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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Bush signs bill granting Ukraine permanent normal trade relations

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush on Thursday morning, March 23, signed into law a bill authorizing permanent normal trade relations for Ukraine. HR 1053 was passed by the House of Representatives on March 8 and by the Senate on March 9.

Among those present who were cited by the president in his remarks to the gathering were Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), Reps. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), Candice Miller (R-Mich.) and Mike Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), as well as Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Oleh Shamshur.

Following are excerpts of President Bush's remarks at the signing ceremony in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, as released by the White House Office of the Press Secretary.

* * *

... In a few minutes I'm going to sign a bill that authorizes permanent normal trade relations between the United States and Ukraine. It's a good bill, and it's going to strengthen our ties with our friend, Ukraine. It's going to create new opportunities, economic opportunities, for both our countries. ...

The bill I sign today marks the beginning of a new era in our history with Ukraine. During the Cold War, Congress passed the Jackson-Vanik Amendment as a response to widespread Communist deprivation of human rights. The law made American trade with Communist nations contingent on those countries' respect for the rights of their own people.

At the time, the law served an important purpose – it helped to encourage freedom and the protection of fundamental rights, and penalized nations that denied liberty to their citizens. Times have changed. The Cold War is over, and a free Ukraine is a friend to America and an inspiration to those who love liberty.

The Orange Revolution was a powerful example of democracy for people around the world. The brave citizens who gathered in Kiev's [sic] Independence Square demanded the chance to determine their nation's future, and when they got that chance, they chose freedom. In the past two years, Ukraine has held free elections, and the people of Ukraine and its president, Viktor Yushchenko, are deeply committed to democratic reform. On Sunday, the Ukrainian people will again have the chance to cast a ballot in parliamentary elections, and they have a chance to continue to shape their own future.

Ukraine is also working to expand its market economy and produce measurable improvements in the lives of the Ukrainian people. America supports these efforts, and this bill is an important step. By eliminating barriers to trade between the United States and Ukraine, the bill will help Ukraine grow in prosperity. As we've seen over the past 50 years, trade has the power to create new wealth for whole nations and new opportunities for people around the world. By expanding trade with Ukraine, this bill will open new markets for American products and help Ukrainians continue to

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Uncertainty about parliamentary coalition is uppermost in Ukrainian voters' minds



Zenon Zawada

In the week leading up to the parliamentary elections, Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc filled Independence Square with their campaign tents.

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The final days before parliamentary elections here were marked by questions about the make-up of the parliamentary coalition that will call the shots in Ukraine once a new Verkhovna Rada is seated, as well as concerns that some 1 million voters are at risk of not being able to cast their ballots.

Ihor Popov, chair of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, said that an absence or unreliability of information on voter lists threatens the citizens' ability to vote,

especially if they won't have the ability to file a complaint in court, he said.

"The threat also remains that many will have problems voting as a result of disorder or long lines at the polls, which may lead to those declining to participate," Mr. Popov said.

About 20 percent of district election commissions will function with a minimum staff, which threatens their organization, he said, while urging the Ukrainian government to create reserves of workers to fill those commissions that

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Ukrainian Catholics mark 60th anniversary of Soviets' attempted liquidation of their Church

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV – To commemorate the 60th anniversary of its attempted liquidation by Soviet Communists, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church leadership held a procession on March 11, visiting the historic places in Lviv where the repression took place.

More than 6,000 Ukrainian Catholics joined the pilgrimage throughout Lviv's narrow, winding streets dusted by a light snowfall that created a quiet atmosphere of worship and introspection.

The procession came just a week after Ukraine's State Accreditation Commission made a landmark decision on March 2 granting recognition to the Ukrainian Catholic University's theological department and all Ukrainian theological departments.

Ever since its inception, the UCU's leaders have fought for the Ukrainian

government to accredit theological studies and degrees.

Patriarch Lubomyr Husar commenced the commemorative evening's events with a panakhyda (memorial service) held at a square near St. George Cathedral.

Afterwards, he told worshippers that the procession was meant to remember those who saved the Church, supported it and brought it to where it is now.

"The procession's consummation will be a symbol of the Church's vitality," Patriarch Husar said. "Sixty years of hard trials was the road to a new life of strengthened hope. Pray for those who became victims, but also for those who withstood with patience because the strength of our Church was and is in prayer, which united its children with God and amongst each other."

Carrying red candles, the worshippers walked to seven stations throughout Lviv

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Zenon Zawada

Clergy lead a procession in Lviv marking the 60th anniversary of the "pseudo-sobor" organized by Soviet authorities to liquidate the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

ANALYSIS

Poor strategy, the elections and Ukraine's NATO ambitions

by Taras Kuzio

Ukrainian ministers continue to publicly remain optimistic about their country's chances of NATO membership. Different dates are given for the country's entry, from 2008 to 2010. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Khandohiy said Ukraine hoped to be included in those countries invited to join at the 2008 NATO summit, which is expected to be an enlargement summit. Three other countries could be included in this enlargement wave: Croatia, Albania and Macedonia.

Inclusion in the 2008 enlargement wave would likely see Ukraine and the other three countries join NATO in 2010. This would be good timing for Ukraine, as it would follow the October 2009 presidential elections. But, it would assume that the NATO friendly Viktor Yushchenko would be re-elected for a second term or that his successor was pro-NATO.

NATO General Secretary Jaap de Hoop Scheffer supports the view that the 2008 NATO summit would be an enlargement summit that would invite in western Balkan states and Ukraine. He refused to give a concrete follow-up date when these four countries would actually become NATO members.

Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko has said it is likely that Ukraine will obtain a Membership Action Plan (MAP) at the NATO summit in November in Riga – the first to be held in a former Soviet country. This would give Ukraine the opportunity to complete two annual cycles of the MAP before being invited to join NATO.

The unilateralist Bush administration is committed to supporting democratization abroad, including Ukraine and Georgia, which includes giving these countries the protection of NATO. U.S.

Dr. Taras Kuzio is visiting professor, Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. He is also a former head of the NATO Information and Documentation Center, Kyiv.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is on record as supporting Ukraine's NATO membership. An influential Ukrainian newspaper concluded that, "The U.S. will support it in every possible way and call on the other allies to help Ukraine integrate into the alliance."

Unilateralism could work in Ukraine's favor as it reduces the need for the U.S. to take into account Russian objections to NATO membership for Ukraine. This is especially true at a time when democratic regression is taking place in Russia.

The 2003 territorial conflict with Russia over Tuzla island near Crimea, the 2005-2006 gas crisis and the ongoing dispute over Russian Black Sea Fleet's illegal use of Crimean lighthouses have reinforced the need in the minds of a large portion of Ukraine's elites for the country to achieve NATO membership. President Yushchenko told a joint meeting of the National Security and Defense Council and NATO's North Atlantic Council in Kyiv that NATO membership would provide the necessary external guarantees for Ukraine's national security.

NATO membership, Mr. de Hoop Scheffer added, may be also seen as a steppingstone to European Union membership. The EU is currently inclined only to offer "enhanced partnership" to Ukraine rather than full membership. As the "carrot" of EU membership was crucial in encouraging post-Communist states to undertake painful and unpopular reforms, the absence of such a "carrot" may negatively influence reforms inside Ukraine.

Problems on the road to NATO

Although Ukraine has a high chance of being invited into the MAP process in 2006, the time frame for achieving full membership could be delayed beyond the 2008 NATO summit because of the view widely held by European members of NATO that Ukraine is not ready. The three western Balkan states are already in the MAP process.

President Yushchenko is correct to

(Continued on page 17)

Will Moscow continue to back Lukashenka and his regime?

by Claire Bigg

RFE/RL Newsline

While Western leaders have openly expressed their distaste for authoritarian Belarusian leader Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Russian President Vladimir Putin has consistently supported his regime, both politically and economically. Russia has been providing the country with cheap oil and gas, generous loans, and has cancelled customs duties for Belarusian exports to Russia.

According to official preliminary results, President Lukashenka won a landslide victory in the March 19 presidential election, garnering 82.6 percent of the vote. An official victory would enable Mr. Lukashenka, a former collective-farm manager who has ruled Belarus since 1994, to win a third term and remain in office for five more years.

Mr. Putin formally congratulated Mr.

Lukashenka on his victory in a March 20 statement, saying that the "results of the elections point to voters' trust in your policies and to the further growth of the prosperity of the Belarusian people."

Opposition leaders are claiming the vote was rigged and have called for new elections. Several thousand people have massed in a central Miensk square to protest the results. But while the huge margin of victory granted to Mr. Lukashenka by the preliminary results has raised some eyebrows, it is widely believed that he does enjoy enough support at home to have won a majority and avoided a runoff.

Many political observers say Mr. Lukashenka owes his popularity not only to intense propaganda, but also to Russia's robust economic aid, which has allowed him to raise pensions and salaries. But why is Russia throwing its weight behind such a controversial figure as Mr. Lukashenka, who has been isolated by most Western leaders and branded a dictator by Washington?

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NEWSBRIEFS

Tymoshenko: what are president's plans?

KYIV – Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who is also the leader of the eponymous political bloc, called on President Viktor Yushchenko on March 21 to give a "clear-cut and unambiguous" answer to the question whether he is going to create a coalition with his presidential rival Viktor Yanukovich after the March 26 parliamentary elections, Ukrainian media reported. According to Ms. Tymoshenko, the lack of an answer by March 26 will be seen as Mr. Yushchenko's tacit agreement to such a coalition. Ms. Tymoshenko also called on all other political forces to reveal their coalition plans in the new Parliament. Some Ukrainian analysts have speculated that the pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine bloc would prefer Mr. Yanukovich's Party of the Regions to the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc in forming a governing coalition in the new Verkhovna Rada. Meanwhile, Mr. Yanukovich said in a television interview on March 21 that he does not see a possibility for creating a post-election coalition with the Orange Revolution camp. "How is it possible to create a coalition with partners who are propagating evil?" Mr. Yanukovich asked. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Exit poll to be conducted on election day

KYIV – The Democratic Initiatives Fund, the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, and the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies will jointly conduct a nationwide exit poll during the March 26 legislative vote, Interfax-Ukraine reported on March 21. The pollsters are planning to question 18,000 respondents from throughout Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Policeman shoots election campaigner

KYIV – A police officer on March 21 shot and severely wounded Oleksander Hlobenko, a 17-year-old student distributing election materials for the Pora civic organization, the Ukrayinska Pravda website (<http://www.pravda.com.ua>) reported. The incident reportedly took place while the officer was trying to handcuff Hlobenko. The youth reportedly lost four

liters of blood, underwent surgery and remains hospitalized. Pora, which is participating in the parliamentary election in a bloc with the Reforms and Order Party, has demanded a thorough investigation of the incident. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Our Ukraine comments on Belarus vote

KYIV – The pro-presidential Our Ukraine election bloc on March 21 issued a statement saying that it fully shares the preliminary conclusions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's election observation mission that monitored the Belarusian presidential elections. The bloc said on its website that the Belarusian presidential elections did not meet the OSCE commitments made by the leadership of the country and international electoral standards. The bloc also cited the Belarusian authorities' intimidation and persecution of journalists and representatives of the opposition, as well as violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of expression. Ukraine has said that it will formulate its position on the Belarusian presidential elections after the OSCE releases its final conclusions on the elections. Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, who heads the Our Ukraine bloc's list of candidates, has said that Ukraine will prioritize the economic aspects of its relations with Belarus. The Verkhovna Rada chairman has advised Ukrainian authorities to use the conclusions of the Ukrainian observers at the Belarusian presidential elections as guidelines. The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry's spokesman has said that Ukraine has always opposed the isolation of Belarus. (Ukrinform)

Polish Senate: Famine was genocide

KYIV – The Polish Senate (the upper chamber of the Parliament) urged the world community to recognize the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine as a genocide against the Ukrainian people, the Senate's resolution said. In the resolution, Polish senators expressed their solidarity with the people of Ukraine and urged bringing the Famine-Genocide's organizers to responsibility.

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POLITICAL BLOC PROFILES: two blocs that may not make it

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

During the 2006 parliamentary election campaign, *The Ukrainian Weekly* has profiled the leading political blocs. The final installment features two blocs that, according to polls, have only a slight chance to pass the 3 percent barrier.

Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc

Just how powerful is Vitalii Klitschko's image?

Without any political experience, he has achieved about 15 percent electoral support in the Kyiv mayoral race, second or third to incumbent Oleksander Omelchenko.

He has campaigned on a platform of fighting corruption, making business transparent and creating an affordable housing market in Kyiv.

In a Kyiv Post interview published on February 2, he also claimed, "I do not have any business in Ukraine."

Mr. Klitschko's name and face are now synonymous with the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc, a political force that had little hope of breaking the 3 percent vote barrier before his addition.

Most Ukrainian election polls still don't expect the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc to qualify for Parliament. However, of all the dark-horse candidates, this bloc has the best chance.

Party leaders

Though he is running for the Kyiv mayoral race, Mr. Klitschko's name is first on the bloc's election list for Parliament.

Mr. Klitschko himself acknowledged that he is lending his name to the bloc's electoral list to help them win votes.

The remainder of Pora-Reforms and



The logo of the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc.

Order's top five electoral list, which Ukrainian voters will be able to examine, is a who's who of the Orange Revolution's leaders.

Finance Minister and Reforms and Order Party leader Viktor Pynzenyk is second on bloc's list, while Pora Citizens' Party leader Vladyslav Kaskiv is third.

Orange Revolution field commander Taras Stetskiv is fourth on the Pora-Reforms and Order list and the revolution's tent city leader Yevhen Zolotariov is fifth.

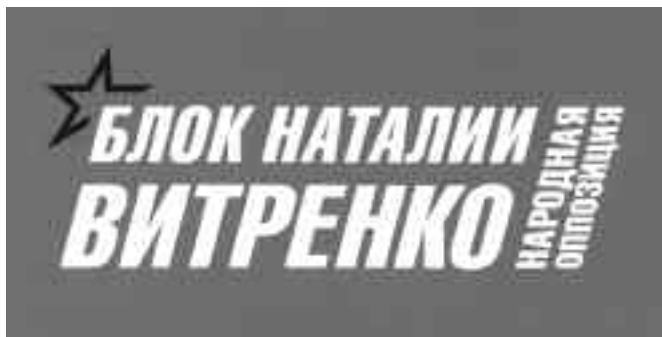
The remainder of Pora-Reforms and

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Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc

She's the type of Ukrainian gal that makes Vladimir Putin proud.

When the Ukrainian Catholic Church moved its headquarters from Lviv to Kyiv on August 21, 2005, it was Natalia Vitrenko who led the violent opposition.



The logo of Natalia Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc.

"They want to make us Catholics! They want to destroy our faith!" she thundered into a loudspeaker in an attempt to disrupt the divine liturgy.

Two months later, she led thousands to violently clash with Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) veterans on the Khreschatyk as they attempted to conduct their annual ceremony to honor the fallen on the Feast Day of the Mother of God's Protection.

It's no wonder that Ms. Vitrenko, who once represented the Konotop region as a national deputy in Ukraine's Parliament, has earned the nickname "Konotopska Vidma" (witch from Konotop).

Party leaders

Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc

is among those political forces based on a single personality, though the 54-year-old Ms. Vitrenko has clearly delineated political and ideological principles.

Second on the bloc's election list is Volodymyr Marchenko, her close ally with whom she formed the Progressive Socialist Party in 1996.

Luhansk resident Pavlo Baulin, 57, third on the list, is the chief editor of the

Ruskaya Pravda newspaper, and Liudmyla Bezuhla, 59, is an Odesa resident and leader of the women's organization Dar Zhizni (Gift of Life).

Fifth on the list is one of the bloc's most prominent supporters, Leonid Anisimov, the assistant general director of the Motor

Sich airplane engine factory in Zaporizhia.

Political strategy

For those eastern and southern Ukrainians who feel the Party of the Regions and Communists are too moderate for their tastes, there's Ms. Vitrenko's national opposition bloc.

Vitrenko supporters resent Ukrainian independence to such a degree that they fly only the Russian flag at their rallies.

