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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Yanukovych ahead in the polls, has slim lead over Yushchenko

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Two weeks prior to election day, one of the final polls allowed to be published prior to the presidential vote of October 31 showed that Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych had taken the lead over Viktor Yushchenko in the race for the presidency.

A Democratic Initiatives Foundation rolling poll conducted on October 9-10 showed that the Ukrainian prime minister now maintained a slim 34 percent to 31.6 percent lead over Mr. Yushchenko whose campaigning abilities had been limited in the last weeks as he fought to recuperate from the effects of a mysterious poisoning.

Ilko Kucheriv, director of DIF, said the lead change at the close of the presidential horse race was the result of an effective although quite populist strategy used by Mr. Yanukovych in the last weeks to appeal to older voters and Communist Party sympathizers by dramatically raising pensions and calling for official status for the Russian language in Ukraine while also promising dual citizenship with Russia for those Ukrainians who would opt for such.

Mr. Yanukovych's ratings have risen gradually over the course of the year from about 16 percent in January, but have spiked since the end of September after he began to assert a more Communist-friendly policy in his appeal to voters.

The Ukrainian prime minister has watched as his new strategy has resulted

in a rise in popularity of nearly 7 percentage points since September 22, a period of slightly more than three weeks.

Mr. Yanukovych's increased popularity has come at the expense of Communist Party Chairman Petro Symonenko, whose ratings have plummeted from 7.4 percent to 3.4 percent in the same time span, and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, who has come down to a 4.8 percent rating from the 6 percent popularity level he retained on September 22.

None of the other 19 candidates that will be listed on the October 31 presidential election ballot managed to register even 1 percent support, with Progressive Socialist Party candidate Natalia Vitrenko coming closest at 0.9 percent.

Perhaps most importantly, however, 21.6 percent of the respondents said they still hadn't decided for whom they would cast their ballot. Unusually the number of undecided voters has risen since the beginning of October.

In a second survey on how a run-off between Mr. Yanukovych and Mr. Yushchenko might look, the prime minister also would get the nod, according to the DIF poll, by a margin of 40.8 percent to 39.4 percent.

The margin of error for both surveys was +/- 2 percent.

The September 10-11 DIF poll was to be the last one it would publish before Election Day because Ukrainian election law forbids the publication of election survey results in the last two weeks prior to an election so as not to influence the thinking of individual voters.

Yushchenko returns to Ukraine Cause of his illness remains unknown



Photos above show presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko before and after his mysterious illness. On the left, he is seen on July 4, when he submitted his candidacy papers. On the right, he is seen speaking to media on October 10 as he arrived at Kyiv's Boryspil Airport from Vienna, where he had traveled for medical treatment.

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Leading doctors of the Rudolfinerhaus Clinic in Vienna, where presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko has twice received treatment since September 9 for a mysterious ailment, expressed disagreement on October 11 over whether his symptoms could be construed as the result of biological poisoning.

Rudolfinerhaus Clinic President Michael Zimpfer on October 7 released a statement in which he explained that he and his chief doctor, Lothar Wicke, had officially requested help from bacteriological warfare experts to determine what had poisoned the Ukrainian presidential candidate. Subsequently, Dr. Wicke said he was forced to sign the request.

Mr. Yushchenko, looking worse than ever and far older than his 50 years, returned to Ukraine on October 11 from the Viennese hospital, where he had spent another 10 days and received additional treatment for the mysterious illness.

Mr. Yushchenko is in a dead heat with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych in the race for the presidency of Ukraine, with two weeks left to election day.

Mr. Yushchenko and his team believe he was deliberately poisoned sometime before or on September 5 to sideline his candidacy and, perhaps, kill him. Government officials and supporters of Mr. Yanukovych have scoffed at such assertions and maintain that Mr. Yushchenko either suffered a viral infection or was poisoned by a spoiled meal.

"I have returned to Kyiv alive and well," noted Mr. Yushchenko at Boryspil

Airport, where he asked that journalists not press him with questions. With his face heavily marked by blemishes, his nose a red bulb and his eyes slit shut by the swelling around them, his looks belied his words.

Mr. Yushchenko hit the campaign trail immediately upon his return with an appearance in Lviv earlier that day, where he was greeted by what some estimated to be nearly 100,000 supporters.

In Odesa three days later he told 10,000 energized voters that nothing would split Ukraine into east and west, no matter what the Yanukovych campaign team was warning could result with a Yushchenko presidency. He also apologized for his appearance.

"Please pardon the cosmetic defects. This is the price you pay in Ukrainian politics," Mr. Yushchenko said.

Dr. Zimpfer, president of Rudolfinerhaus, who flew into Kyiv with the presidential candidate from the Power to the People coalition, held a press conference after his arrival to shed some light on Mr. Yushchenko's illness.

Dr. Zimpfer continued to maintain that the doctors of Rudolfinerhaus could not yet confirm or deny the fact of a deliberate, premeditated poisoning. He said that the results of testing to determine whether an agent used in bacteriological warfare could have caused Mr. Yushchenko's condition would not be known for some three weeks.

Dr. Zimpfer explained that he had flown to Kyiv with the presidential candidate at the behest of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure that

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INS detains Ukrainian awaiting deportation; government will not discuss future with his family

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service abruptly detained an ailing, 81-year-old Ukrainian American man on September 24 and he is being held by the Department of Homeland Security at a federal detention center in Florida. Officials would not discuss Mykola Wasylyk's future with his family and his son told The Ukrainian Weekly that he fears the government will deport his father without notifying the family.

The elder Mr. Wasylyk was accused by the U.S. Justice Department of participating in the persecution of Jewish civilians during World War II. Documents filed by the Office of Special Investigations, the government's Nazi-hunting arm, said that Mr. Wasylyk was trained at the Trawniki

camp in Poland and then served as an armed guard at the slave labor camp there, as well as at the Budzyn slave labor camp.

"Their claim is that he's a flight risk," Roman Wasylyk said of his father's detention, referring to what he said were allusions made by INS officials that his father would attempt to dodge a March 2004 ruling by a U.S. court that ordered his deportation from the United States on charges that he lied to officials when he immigrated to the U.S. in 1949.

"How can he be a flight risk if he doesn't have a passport and takes 10 different medications?" Roman Wasylyk asked The Weekly on October 12. Pursuant to a July 2001 decision by a district court in Syracuse, N.Y.,

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ANALYSIS

Large-scale anti-American campaign planned in Ukraine

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Since October 1 representatives from the headquarters of Ukrainian opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko have discovered over 150 tons of illegal election materials that are both anti-American and anti-Yushchenko (see samples at: www.ham.com.ua/index.php?action=black). The find, estimated at 300 million items, is a critical opposition victory that has undermined a major anti-Yushchenko/anti-American operation intended to flood Ukraine with millions of anti-Yushchenko posters and leaflets during the last week of the election campaign (www2.pravda.com.ua/archive/2004/october/6/4.shtml).

The anti-American posters, with slogans such as "Yankee! Go Home!" completely undermine Ukraine's rationale for providing the fourth-largest military force within the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq. They also reveal the schizophrenic nature of Ukrainian foreign policy. The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv issued a strongly worded condemnation of the use of portraits of President George W. Bush and American national symbols: "The use of pictures of U.S. politicians and the U.S. flag on political posters in Ukraine is absolutely unacceptable" (Interfax-Ukraine, October 7).

The materials testify to the apparent desperation of the authorities, which have been reduced to such radical strategies after their candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, still trailed in the final weeks of the election campaign. The mass distribution of overtly hostile anti-American

Taras Kuzio is visiting professor at the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University. The article above, which originally appeared in The Jamestown Foundation's Eurasia Daily Monitor, is reprinted here with permission from the foundation (www.jamestown.org).

Ukraine's presidential race becomes more and more unseemly - to whose benefit?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Newsline

Judging by what is taking place in Ukraine's presidential election campaign three weeks before the ballot on October 31, the chances are very slim that the election will make any positive contribution to the country's political and social stability. In the opinion of a majority of Ukrainian political observers and analysts, these are the most contentious, divisive and dishonest elections in the history of independent Ukraine. Regardless of which of the two leading candidates - Viktor Yushchenko or Viktor Yanukovich - actually wins, half of the country is set to be deeply disappointed and frustrated, to say the least.

As in the 1994 and 1999 presidential elections, Ukrainian voters are also expected this year to display a clear west-east pattern of political sympathies. According to all sociological surveys, western Ukraine will overwhelmingly vote for "pro-European" Yushchenko, while the east of the country will overpoweringly back "pro-Eurasian"

Jan Maksymiuk is the Belarus and Ukraine specialist on the staff of RFE/RL Newsline.

posters, reminiscent of the worst period of Soviet anti-Western propaganda, suggests that, "The authorities have come to realize that they will lose the elections," according to Mr. Yushchenko's election coalition. "This is the work of those who only yesterday called for the holding of a free presidential election campaign" (razom.org.ua, October 4).

On October 2, pro-Yushchenko parliamentary deputies from Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko bloc raced to a warehouse near Kyiv where they found 10 tons of A3-size anti-Yushchenko/anti-American posters and leaflets. The warehouse was leased to a private company, Zahrai. Guards advised the deputies that they were expecting delivery of another 14 tons of posters allegedly from the company Agro. However, the real printing house was Novyi Druk. Some of the material was also prepared in Slovakia and Hungary, and smuggled across the border. The parliamentary deputies next traveled to Novyi Druk in Kyiv where they found another 5 million of the offensive posters as well as leaflets promoting Mr. Yanukovich's campaign (ICTV, October 4).

Ukrainian election law requires that the name of the printer and the total number of items printed should be clearly stated so that the Central Election Commission (CEC) can track each candidate's spending. But, based on this material and numerous Yanukovich billboards around Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovich's team has far exceeded the 10 million hrv (\$2 million) spending limit. The materials discovered in Kyiv alone are valued at "hundreds of millions of dollars," and many more had already been distributed throughout Ukraine (Ukrainska Pravda, October 6).

The poster scandal took a difficult turn when the parliamentary deputies identified the owner of Novyi Druk: Viacheslav Pustovoitenko, son of former Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko, the current

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Yanukovich. The 10-year rule of President Leonid Kuchma has not diminished the "civilizational cleft" of the country by any meaningful degree; this fact may be seen as one of the gravest failures of Mr. Kuchma's presidential career.

Mr. Yanukovich, who is also prime minister, has clearly indicated that he is not concerned with Ukraine's deeply disturbing political and linguistic division when he announced last month that he wants to make Russian the second state language and introduce dual citizenship in Ukraine. These two proposals - an obvious favor-currying advance toward the Kremlin - in particular, and the eastern Ukrainian electorate, in general, are simultaneously an anathema to voters in western Ukraine. Apart from being politically and socially antagonizing, these two proposals are also highly unrealistic. The issues of state language and citizenship in Ukraine are regulated by the Constitution, and the Constitution of Ukraine may be changed in a fairly complicated procedure only by a two-thirds majority in the Verkhovna Rada, not by a presidential decree.

President Kuchma shrugged off Mr.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ailing Yushchenko returns

KYIV - Leading opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko on October 10 returned to Ukraine from the Rudolfinerhaus hospital in Vienna, where he underwent additional treatment last week for a mysterious illness, Ukrainian media reported. Before continuing on to Kyiv, a sickly looking Mr. Yushchenko addressed a cheering crowd of supporters, estimated by some sources at 100,000, in the western-Ukrainian city of Lviv. "I am a healthy man, and everything I possess belongs to a free and democratic Ukraine," he said in Lviv. In Kyiv, however, Mr. Yushchenko told journalists that his treatment will be continued. Austrian doctor Michael Zimpfer, who accompanied Mr. Yushchenko on his trip home, told journalists that the cause of the presidential candidate's illness remains unclear. Dr. Zimpfer added that it will take medical experts some three weeks to determine whether Mr. Yushchenko was poisoned. Interfax reported on October 12 that Mr. Yushchenko is planning to meet with a forum of Ukrainian students in Kyiv on October 16. Mr. Yushchenko's associates from the Our Ukraine bloc and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc reportedly campaigned for him in the provinces last week while he was in Vienna. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma's worst failures are cited

KYIV - Viktor Yushchenko said in an interview published in the October 9-15 issue of the Zerkalo Nedeli weekly that the three worst failures of Leonid Kuchma's 10-year presidency are his lost battle against corruption and crime; the suppression of free speech and introduction of mechanisms for the censorship and deceit of his countrymen; and the glaring poverty of the overwhelming majority of Ukrainians, particularly against the background of the huge fortunes accrued by a small number of oligarchs. Listing President Kuchma's greatest achievements, Mr. Yushchenko named economic decrees issued shortly after the promulgation of the country's Constitution in 1996; the conclusion of a treaty on friendship and cooperation with Russia; and the president's decision not to run for a third term. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Parliament's probe is inconclusive

KYIV - The ad hoc parliamentary commission for investigating the alleged poisoning of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko has failed to

confirm that the Our Ukraine leader was deliberately poisoned, Ukrainian media reported on October 7. "[The commission's investigation] gives no grounds today to assert that there has been an attempt on the life of Viktor Yushchenko," lawmaker Volodymyr Sivkovych, head of the commission, said in the Verkhovna Rada on October 7. "[The investigation] also gives no grounds to say that Viktor Yushchenko's organism has not been influenced by some poison or other substance," Mr. Sivkovych added. Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Oleksander Zinchenko read a statement - signed by Ukrainian physician Mykola Korpan and Dr. Michael Zimpfer, director of the Rudolfinerhaus hospital in Vienna, which has been treating Mr. Yushchenko for his mysterious illness - saying that Mr. Yushchenko may have been affected by a biological agent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Protests and controversy in Rada

KYIV - Lawmakers from the pro-government coalition in the Verkhovna Rada on October 8 walked out of the session hall in protest against what they say is the opposition's use of the parliamentary rostrum for exercising "shady election techniques," Interfax reported. National Deputy Volodymyr Zubanov read the pro-government coalition's statement saying that the opposition in the Verkhovna Rada "is defaming the honor and dignity of the authorities." The statement also accused the parliamentary leadership of failing to "counteract the rudeness of the political opposition forces." According to Interfax, two deputies from the pro-government Agrarian Party and Regions of Ukraine caucuses remained in the hall and took part in several votes, using the magnetic voting cards of their absent colleagues and thus contributing to the formal passage of several bills. It is not clear whether these bills will be considered as legally adopted by the legislature. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada extends moratorium on land sales

KYIV - The Verkhovna Rada on October 6 passed a new version of amendments to the Land Code, thereby extending the moratorium on the sale of farmland by individuals and legal entities in Ukraine from January 1, 2005, to January 1, 2008, Interfax reported. In June the Parliament adopted the bill that extended this moratorium to January 1, 2007, but President Leonid Kuchma

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Russian political scientists predict unrest after balloting in Ukraine

by **Maryna Makhnonos**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

MOSCOW – Russian political scientists on September 28 forecast unrest in Ukraine after the presidential elections, predicting that certain groups could protest the results of the vote.

Their comments came during one of several public relations actions in Russia in support of Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich – this one an electronic SMS survey of Ukrainian presidential candidates among Russian cellphone users organized by several Russian telecommunication providers.

Sergei Markov, head of the Moscow-based National Civil Council for International Affairs, predicted that tensions and political violence would rise dramatically in Ukraine after the alleged poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko and in the aftermath of the egg incident involving Mr. Yanukovich.

"This increase in political violence will lead to the polarization of Ukrainian society and will divide it into supporters of Mr. Yanukovich and Mr. Yushchenko," said Sergei Markov. "We warn that mass unrest is possible in Ukraine during first and second rounds of the presidential election."

Mr. Markov added that protests could occur despite what the vote count would show because the opposition had promised demonstrations if their leader failed to win. Mr. Markov added that other groups would demonstrate should Mr. Yushchenko win, to protest his lack of consideration for status for the Russian language in Ukraine and in fear of the widespread support for Mr. Yushchenko among Greek-Catholic clergy in western Ukraine. Mr. Markov said that this clergy, who he alleged was hostile to the [Russian] Orthodox Church, could demand possession of Orthodox parishes in western Ukraine as compensation for their support for Mr. Yushchenko.

Mr. Markov's comments were in line with a heavily distorted election scenario that the Yanukovich campaign and most of the current ruling elite in Kyiv were trying to present to scare Ukrainian voters away from a Yushchenko presidency. The tactic was part of a new and much more aggressive campaign strategy developed by the prime minister's campaign team, which has hired Gleb Pavlovsky to direct it. Mr. Pavlovsky is considered Russia's foremost campaign strategist and is the person who directed the successful public relations campaign in the re-election effort of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

However, not all political observers shared the radical view of the Ukrainian campaign as posited by Mr. Markov. Some respected political experts expressed a more moderate outcome even while agreeing with Mr. Markov on the possibility of rising tensions in Ukraine.

"We, Russians, are not neutral toward elections in Ukraine and do not hide it," explained Viktor Kuvaldin, member of the executive board of the Gorbachev Fund. "However, I consider that Ukraine has neither pro-Western nor pro-Russian candidates; it has two pro-Ukrainian candidates. And it will be difficult for Russia to build relations with each. So, I don't think that we will simply enjoy peace should Mr. Yanukovich win."

Mr. Kuvaldin added that it was hard to predict election results as the chances for both candidates were equal, but he predicted that the level of political tensions would peak on October 30, the eve of the nationwide poll.

Meanwhile, Russian campaigning in

support of Mr. Yanukovich continued. Two local cellphone providers, Agregator and INFON, organized an informal survey of support for the Ukrainian candidates. Phone users received SMS text messages that invited them to express their support for a Ukrainian presidential candidate by sending a short text message from their cellphones during the week of September 20-26. A total of 20,471 Russian citizens took part in this public poll and 53.27 percent of them supported Mr. Yanukovich. The other 46.25 percent voted for Mr. Yushchenko.

The organizers of the non-scientific poll did not attempt to mask their support for the Ukrainian prime minister in the upcoming presidential vote in Ukraine.

"We are very interested in the victory of a candidate who will do the best for Russian-Ukrainian relations," said Alexander Stepanov, leader of the Community of Friendship and Cooperation of Russian and Ukrainian people. Mr. Stepanov's roots are in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donetsk, which Mr. Yanukovich headed as oblast chairman before he became prime minister.

Speaking at presentation of the cellphone poll in the Rosbalt Information Agency, Mr. Stepanov said such an informal vote among Russians could attract interest in the elections among them and could even influence the choice made by their Ukrainian relatives in favor of the right candidate.

Mr. Stepanov said he supported Mr. Yanukovich actively in public speeches in Moscow as a representative of the Ukrainian diaspora. "We will do everything to help Ukrainian citizens see their main goal that is, to be with Russian citizens," Mr. Stepanov said.

Yet, Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak, leader of the Association of Ukrainians in Russia, told The Ukrainian Weekly that the Ukrainian ethnic community in Russia does not officially support any of the 24 candidates in the presidential vote in Ukraine. He added that his association unites some 80 communities of the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia, but that Mr. Stepanov's organization was not one of them.

"We have no position toward candidates because we respect every opinion. Our community is focused on national-cultural issues. As for this electronic vote, its results are incorrect and misleading because phone users do not have complete information about all candidates. The Russian media doesn't say anything except that Mr. Yushchenko is the enemy of the people," Mr. Rudenko-Desniak explained.

According to a recent sociological study by the Moscow-based Fund for Public Opinion, some 27 percent of Russian citizens have relatives in Ukraine.

Nonetheless, most of the randomly selected interviewees had no clear understanding of the current situation in Ukraine, as half have never been to Ukraine. Another 3 percent have not visited for more than 10 years, and only 3 percent of them have been to Ukraine in the past year. Some 24 percent of the interviewees expressed interest in the Ukrainian election and 72 percent said they did not.

Some Russian political experts even have acknowledged that they have lost a proper perception of the Ukrainian people, which can only make it more difficult to offer the proper advice concerning the Ukrainian presidential campaign.

