovich and presidential-administration head Viktor Medvedchuk are implementing a "scenario" to render the Verkhovna Rada inoperative and discredit it during the presidential election campaign. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Group rejoins pro-government coalition

KYIV – National Deputy Dmytro Sviatash announced in the Verkhovna Rada

on September 21 that 15 lawmakers from the Democratic Initiatives – People's Power caucus have restored their membership in the pro-government coalition, Interfax reported. The 15 lawmakers reportedly suspended their participation in the pro-government alliance in protest against the government's decision two weeks ago to pool state stakes in the Halychyna and Ukratnafta oil refineries with the basic capital of state-controlled oil company Ukrnafta. Last week, President Leonid Kuchma revoked the decision, ordering that those stakes be pooled with the basic capital of the state-run gas company Naftohaz Ukrainy. Apart from the Democratic Initiatives – People's Power caucus, the pro-government parliamentary coalition has been abandoned by some 30 lawmakers from the Center and Popular Agrarian Party groups. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Probes launched into poisoning

KYIV – The Procurator General's Office has begun an inquiry into the public allegations that opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko's recent bout of poisoning may have been caused by a deliberate attempt on his life, Interfax reported on September 20, quoting a spokesman for the Procurator General's Office, Serhii Rudenko. Last week, Yushchenko campaign manager Oleksander Zinchenko cited Austrian doctors as saying that Mr. Yushchenko's ailment was caused by "a viral infection and chemical substances that usually do not appear in foodstuffs." The Verkhovna Rada voted by 425-17 on September 21 to set up an ad hoc commission to look into reasons behind Mr. Yushchenko's poisoning. "What happened to me is not linked to a food problem," Mr. Yushchenko told lawmakers before the vote. "What happened to me is a problem linked to the political regime in Ukraine." Mr. Yushchenko also commented sarcastically on the official investigation into his poisoning. "You are posing questions that you do not intend to answer," he said, referring personally to President Leonid Kuchma. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Ukrainians from Transdnier march

KYIV – Some 70 ethnic Ukrainians from Moldova's breakaway Transdnier region on September 20 crossed the Moldovan-Ukrainian border and are marching to Kyiv to request that the Ukrainian authorities defend them from the economic sanctions imposed on Transdnier by Moldova, Interfax reported. "We are forced to take this action, because the economic situation in Transdnier is becoming more and more acute," said Volodymyr Bodnar,

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Self-censorship, government restrictions plague coverage of election in Ukraine

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – Media coverage of the presidential election campaign in Ukraine has been inadequate due to a restrictive media climate in the country, according to Andriy Shevchenko, a Ukrainian journalist who spoke to an RFE/RL audience in Washington, last week. Journalists engage in “self-censorship,” while the government restricts access to information producing “the most restrictive coverage of elections in Ukraine’s history,” Mr. Shevchenko said.

A news anchor and also news director for Channel 5 Television, the only nationwide, independent, Ukrainian television station, Mr. Shevchenko said that his station strives to provide full and objective information about the campaign. An agreement signed between the news team and the manager of the station in summer 2003 guarantees the news department independence and frees them from political interference by the station owners. The other national stations are either government-controlled, or owned by oligarchs openly supporting the candidacy of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich for president. Not surprising, he said, “pro-government candidates such as Mr. Yanukovich dominate the airwaves in Ukraine.” Mr. Shevchenko said that only his own station, Channel 5, has been airing live interviews with the candidates.

Mr. Shevchenko said the biggest problem for independent journalists in Ukraine is being cut off from information by the

government, but that has required journalists to become more “skillful at dodging problems caused by officials.” At the same time, media owners have discovered that the government can cause problems for stations by canceling or denying licenses, putting them at a competitive disadvantage. Mr. Shevchenko predicted that stations feeling this pressure will give up news coverage completely, citing a decision by Ukraine’s Channel 3 to stop broadcasting news by the end of 2004.

There is also a “lack of confidence and trust” in the Ukrainian media, Mr. Shevchenko said, and that means that “the media will have little impact in the upcoming presidential election.” He believes that nonetheless “even one outlet, such as Channel 5, could change the outlook of the election.” Mr. Shevchenko added that, among Ukraine’s population, the older generation knows how to “read between the lines” of the media, while the younger generation gets their news mostly from the Internet. He said the Internet is a powerful source for regional newspapers and is mostly a free market.

He predicted that not a great deal in media coverage will change after the presidential election because “the television markets are already established and stations know how to earn a profit under the current system.” Moreover, Ukraine’s journalists are “not motivated to practice real journalism” and “freedom of speech is not appreciated in either [political] camp.”

Report from Moscow

Russian media favor Yanukovich

by Maryna Makhnonos

Special to the Ukrainian Weekly

MOSCOW – Russia’s preferences concerning Ukrainian presidential candidates seem evident as that country’s media outlets cover the campaign of mostly one candidate: Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia has protested against the “black PR” that some local media have applied to Mr. Yanukovich’s most serious opponent Viktor Yushchenko, Ukraine’s former central banker and ex-prime minister.

A review of coverage by newspaper and TV channels shows that Russian journalists perceive Mr. Yanukovich to be a pro-Russian candidate – the only one capable of maintaining friendly and mutually beneficial relations between Russia and Ukraine. The Vedomosti daily is one of the few exceptions as it tries to present an unbiased view of the presidential campaign in Ukraine.

Journalists’ reports concerning the leader of the Our Ukraine faction, Mr. Yushchenko, vary from neutral to hostile. As most media outlets represent the general political views of Russian official powers directly or indirectly, one may assume that they reflect the true attitudes of the Russian political elite.

President Vladimir Putin’s playful phrase recently uttered during the summit in Sochi supports the idea that the Kremlin is betting on Mr. Yanukovich.

In Sochi a journalist asked Ukraine’s President Leonid Kuchma how he views a free trade zone between Russia and Ukraine in the future, but he refrained from commenting. Then Mr. Putin proposed that the question be “passed” to Mr. Kuchma’s neighbor to his right, eliciting some sympathetic laughter. Mr. Yanukovich was the neighbor.

TV channels and newspapers use what

political scientists call “black PR” against Mr. Yushchenko. For example, the newly established Russian-language newspaper called Time of Ukraine has praised Mr. Yanukovich’s political achievements and called his rule an “economic miracle,” but has published only negative information about Mr. Yushchenko. Other candidates get no attention at all.

Recently the newspaper published a large photo of the Yanukoviches on one page and cited 27 critical remarks about Mr. Yushchenko on the next one. “Inability to organize work,” “lack of accuracy” and “lack of skill to dress well” were only a few of the comments about Mr. Yushchenko.

On August 31 the press service of the Association of Ukrainians in Russia and the Federal National-Cultural Autonomous Organization Ukrainians of Russia publicized a statement concerning the Time of Ukraine newspaper, whose first issue became public on Ukraine’s Independence Day – August 24. The diaspora’s lawyers found out that the newspaper lacks the appropriate registration and demanded that the Russian police investigate whether it is published legally.

“The content of the newspaper, which is mostly dedicated to the Ukrainian presidential campaign, caused a negative reaction among Ukrainian community in Russia. The community considers it to be inadmissible to transfer methods of political battle and black PR abroad,” the statement said. “Ukrainian public organizations in Russia do not participate in the presidential campaign and do support any candidate. However, actions that harm Ukraine’s reputation among Russian citizens should not be left unanswered.”

The leader of the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia, Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak, said that Time of Ukraine doesn’t help

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ELECTION WATCH

Yushchenko resumes campaigning

KYIV – Some 70,000 gathered in Kyiv on September 18 for a campaign rally by presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the opposition Our Ukraine bloc, UNIAN reported. Mr. Yushchenko resumed his presidential campaign after a two-week interruption caused by a bout of acute poisoning, which was blamed by some opposition activists on an alleged attempt on Mr. Yushchenko’s life. Mr. Yushchenko, who came for the rally almost directly from a clinic in Vienna, told the crowd that the past two weeks were the “most tragic” period in his life. He said the current authorities are “in their death throes” and assured rally participants that he will win this fall’s presidential elections. He also pledged to immediately pull the Ukrainian military contingent out of Iraq after his anticipated victory. The Yushchenko campaign staff submitted 1.7 million signatures in support of his candidacy to the Central Election Commission on September 19. Each presidential candidate was to supply at least 500,000 signatures in support of his or her candidacy by September 20 in order to be allowed on the ballot. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Was Yushchenko deliberately poisoned?

KYIV – Oleksander Zinchenko, presidential campaign manager of leading opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko, told journalists in Kyiv on September 17 that Mr. Yushchenko’s recent bout of acute poisoning may have resulted from an intentional attempt on his life, Interfax reported. Mr. Zinchenko cited doctors from a clinic in Vienna, who examined Mr. Yushchenko, as saying that the candidate’s ailment was caused by “a viral infection and chemical substances that usually do not appear in foodstuffs.” Since the examination in Vienna was made six days after the poisoning, Mr. Zinchenko added, it proved impossible for the doctors to identify what “chemical substances” might have been involved. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Copies of opposition paper destroyed

KYIV – A group of men in Ukrainian police uniforms destroyed thousands of copies of an opposition weekly, reported the Associated Press, citing a news agency story of September 15. The uniformed men raided the offices of a printing company in Dnipropetrovsk, where they destroyed 17,000 copies of the weekly Lits (Face), Elena Garaguts, the editor in-chief, told the UNIAN news service. Ms. Garaguts said the attack could have been connected with the magazine’s critical writing about Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, a major candidate in the October 31 presidential election. “This was half of our circulation ... luckily the other half was distributed,” Ms. Garaguts noted. (Associated Press)

Kinakh: oblast leaders should be elected

POLTAVA – The leader of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, presidential candidate Anatolii Kinakh, said that he believes the chairmen of district and oblast state administrations should be elected, and not appointed by presidential decree. He made the statement at a meeting with workers of the Poltava-based Znamia plant during a two-day visit to the region. “It is absolutely necessary to resume electing not only at the level of the districts, but also the oblasts,” said Mr. Kinakh. He noted that he had participated in the election for chairman of the Mykolaiv Oblast and won in 1994, when this was an elected post, garnering nearly 70 percent of the votes in the region. “Then we traveled to Kyiv, feeling the legal protection and support of the people ... but, while leaving for Mykolaiv, I knew that there will not be a decree of the president on my dismissal,” said Mr. Kinakh. (Ukrainian News Agency, ARTUIS)

Yanukovich pledges to raise wages

KYIV – The leader of the Party of Regions, presidential candidate Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, has promised to double or triple wages in the coming three to four years. Mr. Yanukovich made his comment in the course of a visit to the Poltava region during a meeting with the scientific and creative intelligentsia of the region. “We will set the task of increasing the budget to 120 billion hrv for two-three years. We will do this and we will increase wages by two- to three-fold. We see how this will be done,” he said. Mr. Yanukovich also pledged to increase the amounts for compensation on depreciated deposits annually. “In this year we put in 500 million hrv for these purposes, next year we will put in 1 billion hrv, that is more than double, and for 2006 more than double it and just like that each year. Moreover, we will first and foremost return the savings to elderly citizens who have no possibility to wait,” he said. He noted that the minimum wage will be increased as of September 1 of this year from 205 hrv to 237 hrv, whereas the wage of employees in the budgetary sphere, most especially doctors, teachers and cultural workers, will go up by 15.6 percent. According to data of the State Statistics Committee, the average monthly wage in Ukraine rose in June by 8.4 percent to 601.45 hrv. (Ukrainian News, ARTUIS)

Chornovil joins Yanukovich team

KYIV – Former opposition National Deputy Taras Chornovil has become an adviser to presidential candidate and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. The Ukrainska Pravda website wrote that the anti-presidential radical’s change of heart is hard to

(Continued on page 19)

Quotable notes

“Let [Oleksander] Zinchenko [head of Viktor Yushchenko’s campaign staff] taste the food which is brought to Yushchenko. That’s what leaders did in the Middle Ages, I think.

“And I would recommend him to drink 100 grams of vodka. If he had drunk that, nothing would be wrong with him.”

– Vasyl Baziv, deputy chief of the administration of President Leonid Kuchma, in a statement quoted on September 17 by the Reuters news service after it was announced that presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko had taken ill, possibly due to poisoning.

“I don’t believe in exit polls. These are new, modern techniques, which will be used in Ukraine for the first time. We don’t know how to manipulate them.”

– Ukrainian Prime Minister and presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich, commenting on the plan of several major pollsters in Ukraine to hold a large exit poll during the October 31 presidential ballot, as quoted by UNIAN on August 31 and cited by RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report.

Faithful in Ukraine show support for Ukrainian Catholic University

by Matthew Matuszak

Lviv – On Sunday, September 5, 89 students and 11 staffers of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv travelled to numerous parishes of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) throughout western Ukraine, collecting donations and spreading the word about the UCU. Approximately 6,000 donations were collected.

"This is the first such collection done across large parts of Ukraine," said Prof. Jeffrey Wills, vice-rector at the UCU. Students and staff of the university travelled throughout parishes in Halychyna, passing out brochures about the UCU, talking about the university and accepting donations.

The parish of St. Michael the Archangel in Lviv, run by the Studite order, "can't remember a collection this big," said Prof. Wills. The collection there totalled about 2,000 hrv (approximately \$380), with more than 600 donors. Lviv's St. Josaphat the Martyr Parish had the highest number of donors, 719, who also gave the largest total donation, 2,700 hrv (approximately \$514). Two parishes in Kyiv totalled over 400 donors. UCU staff also collected in the Ternopil region and Kolomyia district.

As a token of thanks, each parish was given a stack of publications from the university's press to enrich the parish library.

"Last year, participants of the Metropolitan Synod of our Church decided to turn to you asking to gather funds for certain causes," wrote Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the UGCC in an August 5 letter addressed to the faithful. The collection for the needs and development of the

UCU was the first of these collections to be held; other causes mentioned are support of pastoral ministry for those serving in Ukraine's armed forces and the needy.

"Ukrainian Greek-Catholics dreamed of having their own university throughout the whole 20th century," wrote the cardinal. Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Patriarch Josyf Slipyj both made attempts to achieve this. "Only after Ukrainian independence was achieved was the renewal of the [Lviv] Theological Academy possible," wrote the cardinal, and the academy was then raised to the level of a university.

"The Ukrainian Catholic University exists through the sacrifices of the faithful of our Church," continued the cardinal's letter. "Our fellow Ukrainians in the diaspora, and representatives of other peoples who understand the importance of this institution, provide great support for its activities. Still, above all, we who live in Ukraine should make efforts so that this, our own Catholic institution, has the possibility to develop... [Your donation on Sunday, September 5] will be a great and important contribution on your part for the development of our Church," wrote the cardinal.

Funds are still being counted, but, because of Ukraine's economic situation, the monetary total will be small compared to the university's needs. At this point, however, the university is very pleased with the high response rate of donations.

"Our first donation was from an older lady who brought money to the UCU," reported UCU staff member and graduate Olya Bosak. "She heard an announcement about our fund-raising campaign at

her parish liturgy. She gave half of her pension, 80 hrv [about \$15]."