Ms. Vitrenko supports all unification efforts with the Russian Federation, especially the Single Economic Space, as well as dual Russian-Ukrainian citizenship for all Ukrainians.

(Continued on page 11)

Final pre-election poll results show Party of the Regions with the lead

RFE/RL Newsline

KYIV – A number of Ukrainian polling organizations announced their latest predictions regarding voter preferences for the March 26 parliamentary elections, Ukrainian news agencies reported.

March 10 was the last day before election day, when Ukrainian law permits the release of election survey results. Following are the results released by four polling organizations for the top three parties/blocs.

Institute of Social and Political Psychology:

Party of the Regions, 26 percent

Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, 17.9 percent
Our Ukraine, 15.7 percent

Image-Control Pollster:

Party of the Regions, 25.9 percent
Our Ukraine, 18 percent
Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, 15.3 percent

Institute of Political and Sociological Studies:

Party of the Regions, 26.1 percent
Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, 22.3 percent
Our Ukraine, 16.7 percent

All-Ukrainian Sociological Service:

Party of the Regions, 20.1 percent
Our Ukraine, 16.4 percent
Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, 14.9 percent

Election Notebook

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

• KYIV – The fiercely pro-Russian Derzhava political party, led by former Procurator General Hennadii Vasyliev, has resorted to attacking the Ukrainian American diaspora in its literature.

"We are proud of our nation, our people, our glorious and heroic history, our Orthodox traditions!" states a party flier. "We want to see Ukraine great, prosperous and free! We are patriots of our Slavic-Orthodox Nation!"

"They think that speaking Ukrainian with an American accent mixed with Polish, Romanian and Hungarian words is more patriotic than speaking in Russian," the flier states.

"They deny us the right to call ourselves patriots," the flier states. "For them, patriots are Ivan Mazepa, who sold out his people with an agreement with foreign invaders, and Stepan Bandera, stooges [sic] who shot Soviet soldiers in the back while going to Berlin."

"They raise their children to become American soldiers, while we [do so based] on the traditions of our ancestors."

For 2006 the parliamentary elections, Derzhava formed a political bloc, Derzhava-Trudovyi Soyuz (Power-Workers' Union).

The bloc isn't expected to make the 3 percent barrier for the Verkhovna Rada.

• KYIV – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of American (UCCA) hosted a town hall meeting on Hrushevsky Street in downtown Kyiv on March 23, capping off a nationwide series that visited 10 Ukrainian cities.

At the "Voice Your Vote" town halls, representatives of political blocs and parties presented their platforms and then engaged in dialogues with voters.

"People even asked some uncomfortable questions of the political blocs," said Anatolii Yakovets, the coordinator of the "Voice Your Vote" program. "Not all were answered."

Popular political topics included social security and education.

The UCCA first hosted town hall meetings during the 1998 parliamentary elections; it did so again during the 2004 presidential campaign.

Since the project's inception, the UCCA estimates it has reached 20,000 Ukrainian voters. Between 50 and 250 voters attended this year's meeting across Ukraine.

A \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for Democracy financed this year's town halls, said Khristina Lew, the project's coordinator, while UCCA-fund-

ed brochures were given out to voters.

So what can be said of the Ukrainian voter?

"People are exhausted from the election process," Ms. Lew said. "And most people have already decided who to vote for," she added.

• KYIV – Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko accused mayoral challenger and Praveks Bank President Leonid Chernovetskyi of allowing his bank to aid in the laundering of money stolen from the Elita-Center investors.

"Praveks Bank of Kyiv is the single largest and most responsible [for the scandal], which created two internal limited liability companies which I can't reveal because they are confidential," Mr. Omelchenko said at a March 22 press conference. "Through these two companies, they cashed Ukrainian currency into American dollars."

About 1,500 investors found out in mid-February that they had lost more than \$70 million they had entrusted to Elita-Center, a real estate company that claimed it was building seven apartment complexes in Kyiv.

The company's partners, Russian-born Oleksander Volkonskyi and Kyiv resident Oleh Shestak, are subject to international search warrants.

In response, Mr. Chernovetskyi said Mr. Omelchenko was engaging in a classic case of "black PR," adding that he would sue Mr. Omelchenko for defamation. Mr. Chernovetskyi said that several weeks ago Mr. Omelchenko demanded that he quit the mayoral race, threatening to reveal the scandal.

Mr. Omelchenko leads the Kyiv mayoral race with 31 percent support, according to a February poll conducted by the Ukrainian Sociology Service led by pollster Oleksander Vyshniak.

He became the target of widespread protests and blame for creating conditions in Kyiv's government that allowed real estate scams to occur.

Mr. Chernovetskyi enjoys 16 percent support, while 15 percent of Kyiv voters said they would cast their ballots for Vitalii Klitschko.

• KYIV – A civic group calling itself Rodina Vostok (Eastern Homeland) has called on Ukrainian voters to select "against all parties" when casting their ballots to protest the closed party list system.

In the parliamentary elections,

(Continued on page 12)

Why five members of the House did not vote for HR 1053

by Yarema Belej

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – When the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a bill to graduate Ukraine from the trade restrictions of the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment, three members of the House of Representatives – all of whom are members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus – declared themselves “present” and did not cast a “yes” or “no” vote.

In addition there were two votes of “no” for the bill, which also grants permanent normal trade relations to Ukraine.

The reasons for these five dissident votes are varied.

Voting “no” on March 8 regarding HR 1053 were Reps. Virgil H. Goode (R-Va.) and Gene Taylor (D-Miss.). Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) and Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.) all declared themselves “present.” A total of 437 members of the House voted in support of the bill.

The Ukrainian Weekly contacted the offices of each of the five representatives for comment on their action regarding this landmark bill for Ukraine.

Rep. Goode’s office forwarded a message in which the congressman simply stated: “I have consistently voted no on free trade agreements, including those with Africa, Chile, Central America, China and others.”

The office of Rep. Taylor failed to comment on his “no” vote despite several attempts by The Ukrainian Weekly to obtain an explanation.

The three “present” votes came from representatives who sit on the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC), which comprises members of Congress who are interested in matters concerning Ukraine. Most notably, Rep. Kaptur is one of the four co-chairs of the caucus.

A declaration of “present” is much different from an “abstention” or a “no” vote – something that was underlined by the offices of the three members of Congress who opted to record their positions on HR 1053 in that manner.

Reps. Kaptur and Kucinich, both Democrats from Ohio released a joint statement that was read on Capitol Hill. They explained that theirs was not a “no” vote, but more of a “we know” vote.

“We have been strong supporters of

political freedom in Ukraine and have advanced the cause of Ukrainian culture internationally and in the United States,” read their statement. “...We know that democracy is on the march in Ukraine. We also know that the conditions for a fully functioning democracy are not in place.”

Citing what they believe are Ukraine’s shortcomings in meeting requirements of a previous bill to lift Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions on Ukraine (H.R. 3939 in the 107th Congress), Reps. Kaptur and Kucinich said that there were several conditions – including issues related to labor rights, trafficking of women and drugs, freedom of the press, legislative reforms, restitution of religious property, rule of law, environmental protection, transparency of elections and settlement of trade disputes – that should have been met before the current bill was passed. (The full text of the Ohio representatives’ statement appears below.)

Most notably, their statement noted that there is a university in Ukraine that “sadly, is still teaching anti-Semitism.” The reference is to the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management (known by its Ukrainian-based acronym as MAUP).

The MAUP was cited also by Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), who said in his speech on the House floor that the university is “the principal source” of “anti-

Semitic agitation” in Ukraine. Nonetheless, Rep. Lantos voted for HR 1053, citing Ukraine’s commitment to defending the rights of all national minorities and noting that President Viktor Yushchenko and Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk had both condemned the MAUP.

In their joint statement Reps. Kaptur and Kucinich also expressed concern that, if appropriate safeguards are not put in place, Ukrainian citizens’ wealth could be transferred to multi-national corporations that do not adhere to human rights, labor rights and environmental quality standards.

The response from the office of Rep. Hastings indicated that his vote of “present” was more a political move than an expression of his beliefs that somehow Ukraine had fallen short of meeting requirements for permanent normal trade relations.

Rep. Hastings explained that, as president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), he will lead the U.S. delegation observing Ukraine’s parliamentary elections. It is his belief that HR 1053 was very important to certain political parties in Ukraine and, because of this, he did not want to seem biased before functioning in a very important and neutral capacity on election day in Ukraine.

Statement by Kaptur, Kucinich

Following is the text of a statement released by Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) regarding their decision not to support HR 1053 to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Ms. Kaptur is a co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, while Mr. Kucinich is a member.

Mr. Speaker: We have been strong supporters of political freedom in Ukraine and have advanced the cause of Ukrainian culture internationally and in the United States.

Today we voted “present” on HR 1053, a bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine. We wish to make clear that this was not a “no” vote, but a “we know” vote.

We know that democracy is on the march in Ukraine. We also know that the conditions for a fully functioning democracy are not in place.

We adhere to the principles of a similar bill to lift Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik in the 107th Congress, HR 3939. However, that bill specified certain conditions be met prior to lifting that reflect the spirit of the law as much as the letter of the law, including that the government of Ukraine:

(1) adopt and institute policies that remove undue restrictions and harassment on labor organizations to freely associate according to internationally recognized labor rights;

(2) take additional positive steps to transfer places of worship and related religious property for all confessions to their original owners;

(3) establish an independent legal and judicial system with rule of law that is free of political interference and corruption;

(4) commit to providing funding and administrative support for reforms of the legislature;

(5) demonstrate a firm commitment to freedom of the press by prohibiting physical harm and intimidation of journalists through such means as prevention of abuse of tax and libel laws;

(6) adopt and vigorously enforce laws to prohibit the trafficking of

women and of illicit narcotics;

(7) accelerate governmental structural reform and land privatization policies which benefit ordinary citizens;

(8) adopt a more comprehensive program to protect the environment;

(9) support internationally recognized standards of transparency in monitoring of elections; and

(10) remedy trade disputes involving violation of international property rights, trans-shipment of counterfeit goods and dumping of such products as steel into the United States market in such increased quantities as to cause harm to the domestic industry.

Despite our high aspirations for Ukraine, we do not believe that these conditions have been met, although we are mindful that there are people in civil society working to bring these principles to fruition.

The Jackson-Vanik requirement for annual review of the trading relationship was originally intended as a way to sanction anti-Semitic regimes. According to the Anti-Defamation League, in a document attached to this statement, that we attach for the record, at least one university in Ukraine, sadly, is still teaching anti-Semitism in Ukraine.

We have both worked to ensure human rights, labor rights and environmental quality standards are included in trade agreements. However, the WTO does not permit trade on this basis. This makes new entrants into the WTO highly vulnerable to the export of their jobs to nations which offer cheap labor and no standards. A transfer of wealth from the great mass of the people of Ukraine to multi-national corporate interests will result unless there are safeguards. Any nation, and Ukraine is no exception, which is heavily influenced by oligarchical interests, could easily be sacrificed. We remain committed to continuing to work with the valiant people of Ukraine and the wonderful groups of the diaspora to lift up the economic, political and social progress of the Ukrainian people. We are optimistic about the blossoming of freedom, economic democracy and human rights in Ukraine.

As Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 1)

lack a quorum.

Meanwhile, in the week leading up to the March 26 elections, both the Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko blocs smothered the maidan (Independence Square) and the Khreschatyk with dozens of campaign tent stands in attempt to lay claim as the successor political force to the Orange Revolution.

The result is a sea of orange and white tents representing the competing blocs.

Five scenarios have emerged for the post-election situation, according to a senior Western diplomat speaking in on background Kyiv.

The most likely outcome is the Our Ukraine Bloc forming a coalition with the Party of the Regions. However, President Viktor Yushchenko stands to lose an enormous amount of support and credibility with this scenario.

Our Ukraine may also be able to renew an Orange coalition with the Yulia

Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party of Ukraine. Or Yulia Tymoshenko might unite with the Party of the Regions.

While Mr. Yushchenko has not ruled out forming a coalition with any political bloc, Ms. Tymoshenko has said she will never unite with the Party of the Regions.

Political chaos may also ensue. It is possible that no coalition will be formed and President Yushchenko will then call for a repeat election. Or any coalition that is formed could fall apart within months.

Finally, in the least likely of scenarios, the Party of the Regions could win a large enough number of votes that it won’t have to form a coalition.

The U.S. government is prepared to work with any government that is formed, and would have worked with President Viktor Yanukovich had he won the 2004 presidential elections fairly, the senior diplomat said. Mr. Yanukovich understands that Ukraine is now different, and has effectively tailored his image and strengthened his electorate with the help of U.S. political consultants.

Yushchenko says March 26 vote is second stage of Orange Revolution

RFE/RL Newsline

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in an interview with the Kyiv-based publication Kommersant-Ukrayina published on March 23 that the parliamentary vote in Ukraine will be a “second part of what the maidan [the Orange Revolution headquarters on Independence Square in Kyiv] spoke about and fought for.”

Mr. Yushchenko said the “ideal scenario” for him in the post-election period would be to restore the Orange Revolution coalition in Ukraine.

“[It will be] difficult, difficult [to do this]. Because many political statements made during the campaign were incompatible with each other. But we are speaking about politics, about elections. As regards the implementation of national interests, goals, ideals, I think that a lot of incredible things may happen,” Mr. Yushchenko noted.

Asked about whether Yulia Tymoshenko can become the prime minister once again, the president said: “Speaking frankly, it is not very pleasant for me to comment on this issue now.”

Tired of searching and surfing?

The Ukrainian Weekly – your one reliable source for all the news about Ukraine and Ukrainians.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Branch 13 holds annual meeting, elects delegates to convention

WATERVLIET, N.Y. — Ukrainian National Association Branch 13, the St. Nicholas Brotherhood, held its yearly meeting on February 19, at which time new officers were elected and two delegates were selected to the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association to be held in May at the UNA's Soyuzivka estate.

The St. Nicholas Brotherhood was founded on December 12, 1895, and three years later UNA Branch 13 was formed. For more than 100 years, the brotherhood — has continued to carry out its tradition of community activism and charitable assistance to those in need. To this day Branch 13 meets monthly and has a regular attendance of about 20 members.

Mykola Fil, branch president, opened the meeting. Secretary John Zendran read the names of all deceased members of the brotherhood, while Paul Shewchuk, branch secretary, read the names of the deceased members of Branch 13.

After greeting all in attendance, Mr. Fil proceeded by recognizing Axcenty Urban, who at age 91 is the senior, most active member of the brotherhood. The members honored Mr. Urban by joining together in singing "Mnohaya Lita."

The meeting then proceeded with its official business.

Slavko Tysiak was asked to run the interim yearly meeting, and John Uruskyj served as secretary for the meeting. Mr. Fil read his report on the activities of 2005 and concluded by thanking Branch Secretary Shewchuk for his many years of service both to the UNA and to the brotherhood.

Mr. Shewchuk served as UNA Branch 13 secretary for 40 years and devoted his life to the betterment of the local community, and to the UNA as both an insurance provider and a national organization devoted to furthering the goals and aspirations of Ukrainians here and abroad. Mr. Fil stated that Mr. Shewchuk had demonstrated over the years that he was one of the UNA's best branch secretaries by enrolling more than

300 members and insurance policyholders.

Mr. Fil also thanked Secretary Zendran for recording the official minutes of all monthly meetings of the brotherhood for the past 40 years. His meeting minutes provide a rich history of the activities and good works of the many members of this longstanding organization. Mr. Fil reminded everyone that we should all be guided by the great respect for good works that Mr. Zendran always demonstrated in the way he carried out his brotherhood duties, and in the way that he always stepped forward to help in any project or undertaking of the brotherhood.

After presentation of the financial report by the Auditing Committee, Mr. Tysiak called for acceptance of all reports presented by past officers and the Auditing Committee. The membership then relieved the 2005 president and officers of their official duties, and proceeded with the election of a new slate of members into leadership positions for 2006.