"I am not a good expert on Ukrainian issues," said Mr. Kuvaldin. "But the first thing that I understood when I started to

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ELECTION WATCH

Washington protests use of U.S. images

KYIV – The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv has said the use of images of U.S. politicians and the American flag on political posters in Ukraine is absolutely unacceptable, Interfax reported on October 7, quoting the Embassy's press service. The Embassy was referring to large stocks of campaign leaflets and posters caricaturing opposition presidential candidate and Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko as a puppet of the United States. The Ukrainska Pravda website (<http://www2.pravda.com.ua/>) on October 6 posted reproductions of a dozen anti-Yushchenko campaign materials found by Yushchenko supporters at storehouses of the Ekspotsentr exhibition center in Kyiv. The Yushchenko campaign staff estimates that there may be up to 500 million copies of anti-Yushchenko leaflets at the Ekspotsentr storehouses. Some of them depict U.S. President George W. Bush and the U.S. flag with slogans reading "We are for Our Ukraine," "Yes! Yushchenko is our president," and "Yes! For Bushchenko." One of the posters depicts Taras Shevchenko, a Ukrainian national poet of the 19th century, and a slogan reading "Yankee! Go Home!" (RFE/RL Newsline)

Joke website is blocked

KYIV – The Ukrainska Pravda website reported on October 12 that a website presenting anecdotes about Ukrainian Prime Minister and presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich (<http://www.yanukovich.nm.ru>) has been blocked for surfers using the connection supplied by the Ukrainian companies Ukrtelekom and Ukrsat. Ukrtelekom is a state-run telecommunications giant in Ukraine, while Ukrsat is described by Ukrainska Pravda as a company "close to the authorities." Jokes about Mr. Yanukovich began to circulate on the Internet shortly after an egg attack on him in Ivano-Frankivsk on September 24. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko to up subsistence minimum

KYIV – Opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko on October 12 informed journalists of the first five decrees he intends to issue after he is elected president of Ukraine, Interfax reported. Mr. Yushchenko said the first decree will establish the subsistence minimum for 2005 at 423 hrv (\$80) per month. The edict will also stipulate that the minimum monthly wage and pension should not be lower than the

subsistence minimum. The current subsistence minimum in Ukraine is 362 hrv, while the minimum monthly wage is 237 hrv. A month ago, Prime Minister and presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich decided to double the minimum monthly pension from 137 hrv to 284.6 hrv, which is the country's subsistence minimum for disabled persons, as of September. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Printing of ballots begins

KYIV – Two Ukrainian printing houses have started printing a total of nearly 40 million ballots for the October 31 presidential vote, Ukrainian media reported last week. There will be 24 names on the ballot. The presidential race initially had 26 candidates, but two withdrew. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Putin notes Russian interest in election

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin said after meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Ukrainian Prime Minister and presidential hopeful Viktor Yanukovich on October 9 that Moscow will respect whatever choice Ukraine makes in its October 31 presidential vote, Komsomolskaya Pravda and other media reported. Russia "is not indifferent to the choice that the people of Ukraine will make in the presidential election," the Russian president said, according to ITAR-TASS, adding that "the fate of bilateral relations" hinges on developments in Ukraine. The Ukrainian leaders were in Moscow for talks and to attend a birthday celebration for Mr. Putin. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian state TV highlights heir apparent

MOSCOW – Ukrainian Prime Minister Yanukovich attended the opening of a national congress of Russian Ukrainians in the Kremlin's Hall of Columns on October 8, RTR, NTV and ORT reported. Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and many prominent political and entertainment figures were also present at the event. NTV noted on October 9 that there are more than 3 million ethnic Ukrainians in Russia, 500,000 of whom are Ukrainian citizens and presumably potential voters. Mr. Yanukovich reiterated a pledge to introduce dual citizenship and to introduce Russian as a state language in Ukraine if he is elected president. NTV suggested that Mr. Yanukovich's popularity among Ukrainian voters in Russia has been enhanced by a "massive propaganda campaign" sponsored by the Kremlin. ORT showed billboards and banners in Moscow

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Quotable notes

"... the Ukrainian public reacted to [Prime Minister Viktor] Yanukovich's misfortune in Ivano-Frankivsk with a plethora of jokes, several dozen of which are circulating on the Internet. We will repeat two here, to show that Ukrainians don't seem to believe the official version of the attack, and to underscore the fact that the country's presidential campaign, which has been marred by innumerable examples of biased media coverage and serious violations of election law, has a comic side, as well.

"The first joke belongs to the so-called Radio Yerevan family of jokes, which were extremely popular in the Soviet Union during the Brezhnev era. Radio Yerevan was famous for providing sometimes silly, sometimes clever, but always funny, answers to listener questions.

"'Can an egg be sharp?' Ukrainian Radio inquires of Radio Yerevan in the wake of the Yanukovich incident. 'If it's a hedgehog's egg, it can,' is Radio Yerevan's answer.

"The other joke is this: Yanukovich shows up at a meeting with voters, looks around the gathered group, and asks, 'Why are there only women here?' Someone offers this answer: 'Because your chief bodyguard said no one with eggs could come in.' (In common usage, the Ukrainian word for eggs, 'yaisia,' also refers to testicles.)"

– article by Jan Maksymiuk, published on October 1 in RFE/RL Newsline, "Ukrainian prime minister survives egg attack."

Chicago-area congressman visits Kyiv with his constituents



Rep. Danny Davis with Michael R. Kos at Kyiv's memorial to victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

by Michael R. Kos

CHICAGO – Rep. Danny Davis, a member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in the U.S. Congress who represents the Chicago area known as “Ukrainian Village,” visited Kyiv on August 23-25.

Michael R. Kos, chairman of the board of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, and board members Oresta Fedyniak, Oleh Karawan and Ihor Laszok, accompanied the congressman during his stay in Ukraine.

Rep. Davis arrived in the Ukrainian capital on August 23. Petro Kozynetz, president of the Ukrainian National Association of Savings and Credit Unions, and Mr. Kos, met him at the airport. Rep. Davis, who has been a long-time supporter of the credit union movement, was briefed on the credit union movement in Ukraine.

Directly from the airport they proceeded to Palats Ukraina to attend a concert celebrating the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. The concert began with a speech by the President Leonid Kuchma, and concluded with two hours of spectacular Ukrainian music,

songs and dances.

Afterwards Rep. Davis, Mr. Kos and Mr. Laszok attended a reception hosted by President Kuchma. Many Ukrainian and foreign dignitaries attended this reception, among them, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst and Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, who is a former Ukrainian ambassador to the United States.

The day finished with a roundtable discussion on building bridges between the United States and Ukraine, which took place at a local restaurant with the entire group participating. Once again, the group was entertained by the wonderful music of Ukraine. Mr. Kos was especially moved when the musical trio played songs composed by his uncle, Anatol Kos.

The August 24 began with the whole party attending the Independence Day parade, which consisted of various military units marching and military bands playing.

After the parade, Rep. Davis and Mr. Kos attended a luncheon that was organized by Victoria Hubska, director of the

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CIUS gets \$250,000 for election monitoring from Wrzesnewskyj Family Foundation

by Bohdan Klid

EDMONTON – Borys Wrzesnewskyj, recently elected member of Parliament in the Toronto riding of Etobicoke Center, on September 12 presented a check in the amount of \$250,000 to the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta on behalf of his family's charitable foundation, “Dopomoha Ukraini” Aid to Ukraine to fund the Ukraine Transparency and Election Monitoring Project (UTEMP).

The project, under the management of CIUS, will send up to 12 Canadian experts to Ukraine to design and deliver non-partisan seminars on election laws, policies and procedures for local election officials and scrutineers.

UTEMP thus aims to support

dential election since independence is scheduled for October 31. A runoff second round will take place on November 21 if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote.

The donation was accepted on behalf of the University of Alberta by Dr. Andrew Greenshaw, associate vice-president (research), and on behalf of CIUS by Dr. Zenon Kohut, director. In his opening remarks during the presentation, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj stressed that the upcoming elections in Ukraine are “elections that matter.” Ukraine, he noted, is the only post-Soviet state outside of the Baltic countries with a viable opposition, which is a vital component of any democracy. “Canada, and Ukrainian Canadians, have an important role to play in support of Ukraine's continued democratic development, and through institutions like CIUS can help.”

“Although people tend to look at universities as ivory towers,” Mr. Wrzesnewskyj stressed, “at given points in time activities by institutions like CIUS could affect the lives of millions.” This particular project, he noted, could train up to 1,000 election observers in Ukraine. Thus, it was “easy to write this check because this work will help Ukrainians in Ukraine.”

Dr. Greenshaw thanked Mr. Wrzesnewskyj on behalf of the University of Alberta and noted that international relations are matters of great importance for the university community and for CIUS, whose excellence in scholarship and contributions in the area of international relations are highly recognized.

Dr. Kohut also thanked Mr. Wrzesnewskyj and pointed out that CIUS had over eight years of experience in Ukraine managing projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that have promoted democratic development. He added that CIUS has an infrastructure in Ukraine, which would translate into effective management of the project, “making every dollar count.” Mr. James Jacuta will head the project for CIUS and the non-governmental organization Community Energy Foundation will be CIUS's partner in Ukraine.

On September 10 Mr. Wrzesnewskyj also visited the Ukrainian Folklore Center at the University of Alberta, where he met its director, Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, Dr. Bohdan Medwisky and Theresa Warenycia. Later that day he met with media representatives and attended a dinner with Ukrainian Canadian community leaders.

The next day he continued his meetings with community groups and leaders, which included a meeting with the group spearheading the establishment of a Consulate General of Ukraine in Edmonton, headed by Yuri Moskal, and the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta, headed by Khrystyna Kohut.

He also met with the president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council, Catherine Chichak, and attended both its symposium on Eastern European women immigrants and its banquet, where he delivered greetings on behalf of the Canadian government. Following the banquet, he attended a reception hosted by Andrew Hladyshevsky and Daria Luciw.


The next morning, following services at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj spoke to parishioners attending a breakfast about

(Continued on page 20)



Borys Wrzesnewskyj

Ukraine's democratic development by reinforcing the understanding of election-related legislation, government policies and procedures that are followed prior to and during elections. The project is very timely as Ukraine's fourth presi-



Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

A special yearlong feature focusing on the history of the Ukrainian National Association.

Now that this column has completed an overview of all conventions of the Ukrainian National Association – from its first in Shamokin, Pa., in 1894 to its most recent, the 35th, held in Chicago in 2002 – it turns its attention to notable statements made in the past about various aspects of the UNA's multi-faceted activity.

(Continued on page 21)



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA'ers



Alexandra and Stefan Konopada, children of Andrew A. and Tania Konopada of Birmingham, Mich., are new members of UNA Branch 175. They were enrolled by their grandfather Jaroslav Konopada.



Lina Sophia Horobchenko, daughter of Volodymyr and Ksenia Horobchenko of Warren, Mich., is a new member of UNA Branch 175. She was enrolled by her grandmother Daria Rychtyckyj.



Abigail Claire Watters, daughter of Hugh and Jane Watters of Novi, Mich., is a new member of UNA Branch 292. She was enrolled by her grandparents John and Joanne Orlyk.



Sophia Larisa Maria Leshchyshyn, daughter of Andrij M. Leshchyshyn and Lada K. Onyshkevych-Leshchyshyn of Columbia, Md., is a new member of UNA Branch 66. She was enrolled by her grandparents Peter and Maria Leshchyshyn.



Larissa M. Strouse, daughter of James A. and Natalie M. Strouse of Bay Village, Ohio, is a new member of UNA Branch 358. She was enrolled by her grandfather Michael Tratch.



Insurance Matters

by Joseph Hawryluk

Permanent life insurance you don't have to pay for your whole life

Dear Osyp:

I want whole life (permanent) life insurance, but I don't want to be paying for it my whole life. What do you recommend?

– Bernie

Dear Bernie:

Thank you for an excellent question. You can obtain UNA permanent life insurance with just one payment (Whole Life Single-Premium Plan), after 20 annual payments (20-Pay Life), or have it paid up by age 65 (Life Paid up at 65).

For example, a 40-year-old man can obtain a \$10,000 permanent life policy for a one-time payment of \$2,425 (\$2,345 preferred rate, if the UNA underwriting department determines per your application that you are in excellent health – one more reason to get your life insurance early).

You see, statistically speaking, the older you get, the more things can go wrong with you. But once you qualify (during the underwriting process) for the lower preferred rate, that rate is yours until the policy is paid up.

If you don't mind paying for 20 years, that \$10,000 policy would cost you \$219.70 per year (\$192.20 preferred). To have that \$10,000 policy paid up by age 65, you would pay just \$196.60 per year (\$171.60 preferred).

So, don't procrastinate. Rates only go up as you get older, more things can go wrong with your health (i.e., you miss out on the preferred rate), or you could die without life insurance – and your loved ones will be left with a tremendous unexpected financial burden. Contact your local UNA branch secretary today, or call the UNA home office at 1-800-253-9862.

– Osyp

Joseph (Osyp in Ukrainian) Hawryluk is an advisor on the UNA General Assembly, chairman of the Buffalo UNA District Committee and secretary of UNA Branch 360. He is also a New York State licensed agent.



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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Autocracy or democracy

Having taken Russia backwards by applying Soviet-era methods, President Vladimir Putin is now trying to recreate Ukraine in the image of Russia. Remember, Mr. Putin has muzzled the media, jailed his opponents, made sure that his appointees control the regions, etc. And, oh yes, there was that pseudo-election that he "won." Mr. Putin doesn't perceive his country as "neo-Soviet," like many in the West do – the former KGB agent prefers the term "managed democracy" to describe what he has wrought. But democracy it surely ain't.

Now President Putin has decided to help Ukraine in its presidential election – a real presidential election with real candidates (well, at least two of them), and real choices for the future of Ukraine. Various media reports have indicated that Mr. Putin has ordered his cronies to help elect Viktor Yanukovich. The Russian media also have had a hand in this scheme, providing positive coverage of the Ukrainian prime minister, while utilizing what is known as "black PR" against Viktor Yushchenko.

Of course, Moscow's preference in Ukraine's presidential election has been clear all along. As the Wall Street Journal put it in its editorial of September 21, "Putin's Russia and the U.S. and Europe have conflicting interests here. From experience, Mr. Putin knows that democratic neighbors naturally gravitate toward the West. Witness Georgia's attempts to shake off Russian meddling after last year's 'Rose Revolution.' Mr. Kuchma's Ukraine also leaned toward NATO and the EU before the sitting president became mired in corruption and other scandals. The Russian president, who embraced Mr. Kuchma in his troubled years, this summer all but endorsed his hand-picked successor."

Now Mr. Putin has openly endorsed Mr. Yanukovich, as evidenced by the scenes as Messrs. Kuchma and Yanukovich traveled to Moscow last week to attend a 52nd birthday celebration for the Russian president. Russian authorities even went as far as to help organize a congress of Ukrainian associations in Russia to urge Ukrainian citizens who live in Russia to vote for Mr. Yanukovich. Plus, Patriarch Aleksei II of the Russian Orthodox Church presented Mr. Yanukovich with the icon of Our Lady of Vladimir, "which symbolizes the unity of historical roots of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples," reported ITAR-TASS.

It must be noted that Mr. Yanukovich has endeared himself to Mr. Putin and to Russian voters in Ukraine through his support for the Single Economic Space and his overall orientation toward Russia, and by pledging to support Russian as a state language in Ukraine, to introduce dual citizenship and to simplify travel procedures between the two countries.

Back in Ukraine, just like President Putin, President Kuchma is controlling the media and silencing his opponents. He and Prime Minister Yanukovich are using state resources at their disposal to support the Yanukovich candidacy and, at the same time, to blemish and otherwise diminish that of Mr. Yushchenko. And, a Kremlin insider Gleb Pavlovsky, who guided the public relations strategy in Mr. Putin's presidential campaign, has been dispatched to Ukraine for the election campaign.

Take, for example, the suspected poisoning of the Our Ukraine leader. A fake press release from the Vienna clinic that treated Mr. Yushchenko somehow got distributed via the Reuters news agency and, as a result, false information stating that the opposition leader was not poisoned appeared in countless media outlets around the globe. The Ukrainian media jumped to report first that Mr. Yushchenko was misleading the public, then questioned his lifestyle and most recently depicted him as chronically ill and thus unsuited for the presidency. (According to some sources, the fake release has been traced to a Russian-based public relations firm.) All that comes on top of other depictions of Mr. Yushchenko as a rabid chauvinist, a fascist and a puppet of the United States. Indeed, American symbols are being utilized by Mr. Yushchenko's opponents on a series of posters depicting him as the U.S. choice for president and creating a fear of U.S. control over Ukraine.

The goal of all of the foregoing machinations and dirty tricks is really quite simple: to turn Ukraine into a vassal state of the Russian Federation. The choice for Ukraine's voters should be equally simple: a vote for autocracy (Yanukovich) or a vote for democracy (Yushchenko).

Oct.
17
1999

Turning the pages back...

Five years ago, The Ukrainian Weekly reported: "If Ukrainians were to go to the polls today to choose their next president, their choice would be the incumbent, President Leonid Kuchma, according to the results of three independent sociological surveys."

Although the current president was favored to lead in the first round of voting, reported Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau on October 17, 1999, none of the polls showed that he was capable of obtaining the mandatory 50 percent-plus support required by law. Therefore a second-round run-off was likely to be required on November 14.

The findings were presented on October 14 by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, the Ukrainian Sociological Service and the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research in conjunction with the Social Monitoring Center. All three surveys put Mr. Kuchma well ahead of the pack in the first round. The polls, whose margins of error varied from 2 percent to 3 percent, showed the incumbent with 29 to 31 percent electoral support.

Mr. Kuchma was followed by Progressive Socialist candidate Natalia Vitrenko with 14-15 percent support and Communist Party candidate Petro Symonenko with 11-13 percent.

None of the Kaniv Four candidates – Oleksander Moroz (Socialist), Yevhen Marchuk (nominated by a bloc of rightist parties), Oleksander Tkachenko (Peasant Party) and Cherkasy Mayor Volodymyr Oliinyk – who had pledged to choose a single candidate from the group, had strong voter support. The Ukrainian Sociological Service poll indicated that Mr. Moroz had the support of 9 percent of respondents.

Source: "New polls indicate Kuchma still leads the pack," by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, The Ukrainian Weekly, October 17, 1999, Vol. LXVII, No. 42.

COMMENTARY

Time for romanticism is over



On the left, a poster depicts President George W. Bush, wearing a blue-and-yellow neckerchief, shouting: "We're for Our Ukraine." On the right, the Yushchenko slogan "Yes!" appears on a poster showing an "American" parasite atop the map of Ukraine; the caption notes 399 international organizations, 421 charitable organizations with international status and 179 non-governmental organizations on the territory of Ukraine, for a total of 999.

by Taras Kuzio

4/october/1/2.shtm).

The election campaign in Ukraine can only lead to one conclusion: this is not an election and the authorities (i.e., President Leonid Kuchma) never intended to hold free and fair elections. This conclusion is now being reached by the United States, Canada, Western Europe and international organizations such as the European Union, NATO and the Council of Europe.

What now appears to be a bio-terrorist assassination attempt directed against Viktor Yushchenko represents proof, if any was still needed, that the Ukrainian authorities never had any intention of holding a free election. Violations are too numerous to list here, but readers can find them in my articles re-printed regularly by The Ukrainian Weekly.

We should not only be concerned by gross election violations and the threats still hanging over Mr. Yushchenko's life. The Ukrainian authorities are seemingly willing to sell anything – Sevastopol, factories, Ukraine's sovereignty – to obtain Russian support for Viktor Yanukovich's election.

As American Ukrainians, shouldn't you be angry at the sale of Ukrainian arms to Cuba and Venezuela? Sending these on the eve of the elections is a calculated and direct snub to the Bush administration.

You should be even more aghast at the unrelenting anti-American campaign under way in Ukraine. Only in the last week millions of leaflets and posters have been found in Kyiv that portray President George W. Bush in a disgusting manner and Mr. Yushchenko depicted as Uncle Sam. If I was an American Ukrainian I would be very perturbed at these developments (putting it diplomatically).

The vociferous and violent anti-American campaign has been initiated by the authorities in an attempt to undermine Mr. Yushchenko. Mr. Yushchenko's wife is constantly attacked on television for being American. Secret instructions (temnyky) sent by the presidential administration advise editors to ignore articles published in the U.S. media on Ukraine, such as recent ones by Anders Aslund and Richard Holbrooke, Jan Kalicki and Mark Brzezinski (see <http://www2.pravda.com.ua/archive/200>

Dr. Taras Kuzio is visiting professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University.

Nevertheless, American and Canadian Ukrainians have not reached a conclusion that should arise from the above. Namely, that they need to change their views about Ukrainian diplomatic representatives abroad. U.S. and Canadian Ukrainians have until now looked upon Ukrainian diplomats merely as representatives of Ukraine.

It is this view that now needs to change. Ambassadors are appointed by presidents and, therefore, are directly linked to the regime that the president rules over.

American and Canadian Ukrainians failed to draw the necessary conclusions from Anton Buteiko, who as Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. refused to do Mr. Kuchma's bidding and was sent home. Other former ambassadors are also highly displeased with current policies. Long-time ambassador to Israel, the U.S. and Canada Yuri Scherbak is now a critic of President Kuchma's policies.

Currently, American and Canadian Ukrainians are following a contradictory policy. On the one hand, apart from a nationalist fringe, they are highly critical of developments in Ukraine. On the other hand, they continue to hold events in Ukrainian embassies and to invite Ukrainian ambassadors to give talks at their functions. American and Canadian-Ukrainians fail to see how the latter policy undermines the former.

It is time for American and Canadian Ukrainians to go beyond seeing Ukrainian ambassadors as representatives of a mythical, romantic Ukraine and to recognize them for what they are: representatives of President Kuchma (and Mr. Yanukovich if he wins, most likely by fraud). Instead of maintaining contacts with Mr. Kuchma's representatives abroad, American and Canadian Ukrainians should stand shoulder to shoulder with Ukrainian voters, only 12 percent of whom believe there will be free elections; with Mr. Yushchenko, who has experienced an assassination attempt organized by the "vlada," and with the Ukrainian Parliament, which took the unprecedented step of creating a committee to seek free and fair elections.

American and Canadian Ukrainians should now bring their attitudes toward diplomatic representatives of President Kuchma in line with their natural disgust at what his regime is doing during these so-called elections.

THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Why John F. Kerry?

Competence and common sense

by Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky

It has been suggested by a columnist on these pages that despite the Bush administration's pro-Russian attitudes and neglect of Ukraine, we should nonetheless vote for President George W. Bush because, allegedly, Mr. Bush is very "conservative" and John Kerry "liberal." That is wrong to the point of being silly.