Even poor villagers gave their "widow's mite" to show support for the UCU. "There was a flood as a result of heavy rain in the village of Kamianka," said Bosak. "There were 110 parishioners, including children, at the Sunday parish liturgy. And they donated 135 hrv. Usually people are poor in Ukrainian villages: 1 hrv is a lot for them!"

The very fact of this first annual collection is "an important step forward in growing the mentality of giving among Ukrainians," said Volodymyr Turchynovskiy, director of the university's Department of Planning and Development. The UCU "will pioneer in developing university fund-raising models in Europe, where, unlike in the U.S.A., university education receives considerable state funding," said Mr. Turchynovskiy. The recent collection was the first major project of Mr. Turchynovskiy's department at the UCU, which was formed in 2003.

Another goal of the effort was to attract more students to the university. Yuri Korduba of UCU's Records Office traveled to the Ternopil region for the collection. In one parish, people came up to him after the liturgy and asked about entrance requirements. In another parish, in the village of Siltse, Mr. Korduba said, "People asked a lot of questions, and there were some who were hearing about the university for the first time."

Prof. Wills reported statistics from the university's early July entrance exams. Of the 80 students who applied to the department of philosophy and theology, 29 were

accepted; of the 85 who applied to the humanities department, 32 were accepted. This is about a 40 percent acceptance rate, "the same as at Notre Dame," added Prof. Wills. About two-thirds of the class is women. (These statistics are for the university's general department in Lviv, where nuns and laypeople study. Statistics for the separate Holy Spirit Seminary campus are not included here.)

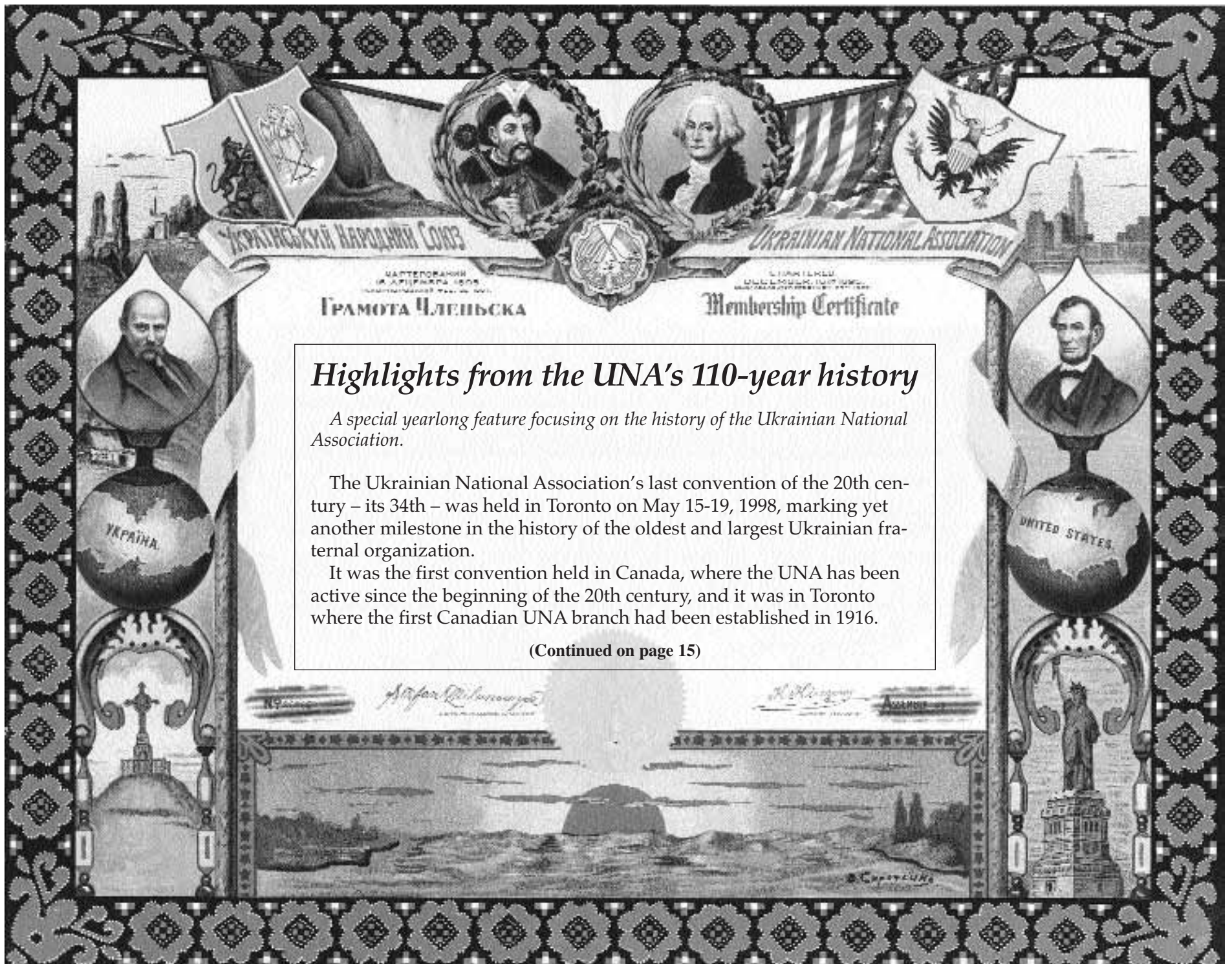
The university's Information Office reports that most of the 61 incoming new students are from Halychyna, that is, the Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil regions, though some are from Chernivtsi and even Kherson.

Kuchinsky recovering

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations would like to inform the whole U.S. Ukrainian community that Ambassador Valery Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the U.N., underwent successful triple bypass surgery on September 14.

The Mission has the pleasure of informing everyone that the ambassador is recovering well from the surgery, and should be able to return to his diplomatic duties very shortly.

Anyone wishing to send get well messages for a full recovery, should feel free to send them through the Ukrainian Mission at 220 E. 51st St., New York, NY 10022; fax, (212) 355-9455; e-mail, mail@uamission.org.



McCain, Holbrooke address final panel of Washington roundtable conference

by Tamara Gallo Olexy

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

WASHINGTON – During the final panel of the two-day conference titled “Ukraine’s Transition to a Stable Democracy,” two highly respected politicians, Sen. John McCain and Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, provided concluding remarks. Although from different political camps – Republican and Democratic, respectively – both speakers agreed that an independent Ukraine is important to the national interests of the United States.

On September 14, addressing one of the roundtable’s four focus sessions, the speakers provided their assessment of the state of democracy in Ukraine from the U.S. perspective, to a standing room only audience at the prestigious Montpellier Room of the U.S. Library of Congress.

The venue host of this year’s conference, Dr. James Billington, the librarian of Congress, introduced the keynote speakers.

Sen. McCain began his remarks by stating that “the title of this conference is ‘Ukraine’s Transition to a Stable Democracy’ and I think we can all agree that a stable democracy is in the national interest of the United States of America; the real question is whether Ukraine is headed down this path.” In this regard, he asserted a mixed picture: “There are strong democratic currents [in Ukraine] today – a robust opposition and wide-ranging discussion of political issues leading up to the October 31 elections; at the same time, the opposition has faced harassment and official disadvantages throughout the campaign and there are strong indications that the election may not be free and fair.”

Sen. McCain went on to remind the audience of a critical fact that has been lost in much of recent thinking in Washington and Europe. “Ukraine is extremely important to its region, to the world and to the United States. I’d like to repeat that – Ukraine is extremely important to the world to the U.S. and to its region. I fear that in recent years that U.S. and Europe have not been fully cognizant of the critical role Ukraine plays and, as a result, the aspiration of Ukrainians to see their nation firmly ensconced in the West have drifted. I don’t believe that most Ukrainians, if offered the choice, would choose a future tied closely to Russia. But many Ukrainians believe that they have not been offered this choice. NATO has made clear that Ukrainian membership is not on the horizon, and the EU [European Union] has offered Kyiv little hope of joining one day. While the West’s door seems closed, Russia’s is always open.”

If the trend continued, he said he believes that it would “be of little surprise if Ukrainian leaders increasing aligned their county’s ambitions with those of their Russian neighbor.” As he saw it, “The U.S. and Europe must see Ukraine for what it is – an important, proud and populous country in a geostrategically critical position – a country with much to offer the West. It would be a terrible blunder if, because of our inattention or mistakes, we allowed Ukraine to slip back into the Russian orbit.”

The Arizona senator added that “while the U.S. needs to pursue an enhanced relationship with Ukraine, it is also imperative that we make clear to its leadership that close ties to the West and membership in our institutions bring certain obligations and the most important of these is to move down the path of democracy.”

Commenting on his recent trip to Ukraine, the Sen. McCain stated that “although democracy in Ukraine is under siege, if the president and the prime minister make the courageous decision that the Ukraine people deserve the right to freely choose their government – if they decide that Ukraine’s future best lies in a system of democracy, and not autocracy and if

they allow free and fair elections that all the world can see – I believe the world needs to be prepared to respond. This means looking hard at Ukraine’s eventual membership in NATO and the EU and expanding our bilateral relations with Ukraine and determining ways to enhance our trading relationship. It means treating Ukraine like the strong, independent and democratic state we hope it will become.”

In his concluding remarks, Sen. McCain reaffirmed his belief, that “because we understand the difficulties of transition from a non-democratic to a democratic government; we believe it is important to offer carrots and not just sticks. We believe that it is important that the world realize and the U.S. realize the geostrategic importance of Ukraine, and I hope we can maintain this careful balance in this administration and the administration of the next four years”

Following the senator’s observations, Ambassador Holbrooke stepped up to the podium and stated that it was an honor to follow a long-time friend and a man whom all Americans admired. With a bit of humor, the ambassador opened his remarks by stating, “As in most cases, with one notable exception, I completely agree with Sen. McCain.”

Elaborating on the topic, Mr. Holbrooke informed the audience that he, too, had recently returned from Ukraine and his views did not differ from those of the senator’s. “Ukraine must decide its own destiny. You are obviously a part of Europe, but how you develop your foreign policy – whether it faces east, west, north, south or a bit of all of the above because of its geography, economy and history – is up to Ukraine. Everyone understands the unique relationship between Russia and Ukraine; everyone understands its unique history, but it is up to the people of Ukraine to decide their future without any veto by anyone else, and by this I mean, Russia.”

If Ukraine wishes to join the institutions of the West, specifically, NATO and the EU, that is Ukraine’s decision,” he continued, “and the U.S. must lead the effort to make sure that Western countries no longer think, for some odd reason, that what Ukrainians do can be second-guessed, decided or vetoed by Moscow.”

He made it clear that he was “not saying all of this to be provocative towards the Russians. This is not a hostile act toward Russia, it’s about the expansion of the community of democracies ever eastward since the end of the Cold War. We are not baiting Moscow by saying this; we are talking about the rights and aspirations of Ukrainians.”

Speaking specifically on the topic of NATO enlargement, Ambassador Holbrooke asserted that “although Ukraine was not on the list of the first round of expansion, should Ukraine decide it wants to apply for membership following the upcoming elections, I predict that, despite the fact that some countries in Europe think that [such a move] is a bridge too far, within a few years Ukraine will become a member.” However, he couched his remarks by stating this was for Ukraine to decide, not the United States.

“Prior to the decision as to Ukraine’s future orientation, must come the all important elections and in my view they are the ‘second most important elections in the world this year.’ These elections are an absolute precondition for the processes [membership in NATO] I just talked about here,” Mr. Holbrooke said. Clarifying that remark, the ambassador stated that “it is not that Americans wish to interfere in Ukraine’s internal affairs; it is just simply unavoidable that the election and how it is perceived will be a critical factor in whether Ukraine is invited in.” In doing so, he emphasized “that the United States does not support any political party of candidate,” but “what Americans care about is that the elections be

free, fair, open and transparent.”

In a provoking afterthought, the former U.S. envoy to the United Nations added: “I think that a lot of the West has a misperception of Ukraine for the most simple of reasons: the Western media reporting on Ukraine tends to be based in Moscow. This is a harsh truth; I saw it also in Azerbaijan, Kazakstan and Georgia on recent trips, but nowhere is it truer than in Ukraine. There are still many Americans who can’t quite absorb the fact that Ukraine now is an independent country and will be forever.”

In his closing remarks, Mr. Holbrooke spoke on a topic that is dear to his heart: the potential AIDS epidemic in Ukraine. He stressed that HIV-AIDS is spread by the sailors through the ports, through intravenous injections and through the white slave sex trade and, if the problem was not dealt with immediately, the economic cost to Ukraine would be immeasurable. In conclusion, Ambassador Holbrooke reassured the audience that he is “bullish on Ukraine” and deeply honored “to be here and share the dais with Dr. Billington and my dear friend John McCain.”

Following the presentations, there was a brief question-and-answer period. In responding to a question posed by former Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. Dr.

Yurii Scherbak concerning the recent terrorist attack in Russia, the force-based response by Russia and general implications for Ukraine, Sen. McCain responded that terrorism in Russia is in danger of becoming an international threat.

However the senator stated that he believes that the “genesis of the threat is the failure to recognize the yearning of the Chechens for some form of autonomy, if not independence ...” and for this to be successfully resolved, there had to be some form of negotiations with the Chechens to satisfy their aspirations.

With regard to any implications for Ukraine, Sen. McCain stated, “... I don’t speak specifically about President [Vladimir] Putin, but there is no doubt that in Russia there are forces who yearn for the old Russian Empire. One of my friends, Dr. [Henry] Kissinger, once said that Russia without Ukraine is an Eastern power and with Ukraine is a Western power. This is why the American administration, Congress and the American people have to understand what is at stake as far as the future of Ukraine is concerned.”

The two-day conference – the fifth roundtable in this series – ran four regular sessions featuring 12 panels; four

(Continued on page 15)

Four years later, Gongadze case remains unsolved, CPJ expresses dismay

NEW YORK – Four years after the disappearance and death of Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze, the Committee to Protect Journalists is dismayed by the lack of progress in the government’s inquiry into the case. CPJ also remains concerned that journalists are being harassed in the run-up to the October elections, noted a news release from the organization.

“It is reprehensible that President Leonid Kuchma’s government continues to obstruct the official inquiry into Gongadze’s death,” said CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper. “That, combined with the ongoing harassment of the media designed to stifle coverage before next month’s poll, only makes the press freedom situation in Ukraine more dire.”

Mr. Gongadze was editor of the Internet news site *Ukrainska Pravda*, which often reported on alleged high-level government corruption. He disappeared on September 16, 2000, after several weeks of harassment by police officials. In early November 2000 a headless corpse believed to be his body was discovered in a forest outside the capital, Kyiv.

Several weeks later, an opposition leader released tapes that a former bodyguard of President Kuchma had recorded. The tapes implicated the Kuchma government in Gongadze’s disappearance and caused a major nationwide political crisis that led to numerous protest demonstrations against the government. But on September 10 the Justice Ministry announced that the tapes had been analyzed and were determined to be manipulated and inauthentic.

Sergey Tran, director of the Kyiv-based non-governmental press watchdog Institute for Mass Information, told CPJ, “It is interesting to note that independent experts in a number of Western countries, including the United States, have conducted open examinations of the tapes and pronounced them authentic, and the Ukrainian Justice Ministry claims they are doctored.” He contin-

ued, “We demand a new, and open, examination of the tapes.”