The newly elected officers of the UNA Branch 13 for 2006 are: Mr. Tysiak, president; Walter Litynsky, vice-president; Taras Myshchuk, secretary; Mr. Zendran, assistant secretary; John Suchowacki, treasurer; Andrij Wasienko, assistant treasurer; Mr. Fil, UNA secretary, Mr. Shewchuk, assistant UNA secretary, Visitation of the Infirm Committee Chairs Sam Ksenych and Stefan Gebuza and Auditing Committee Members Andrij Demczar, Olexander Serdyuk and John Uruskyj.

Following the election of brotherhood branch officers, the members proceeded with the election of delegates and alternates to the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association. The members elected Mr. Tysiak and Mr. Fil as delegates, with Messrs. Suchowacki and Myshchuk as alternate delegates.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Tysiak, the new president, thanked the members for their support and invited everyone to a group picture followed by a light reception.

CONVENTION PRIMER: Conventions, the UNA's highest decision-making body

As the Ukrainian National Association, its officers and members prepare for the organization's 36th Regular Convention, which will convene on Friday, May 26, at the Soyuzivka estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y., The Ukrainian Weekly is publishing a series titled "Convention Primer" that will explain the UNA's goals, structure and operations.

Every four years, the Ukrainian National Association holds its regular convention. The word "regular" is used here to differentiate a regularly scheduled quadrennial convention from a "special" convention that may be called by the fraternal organization when dictated by need (as is explained below).

In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, notice of the convention must be given at least four months before the date it is to convene. (This year, for example, the official announcement of the convention was dated January 20; the convention will convene on May 26.)

The convention is the UNA's highest decision-making body. It has the power

to: "enact legislation necessary for the government of the Association, including the enactment, revision, repeal and amendment of the Laws and By-Laws of the Association."

It also has the authority to "act on the reports of the General Assembly and branches," to "determine the amounts of the bond and salaries of the officers," and to "act upon such resolutions and recommendations as may be introduced for the well-being of the Association." There is an important distinction between resolutions, which must be implemented, and recommendations, which merely need to be considered.

Perhaps most importantly, the convention nominates and elects by ballot the General Assembly of the UNA, which comprises the executive officers — president, first vice-president, second vice-president, director for Canada, national secretary and treasurer; three members of the UNA Auditing Committee; and 11 advisors. (It should be noted that the size

(Continued on page 12)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 500

As of March 15, 2006, the secretary's duties of Branch 500 were assumed by Mr. Myroslav Hladyshevsky. We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mr. Myroslav Hladyshevsky
10 Marlowe Place, N.E.
Calgary, AB T2E 5P8
Canada
(403) 277-3830

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 465

As of March 15, 2006, the secretary's duties of Branch 465 were assumed by Mr. Alexander Kisak. We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mr. Alexander Kisak
12 Brittany St.
Baie D'Urfe, QC M9X 3E9
Canada
(514) 457-9566

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 269

As of March 15, 2006, the secretary's duties of Branch 269 were assumed by Mrs. Valentina Kaploun. We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mrs. Valentina Kaploun
100 Montgomery St., Apt. 18-M
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 432-7357

DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES OF CHICAGO, IL

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2006, at 11:00 a.m.
at the Ukrainian Cultural Center
2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are
District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates
and two delegates each from the following branches:
17, 22, 114, 125, 131, 139, 220, 221, 379, 399, 423, 452, 472

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:
Michael Kuropas — UNA Advisor
Andrij Skyba — UNA Advisor
Dr. Myron Kuropas — Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly

DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Stefko Kuropas, District Chairman
Andrij Skyba, Secretary
Bohdan Kukuruza, Treasurer

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The vote in Belarus

The March 19 presidential election in Belarus, Ukraine's neighbor to the north, in which President Alyaksandr Lukashenka won a third term in office with nearly 83 percent of the vote, has been unequivocally described as rigged. The next highest vote-getter was opposition candidate Alyaksandr Milinkevich, who won merely 6 percent, if the official figures are to be believed. (It should be noted here that a 2004 referendum had approved a constitutional amendment that did away with the two-term limit for the office of president, thus paving the way for Mr. Lukashenka's third term. That referendum itself was condemned by international observers as a rigged vote.)

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union and the Council of Europe have all said the election did not meet international standards and have condemned the abuse of state power. The EU has said that new sanctions against Mr. Lukashenka and his regime are quite likely.

In the United States, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said: "We support the [opposition's] call for a new election. We will stand with the people of Belarus and back their aspirations to take their rightful place among the world's democracies."

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Mr. Lukashenka: "The outcome of the elections demonstrates the confidence of voters in your course aimed at further raising the well-being of the Belarusian people."

On election night, in defiance of the authorities' threats of arrests on charges of terrorism, 20,000 people gathered in the center of the Belarusian capital, constituting the largest anti-government rally in Belarus in 12 years. Since then the opposition has staged a continuous demonstration in October Square – an expression of public sentiment reminiscent of Ukraine's Orange Revolution – to protest fraud in the presidential election and to demand a new vote.

Mr. Lukashenka called his re-election a victory over foreign pressure exerted by states that are critical of his regime. "The revolution that was talked about so much and prepared for so much has failed," he boasted, adding that "the virus of colored revolutions affects weakened countries..."

The opposition, however, does not agree. "We have won and it does not matter what they announce; they will announce a ridiculous percentage [for Lukashenka]," RFE/RL quoted Mr. Milinkevich as telling the demonstrators on March 19. "We have won because people believe they can stand up for freedom, truth, justice and their own dignity. ... This is a victory over fear."

Thousands continued to demonstrate on succeeding days, with several hundred demonstrators opting to remain on the square overnight. The demonstrators received the backing of the ambassadors of the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic, who came out to the square on March 21 to show their support for the people of Belarus.

The OSCE's chairman-in-office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, speaking of over 200 detentions in the first three days following the elections, underscored that "It is unacceptable that people are being detained for trying to uphold their right to assembly and to express their views in a peaceful way. The Belarusian authorities must immediately put an end to the persecution of their opponents."

And still the demonstrations continued, as Mr. Milinkevich called on the protesters to remain in the square through March 25, the 88th anniversary of the Belarusian Democratic Republic, an independent, but short-lived state from 1918.

There are many young people among the demonstrators. An 18-year-old student, Stepan Svidersky, told The New York Times on March 22: "They may attack and beat us, and inflict great trauma. But we have already achieved a result: We have shown our country that we are not afraid to stand against arbitrary rule."

And thus, perhaps there is reason to believe that the newborn freedom movement has a chance for success in Belarus, the last dictatorship in Europe.

March
31
1996

Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, in our issue dated March 31, 1996, our top story was about an alternative to the draft constitution developed by Ukraine's Constitutional Committee. "The Constitution of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic" – which did not differ from the most recent (1978) fundamental law of the Ukrainian SSR – was signed by 125 left-wing members of Ukraine's Parliament.

Representatives of the Communist, Socialist and Agrarian factions made good on their threat to present their own version of a draft constitution, which stated that the Ukrainian SSR represents a "socialist state of the people expressing the will of the workers, peasants, working intelligentsia, of all people who have created material and spiritual values by their honest labor effort."

The alternative constitution did not include the post of president, but it did provide for a Council of Ministers as the supreme executive body of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The draft also envisaged three forms of property: citizens' (earned by labor), collective and state, and listed both Ukrainian and Russian as state languages. The trident was to be replaced by the hammer and sickle and a red five-pointed star as the coat of arms of the Ukrainian SSR. The blue-and-yellow flag was to be replaced by the old red-and-blue banner of the Ukrainian SSR.

The draft constitution that had been presented by the Constitutional Committee and submitted to Parliament was written by a group that represented all factions of Parliament. However, the left-wingers on the committee did not approve the completed draft.

The alternative Communist constitution was harshly criticized by Ukraine's national democrats, who viewed the move as a provocation pure and simple. Les Taniuk, a member of the Rukh faction in Parliament, said "This move by the left forces, in my opinion, is a farce; it is not serious. ... it comes off looking not like a drama, but like a parody."

Source: "Communists propose own version of new Constitution for Ukraine," by Marta Kolomayets, Kyiv Press Bureau, The Ukrainian Weekly, March 31, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 13.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA

KYIV PRESS BUREAU



Now that the campaign is over...

Alas, the 2006 parliamentary election campaign has come to a close.

Regardless of the outcome, your trusty Kyiv reporter can already draw several conclusions.

If the much-speculated parliamentary coalition emerges between the Our Ukraine bloc and the Party of the Regions, then President Viktor Yushchenko and his party will lose an immense amount of credibility and support.

The two political blocs have a lot in common: they are full of wealthy businessmen (formerly known as oligarchs), they support free-market economics (for the most part) and they support globalization efforts such as Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization.

But their differences in whether to orient Ukraine toward the Russian Federation (Party of the Regions) or the European Union (Our Ukraine) are so large that a coalition would likely keep Ukraine in its current holding pattern and prevent decisive steps in either direction.

As much as I have tried to understand eastern Ukrainians and sympathize with them, they are very misguided for supporting the Party of the Regions, for reasons not related to politics.

In principle, it is simply wrong to vote for people who have flagrantly broken laws while occupying positions of power. When leaders themselves don't uphold a nation's laws, then that's when chaos begins to set in.

When voters decide to re-elect such people to office, they've made a decision to remain slaves to money and power instead of trying to build a fairer and more lawful society.

However, as I recently learned in a visit to Luhansk, eastern Ukrainians genuinely don't believe their leaders have acted in any criminal way. Ignorance is bliss, I suppose.

I understand eastern Ukrainians wanting to maintain close political and economic ties with their neighbor, the Russian Federation. However, their resistance to European integration will only ensure that Ukraine remains a divided and fought-over "borderland" with no firm direction for its future.

Their refusal to get on the bus bound for Europe also ensures that Ukraine will continue to be sliced up, divided and exploited by the world's empires, be it the Russian Federation, the European Union or the United States.

Furthermore, the Party of the Regions lacks vision for Ukraine, and instead thrives on fear and ignorance.

The vast majority of its election campaign, whether in advertisements or campaign speeches, has been based on attacking Viktor Yushchenko and his performance since he assumed the presidency.

At a February press event in which Viktor Yanukovich was supposed to unveil the party's economic strategy, he spent most of his 50-minute speech attacking his political opponents instead, especially Mr. Yushchenko.

This is not only morally weak, as Mr. Yushchenko put it. It is hostile and dangerous for Ukraine.

At the same Party of the Regions event, I approached their No. 2 leader, Nina Karpachova, identifying myself as an "American journalist" and kindly

asked her to pose for a photo. Her knee-jerk reaction was to turn her back to me to prevent any photograph. Talk about lousy PR skills. Imagine what her reaction would have been if I had told her I represented a "Ukrainian American newspaper."

As a professional journalist, I am not going to judge an entire party based on a small, insignificant slight. However, let's look at these party's overall behavior and words.

In spite of the millions the Party of the Regions has invested in polishing its image, it's the party's bitter, angry souls that need repentance.

Consider Mr. Yanukovich's comment on March 2 in Kharkiv that "24 days are left and we will once again be masters of our own land and we won't let anyone rule in our home."

"We need power, and we are ready to take it from your hands," he said. "On March 26, we should show them who's the master of our home."

This is the voice of desperation. For decades, eastern Ukrainians were the pride of Soviet Ukraine, embracing the Russian language and culture, working in its productive and relatively well-paying factories, mines and industries. That all came to an abrupt end when the Soviet Union collapsed.

And with the recent rebirth of Ukrainian culture and identity, they now feel like second-class citizens. After mocking "villagers" for speaking Ukrainian, they have become the targets of laughter for speaking such lousy Ukrainian.

As for the Orange split, I can't blame either Mr. Yushchenko or Yulia Tymoshenko. They are both correct in their own right; therefore, I believe the split was meant to happen.

Mr. Yushchenko is correct when he says that Ms. Tymoshenko sometimes puts her own interests ahead of all others, and Ms. Tymoshenko is correct when she accuses the Our Ukraine leaders of engaging in corruption.

It's become a biblical truth among Ukrainians that "Yushchenko's a good man, but it's his circle that's corrupt."

The Kostenko-Pliusch Bloc is just as much to blame for the Orange disunity as Ms. Tymoshenko. Sure, their shade of orange might be deeper than Our Ukraine, and maybe their platform is more Ukrainian. But were their differences significant enough to justify creating a separate bloc that will skim votes away from Our Ukraine? I believe not.

The Kostenko-Pliusch Bloc won't qualify for the Verkhovna Rada and they deserve to fall short for their political miscalculation.

No blame for Orange disunity need go toward the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc, because I believe Ms. Tymoshenko is correct in assessing them as a political project aided by the Our Ukraine Bloc.

Vitalii Klitschko's name atop the Pora-Reforms list was a brilliant victory. It's a relief that Mr. Klitschko has expressed support for the Ukrainian language, even though he's only started to study and learn it recently.

"The identity of every country is its language," Mr. Klitschko told the Kyiv Post in its February 2 issue. "In France, they speak French. In Spain, they speak

(Continued on page 19)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Wormwood' author responds to letter

Dear Editor:

I am gratified that Natalka Gawdiak perused "Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl" so carefully as to notice that there are three bars in Chernobyl, and no footnotes in my book. But the bars are for the zone workers, for whom I have enormous respect; and the footnotes were – as Ms. Gawdiak correctly points out – in the original manuscript. I deferred to my publisher's advice to leave them out.

Writing a popular science book is a delicate balancing act between satisfying the experts with accuracy, and not boring everyone else with too much information. "Wormwood Forest" is a personal narrative written for an audience with no technical background. Except for a few scientific reviewers and Ms. Gawdiak, no one has complained about the absence of notes.

It is amusing to be described as a "handmaiden" in some plot to make nuclear energy more palatable.

That I have reluctantly come to support nuclear energy, at least for the time being, makes me no more a handmaiden of that industry than Ms. Gawdiak's anti-nuclear position makes her a "handmaiden" of Gazprom, trying to keep Ukraine dependent on Russian fossil fuels (which it is, and for which she suggests no alternative). Even now, Ukraine is negotiating alternative nuclear fuel supplies from the U.S. instead of Russia. But fossil fuel alternatives will require much time, money and political will.

All forms of energy have costs – the war in Iraq, global warming, coal miners' deaths, Russian leverage in Ukrainian politics, disposing of spent nuclear fuel, or terrorism – much of which is funded by American dependence on Middle Eastern oil. Those are just a few. My native Long Island is debating the placement of windmills – an alternative energy source that everyone likes in theory – off the coast of Jones Beach. They would look like a fuzzy crosshatching on the horizon. But ruining the view is enough to generate opposition.

Ms. Gawdiak's complaint about "Wormwood Forest's" supposed neglect of the liquidator issue is particularly inapt. An entire library could be devoted to all aspects of the Chernobyl disaster. The 600,000 liquidators' stories could fill volumes. Ms. Gawdiak can write one of them if that subject interests her. My passion is the radioactive land's natural recovery, which continues to move me so much that I go back there again and again. I expressed that passion as best I could in "Wormwood Forest."

Mary Mycio
Kyiv

Mary Mycio is the author of "Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl." Readers may visit the "Wormwood Forest" homepage at www.chernobyl.in.ua.

A call to Ukrainian sports enthusiasts

Dear Editor:

I would like to address this letter to fellow Ukrainian sports enthusiasts. My name is Marc Lapointe-Denysewch, and I am the founder and coach of the first all Ukrainian soccer team in Ottawa.

I am urging all Ukrainian sport clubs and soccer clubs to please contact me. I would like to have contact information for all the the sport clubs and soccer teams so that we can keep in close contact.

Through a strong link among our Ukrainian clubs all over the world, we can share creative ideas with each other regarding running a successful club, and for potential tournaments and events that we can have together.

This is a unique opportunity for many clubs to get in touch with each other that promises future events and tournaments.

Please contact me at marclapointe@rogers.com with your information or questions. Please have a look at our website: www.momentumdesign.ca/ukrainaroyals.