...Sen. Kerry is a thoughtful and intelligent alternative to George W. Bush. ... Democrats have shown themselves to be more pro-Ukraine than Republicans.

U.S. treatment of Ukraine and Russia may be very important to me and less important to someone else in deciding for whom to vote, but that's a matter of personal values and not really susceptible to argumentation. So let's turn to the issues of "conservatism" and "liberalism."

Most political decision-making is a matter of competence and common sense. Only those on the far left or on the far right think otherwise. Thankfully, the far left is politically dead; we are, however, subjected to such ideological nonsense from the far right, which is now ascendant in America.

The last two presidents who were liberals, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, dragged us into Vietnam. The "conservative" George W. Bush has dragged us into Iraq. Did either of these momentous decisions have anything at all to do with being liberal or conservative?

Let's take a minute to consider what conservatism is. A central insight of conservative political theory is the notion that we should rarely, if ever, pursue radical social or political change. Why? Because we will probably make things worse. Why? Because existing social and political arrangements, however imperfect, evolved over time and have at least certain positives, whereas we humans simply aren't smart enough or understand enough of the intricacies of social and political arrangements to be able to create sudden, dramatic improvements. Apparently, President Bush never learned this elementary lesson.

The Bush idea of invading Iraq to turn it into a model of democracy in the Middle East is the mother of all radical social engineering projects. President Bush and Dick Cheney told us that after we defeated the existing regime we would be welcomed with flowers as liberators and all would be well. The Bush/Cheney expectations were stunning in their stupidity and naiveté. Leaving aside momentarily whether we should have invaded Iraq, a true conservative would never, ever have dragged us into Iraq without 100 percent more thought, planning and preparation. But a bumper-sticker conservative doesn't worry about such complexities.

Iraq is an unmitigated disaster for at

Bohdan Vitvitsky is an attorney, writer and lecturer who holds a Ph.D. in philosophy.

least three separate reasons. First, the various Bush/Cheney rationales for invasion – the supposed weapons of mass destruction, the supposed connection between 9/11 and Saddam Hussein, and the "they'll welcome us with flowers" fantasy – have all been demonstrated to be false. Second, once they decided to invade Iraq, Messrs. Bush and Cheney were responsible for competently preparing, planning and executing the occupation. They have failed utterly, and for that our servicemen and women are paying with their limbs and lives. Third, instead of making us safer from future attacks, the invasion of Iraq has made us less so. We diverted troops and resources from Afghanistan and Osama Bin Laden; our invasion of Iraq is a recruiting bonanza for Al Qaeda; and the Abu Ghraib prison scandal has energized hatred towards us among Muslims the world over. This is not conservatism; this is simply incompetence.

Regarding incompetence: the overall goal of any successful foreign policy is to unite your friends and divide your enemies. It takes special incompetence to achieve the opposite. Right after 9/11 the United States enjoyed support throughout the world that continued through our invasion of Afghanistan. Today, thanks to Bush policies, we have squandered all that support: surveys consistently show we are more hated than ever before. Alienating and antagonizing the rest of the world does not make us safer in this era of global terrorism. Concerning 9/11, it is somewhat perverse that Bush has wrapped himself so tightly in the 9/11 flag. As the 9/11 Commission and former Bush aides have revealed, for the first eight months of his administration, President Bush and his National Security Council significantly reduced the amount of attention that had been paid to monitoring Al Qaeda by the Clinton administration. This because the Bush administration wanted to be different from its predecessor, and because it didn't fully appreciate the threat posed by Al Qaeda. Yet, the Bush administration did begin discussing war with Iraq even before 9/11. This makes sense?

Domestically, true conservatism has always meant fiscal prudence and balanced budgets. But the "conservative" President Bush turned a projected Clinton budget surplus of \$5 trillion into a \$3 trillion deficit. And all because of his stubborn, ideological insistence on large tax cuts for the wealthy (everyone supports the middle-class tax cuts). Now true fiscal conservatives and people with some common sense such as Paul Volker and Pete Peterson say we are headed for economic disaster perhaps as early as five years from now. And we should reward Mr. Bush with another four years?

About Russia and Ukraine: does it matter, forgetting for a moment our concern about Ukraine, that the Bush administration is so pro-Russian? That President Bush went out of his way during the first debate with Sen. Kerry to emphasize this on television available worldwide by repeatedly referring to Russian President Putin as "Vladimir"? Yes, it does. Although good relations with Russia, as with any other country, are to be desired, this blind pro-Russian and neglectful of Ukraine "policy" is not good for the United States. If Russia manages to pull Ukraine into its orbit, the

(Continued on page 25)

Why George W. Bush?

Promises made, promises kept

by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas

On November 2, Lesia and I will cast our votes for George W. Bush.

There are four reasons for our decision: taxes, education, security and family values.

We support President Bush because he is that rare politician, a man who keeps his promises. George W. Bush promised to lower our taxes. He did. Bill Clinton also promised to lower taxes. He raised them. George H.W. Bush said "read my lips, no new taxes," but his lips deceived us.

When George W. Bush took office, he inherited an economy going south. By lowering taxes for every taxpayer, he turned things around. Today we have a booming economy and low unemployment. Democrats accuse our president of providing tax cuts only for the rich. Lesia and I are not rich, and yet our taxes were cut. How come?

Did the rich get bigger tax cuts than Lesia and me? Of course. They should. They pay more federal taxes so their tax cut should be larger. A recent Treasury Department study on tax shares estimates that the top 1 percent of our population will pay 32.3 percent of the federal tax bill this year. The top 5 percent will pay 64.8 percent. The top 20 percent will pay 82 percent. The bottom 80 percent of our taxpayers, including the poor who pay no taxes, will only pay some 18 percent of the total taxes. We have no problem with that arrangement. Tax cuts for the rich are a good thing, because it means more money for investment; more investment means more jobs.

President Bush promised to improve public education, long a shameful blot on our nation. He kept that promise as well. We now have legislation called "No Child Left Behind." For the first time, schools and teachers are being held accountable nationwide. The budget for K-12 education has increased 49 percent since 2001. Included are increases of \$139 million for reading programs and a 75 percent increase in special-education funding. Previous presidents paid lip service to our school problem. George H.W. Bush postured as "the education president" but did little. President Clinton did what the teachers union wanted. Education remained a low priority and our school children's academic performance continued to deteriorate. According to tests administered in 2000 by the Program for International Student Assessment (an arm of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), American students ranked 15th in reading among the 31 countries that participated in the survey. In a 1999 study of eighth graders in math and science, the United States ranked 19th out of 38 countries. Given this abominable performance by our students, something had to be done. George W. Bush did it.

When the United States was attacked by Islamo-fascists in 2001, President Bush promised to punish the perpetrators. He kept his promise. Today, Afghanistan, well on its way to becoming a democracy with equal rights for all, including women, is no longer a haven for terrorists. Saddam Hussein, a promoter of terrorism and a mass murderer, is no longer in power. For the first time in

Dr. Myron B. Kuropas and his wife, Lesia, are co-coordinators of Ukrainian Americans for Bush/Cheney 2004.

their history, the people of Afghanistan and Iraq are on their way to establishing a true democracy.

America has a long and proud history of nation-building. Think Japan and Germany after the second world war. The road ahead in Afghanistan and Iraq will not be easy, but President Bush will remain resolute and on task until the job is completed. Bet on it. Ukrainian Americans familiar with Soviet terror and its aftermath in Ukraine today should be able to relate to the kind of problems that emerge in newly freed nations.

Like it or not, the United States is at war and, despite the rhetoric of some misguided, "America is always wrong" academics and media bores, Lesia and I don't believe America asked for, or deserved this war. We were attacked by a crazed group of religious zealots who believe that the United States is the root

... a strong America, led by a principled and resolute president, George W. Bush, is best for Ukrainian Americans, as well as for the people of Ukraine

of all evil in the world. Nothing we do will ever convince them otherwise. No negotiation is possible, because their goal is the total destruction of our society.

Family values are the final reason Lesia and I support President Bush. Although he isn't Catholic, we believe Dubya is more "Catholic" than John F. Kerry, who claims to be Catholic but doesn't practice his faith. Sen. Kerry supports abortion on demand. He's one of the few senators who voted against a bill to abolish the grisly procedure euphemistically referred to as "partial-birth abortion," a bill overwhelmingly passed by Congress but vetoed twice by President Clinton. How can Sen. Kerry, who claims to believe that life begins at conception, countenance such violent destruction of unborn innocents?

Gay marriage is another issue with which we have a problem. While we don't celebrate their lifestyle, we respect gays and lesbians as persons entitled to the same human rights as all Americans. Marriage is not a human right, however. For Christians, marriage is a sacrament. For the state, marriage is a civil right, a covenant between a man and woman. The state has an interest in marriage because it is the bedrock of society. Efforts to undermine marriage between one man and one woman (as in past attempts by Mormons to legalize marriage between one man and many women) have been struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court. President Bush supports the Defense of Marriage Act passed overwhelmingly by Congress and which, until the advent of an extremist judge in Massachusetts, was sacrosanct. To overcome the self-centered, deleterious influence of such a judiciary, President Bush is promoting a constitutional amendment which will settle the one man, one woman issue once and for all. Lesia and I support this effort.

(Continued on page 25)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who is the best for Ukraine?

Dear Editor:

Never before has the Ukrainian American vote been so important in a presidential election. Approximately 1.5 million Ukrainians and their descendents most living in key battleground states, could swing this year's very close contest to either incumbent President George W. Bush or challenger U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry.

Historically, Ukrainian Americans have tended to vote Republican. Often Republicans appeared better positioned to speak against the oppression, Russification and ruthless exploitation that Ukrainians endured during the Communist era. There were exceptions. Democratic President Jimmy Carter, as did some members of his party in Congress, aggressively fought for human rights during Soviet tyranny. But it is the Republican Party most identified with providing the strongest opposition to communism. As a result, Ukraine was rightly perceived as a subjugated nation.

In the post-Soviet era things have changed. In the last four years there has been limited attention given to Ukraine as it slides toward Russian political and economic influence. The October Ukrainian presidential election will impact the country for the next century. Two candidates have emerged. One is Viktor Yushchenko, who is committed to liberty, fair elections, growing the economy and nurturing a Ukrainian national consciousness. The other is Viktor Yanukovich, a lackey of President Leonid Kuchma, who supports greater integration with Russia.

Russian influence, threats of ballot tampering and the government-influenced press promoting Mr. Yanukovich's candidacy have not brought forth a strong response from Washington. Congress has passed a resolution expressing concern, some American policy-makers have visited Ukraine, and there are ongoing official calls for free and fair elections. These are nice gestures that make people feel good. Are they enough? Should former President Carter be asked to monitor the October election? Should the White House take a stronger public stand about the future of Ukraine similar to its positions on Israel, Taiwan or democracy among Arab nations?

The Bush administration's policy toward Ukraine takes careful steps not to offend Russian President Vladimir Putin. Securing and furthering Ukrainian independence seems to be a distant, secondary concern. Moscow has belittled that it does not want the West to interfere in any way with Russian-Ukrainian relations. Washington has acquiesced, sending Moscow the signal that it can treat Ukraine as its weaker sibling.

This misguided policy also stems from an unwillingness to deal with what the world community widely perceives as an inept, corrupt administration now in power in Kyiv. The United States has tried to ignore it. By doing so, Washington, perhaps unintentionally, has encouraged the current Ukrainian government to feel isolated, thus justifying its closer alignment with its former overlord to the north.

The West has not acted in a concrete manner to advance Ukraine's delicate democracy. Symbolic gestures or statements don't protect liberty.

This is not to suggest that Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kerry should be given a pass on his attitude toward Ukraine. In contrast to the current administration, however, the senator

does have a greater appreciation for geopolitical dynamics as evidenced by his foreign policy advisers, who consistently express strong, public concern about the future of Ukraine.

No Ukrainian American should vote for a presidential candidate based on their position toward Ukraine. To do so would be un-American. Every voter with Ukrainian ancestry, however, will likely factor their heritage into the overall equation along with such critical issues to America as terrorism, health care, economic growth and proper funding for education. Concern for the ancestral homeland should be only one of many factors in selecting the next president of the United States. We are Americans first.

As a bloc of voters, Ukrainian-Americans can have a significant role in the outcome of this year's U.S. presidential contest. Ukrainians have been taken for granted, and it's time they reassess their allegiances. Their willingness to pressure each of the major presidential nominees regarding Ukraine may contribute to a fair, honest election in the ancestral homeland.

Every Ukrainian American voter, especially in key battleground states – Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, Arizona and Pennsylvania should ask: Is Ukraine better off after four years of President Bush? Or would Ukraine be better served if Sen. Kerry were elected president?

Bishop Paul Peter Jesep
Cleveland

The letter-writer is chancellor of the archeparchy and vicar general of government relations of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church – Sobornopravna.

Reader's reaction to Vitvitsky article

Dear Editor:

It was with deep disappointment that I read Bohdan Vitvitsky's "Republicans, Democrats and Ukraine" (September 12). This article is a clever example of sophism and will no doubt influence Ukrainians to vote Democratic. However, if Dr. Vitvitsky wishes to push his own liberal agenda to influence politics, then it is important to view major events in their entire historical perspective and not just cherry-pick the ones that agree with his personal viewpoint.

Let us first address the issue of "historical amnesia." While it is a fact that President Harry S. Truman committed the U.S. to fight the Korean War when North Korea invaded South Korea, it was his fault that this invasion occurred. In January 1950 Secretary of State Dean Acheson outlined a "defensive perimeter" vital to national security and in this perimeter he included neither Korea nor Taiwan. As a result of this open invitation, North Korea launched a full-scale attack a few months later. Acheson, as a matter of fact, was and remained a friend of Alger Hiss, a major Soviet spy. Democrats continued to defend Hiss in spite of all the evidence well into the '90s.

As to the triumph of President John F. Kennedy in the Cuban Missile Crisis, let us not forget that it was his intelligence failure that allowed these missiles to accumulate there. Someone did not connect the dots. In return for dismantling the Cuban bases, Kennedy had to agree to Nikita Khrushchev's demands never to attack Cuba and to reduce U.S. missile bases in Turkey. It was a response to an unnecessary crisis and not a victory for the U.S. Cuba, there-

fore, continues to be a problem.

The statement about Walter Polovchak is incorrect. He was never sent back to the "evil empire." His case was purposely dragged out in the courts until he reached the legal age of 18 and he decided to stay in the U.S. On the other hand, it was President Bill Clinton and Janet Reno who had Eliot Gonzales forcibly dragged from his home here and returned to Cuba.

Dr. Vitvitsky is also wrong in saying that there were only two Democratic administrations that have given Ukrainian concerns some "attention." Democratic President Woodrow Wilson, ever the hypocrite, called for the self-determination of nations. Subsequently, on June 25, 1919, the Entente (the Western allies and Wilson) Council of Ambassadors acknowledged Poland's right to occupy all of eastern Galicia (western Ukraine) "in order to protect the civilian population from the dangerous threat of Bolshevik bands." Thus, our parents were condemned to Polish tyranny and there was no self-determination for western Ukraine. For this we can thank a Democratic president.

When Republican candidate Barry Goldwater stated he was for an independent Ukraine he was called a warmonger by Lyndon B. Johnson. Of course, President George Bush should greet Mikhail Gorbachev warmly. He was one of the prime players in the dismantling of the USSR. I recall seeing a picture of Jimmy Carter hugging Leonid Brezhnev. I wonder why?

At present the U.S. has temporarily reduced aid to Ukraine because of the authoritarian tendencies of Leonid Kuchma and the sale of arms to Iraq. There was a reason for this, and it was not a lack of concern for the Ukrainian people. The U.S. has been very vociferous in stating to the world and to President Kuchma how important it is that the future presidential elections be fair and be free.

We could revisit the past 70 years of U.S.-Soviet relations to see which party did more to destroy Communism and thereby help Ukraine. If we resisted cherry-picking our facts, the score would certainly be higher for the Republicans. Just look at what the Democratic press has done to us. The liberal and Democratic New York Times steadfastly refuses to revoke Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize, in spite of the intense crusade on the part of many scholars to convince them. This action alone would have given Ukrainians great recognition and satisfaction. Certainly more than the speeches and the committee the Democrats offer and to whom Dr. Vitvitsky thinks we should be so grateful. I often wonder if Duranty had told the truth and if Gareth Jones was not assassinated the Famine could have been stopped. Let us also remember the "60 Minutes" program that declared Ukrainians to be "genetically anti-Semitic." Last I heard the entire staff of this program is liberal and Democratic.

I don't think Ukrainian Republicans need a lecture from Dr. Vitvitsky as to why we should not confuse Russia with the Soviet Union. We understand this without his help. We also understand the concept of "realpolitik" not so much as catering to a more powerful country but as dealing with the more dangerous country (Russia still has nuclear weapons). I think it would be more beneficial for Democratic Ukrainians to lessen their vicious attacks on Republican politicians and maybe they would listen.

I must add that I have a lot of respect for Dr. Vitvitsky and his work for our community, but I found this article flawed and felt a need to respond.

Lydia Kossak Kernitsky
Colts Neck, N.J.

A reader's vote for Bednarik

Dear Editor:

Re: The Article by Myron B. Kuropas, "Can the U.S. save Ukraine?" (October 3), my answer is, "no" – not if George W. Bush is elected as president of the U.S. on November 2.

Prior to the 2000 election of Mr. Bush as president of the U.S., Ukraine was a nation respected by the U.S. government.

Now, since Bush's administration has practically kept Ukraine out of the European Union and pushed it into the grip of the Russian emperor, Vladimir Putin, how can any reasonable American Ukrainian vote for the Republican Party on November 2?

No matter what Dr. Kuropas states, the Republican Party is the the worst medicine for the United States, the world and Ukraine.

As a free American Ukrainian, on November 2 I'm voting for a real American, Michael Bednarik of the Libertarian Party.

Alex Kachmar
Sacramento

Ukrainians' activity in U.S. politics

Dear Editor:

Recently, all one reads in the Ukrainian American press is about the elections in Ukraine. A day does not go by where someone brings up another opinion regarding what is wrong with the elections process in Ukraine.

Well, Hello! We, American citizens of Ukrainian descent, can't do anything about the situation; we are not Ukrainian citizens and we can't vote in Ukraine's elections. However, there is something we can do.

We have a very important election coming up in this country on November 2. Hardly anyone in the Ukrainian American community speaks about this election, which will have a monumental impact on us all. After all, we grew up here, went to school here, some of us served in the U.S. military, and we have a responsibility to vote on November 2.

To the best of my knowledge, the Ukrainian American community is not active in this upcoming election. Except for a few articles by Dr. Myron Kuropas and Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky, plus a few letters, like those of Boris Danik, to The Ukrainian Weekly, expressing their opinions, there are no debates on important issues.

We do not represent a voting bloc. The Ukrainian American community is very quick to criticize and demand action from our government on issues regarding Ukraine, but few, if any, are active in politics, either on the local, state or federal levels. We may be wise to follow the example of our Canadian brothers. It's about time we stop dreaming about Ukraine and wake up to the reality of where we live, work, worship, pay taxes, and send our children to school. We need to organize and take our political responsibility seriously and vote.

I, for one, will vote for John Kerry. If you do not agree with me, you can vote for your choice. (Will the people of Ukraine be able to exercise their free choice?)

God Bless America!

Jerry Zinycz
Venice, Fla.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for Rather to do final show

Dear Editor:

Dan Rather's use of forged documents on his "60 Minutes" segment's distortion of President George W. Bush's National Guard record, once again shows the very subtle liberal bias of the major television news media. While the media's bias is normally done very subtly, this attempt to help to cheat John Kerry into the White House, has made their slyness more obvious than usual.

The fact that Mr. Rather and CBS finally apologized may not be as important as the fact that it took weeks for an apology to be finally forced out of them. And the fact that they apologized only to the duped American public means nothing. More importantly, will he/they ever apologize personally to our president?

We Ukrainian Americans will especially remember "60 Minutes" history of not apologizing for false stories. Twelve years ago the same "60 Minutes" lied about widespread anti-Semitism in newly independent Ukraine. Even after a public outcry from the American public and from prominent Ukrainian Jews, including leading rabbis, and a court case against CBS, "60 Minutes" never apologized for the hoax.

Maybe it's time for Mr. Rather to do a final show: an autobiographical segment on "60 Minutes." He could then retire to be one of the declining celebrities on "Hollywood Squares," a show more reflective of his type of "truth."

George "Yurko" Honchar
Carnegie, Pa.

Kuropas columns too unbalanced

Dear Editor:

I awaited with bated breath the arrival of your October 10 issue publication to see if the vitriolic harangues of Dr. Myron Kuropas continue. Sure enough, there he goes again. It is sad, however, that your otherwise outstanding publication (consciously or not) provides sustained forum for his blatant, unabashed, blind and completely unbalanced (read untruthful) support for the Republican Party.

At the very least, The Ukrainian Weekly should not afford Dr. Kuropas a regular space under the very innocent heading of "Faces and Places." His pro-Republican pronouncements are not the opinions of an ordinary concerned citizen; and why should they be! Dr. Kuropas has anointed himself the "head Ukrainian aparatnyk" of the current Washington Republican gang and has been an "operative" for the Republicans for a number of years. The unfortunate thing is that now, Dr. Kuropas does not even try to camouflage his pro-Republican venomous pronouncements with even a minimum of independent thought.