While some 250 journalists and opposition activists gathered on September 16 at a memorial for the slain journalist near Kyiv, Ukraine’s ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs claim that the investigation has produced no answers about who ordered and executed Gongadze’s murder.

First Vice Minister of Internal Affairs Mikhail Kornienko told journalists at a press conference on September 16 that the Internal Affairs Ministry cannot determine whether Mr. Gongadze was under surveillance at the time of his disappearance because in 2001 the ministry destroyed documents that could have provided clues because their archival expiration date had passed, the independent newspaper *Ukrainski Novyny* reported.

Harassment of media

Independent media are facing serious harassment as they try to report on the run-up to presidential elections, scheduled for October 31. On September 13 broadcasts of the independent television Channel 5 were suspended in Kharkiv, the country’s second largest city, according to local reports. Channel 5 (Kanal) was scheduled to broadcast a two-part, independent journalistic investigation on Gongadze’s disappearance and death starting on September 16 the independent website *Ukrainska Pravda* reported.

Workers at the cable network Alphatelecommunications, which carries Channel 5 told channel staffers privately that government authorities pressured them to cut the channel’s broadcasts, according to a staff member at Channel 5.

Cable carriers in several other cities have also suspended Channel 5’s broadcasts during the last three months, *Ukrainska Pravda* reported.

Channel 5 is the only major television channel not controlled by the government or pro-government oligarchs, the U.S. government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's "political kitchen"

"I didn't have to be an astrologer to have predicted that these will be the dirtiest elections ever in an independent Ukraine." – President Leonid Kuchma, speaking on September 21 in reference to the poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko.

With five weeks to go before Ukraine's all-important presidential election, this space was to be devoted this week to commenting on the problems already evident in the run-up to election day. You know, the use of "administrative resources," the unfair media coverage of the campaign by major media controlled by pro-Kuchma powers, the silencing of independent media, the pressuring of state employees to support the administration's candidate, the curtailment of candidates' access to the public, the dirty tricks aimed at discrediting the front-runner, etc.

Now, all that pales in comparison to the poisoning of the top candidate for president, Viktor Yushchenko.

As a result of some sort of "chemical poisoning" nearly three weeks ago, the leader of the Our Ukraine bloc found himself fighting for his life, even while under the care of doctors in Ukraine. Ultimately (and wisely) the decision was made to take him for medical care outside of the country to Vienna, where he was treated by a team of 12 doctors. According to the latest reports cited by National Deputy Yurii Kostenko, there is some indication that the chemical agent that nearly killed Mr. Yushchenko was ricin, an extremely potent toxin derived from the beans of the castor plant.

In most countries such reports would be treated with incredulity. But, this is Ukraine, where people die in mysterious car and truck collisions, where a former National Bank chairman was murdered and where the case of a beheaded journalist still is not resolved four years later.

President Leonid Kuchma basically has remained mum about the incident, except to say what is cited in the vile quote above. Mr. Yushchenko's chief competitor for the presidency, Viktor Yanukovich, the candidate of the current ruling clique, has not even spoken about the episode – though simple human decency would have required him to at least wish his fellow candidate a speedy recovery. What kind of national leaders does Ukraine have? The answer, unfortunately, is that Ukraine's leaders are the same ones under whose watch there have been a number of highly suspicious accidents and deaths.

On September 21 Mr. Yushchenko told his fellow national deputies: "Today we are talking about a political kitchen that orders murders. The next one could be you." He made no bones about the fact that he holds state authorities responsible for his poisoning – which now seems to have been an attempt on his life.

To its credit, the Verkhovna Rada voted in near unanimity for opening an investigation into the incident. The Procurator General's Office followed suit, announcing that it was opening its own criminal investigation. Time will tell whether these inquiries are any more fruitful than those conducted in many previous cases in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yushchenko, still not recovered from his ordeal, spoke before a crowd of approximately 15,000 supporters at a Kyiv rally that was simulcast to other cities and towns where his supporters had gathered. Addressing the authorities he said: "You will not poison us. You do not have enough bullets and KamAZ trucks. You cannot break us." He added: "There are not one, but tens of thousands of new Heorhii Gongadzes, Vyacheslav Chornovils, Vadym Hetmans and other good Ukrainians who will carry on the democratic struggle."

It is clear that Viktor Yushchenko is a fighter, but it is also clear that he is up against some of the dirtiest, meanest and most brutal forces as he fights for a better tomorrow for Ukraine.

Sept.
29
2002

Turning the pages back...

Two years ago The Ukrainian Weekly announced that it had released its latest book, a compilation of materials prepared on the occasion of the milestone 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. The name of the book, "Ukraine Lives!" was taken

from the title of The Weekly's editorial written in 2001 to mark a decade since the historic act of August 24, 1991, that once again placed the name "Ukraine" on the world map.

The book contains contemporaneous reports on events leading up to the re-establishment of Ukraine's independence, as well as news reports filed from the scene by The Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau on that momentous day in 1991 when the Parliament of the Ukrainian SSR, proclaimed the independence of Ukraine. Also included are reports on the often tense and exciting events that transpired immediately thereafter, including the referendum of December 1, 1991, that affirmed the Ukrainian nation's overwhelming support for independent statehood.

The 288-page book also covers the compelling events that led up to independence; it transports readers to Ukraine, then still part of the USSR, at the time of the newly proclaimed policies of glasnost, perestroika (or perebudova in Ukrainian) and demokratyzatsia. A detailed timeline covers events from December 1987 through December 1991. In addition, the volume contains unique materials related to Ukraine's first decade of independence – encompassing the fields of politics, the arts, religious life, philately, etc., along with special reports and commentaries related to celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Among the newly published materials in the book is an account of Ukraine's participation in the Olympic Games.

"Ukraine Lives!" is the fourth book released by The Weekly, following the two volumes of "The Ukrainian Weekly: 2000" and "The Great Famine in Ukraine: The Unknown Holocaust" published in 1983 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide (a second edition was released in 1988).

Source: "The Ukrainian Weekly releases a new book, 'Ukraine Lives!' " The Ukrainian Weekly, September 29, 2002, Vol. LXX, No. 39.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One reader's opinion about George W. Bush

Dear Editor:

In a recent letter (July 4), Roman Golash says that he could hide weapons of mass destruction "in a very small container," so that a person he named could never find them. This revelation may warrant an agonizing reappraisal of the consensus that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction in the year 2003.

Even more depressing is Mr. Golash's claim that President George W. Bush "has restored pride and dignity in the White House." Aside from pristine ignorance revealed each time Mr. Bush spills his verbal jewels (e.g., "They underestimated me," "They think that Social Security is some kind of government program"), his résumé offers a grotesque chronology.

During the Vietnam war, Mr. Bush joined the Texas Air National Guard and could not be found for several months, and the controversy over his service continues.

In a sweetheart deal, he bought the Texas Rangers baseball team that took land using taxpayer money.

As governor of Texas, Mr. Bush changed pollution laws in favor of power and oil companies, making Texas the most polluted state in the union. On his watch, Houston replaced Los Angeles as the smog capital of the United States.

As president, George Bush invaded two countries, at a continued cost of over \$1 billion per week.

He shattered the record for the largest annual deficit in U.S. history, and effectively bankrupted the U.S. Treasury.

According to The New York Times (July 27, 2002), he set an all-time record for the most private bankruptcies – 1.45 million filed in 2001 alone – in a 12-month period in the United States.

He is the all-time record holder for receiving the most corporate campaign donations (see "Bushwacked" by Molly Ivins and "American Dynasty" by Kevin Phillips).

His largest lifetime campaign contributor and one of his best friends, Kenneth Lay, presided over the largest bankruptcy fraud in U.S. history, Enron.

On the same day he was making patriotic thunder on a fund-raising tour, he cut health benefits for veterans; he supports a cut in benefits for active duty troops' families – in time of war.

He violated the U.N. Charter by launching an unprovoked attack against a sovereign state.

He changed U.S. policy to allow convicted criminals to be awarded government contracts.

He violated the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to launch the construction of an ABM defense system judged technically not feasible by all reliable scientists, but politically lucrative and highly profitable to his pals.

He withdrew the U.S. from the World Court of Law.

He violated both the Geneva conventions and U.S. law concerning the treatment of POWs. This is an impeachable offense with criminal penalties.

President Bush is the first president to have a majority of Europeans – 84 percent – viewing his presidency as the biggest threat to world peace and security (see Nicholas Kristof's article of January 31, 2003, in The New York Times).

One could go on and on filling pages. The damage done by this president to

America is a product of his ability to mask incompetence and his main role as a committed agent of pressure groups with their own agendas. His functioning in this capacity is enhanced by his irrational, almost fanatical belief that he "gets direction from God" (Mr. Bush's own words). This president's guiding proxies are Dick Cheney's corporate cronies and neo-conservative think-tanks that advocate military confrontations, especially in the Middle East.

Mr. Bush's visions are reinforced by his evangelical verve as a born-again Christian, which he shares with Pat Robertson's large Bible Belt assemblies and their literal interpretation of Old Testament prophecies and the coming of the Armageddon in our time.

Many Americans in the red zone of the nativist heartland connect with Mr. Bush because of an instinctively perceived regional affinity, disdain for the norms of civil society as accepted in most advanced countries and in much of the U.S., veiled race-baiting (acclamation of "Southern traditions"), and delight in Mr. Bush's sporadic holy-rollers. Substantive issues usually go over their heads, and they are easily persuaded by Rush Limbaugh lingo to vote against their own economic interests and in favor of conservative values merchants who will rob them of their pensions. In the 2000 elections Mr. Bush won the five poorest states (except New Mexico).

Mr. Bush's backwardness, unworldliness and spectacular blunders, e.g., the recent Medicare legislative scam (a windfall for pharmaceutical companies and private health plans at taxpayer expense), and, most of all, the Iraq fiasco with its Abu Ghraib decorum, are catching up with him. Indeed, this is a time of shame, big-time shame, despite a guaranteed white-wash at the top.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, N.J.

Why no ads for tour of Virsky troupe?

Dear Editor:

Am I the only one who is frustrated by the current Virsky tour of North America? In contrast to other tours by Ukrainian artists, there has been zero advertising in your fine publication. In addition, there is no functioning website, and Ukrainian sites have been frustrated in attempts to obtain info from the tour promoters.

The Houston community had to play detective in order to find the Beaumont venue, and I seek in vain the San Antonio venue mentioned for September 28 on the Art Ukraine site.

In whose interest is it to keep this such a secret from U.S. Ukrainians?

Stephen Sokolyk
New Braunfels, Texas

EDITOR'S NOTE: We at The Ukrainian Weekly also are frustrated by our inability to receive information about the tour, as well as paid advertisements to promote it. Thus far we have received information only about two of the Virsky ensemble's performances, those in Morristown, N.J., and in Chicago, and that information came directly from the local organizers of the troupe's appearance – not the tour's principal organizer. It would be helpful if readers could contact local organizers to inform them of advertising opportunities via The Weekly.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



You kill ours; we'll kill yours

In Fyodor Dostoevsky's novel, "The Brothers Karamazov," Ivan Karamazov challenges his pious brother Alyosha with a chilling proposition: imagine you have the power to create a fabric of human destiny that will make mankind happy, but first a single child must be tortured to death. Would you agree to be the architect of such a construct, he asks? Alyosha rejects such a diabolical bargain. Yet that, and more, is what the Chechen terrorists agreed to when they seized 1,200 hostages in the North Ossetian town of Beslan, withholding food and water from their captives for days before triggering the catastrophe that killed more than 300 people – half of them children.

There can be no response to that "operation" but disgust, revulsion and condemnation.

Yet, even a tragedy as horrific as that has a context: historical, political and indeed, a personal context – perhaps personal, above all. A teacher released by the terrorists a day before the massacre said that one of them justified his action because, "Russian soldiers are killing our children in Chechnya, so we are here to kill yours."

Can anything be more wrenching than the death of a child at the hands of an abductor? Little wonder that the Russian parents who lost their children to the Chechen terrorists at Beslan are vowing revenge. And President Vladimir Putin is tapping into those sentiments so he can stay the course on a decade-old policy – no, centuries-old policy – that spawned the atrocity in Beslan. Consider the terrorist's message: you killed our children, so we're going to kill yours. How loathsome.

The Chechens are a tiny nation: about a million people. Like Ukrainians, Chechens declared independence when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, but unlike Ukraine, Chechnya was not a Soviet republic. Chechnya was part of the Russian Federation, so no other country offered to recognize its independence, least of all Russia itself. In 1994 President Boris Yeltsin launched a war to rein in the renegade province. It turned out to be a humiliating disaster. After two years, Russia pulled out its troops, leaving behind a demolished Chechnya governed by warlords and gangsters.

In October 1999 Mr. Putin renewed the conflict. And that's how it's been ever since, Russian troops attacking the Chechens with bombs, rockets, landmines, helicopter gunships, automatic weapons, knives and clubs. With 100,000 killed – many of them children – the population has literally been decimated. As the Chechen terrorist said, it's personal and he was going to make the Russian people take it just as personally: yours for ours.

Responsible people have long since come to the conclusion that the situation in Chechnya is intolerable. More than three years ago, for example, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution, co-sponsored by 16 countries from the European Union, strongly condemning Russia's use of disproportionate force and its human rights violations in Chechnya, including forced disappearances, torture and summary executions. President Putin, however, contemptuously dismisses criticism of his policy. His approach to the problem is to ban media coverage of the conflict, oust any outside observers and continue to apply the harshest of military measures.

Now, with wrenching hostage dramas, downing of passenger airliners, suicide bombings and gun battles, Russia is reaping what it sowed: an endless cycle of terror and response. Some 10,000 Russian soldiers are said to have died. At least that many families are grieving. For them, as well, the conflict is personal.

It's certainly personal for President Putin. Many political analysts strongly suspect the decision to renew the war in October 1999 was driven at least partly by his calculation that it would help him in the 2000 election. He campaigned as a tough leader and that's how he's governed.

The Chechen people were brought into the Russian Empire by force nearly 200 years ago. Their experience as citizens of Russia has been singularly unhappy, both under the tsars and the commissars. Besides imprisonments and official murders that were routine for long periods of time, the entire nation was expelled from its ancestral land in World War II and shipped in boxcars to Central Asia. Tens of thousands died in that "operation," including many children. You kill ours; we'll kill yours.

Like other peoples who declared their independence when the Soviet Union collapsed, the Chechens want to be left alone to determine their own destiny. Only Mr. Putin won't let them. With 21 republics in the Russian Federation, he fears Chechen independence could start a domino effect leading to the further dissolution of the once mighty Russian empire. Not wanting to go down in history as another Mikhail Gorbachev, President Putin, no less than the Chechen terrorists, is willing to accept the death of children as the price for the future as he would like it to be.

And so the madness continues: Russian military measures taken beyond the ken of outsiders, followed by some Chechen outrage deliberately designed to attract the very attention that President Putin seeks to avoid, each child's death reinforcing the resolve of their fathers and mothers to wreak bloody revenge. Who can blame them?

Pondering the horror of Beslan, one can only conclude that the Chechen rebels who perpetrated it have fundamentally discredited their cause. There is no justification for seizing children, their parents or their teachers in pursuit of Chechen happiness, however that's defined. Yet looking at it from the perspective of their history, who can argue that the Russians didn't bring this calamity on themselves? Indiscriminate bombing, rape, murder and deportation, all perpetrated under the cover of censorship and military checkpoints to preserve a 19th century construct, are just as fundamentally evil.