Marc Lapointe
Ottawa

"Good nationalism" and common sense

Dear Editor:

I noticed the ongoing debate about nationalism in letters to The Ukrainian Weekly (e.g. March 5). As a onetime avid reader of Dmytro Dontsov's works who later became acquainted with some of the real-life chapters and shades of the issues, I find the present exchange somewhat abstract and occasionally ivory-towered.

The practical significance of nationalism for today's Ukraine is minimal. Political groups embroidered with the word "nationalism" draw not more than about 1 percent of the vote, east and west, in Ukraine. Nationalism might be more popular if it could be used to make synthetic gas.

A substantial majority of people in Ukraine need to acquire a sense of national identity and speak the Ukrainian language – if they are to climb out of their political and socio-economic rut. I would hardly call such a goal nationalistic. It's just common sense.

"Good nationalism" exists throughout the world, and so does the toxic kind that qualifies as zoological chauvinism, jingoism, xenophobia, racism. Examples of the latter can be found in the least expected places. For instance, Winston Churchill's views about people of the Middle-East expressed in his memoirs, fall in that category.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, N.J.

Quotable notes

"We, the Latvian people, have not been put by the good Lord on this earth to make Russia happy. We have our own lives to live and as we see fit. And we wish the Russians joy, and we wish them a happy and prosperous life."

– Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga, responding to comments that Latvia's membership in NATO would anger Russia, as quoted on March 8 by The Washington Post in the article "A Latvian First and Always" by Nora Boustany.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Chicago: my kind of town

The American Institute of Architects recently named Chicago the city with the finest architecture in the country. Atlantic Magazine book critic, Benjamin Schwarz, is not surprised. He calls it "affirming the evident," and notes that "Chicago holds more important buildings of the past century and a half than any other place in the world."

I'm no expert, but I don't disagree. Driving in from the east on the Chicago Skyway, you see a dramatic skyline, dominated by the Sears Tower at one end and the Hancock Building at the other. At ground level, walking up Michigan Avenue, Wabash or in the neighborhoods, you marvel at the diversity and how often stone, glass, brick and concrete are joined in a perfect wedding of form and function to create what Schwarz calls "one of this country's greatest contributions to modern civilization."

No building in Chicago appeals to me more than the Tribune Tower on Northern Michigan Avenue. With neo-gothic arches, flying buttresses and soaring columns, this 1922 building is beautiful to be sure, but what's particularly interesting is the collection of stones inserted into the ground level walls from famous sites around the world, including the Arc de Triomphe and Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Parthenon in Athens, the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, the Berlin Wall, the Taj Mahal, the White House, the Kremlin in Moscow, even the moon itself.

Ah, but nothing from Ukraine. Nothing, that is, until 2002, when retired Chicago physician Jaroslav Panchuk decided to do something about it. I've known Dr. Panchuk ever since he agreed to welcome me into his family as his son-in-law. As a person, he's tactful and diplomatic, yet utterly implacable when he decides on the proper course of action.

And so, when he took his grandchildren to the Tribune Tower to see the historic stones imbedded there and perhaps stimulate dreams of visiting Stonehenge, the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Egypt and more than 130 other places, Dr. Panchuk wanted one of those options to include his native Ukraine. So he picked up the phone, called the offices of the Chicago Tribune and asked to speak with the person in charge of placing rock fragments into the building wall. He didn't stop until he had persuaded the powers that be that the Tribune Tower collection was incomplete without a contribution from Ukraine.

Then, working with the Ukrainian Consulate in Chicago and through them with the State Scientific-Technological Center for Conservation and Restoration of Monuments in Kyiv, Dr. Panchuk arranged for a fragment from St. Michael's Monastery to be delivered to Chicago where it's now imbedded alongside fragments from the Alamo, Mammoth Cave, Westminster Abbey and David's Tower in Jerusalem.

St. Michael's is a fitting choice. Originally built in 1108 by Kniaz (Prince) Sviatopolk, it stood near St. Sophia Square in Kyiv for more than 800 years. To be sure, the building was damaged during the Mongol invasions, but Orthodox clergy restored and renovated it during the Kozak era, its golden domes attesting to the glory of God and the might of Kyivan Rus'. Then in 1922, Lenin and the Bolsheviks closed it down; in 1936 under Stalin, the monastery was dynamited to the ground. With the

restoration of Ukrainian independence in 1991, a campaign was launched to also restore St. Michael's Monastery; it reopened in 1998. Next time you're in Chicago, make a point of going to the Tribune Building to see the stone fragment.

And as long as you're there, don't forget to visit another architectural treasure, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral on the corner of Oakley Boulevard and Rice Street. It's where I married a beautiful girl from Chicago and it's where we baptized our son and where, as an adopted citizen of the Windy City, I've listened to the ethereal choir nearly every Christmas and Easter for the last 17 years. The Chicago Tribune recently ran a feature about this gorgeous 90-year-old building with its graceful green Kozak Baroque cupolas, luscious icons, painted ceilings, mosaics and stained glass windows, calling it one of the city's most valuable and unusual architectural treasures. Given the competition, that's saying a lot.

Within minutes of St. Nicholas, you'll find Ukrainian bookstores, grocery stores, restaurants, the Ukrainian National Institute, Ukrainian Museum of Modern Art, the Selfreliance credit union and Ss. Volodymyr and Olha's, another of Chicago's architectural treasures, its golden domes visible miles away from the observation deck of the 1,000-plus foot John Hancock Center.

Over the years, Chicago has been at the leading edge of Ukrainian-American cultural life with strong publishing, performing and academic sectors. Politically, the community won the support of powerful congressmen like Clement Zablocki, Ed Derwinski and Henry Hyde; Sens. Charles Percy and Richard Durbin. Ukrainians Boris Antonovych, Myron Kulas and Walter Dudych served in the Illinois Legislature. Myron Kuropas worked in President Gerald Ford's White House. Indeed, the first lady of Ukraine, Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko, was born and raised in Chicago and regularly visits her hometown. So does native Chicagoan Marta Kolomayets, a pioneer journalist for The Ukrainian Weekly who covered the period of "perebudova" in Ukraine in January-July 1991 and served several more tours of duty in 1992-1996, and now lives in Kyiv.

Chicago's Ukrainians even managed to turn setbacks into victories. When a major bank came in to swallow a small Ukrainian-owned bank – a fate that befell similar institutions in other communities, including my hometown of Cleveland – Chicagoans, led by my friend and fellow co-chair of Ukrainians for Clinton-Gore, Julian Kulas, negotiated for and successfully established a multi-million dollar Heritage Foundation that's been helping Ukrainian civic, cultural and religious institutions around the country and will continue to do so for generations to come.

A community is not just a collection of buildings, regardless of how beautiful. Many of the stones embedded in the Tribune Tower are from cultures that have died and left magnificent ruins behind. Buildings take on life from the people who inhabit them, work there, create and recreate within their walls. Chicago, including its "Ukrainian Village" section, not only has glorious architecture, but also vibrant citizens who infuse their structures with energy and vitality. Like the song says, "Chicago is my kind of town."

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

FOR THE RECORD: Ambassador Herbst on democracy and free elections

Following is the text of remarks by John E. Herbst, United States Ambassador to Ukraine, in Kyiv, at Wisconsin International University in Ukraine, on March 20. (After the speech, the ambassador was awarded an honorary degree from WIUU).

Thank you, Rector [Oleksander Romanovsky, for your gracious invitation for me to be here today to speak on the topic of "Democracy and Free Elections."

I especially enjoy speaking with students in Ukraine because yours is a generation that has grown up since independence. Your views of the world and of the possibilities the future holds for you are fundamentally different from those of your parents, who were raised and educated

under the former Soviet Union. You will have much more control over your own destiny than earlier generations. With this new freedom, however, you will need to take on greater responsibility – not only for your own actions, but also for the actions of your government and leaders.

States in Ukraine, I have witnessed a profound change in the level of freedom here. From the beginning I realized Ukraine had a well-developed civil society that is perhaps stronger than in any other former Soviet republic.

Well before the events of last year, Ukrainians throughout the country were actively engaged in efforts to strengthen democratic values and institutions. They advocated for their basic human rights and when necessary stood up and demonstrated in defense of freedom of speech, religious tolerance, rule of law, and honest government free of corruption. Statements of public protest on Maidan Nezalezhnosti [Independence Square] are not new to Ukraine.

Yet, something extraordinary hap-

pened in November and December of 2004. Hundreds of thousands of people poured into the maidan to demand that the result of the election reflect the will of the Ukrainian people.

Recall for a moment what had been happening at the time. The authorities controlled nearly every major national television station and limited the access to TV of

opposition candidates. They gave the world a shameful new word – "temnyky" – directions from the authorities to journalists on what should be covered and what

cal dialogue going on in the country about what direction Ukraine should take, and the news media are largely free to report all positions. Temnyky and pressure on

At this point, we can say that the election campaign has been the freest and fairest in independent Ukraine's young history, but we also want to help insure that this is an honest election.

should be suppressed. News organizations and journalists who ignored these directives were subject to pressure from unwarranted tax and health code inspections, suspension of licenses, libel suits, seizure of assets, destruction of property, threats, physical assault and, in some cases, death.

In addition to a controlled and hostile media environment, opposition candidates faced challenges such as cancelled meeting halls, power outages during campaign rallies, roadblocks, cancelled flights, ransacked offices and even poisoning.

The first two rounds of voting in October and November 2004 were marred by ballot stuffing and ballot stealing by elections officials. Police disappeared from polling stations minutes before gangs of thugs showed up to disrupt the counting. Groups of voters traveled from polling place to polling place, voting numerous times. Plant workers and students were threatened if they did not vote a certain way.

It is no wonder that the Ukrainian people were so outraged that they poured into the streets – not only in Kyiv – but also in many cities in Ukraine to protest the theft of their vote. What is extraordinary is that they stayed for 17 days in the bitter cold until the Supreme Court acknowledged the widespread fraud and ordered that the runoff vote be repeated, effectively asserting the rule of law over power. This round was finally conducted in a largely free and fair manner according to international standards.

These events changed the underlying dynamic between Ukrainian citizens and their government, creating the possibility for rule of law to put down roots in Ukraine, a pre-requisite for sustainable political and economic reform. It is a tribute to all sides – including then-President [Leonid] Kuchma – that ultimately these events remained peaceful.

I know there are some people inside and outside Ukraine who now wonder if it was all in vain, but, in my opinion, they are the people who do not understand the value of what happened in Ukraine in November-December of 2004. The Orange Revolution – as it is now known around the world – was not so much a victory for a certain political party or coalition, as it was a victory for the Ukrainian people, who took back control of their country. Viktor Yushchenko was elected president, but it was the people of Ukraine and the country's democratic institutions that gained power.

Indeed, the fruits of last year's democratic struggle can be seen most dramatically this week, as Ukraine prepares itself for parliamentary and local elections. Fifteen months to the day after the free and fair third round of the 2004 presidential elections, Ukrainian voters will again go to the polls.

This election campaign is being conducted in a much more open and transparent way than the last one was. If you turn on almost any Ukrainian television channel you will see candidates and campaign advertisements from across the political spectrum. Opposition candidates have been able to organize and campaign without harassment. There is a vibrant politi-

journalists – at least from the national government – has ceased. Even former Kuchma chief of staff [Viktor] Medvedchuk, a figure often linked with repressive measures against the media in the past, has publicly admitted the media are much more free today than when he worked at Bankova [Bankova street – the presidential administration].

That is not to say that all media are independent in Ukraine. Journalists and advocates of media freedom here say self-censorship, or political posturing ordered by media owners still pose an obstacle to free speech. For you, as consumers of news and responsible citizens of a democratic Ukraine, it is important to seek out a range of information sources and take media ownership and political affiliation into account as you evaluate the source's quality and objectivity. Unfortunately, media ownership in Ukraine, especially of the broadcast media, is still shrouded in mystery. This is a shame because the broadcast spectrum is among a nation's most precious resources, and it should be used for the public good, not for private or political gain.

And I would not be truthful if I said all problems in the election process had been eliminated. There are still problems associated with the formation of some election commissions. Voter lists, while improved, remain problematic. The Central Election Commission reports it has removed from voter lists the names of 800,000 people who have died. It is suspected, but not confirmed, that many of these dead souls miraculously managed to vote from the grave in 2004. Removing the dead from the voter rolls is a tremendous step forward, but, until a national voter registry is created, inaccuracies in voter lists will continue to threaten to disenfranchise voters.

For instance, there are credible reports that whole buildings or city blocks of voters do not appear on the lists for Donetsk and Zhytomyr. And there are credible reports about the problem created by the transliteration of voter names from Russian to Ukrainian. It is essential that the authorities do everything possible to address these and all other problems with the voter lists. It is likewise essential that all voting precincts be adequately staffed with commissioners.

There have also been reports of improper use of administrative resources by local officials in some parts of the country. The reports I have heard do not indicate widespread or systematic abuse as we saw in 2004, and complaints emanate from a broad range of political parties. That said, citizens, the media and civil society organizations need to continue to be vigilant and must act to expose undemocratic practices.

Free and fair elections and a transparent process for forming a new government that represents the will of the people are critical to solidifying Ukraine's democratic credentials in the world. Honest elections will not only strengthen Ukraine but also have a positive impact on Ukraine's neighborhood. Free and fair elections are essential if Ukraine wants to further integrate into the Euro-Atlantic community. But

(Continued on page 16)

As we did during the 2004 elections, the United States is providing non-partisan assistance in support of a democratic process. As part of our overall assistance to Ukraine, the U.S. is providing approximately \$13.3 million to support free and fair elections.



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UKRAINE'S FOREIGN POLICY: Tarasyuk speaks at Brookings Institution

Following is the text of the speech "Ukraine's Foreign Policy: from the Orange Revolution through the parliamentary elections and beyond" delivered by Ukraine's Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk at the Brookings Institution in Washington on March 9. (Editor's note: the text has been slightly edited for clarity.)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I'm honored to be invited to address such a distinguished audience where I see so many friends.

During my visits to Washington both as foreign minister and an opposition deputy who chaired the Parliament's Foreign Policy Committee, the subject of the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine was a topical issue in my discussions. Noticeably, even in the most challenging moments of Ukraine's modern history, my country's European and Euro-Atlantic prospect has never been questioned but incited a sincere interest and backing among the U.S. political elite and American political analysts alike.

Since the dramatic events branded as the Orange Revolution, Viktor Yushchenko, then the presidential candidate and now the president of Ukraine, has repeatedly stressed that the Ukrainian people, by standing up for their civil rights and freedoms and against cynical falsifications in November 2004, proved to be Europeans and, as Europeans, deserve their place in the united Europe.

It's commonly known that the notion of European and Euro-Atlantic integration has been a landmark of the Ukrainian foreign policy and politics for a decade. But the frank assessment of the real progress on Ukraine's move toward NATO and EU membership made by the end of Mr. Kuchma's tenure unmistakably leads to a blue conclusion that any mention of Ukraine's European integration sparked nothing but irritation and "fatigue syndrome" among European politicians.

Let me briefly remind you that at the edge of the democratic breakthrough of 2004, Ukraine's image abroad was tainted by a discredited and corrupt political leadership incapable of getting rid of foreign policy ambiguity and securing any consistency in the implementation of strategic tasks.

Moreover, the undemocratic nature of the regime and de-facto international isolation of Ukraine kept at bay any prospect of joining Western institutions.

With the Orange Revolution unleashed by the widespread electoral fraud, the pro-democracy forces were able to seize the popular mood and formulate the mainstream civilization choice of the Ukrainian people to live in a democratic, law-abiding and fair society homogenous with other European countries.

Instead of incessantly speaking about the European and Euro-Atlantic perspective that found little response from European and NATO counterparts in the previous decade primarily due to democratic incompatibility, the new government articulated ambitious but clear-cut foreign policy priorities and backed them up with a trustworthy agenda and actions.

Although one year is a small period of time to draw profound conclusions, by all accounts Ukraine has made great progress toward Euro-Atlantic and European integration.