Even then, Dr. Kuropas had to be very fast on his feet to make the deadline for the October 10 issue where heaped the "order of the day" attacks, e.g., the "dirty liberal" and "the elite press" labels.

Also, Dr. Kuropas, because I can take a little lie here and there, but cannot stand it being shoved down my throat 24/7, I will take the "elite media" and you can have Fox News with all the pseudo-intellectuals and imbeciles. Furthermore, I will take my demagogues like Soros, Al Sharpton, Franken and Kerry and you can have Rice, Wolfowitz, Pearl, Cheney and above all Zel Miller (now that is one nice gentle-

man), but wait, you already have them!

Dr. Kuropas, must not think too highly of his Ukrainian compatriots. He preaches to them, he does not opine. Very little, or nothing of his allegations were born of his own thought processes. It is sad and disconcerting that a man of his intelligence and stature in the community has fallen so deep into the crevice of the Republican quagmire that he himself cannot recognize even a little ray of light (truth)? After 40 plus years of government service, I can discern where more "light" is coming from.

Also, in the past couple of months did I detect a little frenzy or paranoia on the part of the Republicans and especially on the part of Dr. Kuropas? Please tell the good doctor not to worry, that if need be, we Floridians are ready to re-enact November 2000. (FYI: I have been a straight-ticket Republican voter for the past 50 years; about three months ago I looked into my soul!)

George D. Veleko
Miami

Some observations re Vitvitsky article

Dear Editor:

Just a couple of comments on the article "Republicans, Democrats and Ukraine" by Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky in the September 12 issue of The Weekly.

1) It is not true that the Reagan administration "sent Walter Polovchak ... back to 'the evil empire.'"

2) The author fails to distinguish between the anti-Soviet policies of President Ronald Reagan and the pro-Soviet policies of the State Department.

3) By invoking the names of patriotic Democrats like Presidents Harry S. Truman and John F. Kennedy, and Sen. Henry Jackson and Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, the author attempts to cover up the leftist views of John Kerry, whose support of Communist North Vietnam now comes back to haunt him.

4) FDR and the Democrats sold out Eastern Europe to Stalin at Yalta. President Reagan won the Cold War and defeated "the evil empire," resulting in Ukraine's independence.

Leo Iwaskiw
Philadelphia

Finds support for Kerry surprising

Dear Editor:

It is with surprise and shock that I react to the news that there are Americans of Ukrainian descent that support John Kerry for President. These individuals must be unaware of Mr. Kerry's foreign policy record in the Senate. As we all know, it was President Ronald Reagan's policies that helped bring down the Soviet Union and free Ukraine from Communist tyranny. Those of us who do know Sen. Kerry's record, know that he took a much different stance during the Cold War.

President Reagan believed we could win the Cold War by fighting the Soviets on several fronts. He started an arms race that he knew the Soviets could not win and in addition would bankrupt their country. He worked with the Saudis to help keep the price of oil down. This, in turn, hurt the Soviet economy because it helped bring in less foreign currency. Oil was the largest export for the Soviets.

Finally, President Reagan funded and

armed anti-Communist rebels throughout the world in order to defeat the USSR. He financially supported the Contras against Communist Nicaragua, liberated Grenada from Cuban invasion, and supported the government of El Salvador against Soviet-sponsored soldiers. Most importantly, he provided Afghanistan rebels with surface-to-air missile launchers that helped defeat the Soviets in Afghanistan. All of these policies led to the collapse of the Soviet economy, the destruction of the Soviet Union, and the independence of Ukraine.

When Ronald Reagan passed away, Lech Walesa wrote a column in the Wall Street Journal thanking him for freeing Eastern Europe.

So where was Sen. Kerry when President Reagan was working to defeat Ukraine's enemy? While President Reagan was calling the Soviet Union an evil empire, Sen. Kerry was meeting with and praising Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega, two loyal Soviet clients. When President Reagan was increasing the defense budget, Sen. Kerry consistently voted to slash military spending and called for a nuclear freeze with the Soviet Union. The Soviets were always able to count on Sen. Kerry, America's most liberal senator, to side with them on issues. Had the policies of Sen. Kerry been allowed to carry the day, Ukraine would not be free today.

Ukrainian Americans are once again concerned about Russia dominating its neighbors. How can we trust Sen. Kerry to stand up to an imperialistic Russia today if he could not stand up to the evil empire when it was an obvious threat to us during the Cold War? Ukrainian Americans should vote for President George W. Bush on November 2.

Stefko Kuropas
Schaumburg, Ill.

The letter-writer is an Illinois state leader of Ukrainian Americans for Bush/Cheney 2004.

Famine-Genocide and U.S. election

Dear Editor:

I am thoroughly bewildered by the mind-set of those Ukrainians who persist in supporting the Bush-Cheney ticket. Many Ukrainian Americans have a nostalgic affinity for the GOP dating back to the Cold War. This is understandable. But it is time to re-evaluate this attraction in light of recent events which directly impact our community.

The Republican leadership and Sen. Richard Lugar have refused to let the resolution out of committee, suspending this initiative in a state of imposed paralysis. Reportedly, the Bush-Cheney regime is refusing to recognize the Ukrainian Famine as an act of genocide for fear of offending the Russians.

Regardless of our personal feelings about the war, we must remember that the Russians have vehemently opposed the war in Iraq, while the Ukrainians have sent 2,000 young troops, one of the few and one of the largest ally military contingents. One might legitimately wonder why the current Russian government, with its continuing cover-ups of atrocities and imperial pretenses, should be allowed to trump Ukrainians' justifiable aspirations for a long-overdue acknowledgement of one of the greatest acts of genocide in the 20th century.

It is worth noting that many Jewish senators, including Frank Lautenberg, Charles Schumer, Joseph Lieberman,

Carl Levin, Barbara Boxer and Arlen Specter, were early and staunch sponsors of the Senate resolution with its clear reference to the genocidal nature of Stalin's policy toward Ukraine. Should we expect or accept anything less from an administration that makes claims of superior moral leadership in foreign policy? Would the Jewish community ever consider supporting individuals aspiring for public office who refused to acknowledge the Nazi Holocaust as anything less than a conscious policy of genocide?

We Ukrainian Americans must break the habit of accepting so much less. Until the Bush regime goes on record in support of the Famine Resolution, our community must withhold its support, and we should certainly not pander to the GOP ticket.

Not only should Ukrainian Americans refuse to support Bush-Cheney, the Ukrainian American community must clearly communicate to this administration that we will hold President George W. Bush accountable for his refusal to recognize the Famine. Until the resolution passes with this administration's support, any suggestion that the Bush-Cheney ticket is worthy of our consideration is simply unthinkable.

Daria Juergensen
Cheshire, Conn.

The letter-writer is on the Steering Committee of Ukrainian Americans for Kerry-Edwards.

A reader's vote against Kerry

Dear Editor:

I would guess that Boris Danik of New Jersey is a liberal who will vote for Sen. John Kerry no matter what the facts are and reverts to name calling when issues become difficult to explain.

Allow me to explain several pertinent facts that may explain Senator Kerry's core values. Although he served in Vietnam for three months (1 month was training), he continued to refuse to release his military records. The Swift Boat Vets have raised numerous issues, however, Sen. Kerry refuses to address the issue of the medals by saying "you cannot question my patriotism."

It is documented that after he returned from Vietnam, he accused soldiers of atrocities which he could never substantiate. He called all of us "Genghis Khan" and worked with Jane Fonda. He also went to Paris to "negotiate" with the Communists. Wasn't he still in the Naval Reserve during this time? There may be a law against this egregious act.

In the Senate, Mr. Kerry voted against every weapons system and cut funding to the intelligence services. Yet, today he states that President George W. Bush is not giving the troops enough. If Sen. Kerry had his way, the troops would be using "spitballs" to fight. He voted for the war, and then voted against funding for the war, yet flip-flops that President Bush is not doing enough. Sen. Kerry cannot have it both ways.

Sen. Kerry has to finally come to terms and decide what he wants to believe. Ever since Vietnam, when he staged missions in order to film himself as a "Rambo" and compared our soldiers to barbarians, he has been an opportunist.

We are in World War IV (WW III was won by President Ronald Reagan), which is a global conflict. Failure is not an option.

Roman G. Golash
Palatine, Ill.

NEWS AND VIEWS

You think Ukraine has problems...

by David Marples

Last week [in late September], Canada's ambassador in Kyiv, Andrew Robinson, criticized Ukraine's presidential election campaign, arguing that irregularities would undermine democracy. He was duly admonished by the Ukrainian government in Kyiv. Evidently the ambassador's comments were made with the full approval of the Canadian Foreign Affairs Ministry.

There are some grounds for Mr. Robinson's concern. The leading candidate in the elections, Viktor Yushchenko, checked into a Vienna hospital after a suspected poisoning attempt. In past years, several political opponents of President Leonid Kuchma have died in suspicious circumstances.

Mr. Kuchma's government has made no secret of its support for the current prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich. Recently, while campaigning in western Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovich was struck by an object and fell to the ground. It turned out to have been nothing more lethal than an egg. Cynics have maintained that the whole incident was staged to prove that Mr. Yanukovich is equally vulnerable to death threats.

Such shenanigans aside, however, Canada's concern seems misdirected. The Ukrainians at least have a contest. One month prior to the election, it is impossible to forecast a winner. In contrast, Ukraine's neighbors have no such choices. A brief survey of the states closest, or most analogous to, Ukraine in demographic make-up and recent history reveals that the choices are truly limited.

The past week, for example, saw a parliamentary election in Kazakstan, ruled like a fiefdom by its only president since independence, Nursultan Nazarbayev. The campaign resulted in the triumph of two parties: the president's own Otan Party received 42 percent of the vote; and the Asar Party, led by the president's daughter, Dariga Nazarbayeva, received almost 20 percent. The government has become a family concern.

Earlier this year, Russia's presidential election was won convincingly in the first round by the incumbent, President

Dr. David Marples is a professor of Russian history and director of the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta.

The article above appeared on September 29 in the "Globe and Mail Update," an online publication of that Toronto-based newspaper.

Vladimir Putin, when none of the likely challengers (most notably Communist Leader Gennadii Zyuganov) decided to join the campaign. Since the tragic events in Beslan, Mr. Putin has cracked down on foreign residents in Moscow, abandoned the practice (supposedly enshrined in the Russian Constitution) of electing regional governors and pondered the idea of a government takeover of the giant oil company Yukos, whose former CEO, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, remains in jail and has been accused of links to mafia bosses.

Belarus will hold a parliamentary election on October 17. Almost half the candidates were removed from the campaign at the registration stage, in one instance for declaring her pension to be less than 1 cent below the reality. Two leading rivals for president languish in jail, including a respected former ambassador to the Baltic states.

Meanwhile the president, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, has announced that the election will be accompanied by a referendum on whether he may run for a third term as president. He used the occasion of a public commemoration of the victims of Beslan to make the announcement, commenting that under his rule Belarus has never suffered a terrorist attack.

It would be the third such referendum under Mr. Lukashenka. The first reduced the power of the Parliament to a small rump body and removed the national flag and symbols; the second amended the constitution to enhance presidential powers and ensure a first extension of his time in office. Polls suggest that Mr. Lukashenka will get his way.

Moldova lacks even a unified country, with a breakaway Slavic republic on the Dniestr River still defiantly resisting rule from Kishinev after a 12-year hiatus. It also occupies the lamentable position of "poorest country in Europe."

At least in Ukraine, Mr. Kuchma, despite fears to the contrary, did not run for a third term. Nor has he managed to convince the electorate thus far that Mr. Yanukovich is a viable successor. Recently the parties supporting the prime minister lost their majority in the Ukrainian Parliament. Moreover, whenever there has been a transgression of electoral rules – and such problems began with the April mayoral contest in Mukachiv – international and national publicity has been rapid and damning.

This is not to argue that politics in Ukraine are democratic. Nevertheless, they are far more diverse, complex and unpre-

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Who are these people?

by Roman Solchanyk

The idea of taking a closer look at how Ukrainians (and Russians) in Ukraine see themselves – specifically, in terms of national identity, attitudes toward state independence, ties to Russia and related issues, all of which can probably be subsumed under the heading of national consciousness, occurred to me about a year ago, after reading an article in the Kyiv daily Den that left me somewhat depressed, but also quite skeptical.

The author, commenting on the results of a nationwide public opinion survey conducted in the summer of 2003, concluded that nearly 75 percent of respondents had either a negative attitude toward Ukraine's independence or were indifferent. This, after 12 years of independence!

The skepticism was twofold. First of all, the figure itself seemed rather high. Maybe the author got his countries mixed up and transposed data from Belarus to Ukraine. Second, the conclusion was based on a question that – although I am very much a dilettante when it comes to the "exact science" of sociology – seemed not to warrant the categorical conclusion that was drawn – namely: "What emotions does the celebration of Independence Day (August 24) elicit from you?" After all, attitudes toward Independence Day and attitudes toward independence are not quite the same thing.

Still, the data are what they are, and they are something less than uplifting. Moreover, some of the other results from the poll were even more disturbing. It turns out that the proportion of respondents in the age group 18-24 – that is, the young people that basically have come to maturity in independent Ukraine – who were either negative or did not care about independence was about the same (71.6 percent) as for the general population. In western Ukraine, which we have all come to view as the bastion of Ukrainian nationalism and patriotism, the number of those proud of Ukraine's independence was less than half (47.6 percent).

The only "bright" side to this picture was that the bulk of those on what might be termed the negative side of the ledger were indifferent (47 percent) rather than hostile.

At about the same time in 2003 the Razumkov Center in Kyiv released the results of its survey. It showed that if a referendum were to be held on independence, only 46.5 percent would vote in favor. Moreover, that number was on the decline over the past several years. In 2001 it had been 51.3 percent; in 2002 it fell to 48.8 percent. Let us recall that in December 1991 over 90 percent of voters supported independence. Thus, the new numbers are not very encouraging.

The question emerges: Who are these people?

Several months later, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, who is realistic but usually fairly optimistic about Ukraine's future, told the Ukrainka Pravda website that Ukraine will either become an important country within Europe or the bulk of the country will become a Russian periphery. Ukraine's main problem, he said, was "the absence of a deeply rooted national understanding of civic responsibility." In other words, Ukraine is not Poland.

Dr. Roman Solchanyk, who used to be a frequent contributor to The Weekly, is an international affairs analyst in Santa Monica, Calif.

I am not sure what exactly "a Russian periphery" is, but it certainly does not sound good. This leads to more pessimism, because no one in his right mind can imagine Ukraine becoming an important country within Europe now, soon, later, or perhaps even ever. For that to happen, two things would need to change: the figures cited above, and how Europeans and their leaders view Ukraine. And since neither is likely, we are left with the periphery option.

There were some other not altogether inspiring developments in 2003. Early in the year, the presidents of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan announced their intention to form a "Single Economic Space." The agreement was reached in the fall of 2003 and ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament in the spring of this year. To one degree or another, 81 percent of Ukrainians supported the move.

I am even more of a dilettante when it comes to economics, but I was under the impression that Ukraine's official policy at the time was to enter the European economic space and then join the European Union (EU). Who are these people? But there is a bright side here as well. Thus far, all manner of integration schemes and "common" and "single" spaces in what was once the Soviet Union have pretty much been a failure.

In mid-June, Den carried the news that 59 percent of Ukrainians think that they and Russians are one people ("narod," which in Ukrainian and Russian implies "nation"). Even more annoying was the fact that the proportion of Russians who felt the same way was about the same (61 percent). In other words, Ukrainians and Russians were on the same page. One could go on along these lines, particularly in connection with how Ukrainians responded to the Tuzla crisis and to Anatolii Chubais' offer of a liberal Russian empire, but enough said.

What about now? Several months ago, instead of doing what I was supposed to be doing, I was once again reading Kyiv and Moscow newspapers and looking at websites. The gazeta.ru site had an interesting comparative perspective on Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. It turns out that the proportion of Ukrainians who want a union – admittedly, a somewhat vague notion – with Russia and Belarus is actually higher than the percentage of Russians and Belarusians who favor a Slavic union. Also, the proportion of those who prefer living in the CIS or in a restored USSR is greater in Ukraine than in Belarus. Conversely, a considerably larger percentage of Belarusians than Ukrainians want to be in a united Europe (see table).

Where do you want to live? (in %)

	Ukraine	Belarus	Russia
United Europe	15	28	11
Slavic union	23	17	9
CIS	11	7	7
Restored USSR	19	15	19
Own country	32	28	51

Analysts have been warning that if things do not change for the better, Ukraine will be facing the "Belarusian scenario." Is Ukraine already there? Or do my colleagues in the analytical community have a seriously distorted view of the nature and level of national consciousness in Belarus? Or are both true?

Most Belarusians continue to hold a positive view of the idea of integration with Russia, which, curiously, they imag-

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CONFERENCE ADDRESSES: "Ukraine's Transition to a Stable Democracy"

Freedom of the media is key to Ukraine's further development

Following is the text of the statement delivered on September 14 by Rep. Christopher H. Smith, chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, during the panel on "Freedom of Speech and the Press" at the Washington conference "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Statehood – Roundtable V: Ukraine's Transition to a Stable Democracy."

Thank you for inviting me to participate in this conference on "Ukraine's Transition to a Stable Democracy." Media freedom is an especially important topic with the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine, in what will be a defining year with respect to Ukraine's democratic transition. Given the stakes, we should not be surprised by the fact that the powers that be have launched an all-out campaign to pressure the media.

Freedom of expression – and its corollary, freedom of the media – is one of the most basic human rights. It is vital to the development of civil society. Numerous OSCE agreements include various commitments on freedom of the media. These are agreements that Ukraine has voluntarily and freely committed to abide by as one of the 55 participating states of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe].

The Helsinki Commission, whose mandate is to monitor and encourage compliance by the OSCE states with their OSCE agreements, has also maintained a strong interest in freedom of media in general and recognizes its importance in democratic development. As many of you know, the commission has also maintained a strong interest in Ukraine and has, over the last several decades, been steadfast in encouraging Ukraine's independence. We are eager to have as an ally a democratic country where human rights are respected and the rule of law prevails.

We continue to maintain our strong interest and concern, especially with the critically important October 31 presidential elections. I am the original co-sponsor of a House resolution, H. Con. Res. 415, introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde, the chairman of the House International Relations Committee, calling on the government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent and fair election process for the presidential election. (This resolution, which was introduced by Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, has recently passed the Senate and will soon be taken up by the House. [The resolution was passed by the House on October 4 - - ed.]) The resolution outlines measures Ukrainian authorities need to take – consistent with their own laws and international agreements – to ensure an election process that enables all of the candidates to compete on a level playing field. The resolution specifically identifies violations to free media and urges unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis.

Unfortunately, the situation with respect to the media in Ukraine in the run-up to the elections is discouraging. The election – apparently because of the clear-cut choice between current Prime Minister [Viktor] Yanukovich, and leader of the Our Ukraine democratic bloc Viktor Yushchenko – seems to have frightened those who are now in power. It seems the ruling regime has decided to interfere in media election coverage at an unprecedented scale, presumably with the expectation that the inter-

ference will ensure their victory at the polls.

The OSCE recently assessed the media situation in the election campaign. They noted that, overall, media pluralism is present in Ukraine – different views are represented and politicians of all ranks are regularly criticized – and in general the legal framework is satisfactory. On the other hand, according to the OSCE and many other observers, "the one view dominating the airwaves is that of the government," due to an ownership structure closely connected to, or influenced by the current government. It is also due to the infamous so-called "temnyky" or secret instructions to media from the presidential administration about what or what not to cover and how to cover it. The institutional framework of frequency allocation and licensing also allows for favoritism in the electronic media.

In short, the electronic media is heavily dominated by government and oligarchs, and the media tilts heavily towards Yanukovich, while casting Yushchenko in a negative light.

The media is under attack:

- Since the beginning of this year, Ukrainian authorities have harassed, closed and filed lawsuits against numerous electronic and print media.

- Radio Liberty, an important source of objective information, and other radio stations such as Radio Kontynent have been either partially or totally taken off the air. Months of promises to various U.S. officials that Radio Liberty would be put back on the air have come to naught.

- Print runs have been permanently or temporarily stopped for several newspapers. Just a few days ago, authorities in the Kharkiv region temporarily confiscated 42,000 copies of the newspaper Without Censorship. Other media face politically motivated lawsuits.

- Volia cable, the leading cable television operator in Ukraine (which carries the only channel that reports objectively on the democratic opposition – Channel 5) is experiencing severe pressure from the Procurator General's Office. Almost all cable companies that carry Channel 5 received a variety of threats and tax inspections, and some reportedly had cables "accidentally" cut.

- Reporters face harassment and censorship daily for their objective reporting.

Ladies and gentlemen, equal access to media must be provided during the remainder of the presidential campaign and will be key in determining whether or not the presidential elections will be judged as free and fair by the OSCE and the international community. The elections will be a watershed for the future direction of that country. Ukraine has tremendous potential. Ukrainian authorities need to radically improve the election environment, including the media environment, if there is to be hope for these elections to meet OSCE standards.

In just two days, on September 16, we will mark the fourth anniversary of the killing of independent journalist Heorhii Gongadze, who was exposing high-level corruption in Ukraine. His murder has been subject to numerous international protests, including statements, intercessions and queries, by me and other Helsinki Commission members. Ladies and gentlemen, it is a case of a massive cover-up by high-level officials.