The situation in Chechnya cries for a different approach than the one that's been taken for the past 10 years. If that means going back a couple of centuries to the time when Russia first invaded that remote region and setting right the things that went wrong back then, then that's the place to go. It won't bring all the murdered children back to life, but just maybe it'll spare further such outrages in the future. Otherwise, the unhappy Russian Federation and the unfortunate Chechen Republic will continue to reap the whirlwind.

As it is, neither the sanguinary status quo that Russia pursues nor the murky vision of Chechen terrorists is worth the life of a single tortured child.

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

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Three Humpty Dumpties, see how they teeter

Dan Rather had a great fall. Now that he's blown his cover of impartiality by breathlessly pedaling what practically everyone now believes to be forged documents produced to discredit George W, how long will it be before the other two "evening news" Humpty Dumpties fall as well?

Take that ABC fella. The sole anchor for ABC since 1983, the Canadian-born, supercilious Peter Jennings finally condescended to becoming an American citizen this year. How noble. He now enjoys dual citizenship.

According to a recent article by Rachel Zabarkes Friedman in the National Review, Mr. Jennings had an interesting childhood in Canada. "My mother ... was pretty anti-American," Mr. Jennings told Dave Letterman in September of 2002. "And so was I, in some respects, raised with Anti-Americanism in my blood, or in my mother's milk at least."

Is that important? Mightily important given the fact that, despite a shrinking audience, too many Americans still get their evening news from "World News Tonight." According to the Center for Media and Public Affairs, writes Ms. Friedman, the Jennings show had the most anti-war coverage of the nightly broadcasts on all three networks in both 1991 and 2003. Anti-war rallies were featured regularly, while support-the-troops gatherings were consistently ignored.

Like Tom Brokaw and Mr. Rather, Mr. Jennings believes his liberal bias isn't bias at all. It's simply mainstream thinking. During the Clinton impeachment process, for example, as the senators were signing their names to the oath book promising to be fair and impartial in their decisions, Mr. Jennings went out of his way to identify each of the right-leaning Republicans as "conservative." No Democrats were identified as liberal, however, not even Tom Daschle, Barbara Mikulski, Ted Kennedy or even John Kerry. "In the world of the Jenningses and Brokaws and Rathers," writes Bernard Goldberg in his fascinating book, "Bias: A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News," "conservatives are out of the mainstream and need to be identified. Liberals on the other hand, are mainstream and don't need to be identified."

"Too many news people, especially the ones at worldwide headquarters in New York where all the big decisions are made, basically talk to other people just like themselves," writes Mr. Goldberg. He mentions a writer for the New Yorker who was shocked when Richard Nixon carried 49 states in the 1972 election. "I can't believe it!" she cried. "I don't know a single person who voted for him."

On June 16, writes Ms. Friedman, Mr. Jennings declared: "One of the Bush administration's most controversial assertions in its argument for war was that Saddam Hussein had links to al-Qaeda. Today the 9/11 Commission said unequivocally, not so." Really? On page 61 of the Commission Report we read that bin Laden established the Muslim terrorist group Ansar al Islam within Iraq in 2001. "There are indications that by then the Iraqi regime tolerated and may even have helped Ansar al Islam against the common Kurdish enemy." No smok-

ing gun but hardly unequivocal, eh?

Is there a vast left-wing conspiracy in the news rooms of ABC, CBS and NBC? Absolutely not. Since only liberal views are allowed to percolate within the inner sanctums of the major networks, the climate of liberalism is perceived as "mainstream." Mr. Rather, for example, told Mr. Goldberg that The New York Times was "middle of the road." Middle of the road? The gray lady hasn't endorsed a Republican for president in 50 years! Trying desperately to salvage Mr. Rather's credibility, a recent NYT headline read: "Memoes on Bush Are Fake But Accurate." Sounds Kerryesque.

How "mainstream" has Mr. Jennings been during his 21-year reign as ABC news guru? Consider the following Jennings reporting gems tallied by Media Reality Check.

Castro the Great: "Medical care was once for the privileged few. Today it is available to every Cuban and it is free. Some of Cuba's health care is world class. In heart disease, for example, in brain surgery. Health and education are the revolution's great success stories." (June 15, 1989). Right. Soviet health care was once world class, too, remember? With Soviet doctors no longer performing "medical miracles," perhaps Americans with heart problems can now be treated in Cuba.

Intolerant Republicans: "We begin tonight with what you could call zero tolerance ... Today by the time Mr. [Bob] Dole spoke by satellite to his party delegates, who were already gathered in San Diego, all notions of tolerance on the subject of abortion had disappeared from the party's platform." (August 6, 1996) Hey, Mr. Jennings, how come you never mention the fact that no pro-life speakers have ever been allowed to speak at Democrat conventions?

Soviet Pussycats: "There are some of you, I'm sure, who remember the days when we in the West were afraid that the Soviet Union would outdo the West technologically. They had been first in space. The CIA was pretty impressed, remember? And then the Soviet Union fell apart and we discovered how far behind they were ... Ah yes, we used to take the Soviet Union so seriously." (July 7, 2000). Golly, Miss Molly. How silly of "some of you" to have worried about the Soviet Union which had dozens of client states on four continents, ballistic missiles aimed at our major cities, and the largest military arsenal in the world.

The ancient Greeks had a word for what ails our three Humpty Dumpties: hubris. Fortunately for those who still believe "journalistic ethics" is not an oxymoron, ABC, NBC and CBS no longer dominate the air waves with their "unbiased, middle-of-the-road" reporting. The Humpty Dumpties have either fallen or are teetering. Cable networks such as Fox News are taking their place. Blogs on the Internet are doing their part. One day, one can only hope, Messrs. Jennings and Brokaw will either repent or fall, victims of their own bloviating bias. Humpties may soon become Dumpties, and no one, not even George Soros and Michael Moore, will put them back together again.

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Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 1)

cost him his life, the presidential candidate went on to call for unity in the country, as well as for support from all the regions. He extolled voters not to fear going to the polls on election day and to cast their ballot for a candidate of their own choosing.

Three days later, on September 21, looking somewhat better but still unable to speak distinctly, Mr. Yushchenko openly told an attentive and deadly silent Parliament on September 21 that state authorities were responsible for his poisoning two weeks earlier. He did not name names outright, but the insinuations were clear.

"Today we are talking about a political kitchen that orders murders. The next one could be you," said Mr. Yushchenko, emotion again charging his usually restrained delivery. He said state authorities were ready to do whatever it takes to retain power on election day.

In most current political surveys Mr. Yushchenko holds a 6 percent to 8 percent lead over his closest competitor, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the candidate in this field of 25 presidential hopefuls who has the support of the state leadership, including President Leonid Kuchma.

At one point during his address to the Verkhovna Rada – which was given prior to a floor vote that overwhelmingly supported the creation of an ad hoc investigative committee to determine how the presidential candidate was poisoned – Mr. Yushchenko had to stop momentarily to regain his composure after he recalled the harrowing experience he has been through in the last two weeks.

Mr. Yushchenko was hospitalized on September 10 in Vienna after being flown there from Kyiv, where his condition had deteriorated badly even under the care of

doctors. The former prime minister, a robust and physically active man, had taken ill the evening of September 5 after returning from the Chernihiv Oblast with what at first looked to be a bad case of stomach flu. After extensive testing by a team of 12 Austrian doctors, including one originally from Ukraine, Mr. Yushchenko was diagnosed with acute chemical poisoning and pancreatitis.

During his address in the Verkhovna Rada Mr. Yushchenko threw aside the indirectness and muted tones of political politeness and graciousness for which he is known. While not outrightly naming names, he made it very plain whom he blamed for what he and his campaign team are considering an attempt on his life. He grouped his own brush with death with the untimely deaths of several prominent Ukrainian politicians in recent years, including the mysterious automobile accident that killed Vyacheslav Chornovil in 1999 and the murder of Mr. Yushchenko's mentor, former National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Vadym Hetman, who was shot at close range in his apartment building, as well as the death of journalist Heorhii Gongadze in 2000.

"Some in the Prosecutor General's Office at one point were bold enough to reveal that the culprit's name began with the letter 'K,'" explained Mr. Yushchenko, referring to information distributed by the country's top law enforcement agency some months ago on who may have slain Mr. Gongadze.

"They, unfortunately did not have the courage to fill in the rest of the letters," Mr. Yushchenko continued, making a clear reference to the sitting Ukrainian president.

Mr. Yushchenko also had harsh words for parliamentary colleagues who had dismissed his condition as being the result of a preference for exotic Japanese foods or of a drinking binge. In the days after his campaign team announced that Mr. Yushchenko

was recovering from a near fatal poisoning that may have been an assassination attempt, the major television channels covered the story by including remarks from the presidential candidate's political opponents, which included suggestions that his exotic and very un-Ukrainian culinary tastes or a predilection to alcohol abuse may have caused his condition.

As the session hall fell deathly silent, Mr. Yushchenko challenged the lawmakers to speak up publicly if they believed what had been said about him.

"Tell me, in the last 10-15 years, raise your hands and tell me if you have ever seen me drunk or out of control," challenged Mr. Yushchenko. "I am not a gourmand of the Eastern nor the Western kitchen. I eat the same meals as you and 47 million other Ukrainians: borsch, potatoes and salo."

The latter part of the statement was aimed directly at National Deputy Oleksander Moroz, who had said on September 18 that Mr. Yushchenko should tone down his taste for bourgeois delights.

Mr. Yushchenko also singled out parliamentary majority leader Stepan Havrysh, who had stated that the presidential candidate should eat less sushi. Mr. Havrysh took to the podium after Mr. Yushchenko's address to directly and unequivocally apologize for making the crass comments before he had known the entire story.

Soon after the Verkhovna Rada voted nearly unanimously, with 425 votes in the affirmative, to support Mr. Yushchenko's call for a parliamentary investigation into the matter, Ukraine's Procurator General's Office announced that it would begin its own investigation into the poisoning of the presidential candidate.

President Leonid Kuchma, who had asked on September 20 that an investigation into the matter take place, expressed no amazement over the ordeal experienced by Mr. Yushchenko.

"I didn't have to be an astrologer to have predicted that these will be the dirtiest elections ever in an independent Ukraine," said Mr. Kuchma on September 21 during a working visit to Pavlohrad, near Dnipropetrovsk.

Meanwhile, Procurator General Hennadii Vasyliiev, while stating that an investigation would take place into the circumstances surrounding Mr. Yushchenko's illness, openly questioned whether the poisoning took place in Ukraine.

"He left for Vienna looking normal, but returned very different," noted the chief prosecutor of Ukraine.

Mr. Yushchenko's ordeal started when he began to feel ill on September 5. That evening he began to vomit uncontrollably. Even as doctors worked on the father of six, his condition continued to deteriorate. On September 9, with Mr.

Yushchenko getting no better and complaining of general pain in the head, lung, abdominal and spinal regions, a decision was made by his family and his campaign team to transport the presidential candidate to Rudolfinerhaus, a renowned Viennese medical clinic. There a team of 12 doctors did extensive blood and radiological testing on the presidential candidate, including CAT scans of the brain.

Dr. Mykola Korpan, a Ukrainian doctor who was part of the medical team, told various Ukrainian mass media on September 21 that the testing showed that Mr. Yushchenko was suffering "an atypical medical condition," which had affected various organs of his body. Dr. Korpan explained that no known poisoning from food or drink, which would generally be bacterial in nature, could result in the symptoms exhibited by Mr. Yushchenko, including localized paralysis, pain in the lungs, erosion and bleeding of the pancreas and inflammation of the large intestine.

"We can only theoretically conjecture that this resulted from the intake of an unusual substance. This could not come from normal food poisoning," explained Dr. Korpan, who expressly excluded contaminated sushi, fish and eggs or alcohol as the culprit.

"While alcohol can result in pancreatitis, for instance, it will not result in acute colitis, it will not give acute gastritis, and it will not result in paralysis of a nerve of a face and pain in the pulmonary cavity," added the specialist.

Dr. Korpan said the doctors tried to determine via a blood analysis what chemical substance had poisoned Mr. Yushchenko, but – since some 96 hours had passed from the onset of the symptoms – nothing was detected. He explained that the body rids itself of most internal contamination within 48 hours and noted that only a forensic medical specialist would be able to draw conclusions as to specifically what substance could have done the damage that occurred in Mr. Yushchenko's body. He said that for the Austrian doctors the primary task had been to stabilize the Ukrainian politician's condition and treat his symptoms.

"For 24 hours we fought for his life – not to determine what had caused the problems," explained Dr. Korpan.

He suggested also that while the poison could have entered the body via the breathing passages or through a handshake or in a drink, more than likely Mr. Yushchenko ingested the substance with his food, inasmuch as the stomach, pancreas and intestines were directly affected.

The doctor also noted that had Mr. Yushchenko waited another day before arriving in Vienna for treatment, his chance for survival would have dropped to about 20 percent.

FOR THE RECORD: John Kerry's statement on Ukraine's elections

The following statement by Sen. John Kerry, Democratic candidate for president, was issued on September 21 by the Kerry-Edwards 2004 campaign.

Ukraine is a strategically important country in the heart of Europe. Its liberation 13 years ago was a victory for democratic forces after three-quarters of a century of communist rule. Today, as Ukraine prepares for its upcoming presidential elections, Ukrainians have the opportunity to demonstrate the power of democracy in Eastern Europe by selecting their future leader through free and fair elections that reflect the will of the people.

I am concerned about developments in Ukraine in the lead-up to election day. There is a pattern of government abuse and intimidation against opposition political candidates and their supporters. While Ukraine has generously contributed troops in Iraq, the Bush administration has ignored democratic reversal in that country. We could have been working with Europe over the past several months to formulate a common approach to support democracy in Ukraine.

Ukraine is at a turning point. The Bush administration should challenge the Ukrainian leadership to ensure that all candidates are granted equal access to state media. The U.S. should work with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to significantly increase the number of international observers sent to Ukraine for the elections.

It is not too late for democracy to triumph in Ukraine. As president, I will continue to build on the strong partnership between the United States and Ukraine by supporting its independence and full participation in the trans-Atlantic community. Ukraine's gifted, diverse society is capable of continuing on the path its citizens chose in 1991, if given a fair choice in free elections this fall.

Attention, Students!

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

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

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

24 candidates...

(Continued from page 1)

The last five candidates to submit their petitions joined a field that includes front-runners National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. However, their signatures lists numbered far less than the 1 million plus names gathered by the two leaders. In fact, Mr. Yanukovich claims to have gathered some 7 million signatures. He filed on September 17, while Mr. Yushchenko filed some 1.7 million signatures on September 19.

Seven other candidates filed their petitions early and have had them approved by the Central Election Commission. Review and approval by the CEC, which is done by randomly checking a representative sample of the signatures, is the final step in the qualification process. It assures these candidates a spot on the voter ballot on election day. The seven

are: Oleksander Moroz, Anatolii Kinakh, Bohdan Boiko, Petro Symonenko, Vasyi Volha, Leonid Chernovetskyi and Oleksander Omelchenko.