First off, by actively engaging the implementation of the Ukraine-EU Action Plan, we were able to melt down major fences between Ukraine and the rest of Europe. This Action Plan was instrumental in helping Ukraine to push economic and democratic reforms forward. As a result, Ukraine was graduated to market economy status and is fully committed to building on this success.

Our expectations are to kick start in the nearest future negotiations with the EU on a European-type agreement on association, as well as on a free trade area. Pending the assessment of the implementation of the Ukraine-EU Action Plan, the government of Ukraine will make its mind up on submission of an EU membership application during this year.

As far as joining the NATO is concerned, launching and successfully implementing the Intensified Dialogue on Membership is not a lesser achievement. The Intensified Dialogue on Membership and reform issues brought us into the formal stream of preparation for NATO membership.

We are pleased to note that each of the Alliance members recognizes the legitimacy of Ukraine's NATO aspirations. We believe that the goal of get-

ting an invitation to NATO at the 2008 Summit is within the reach.

At this point, I am aware of the need to address the widespread concerns in the West over implications that the electoral outcomes of Ukraine's parliamentary campaign could have on a coherent foreign policy against the backdrop of constitutional reform.

Although the ongoing parliamentary campaign is heavily charged with a foreign policy component, primarily with NATO accession, as was the last presidential campaign, it is clearly a point of no return in the heated debate over national strategic priorities.

One should not be tricked by the fact that some political forces and especially the out-of-mainstream parties, which enjoy tiny public backing, gamble on NATO and Russia-related issues as they lack any trustworthy vision of foreign policy priorities.

By using the remnants of the existing phobias and ignorance that root back into Soviet-era indoctrination and brain-washing practices, these political players aim at winning constituency support while not giving up efforts to torpedo the democratic choice of the Ukrainian people. By the way, to address this challenge, the government of Ukraine appropriated in 2006, for the first time ever since the NATO membership clause was inserted into the national military doctrine, funds to run a NATO awareness campaign.

On the other hand, there are no grounds to deny that freedom of speech is flourishing in Ukraine. Opposition leaders and the harshest critics of the democratic government are the first to grasp these new opportunities to assail the media space and the constituency with ideas that sometimes are lethal for democracy. The media themselves are no longer the target of influence by the government or political forces supportive of it. This level of freedom of speech wasn't dreamed of just a year ago.

We have transparent and fair political competition, as no political force or opposition leader is harassed or persecuted by either law-enforcement or any other governmental agency on the basis of their political affiliations or ideologies. No wonder Ukraine was upgraded by the renowned Freedom House in its annual Freedom in the World 2006 report from a "partly free" to "free" country since both political rights and civil liberties ratings improved significantly.

The president and the government of Ukraine are aware that the upcoming parliamentary elections will be a test for Ukraine's democratic compatibility with united Europe and the Euro-Atlantic community, and its integration ambitions will be assessed by the democratic world through the ability to secure transparent, free and fair elections.

We are confident that the pro-democracy forces will gain a clear majority in the future Parliament.

Despite the fragmentation between the pro-democracy political parties, their combined approval rating has even slightly grown. There should be no doubt that the pro-democracy parties are capable of bridging their differences and restoring the Orange coalition.

With the elections to be held in two weeks' time, the consensus on the key principles and priorities of the future government have already been worked out and agreed upon by the pro-democracy parties that will have a legislative representation.

Besides, there is no place for argument that, with the constitutional changes taking effect upon the new Cabinet's formation, the president still keeps exclusive powers to articulate the foreign policy and secure the consistency of its implementation. The president will remain an active player in the Cabinet-forming process as the nominees for the posts of foreign and defense ministers are submitted at his discretion.

In my already not-so-brief speech, there is an obvious necessity that an assessment of current Ukrainian-Russian relations be given, as they will have repercussions on Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic strategy and integration pace.

Still these bilateral relations are not problem-free. Shifting the dialogue into the dimension of equal relations should be considered a milestone achievement. On the other hand, two countries managed to return to the process of seeking genuine solutions to long-standing problems of the Black Sea Fleet's stationing on the territory of Ukraine, delimitation of the Azov and Black seas, etc. Significant progress has been made on loos-



Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk (left) with former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

ing the procedures of crossing the border by Ukrainian and Russian nationals.

When speaking of Ukrainian-Russian relations, one cannot avoid touching upon acute questions. The energy dispute with Russia has made international and domestic headlines for a couple of months. Although the agreement hammered out on January 4 might not be the better option for Ukraine, it still reflects to some extent the balance of interests. Ukraine's economy got an acceptable gas price that mitigates the negative impact on its performance.

With Ukraine securing tariffs on transit and its reliability, we expect that Russia provides, in exchange, guarantees that the gas price and the volume of gas pumped through the Ukrainian transit system will remain unchangeable for the agreed period of time.

The scheme of energy supply is far from transparent by Western standards. Still, with all economic and political factors taken into account, there was no other option or choice but to abolish previous barter schemes that fed corruption both in Ukraine and Russia and set up new mechanisms which better suit market-economy transformations. Although Ukraine's approach was legally strong and we have little doubt our country would have won the lawsuit in the Stockholm court, in practical terms the Ukrainian economy would be hit severely, as would be, to some extent, European economies. As a reliable partner, Ukraine decided it would be wise to hammer out a compromise that benefits both our country and Europe.

We are very optimistic about the prospect of further enhancing our relations with the U.S., which have never been better than today.

Eager to rediscover the meaning of genuine strategic partnership, the new Ukrainian authorities and the United States have been able in just one year to get rid of the bulk of problems that have been blemishing our relationships for ages. Frank discussion and true political will are back in the Ukrainian-American dialogue. The democratic authorities of Ukraine have proved they do what they say and say what they mean, leaving no room for ambiguity or misinterpretation.

I am happy to say that Ukraine has strictly lived up to its commitments under the Yushchenko-Bush Joint Statement of April 2005, as has the U.S.A. Ukraine's steadily improving economic performance and robust market transformation were recognized by the U.S. by upgrading Ukraine to market-economy status. My country is one step closer to achieving WTO membership after Ukraine and the U.S. successfully completed negotiations on market access on March 6, 2006. And today, I have just returned from the U.S. Congress, which approved the decision to abolish the Cold War relic of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment – a move that grants a normal trade regime to Ukraine.

As Ukraine is seen as an outpost of democracy in the region, we stand firmly for freedom, human rights and liberties. Having said that, let there be no doubt that Ukraine will remain a committed partner to the U.S. in promoting these shared values.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the Orange Revolution created prerequisites to develop the nation and society, Ukraine is going through a historic moment in its development. We have the unique chance to make this historic dream of generations of Ukrainians to re-integrate our country into the Euro-Atlantic family of nations a reality.

I thank you.

Pennsylvania Ukrainians thank Sen. Santorum for his support



BRISTOL, Pa. – Ukrainian American community representatives of the Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA) and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) met with Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) here on Friday March 10, to discuss a variety of community issues and to thank the senator for his support of the graduation of Ukraine from the trade restrictions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. From left are: Borys A. Zacharczuk (UECC president), Orysia Hewka (UECC executive director), Sen. Santorum, Vera M. Andryczyk (UFA president) and Ihor Shust (UECC vice-president).

UCCA New York hosts meeting with Reps. Crowley and Hastings

by Tamara Gallo Olexy

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – The New York City branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on February 13 hosted a Town Hall meeting with Congressmen Joseph Crowley (D-N.Y.) and Alcee Hastings (Florida) to discuss democratization and the upcoming par-

tion monitoring, stated that "an election does not a democracy make."

Elaborating on this point, he stated that the brave people in Ukraine took the proper steps, but an independent and strong judiciary is extremely important for the advancement of democracy.

Commenting on the first and second rounds of the 2004 presidential elections,



Ukraine's Consul General in New York Mykola Kyrychenko (left) with Reps. Alcee Hastings (center) and Joseph Crowley.

liamentary elections in Ukraine. Despite the record-breaking snow storm a day earlier, over 25 people, including Ukraine's new consul general in New York, Mykola Kyrychenko, attended the event.

In keeping with the traditional town hall meeting format, the congressmen provided remarks and then entertained questions from the audience.

Presenting his personal views and not those of the U.S. government, Rep. Hastings, who has been involved in elec-

Rep. Hastings stated they did not meet international standards due to poor registration lists, ballot stuffing and intimidation. He emphasized that the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine will be pivotal. He warned against romanticizing President Viktor Yushchenko and noted that a significant number of people in eastern Ukraine are Russian and, therefore, President Yushchenko is unable to be completely nationalist or

(Continued on page 25)

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Philadelphia-area community welcomes Ambassador Shamshur

by Vera Andryczyk

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Dr. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, on February 26 visited the Philadelphia-area Ukrainian American community here at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

The event was hosted by the Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA) and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC). Joining in welcoming Ambassador Shamshur to the area were Auxiliary Bishop John Bura of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia; the Rev. Protopresbyter Frank Estocin, secretary of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.; Sister Lydia Sawka, OSBM; Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.) chief sponsor of HR 1053 to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment; Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa.), a co-sponsor of the resolution; and the community's loyal friend and advisor, former Congressman Charles F. Dougherty.

The Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble welcomed the ambassador upon his arrival to the center with the traditional greeting with bread and salt.

During the reception, representatives of the area organizations had the unique opportunity to meet and speak to

Ambassador Shamshur and the other special guests, including Natalya Holub, second secretary of the Embassy of Ukraine.

On behalf of both sponsoring organizations, Vera M. Andryczyk (UFA president) welcomed Ambassador Shamshur, guests and community leaders.

Former Congressman Dougherty informed the audience about the current status of the Jackson-Vanik Resolution and introduced Rep. Gerlach, who expressed his commitment to ensure the passage of his HR 1053 prior to the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine. Rep. Schwartz added her support to the resolution. (The resolution was passed by the House of Representatives on March 8.)

The participants appreciated the ambassador's frank and comprehensive overview of priorities and goals, which included the graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, constitutional reforms, World Trade Organization and NATO membership, integration in the European Union and several cooperative projects with the Ukrainian American community. A lively question and answer period followed, which was moderated by Borys Zacharczuk, UECC president.

At the conclusion of his visit, the ambassador was presented with a set of



Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (left) with Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), author of HR 1053.

the Encyclopedia of Ukraine (University of Toronto Press) by Bohdan Korzeniowski and Dr. Volodymyr Bandera of the UFA. A book on historic Philadelphia and Poor Richard's Almanac were presented by Mr. Zacharczuk.

Earlier in the day, Ambassador Shamshur had an opportunity to have a guided tour of historic Philadelphia and visited several area museums escorted by Dr. Renata Holod, curator of the Islamic Art Collection at the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Shamshur meets with Ukrainian community leaders in Chicago

by Pavlo T. Bandriwsky

CHICAGO – The recently appointed ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamshur, invited Chicago Ukrainian community leaders to meet at the Ukrainian Consulate in downtown Chicago on February 21 for a briefing and dialogue. Members of the group included the leadership of UCCA Illinois Division, the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation and the Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank.

Ambassador Shamshur presented his agenda, listing what he would like to accomplish, which included establishing a Ukrainian information and cultural center, and closer cooperation between the Embassy staff and Ukrainian communities. With an evident grasp of diaspora issues, his presentation was genuinely conveyed and optimistically received by the attendees.

During the dialogue Ambassador Shamshur was informed of the vast contributions the Chicago community not

only locally but on a national scale, supporting Ukrainian American initiatives where needed. Also addressed were questions involving the upcoming parliamentary elections and matters related to broader recognition of the Ukrainian Holodomor.

The newly designated consul general of Ukraine in Chicago, Vasyl Korzachenko, and his wife, Olya, were introduced. As the meeting concluded, participants pledged to continue to work together in promoting Ukrainian democracy and facilitating business investment in Ukraine by American companies.

Ambassador Shamshur promised to return to Chicago soon to meet with the immense Ukrainian community.



During the Ukrainian ambassador's visit to Chicago (from left) are: Sviatoslav Lychyk, Mykola Mischenko, Pavlo Bandriwsky, Bohdan Melnyk, Dr. Oleh Shamshur, Orest Baranyk, Julian Kulas, Ivanna Gorchynsky, Olya Korzachenko and Consul General Vasyl Korzachenko.

Vitrenko's...

(Continued from page 3)

Her campaign platform is based on four key principles: membership in the Single Economic Space, opposition to NATO membership, official status for the Russian language and "defense of canonical Orthodoxy," or opposition to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

Since the natural gas crisis, Ms. Vitrenko has also said that, through partnership with the Russian Federation, she can renegotiate Ukraine's price for Russian natural gas to \$45 (U.S.) per 1,000 cubic meters.

Campaign strategy

Whenever Ms. Vitrenko stages a political rally, it is well-organized and well-outfitted with her thousands of supporters carrying flags and placards.

Such impressive financing can lead one

to believe that Ms. Vitrenko receives support from the Putin government, although she has vehemently denied this, claiming party supporters contribute financially.

Mr. Anisimov, a top director at the Motor Sich plant, is another possible source of financing.

Vitrenko's People's Opposition bloc has produced some of the more spicy, even controversial television ads. One ad features two policemen on night patrol noticing a rape taking place in a car. They shine their flashlights on the license plates, which indicate that the car belongs to a national deputy.

They decide to leave the crime scene alone. Ms. Vitrenko's voice then tells the viewer her bloc is against immunity for members of Parliament.

The other ad features a young girl in a classroom who needs to use the bathroom. She asks the teacher in Russian, "May I leave the room?" "No. Ask me in the official language!" the teacher responds harshly in Ukrainian.



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Ukrainian Catholics...

(Continued from page 1)

where Catholic bishops, clergy and worshippers were persecuted, tortured or beaten.

At each station, an elder Church leader symbolically passed a cherished Catholic relic to a leader in the younger generation. In the following order, they visited:

- The former KGB and current Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) headquarters on Vitovskiyi Street, where Communists planned their methods and tactics for the Church's liquidation. Elder priests passed a series of crosses to the younger priests as a symbol of the Church's resilience.

- A former prison on Bandera Street (formerly Lonsky Street) where Communists interrogated, tortured and killed priests and lay Catholics. Marta Tsehelska, the wife of a priest, was interrogated there and had her children taken away. In the ceremony, she passed an embroidered ritual cloth (rushnyk) to the wife of young priest.

- The former site of the Church of the Holy Spirit and Lviv Theological Academy and Seminary on Copernicus Street. German bombs destroyed the church in 1941. Father Mykola Prystai, who had been Archbishop Josyf Slipyj's private secretary when he was rector of the academy, passed on a small gospel book he had preserved from seminary days to the seminary's current rector, Father Bohdan Prakh, and Ukrainian Catholic University Rector the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak.

- The Mother of God statue on Freedom Boulevard, where Antonina Chaika, a brave nun who helped organize the work of the underground Church, passed a Mother of God icon to a young nun.

- The Taras Shevchenko statue on Freedom Boulevard, where Father Ivan Dankiv symbolically passed an "epi-

trakhyl," which a priest wears around his neck, to a young priest.

- The Transfiguration Church, which was the first in Lviv to declare its Catholic identity in 1989. At this historic site, the pilgrims symbolically exchanged their red candles for white ones.

"The notorious event of 60 years ago that brought us here is a demonstration of human hopelessness and audacity, petulance and violence towards those who called themselves Christians," said Father Yaroslav Chukhnii, the church's current pastor.

"What happened is a result of various reasons which we cannot fully comprehend," he said. "It would be banal to pretend that the tragedy of spiritual catastrophe, which occurred as a result of the 1946 liquidation, belongs to a single person. The liquidation is a result of the decline of religion and devaluation of spiritual values."

The march then returned to St. George Cathedral, where priests led a moleben in the central square to honor the Church's martyrs.

The procession capped off a weeklong series of events in Kyiv and Lviv that commemorated the liquidation.

The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Ukrainian Catholic University held a scholarly conference in Kyiv, attended by Belarusians and Russians. It examined the liquidation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, in addition to that of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, as well as the history of state-sponsored violence under Russian imperialism.

At the Lviv Opera House on the night of March 7, actors performed vignettes of life in the underground Church, as well as life stories and testimonies to the persecution of the clergy and faithful.