This is the fifth time that your conference is being held. The first took place

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Ukraine's presidential election and development of democracy

Following is the text of remarks by Dr. Paula J. Dobriansky, undersecretary of state for global affairs, on September 13 at "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood – Roundtable V: Ukraine's Transition to a Stable Democracy."

This year's event is particularly timely in light of Ukraine's forthcoming presidential election – now just seven weeks away. The October 31 voting – the third presidential election in Ukraine's 13 years of independence – is very significant; it illustrates how far Ukraine has come since 1991.

It is not the only symbol of that progress, however. Ukraine's international role is another. In addition to its notable presence in Iraq, Ukraine has been a very active contributor to peacekeeping operations over the years in Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Sierra Leone and elsewhere. This high level of international engagement is an element of "Ukraine's quest for mature nation statehood" of which its citizens can be proud.

Still, like every country, including my own, more remains to be done. In Ukraine's case, the October presidential election and its legacy will be very important to the country's democratic transition. Though elections are not the sole criterion on which to evaluate democracy, the conduct of this campaign has received close attention around the world, especially in the United States and Europe, as will the voting itself. Ukraine has expressed a commitment to democratic values and a strong interest in joining Euro-Atlantic institutions like NATO, which are built upon shared ties to those values. This election is an important opportunity for Ukraine to demonstrate that commitment. No less important, however, it is an opportunity for Ukraine and its people finally to establish a firm foundation for sustainable economic growth and social and political development.

President [George W.] Bush, senior officials, including Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, and prominent Americans, such as Sens. [Richard] Lugar and [John] McCain, have sought to convey this perspective regularly both before and during the ongoing campaign. And we have backed up these statements with action. The United States is spending some \$13 million specifically to facilitate a free and fair election in Ukraine through programs to conduct election monitoring and polling, to boost civic activism and support research, to launch voter education and mobilization efforts, to improve the regulatory framework, to help free media and to provide legal aid. We are also looking for ways to increase sharply the number of election monitors deployed on October 31.

We have provided this assistance in an open and transparent fashion. Our sole interest is in a free and fair process that further advances Ukraine's transition toward democracy. We have said this both to Ukrainian officials and to the Ukrainian people, through our public statements. The plain truth is that honestly elected leaders – even those with whom we may disagree on some issues – are much more reliable partners for the long-term development of our relations and Ukraine's relations with others than leaders who prevail through unfair or illegal tactics. They are also better for

Ukraine in the long term.

There have been reports of some events that have concerned us. Before the campaign officially began, Ukraine's political climate was marred by the mayoral election in [Mukachiv] Mukachevo, where a pro-government candidate was sworn into office after a controversial election. The State Department has already expressed our views on these troubling developments.

And, although the opposition-owned television channel Kanal 5 continues to broadcast, it has been shut out of various markets in eastern Ukraine. More fundamentally, Ukraine's government seems to continue issuing so-called "temnyky," instructions for media organizations on how to cover events. This environment is not fair.

Beyond slanted media coverage, there have been reports that opposition political figures and candidates have faced harassment and apparent attempts at intimidation. Specifically, opposition presidential candidates have had trouble traveling freely within Ukraine, and rallies and other events have been disrupted. A new election law blocks domestic NGOs from monitoring the October 31 voting.

Finally, as you know, there have been attempts to alter Ukraine's Constitution. While Ukraine's constitutional arrangements can and should be modified when appropriate, changing the rules under which the country's leaders operate shortly before an election undermines democracy.

Despite these signs of concern, the election "ain't over 'til it's over." The results of the election, and the conclusions that we and others draw from the campaign, will not be determined until after the balloting on October 31. We continue to hope for, and to work hard for, a free and fair election. We have been especially encouraged by the people of Ukraine and their obvious enthusiasm for democracy, illustrated by impressive turnouts in many previous elections.

More broadly, when the election is over, our efforts to promote democracy in Ukraine will not come to an end. We will remain firmly committed to assisting Ukrainian efforts to develop strong democratic institutions, including both state institutions and a strong civil society, and a vibrant and independent media, and to establish the rule of law. The fact that the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute can now work in Ukraine is a welcome change. We also appreciate efforts by Ukrainian officials, particularly Foreign [Affairs] Minister [Kostyantyn] Gryshchenko, to reach out to the United States on a number of human rights and rule-of-law-related issues, including trafficking in persons, and to stimulate regional discussion on this challenge among law enforcement officials. We look forward to continuing to work in this area.

A free and fair election would reassure Americans that our countries can be close, long-term partners and strengthen our relationship. Time and effort now spent discussing the election and related concerns should be devoted to developing a broader and deeper cooperative agenda in security matters, economics and other fields. Ukraine's integration into the Euro-Atlantic community, including eventually NATO, would accelerate.

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Ukraine's Naval Forces deny reports they will leave Sevastopol base

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Ministry of Defense stated on October 13 that Ukraine's Naval Forces were not preparing to leave its naval base to the Russian Black Sea Fleet, contrary to assertions made in various publications recently, including a prestigious international military journal.

"The Ukrainian navy has not and will not leave Sevastopol as its main base," explained Col. Kostyantyn Khivrenko, head of the press service of the Ministry of Defense.

Mr. Khivrenko said the statement made in Jane's Intelligence Digest, which claimed that it had received information contrary to what the Ministry of Defense was maintaining, was baseless and that the contingent of vessels now located in one of Sevastopol's five harbors, numbering about 50 in all, would remain anchored there.

Jane's Intelligence Digest, one of the most prestigious publications on military and intelligence affairs, which is published in London, reported on October 1

that Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma had decided to leave the Sevastopol harbors to the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

"Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma has agreed to this as part of a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whereby Ukraine will pull out of the port in return for Putin's agreement to back Kuchma's chosen successor, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, after Kuchma leaves office following presidential elections scheduled for October 31," reported Jane's Intelligence Digest.

Several days after the publication of the story, the Ukrainian Sobor Party issued a statement in which it claimed that the Sevastopol fleet of the Ukrainian navy was already in the process of relocating to Donuzlav Bay, located on the coast of the Crimean Peninsula northwest of Sevastopol, where the Soviet Union had once kept a good portion of its Black Sea Fleet.

The Sobor Party issued a statement on October 4 in which it quoted what it said were informed sources, who said that "during planned exercises at sea, the 5th

Brigade of the Ukrainian Naval Forces was ordered not to return to the Striletska Bay in Sevastopol but to sail to the new home base in the Donuzlav Bay," reported UNIAN.

The Sobor Party added that only the flagship of the Ukrainian navy, the frigate Petro Sahaidachni, and several other vessels remained in Sevastopol.

The problem of how to fit both the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Naval Forces into the five harbors of Sevastopol has been an issue since the Soviet Black Sea Fleet was broken up and Ukraine agreed to allow Russia to maintain its BSF force in Sevastopol. Russia seemed to have gotten the better part of the 20-year agreement, which was signed in 1997. It received four of the harbors to use as ports – Sevastopolska, Pivdenna, Kurinna and Kozatska – while Ukraine received one – Striletska, which was also the smallest and shallowest of the five. For that reason Ukraine's four largest vessels were forced to dock in Kurinna Harbor, across the bay from the Russian Fleet, where

they are considered guests, even while in their own country. As the commander of the Ukrainian Naval Forces, Admiral Ihor Kniaz, noted in an interview in Dzerkalo Tyzhnia in August, the remaining Ukrainian naval vessels were anchored at the docks of Striletska Bay "like sardines in a can."

The four frigates docked in Kurinna Harbor are anchored parallel to the shoreline, which is another problem, inasmuch as they could be susceptible to extensive damage should a storm with high winds ever hit the area.

Rumors about a move to Donuzlav have abounded since the second half of the summer, when Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, the well-respected Kyiv newspaper, reported in an August 7 piece that the move was imminent. The report came from information released by a Sevastopol-based public watchdog organization which claimed that the Ukrainian and Russian presidents had agreed to the move.

Admiral Kniaz told Dzerkalo Tyzhnia at that time that he believed the whole

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Yushchenko returns...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukrainian doctors understood how to give the presidential candidate the proper additional treatment required and avoid further problems in what has already become an international mess for Austria and the hospital.

The Rudolfinerhaus president arrived in Kyiv to find himself in the eye of another storm, this one caused by the hospital's chief physician, Dr. Wicke, who was also in Kyiv on what seemed to be a personal public relations tour. During an appearance on a talk show on one of the channels owned by supporters of Prime Minister Yanukovich, Dr. Wicke publicly disagreed with Rudolfinerhaus Clinic doctors on the source of Mr. Yushchenko's ailments, which included pancreatitis, colitis and facial paralysis.

Dr. Wicke told noted Russian journalist Dmytrii Kisiliev, who has a news program on Ukraine's ICTV, that he had ruled out the possibility that Mr. Yushchenko was poisoned by means of a bacteriological agent. Dr. Wicke said he was forced to sign the letter in support of a request from Rudolfinerhaus to have bacteriological warfare experts analyze tests done on Mr. Yushchenko.

Dr. Wicke claimed also that National Deputies Petro Poroshenko and Yevhen Chervonenko, both of whom are very close to the presidential candidate and have paid for his hospital stays, had harassed him. Dr. Wicke pointed out that he had received a threatening phone call and had subsequently requested bodyguards.

Dr. Wicke, whose specialty is radiology and not bacteriology or toxicology, cast doubt on the competency of the presidential candidate's attending physician, Mykola Korpan. He criticized Dr. Korpan's qualifications and questioned whether he had a license to practice medicine in Austria and whether he had passed the proper exams to present himself as a professor as well as a doctor.

Dr. Zimpfer responded to Dr. Wicke's allegations in a second press conference, held on October 11, in which he pointed out that no one had pressured the chief physician for his signature on the document requesting aid from bacteriological warfare experts, inasmuch as it wasn't needed since he, as president of Rudolfinerhaus, had full authority to make the request alone.

"I put no pressure on Dr. Wicke. I wouldn't even know how to do that," explained Dr. Zimpfer, reported Ukraina Moloda.

Dr. Zimpfer also pointed out that his chief doctor was bound by hospital rules to speak in line with the diagnosis made by the lead doctor in a case, in this instance Dr. Korpan, and had no right to propose a varying diagnosis or even opinion. Dr. Zimpfer said he put his full trust in the professionalism of the Ukrainian doctor, UNIAN reported.

In another matter, Dr. Zimpfer stressed that Ukraine's Procurator General Hennadii Vasyliiev had never contacted Rudolfinerhaus or its doctors, adding that if Ukraine's chief law enforcement official would have done so someone would have met with him. Mr. Vasyliiev, who had traveled to Vienna to investigate the poisoning allegations, said after his return that he was denied meetings with hospital officials and that Mr. Yushchenko's colleagues had blocked all information-gathering attempts.

UNIAN also reported that National Deputy Poroshenko said he had never tried to purposely intimidate Dr. Wicke and had never met with him without other doctors or lawyers present.

Meanwhile, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), which Mr. Yushchenko has alleged is responsible for his poisoning, stated on October 11 that it never had bacteriological weapons.

"Neither the Ukrainian SSR nor

Ukraine today has ever had or does have, and has never produced or does produce, or spread any biological weapons," stated SBU Deputy Director Ihor Dryzhachnyi.

Mr. Dryzhachnyi also stated that those who accuse the SBU of bacteriologically poisoning Mr. Yushchenko "do not understand what a biological weapon is."

He added, "It cannot be used against only one person and it cannot be used without protection. A biological weapon is a virus spreading without control."

Mr. Dryzhachnyi did not say whether Ukraine simply had bacteriological agents at its disposal that might be directly injected into a person, but noted that the country had signed international conventions that prohibit the proliferation of biological weapons.

The SBU official also denied that it had ordered the surveillance of Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, who claimed on October 8 that he and members of his family, including his children, were being secretly watched.

Mr. Lytvyn, who has attempted to stay determinedly neutral as the pre-election battle between the two top contenders has become ever more brutal, also said that an international team of doctors should examine Mr. Yushchenko.

"It is necessary to request the European community, a number of countries, particularly the presidents of Poland and Lithuania, to call an international meeting of doctors to examine Yushchenko's state of health," stated Mr. Lytvyn.

Also on October 8, Austrian police took under their control Mr. Yushchenko's medical documents from Rudolfinerhaus, including the results of various tests, reported Interfax.

The same day, Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma ordered that all law enforcement and health ministries of the Ukrainian government undertake a thorough investigation into the possibility of a biological poisoning of the presidential candidate and demanded that a report be produced within two weeks. He ordered the Foreign affairs and Health ministries to obtain cooperation from international organizations for "thorough assistance in investigating the circumstances of presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko's illness," explained Vasyl Baziv, deputy chief of staff in the Kuchma administration.

State Department comments on Ukraine's presidential election

Following is the text of a press statement on Ukraine's presidential election by Richard Boucher, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, issued on October 14.

The 2004 presidential election represents one of the most important events in Ukraine since independence. How the campaign, voting and vote tabulation are conducted will determine the democratic credentials of Ukraine's next president. Whether Ukrainians are allowed to exercise their right to a free and fair election and have their free expression of political will respected will significantly influence Ukraine's strategic course for the next decade.

This election offers Ukraine the opportunity to accelerate its development as a secure, independent, democratic and prosperous country that integrates with European and Euro-Atlantic

institutions, respects human rights and the rule of law, maintains mutually beneficial relations with its neighbors, and helps strengthen international peace and security.

We are deeply disappointed that the campaign to date has fallen short of international standards. The disruption of opposition rallies, muzzling of independent media, misuse of "administrative resources" and other serious violations cast doubt on the Ukrainian government's commitment to its democratic obligations.

We urge the Ukrainian authorities to end immediately the ongoing violations of democratic norms, to allow Ukrainians to choose freely, and to adhere scrupulously to internationally accepted standards for tabulating and registering results on election day. We further urge that observers, both domestic and international, be granted full

access to the campaign and election-day processes.

We remain committed to support Ukraine's future as part of the Euro-Atlantic community. We are prepared to work closely with any candidate who wins in a free and fair contest. We are also prepared to move forward quickly on many issues of importance to Ukraine. At the same time, if the election does fail to meet democratic standards, it would be unrealistic for Ukraine to expect realization of these aspirations. We would also need to re-examine our relationship with those who engaged in election fraud and manipulation.

We urge Ukrainians to seize the opportunity presented by the election to strengthen their nation's rightful place in the community of democratic nations. Ukrainians deserve to choose freely and have their choice respected.

Works by Oleksa Hryshchenko to be donated to museums in Ukraine

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

NEW YORK – The works of internationally recognized Ukrainian artist Oleksa Hryshchenko, aka Alexis Gritchenko, (1883-1977), which forms part of important collections and is represented in major museums of Europe and North America, will be donated to museums in Ukraine in accordance with the artist's wish that his work return to his homeland upon Ukraine's independence.

The largest single collection of the artist's paintings and archival material that comprise the holdings of the New York-based Alexis Gritchenko Foundation founded by the artist in 1963, is to be transferred to Ukraine this fall.

A commemorative exhibition titled "Alexis Gritchenko (1883-1977). Travels in Europe: From Cubism to Expressionism," is being held on the occasion of the transfer at the Ukrainian Institute of America, where the collection was housed. The exhibition will open on October 22 and will be on view through November 14. The opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 22, at 6-8 p.m.

Presiding over the formal act of transfer of the collection in a short ceremony that will precede the opening of the exhibition will be Walter Baranetsky, a member of the foundation's board of trustees. Accepting the transfer of the collection will be Oleksander Fedoruk, head of the State Service for Control of Moving Cultural Treasures over the Border of Ukraine.

Upon the transfer of the collection to Ukraine, works from the collection will be exhibited at the National Art Museum of Ukraine in Kyiv, after which they will be on

permanent display and form part of the holdings of the aforementioned institution and the National Museum in Lviv.

Comprising the collection are 31 oil paintings, including works which were exhibited at the Salon d'Automne in Paris; 44 watercolors, gouaches and drawings, including work emanating from the artist's stay in Turkey (1919-1921) as well as travels in Greece, Portugal, Spain and Scandinavia; a klym produced in the famed workshops of Aubusson, France, copies of which are found in the Museum of Modern Art in Paris and in the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; and a series of first-editions of books by the artist and monographs. The art work in the collection dates from 1919 to 1963. Also part of the collection are photographs, exhibition catalogues and press materials.

The current exhibition, which draws on works from the collection of the Alexis Gritchenko Foundation, will feature 40 works, including landscapes, genre scenes and still lifes, produced during the artist's frequent travels. Of particular note are watercolors from 1919-1921 that emanate from the artist's stay in Turkey and visits to Greece. The exhibition of these works in leading galleries of Paris gained Hryshchenko recognition in the art world of the 1920s. The works of this period mark the beginning of a distinctive and inspired period of watercolor painting.

A 15-page catalogue, featuring 63 works, has been published in a bi-lingual, English-Ukrainian, edition in conjunction with the current exhibition.

The exhibition is a joint presentation of the Ukrainian

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"A Turkish Man in a Coffeehouse," watercolor, 1920, 25 x 20 cm.

INS detains...

(Continued from page 1)

which revoked Mykola Wasylyk's citizenship, the elder Mr. Wasylyk surrendered his passport and other related documents several years ago.

Immigration officials detained Mr. Wasylyk in Florida during what his son called a routine meeting, his second with immigration officials. It was the last time Mykola Wasylyk saw his wife, and the family said the couple was given no prior notice that the man was going to be detained. "We were doing what they wanted us to do," Roman Wasylyk said. His father initiated the meetings with immigration officials so that he could understand what had to be done in order for him to comply with the government's decision to deport him.

Roman Wasylyk said the Department of Homeland Security, division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is in charge of his father's case and they are holding him at the Krome federal detention center on the outskirts of Miami, Fla. He has been in detention for the past three weeks, and he observed his 81st birthday and his 46th wedding anniversary while detained.

"They are holding him because he has been deemed/ruled 'deportable,'" Roman Wasylyk said. "They will not provide

any information as to when or where they will send him, because this is a security issue."

Michael Rozos, the field office director in Florida for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division at the Department of Homeland Security, was not available for comment on Mr. Wasylyk's case. However, a woman who answered the phone there, Denise Lundberg, did acknowledge Mr. Wasylyk's file number and said Mr. Rozos would return a reporter's phone call. However, at press time, The Weekly had not heard from Mr. Rozos.

On March 24, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that the Board of Immigration Appeals "affirmed that Wasylyk is subject to deportation because of his wartime service." Following that decision, Mr. Wasylyk applied and was awaiting a stay because of health reasons, his son said, and he was in the process of cooperating with immigration officials.

Following that decision, Mykola Wasylyk appealed to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft in a letter dated April 11. He said: "As I mentioned in my previous letter (dated October 11, 2002), I have been presented by the OSI [Office of Special Investigations], through a carefully orchestrated rash of lies, as having participated willingly and

voluntarily in the German army (as opposed to being forced to) and am currently being maligned and hounded continuously, again at the hands of the OSI, as a Nazi collaborator. I am still in the process of being deported, and my time is running out. No one has addressed this situation on my behalf. I received no acknowledgment or any form of advice from you or your office regarding my first letter to you, and that leads me to believe that you may not have seen it at all. Medical records submitted by me at the request of the BIA (Board of Immigration Appeals) have been disregarded. I am up against a wall. Please consider my plea for a waive of deportation now."

Roman Wasylyk said that his family had not received a reply to his father's letter.

In an open letter circulated on the Internet and addressed to "Dear friends," Mykola Wasylyk's daughter, Minka Wasylyk Hrechniw, appealed for help. "My mother is calling anyone and everyone she knows who may be able to at least get him home to pack his own suitcase. We're hoping for house arrest at this point, which is highly unlikely," she wrote.

"We are heartbroken and numb, and I, for one, am bitter and angry, but we are remaining strong for my mother," Ms. Hrechniw noted.

"It seems like a slap in the face. My father has had two hip replacement surgeries" and two stents put into his heart to open up clogged arteries, Roman Wasylyk said. When they last spoke to each other, Mr. Wasylyk said his father complained of poor treatment by the staff at the detention center. He told his son that his medications were distributed irregularly and, on several occasions, were not given at all. As a result, the man's blood pressure on one occasion climbed to a dangerous reading of 240/120, Roman Wasylyk said.

"I want people to understand what is happening here," Mr. Wasylyk's son said. "It is a tragedy that shouldn't happen. It's just wrong." He said his father is confined to a room with 80 other men and can only make occasional collect calls to his family.

"If we get a call from him, then we know he's still in the country. If we don't hear from him after several days, then we'll start worrying," Roman Wasylyk said.

His mother "is staying strong but she's obviously having a tough time with this. The guy has been a model citizen," Roman Wasylyk said.

The family's first priority is to get Mr. Wasylyk out of jail. "It's a barbed wire prison," Roman Wasylyk said. "You can call it a detention center, but it's a friggin prison." He said the family's second priority is to see if Ukraine would accept Mr. Wasylyk. And if Ukraine is unwilling to take him "then what does that mean?" Roman Wasylyk asked. "Is he stateless, or does he sit in jail for the rest of his life?"