Vitalii Kononov, an eighth candidate, whose signature lists had already been approved by the CEC, withdrew his candidacy on September 23, stating that he was doing so at the behest of the Green Party, which he heads, and explaining that he was acting as a good "soldier of the party." He joined Hryhorii Chernysh, who withdrew after the latter failed to submit the required signature lists in support of his candidacy by the September 20 deadline.

The other 10 candidates who made the September 20 filing deadline were: Andrii Chornovil, Ihor Dushyn, Dmytro Korchynskyi, Roman Kozak, Yuri Zbitniev, Oleksander Bazyliuk, Oleksander Kryvobokov, Oleksander Yakovenko, Volodymyr Nechyporuk and Oleksander Rzhavskyi.

THE 13th ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

Bay area Ukrainians gather to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day



Girls of the Barvinok Dance Ensemble with Vice-Consul Taras Kuzmych (left) and Consul General Valery Hrebenuik.

by Nestor Wolansky

SAN FRANCISCO – As in the years past, Ukrainian Day, this year celebrating Ukraine's 13th anniversary of independence, took place in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park on August 29. This year's event was held in the lush Botanical Gardens, rather than on the main Rotunda stage, due to construction of the new de Young Museum.

In spite of the lack of seating – the public had to sit on the grass, or bring their own chairs – the crowd of about 350, consisting not only of Ukrainian Americans

but other ethnic groups, came in force to see the Ukrainians perform their magical dances and sing their unforgettable songs.

No one was disappointed.

The main attraction this year was the visiting Ukrainian Dance Ensemble Barvinok from Manitoba, presenting unique dances from various regions of Ukraine: Volyn, Bukovyna, Podillia and the Hutsul highlands. The Hopak dance was performed enthusiastically to a thundering applause that seemed endless.

The young dancers, most of whom were already wide-eyed from their first visit to California, danced with such

vivacity and rapture that the crowds worked themselves into a frenzy. They all loved the Ukrainians' dances.

A warm, welcoming speech from the special guest, Valery Hrebenuik, the consul general of the recently opened San Francisco Consulate of Ukraine, informed the public about Ukraine's successes and failures of the past year, the outstanding performance of its athletes at the just completed Athens Olympics, and about the uncertainty of the upcoming national elections in Ukraine, where much is at stake.

It should be mentioned that a number of pro-Yushchenko banners was evident

in the crowd, but Yanukhovich supporters were not.

The consul general was unwavering and confident about Ukraine's economic and political future. The same optimism was echoed by the youthful and enthusiastic vice-consul, Taras Kuzmych, who said he sees Ukraine making continuous progress in all fields, in spite of the often negative press reports in the Bay Area.

Ola Herasymenko, the well-known merited artist of Ukraine who lives in California, performed a medley of lovely Ukrainian pieces on the bandura, while the renowned mezzo-soprano soloist from Lviv Opera House, Ivanna Taratula-Filipenko, sang movingly, as she has in the years past, to the delight of the crowd. She was followed by another mezzo-soprano, the exuberant veteran Maria Tcherepenko, who served as the event coordinator as well.

As in previous years, the Historical 122-year-old Golden Gate Park Band, under the direction of Michael Wirgler, performed Ukrainian melodies. The event was sponsored by the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Heritage Club of Northern California, the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, St. Volodymyr Mission – Santa Clara, Ukrainian Fraternal Association (Assembly 270), the Ukrainian National Association (Branch 486), the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (Chapter 107), the Ukrainian Medical Association of Northern California, and the Ukrainian Professional and Business Group of Northern California.

Rockland County Ukrainians celebrate

by Vasyl Luchkiw

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. – The local Ukrainian American community of Rockland County in the state of New York marked Ukrainian Independence Day on Sunday, August 22, with a divine liturgy, followed by a "panakhyda" (memorial service) for all those who gave their lives in the fight for the liberation of Ukraine. Members of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 19 formed an honor guard during the service with national flags and post colors.

After the church services, the community gathered at the county legislative complex to continue the celebration of the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. At noon, the commander of UAV post 19,

Vasyl Szozda, a Vietnam war veteran, raised the blue-and-yellow flag of Ukraine about the county complex as all gathered sang the Ukrainian national anthem.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw, advisor of the Ukrainian National Association and past national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans. He underscored that today, the eyes of the world are focused on Ukraine as the election of the country's next president is scheduled for October 31.

He said that the world, especially the United States, instead of leading the way and showing Ukraine the way to democracy is threatening the young country with resolutions and sanctions.

"And how about us," he asked, "the

Western diaspora? What are we doing to help Ukraine? ... It seems we are resigned to the philosophy of 'poor Ukraine.'"

"Ukraine requires very strong and positive action from all of us. We must, by our voting power, influence, indeed demand from presidential candidates in our chosen countries of residence that

they help Ukraine to conquer its present crises," Dr. Luchkiw continued.

A brief welcoming address was delivered by Theodore Dusanenko, a Rockland County legislator of Ukrainian descent, and the Vesna folk dance ensemble performed several dances.

After the brief program, UAVeterans invited all present to an anniversary picnic.



During the Ukrainian Independence Day ceremonies are (from left): Theodore Dusanenko, Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw, Michael Wengrenovich, Vasyl Szozda, Bohdan Hajduk, Joseph Brega and Michael Tymoch.

Embassy of Ukraine sponsors reception



Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – Olympic figure-skating champion Victor Petrenko made a surprise appearance at the Ukrainian Embassy-sponsored reception marking the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence on September 8 at the Madison Hotel in Washington. Next to him are Cultural Attaché Natalia Holub (center) and Iryna Reznik, the wife of Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. Mykhailo Reznik. Among the other prominent guests attending the event were Ukraine's first foreign affairs minister, Anatolii Zlenko, and two former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine, Carlos Pascual and Steven Pifer.

Tryzub captures team championship at USCAK swim meet

by Omelan Twardowsky

KERHONKSON, N. Y. – Beautiful weather and a record number of participants – more than 60 swimmers – assured the success of the 48th annual swimming championships of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), which took place here on September 4. The championship was dedicated to the 80th anniversary of both the Carpathian Ski Club and Chornomorska Sitch.

As in previous years, the championship was organized by USCAK's swimming director, Marika Bokalo, who carried out advance registration of the participants in all of the 52 competitions in four age groups. Unfortunately, on the eve of departure for the event, Ms. Bokalo became ill and was hospitalized. The direction of the swimming championship was taken over by her brother, Peter Prociuk, and his able staff of experienced referees: John Makar, chief referee; Taras Midzak, chief timing judge; Tom Danigyn, starter; Christine Tershakovec, Zirka Kovbasniuk, Taras Kozak, Nestor Maksymovych, George Lesiuk, Anna Fat, Roman Palylyk, Petrusia Paslawsky, Peter Teniuch, Zenon Cybriwsky, John Rusniak and Nick Prociuk, timing judges; Alexander Napora, Marusia Makar,

Angelina Kozak and Myron Pryimak, scorers. Also assisting were Olenka Halkovych and Omelan Twardowsky.

This year's championship attracted a record number of swimmers, boys and girls of all ages – a good sign for the future of organized swimming in the Ukrainian diaspora. Organizers expressed hope that sports enthusiasts from USCAK-West and Canada in the future will be able to mobilize their sports clubs and youth organizations to participate in this meet as USCAK-East has done to some degree.

Simultaneously with the swimming championship, the courts of Soyuzivka hosted the USCAK tennis championship, which was run by tennis director George Sawczak and his assistants. The official opening of both tournaments took place toward the end of the swimming competition. This ceremony was emceed by George Popel, the president of KLK [as the Carpathian Ski Club is known]. Short addresses were delivered by Roman Rakoczy and Myron Stebelsky, the president of USCAK.

Mr. Stebelsky spoke about the history of the KLK, which was founded in western Ukraine in 1924, and that of Chornomorska Sitch, which was established in the same year in Newark, N.J., by veterans of the Ukrainian war of liber-

ation, headed by Ivan Hrynyk, a former officer of the Ukrainian Galician Army. Both championships this year were dedicated to these two jubilees.

Roma Lisovich, the Ukrainian National Association's treasurer, welcomed the leadership and the contestants of both championships, thanking all for coming to Soyuzivka and inviting them to continue to organize such sports events here in the future. The solemn ceremonies were concluded with the hoisting of the American, Canadian and Ukrainian flags, while the respective national anthems were played.

The presentation of medals to victorious swimmers took place outside the Uzhhorod building. The ceremony was opened by Mr. Stebelsky, who congratulated the participants and especially the prize winners for their enthusiasm, and the referees and tournament staff for their exemplary direction of this USCAK championship. He thanked the Soyuzivka management for preparing the swimming pool and the Ukrainian National Association for funding the medals and the club trophy.

The medals were presented by Ms. Lisovich on behalf of the UNA. She was assisted by Mr. Prociuk, as well as representatives of Tryzub, SUM, Chornomorska Sitch and Plast.

Below are the names of the gold, silver and bronze medalists, their club affiliations and swimming times.

BOYS 10 AND UNDER

25 m freestyle

1. Dadich Rusyniak (SUM), 17.23
2. Matthew Betley (SUM), 20.81
3. Michael Tershakovec (Tryzub), 26.10

50 m freestyle

1. David Rusnak (SUM), 42.78
2. Matthew Betley, 49.75
3. Paul Kozak (Plast), 1:27.91

25 m backstroke

1. Michael Tershakovec, 31.55,
2. Stephan Maksymovych, 32.97
3. Stephan Olesnycky, 35.76

25 m breaststroke

1. Michael Tershakovec, 26.17
2. Nick Paslawsky (Sitch), 32.59
3. Matthew Betley, 32.65

25 m butterfly

1. David Rusyniak, 25.33
2. Stephan Palylyk, 40.22

GIRLS 10 AND UNDER

25 m freestyle

1. Natalie Hryhorowych (Sitch), 17.59
2. Lesia Olesnycky (Sitch), 18.13
3. Andrea Cybriwsky (Tryzub), 20.27

50 m freestyle

1. Natalie Hryhorowych, 39.50
2. Nusia Kerda (SUM), 1:01.75
3. Roma Dumak (SUM), 1:24.28

25 m backstroke

1. Emily Danigyn, 24.74
2. Lesia Olesnycky, 25.74
3. Andrea Cybriwsky, 28.86

25 m breaststroke

1. Natalie Hryhorowych, 24.48
2. Lesia Olesnycky, 25.09
3. Emily Danigyn, 27.00

25 m butterfly

1. Melissa Phillips, 28.89

BOYS 11-12

50 m freestyle

1. Andrew Pikharko (Sitch), 33.69
2. Andrew Olchowecky (Tryzub), 37.56
3. Paul Tershakovec (Tryzub), 40.07

25 m freestyle

1. Andrew Olchowecky, 16.33
2. Stephan Lesiuk (Tryzub), 21.02

25 m backstroke

1. Andrew Olchowecky, 20.40
2. Vasyl Stolar, 24.13
3. Danylo Maksymovych, 26.83

25 m breaststroke

1. Andrew Pikharko, 20.31
2. Paul Tershakovec, 21.95
3. Vasyl Stolar, 25.31

25 m butterfly

1. Paul Tershakovec, 18.57
2. Danylo Maksymovych, 25.81

GIRLS 11-12

25 m freestyle

1. Viktoria Mazuriak, 15.00
2. Larissa Shafran (SUM), 16.96
3. Catherine Bukalo (SUM), 19.98

50 m freestyle

1. Christine Fat (Tryzub), 32.81
2. Viktoria Mazuriak (SUM), 33.15
3. Alexandra Danigyn (SUM), 35.04



The Tryzub swim team, 2004 USCAK champions.

(Continued on page 11)

Tryzub captures...

(Continued from page 10)