"Driving home, not only did the suffering affect me, but the fortitude of the human spirit leading the Church through

this period of trial to reborn life," Father Gudziak said.

Patriarch Husar and 20 bishops led a divine liturgy at St. George Cathedral on March 8 in thanksgiving to God for His help in leading Ukrainian Catholics out of captivity.

Attending the liturgy were a number of priests who were ordained before 1946

and bore witness to the persecution.

"Throughout all of the celebration commemorations, there was a positive spirit of looking to the future," Father Gudziak said. "There was a gratitude to God in the face of unspeakable evil and a confidence that the Church that survived will continue to work for the people of Ukraine."

Yushchenko, Husar, Bishops' Synod issue statements on anniversary

LVIV – On March 3-12, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) commemorated the Lviv Sobor of 1946, where the Union of Brest of 1596 was renounced under pressure from Soviet authorities, unifying the UGCC with the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC). Below are quotations from statements by President Viktor Yushchenko, Patriarch Lubomyr Husar and the UGCC Synod of Bishops, as reported by www.RISU.org.ua.

Prior to the commencement of a requiem concert held on March 7 at the Lviv National Opera and Ballet Theater, Patriarch Husar read a letter from President Viktor Yushchenko which expressed his regret over the events of the Sobor saying it, "opened a tragic and at the same time heroic period in the history of the Ukrainian-Greek Catholic Church."

The UGCC Synod of Bishops on March 7 released a statement outlining

the events of the past and calling upon other Churches in Ukraine "to decide on what foundations it is necessary to base their work and future prospects to reach real union in Christ." The release goes on to comment on the un-canonical nature of the Sobor because "it was summoned under horrible terror and conducted with inadmissible violations of the norms of Church law and the religious freedoms of the people."

After a religious procession and a service held on March 11 at St. George's Cathedral, Patriarch Husar addressed the faithful saying, "We want to remember all those who preserved our Church, who supported it and carried it to this day. The procession will be the symbol of vitality of our Church. Sixty years of tribulations became a path to new life in reinforced hope. Pray for those who suffered, but pray for those who caused the suffering, because prayer remains the main power of our Church, which united its children with God and tied them with each other."

Bush signs...

(Continued from page 1)

build a free economy that will raise the standard of living for families across their land.

As Ukraine embraces democracy and more open trade, our nation's friendship will grow. President Yushchenko has made reforms to increase transparency and provide intellectual property protection and strengthen the enforcement of the rule of law.

These reforms have taken great conviction. And earlier this month, our two nations signed a bilateral agreement that will establish the terms of trade between our nations when Ukraine joins the World Trade Organization. We support

Ukraine's goal of joining the WTO, and we will help resolve the remaining steps required for entry as quickly as possible. As the Ukrainian government continues to build on a record of progress at home, we will help Ukraine join the institutions that unite free nations and become a part of Europe that is whole, free and at peace.

The growth of economic freedom and ownership in countries like Ukraine reinforces the habits of liberty and democracy, and gives citizens a stake in the success of their nation. Ukrainian people have shown the world they are committed to the ideals of economic freedom and democratic progress and open trade, and that gives them a promising future.

The United States is proud to call Ukraine a friend, and I'm honored to sign this important piece of legislation into law.

Election Notebook

(Continued from page 3)

Ukrainians vote for a political bloc (a coalition of parties) or a single party, rather than selecting any individual politician.

Such an electoral system is absurd because it doesn't allow for any accountability of a party's leader to the Ukrainian people, said Ihor Gekko, the leader of Rodina Vostok.

No other parliamentary voting system in Europe, with the exception of Italy, forces voters to choose a closed party list, Mr. Gekko said.

"Why is this system considered progressive and European?" Mr. Gekko asked. "This system of voting is favorable only to the party leaders."

In the 2002 parliamentary elections, a portion of the national deputies were selected by closed party lists, while another portion were selected according to single-mandate districts.

However, the Kuchma government either pressured or convinced many of the single-mandate deputies to join the pro-presidential bloc, Za Yedynu Ukrayinu (For a United Ukraine), snatching the majority coalition away from Our Ukraine, which had won more votes in the election.

Our Ukraine's inability to build the parliamentary coalition prompted political reforms to make all the candidates part of a closed party list system.

Mr. Gekko claimed that no political party or bloc, or any affiliate, finances Rodina Vostok, which has 17 permanent offices throughout Ukraine.

Conventions...

(Continued from page 5)

of the General Assembly was decreased at the 2002 Convention, which adopted amendments to the UNA By-Laws that reduced the number of auditors from five to three and the number of advisors from 14 to 11. A proposal to decrease the Executive Committee from six officers to four did not pass.)

The UNA By-Laws stipulate that regular conventions are held in the month of May at a time and place designated by the General Assembly at an annual meeting.

As noted in the UNA By-Laws, special conventions may be called "upon 60 days' notice to the branches, or such notice as is required by law."

The UNA president shall issue a call for a special convention, "stating therein the time, place and purpose of holding the same," upon the demand of two-thirds of all branches, or upon the call of the Auditing Committee "if in its opinion by unanimous vote the financial well-

being or stability of the Association is threatened," or upon three-fourths vote majority of all the members of the General Assembly.

Those empowered to vote at a special convention are the members of the General Assembly and the delegates to the preceding regular convention.

There is yet another vehicle by which the UNA can make major decisions.

A relatively recent revision to the UNA By-Laws provides that "to the extent permitted by the law of the State of New Jersey [the state in which the UNA is chartered], questions and resolutions requiring approval by a Convention between Regular Conventions may be considered and voted upon by mail, with such decision having the same force and effect as if a Special Convention had been convened."

Just as at a special convention, those empowered to vote are the members of the General Assembly and the delegates to the preceding regular convention.

—Roma Hadzewycz

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THE MUSIC SCENE: Bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka stars in "Wozzeck"

by Wasyl Sydorenko

TORONTO – On March 31, April 2, 5, 8, 11 and 13, the Canadian Opera Company (COC) will feature British-Ukrainian bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka in the title role of Alban Berg's 1925 opera, "Wozzeck."

In the 1920s, "Wozzeck" and other modern operas like Kurt Weill's "Die Dreigroschenoper," Ernst Krenek's "Johnny Spielt Auf" and Sergei Prokofiev's "Love of Three Oranges," were all performed in Ukraine. Ukraine's capital at the time, Kharkiv, was the center of theatrical innovation, with Les Kurbas staging futuristic productions of Ukrainian dramas, which included robots and even Martians. And composer Borys Liatoshynsky wrote his ultramodern opera

Wasyl Sydorenko is a musicologist, composer and a librarian at the University of Toronto (Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Center). He has written articles on Ukrainian music for nearly 20 years and has been active with the Ukrainian Music Festival in Toronto for more than 20 years.

"Zoloty Obruch" in 1929. Ukrainian culture in the 1920s was on the go!

In contrast, the Canadian Opera Company first performed "Wozzeck" in 1977 – 50 years after the Ukrainian premiere. Berg's other opera, "Lulu," was produced by the COC in 1980 and caused quite a scandal within the Ukrainian community. Word got around that the granddaughter of the metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, Kristen "Tunia" Gregory, would be singing in the opera. It was only a minor role for her, but many Ukrainians who had never attended opera went. Those who survived the dissonances of the first act were rewarded with "Tunia" playing the role of a lesbian lover in Act II.

Ukrainians tend to believe that opera is the pinnacle of all arts. We have many Ukrainian opera stars who perform in major opera houses around the world. Yet, we are remarkably unfamiliar with the genre and know little about modern and post-modern music. We prefer our 19th century Ukrainian folk melodramas like "Zaporozhets," "Natalka Poltavka," "Kupalo," "Taras Bulba," "Kateryna." All of these works have been staged by amateur and semi-profes-



Pavlo Hunka

sional ensembles in Toronto. Performances are always a grand community event, but is this the pinnacle of art?

"Wozzeck" is a good opportunity to get acquainted with early 20th century opera. And Pavlo Hunka in the title role is a performer not to be missed. Two years ago, Mr. Hunka was invited to give a number of vocal master classes to Ukrainian music lovers in Toronto. The event was organized most professionally, and Mr. Hunka selflessly shared his art with the participants.

There was a utopian hope that a new Ukrainian opera ensemble could be organized to produce new Ukrainian operas. Unfortunately, there are few contemporary works, if any, worthy of the international stage. Myroslav Skoryk's "Moisei" is the only recent opera being staged in Ukraine. But how contemporary or Ukrainian is a biblical story?

I urge everyone in the Ukrainian community to attend the COC's production of "Wozzeck." Mr. Hunka as Wozzeck will certainly astound music-lovers and critics alike. Let's broaden our horizons, diversify our musical tastes and explore new forms of artistic expression. In fact, "Wozzeck" is the greatest expressionist opera ever written. It changed my life when I was 17. It'll change yours too!

UIMA's third annual Juventus exhibit spotlights young artists

CHICAGO – The Young Friends of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art announced the third annual Juventus, an exhibit featuring 12 student and recent graduate artists representing institutions from Canada and the Midwest. The selections cover a wide range of styles and media, from photographs and collages on glass to installation and sculpture.

Juventus 2006 is distinctive in that it gives young artists at the very beginning of their careers a unique opportunity to be shown at an established institution, and, at the same time, presents a cohesive display of the trends and issues at the forefront of new art creation.

Juventus was designed to highlight the diverse ideas, propositions and concerns currently engaging students and recent graduates of studio art programs.

Submissions that best reflected this diversity were selected for the exhibit. The artists represented are: Benjamin Funke, Sayre Gomez, Mayuko Kono, Maria Burke, Nathaniel Smyth, Mariano Chavez, Stacey Nemeth, Lauren Anderson, Dan Anhorn, Kristyna Comer, Caitlin Wells and Matthew Schommer.

They were chosen by a panel of jurors that included Youlia Tkatchouk, artist; Nicholas Sawicki, faculty member of at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Anthony Elms, critic and assistant director at Gallery 400. The exhibit is curated by Karin Patzka, chair of the Young Friends Committee.

The exhibit opened with a reception on Friday, March 3, and will be on view through April 10. Prizes will be available for the top three works of art. This pro-

gram is partially sponsored by a Chicago City Arts Program Grant and the Illinois Arts Council.

The Young Friends of the Institute is a committee of the UIMA that sponsors events aimed at attracting a younger and more ethnically diverse public to the institute. The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art was created to preserve and promote the knowledge and appreciation of contempo-

rary Ukrainian art and culture. It serves as an artistic anchor in Chicago's West Town Community, providing world-class art exhibitions, concerts, literary readings and educational cultural exchanges.

Located at 2320 W. Chicago Ave., the UIMA is open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For more information readers may call 773-227-5522 or visit www.uima-art.org.

Pora-Reforms...

(Continued from page 3)

Order's electoral list is a collection of Ukraine's young patriotic leaders who are expected to lead the nation toward European integration in the future.

They include young diplomat Markian Lubkivskyi, journalist Vakhtang Kipiani, politician Illia Shevliak, and political advisor and expert Serhii Taran, who earned a doctorate from Duke University.

Political strategy

The Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc's political platform is almost identical to the Our Ukraine Bloc, said Oles Donii, a Ukrainian political expert who is 96th on the Socialist Party's electoral list.

The bloc firmly supports free-market economics, and Ukraine's integration into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

It also wants to make the Ukrainian language the status quo in Ukraine.

In fact, Pora-Reforms and Order may end up demonstrating itself to be more reform-oriented than Our Ukraine because its young members aren't tied up in any corrupt schemes or structures, Mr. Donii said.

For example, its leaders have criticized the Yushchenko administrations's natural gas deal with the Russian Federation.

Rather than making promises of free

education, the bloc seeks to provide education that meets the needs of a free-market economy. It also supports merit-based scholarships.

Campaign strategy

Few, if any, names in Ukrainian politics could draw immediate trust among the electorate as does Mr. Klitschko's. Unlike other Orange Revolution leaders, Mr. Klitschko enjoys an untarnished image.

Most of the bloc's advertising in one way or another refers to Mr. Klitschko and his untarnished image as a man of action and results. That plays into its political strategy of giving voters the option of choosing an Orange political force that is young and full of fresh faces.

"New People Are Needed" is one of the bloc's main slogans that appears on fliers bearing Mr. Klitschko's image.

Although the Pora-Reforms and Order bloc uses the "Tak!" logo, it is a separate political structure from the Our Ukraine bloc, Mr. Donii said.

And, though it is fiercely competing to make the 3 percent barrier, it serves as a helping factor for Our Ukraine because it may draw young or disenchanted voters that might not have otherwise voted for an Orange bloc.

The bloc still receives funding from Our Ukraine sources, Mr. Donii said, including businessman David Zhvania and possibly even First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko.

Students' Association organizes Ukrainian Week at McGill University

by Alexandra Hawryluk

MONTREAL – Cameras clicking, lights blazing, reporters quizzing – this was not what the members of the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association had expected at their "Ukrainian Week 2006" held on January 20-26 on the McGill University campus in the heart of downtown Montreal.

As Artem Luhovy, the treasurer of the association explained, their expectations were more down to earth. "We were aware that there used to be a Ukrainian students' club, but it seems to have died before we arrived. So, we wanted to start it up again. We wanted to make Ukrainian students from Canada, the United States and Ukraine feel at home here in Montreal. And of course,



Prof. Radoslav Zuk

we also wanted to let the university community know about Ukrainians."

And indeed, during the 1950s and 1960s, right through to mid-1980s, the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association (MUSA) was in top form organizing seminars, public lectures, "zabavy," art exhibits and concerts by well-known Ukrainian artists and musicians. However, with the decline in enrollment in the late 1980s the Ukrainian profile at McGill virtually disappeared. What's worth noting though, is that a surprising number of the former members of MUSA and SUSK – "Soyuz Ukrayinskykh Studentiv Kanady," an umbrella organization for all Ukrainian students' associations across Canada – are now community leaders.

Given this legacy, is there any wonder that the Montreal branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Businessmen's Association gave the students their enthusiastic support?

At the wine and cheese party given in the students' honor by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Businessmen's Association, Dr. Yarema Kelebay, the president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Montreal, and the students' club mentor, congratulated the students on the success of their Ukrainian Week program and asked them to look at their involvement in the Ukrainian club as a unique opportunity for "leadership training and preparation for political participation, that is, for life in the public square". He also said that giving their free time to MUSA offers them the chance to speak out and to inform their contemporaries about the history of the Ukrainian people.

In his salutation, the former president of SUSK during the 1960s, Dr. Roman Serbyn, suggested that if the new generation of Ukrainian Canadians is to leave its mark on Canadian history, it should get involved in both the Canadian and the Ukrainian communities. On the other hand, Mr. Roman Karpishka, president of MUSA in 1960, reminisced about the past and encouraged the students to participate in the development of democracy in Ukraine by becoming elections observers.

What did MUSA do to merit all this attention? To begin with, anyone using McGill's Redpath Library, the busiest of the 14 libraries on campus, would have to walk past MUSA's exhibit titled "Not to be Forgotten – A Chronicle of the Communist Inquisition in Ukraine 1917-1991" (materials assembled and printed by

Roman Krutsyk of Kyiv's "Memorial").

The poster size panels showed photos, maps, graphs and descriptive English texts about: The Great Famine of 1932-1933, the Soviet labor camps and prisons, the Stalin-Hitler accord, Bykivnia and Vinnytsia, the destruction of historic architecture, and the role of the KGB in the systematic decimation of the Ukrainian intellectual elite.

"Everyone who saw this exhibit was enthusiastic mainly because they didn't know anything about these events. For most, it's the first time they're seeing pictures and documents of that era. I know that Polish, Czech, Romanian and other overseas students see us in a different light now. They are glad that someone has opened up that part of history, that someone is telling the truth," commented Mr. Luhovy.

McGill professors expressed an interest in this exhibit as well. Alexandra Havrylyshyn, a first-year student, said: "I am a history student and my professor asked me if I have seen the exhibit. I told him that I have and that I think it's a very good thing that we put it up." Taking a breath, she added: "It's a powerful experience."