Rep. Maurice Hinchey later told the Wasylyk family that Ukraine had decided it would not take his father, only adding to the uncertainty of the man's future. The Ukrainian Weekly learned as the paper was going to press. Roman Wasylyk also said his family met with an immigration lawyer to discuss what options are now open to his father.

The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service did not return repeated phone calls from The Weekly which sought to clarify Mr. Wasylyk's situation.

Christopher A. Wray, the assistant attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice, first announced that an immigration appeals court had cleared the way for Mr. Wasylyk's deportation from the United States on March 23. The Department of Justice said in a statement released on March 24 that the Board of Immigration Appeals affirmed that Mr. Wasylyk was subject to deportation because of his wartime activities from April to November of 1943.

Mr. Wasylyk had his U.S. citizenship revoked by a federal district court in December 2001. In October 2002, a federal immigration court in Manhattan ordered that Mr. Wasylyk be deported from the United States.

Mr. Wasylyk's case is one of several against Ukrainian Americans that were originally filed by the Office of Special Investigations.

Ukraine's Naval Forces...

(Continued from page 12)

matter was a provocation, timed to coincide with joint celebrations by the Ukrainian navy and the Russian BSF of Navy Day, which Sevastopol celebrates on the grandest of scales.

Admiral Kniaz said that some ships would be repositioned to Donuzlav as the Ukrainian Navy undertook structural reforms, which would entail moving into a brigade-oriented organizational structure. He maintained that this did not mean that either the entire naval fleet or its headquarters would be transferred to the old Soviet base.

"The move of the Ukrainian fleet out of Sevastopol was not planned, is not

planned and will not be planned," explained Admiral Kniaz in the August 7 interview. He added that, "The Ukrainian Naval Forces are located in Sevastopol on the territory of Ukraine, while the Russian BSF is located there on the basis of a lease arrangement made in an agreement of the division of the former Soviet BSF. We are at home. They are guests. So who would be first to move out?"

Admiral Kniaz pointed out that the Donuzlav port, which during the Soviet era held 60 to 70 ships plus support craft, is currently underutilized. He maintained in the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia interview that facilities there were more than adequate, an assertion contrary to press reports in Kyiv, which have called Donuzlav "neglected."

THE ART SCENE: Works by Yuri Skorupsky connect to his native Ukraine



"Iris in Garden" (2001) by Yuri Skorupsky.

by Olha Lahutenko

There is an old Chinese saying: "He who forgets about coming home, becomes homeless." The painter Yuri Skorupsky lives and works creatively under this principle, using the opposite approach" his thoughts and paintings are constantly connected with his native land, Ukraine.

Born in the historic town Rava-Ruska, close to the Polish border in the Lviv region, he completed his professional education at the Yaniv College of Fine Art (bachelor's degree), the Moscow National University of Art (master's degree) and the Lviv National Institute of Arts and Applied Design (master's degree). Steeped in this historical-cultural environment, in 1987 he decided with some colleagues to found the Dolya Association of Artists. The first thing Mr. Skorupsky did was invite his teacher, professors at the Lviv Institute of Arts and Applied Design and respected masters in Rava-Ruska to join his new society.

In 1991 fate brought the painter to the United States, where one of his first challenges, in 1992, was to paint one of the renowned Russian Orthodox Churches in Chicago, Holy Trinity Cathedral, designed by Louis Sullivan. Later Mr. Skorupsky

Olha Lahutenko is deputy director for research at the National Art Museum of Ukraine. She holds a Ph.D. in art history.

Painted the icons for the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception. In 1993-1994 the artist, through his Dolya Association of Artists, organized a U.S. tour to exhibit the works of 16 Ukrainian painters from New York to California. Over the next few years, Dolya held more than 20 group shows in different American cities.

It did not take long for Mr. Skorupsky to be recognized both in the U.S. and in Ukraine. By 1995 he was accepted as a member in the Chicago Art Coalition (CAC), in 1999 in the Oil Painters of America (OPA), in 2002 he was elected as an honored member in the Ukrainian National Union of Artists, in 2002 he became a lifetime member of the America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals, in 2003 he was included in the National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals. Ukrainian papers wrote about him in America and his works appeared in top American art magazines and at national and international exhibits.

Since coming to America, Mr. Skorupsky has had six solo shows and has participated in more than 40 different group exhibits. His work is exhibited in many prestigious galleries throughout the United States and has been shown at the International Art Expo in New York and California.

The artist has also written many times as an art critic, publishing reviews of

exhibitions and critiques of individual artists in Svoboda, The Ukrainian Weekly and other publications.

In a typical review of a Dolya exhibit, the artist as art critic writes equally openly about both his own works and the works of others: "This set of paintings is dearest to me. When I create the image of fields or beautiful flowers in the endless space of our native land. I remember my childhood. I remember the roads I walked along as a youth, developing into an artist. This path through the old willows has become part of me. These are the subjects of my paintings. That is why these works are so close to me, here in a foreign land. A part of my life is in them."

One of Mr. Skorupsky's works is called "The Path of My Youth" (2001), a picturesque view of the vast Carpathian foothills depicting flourishing grass and abundant flowers. A free wind blowing, a changeable sky, the soft blue range of distant mountains – all so painfully familiar and so unattainable. The painter builds a clear composition with the dynamic diagonals of the path, the balanced masses, the echoing colors. Magically, a rhythm is born between sky and silver path, between powerful mountains and delicate cornflowers and the landscape falls into a natural harmony.

Mr. Skorupsky's works are not simply fragments of nature taken from life, but "paintings" in the full, classic meaning of the word. Each work presents the world of nature in its perfect integrity, living by its own rules. At the same time, each work offers the no-less-wonderful world of painterly harmony created by the artist. The motifs he chooses are hardly idealized. He is inspired by living manifestations of nature, transitional states, the simple yet mysterious essence of interior life of the natural world.

Thus, the main subject of his work "Village in Winter Time" (1996), became the broken-up road where wet snow and melted water erode the surface of the land, opening its rich layers, its depth. Over the plowed land, the naked willow branches that pierce the sky sound a tense melody. It is as though every stroke every movement of the brush feels the flow of energy in the soil, the tree, the sky.

Mr. Skorupsky convinces the spectator that painting can convey sound. "Wind on the Steppe" (2002) is filled with the rustle of grass flowing in interwoven waves created by gusts of hot wind, while white clouds float silently above. "Winter Willows" (1998-2000) ring with the crystalline, high-pitched sound of an organ. Majestic silence spreads over his "Poppy Field" (2002), where the red stain of the petals becomes the golden mean between the fertile soil

and the vast heavenly expanse surrounding ancient hills. The flaming poppies are seen as the embodiment of beauty, pouring over the world.

The image of his native poppies has inspired the artist time and time again. His painting "Poppies in the Field" (2001), for instance is filled with major chords. The painter complexity harmonizes the sound of bright and dark red, emerald and olive green, supplementing them with orange, cool blue and lilac. Using primary colors – red, blue and yellow – he achieves a fully realized harmony.

It is difficult for an art critic to capture the style of Mr. Skorupsky in a single word. Realism? Undoubtedly so, because everything in his work is real and the artist's spirit was in these very places, colors and strokes. Impressionism? Yes, because the works are based in real impressions, in an almost analytical investigation of the nuances of variable color. His command of the palette knife has earned him the title "master of the palette knife." Expressionism? Yes, again, because the painter's reach pulses in his works, his nervous energy is felt in them.

A trained eye will find both an echo of the modern, infatuation with the vital energies of flora and the aesthetics of the Japanese masters. Still, the paintings of Mr. Skorupsky cannot be captured in a single definition; he is not merely ancillary to a particular tradition or trend, he cannot be summed up in a post-modernistic quote or in an offhanded approach to cultural heritage.

The artist is carrying on an inner dialogue with different cultures using the high standards of spiritual heritage and professional schooling. But the main thing is that he experiences again, and for the first time, an infatuation with the surrounding world of nature in every work.

Mr. Skorupsky's compositions are occasionally even symbolic. In his painting "Alone," a sunflower, its blooming petals and wide leaves drooping, its heavy head bent, personifies loneliness. The same sad and lonely melody of the flute sounds in the "Maple Leaf Autumn" (1995), where the red leaf freezes in a splashing puddle slapped by a prickly wind.

Mr. Skorupsky arranges water lilies, the favorite flower of Impressionists, in vertical expanses or asymmetrically fragmented horizontal compositions. Their leaves opened like Japanese parasols, star-shaped flowers fade away or float slowly across deep blue water, mysterious in its depth. The artist barely hints of their mystery and calls the viewer to savor the beauty, without asking where it came from and why.

In his compositions, as in a single video frame, the foreground looms large, as if made by a camera's zoom lens." The world is observed through the eyes of an excited child who longs to plunge into oblivion in "Red Admiral in the Yarrow Kingdom" (2001) or "Summer Symphony" (2001). The artist depicts a woman's body as the perfect divine creation in the work "Bloom of Youth" (1991), where he observes the flowing together of the form with love and tenderness, comparing the woman's beauty to the white rose, symbol of purity and love.

The artist is always revealed in his works, romanticism is the state of his soul, something impossible to imitate like true love. Yuri Skorupsky is recognized as a master painter, but his creative work continues to evolve – he continues his search for forms, language and color. The path of childhood is leading him along a perpetual path of self-discovery, a faithful path, where his infatuation with the world surrounding him and unfolding inside his soul can be expressed.

(Translated by Lidia Wolanska.)

Art by Storozhenko exhibited in D.C.



Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – Washingtonians had a chance to view, and acquire, the works of one of the leading contemporary artists in Ukraine, Mykola Storozhenko, which were on exhibit at the Alla Rogers Gallery in Washington on September 4-14. They also had a chance to meet the artist during a reception at the gallery on September 10. Above, the artist and Alla Rogers discuss two examples of the abstract side of his creativity, mixed media on lucite titled "Symbols on Stone near the Black Sea."

Ruslana among winners at World Music Awards in Las Vegas

by Tatiana Matviichuk

KYIV – At this year's ceremony of the World Music Awards on the famous stage of the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Ruslana, the winner of the 2004 Euro-Vision Song Contest, won the prestigious award in the category of World Best-Selling Artist from Ukraine.

The golden statuette was presented to her by Volodymyr Klitschko, world-renowned Ukrainian boxer. Ruslana appeared with Mr. Klitschko on the famous red carpet surrounded by journalists.

The World Music Awards are presented to artists based on official figures of international record sales as given by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI). In effect, this makes the listeners who buy the licensed album copies the only main judges for the awards.

The 2004 World Music Awards were presented to the world's top-selling recording artists in various music categories and to the best-selling recording artists of the year from each of the major record-buying countries. Ruslana was among internationally recognized artists such as Eros Ramazzotti (Italy), Philip Kirkorov (Russia), Dido (Britain), and Avril Lavigne (Canada) who also was named the World's Best Pop Rock Artist, as well as 13 other singers, mostly European, but also African, Australian, Chinese, Japanese and Latin, who were named best-selling artists.

In Las Vegas, Ruslana was congratulated by Seal, Celine Dion, LaToya Jackson, Ms. Lavigne, musicians from Guns 'n Roses and others. "The visit to Las Vegas opened to me the backstage world of American show business – we

communicated with professionals of modern music studios and some of them will help us with our project," she explained at a press conference in Kyiv on September 27.

Ruslana also announced the appearance in Europe of her English-language album "Wild Dances" with three tracks recorded at the Hit Factory in Miami, and a new single "Dance with the Wolves."

Thanks to Ruslana, Ukraine was represented for the first time at the World Music Awards. The presentation is shown on the television channels of 160 countries. Thus, following her recent Euro-Vision success, this marked the second time that Ruslana focused the world's attention on Ukraine.

Ruslana had applied to the World Music Awards long before, but progress was slow. "We held three series of negotiations on our initiative without any result and the turning point was the winning of Euro-Vision contest, when the organizers expressed maximum interest in my visit to Las Vegas," she said. Ruslana's delay in making it to the list of World Music Awards can be explained by rampant problems with CD piracy in Ukraine that made it difficult to accurately judge listeners' preferences based on licensed record-selling figures.

Before the award presentation, Ruslana's album "Dyki Tantsi" had gone double platinum in Ukraine; and the single "Wild Dances" had gone gold in Belgium and was reaching the same level in Switzerland, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus and countries of Eastern Europe.

Ruslana said she believes that "the ethnic aspect of her music gives the project a future" and that she is going to win a Grammy and an MTV Award. To establish close contacts with American show



AP/Eric Jamison

Vitali Klitschko presents Ruslana with the award for "Best Selling Artist/Ukraine" at the 2004 World Music Awards on September 15 in Las Vegas.

business, Ruslana said she plans to go to the United States for an extended period of time.

However, she promised Kyiv's jour-

nalists that she will work only with Ukraine's blessing. "I want my success and me to be associated only with Ukraine," she underscored.

Ruslana beats the weather at 2004 Bloor West Ukrainian Festival

by Olya Grod

TORONTO – During this year's Bloor West Ukrainian Festival, while the weather on Friday night and during the daytime on Saturday was fantastic, on Saturday night – just as pop star Ruslana was to begin the "Dyki Tantsi" (Wild Dances) show – the sky opened up with a torrential downpour. Regardless, from the moment Ruslana stepped out onto the stage the audience was riveted and not going anywhere. Thousands rocked while the rain poured.

As Ruslana stepped out from the protection of the stage roof, and joined the crowd in the downpour, she proved what everyone already knew: she is a true star. "I want to be with you," "let's not let this

bit of rain dampen our spirits," she called out.

And so the show continued with an incredible energy for 90 minutes. No intermission, no short breaks, just song after song and dance after dance.

Over 300,000 people attended the Bloor West Ukrainian Festival in Toronto on August 27-28, setting a new attendance record. The number could easily have reached 400,000 had events scheduled for the third day – Sunday, August 29 – not been cancelled due to severe weather warnings, noted the festival's executive director, Raya Shadursky.

The Bloor West festival, now in its eighth year, celebrates by closing down a mile-long section of Bloor Street West – the heart of Toronto's Ukrainian community. It is the vision of the festival committee to offer the largest celebration of Ukrainian spirit in the world – showcasing the best of Ukrainian arts and culture.

The festival kicked off Friday night with the opening on the street of the zabava (dance) and Troyanda Refreshment Gardens, kiosks, food vendors and huge children's midway. The stage shows were very well attended as was the street zabava.

Saturday activities commenced with what is becoming a tradition: the free pancake breakfast for the first 1,000 attendees, sponsored by Buduchnist Credit Union. This was followed by a colorful parade lead by this year's parade marshal, Ontario Education Minister Gerard Kennedy, with judging by Andriy Hladyshevsky of Edmonton, president of The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko; Olya Soroka Striltschuk of Chicago, CEO of Transcenda; and Alex Ling, former

chairman of the Bloor West Village Business Improvement Association. The winning entry was Canadian Legion Branch 360 whose members were joined by former members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and a visiting member of Ukraine's armed forces.

The nonstop entertainment on the Jane Street Stage could be seen from afar thanks to the large video screen sponsored by Biovail and Northland Power. Featured were: the Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Winnipeg, Suzie Vinnick, Anytchka, Silhouettes Modern Dance Company, Metelytsia Vocal Quartet, Lvivski Muzyky, Dunai Band, the Vanguard Marching and Concert Band, Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance

Ensemble of Chicago, Zoloty Struny Bandura Kapela, Ukrainian School of Arts, Kyiv Duo, Pid Oblachkom Quartet, Windsor Barvinok Dance Group, bandurist Michael Kostowskyj, Desna Ukrainian Dance Company of Toronto and Ukraina Dance Ensemble. The Vranovcan Folklore Ensemble from Slovakia were special guest artists.

In addition to the main stage, the festival had a second youth stage on Windermere Avenue which was sponsored by So-Use Credit Union and TD Canada Trust. This stage provided an opportunity to showcase up and coming talent, as well as offer more performances from those

(Continued on page 26)



Lu Taskey

Ruslana on stage in Toronto.



Lu Taskey

Wet, but jubilant, fans during Ruslana's concert at the festival.

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Large-scale...

(Continued from page 2)

head of the pro-presidential National Democratic Party (NDP). When Valerii Pustovoitenko alleged that two of the opposition deputies had beaten his son, they countered that he had attempted to physically block their entrance into Novyi Druk (Ukrainska Pravda, October 4). Our Ukraine National Deputy Pavlo Kachur told Parliament that the younger Pustovoitenko would be brought to justice for campaign violations. He also condemned the hypocrisy of the authorities who may declare their support for Ukraine's stability and sovereignty while, "in reality [they] are undertaking the political and social destabilization of Ukraine, dividing Ukraine, provoking inter-ethnic conflicts and propagating fascism" (razom.org.ua).

The Yanukovych team has tried to deflect unwanted attention over the posters. On October 4 two of the presidential candidates allied with Mr. Yanukovych, Oleksandr Bazyluk of the Slavic Party and extreme right-winger Roman Kozak, were dispatched to the warehouse to claim the literature as theirs. But the stunt backfired as neither candidate could describe the materials they sought.

Next, high-ranking Yanukovych supporters began making the bizarre claim that Mr. Yushchenko was himself behind the posters. Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) National Deputy Nestor Shufrych claimed that the entire volume of literature was a "provocation," as it had all been in reality printed by "the Viktor Yushchenko team" (Ukrainska Pravda, October 5). Stepan Havrysh, Mr. Yanukovych's representative to the CEC, claimed, "This is political PR, a provocation, which has as its aim to now direct attention to the repressed leader who represents the interests of the Power of the People bloc [i.e., Yushchenko]" (Ukrainska Pravda, October 6).

On October 5, an anonymous tip led to the discovery of a large cache of anti-Yushchenko/anti-American literature in the National Exhibition Center (razom.org.ua/album/150/). A room 100 by 60 meters in size was found to be full of materials awaiting distribution around Ukraine. Besides the negative literature, there were also large volumes of Yanukovych posters and posters for the "pseudo-candidates" supporting Mr. Yanukovych. More negative materials were found the next day at yet another NEC warehouse. The NEC directors claimed that the two warehouses had been rented to a commercial firm and that they did not know what was stored there.

The situation at the National Exhibition Center became tense when Mr. Yushchenko's supporters from Parliament were joined by pro-presidential deputies from the SDPU and Mr. Yanukovych's Regions of Ukraine. As both sides hurled accusations, riot police blocked the arrival of more Yushchenko supporters and prevented them from moving the literature to a safer location. The deputy head of the CEC, Yaroslav Davydovych, arrived only long enough to say that he would report the issue to the remainder of the commission.

Popular distrust in the impartiality of the authorities during the elections is at an all-time low. Mr. Yushchenko, who is being treated in a Vienna clinic, refused to meet with the procurator general, whom he accused of being unwilling to investigate his poisoning (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 6). His election team doubts that the CEC, the courts, or the Internal Affairs Ministry will undertake any legal action against those involved in printing 40 tons of illegal campaign materials. Mr. Yushchenko's team has nonetheless submitted the case to court, based on the argument that at least five articles in the Criminal Code and the Constitution have been violated (razom.org.ua, October 5).

Ukraine's presidential...

(Continued from page 2)

Yanukovich's populist proposals regarding the Russian language and dual citizenship as mere propagandistic blunders. And he simultaneously poked fun at the prime minister by recalling that Mr. Yanukovich has also promised to build a bridge over the Kerch Strait between Crimea and Russia – a task that, Mr. Kuchma emphasized, is impossible from a “geological point of view” – without having consulted about the feasibility of such a project with specialists. And Mr. Kuchma recalled with near pride that he himself campaigned in 1994 on a platform postulating on raising Russian to the status of officialdom in Ukraine but later backed down from this promise. “The Constitution for me is [as holy] as the Pater Noster [Our Father],” Mr. Kuchma said. “Other comments in this regard are superfluous.”

The state-controlled and oligarchic electronic media continue to present Mr. Yushchenko primarily as a radical nationalist, while stressing Mr. Yanukovich's pro-Russian sympathies. As a rule, they provide either positive or neutral coverage of Mr. Yanukovich and predominantly negative coverage of Mr. Yushchenko. Moreover, the tone of election coverage in the Ukrainian media has been set not by some public debate around the political platforms of more than 20 presidential candidates, but by Messrs. Yushchenko and Mr. Yanukovich accusing each other of murderous plots. Mr. Yushchenko accused the authorities of poi-

soning him, while Mr. Yanukovich counter-acted with charges that Our Ukraine supporters wanted to kill him during a campaign meeting in western Ukraine. The language used by Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich as well as by their rivals is often harsh and indecorous.

Mr. Yanukovich refused to take part in televised presidential debates before October 31, and Mr. Yushchenko followed suit. While Mr. Yanukovich's decision is fairly comprehensible – he is obviously not an intellectual and orator – Mr. Yushchenko's refusal is astounding and inexplicable. Given that most electronic media in Ukraine treat him very unkindly, Mr. Yushchenko could use the public debate as a chance to send his election message straight to the electorate, without manipulations and denigrating comments in the media servicing his main rival. Ukraine's election campaign has lost an opportunity to become a little bit more civilized, if one may say so.