25 m breaststroke

1. Alexandra Danigyn, 19.51
2. Christine Fat, 19.93
3. Bohdana Stolar, 24.69

25 m butterfly

1. Viktoria Mazuriak, 15.21
2. Alexandra Danigyn, 17.24
3. Larissa Shafran, 23.27

BOYS 13-14

100 m freestyle

1. Gregory Fat (Tryzub), 1:03.79
2. Michael Kybalo, (SUM), 1:07.73

50 m freestyle

1. Michael Kybalo, 29.63
2. Roman Olchowecky (SUM), 35.90
3. Michael Palumbo (Sitch), 37.72

50 m backstroke

1. Gregory Fat, 33.46
2. Roman Olchowecky, 43.57
3. Roman Kovbasniuk, (SUM), 54.48

50 m breaststroke

1. Roman Kovbasniuk, 49.75
2. Roman Olchowecky, 50.93
3. Michael Pytlar (Sitch), 59.22

50 m butterfly

1. Gregory Fat, 31.76
2. Michael Kybalo, 35.88

GIRLS 13-14

100 m freestyle

1. Tetiana Palylyk (SUM), 1:17.37

50 m butterfly

1. Christine Fat, (Tryzub), 37.11
2. Melanie Cybriwsky, (Tryzub), 42.90

50 m freestyle

1. Tetiana Palylyk, 33.87

2. Melanie Cybriwsky (Tryzub), 35.30
3. Nadia Byrsta (SUM), 41.83

50 m backstroke

1. Nadia Vyrsta (SUM), 51.92

50 m breaststroke

1. Tetiana Palylyk 49.19
2. Katrusia Midzak, 58.46

50 m butterfly

1. Christine Fat, 37.11
2. Melanie Cybriwsky, 42.90

BOYS 15 AND OVER

100 m individual medley

1. William Makar (Sitch), 1:07.26
2. Anthony Tokarchyk (Tryzub), 1:08.00
3. Andrew Midzak (Tryzub), 1:17.86

100 m freestyle

1. Andrew Midzak, 1:01.37

2. Mark Makar (Sitch), 1:01.49
3. Paul Midzak (Tryzub), 1:09.11

50 m freestyle

1. Mark Makar, 27.28
2. Robert Tokarchyk (Tryzub), 27.57
3. Andrew Midzak, 28.09

50 m backstroke

1. Anthony Tokarchyk, 31.57
2. William Makar, (Sitch), 31.95
3. Paul Midzak, (Tryzub), 36.58

50 m breaststroke

1. Robert Tokarchyk, 35.47
2. Mark Makar, 37.10
3. Paul Midzak, 37.12

50 m butterfly

1. William Makar, 29.87
2. Anthony Tokarchyk, 30.75
3. Robert Tokarchyk, 34.65

GIRLS 15 AND OVER

100 m individual medley

1. Tania Hryhorowych (Sitch), 1:16.71
2. Marusia Kalush (SUM), 1:31.60
3. Andrea Marushchak (Tryzub), 1:43.27

100 m freestyle

1. Catherine Olchowecky, 1:14.73
2. Sonia Tokarchyk (Tryzub), 1:15.63
3. Marusia Kalush, 1:16.09

50 m freestyle

1. Adriana Lesiuk (Tryzub), 29.35
2. Tania Hryhorowych, 30.13
3. Alexandra Pikharko (Sitch), 30.69

50 m backstroke

1. Tania Hryhorowych, 36.12
2. Sonia Tokarchyk, 37.03
3. Catherine Olchowecky, 37.91

50 m breaststroke

1. Andrea Lesiuk, 41.19
2. Marusia Kalush, 46.52
3. Catherine Olchowecky, 50.74

50 m butterfly

1. Andrea Marushchak, (Tryzub), 34.82
2. Adriana Lesiuk, (Tryzub), 48.29

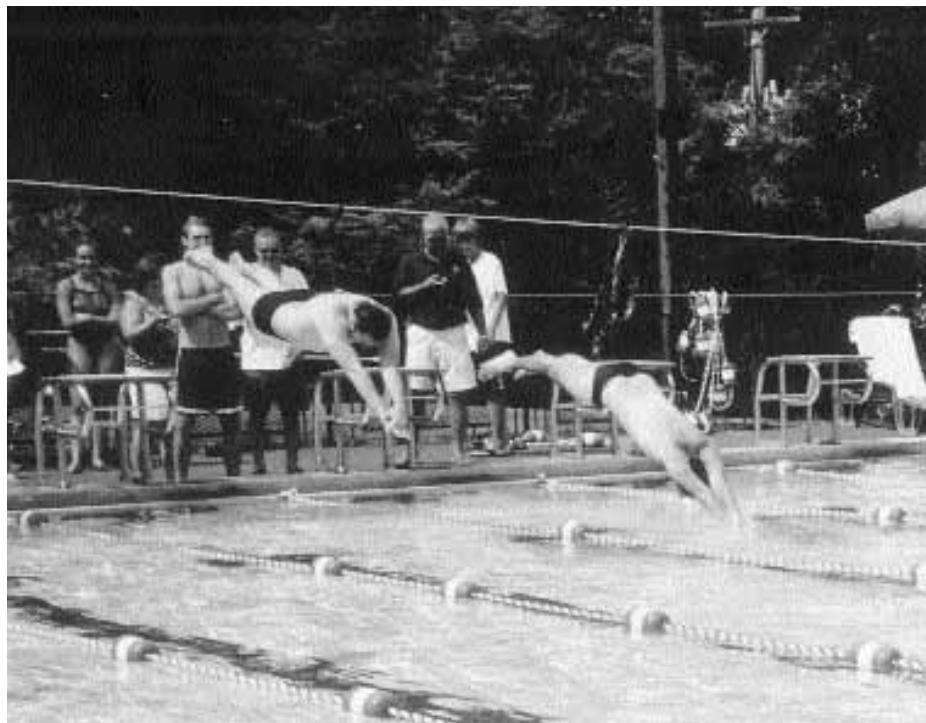
In the 4 x 25-meter freestyle relay for the girls 10 and under the winner was the Sitch team, posting a time of 1:24.30. The SUM team took second.

In the same relay the winners in the 11-12 age group for girls was the SUM team with a time of 1:12.20.

In the 13-14 age group for boys the 4 x 50-meter relay was won by the Tryzub team with a time of 2:27.84, while SUM finished second with 2:37.97.

In the boys age group of 15 and over, the relay results were: 1. Tryzub, 2:07.7; 2. Sitch, 2:11.96; 3. SUM, 2:36.80.

The club results in the 2004 USCAK swimming championship were as follows: 1. Tryzub Philadelphia, 164 points; 2. SUM 131 points; 3. Sitch, 99 points; 4. Plast 11 points.



A scene from the races at USCAK's swimming championship.

Ukraine's defense...

(Continued from page 1)

6 when an ammunition depot exploded, resulting in the death of five people and injury to four others.

"You must realize that we have a huge amount of ammunition stores and that poses a huge threat to the country," explained Mr. Kuchma in Pavlohrad.

Mr. Kuchma had initially warned his defense minister, only the second civilian to hold the reins of the military since Ukraine obtained statehood 13 years ago, that he had to get a better grip on what was occurring in the armed forces after the incident in Melitopil.

The president had repeated the warning after a visit to a military base of the Ukrainian naval forces in Balaklava in July, noting at the time that his orders to decommission the base and turn the area around it into a tourist attraction in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Crimean War were not being carried out.

Mr. Marchuk lately had also been questioned regarding the legality of authorizing the use of eight Ukrainian helicopters by the Turkish government to fight forest fires in the country that had gotten out of control. One of the helicopters crashed on September 3 after a cable became entangled in its rear propeller; three Ukrainian servicemen were killed.

On September 20 the Procurator General's Office had announced that it was investigating the legality of the way the helicopters were borrowed by Turkey, which was done by contract with a Canadian firm, Artic Group Ltd., using the aviation company RosAvia as the go-

between. RosAvia has been accused several times by Western capitals in the transport of illegal arms across international borders.

On the day Mr. Kuchma announced that he had fired Mr. Marchuk, the defense minister spent the morning reporting on his activities and defending his actions in the Turkish fiasco to the Verkhovna Rada.

The minister seemed to take his firing in stride. He told Holos Ukrainy after he was notified that he had been dismissed that, "For me this is not a major problem."

National Deputy Heorhii Kriuchkov, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on National Security and Defense, said that he did not exclude the possibility that Mr. Marchuk's dismissal could have serious aftereffects for the Kuchma administration, inasmuch as the defense secretary has a vast store of knowledge on the inner workings of the state leadership, having served during the past 13 years not only as defense minister but also as national security chief and head of the state security apparatus.

Mr. Kriuchkov added that he also could not exclude the possibility that the firing was related to the political election season.

Mr. Kriuchkov noted wryly that he found it interesting that the president announced he had accepted the resignation of his defense minister when Mr. Marchuk had not offered up as much.

"The announcement said the minister submitted his resignation, which should mean that he wrote the memo in his own name. But I spoke with him [Mr. Marchuk] today and for him this was unexpected," explained Mr. Kriuchkov.



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Tribute...

(Continued from page 1)

promote and popularize a Ukrainian national treasure, Ukrainian folk dance, through a lifetime of extraordinary artistry, dedication and passion." The foot-high figure, the design of sculptor Taras Lewyckyj of Philadelphia, a former Pryma-Bohachevsky student who now directs Philadelphia's Voloshky Dance Ensemble, shows Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky poised on one foot, arms akimbo, performing a Ukrainian dance that was part of her solo stage presentations. Made in Ukraine of brass-covered Ukrainian black marble, the statue was delayed in transport, arriving from Kyiv just hours before the luncheon.

Mr. Nazarewicz, who remembers seeing Ms. Pryma Bohachevsky in 1961 when she performed in New York for the first time, described her as an internationally recognized prima ballerina and beloved dance instructor for thousands of children and adults who passed through her dance schools and workshops.

"She brought an inimitable freshness and beauty to Ukrainian dance through her groundbreaking choreography of regional dances, as well as her stylized interpretations that drew upon Ukrainian dance forms, classical ballet and modern dance," she added.

"When Stefa Dobriansky approached the institute's board director Roman Czajkowsky with the idea of honoring this wonderful Ukrainian American

woman, Roma Pryma, we were so pleased and we decided to sponsor an accolade for her," Mr. Nazarewicz said.

Accepting the award on behalf of their mother, Ms. Lonkevych and Mr. Bohachevsky expressed gratitude to Mr. Nazarewicz, the institute's board of directors, and event planners and participants for the great honor accorded to their mother. Mr. Bohachevsky, following his sister's Ukrainian comments with a statement in English, said their feelings were shared by their father, George Bohachevsky, who was unable to attend.

"Ania and I are committed to ensuring that mother's legacy and her work and her spirit live on," he told the assembly. "To that end, we have established the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Foundation of Ukrainian Dance, drawing on the talented young choreographers, teachers and dancers who have worked with her and have been inspired by Pani Roma for decades."

Facing challenges

Keynote speaker Marta Zielyk observed that "Pani Roma, my ballet teacher, taught me not only how to turn out my toes for the second classical ballet position or how to do a proper, full deep bow on stage but taught me – I realize now – about life itself."

"When I felt challenged by life's situations, I would reach back into my childhood and pull out a memory of Pani Roma: how she always stood with her back ramrod straight, her gaze level, direct and open. So



UIA President Walter Nazarewicz (left) with Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych and Boris Bohachevsky, children of the late Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky.

I try to stand up straight and look a challenge straight in the eye," Ms. Zielyk said.

Now a senior diplomatic interpreter for the U.S. State Department, Ms. Zielyk recalled Pani Roma's poise, self-confidence, her stage presence, her radiant smile, her elegance and talent, her innate awareness of people and their abilities – qualities that touched everyone she came in contact with.

Mistress of ceremonies Lydia Zaluckyj-Kulbida, news anchor for WNYT Television in Albany, N.Y., and a former ballet student of Pani Roma, read greetings from New York Gov. George Pataki, who stated that Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky "inspired a most important expression of national pride through her legacy of dance that will live for generations to come." She said that New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey had issued a proclamation honoring the life and memory of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky.

Announcing a \$5,000 donation to the new Foundation for Ukrainian Dance from the Ukrainian Institute of America. Ms. Kulbida said she looked forward to seeing everyone at Alice Tully Hall on November 13, when some 120 dancers will celebrate the lifeworks of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky through Ukrainian dance.

Two multimedia presentations, one prepared by Zenon Cybyk and the other by Ihor Lukiw and Roma Lisovich, offered a pictorial review of Ms. Pryma Bohachevsky's life, from her early years as a ballet student in Lviv, through her professional career as a strikingly beautiful performer in Europe and

North America, her 40-year span of teaching that included workshops, dance camps and festival appearances for her students, her choreographic triumphs with such ballet productions as "Peer Gynt," "Kvit Paporoti" and "Ikona," and her staging of a stunning welcome dance and a glorious Hopak.

The review included her work at the Syzokryli ensemble's director, when she accompanied her group to concert halls through the United States and during a triumphant 1992 tour of Ukraine. Married in 1963 to New York City Opera baritone George Bohachevsky, she was a devoted wife and the mother of Ania and Boris, and grandmother to Ania's children, Alexander and Roma.

In a special dance tribute choreographed by Mr. Bohachevsky, a long line of costumed Syzokryli dancers assembled on the darkened stage. With Ms. Lonkevych and Mr. Bohachevsky at their center, the dancers paced slowly to the melancholy strains of the Sichovi Striltsi song "Chuyesh, Brate Mii" (Do you hear, O my brother). Lighted candles in their hands delineated their movement patterns, simulating the flight of a string of cranes across the sky, but in reality expressing the connection of one human being to another – of Pani Roma as the inspiration that strung together many lives.

For the exciting Hopak dance that's always the finale of Syzokryli performances, the dancers strode on stage led by a group of stalwart males with Andriy Cybyk at their head. (For many years the ensemble's associate artistic director, Mr. Cybyk has been appointed artistic director, with Orlando Pagan serving as balletmaster and Christine Izak as artistic adviser.)

The women's twirls and pirouettes and the men's amazing prysidky leaps and squats to rapid-fire music stirred resounding applause from the audience, which included representatives from Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations and the Ukrainian Consulate in New York, Newport Music Festival director Mark Malkovich III, longtime Met Opera bass-baritone Andriy Dobriansky, and several Ukrainian community leaders. Among them were Stefan Kaczaraj, member of the board of directors of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union (who also is president of the Ukrainian National Association), and Roma Lisovich, treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association.

Organizing committee chair Stefa Dobriansky, who has been steering her six children through years of dance rehearsals and performances, accepted compliments from friends with a bright smile after the event, but pointed to the solid support given by coordinators Ulana Kekish, Roma Kekish Hrechynsky, Oksana Kinal and Olya Rudyk. Much credit, she emphasized should go to Mr. Nazarewicz and UIA Vice-President Yaroslav Kryshalsky – "they were absolutely wonderful in helping to arrange this event."



Boris Bohachevsky and Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych with sculptor Taras Lewyckyj (right), who created the statuette of "Pani Roma."



A view of the tribute to Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky held at Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Two Ukrainians among top prize winners at Plácido Domingo's Operalia competition

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Soprano Nataliya Kovalova and baritone Vitaliy Bilyy, both from Ukraine, were among the top winners at the 12th annual World Opera Competition – Operalia 2004, held in Los Angeles the week of August 23-28. Founded by Plácido Domingo in 1992, Operalia has become one of the leading international contests for opera singers who are in the early stages of their career.

From an initial field of 43 selected contestants from 20 different countries who competed in three elimination stages over the course of the week, Ms. Kovalova emerged as the winner of both the second prize and the "People's Choice" award, and baritone Vitaliy Bilyy as fourth-prize winner, at the competition.

The final round of the competition, held on August 28 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, featured a public performance by 10 finalists, each singing an opera aria of their choice to the accompaniment of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, with Mr. Domingo, conducting.

Ms. Kovalova's program choice for "The Final Concert" portion of the competition was the aria "E strano ... Ah, fors'è lui ... Sempre libera" from Verdi's "La Traviata." For his part, Mr. Bilyy sang the aria "Pietà, rispetto, amore" from Verdi's "Macbeth."

Following the "The Final Concert," Ms. Kovalova, who reportedly brought the house down with her performance, was named "People's Choice" winner on the basis of votes by Dorothy Chandler Pavilion audience members.

Among other top winners at the competition were tenor Dmitry Korchak, winner of both the fourth prize and the Zarzuela prize, and bass Mikhail Petrenko, fourth-prize winner – both of Russia.

Winners of this year's Operalia competition were selected by a jury comprising an international panel of artists and general directors of operas, among them: Jeanne-Pierre Brossman, Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris; Marta Domingo, opera director; Thierry Fouquet, Opéra National de Bordeaux; Jonathan Friend, Metropolitan Opera; Sabine Hodi, Wiener Staatsoper; Peter Katona, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Jean-Loius Pichon, Grand Théâtre l'Esplanade, St. Etienne; Andres P. Rodriguez, Teatro Municipal, Santiago; Emilio Sagi, Teatro Real, Madrid; and Helge Schmidt, Palacio de las Artes, Valencia.

Mr. Domingo, who is artistic director of two American opera companies – the Los Angeles Opera and the Washington National Opera, is present throughout the competition and supervises the proceedings, but does not vote in the competition.

A gala concert with Mr. Domingo and the winners is

Kyiv Chamber Choir to tour Canada

TORONTO – Platinum Concerts International (PCI) has announced the first-ever Canadian concert tour of one of the world's best choirs – the Kyiv Chamber Choir.

This tour includes concerts in 14 cities in five provinces across Canada from November 3 to 28. Concerts will take place in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Windsor, London and Hamilton.

Tour sponsors are the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and the Buduchnist Credit Union. These concerts are also being supported by provincial Choral Music Federations and local Ukrainian community organizations.

Individual concert tickets will go on sale in mid-September and will be available through TicketMaster, in Buduchnist Credit Union branches and at each concert venue.

The Kyiv Chamber Choir's performances will take place in concert halls and in churches and cathedrals that feature outstanding acoustics, where quality choral musicians perform when they are in these communities.

The Weston Recital Hall in Toronto's Center for the Arts and the Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal are examples of the high-quality venues, with great acoustics that attract music audiences, that are reserved for this concert tour.

The concerts will feature the best Ukrainian music composed over the past 1,000 years – arranged and presented with the unique style and outstanding presentation skills of this award-winning choir that regularly attracts sold-out audiences to its concerts in Great Britain and across Europe. Because the Toronto and Ottawa concerts also include Canada's Elmer Iseler

(Continued on page 14)



Baritone Vitaliy Bilyy, winner of the fourth prize at Operalia 2004.