Then, in conjunction with "Not to be Forgotten," the students asked Dr. Serbyn, the author of a number of publications on the Great Famine, on the Soviet Great Patriotic War (i.e. World War II), and professor of history at Université du Québec in Montreal (UQAM), to deliver a lecture entitled "Was the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 Genocide?" Using overhead projections, Dr. Serbyn introduced his audience at McGill's Newman Center to newly available archival data proving that the Great Famine was indeed, a deliberately designed, politically motivated event targeting Ukrainians.

Prof. Serbyn compared the international response to the draught caused famine of 1922, with the response to the planned famine of 1932-1933. In the first case, in answer to direct appeal, aid was sent to Ukraine by various charitable organizations. The 1932-1933 Great Famine, on the other hand, was covered up, the requisitioned grain was exported in guise of a bumper crop, borders were closed, and foreign correspondents were not permitted to bear witness to the horror – as the British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge attests in his book "The Green Stick."

However macabre and heart rendering this story is, it's still necessary to tell it. Prof. Serbyn summed it up: "In order to gain a better understanding of contemporary reality, knowledge of its course in the past is necessary. In the course of Ukrainian history there were many happy and tragic moments, which defined the development of the Ukrainian nation. Among the tragic events, the one that impressed itself most deeply on the Ukrainian people was the genocide by famine of the 1930s."

Nearly every student I spoke with at these events said that their main concern in joining the Ukrainian student group was the maintenance of a connection with Ukrainian culture. Aside from socializing, getting together for Uke Pub Night, Pot Luck Dinner, listening to Ukrainian pop music, wearing embroidered shirts and blouses, or doing a couple of "narodni tantsi" (folk dances) at Malanka, they were genuinely interested in learning about Ukrainian arts and sciences.

Roxanne Zalucky, of Philadelphia, was very pleased that 70 students showed up for the first meeting of MUSA in October 2005. The enthusiasm of that meet-



Nina Hawryluk

Dr. Roman Serbyn

ing carried over into the organization of Christmas caroling. "We had a lot of fun, and I hope that the people for whom we caroled enjoyed themselves too. Those are our goals – to socialize with Ukrainians and to learn what culture is," she said.

So, it was good to see the small theater in the School of Architecture building fill up for the Radoslav Zuk lecture on "The Cultural Context of Ukrainian Architecture." With the help of slides of Western European and Ukrainian churches, their plans and elevations, the internationally acclaimed architect and McGill professor described how throughout history Ukrainian builders adapted Byzantine, Renaissance and Baroque architectural ideas to the Ukrainian cultural context.

The Chapel of The Three Saints in Lviv, for example, combines Renaissance architectural concepts with Ukrainian tradition, while the Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior in Chernihiv shows the ability of Ukrainian architects to build in the Byzantine style without resorting to copying Greek or Serbian prototypes.

What makes these churches, built in various international styles, Ukrainian? Prof. Zuk, pointed out that analytical study suggests that it's the arrangement of the interior space, i.e. the rhythmic order, especially the rhythm of the roof line, that characterizes a Ukrainian church.

The inventive use of these rhythms was beautifully illustrated by the photographs of Prof. Zuk's own Ukrainian churches: St. Stephen's in Calgary, Alberta (Governor General's Medal); Holy Cross in Thunder Bay, Ontario; Holy Trinity in Kerhonkson, N.Y.; and his newest – the amazing Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Lviv, which "constitutes a clearly stated modern version of the typical Byzantine cross-in-square + narthex + apse plan" (The Ukrainian Weekly, December 18, 2005, "Church in Ukraine designed by Radoslav Zuk reaches completion").

(Continued on page 19)



Students with Prof. Radoslav Zuk

Alexandra Hawryluk is a freelance writer and a contributor to Radio Canada International.

NGO workshop at United Nations focuses on families and poverty

by Nadia Shmigel

UNITED NATIONS – Anna Krawczuk, honorary president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, was among speakers invited to address participants of a workshop sponsored by the United Nations NGO Committee on the Family at the 44th Session of the Commission on Social Development in New York on February 9.

The workshop focused on the eradication of poverty affecting families. The first speaker, Djankon Ndjoukou, director of the International Labor Organization, addressed the issue of poverty from the macro perspective of the ILO mission statement which is based on a Philadelphia declaration (1944) asserting that "poverty anywhere constitutes a threat to prosperity everywhere."

The other speakers, Mrs. Krawczuk of the UNWLA, a founding member-organization of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO) which has consultative status to U.N.'s ECOSOC, and Vicki Soanes, a representative to the U.N. from the International Movement ATD Fourth World, were invited to describe their organizations' best practices in addressing poverty from a micro perspective, that is, in an approach that tackles impoverishment on an individual and specific family basis.

Mrs. Krawczuk spoke about the UNWLA Scholarship Program, which was established in 1967 on the initiative of Dr. Theodosia Sawycky, a professional social worker, UNWLA member and activist concerned with education for girls.

Mrs. Krawczuk prefaced her remarks with historical background about the UNWLA, explaining the organization's commitment to human rights and to the preservation of Ukrainian heritage that informs its various charitable programs. Since 1925, when it was founded in New York City, the UNWLA has promoted women's advancement through education by supporting its members' goals through small scholarship grants.

After 1967, the UNWLA Children's Student Scholarship Program envisioned by Dr. Sawycky started to support the education of orphaned and disadvantaged children. By 1990, the program had expanded significantly, providing nearly 1,000 scholarships to children and young people in 17 countries of the Ukrainian diaspora. From 1993 to 2001 the program had 1,135 graduates in 16 countries: seven Ph.D.s, 155 master's degrees, 402 baccalaureate degrees, 548 high school diplomas and 23 vocational school certificates. In those nine years alone, 5,918 scholarships were awarded, totaling \$1,274,795.

Currently, scholarships range from \$100 to \$500 annually depending on the country and grade. These amounts might seem small, but especially with favorable rates of exchange, these stipends are of great assistance to their beneficiaries, Mrs. Krawczuk noted.

Mrs. Krawczuk transposed the numbers into actual stories of several young people who received scholarships under this UNWLA program. Each of the students has accomplished an almost impossible task under most difficult circumstances. One young woman from Poland, who participated in the program through high school, received her Ph.D. from

Harvard University with a full fellowship and wrote her thesis in three languages: English, Polish and Ukrainian.

Another young woman, from Brazil, earned a Ph.D. from London University with scholarships from Brazil and the U.K. and became a linguistic historian.

Three former scholarship recipients in Brazil became bishops: one Orthodox and two Catholic.

One young woman in Brazil who completed a 12th grade level education (quite an achievement 30 years ago) could not afford a wedding dress when she got married. She now owns a wedding dress rental business in Curitiba, Parana, Brazil.

This and other life stories of scholarship students illustrated how well this program works and how helping poor children achieve education helps to reduce poverty in the long run.

Ms. Soanes, of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, described her organization's commitment over the past 50 years to helping families living in extreme poverty. Ms. Soanes' presentation was based on two documents published by her organization in the last two years: "How Poverty Separates Parents" and "Children, Valuing Children and Valuing Parents."

In 1987, Joseph Wresinski, a Polish priest and the founder of ATD Fourth World, submitted to the French Economic and Social Council a definition of extreme poverty. The definition stressed lack of basic security as the base of extreme poverty.

Ms. Soanes confirmed that "the nature of enduring social exclusion and deprivation is that families and individuals are eventually affected by insecurity in all aspects of their lives. The eradication of extreme poverty has to involve a comprehensive approach recognizing the links between health and education, culture, self-esteem, environment, work and housing. When living in extreme poverty, people are vulnerable on all fronts, but particularly, poverty can threaten the family."

Programs conducted by the ATD Fourth World create an environment of mutual respect, inclusion and full participation of families in the development of programs. An interesting program is the Street Library Program, which exists in 20 countries on five continents.

What impressed this writer is that the ATD programs recognize that impoverished families have many strengths and need not cease to relate positively to their society. Poor families are encouraged to share their experiences and openly discuss issues affecting their lives.

Ms. Soanes described several projects aimed at family preservation. One project in England helps social workers learn how to avoid placement of children in foster care; another project in Madrid helps families negotiate adequate housing; all the projects aim to overcome the tendency for poor families to be excluded from society.

In his remarks, Mr. Ndjoukou of the International Labor Organization explained how his organization has



At a workshop of the NGO Committee on the Family (from left) are: Vicki Soanes, NGO representative to the U.N. for the International Movement ATD Fourth World; Anna Krawczuk, former and honorary president of the UNWLA; Harold Cook, Ph.D., co-chair, NGO Family Committee on the Family – New York; Djankon Ndjoukou, director, International Labor Organization, New York Office for the U.N.; and Eva E. Sandis, Ph.D., co-chair, NGO Committee on the Family – New York.

worked globally to promote opportunities for men and women to "work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity." To this end, the ILO has launched a World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization, and has held labor conferences. They have studied such issues as the effects of international migration, social security, credit unions, skill development for the socially and economically excluded, and various pilot projects.

Mr. Ndjoukou stressed the need for cooperation and coordination among the

World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Development Program, governments and civil society. He asserted that market forces alone would not be able to stem rising unemployment levels despite the increases in wealth of the world economy. Therefore, concrete interventions of the type described by the speakers at the workshop will continue to be important, he noted.

This well-attended workshop stimulated many questions and concluded with a lively discussion.

Coordinating meeting discusses plans for 'Chornobyl Week' at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS – Joint plans for the commemorative events in the United Nations were at the center of the discussion at the recent coordinating meeting chaired by the permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Ambassador Valery Kuchinsky. The gathering brought together top representatives of the Ukrainian women's and cultural organizations, local non-governmental organizations that have been active in helping Ukraine to mitigate the sad Chornobyl legacy, as well as scores of journalists.

Ambassador Kuchinsky briefed the audience on major events to be held in the framework of the forthcoming

"Chornobyl Week" at the U.N. headquarters. The most outstanding among them will be a special commemorative session of the U.N. General Assembly to be held on April 28. The session will feature Secretary-General Kofi Annan; the president of the current session of the General Assembly, Jan Eliasson; the administrator of the United Nations Development Program, Kemal Dervis, as well as numerous dignitaries from U.N. member-states and non-governmental organizations.

In addition, a photo exhibit, a charity bazaar and the 15th international conference on health and the environment are scheduled to take place during the week of April 24.

World Information Transfer to hold conference on health and environment

NEW YORK – The World Information Transfer will be holding the 15th International Conference on Health and the Environment: Global Solutions at the United Nations. This year's theme is "Living with Radiation in the Modern World: Commemorating Chornobyl, Remembering Hiroshima/Nagasaki."

The event will be held on April 19-20, in Conference Room 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The conference is co-sponsored by the government of Ukraine, the government of Croatia and the Permanent Mission of Japan to the U.N. in collaboration with the U.N. Environment Program and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Admission to the conference is free,

however, due to U.N. security, pre-registration is mandatory by April 5.

Also, luncheons featuring guest speakers will be scheduled for each day of the conference; the cost is \$125 per person. Checks must be made out to World Information Transfer, and sent to 451 Park Ave. S., Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10016. RSVP by fax, (212) 686-2172; phone, (212) 686-1996, or e-mail WIT1986@aol.com. If inviting guests, please send their names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers on a separate sheet of paper.

For more information on scheduled speakers and times, readers may visit the World Information Transfer website at www.worldinfo.org.

Nadia Shmigel is the main representative to the United Nations from the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.

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Will Moscow...

(Continued from page 2)

Yevgeny Volk, director of the Heritage Foundation think-tank in Moscow, said Russia's support reflects its fears of losing its closest ally in opposition to NATO's eastward expansion. "From the point of view of the Russian political mentality, Belarus is a very important stronghold of resistance to NATO's eastward expansion, a containment of this NATO expansion that is often discussed in Russian political circles," Mr. Volk said. "In the Cold War paradigm that is still very present in Russian politics, Belarus plays an important role as a stronghold against NATO."

While the European Union on March 20 expressed its disapproval of the way in which the presidential election was conducted and said it will likely impose sanctions, Russia hailed the vote as free and fair.

Strategic interests aside, Russia has a number of reasons to back President Lukashenka. The Kremlin has been anxious to prevent a repetition of Ukraine's Orange Revolution, which swept the Western-leaning Viktor Yushchenko to power in 2005. Some observers also say that by allowing Mr. Lukashenka to step into the limelight, President Putin's regime hopes to deflect criticism of its own rights violations.

Economically, Russia's warm ties with Belarus may have helped the state-controlled Russian gas giant Gazprom to

wrest control of the Belarusian section of the Yamal-Europe pipeline from a reluctant Mr. Lukashenka last December. This pipeline carries 10 percent of Russian gas exports to Europe.

But Presidents Putin and Lukashenka have not always enjoyed a close relationship. While Russia and Belarus have long planned to join in a union state that would use the Russian ruble as its currency, Mr. Lukashenka was severely angered by a proposal Mr. Putin made in 2002 under which Belarus would virtually become a part of Russia.

Nevertheless, Heritage Foundation Director Volk said Moscow's support of Mr. Lukashenka is unlikely to falter in the future, provided the Belarusian president remains loyal to the Kremlin. "This [support] will take place until a person is found in Belarus who, firstly, will be at least as loyal to the Kremlin as Mr. Lukashenka, and, secondly, will enjoy as much support from the population," Mr. Volk said.

"So far, not a single politician has satisfied the Kremlin by meeting these criteria. There are people who can be supported by the population, but the Kremlin strongly fears that they will turn to the West like the Ukrainian government," he added.

Other observers, however, say Moscow's backing of Mr. Lukashenka could tarnish Russia's image abroad and harm its ties with Western countries, particularly in the aftermath of the March 19 election.

Ambassador Herbst...

(Continued from page 8)

honest elections are also in Ukraine's interest even if the Ukrainian people choose to pursue a different strategic path.

As we did during the 2004 elections, the United States is providing non-partisan assistance in support of a democratic process. As part of our overall assistance to Ukraine, the U.S. is providing approximately \$13.3 million to support free and fair elections. This is part of a broader United States government democracy assistance effort in Ukraine that is working to promote independent media, local government reform, rule of law, civil society development, and open and transparent political processes.

As in 2004, we advocate for no preferred candidate, party, bloc or outcome. The U.S. government will work with whomever the Ukrainian people choose in a free and transparent, democratic process.

Our election assistance programs are aimed at increasing civic participation in the electoral process by working with media and non-governmental organizations to publicize election issues to ensure people have adequate information to make an informed choice on election day. We are working with elections officials to improve election administration. We are providing non-partisan training for all political parties and candidates who have chosen to participate on message development and constituent outreach.

Again this year we are supporting the work of domestic and international election monitors, who will be scattered around Ukraine to observe the balloting and vote tabulation process. At this point, we can say that the election campaign has been the freest and fairest in independent Ukraine's young history, but we also want to help insure that this is an honest election.

Ukrainian voters must bear and have borne the bulk of the responsibility for holding free and fair elections. We are particularly interested in getting more young voters engaged and involved in the political process in Ukraine. In the United States, university students are very active in political campaigns. Their enthusiasm and vitality are valuable assets to any party, and they often volunteer to work long hours without pay.

As an outside observer and with the elec-

tion so close it would be inappropriate for me to discuss polling numbers or speculate on who might win. Let me just say that one sign of the strength of Ukrainian democracy is the fact that no one can predict with accuracy who will prevail in the elections or who will become the next prime minister. This decision still rests with the people of Ukraine — where it rightly belongs.

Let me contrast this with some polling data from September of 2004. A Razumkov Center poll published that month reported that a majority of those polled said they expected that fraud would determine the election's winner. According to the poll, the belief that falsification would occur was prevalent in every part of the country. People feared their vote would not matter. There is no such widespread fear this time around. Despite this expectation, people should be vigilant. Honest elections are too precious to be taken for granted.