This past week added another shameful stroke to the already disgusting picture of the presidential race in Ukraine. Mr. Yushchenko's supporters discovered at several warehouses in Kyiv, according to their estimates, several million copies of posters and leaflets smearing and caricaturizing the Our Ukraine leader as a puppet in the hands of the United States. One leaflet depicts Mr. Yushchenko in Uncle Sam garb with the following: “Are You Ready for Civil War?” Another shows U.S. President George W. Bush's face superimposed on Mr. Yushchenko's with an inscription below:

(Continued on page 19)

JULY 17, 1912 – OCTOBER 4, 2004



ANDREW TURCHYN, 92

BORN JULY 17, 1912 IN CHERNYTSIA, BRODY COUNTY, UKRAINE, HE WAS THE SON OF MYKOLA AND MARIA (CHRZANOWSKA) TURCHYN.

THOUGH ANDREW FLED UKRAINE DURING WARTIME, HE WAS A LIFE-LONG, PROUD UKRAINIAN. PRIOR TO HIS ESCAPE, HE WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE RESISTANCE WHO MADE NUMEROUS FORGED PASSPORTS TO ASSIST MANY OTHERS IN THEIR FLIGHT.

A WELL-EDUCATED MAN, ANDREW RECEIVED A DIPLOMA FROM THE GREEK-CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL ACADEMY IN LVIV, A PH.D. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH, AN M.A.L.S. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND AN M.A. FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY. HE WAS A LIBRARIAN EMERITUS FROM THE IU UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AT IU. DURING HIS CAREER AT IU HE HELD SEVERAL POSITIONS, INCLUDING SENIOR CATALOGER, ASSOCIATE HEAD OF THE CATALOG DEPT. AND SLAVIC LIBRARIAN. HE WAS VERY INVOLVED IN SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS, HAVING CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES TO SEVERAL MONOGRAPHS AND JOURNALS ON LIBRARY SCIENCE AND UKRAINIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY. HE WAS ACTIVE IN BOTH THE UKRAINIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

HIS LOVING WIFE, OLHA PRECEDED HIM IN DEATH AT AN EARLY AGE. ANDREW RAISED THEIR THREE SONS WITH GREAT PRIDE. SURVIVORS INCLUDE SON GEORGE TURCHYN AND WIFE SYLVIA OF BLOOMINGTON; SON LEO TURCHYN, WIFE EMILY AND CHILDREN STEPHEN, JIM AND JANE OF BATESVILLE; SON NICHOLAS TURCHYN OF VASHON, WA AND CHILDREN MICHAEL AND KATE OF WEST VIRGINIA. HE WAS THE PROUD GREAT GRANDFATHER OF KATE'S SON, BILLY. OTHER SURVIVORS INCLUDE HIS SISTER-IN-LAW, SOPHIA ZAPLITNY, NIECE MARIA ZAPLITNY, NIECE DIANA BONFIGLIO AND HER HUSBAND DAN AND CHILDREN, ALL OF BATTLE CREEK, MI.

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Freedom of media...

(Continued from page 11)

four years ago just two days after Gongadze's disappearance. It was at that first conference that representatives of the Helsinki Commission and State Department first called for the Ukrainian government to investigate his disappearance. Four years later, the case remains unresolved. Ukrainian President [Leonid] Kuchma and a number of high-ranking officials have been implicated in his disappearance and the circumstances leading to his murder. The Ukrainian authorities' handling – or, more accurately, mishandling – of this case, has been characterized by obfuscation and stonewalling, destruction of evidence, and the persecution and even death, in one instance, of those who tried to tell the truth about the case.

Tragically for Ukraine, the handling of this case has made a mockery of the rule of law. Not surprisingly, lack of transparency illustrated by the Gongadze case has fueled the debilitating problem of widespread corruption reaching the highest levels in Ukraine. A credible and transparent investigation of this case by Ukrainian authorities is long overdue and the perpetrators – no matter who they may be – need to be brought to justice. I hope that well before the sixth of your conferences, this case is resolved, as well as the cases of at least 18 other journalists in Ukraine who, according to Western media watchdog organizations, have died because of their work.

These journalists, including Mr. Gongadze, were exposing the massive problem of corruption and crime in Ukraine. One important issue intimately linked with corruption and crime worldwide – a global scourge to which Ukraine is by no means immune – is the trafficking of women and children. Each year, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 girls, boys, women and men, including tens of thousands of Ukrainians, are bought and sold like chattel across international borders, many of them for brutal

exploitation in the commercial sex industry. The plight of these individuals has touched many hearts and has led to a global movement to eradicate this form of modern-day slavery known as trafficking in human beings.

In November 2000 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which I authored, was enacted with broad, bipartisan support. The act provides a framework for combating trafficking through law enforcement, prevention programs and assistance to those victimized. The act mandated major changes in U.S. law, including severe penalties of up to life in prison for those who traffic in humans and treatment of the victims – mostly women and children – as victims of crime rather than criminals themselves. This past December President [George W.] Bush signed a reauthorization of the act, which I also wrote, to expand and strengthen the U.S. response to this scourge.

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian women and children have been trafficked mostly to Europe and the Middle East over the course of the last decade, making it one of the largest source countries in Europe. It is also a major transit country. Ukraine has been designated in the most recent State Department report as a Tier II country (there are three tiers), meaning that the Ukrainian government does not yet fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so. I am pleased that our government, the OSCE and other international organizations and NGOs are devoting resources to combat this modern-day slavery, but much more remains to be done. I encourage the Ukrainian government to make further progress, and implement its Comprehensive Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons, better coordinate with law enforcement officials of destination countries, and fight government corruption.

By conducting free and fair elections, respecting media freedoms, including resolving the Gongadze case, and effectively tackling the scourge of trafficking, the Ukrainian authorities will go a long way in restoring the trust of the citizens of Ukraine and strengthening Ukraine's independence, democracy, sending a powerful signal of its readiness to join the Euro-Atlantic community of nations. I stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people as they strive to achieve these important goals.

Ukraine's presidential...

(Continued from page 11)

Conversely, an election that is not transparent or is unfair would reinforce concerns about the prospects for close political and economic ties in Europe and America. This will slow the development of relations between our countries and limit what each of us can achieve through cooperation.

Ukraine has come a long way in the last 13 years. Still, it is useful to think about the period since 1991 more broadly, looking to Ukraine's neighbors and their experiences. One of those neighbors has made much less progress than the others. Belarus and its citizens will continue to face economic and social hardship if essential reforms are stifled and the government's power remains unconstrained by opposition parties, the media, or civil society. Some of Ukraine's other neighbors, particularly Poland and Hungary, have made dramatic advances during this period – although they had a two-year head start – by embracing democracy and the rule of law. This was not an easy process, or a quick one, but its results have transformed the futures of these countries and their citizens. I am confident that Ukraine can achieve the same, or even greater, successes with determined effort by its leaders and people.

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Ukraine's presidential...

(Continued from page 17)

"Yes, Bushchenko!" And the same stock of slick campaign materials included a poster depicting Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's national poet of the 19th century, with a printed appeal: "Yankee! Go Home!"

Some in Ukraine fear that the 2004 presidential ballot – the first one in which the ruling regime has a genuine democratic alternative in the person of Mr. Yushchenko – may not come to fruition at all. The gloomy picture of the election campaign has spawned a number of more or less improbable speculations and conspiracy theories maintaining that President Kuchma and his administration chief, Viktor Medvedchuk, are pondering a scenario under which the 2004 ballot, due to its dirty character and anticipated falsifications of the vote, may be declared invalid, thus creating a need for a repeat election.

In such a potential repeat election, the adherents of conspiracy theories assert, Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich as the candidates already "used-up" in the previous campaign, will have no chance against a new centrist candidate fielded by Messrs. Kuchma and Medvedchuk (some say, namely, that Mr. Kuchma is the best choice under such a scenario) as the "guarantor of stability" for a society polarized by the Yushchenko-Yanukovich rivalry.

Some of Ukraine's most prominent politicians view such a scenario for derailing the

current election as realistic. "There are obvious signs of Ukraine's moral humiliation at a critical level, and the mood of uncertainty and hopelessness is being spread among people in the hope that they will accept the disruption of the election indifferently or neutrally," Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn commented on September 28. "The artificial polarization of public opinion, the organization of confrontation between regions, the attempts to split this country, the provocation of conflicts between presidential candidates, and the strengthening of mutual distrust among them have become all too obvious."

Mr. Yushchenko, too, does not exclude such a development. "I'm increasingly inclined to think that derailing the election is not just an option, but a working scenario," he said on October 2. "The authorities have definitely gone for the strong-arm electoral option. It may end in falsifications and the declaration that the elections in many regions are invalid."

On the other hand, if the elections eventually take place and put forward a new president, be it Mr. Yanukovich or Mr. Yushchenko, it is not difficult to predict that he will in no way be accepted as the leader of the entire nation. Therefore, the erstwhile political campaign Ukraine Without Kuchma may have a continuation under a new name – Ukraine Without Mr. Yanukovich or Ukraine Without Mr. Yushchenko, depending on the circumstances.

Russian political scientists...

(Continued from page 3)

study this country during this campaign is that we barely know modern Ukraine and have an even worse understanding of it. It is a misleading knowledge, perhaps comparable to a misunderstanding based on language differences where words could be similar

but have different meanings nonetheless."

Speaking at a roundtable of the Unity for Russia Fund, Mr. Kuvaldin added that it was obvious that Ukraine has a greater chance to build democracy than Russia does because of its strong diversity, which forced every Ukrainian politician to consider the interests of its opponents if they expected to win nationwide support.

Art Exhibit

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(Continued from page 4)

Kyiv Bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and Markian Bilynsky, vice-president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, Kyiv.

Eight former U.S. congressmen who were in Ukraine to observe the forthcoming presidential election also attended the luncheon. Ms. Hubska made a very moving presentation to the luncheon attendees regarding the Ukrainian "Holodomor," or Famine Genocide of 1932-1933, and requested that the United States declare that horrible tragedy a genocide.

After the luncheon Rep. Davis laid a wreath of flowers at the Famine memorial, which was broadcast on Ukrainian television that evening. The local press and Channel 5 television also interviewed

him. Afterwards he met with a number of members of the Verkhovna Rada to discuss issues of mutual concern.

On August 25, Rep. Davis departed Ukraine, after stating to Mr. Kos that what he experienced and saw in Ukraine was very moving and worthwhile.

The reason that the visit of Rep. Davis was a success is the great work of a number of very dedicated people. These people are: Mykhailo Reznik, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States; Borys M. Bazylevskyi, consul general of Ukraine in Chicago; Michael Sawkiw, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; Danylo Yanevsky and Marta Kolomayets of Kyiv; and the aforementioned Mr. Kozynetz, Ms. Hubska and Mr. Bilynsky; as well as Bohdan Watral, president and chief executive officer of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, who coordinated the whole visit.

CIUS gets \$250,000...

(Continued from page 4)

the upcoming elections in Ukraine and the importance of participating in the political process in Canada to make certain that the needs of the Ukrainian Canadian community are known and addressed by governments, especially at the federal level.

Following the breakfast meeting, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj visited the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, an outdoor museum containing buildings and artifacts related to the lives of Ukrainian pioneer settlers in Alberta in the late 1920s. Mr. Wrzesnewskyj was accompanied on his visit to Edmonton by his aide, Yvan Baker.

The grandson of Ukrainian immigrants, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj is the current president and owner of both the Future Bakery and M-C Dairy, well-established businesses

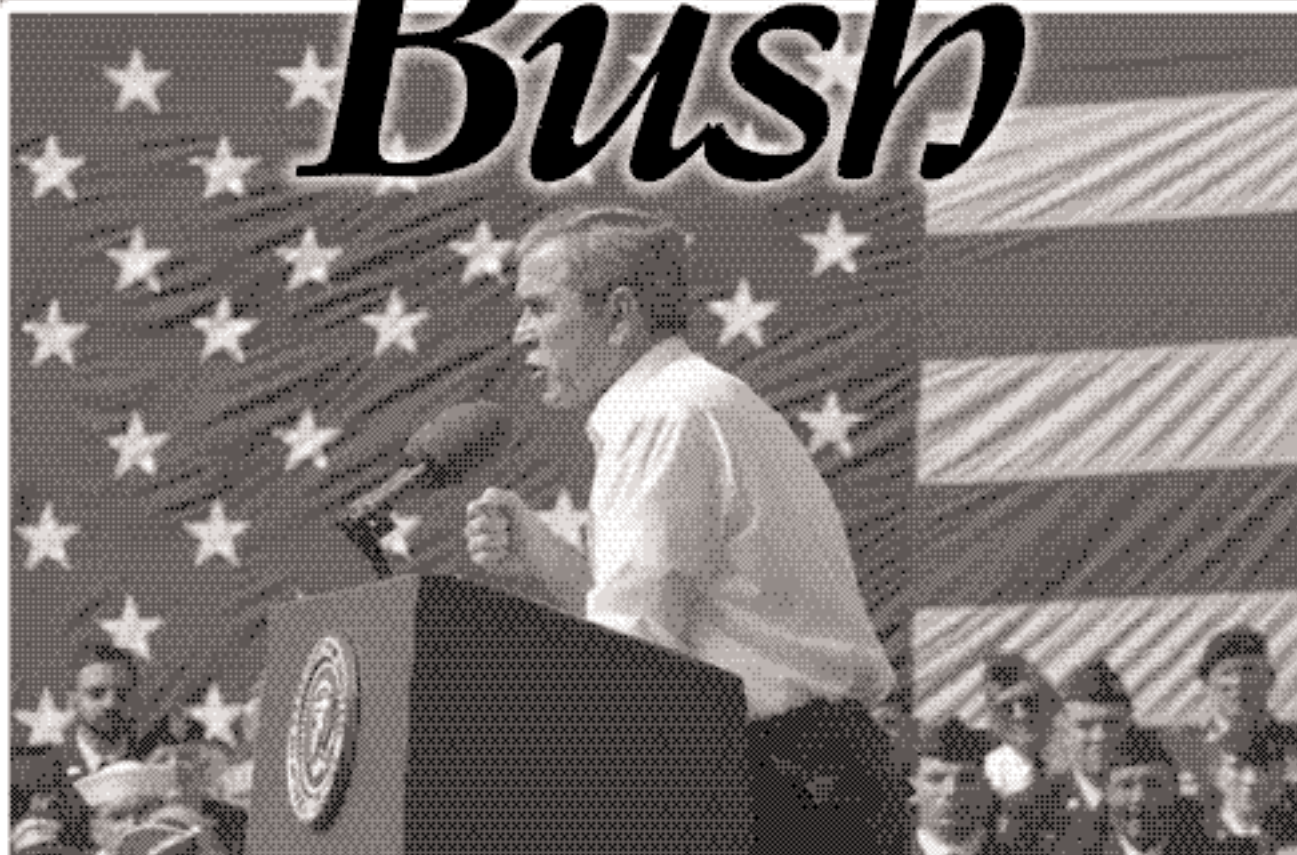
headquartered in Etobicoke, Ontario. In recognition for his success and innovation, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj was named one of Ontario's "Top 100 Entrepreneurs" by the Ontario Business Journal.

The Future Bakery, founded by his grandparents, today employs more than 80 people. He took over his family business at the age of 22 following his graduation from the University of Toronto.

Mr. Wrzesnewskyj has dedicated much of his life to working with community groups and humanitarian causes both in Canada and abroad. In Ukraine he funded, organized and supported civil rights groups and democratic reform prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Wrzesnewskyj family continues to work in Ukraine, funding and organizing relief efforts for orphans, and offers post-secondary scholarship funds for promising students in need.

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— GEORGE W. BUSH

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Ukrainian Americans host justice of Michigan Supreme Court



At the Ukrainian Cultural Center (from left) are: Nykola Stewart, Marika Brezden, Bohdan Melnyk, Judge John Chmura, Justice Stephen J. Markman, Councilman Mike Chupa, Zenon Wasylkewych, Natalie Lawrin and Roman Kuropas of the Ukrainian American Republican Coalition of Michigan.

WARREN, Mich. – Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Markman, who helped draft the Constitution of Ukraine in 1996, met with Ukrainian Americans at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Mich., on September 27.

Justice Markman was introduced to the

gathering, a monthly meeting of Warren seniors, by District Judge John Chmura of the 37th District Court of Michigan and four-term Warren City Councilman and Ukrainian American Mike Chupa, who is running for Warren County commissioner.

Also present at the gathering were Bohdan Melnyk, secretary of the Right to

Life organization of Warren and Centerline; the Rev. Philip Sandrick, pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church; Bohdan Fedorak, honorary consul of Ukraine for the state of Michigan and president of the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren; Zenon Wasylkewych of the Ukrainian Cultural Center; and Carolyn Pikula, administrator of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian High School.

High school seniors Marika Brezden, Natalie Lawrin and Mykola Stewart came dressed in Ukrainian ethnic costumes for the gathering and presented Justice Markman with a traditional Ukrainian greeting of bread and salt. Additionally, flowers and a book were given to Justice Markman in appreciation of his work for Michigan, America and Ukraine.

Mr. Fedorak then lead a group composed of Justice Markman, the Rev. Sandrick, Ms. Pikula, Messrs. Chmura and Chupa, and seniors from Immaculate

Conception High School in a tour of an exposition titled "The Communist Inquisition in Ukraine," which was on display at the cultural center. Community activist Roman Kuropas helped arrange the meeting between Justice Markman and Mr. Fedorak.

Justice Markman thanked everyone for a warm welcome and for their support; he promised to visit the high school and community in the future. He paid a short visit to Lidya Wroblewska, president of Michigan's Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and to the Ukrainian Future Credit Union, where he met with Treasurer/Manager Andrew Jakymowych and Mr. Chmura.

Justice Markman was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court by Gov. John Engler on October 1, 1999, to fill the seat left vacant by a retired judge. In 2000 he was elected to a term that will end on January 1, 2005, according to the official website of the Michigan state court system.

UUARC to mark 60th anniversary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a banquet in Philadelphia on Sunday, November 28.

The banquet will be held at Dugan's Restaurant, 7900 Roosevelt Blvd. in Philadelphia, and the keynote speaker for the event will be former Ukrainian Ambassador and Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk. Mr. Tarasyuk is

currently a Member of Parliament in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada and a chairman of that body's Committee on European Integration.

The UUARC is a humanitarian aid organization that extends help to Ukrainians around the globe. Its headquarters is located at 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111. The phone number to the office is (215) 728-1630.

Highlights...

(Continued from page 4)

This week, we begin with a subject close to our heart: The Ukrainian Weekly (which this year marks its 71st anniversary). The citation below is from the report of Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dragan to the 24th UNA Convention in 1958.

"A report on this important publication of our organization cannot be made without mentioning at the outset that this year marks the 25th anniversary of its inception. The Ukrainian Weekly, established as a supplement of Svoboda at the time of the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933, largely through the efforts of the late Dr. Luke Myshuha [then editor-in-chief of Svoboda], has played a very important role both in our own organization and in the

Ukrainian community, becoming the first regularly published organ of the American- and Canadian-born Ukrainian generation.

"A careful study of all the great hopes and plans connected with the publication of The Ukrainian Weekly reveals that these hopes have been realized to a large extent. that to the late Dr. Myshuha and to its editor, Stephen Shumeyko, The Weekly developed into a serious publication. It has played a very important role in the formation of American-Ukrainian opinion, as well as in the organization of our community."

Source: Report of Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dragan at the 24th Convention of the UNA held in Cleveland on May 26-31, 1958. The border used for this special feature is reproduced from a UNA membership certificate dated 1942.

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Romankiw speaks on pioneering work at Ukrainian Engineers' Society

by Ivan Durbak

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of New York City recently presented a lecture by Dr. Lubomyr T. Romankiw, noted research scientist and IBM Fellow at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. at the Ukrainian Institute of America. The topic was "Magnetic Hard Disc Storage Past, Present and Future."

Dr. Romankiw started with an overview of computer disk technology, history and environment. He then provided a detailed description of plating through mask technology used in thin film heads in magnetic storage, which he pioneered several decades ago. Dr. Romankiw originally conceived and developed, and has since updated, the entire fabrication process, which to this day is the basis for the manufacturing of magnetic storage heads around the world.

Every PC in the world today typically houses a magnetic disk based directly on the work of Dr. Romankiw. As one of the audience suggested, just as each PC typically shows a sign "Intel Inside" for the CPU chips, there should perhaps be a similar indicator on each PC showing "Dr. Romankiw Inside" for the hard disk.

Dr. Romankiw described how the original hard disk drive, RAMAC 305, introduced by IBM in 1957, had an areal density of 2,000 bits/inch square and used copper wire hand-wound ferrite cores as read-write heads. Today commercial systems approach storage density of 100 Gigabits/square inch. In laboratory tests heads capable of 150 Gigabits/square inch are being investigated – a density once thought to be unattainable. This represents eight orders of magnitude increase in areal density in 47 years.

Four orders of magnitude of this jump were achieved since commercial introduction by IBM, of the inductive, multi-turn, batch fabricated thin film heads in 1979. Since introduction of the first thin film heads the cost of storage has dropped four orders of magnitude, the data rate has increased several orders of magnitude. This has had a significant effect on enabling desktop and laptop computers, data mining and the Internet. Data stored half way around the world are found and analyzed, and the results delivered through high speed interconnections in fractions of seconds.

Dr. Romankiw presented the technology that was originally invented at the T. J. Watson Research Center of IBM in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., and which was developed jointly with IBM San Jose, Calif., into a commercial process used today to manufacture thin film heads throughout the world. Since the invention of the batch fabrication process for the thin film heads, magnetic storage has undergone two paradigm shifts. Today we stand on the verge of one more paradigm shift which, while using the fundamental processes developed some 35 years ago, promises to extend magnetic storage density another one to two orders of magnitude.