Soprano Nataliya Kovalova, winner of both the second prize and the "People's Choice" prize.



The top three winners at the 12th annual World Opera Competition – Operalia 2004, with its founder, Plácido Domingo, at the close of "The Final Contest" held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on August 28 (from left): third-prize winner Russian tenor Dmitry Voropaev; second-prize winner Ukrainian soprano Nataliya Kovalova; Mr. Domingo; and first-prize winner Korean tenor Woo Kyung Kim.

to take place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion later on in the season.

Born in Ukraine, Ms. Kovalova, 28, studied at musical academies in Lviv, Wroclaw (Poland) and in Dresden. In 2000 she made her debut performances in Wroclaw as Nanetta in "Falstaff," Mimi in "La Bohème" and Pamina in "Die Zauberflöte."

Since 2001 she has been an ensemble member at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf, and she has performed in the opera houses of Linz, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Lille and Luxembourg.

In 2003 Ms. Kovalova debuted as Donna Elvira in "Don Giovanni" at La Monnaie in Brussels.

Mr. Bilyy, 29, was a soloist with the Odesa Opera Theater in 2000-2001. Since 2001 he has been a soloist with Moscow's Novaya Opera Theater, where his roles include Germont in "La Traviata," Count di Luna in "Il Trovatore" and the title role in "Eugene Onegin."

Mr. Bilyy's engagements for 2004 include Enrico in "Lucia di Lammermoor" at the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, Zurga in "Les pêcheurs de perles" with the Kazan Opera Theater in Tatarstan, and Vungun in "Lisunsin" with the Korea Opera Theater in Seoul.

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Yushchenko continues...

(Continued from page 2)

and 36.5 percent, respectively. Predictably, the Yushchenko and the Yanukovych camps are citing only those polls favorable to their candidate. The pro-Yanukovych media used the KIIS data to argue that Mr. Yanukovych now has only to increase his support by 4 percent to win the elections (temnik.com.ua, August 13).

KIIS sociologist Valery Khmelko believes that there are two explanations for the apparently narrowing gap between the two leading candidates. First, during the summer the government radically increased student grants, pensions and wages in what was widely seen as a populist government move to buy voters. Half of Prime Minister Yanukovych's supporters have rallied to him in the last two months, some because of these populist socioeconomic steps and 35 percent because "He has a big chance of victory" (Ukrainska Pravda, September 1). Many voters, even among Mr. Yushchenko's supporters, do not believe that the authorities will voluntarily give up power, no matter how Ukrainians vote.

Second, summertime polls do not necessarily give an accurate picture, as many people are away on holiday or at their dachas. This group of people, including many educated and independent businessmen, are more likely to vote for Mr. Yushchenko, Mr. Khmelko believes. Polls in September, after the school year began, therefore, show a return to a larger gap between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovych in round 2 (Ukrainska Pravda, September 13).

A large group of swing voters remains: 30 percent of voters are undecided, set on voting against both Mr. Yushchenko and Mr. Yanukovych, or unwilling to vote. While only 17 percent of Ukrainophone voters are undecided or set on voting against both candidates, 28 percent of Russophones are uncommitted (Zerkalo Nedeli, July 24-30).

This imbalance exists because some Communist Party voters do not like either candidate and they are unwilling to vote negatively for Mr. Yanukovych against Mr. Yushchenko in round 2. Dislike for the authorities is far higher than in 1994, when the Communists voted wholeheartedly for challenger Leonid Kuchma against incumbent Leonid Kravchuk in the run-off. This year, Communist candidate and party leader Petro Symonenko cannot openly call for support for Mr. Yanukovych in round 2, for fear that it would damage his party's chances in the March 2006 parliamentary elections.

Unlike the 1994 scenario, Mr. Yushchenko is likely to gain far more of the undecided voters than is Mr. Yanukovych (24 percent as opposed to only 10 percent). This means that the second-round gap between both candidates could favor Mr. Yushchenko to a greater degree than polls currently show.

Kyiv Chamber Choir...

(Continued from page 13)

Singers, this inaugural PCI concert tour features two of the best chamber choirs in the world.

PCI will also organize workshops with high-quality local choirs and provide their conductors with a most essential element - scores of Ukrainian choral works - in a program that will benefit both countries and cultures in this meaningful way.

The Kyiv Chamber Choir concert series was developed by PCI's principals: Andrew Witer, executive producer and Ernie McCullough, executive director. They are assisted by an advisory board experienced in media relations; tour planning and management; concert production; and cultural and community relations.

Russian media...

(Continued from page 3)

Russian readers to see an unbiased picture of Ukraine. "The Russian media cover Ukrainian events inadequately in general. They highlight some points so that their tone, towards Ukraine is haughty. Unfortunately, some well-respected press organizations use this tone, too."

Last weekend, Vremia news on one of Russia's main state TV channels said Mr. Yushchenko is busy with self-promotion and criticism of his opponents. A journalist quoted Kyiv political scientist Mykola Pohrebynskyi as saying that Mr. Yushchenko always "complains of his destiny, which is the psychology of a man who knows he will fail in advance."

The story alleged that also scandals are associated with the Yushchenko campaign and showed a truck driver, who claimed Mr. Yushchenko's bodyguards beat him for awkward maneuvers on a highway. No replica from Mr. Yushchenko's supporters followed.

Mr. Yanukovych, on the other hand, is

depicted in a positive manner in the news and even in feature stories. An hourlong TV program on the NTV channel, which is considered to be independent and is one of the most popular in Russia, broadcast an interview with Mr. Yanukovych and his wife during prime time on Saturday, August 28. There was not a word about politics, only a pleasant chat about his character with family pictures as background. However, none of the Russian TV programs gave the same attention to any of the other Ukrainian candidates, of which there are 26.

"People here underscore that Russia is interested in the current Ukrainian prime minister, while Mr. Yushchenko is so-so," Mr. Rudenko-Desniak told The Ukrainian Weekly. "I consider it to be a fabricated myth that Mr. Yushchenko is a person who seeks only to spite Russia. It's not clear how the current prime minister will treat Russia when he becomes president, some journalists have carefully noted. Also, Russia may find itself in an awkward situation after all these publications if Mr. Yushchenko wins. It should keep that in mind."

Highlights...

(Continued from page 4)

It was a milestone also because the convention had weighty matters to consider during its deliberations: changes to UNA By-Laws, mergers with two other Ukrainian fraternal organizations and the fate of UNA fraternal benefits.

The major by-laws change provided for a vote via mail on issues that normally would have to be brought before a convention. Thus, delegates would be able to vote by mail instead of gathering at a special convention if necessity dictated that a decision be made on such issues in between regularly scheduled quadrennial conventions. In fact, delegates to the 34th Convention approved a proposal which directed the General Assembly elected at that convention to prepare a referendum to amend the Charter and By-Laws of the UNA to provide for a governance structure consisting of an 11-member board of directors – in place of the 25-member General Assembly – to be elected by the 35th Convention.

Delegates approved mergers with both the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and the Ukrainian Aid Association of America by the required two-thirds

majority. However, a related measure, that would have changed the name of the new entity to the Ukrainian National Fraternal Association (a move sought by the UFA), failed to get the two-thirds majority and thus was rejected.

In an effort to lower UNA expenses, UNA delegates approved the transformation of the Ukrainian-language newspaper Svoboda from a daily (published five times per week) to a weekly. They also approved a proposal to shorten the season at the UNA resort, Soyuzivka, to three and a half months, a change that was to go into effect for the 1999 season.

The 34th Convention was attended by 227 delegates representing the UNA branches in the United States and Canada, who re-elected Ulana Diachuk to her third term as president.

Source: "UNA concludes 34th convention; Ulana Diachuk re-elected to serve third term as president," by Andriy Kudla Wynnycyk, Toronto Press Bureau, and "The 34th Convention" (editorial), The Ukrainian Weekly, May 24, 1998, Vol. LXVI, No. 21. The border used for this special feature is reproduced from a UNA membership certificate dating to 1919.

McCain, Holbrooke...

(Continued from page 5)

focus sessions, two working lunches and two receptions. In total, more than 70 experts – a veritable Who's Who from Ukraine, the United States and Europe – addressed the conference proceedings on September 13-14.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In upcoming issues of The Ukrainian Weekly, we will publish remarks or excerpts of remarks by the conference's top speakers, as they become available from the organizers of the event whose complete name was "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood – Roundtable V: Ukraine's Transition to a Stable Democracy."

**В ПЕРШУ НЕВИМОВНО БОЛЮЧУ РІЧНИЦЮ ВІДХОДУ У ВІЧНІСТЬ
нашої найдорожчої і незабутньої
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7 жовтня 2004 р. о год. 7-ій веч.

в церкві св. Андрея у Пармі, Огайо.

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Anna Barbadyn

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grandchildren Catherine, Lillian, Andrea, Tina, Lola,
Tony, Myroslaw, Cassandra, Stephanie,
Patrick Jr., Joseph and Erin
six great-grandchildren

Extended family in Ukraine.

She lived in Newark upon her arrival in the US, Kerhonkson and most recently, Randolph, NJ. She enjoyed gardening and NJ Devils hockey.

The parastas took place on Tuesday, September 21, in Union, NJ

The Requiem Liturgy was held on Wednesday, September 22, at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, NJ with interment following at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in S. Bound Brook, NJ

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Was there a second attempt...

(Continued from page 2)

could be classified as an assassination attempt. In his view, it was an example of dirty tricks employed by part of the Yushchenko campaign staff (Ukrainska Pravda, September 18). Mr. Pogrebynsky claimed that such tactics would fail to get Mr. Yushchenko elected and would not be in the interests of the authorities.

The presidential administration was even more dismissive about the assassination claim. Vasyl Baziv, Ukraine's former consul general in Toronto, and current deputy chief of the presidential administration, gave the Yushchenko campaign two rather odd bits of advice. First, he suggested having other members of the election team (such as Mr. Zinchenko) test Mr. Yushchenko's food. Second, if illnesses still occurred, then drink 100 grams of vodka.

Iryna Herashchenko, Mr. Yushchenko's press secretary, replied, "Viktor Andriyovych [Yushchenko], unlike our current president, does not remove his stress by drinking 100 grams of vodka" (Ukrainska Pravda, September 17). Earlier this year President Leonid Kuchma, when asked if he ever used psychiatrists to deal with stress, answered "No," because he felt it better to simply drink 100 grams of vodka.

Such heavy-handed tactics have only served to radicalize Mr. Yushchenko by moving him closer to his populist ally, Yulia Tymoshenko, and the general mood of Ukrainian voters. This was clearly witnessed in the September 18 rally in Kyiv, when Mr. Yushchenko gave one of his most radical speeches. "Bandits in power understand that the elections will be the test of the authorities by the people," Mr. Yushchenko told the crowd (Ukrainska Pravda, September 18).

The Yushchenko election team claims the first attempt to assassinate their candidate came in July and involved a large

KamAZ truck. Ukrainian political opponents have a long history of fatal car "accidents." In a 1999 video leaked to then-opposition presidential candidate Yevhen Marchuk, Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs officers admitted they had organized the "accident" that led to the death of opposition Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil in March 1999. A KamAZ truck hit the car carrying Mr. Chornovil, killing him and the driver. Yuriy Chechyk, a journalist for Radio Liberty, and Vladimir Efremov, a newspaper editor who was traveling to Kyiv to give evidence in the California trial of former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, also died in suspicious car accidents. Valerii Maliev, head of the state arms export agency Ukrspetsekспорт, suffered a suspicious incident in March 2002. His "accident" occurred just as the scandal broke regarding the sale of Kolchuha radars to Iraq. Mr. Maliev had attended the July 2000 meeting when President Kuchma allegedly authorized the sale.

In late July a KamAZ truck attempted three times to drive Mr. Yushchenko's car off the road in the southern Ukrainian oblast of Mykolaiv. Mr. Yushchenko was on a campaign trip with five deputies from his Our Ukraine parliamentary faction, together with state-appointed bodyguards from a former KGB unit designed to protect officials and hired members of a private security firm. His security guards arrested the driver when he refused to provide any identification papers, and they handed him over to the local police.

The opposition camp has taken these incidents very seriously. The Yushchenko campaign headquarters believes, "A month before their ouster, the authorities are ready to launch any kind of attacks to ensure their survival, including the elimination of competitors" (Reuters, September 17). Failing this, medical treatment took Mr. Yushchenko off the campaign trail for 12 days.

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Theresa is No. 2 in “Canadian Idol,” but No. 1 in Saskatoon

by Albert Kachkowski

SASKATOON – An estimated 5,000 Theresa Sokyryka fans, many carrying colorful homemade signs, filed into Credit Union Center (formerly Saskatchewan Place) here on September 16 to view the two-hour final show of “Canadian Idol” on two giant screens.

And, though their hometown favorite ultimately wound up in second place in the competition – 18-year-old Kalan Porter of Medicine Hat, Alberta, was crowned “Canadian Idol” – fans were proud of what Ms. Sokyryka had accomplished.

Family and friends were privileged to occupy a preferred seating section in the first 20 rows directly in front of the screens. Every time Ms. Sokyryka, one of two finalists in the “Canadian Idol” competition, appeared, the cheers from the

largely teenage crowd was deafening.

The StarPhoenix said the following about the atmosphere: “The sight of Sokyryka on the big screens continually evoked ear-splitting screaming, clapping and cheering and some fans jumped out of their seats to get a better look at the hometown hero. At times, Credit Union Center took on a New Year’s atmosphere as fans carried balloons, blew horns, threw confetti and did the wave.”

Needless to say, the few times that the Saskatoon audience was cut into the national telecast the noise was even more deafening.

Ksenya Foly, a close friend of the Sokyryka family, was interviewed on both the national telecast and by local media covering the show for news purposes. From the news coverage we learned that both the premier of Saskatchewan, Lorne Calvert, and the federal minister of finance, Ralph Goodale of Regina, were at the Toronto show.

The following day the Saskatchewan media was full of interviews and phone-in shows with Ms. Sokyryka. Reportedly she was busy traveling about Toronto to do about 25 interviews with various media, some of them over her cell phone, when she was off schedule. All of this was done on one and a half hours of sleep because of the length of the after-party following the show.

The Saskatoon daily newspaper published a full-page color poster of the young girl everyone knows as Theresa. This writer listened to the half-hour visit with Theresa on province-wide CBC radio. Callers and subsequent reports revealed that a thorough cross-section of people were tuned in, including many elementary school classes with their teachers. The glowing praises for Ms. Sokyryka’s accomplishment were an indicator of the obvious pride she generated among Saskatchewan citizens.



The Walter Blush family shows its support.



Theresa Sokyryka at a recent appearance in her hometown, Saskatoon.

Following are approximations of what some of the callers said.

One caller was from the Thunderchild First Nations Reserve, “We support you and wish you well, especially the people at Thunderchild.”

Another caller, with obvious difficulty, uttered a couple of phrases in Ukrainian, “Faina divchyna. Duzhe dobre” (A fine girl. Very good), to which Theresa replied “Duzhe diakuyu!” (Thank you).

A caller from near Regina said, “You’ve done more for the Ukrainian community than anyone. You’re so sweet! You brought our whole family to tears!”

Yet another caller asked, “Do you know how much power you have? You united this whole province! You made us forget about the crappy weather, the economy, the health care system and the Roughriders while inspiring us with your

wonderful voice and personality.”

On Saturday, the second day after the show, the headline in the paper was “Theresa plans move to TO.”

It is clear that Theresa has made an impact on the city of Saskatoon and the province of Saskatchewan. She is expected to come home in a couple of weeks.

An estimated 3.3 million viewers watched the final of the “Canadian Idol” contest that aired last week. A total of 3.6 million votes were cast in the final round of the competition, which wrapped up a 34-episode season. Nearly 9,000 auditioned for the show back in February, March and April, and 155 hopefuls were chosen for a trip to Toronto for the quarterfinal auditions. TV audiences got to vote for their favorite would-be idol when the field was narrowed down to 32.

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ELECTION WATCH

(Continued from page 3)

understand as his declared desire for self-fulfillment. It is more likely that he is acting out of pique at not being begged to return to the faction of front-running opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko. Ivan Haivanovych, in an article titled "Where is Taras Chornovil going?" published on the website on September 9, wrote: "In a telephone conversation with Ukrainska Pravda, Taras Chornovil repeated many times that nothing meriting press attention had happened, that it was not news, and so on. Dare we assume that only a bare minority of people interested politics will agree with Mr. Chornovil? On the contrary, the news that opposition figure Taras Chornovil has agreed to become an adviser to the prime minister [Viktor Yanukovych] has every chance of becoming the top news of the day. All the more so in that the deputy does not rule out in future the possibility of formalizing the cooperation, in which case he will become a freelance adviser to the prime minister. To be sure, the politician immediately added that for him this 'plays a small role.' Chornovil said that he gave his agreement to the cooperation proposal, which came from the prime minister's side, after discussing its possible forms 'with people from the Cabinet of Ministers and the prime minister's office.' He said that his present collaboration with the government was in no way linked with the election campaign and that his role in the present presidential election was 'absolutely zero.'" (BBC Monitoring, ARTUIS)

PACE calls for amending election law

STRASBOURG – The Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) said in a press release on September 15 that the ongoing presidential campaign in Ukraine fails to meet democratic election standards

and is a "cause of great concern" for PACE. This assessment was based on a recent fact-finding mission by PACE rapporteurs Hanne Severinsen and Renate Wohlwend in Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk. The PACE Monitoring Committee called on Ukrainian authorities to urgently amend the presidential election law in order to grant domestic nonpartisan organizations whose statutory aim is election observation the right to observe the elections with status equal to that of international observers. The committee appealed to Kyiv to stop the practice of employing civil servants in the campaign and using public resources for the purpose of campaigning. The committee also said it is concerned by the small number of international observers to be sent by various international organizations and foreign states for the October 31 elections in Ukraine – some 800 for the country's 33,000 polling stations. (RFE/RL Newline)

Signatures collected for PM in Russia

KYIV – Yuriy Klochkovskiy, a representative of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko in the Central Election Commission, has demanded a probe into who collected signatures in Russia in support of the presidential bid of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported on September 14. Ukrainian media reported that more than 560,000 Ukrainian citizens living in Russia signed Mr. Yanukovych's candidate signature lists. "If the instructions [to collect signatures for Yanukovych] were passed via the Embassy and consulates of the Ukrainian state [in Russia], it was a violation of Ukrainian legislation and those signatures are not valid," Mr. Klochkovskiy said. "If this was done with the help of Russian power bodies and Russian citizens, who are forbidden to take part in the elections of the Ukrainian president, this [would provoke] even more questions." (RFE/RL Newline)

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE: Pastor bids farewell to parish in Newark, N.J.

by Ksenia Hapij

NEWARK, N.J. – Summer is a time when people travel and very often one sees less people in church and at social functions than at other times of the year. But on August 29, St. John's Church in Newark was as full as it had been last Easter. Parishioners of St. John's gathered together to pray at the farewell liturgy for Father Bohdan Lukie CSsR, who had been their pastor for the past five years.

Father Lukie is a caring priest and an excellent administrator, who always challenged his parishioners to pray together, to work together and to play together. He created a warm atmosphere in his parish, and it was heartwarming to see that his parishioners appreciate him.

Many people came – both young and old, representing every facet of the large parish that he has served. There were those whom he had baptized, those whom he united in the sacrament of holy matrimony and those whose loved ones he buried.

In his sermon Father Lukie said: "I remember the many opportunities that we united prayer, as a parish family, most fondly. As I leave all of you behind, my precious memories, my sincere prayers and my heartfelt love for you goes with me always and everywhere ... I will never forget your kindness and warmheartedness."

"It has been a privilege to serve you, and for his I give thanks," he continued. "I had hoped to continue to serving all of you but God's ways are not always our human ways. My superiors have asked me to leave pastoral work after 37 years of service and to re-direct my steps into full-time preaching the Word of God as a Redemptorist missionary and I have accepted."



Father Bohdan Lukie at his farewell liturgy.

Father Lukie will first travel to Ottawa for courses in Eastern Theology, then to Ukraine to improve his Ukrainian language and from there to different countries, different eparchies and different parishes. "I dream to give witness to the word of God and to invite Ukrainian people to grow in the love of Jesus," he said.

Father Lukie concluded his farewell remarks by saying: The word 'do pobachennia' means 'until we meet again.' And so I say 'do pobachennia' sincerely and lovingly for I truly hope to see all of you again. But before we meet again I ask that you please remember me in your prayers and I, in turn, promise to pray for all of you."

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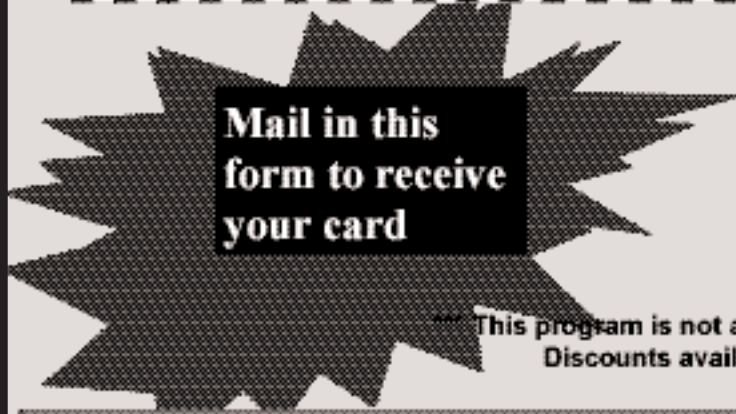


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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

deputy of the Supreme Council of the unrecognized Transnistrian Republic and head of the Union of Ukrainians of Transdnier. "Foreign Minister" Valerii Litskai told RFE/RL last week that some 20,000 people in Transdnier have Ukrainian passports. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Government raises pensions for millions

KYIV – Prime Minister and presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet on September 18 decided to double the minimum monthly pension from the current 137 hrv to 284.6 hrv (\$54), which is the country's subsistence minimum for disabled persons, as of September, Ukrainian media reported. According to First Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mykola Azarov, nearly 11.4 million pensioners in Ukraine will start receiving higher pensions this week as a result of the Cabinet's decision. Mr. Azarov said the pension surge became possible, among other reasons, due to a surplus in the budget's revenues from privatization. Ukrainian Pension Fund Chairman Borys Zaichuk said the pension jump will increase the fund's monthly expenses by 1.1 billion hrv (\$207 million) to 4.1 billion hrv. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Journalist's disappearance is recalled

KYIV – Some 5,000 people took part in a rally in Kyiv on September 16 to mark the death of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze, whose headless corpse was discovered on November 2, 2000, following his disappearance on September 16, 2000, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Speakers at the rally accused the current Ukrainian authorities, including President Leonid Kuchma, of involvement in Gongadze's slaying. Socialist Party activist Yurii Lutsenko said at the rally that Gongadze's disappearance gave rise to a number of anti-Kuchma protests in the following years. "The main result of those protests was that Ukraine has ceased to be afraid of Kuchma any longer," Interfax quoted Mr. Lutsenko as saying. Participants in the rally subsequently marched to Bankova Street, where the building housing the presidential-administration offices is located, and placed a plaque reading "Heorhii Gongadze Street" on a building on that street. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Media watchdog calls for public trial

PARIS – The Paris-based media freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in a September 15 press release called on the Ukrainian authorities to hold a public trial on the case of Heorhii Gongadze. "Now, with the Gongadze case a major political issue in the run-up to the presidential election, new facts have been revealed by both the press and the prosecutor's office," RSF wrote in a letter to Ukrainian Procurator General Hennadii Vasiliev. "This new information is of capital importance, and if you think it is credible, it is time for the judicial process to move on to the next stage – a public and fair trial." RSF was referring to new information published in The Independent in June based on documents that said Gongadze was being shadowed by police at the time of his disappearance, and to the announcement that same month that Ukrainian investigators were holding in custody a "Mr. K," who reportedly confessed to murdering Gongadze and described the circumstances of his death in detail. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Prosecutors to summon Yulia to Moscow

KYIV – The Ukrainian Procurator General's Office has so far not succeeded in delivering a notice from the Russian Military Prosecutor's Office to Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko

requesting that she appear in Moscow by September 16 for a criminal investigation, Interfax reported on September 15, quoting Ukrainian Procurator General's Office spokesman Serhii Rudenko. Russian prosecutors reportedly suspect Ms. Tymoshenko of bribing Russian Defense Ministry officials when she headed Ukraine's Unified Energy Systems in 1995-1997. Ms. Tymoshenko's Batkivschyna Party said in a statement on September 16 that the Russian prosecutors' move is "yet another provocation," organized with encouragement from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Russian President Vladimir Putin, against Ms. Tymoshenko for her support of the presidential bid of opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko instead of that of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yulia won't go to Moscow for questioning

KYIV – Opposition Batkivschyna Party leader Yulia Tymoshenko said on Channel 5 on September 16 that she is not planning to go to Moscow for an inquiry by Russian military prosecutors. "There is no sense whatsoever for me to fulfill plans of [President Leonid] Kuchma and [presidential-administration chief Viktor] Medvedchuk and go to Russia in order to give Russia a possibility to stage some provocations [against me]," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "Therefore I have proposed ... that Russian prosecutors come to Ukraine, and I will gladly give them any explanations they need." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Gongadze's shadowing not confirmed

KYIV – Vice Minister of Internal Affairs Mykhailo Kornienko told journalists on September 14 that his ministry has not confirmed the Procurator General's Office claim that Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze was being shadowed by police officers at the time of his disappearance on September 16, 2000, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Mr. Kornienko said all officers who worked in the ministry in 2000 and could be involved in the alleged shadowing denied that such surveillance took place. "What is more, the documents that could give evidence to that [shadowing] were destroyed in 2001," Mr. Kornienko said, adding that some of the documents relating to the Gongadze case were destroyed per procedure and some due to "official negligence." In June The Independent published an article by Askold Krushelnycky based on leaks of information from an official inquiry into the slaying of Gongadze. The leaks suggested that Gongadze was shadowed by police officers before his disappearance. (RFE/RL Newsline)

CONSECRATION OF THE NEWLY REBUILT ICONOSTAS OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN KRAKOW

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2004
AT 11:00 a.m.**

The consecration will be conducted by His Very Reverence
Archbishop Ivan Martyniak.

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of the Diaspora by Rev. Mitrat M. Fetsiukch
and the parishioners of Krakow.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

October 2, 2004

Ellenville High School Reunion,
Class of '49
Ellenville High School Reunion,
Class of '84

October 3, 2004

Republican Fund-Raising Banquet,
4:30 pm

October 9, 2004

Wedding - Tanya Blahitka and
Michael Jadlicky

October 15, 2004

Ellenville Retired Teachers Luncheon

October 16, 2004

Wedding - Alexandra Anastasia
Holubec and David Scott Nirschl

October 23, 2004

Wedding - Natalka Barankewicz
and Marko Mazurets

October 29-31, 2004

Halloween Weekend with children's
costume parade, costume zabava
& more

November 5-7, 2004

Plast Youth Organization,
Orlykiada Weekend

November 25-28, 2004

Thanksgiving Weekend Packages
Available

December 11, 2004

Ulster Correctional Facility
Christmas Party



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 6

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Ukrainian Cultural Center will host the National Academic Drama Theater of Kyiv at 7 p.m. Ukrainian stage and screen superstar Bohdan Stupka will be live on stage in the internationally renowned musical comedy "The Inspector General" based on the work by Mykola Hohol [Gogol]. In the role of the inspector is Mr. Stupka's son, Ostep, with a cast of 30 actors. The fast-paced comedy will be staged at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, at 700 Cedar Road, in Jenkintown. Tickets range from \$25 to \$40, which includes a "Meet the Artists" reception in the gallery following the show. The production is part of a U.S. tour with shows in New York, Washington, D.C., New Jersey and Philadelphia. The tour is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture. For tickets or information call (215) 663-1166. Website: www.ukrainiancenterphila.org.

Saturday, October 9

DOVER, N.J.: The Ukrainian Festival of Morris County, sponsored by the Ukrainian American Youth Association, Whippany Branch, will take place at Germania Park in Dover, N.J. There will be great Ukrainian food, good music, entertainment, children's activities, a variety of vendors and much more. Festival time: 1-7 p.m.; "zabava" under the stars, 7-11 p.m. with "Svitanok." Admission is \$10 (children under 16, free). For directions to the park, go to www.germaniapark.com. For more information contact Darka Mosuriak, (973) 401-1092, or Donna Bilanych, (973) 401-1460.

PASSAIC, N.J.: The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), Passaic Branch, invites everyone to its second annual Fall Golf Outing to be held at the Emerson Golf Club. The registration fee is \$125 per golfer, which includes range balls, cart, lunch, awards, prizes, refreshments and a buffet to be held at The Ukrainian Center, 240 Hope Ave., Passaic, N.J. There will also be a \$10,000 hole-in-one cash prize. The donation for a tee sponsorship is \$200. If you would like additional information, send an e-mail to jurijd@optonline.net or

contact Roman Andrach, (201) 739-8000.

Sunday, October 17

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Forte String Quartet will perform works by Beethoven, Skoryk, Petrova and Piazzolla at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., in Old Town, Alexandria, at 3:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$15; free for students. The concert is presented by The Washington Group Cultural Fund under the patronage of The Embassy of Ukraine, as part of their 2004-2005 Music Series. Free "Dash" Shuttle bus is available every 15 minutes from King Street Metro Station in Alexandria (on Blue and Yellow lines) to Washington and King Street, one block from the Lyceum. Seating is unreserved; the Lyceum is handicapped accessible. For more information, contact Laryssa Courtney, (202) 363-3964.

Saturday, October 25

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a lecture by Dr. Ola Hnatiuk of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw titled "The European Challenge in the Discussions of Ukrainian Intellectuals." The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

Saturday, October 30

NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario: A trilingual historical plaque is being unveiled at the Niagara Falls Armory to recall the many Ukrainians and other Europeans unjustly imprisoned there as "enemy aliens" during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920. The Niagara Falls Armoury was a receiving station in which detainees were held before being funneled off to other concentration camps. This event is being organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association with the assistance of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and the Ukrainian Canadian community of southern Ontario. The ceremony begins in front of the Armory at 10:45 a.m. The public is welcome.

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.

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. Information 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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