Dr. Lubomyr T. Romankiw

Dr. T. Romankiw is an IBM Fellow at the T. J. Watson Research Center, with which he has been associated since 1962. He received his early education in Ukraine, his B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Alberta in 1957, and his master's and doctoral degrees in metallurgy and materials from MIT in 1962.

He holds 57 patents, has over 120 published inventions, published more than 150 scientific papers, authored six book chapters and has edited 10 volumes of symposia proceedings in the areas of: magnetic materials, processes and devices; and electrochemistry in electronics.

His research has dealt with nearly all aspects of electroless plating, electroplating, etching, lithography and micro-fabrication used in electronics. He developed an entirely new approach to use of lithography and micro-fabrication techniques, applied them to magnetic head fabrication and then extended them to X-ray lithography mask fabrication, plating of thin film chip carriers, C-4 interconnects and copper metallization of silicon chips.

For his seminal contributions to magnetic storage technologies Dr. Romankiw in 1994 received one of the highest honors of the Electrochemical Society, the Vittorio de Nora Medal; one of the highest honors of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Morris A. Lieberman Award. He was named an IEEE Fellow in 1996. "For his major contributions to science, technology and in particular for demonstrating manufacturing worthy processes which created a \$7 billion thin film head industry," he was awarded in 1993 the highest honor of the Societies of Chemical Industries, the Perkin Gold Medal.

Throughout this presentation Dr. Romankiw kept the audience engaged and involved with a balance of highly technical material and practical real-world problem examples – and especially with the enthusiasm and excitement still evident after his four decades of cutting-edge research on this topic.

The June 2 lecture was the fifth in a series of engineering and scientific presentations sponsored by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of New York City during the 2003-2004 year.

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An open invitation to local community activists

Would you like fellow Ukrainians know about events in your community?
Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents?
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The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists. You may reach The Weekly by phone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com; or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Who are...

(Continued from page 10)

ine to be the Soviet Union and not Russia as such, where residential buildings explode and other very unpleasant things happen. At the same time, at the end of 2003 almost 72 percent of Belarusians supported the independence of their country. Moreover, the proportion of Belarusians and Ukrainians wishing to join the EU is about the same. Indeed, when faced with choosing between Russia and the EU Ukrainians and Belarusians think much alike.

In a survey conducted in Ukraine in August-September of this year, when asked where life would be better, in a union with Russia and Belarus, or in the EU, 49 percent of respondents chose their "Slavic brothers," while 29.3 percent opted for the EU. In a similar question posed to Belarusians in June, 47.7 percent of respondents chose Russia and 37.6 percent selected the EU. Thus, there was not much difference, except that a higher proportion of Belarusians than Ukrainians viewed the European community favorably. Maybe the "Belarusian scenario," at least insofar as all of those things subsumed under the heading of national consciousness, is not such a bad thing.

Finally, if we look at one of the latest issues of the Kyiv monthly National Security and Defense, what we find is more lamentable food for thought. While the proportion of those in Ukraine supporting a foreign policy that prioritizes relations with European Union countries has been stable at about 30 percent over

the past four years, the percentage that looks to Russia has doubled, from 21 percent in 2000 to 41 percent in 2004.

Against this background, it is not surprising that strong supporters of Ukraine's "European choice" are no longer to be found in the Cabinet of Ministers (Borys Tarasyuk, Oleksander Chalyi, Yevhen Marchuk). Equally unsurprising is the fact that Ukraine's prime minister, one of the leading contenders in this month's presidential election, says that he favors granting the Russian language official status; dual citizenship, obviously with Russia in mind; and a retreat from the official policy of eventual membership in NATO.

In this connection, the question that was recently raised in The Washington Post as to whether citizens of the former Soviet Union really want to be "like us" deserves thoughtful consideration. In that article, Prof. Roman Szporluk was quoted as saying: "For people to survive under Stalin, under communism, you had to pretend to be stupid. If you go on this way generation after generation, you really create a certain mode of behavior." Was he suggesting that the "Soviet people" and the "Soviet way of life" are alive and well, let's say, in Ukraine?

If so, much of the ongoing discussion about the need for democratic reforms and honest elections, as well as the resolutions recently adopted by such august bodies as the EU and the U.S. House of Representatives, although necessary and well intentioned, are not likely to have much of an impact.

At least not at this juncture, when we are still asking: Who are these people?

ELECTION WATCH

(Continued from page 3)

backing Mr. Yanukovych, while it noted that there are virtually no similar signs for his main rival in the presidential race, Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Church leaders discuss elections

KYIV – The spiritual and moral aspects of the electoral process were discussed at a meeting of the heads and delegated representatives of the Christian Churches of Ukraine on September 30. The meeting took place as part of the general work being done to establish cooperation between the Christian Churches of Ukraine. A statement of the leaders of the Christian Churches of Ukraine to the Ukrainian people concerning Ukraine's presidential election followed as a result. Perspectives for future cooperation between the Churches in the defense of human life were also discussed, as was the situation of legislative bills concerning the activities of religious organizations and civic morals. The following participated in

the meeting: Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate; Bishop Vasyl Medvit, exarch of Kyiv and Vyshhorod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church; Bishop Stanislaw Shyrokoradiuk of the Kyiv-Zhytomyr diocese of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine; Hryhorii Komendant, president of the All-Ukrainian Union of the Association of Evangelical Baptists; Mykhailo Panochko, head of the All-Ukraine Union of Churches of the Evangelical Christian Faith-Pentecostals; Volodymyr Krupskyi, president of the Ukrainian Union of the Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church; Elder Bishop Leonid Padun, head of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Christian Evangelical Church; Senior Presbyter Vasyl Raichynets of the Union of Free Churches of Evangelical Christians of Ukraine; Franz Shumeiko, president of the Brotherhood of Independent Churches and Missions of Evangelical Baptists of Ukraine; and members of the Council of Representatives of the Christian Churches of Ukraine. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

You think...

(Continued from page 10)

dictable than in other post-Soviet states. Mr. Yushchenko, for example, ostensibly a pro-Western and pro-American candidate (he has an American wife) has announced that one of his first actions upon taking office would be to remove Ukrainian troops from Iraq. Mr. Yanukovych has vowed to keep them there.

Two other candidates are likely to receive significant votes: Socialist Party Leader Oleksander Moroz, and Communist Party Leader Petro Symonenko. No one knows to which of the leading candidates their support will eventually be transferred.

Perhaps Canada is expecting too much of Ukraine? True, it does not behave like the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe, which are now part of the European Union. The past 13 years have seen some disappointments. Corruption is endemic. Local city clans tend to run the economy and play a major role in politics. The government controls most of the media and TV channels.

But why single out Ukraine? The situation in Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Moldova is markedly worse in terms of voter choice. Our concern should surely be the general demise of democracy in former Soviet states.

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Why Kerry?

(Continued from page 7)

rest of the former Soviet states will likely fall like dominoes, and the evil empire likely will again arise. This is supposed to be good for the United States?

The incumbent spent an unprecedented \$80 million on attack ads against Sen. Kerry prior to the Republican convention. Then, the Bush-orchestrated convention spent most of its time further demonizing Sen. Kerry. Ask yourselves, when was the last time an incumbent, who is supposed to have a record of achievements to run on in re-election, directed almost his entire campaign to attacking the challenger? But perhaps if, like Mr. Bush, you're the first president in 70 years to lose a million and a half private-sector jobs, and you've turned a projected \$5 trillion surplus into a \$3 trillion budget deficit, and you have mired the country into the horrific mess that is Iraq, then demonizing the challenger might

indeed make sense to you.

Contrary to the crazed and shamelessly vicious campaign of character assassination employed by the Bush campaign and extreme right-wingers against Sen. Kerry (ask yourselves, if what the character assassins said were true, would John McCain be friends with Sen. Kerry? Would Sen. McCain have said that Kerry was fully qualified to be commander in chief?), Sen. Kerry is a thoughtful and intelligent alternative to President Bush. He understands that our principal enemy is bin Laden and his gang; that it is in our own self-interest to rebuild our alliances; that rescinding the Bush tax breaks for the rich and deficit reduction are simply a necessity; and that pragmatism, rather than ideology, is the true American way. Sen. Kerry also seems a little less enamored with a certain former KGB officer named "Vladimir," and Democrats have shown themselves to be more pro-Ukraine than Republicans. For all these reasons and others, I will be voting for John Kerry for president.

Why Bush?

(Continued from page 7)

And this brings us to the final reason for supporting President Bush. A number of judges will be retiring from the Supreme Court in the next four years. We want our president to nominate judges who will uphold the Constitution, not create laws according to their own whim. We want judges who will interpret the Constitution, not remake it in their own image. Lesia and I believe strongly that judges in this country have accumulated power that far exceeds what was envisioned by our founding fathers. The checks and balances among the three branches of the federal government, so brilliantly outlined in the "Federalist

Papers," are being usurped by the judiciary. This dangerous trend bodes ill for the future of our country.


In conclusion, Lesia and I believe that a strong America, led by a principled and resolute president, is best for Ukrainian Americans, as well as for the people of Ukraine, many of whom still look to America for guidance and support. Only the people of Ukraine, however, can save Ukraine from the Russian bear. If Viktor Yushchenko is elected president, you can be sure that President Bush will invite him to the White House the first chance he gets. If the other Viktor wins, it will be a long four years for Ukrainians here and abroad.

Lesia and I urge you to vote for George W. Bush for all the right reasons.


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Works by Hryshchenko...

(Continued from page 13)

Institute of America and The Alexis Gritchenko Foundation. The institute is located at 2 E. 79th St.; gallery hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon-6 p.m. For additional information call (212) 288-8660 or visit the UIA website, www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

In 1963 Hryshchenko, who had spent most of his creative life in France, donated more than 70 paintings and watercolors as well as archival material to the Alexis Gritchenko Foundation.

The Foundation was established with the aim of safeguarding the collection of the artist's work, making it available to scholars and in exhibitions to the general public and, when the opportunity arose,

transferring the collection to the museums of independent Ukraine.

The original trustees of the foundation, which was incorporated in the State of New York in 1963, were Sviatoslav Hordynsky, initiator and head of the foundation and president of the Ukrainian Artists Association in U.S.A.; Jaroslaw Padoch, legal adviser for the foundation; Mr. Baranetsky; and Dr. Walter Hordynsky. Later the board also appointed Augustin Sumyk, Dr. Ilarion Cholhan and Dr. Mykola Kuzmowycz as trustees. (All of the trustees had significant works by leading Ukrainian painters in their private collections, including important works by Hryshchenko.)

Presently, Mr. Baranetsky, the only living member of the board of trustees, represents the foundation.

In the catalogue to the exhibition, Mr.

Baranetsky underscores the importance of the collection's transfer to Ukraine, pointing out that the work of Hryshchenko (as well as of such leading Ukrainian artists as, for example, Alexander Archipenko), while gaining acclaim and recognition abroad, was hardly known in his native land.

Given the political and cultural transformations that shaped Soviet rule, the extant works of such artists was banned or ordered destroyed as they did not comply with the tenets of social realism. The names of the artists, who were deemed personae non gratae, did not appear in Soviet encyclopedias and art

history publications.

After Hryshchenko's one-man exhibition at the National Museum in Lviv in 1937, his work was branded as "formalist" and destroyed during the Stalinist years.

The artistic homecoming of the Hryshchenko collection constitutes an invaluable contribution to the cultural heritage of Ukraine, of which the artist felt himself to be an integral part.

Editor's note: A photo montage of Hryshchenko's work as well as a biographical sketch of the artist will appear in the October 24 issue of The Weekly.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

vetoed it the following month. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Wolfowitz speaks on Ukraine and NATO

WARSAW – U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz said on October 5 that it was important to expand NATO to Ukraine, where a pro-Western opposition candidate is tipped to win presidential elections later this month. "It is particularly important to extend the values of what NATO stands for to the whole of Europe," Mr. Wolfowitz said in a speech at Warsaw University. "As President [George W.] Bush said here in Warsaw, we must extend our hand to Ukraine as Poland has done with such determination," he added. Ukraine announced in 2002 that it planned to join NATO and has set 2011 as a target date for starting negotiations on European Union membership. But outgoing President Leonid Kuchma has recently sought to move closer to Russia, stepping back from the

earlier goal of membership in NATO and the EU, and agreeing to form a Single Economic Space with Russia and two other major former Soviet republics. (Agence-France Presse, Action Ukraine Report)

Freedom House volunteer denied entry

KYIV – Following an order from the Security Service of Ukraine, border guards at Kyiv's Boryspil Airport on October 12 denied entry to Serbian national Aleksandar Maric, a volunteer at the U.S.-based Freedom House human rights organization's Kyiv office, Interfax and UNIAN reported. According to a co-worker, Mr. Maric has a one-year multi-entry Ukrainian visa and had been in Ukraine for two months before going to Budapest for a few days. After spending the night at the airport, Mr. Maric was sent back on a flight to Belgrade. Mr. Maric reportedly was one of the leaders of the Serbian youth organization Otpor, which was instrumental in toppling the regime of Slobodan Milosevic in Yugoslavia in 1999. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Ruslana beats...

(Continued from page 15)

who performed on the Jane Stage.

As in previous years, political notables were in attendance. Judy Sgro brought greetings on behalf of Prime Minister Paul Martin. Newly elected representatives attending the event were Etobicoke-Center Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj, Parkdale-High Park MP Sarmite Bulte and councilor Bill Saundercook.

Peter Leon, representing the Ontario Trillium Foundation, announced the awarding of a significant grant to the fes-

tival in order to develop the volunteer component.

In the opening and closing remarks during the festival, chairman Jurij Klufas thanked all the sponsors, noting that without them, there could be no festival. In particular, recognition was given to Ukrainian Credit Union for sponsorship of Ruslana and to Aerosvit for partial sponsorship of the group's airline tickets. "Kontakt," Northland Power, Acuity Pooled Funds, Omni Television and the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko were the main stage sponsors.

Next year's festival dates are August 26-28, 2005.

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Ukrainian American Citizens Club to celebrate its 75th anniversary

by Slavko Tysiak

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – On the October 23 the Ukrainian American Citizens Club of Watervliet, N.Y., will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

From its beginnings in 1929, the Ukrainian Club, as it is commonly known, has had a remarkable history of growth and achievements and is acknowledged today as a leading Ukrainian American organization in the Capital District with over 100 members.

The 75th anniversary celebration of

the Ukrainian Club will culminate with a 75th anniversary banquet and dance, to be held at the Ukrainian Club located at 402 25th St. in Watervliet.

To celebrate this important milestone, a special 75th anniversary commemorative booklet has been produced and will be distributed at the banquet. It chronicles the beginnings and origins of the Ukrainian Club and its development into a leading Ukrainian community organization.

In addition to the factual and historical information, the booklet contains the names of living and deceased members, presidents

and others who have been or are presently affiliated with the Ukrainian Club.

Today, the Ukrainian Club continues to be a magnet and center for the extended Ukrainian community in the Capital District. It is a historic venue and an enduring symbol in the surrounding neighborhood, where Ukrainian once was the primary language.

Ukrainian Club President John Suchowacki said he looks forward to a great turnout and welcoming many club members, friends and supporters at the 75th anniversary banquet and dance. The banquet will include music and a retro-


spective look at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club. In addition, there will be a choral presentation by the Ukrainian Regional Community Choir under the direction of Michael Tcapar. Music at the dance will be provided by Lviviany.

Banquet and dance tickets are \$35 per person. The cocktail reception starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by the banquet at 7 p.m. and the dance at 9 p.m. A dessert table will be available from 10:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

For further information, readers may contact: Nicholas Fil at (518) 785-7596.



Members of the Ukrainian American Citizens Club of Watervliet, N.Y., gathered for the organization's 75th anniversary photograph.



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

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November 12, 2004

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 16

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a two-part program featuring the screening of the film, "Arnold Margolin – An Eminent Ukrainian and Jew" (2003), produced by the Ukrainian film director and writer Oleksander Muratov, and the presentation of the book "The Jews of Ukraine in the Years 1943-1953: Outlines of a Documented History" (Kyiv, 2004) by Michael Mitsel, a historian and archivist working as a researcher at the JDC Archives in New York. A special guest at the screening will be Gary Graffman, grandson of Mr. Margolin and president and director of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. The film will be presented by its co-producer, Iryna Ovdii. Commentary for the book presentation will be by Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor of history at Rutgers University. A Ukrainian-Jewish political and civic leader, scholar and lawyer, Arnold Margolin (1877-1956), played a prominent role in the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) in 1918. The event will held 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 23

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to an evening of presentations by the scholars and graduate students from Ukraine who are currently fellows at Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute: Serhiy Bilenkyi, a doctoral candidate, University of Toronto, "Gender Geography and Regional Politics: How Ukraine was Perceived in the Russian Empire in the 19th Century"; Ihor Papusha, associate professor, Volodymyr Hnatiuk Ternopil National Pedagogic University, "Between the East and the West: Franko's Perception of Indian Literature"; and Ihor Chomovil, scholarly associate, Ivan Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, "Between Polish Mentality, French Literature and Ukrainian Culture: On the 170th Anniversary of Volodymyr Antonovych." The presentations will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

CHICAGO: The Chicago Business and Professional Group is sponsoring a presentation by Russell Miller, a retired international marketing executive, who will discuss his book "Journey to a Closed City" outlining his experience as a volunteer with the senior citizens' equivalent of the Peace Corps in Ukraine. As part of his assignment with the International Executive Service Corps, Mr. Miller consulted on a defense conversion project in Ivano-Frankivsk, a former Soviet "closed city" near the Carpathian Mountains. The presentation will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 7 p.m. Refreshments and socializing will follow the presentation. Admission: \$10, members; \$15, non-members and guests. For additional information call (847) 359-3676.

Sunday, October 24

ROCHESTER, N.Y.: The UNA Rochester District Committee – Branches 217, 316, 367, 343, 285 and 66 – is holding a jubilee banquet on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Association. The banquet will be held at St. Josaphat School Auditorium, starting at 1:30 p.m. The program will include presentations by UNA National Secretary Christine E. Kozak and UNA National Organizer Oksana Trytjak. Proceeds from the event will benefit the renovation of UNA's estate, Soyuzivka.

Monday, October 25

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) will host a lecture given by Edyta Bojanowska, junior fellow, Society of Fellows, Harvard University, on the topic, "Nikolai Gogol's 'Evening on a Farm' as an Anti-Colonial Text." The lecture will be held in the

Seminar Room of the institute, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For more information contact HURI, (617) 495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Saturday, October 30

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, New York Metropolitan Chapter, in cooperation with the Self Reliance Association of American Ukrainians, New York Branch, will hold a community-based lecture, featuring Dr. Viktor Gribenko who will speak on the topic "Rehabilitation Medicine – Joint and Spine Problems." The event will take place at 98 Second Ave., at 2 p.m. Admission is free; refreshments will be served. For further information contact Dr. Ihor Magun, (516) 766-5147.

NORTHVILLE, Mich.: Continuing its outreach program, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus will showcase its program of Ukrainian folk and sacred music at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile Road, at 8 p.m. For tickets call Ward Presbyterian, (248) 374-5928, or visit www.bandura.org for more details.

Saturday, November 6

NEW YORK: Bishop Basil Losten, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, will host a dinner for the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv. The UCU Rector's Dinner, which is to benefit the university, will be held at 6:30 p.m. at St. George School Auditorium, 215 E. Sixth St. Admission: \$100; additional donations are encouraged. Tax-deductible checks should be made out to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF). Ticket requests should be made by October 30 and sent to St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, 30 E. Seventh St., New York, NY, 10003.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: A Ukrainian Fall Festival will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Ave., at 11 a.m.- 7 p.m. The festival will feature music and performances by Alla Kutsevych, Inna Sydorak, the Obriy Folk Dance Ensemble and the Barvinok Dance Group. There will be children's activities, a food court and a raffle, as well as tours of the center's museum. The marketplace will feature amber and beaded jewelry, Ukrainian embroidery, crafts, ceramics, pysanky, glass art, scarves, CDs, DVDs, videos, t-shirts and athletic gear. The marketplace offers a great opportunity to acquire unique gifts and do one's Christmas shopping early. Festival admission: \$5 for adults; free for children. For more information contact Raisa Chejlyk, (908) 647-6211, or raisachejlyk@yahoo.com.

Sunday, November 14

CHICAGO: Bishop Richard Seminack, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Chicago, invites the public to a Rector's Luncheon for the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. The luncheon, which is to benefit the university, will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., at 1 p.m. Tickets: \$25 per person; additional donations are encouraged. Tickets may be ordered by contacting the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, (773) 235-8462.

Saturday, November 20

PARMA, Ohio: The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus and the Ukrainian Museum-Archives invite you to enjoy the afternoon with friends watching one of college football's best rivalries on the big screen – the University of Michigan Wolverines vs. the Ohio State University Buckeyes. Join us at noon-5 p.m. at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Upper Back Hall, 7700 Hoertz Road. A \$40 donation includes open bar, hors d'oeuvres, etc. Proceeds from the event go to assist the programs of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus and the Ukrainian Museum-Archives. For ticket reservations contact Nick Schidowka, (216) 534-4777 or nschidowka@bigfoot.com. Visit www.bandura.org for more details.