I mentioned at the beginning of my remarks that you will have to take on greater responsibility in exchange for this freedom. On March 26 you will vote for delegates to the Verkhovna Rada, who under new constitutional provisions will chose a prime minister empowered with more authority than any predecessor. You must take destiny into your own hands by carefully choosing whom you want to lead your country during the coming years.

As responsible citizens and voters, it is incumbent on you to ensure that your name is on the voter list at your polling station. It is incumbent on you to research relevant issues and learn the positions of the various parties on those issues. You must look beyond the party leaders to see who else is on the party lists and assess their qualifications and reasons for running. These people will be making important choices over the next five years that will directly affect you, so your choice on election day must be well-informed.

For our part, we will be happy to work with whatever government you elect.

Ukraine has taken a huge step forward in its democratic development since the events of last year, but democracy is not a one-time event. Democracy is a continuing process that must be protected and nurtured to keep it strong. That is the task your generation has inherited.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Poor strategy...

(Continued from page 2)

state that no country invited into NATO's Intensified Dialogue on Membership, which Ukraine was invited to join in May 2005, has never not ultimately joined NATO. But, the short time frame of 2006-2008 for a MAP before being invited into NATO may mean Ukraine's invitation may be postponed after 2008.

Ukrainian authorities are too optimistic about Ukraine's chances of entering NATO – even though there are the best international conditions for this step. It is not just a question of free and fair elections – a Western demand that is likely to be met by Ukraine. A British Foreign Office official working on Ukraine told me recently that such a free election would be one of the first in the Commonwealth of Independent States since the early 1990s (and certainly in Ukraine since 1994). Another condition is that President Yushchenko attempt to have good relations with Russia. In the West, Yushchenko is not seen as anti-Russian.

But, a third Western expectation is to wait and see whether reformers will dominate the parliamentary coalition and government. It is in this expectation that two contradictions face the authorities that will be decided by the 2006 election results.

First, many Western members of NATO will support Ukraine being invited into an MAP at the Riga summit based on the condition that there is a re-unified Orange Parliament coalition. A re-unified Orange coalition will send a signal to NATO and the EU that Ukraine's democratic breakthrough begun by the Orange Revolution and the election of Mr. Yushchenko as Ukraine's first reformist president is now consolidated and the reform process is sustainable. The paradox of this expectation is that one of the three branches of the Orange coalition – the Socialists – is hostile to NATO membership.

Second, as an alternative to a re-unified Orange coalition, Anders Aslund is lobbying in Washington for an Our Ukraine-Party of the Regions coalition. After his January visit to Ukraine he wrote that such a parliamentary coalition is what Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, State Secretary Oleh Rybachuk and National Security and Defense Council Secretary Anatolii Kinakh also allegedly support.

If this is indeed true, do Dr. Aslund and these three members of the Orange "vlada" realize what signal such a coalition would send to NATO and the EU? Do they realize how support for such a coalition would undermine the goal of Ukraine's membership in NATO? An Our Ukraine-Regions coalition would give a signal that Ukraine is backtracking on reform and regressing from the Orange Revolution. NATO would postpone inviting Ukraine into an MAP and Ukraine would miss being invited to join in the third round of NATO enlargement in 2008.

An additional consequence of supporting a parliamentary coalition with the Party of the Regions would be to make Mr. Yushchenko a virtual president (which constitutional changes would simply reinforce). Mr. Yushchenko's support in western-central Ukraine would collapse and his supporters would defect to Yulia Tymoshenko. Eastern-southern Ukrainians would not give Mr. Yushchenko credit for doing a deal with their Party of the Regions. This would lead to Mr. Yushchenko not being re-elected for a second term in 2009.

Does Our Ukraine not remember the drop in its support after it signed a strategically futile memorandum with the Party of the Regions in late September 2005, a memorandum that Mr. Yushchenko himself discarded in January?

Would an Orange coalition support

Ukraine's membership of NATO? Not completely.

Throughout the CIS, the left is hostile to NATO membership. This makes the post-Soviet left very different from the left in the Baltic states and Central Europe. Post-Communist Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski's ardently backed Polish membership in NATO. We could not imagine any Ukrainian left-wing leader, pro-Orange or anti-Orange, following in Mr. Kwasniewski's footsteps.

Ultimately, the major hurdle to be overcome in Ukraine will be the attitude of the Party of the Regions, which is set to have the largest faction in the newly elected Verkhovna Rada. The Party of the Regions is dominant in eastern Ukraine, where opposition to NATO membership is highest. Without the conversion of the Party of the Regions after March into a pro-NATO force, or at least one neutrally disposed toward membership, it is difficult to see how Ukraine can move beyond an MAP into membership by 2008-2010 as President Yushchenko and Ukrainian officials constantly reiterate.

Demands of the Bush administration

NATO and the Bush administration expect three objectives to be met in Ukraine for membership to become a potential future option.

The first objective is the holding of free and fair elections on March 26 as understood by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe. This objective is very likely to be met as Ukraine holds its first free elections since 1994.

The second objective is continued political, economic and defense reforms. Although the pace of reforms since Mr. Yushchenko's election has been slower than expected, and often contradictory, that there is forward momentum is internationally recognized. Freedom House upgraded Ukraine to "free" this year, the country was granted market economic status by the EU and the U.S. and the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) on money laundering has halted its monitoring of Ukraine.

There is an ongoing cleaning up, and reform of, the Internal Affairs Ministry and military under Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko, who was on a high-profile visit to Washington recently, and Defense Minister Hrytsenko. Mr. Hrytsenko has called for greater coordination among Ukraine's security forces, where duties often overlap. NATO is set to assist in this endeavor by expanding its long-standing cooperation with the military to the Security Service of Ukraine, Internal Affairs Ministry, Border Troops and Ministry for Emergency Situations.

The most contentious issue is that of regional opposition to NATO membership and low public support. Some other post-Communist states, such as Slovenia and Hungary, also had low public support for membership. The populist Tymoshenko bloc has reiterated its opposition to joining NATO if there isn't public support for the move within Ukraine.

Ukraine is different from earlier countries that have joined NATO because it would be the first truly post-Soviet state to be invited to join NATO, as the three Baltic states were always treated differently (with some states, including the U.S., never recognizing the forcible incorporation of the Baltic states into the USSR) and never joined the CIS. Only 10 percent of Ukrainians understand what NATO is and why the country should join – a legacy of Soviet anti-NATO propaganda. Thus, the third objective is a NATO information campaign to raise public awareness.

An information campaign on NATO was lacking during the administration of Leonid Kuchma. This lack of a positive campaign on the merits of membership has left a vacuum into which the former

Kuchma camp has launched an anti-NATO membership campaign.

Lack of an all-round strategy

The anti-NATO campaign is being led by the Ne Tak! (Not So!) election bloc grouped around the Social Democratic Party – United headed by Viktor Medvedchuk, head of the presidential administration in Mr. Kuchma's last years in power. An important financial source for Ne Tak! bloc and anti-NATO campaign is the Republican Party led by former Naftohaz Ukrainy CEO Yurii Boiko.

Mr. Boiko was set to be arrested in summer 2005 but this was halted after presidential adviser and energy tycoon Oleksander Tretiakov intervened. Mr. Boiko is thought to be a major recipient of income from the shady RosUkrEnergo created in July 2004 and included in the new gas contract with Russia signed in January.

This shows how the failure to launch criminal proceedings dealing with past corruption in the energy sector and continuing to work with the shadowy RosUkrEnergo undermines other policies, namely, the strategic aim to seek NATO membership. Not surprisingly, Defense Minister Hrytsenko and Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk are against the gas agreement.

Support for a coalition with the Party of the Regions (which Messrs. Yekhanurov, Rybachuk and Kinakh allegedly support) shows the degree to which the Ukrainian government itself is not united with regard to NATO strategy. Is their dislike of Ms. Tymoshenko more important than their support for Ukraine's NATO membership, which would be postponed if such a Rada coalition was formed?

The largest faction in the new Verkhovna Rada will be the Party of the Regions of Ukraine. It will include numerous senior-level Kuchma officials against whom no criminal charges have been laid. The slogan "Bandits to Prison" appears to have been replaced by "Bandits to Parliament."

How do Ukraine's foreign policy strategists expect to deal with the possibility that the largest faction in the new Parliament will be against NATO membership? Do those government officials who prefer an Our Ukraine-Regions coalition not understand that this would send a signal to NATO that Our Ukraine is cooperating with an anti-NATO political force?

If President Yushchenko had fulfilled his campaign promise to send "Bandits to Prison," the Party of the Regions would not be able to create the largest faction in the new Rada. Regions would not have been able to take revenge for what it sees as a stolen victory in 2004; and the largest faction in Ukraine's Parliament would have been pro-NATO (Our Ukraine), not anti-NATO (Regions).

Conclusion

Holding a free election and not proposing anti-Russian policies are two Western expectations of President Yushchenko that he will easily fulfill. He is a democrat and is not anti-Russian. A third more difficult expectation is that an Orange coalition be established in the Verkhovna Rada after the elections.

Ukraine has two coalition possibilities in the new Parliament. In choosing which coalition to join, President Yushchenko and Our Ukraine will, in turn, either influence Ukraine's successful drive to NATO or postpone it indefinitely.

The two possibilities are:

1. A re-united Orange coalition leading to an invitation to join the MAP at the NATO summit in Riga in October. This would be followed by an invitation to join NATO (together with Albania, Croatia, Macedonia) at its 2008 summit.

2. An Our Ukraine-Regions coalition that will lead to a postponement of NATO's decision on inviting Ukraine into the MAP. Such a postponement would lead to Ukraine not being included in the third wave of NATO enlargement in 2008.



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Now that the...

(Continued from page 6)

Spanish. In Great Britain, they speak English. I think this question must be solved in a very tolerant manner, without forcing it."

At present, there's no legitimate force in Ukrainian nationalist politics, and maybe that's all for the better, given that Ukraine's prime minister, an ethnic Buryat from Russia, speaks better Ukrainian and holds more patriotic views than Natalia Vitrenko, a blue-eyed Kyiv native who prefers to wave the Russian flag.

Oleh Tiahnybok has emerged as Ukraine's leading nationalist. But while he is the only person standing up for lustration of Communists and Kuchmists, he doesn't help the situation by using slurs when referring to Russians and Jews.

The Ne Tak! bloc, a last-ditch effort by

the Social Democratic Party to retain its slipping grip on power, will become known as the 2006 campaign's biggest joke, led by the court jester himself, former President Leonid Kravchuk.

In an attempt to change its image, the Kyiv oligarch clan, which includes such warm and cuddly characters as Viktor Medvedchuk and Hryhorii Surkis, has spent millions on a campaign that will likely fail miserably.

Because he's an unprincipled manipulator who has demonstrated that he's interested only in promoting his own business interests, Mr. Kravchuk doesn't draw much attention or credibility from Ukrainian journalists.

It's sad to see how a former president can have such a lack of respect from his own countrymen.

Some things in Ukraine haven't changed – private companies and educational institutions are still pressuring their employees to join and vote for parties on

a wide-scale basis. Journalists are still reported to be taking money to promote certain political causes.

But attitudes are slowly changing. For the 2006 campaign, the Party of the Regions made a conscious decision to try and clean up its image and present itself as a legitimate collection of people. Even if it's not reality, the effort demonstrates the party feels it needs to play by Western standards.

So who would I vote for if I were a Ukrainian citizen? The Our Ukraine bloc.

Finally, Ukraine's closed election list system is regression for Ukrainian democracy. Citizens can vote only for a bloc or party, without being able to select a single candidate. Instead, it's the party leadership that selects candidates. Therefore, the Ukrainian voter is instead voting for a clique of party leaders who

will then decide on behalf of voters who will represent them in the Parliament.

Additionally, parliamentary representation without geographic demarcations is undemocratic.

For example, a Ukrainian American in the East Village of New York City knows that his or her representative in the U.S. House of Representatives is either Carolyn Maloney or Jerrold Nadler. The East Village is part of their geographic constituency.

However, a resident of Ivano-Frankivsk can't point to anyone in the Verkhovna Rada and say that anyone represents his or her interests.

Ukrainians finally have the will to build a Western-style democracy, and it's unfortunate that they must do it within the framework of an electoral system that doesn't represent them adequately.

Students' Association...

(Continued from page 14)

What, then, is the responsibility of contemporary Ukrainian architecture? "Just as throughout history, Ukrainian architecture was able to express itself in a unique way within various international styles - as it did during the Byzantine, Renaissance, and Baroque eras - it is very important that today our architecture find a specific and distinctive expression which would be compatible with the contemporary world trends in architecture. This, however, demands a high degree of professional mastery and keen understanding of the particular architectural trend that could place Ukraine within the sphere of European culture again," stated Prof. Radoslav Zuk.

The students responded with enthusiasm to both these lectures and it seemed that they would more than welcome similar lectures and informal discussions on a variety of Ukrainian cultural issues. Nevertheless, they were just as interested

in letting the 32,000 student body know about their presence on the McGill campus.

Jaroslav Holowko, vice-president of MUSA, who was born in Poland, said that he tells all his friends about Ukraine and the new Ukrainian Students' Association. Although he was glad that Ukrainian students from the neighboring Concordia University joined in the fun, he would like to see overseas student groups participate in events organized by MUSA.

John Mongeau, the sports rep, is dreaming of setting up soccer matches between the Ukrainian, Italian, Romanian and Polish Clubs.

The president of MUSA, Johanna Paquin, who greeted guests at the Wine and Cheese reception in beautiful Ukrainian, hopes that the Ukrainian Week celebrations will become a McGill University tradition. Certainly, if one is to judge by this year's celebrations, the future success of McGill Ukrainian Students' Association in Montreal is assured.

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і Словаччина

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

According to the senators, the Famine was organized by the Soviet regime to weaken and annihilate the Ukrainian people, with the aim of strangling their desire for freedom and the establishment of an independent state. The Senate also said Western politicians and journalists who concealed the truth about the events in Ukraine in 1932-1933, also bear responsibility for the Famine. News of the resolution was reported on March 17. (Ukrinform)

Election campaign costs \$36 million

KYIV – According to a study by the Freedom of Choice coalition of public forces, political parties and blocs that are running for the Verkhovna Rada have spent over 182 million hrv on their campaigns. Hanna Yarova, chief of the Political Promotion project, noted that the Party of the Regions tops the list of Ukraine's five biggest spenders, having invested over 34,391,000 hrv in its campaign. Others in the top five were: the Lytvyn's People's Bloc spent (30,466,000 hrv), the pro-presidential Our Ukraine bloc (24,758,000 hrv), the Party for Environmental Survival

ECO+25% (23,876,000 hrv) and the Viche party (13,756,000 hrv). The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was 13th in spending, having expended about 2,586,000 hrv on its campaign. Among the top 10 spenders were the Pora-Party of Reforms and Order Bloc, the Socialist Party of Ukraine, the European Capital party, the Ne Tak! bloc and the Kostenko-Pliusch People's Bloc. (Ukrinform)

Yekhanurov sees problems ahead

KYIV – Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov said in a television interview on March 19 that it would be difficult for him to work in a government with former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich if such a scenario unfolds following the March 26 parliamentary elections, Interfax-Ukraine reported. "I am a disciplined man, I will work where the president will send me. But I'd rather go to the Parliament," Mr. Yekhanurov said. Responding to a question about possible post-election cooperation with former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Mr. Yekhanurov said: "I'd like people to understand her economic views. It is difficult for me as a professional economist to work with people who have no views." (RFE/RL Newsline)

3,500 monitors for Ukrainian vote

KYIV – Central Election Commission head Yaroslav Davydovych said on March 19 that 3,518 official international observers will monitor the March 26 parliamentary election in Ukraine, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Among the organizations sending observers are the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the European Parliament, the Commonwealth of Independent States Interparliamentary Assembly Council, the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, the Ukrainian World Congress and the International Union of Komsomol Organizations. (RFE/RL Newsline)

No evidence of Berezovsky financing

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada's ad hoc fact-finding commission has found no evidence that could point to Russian tycoon Boris Berezovsky as involved in financing Viktor Yushchenko's election campaign, it was reported on March 15. According to ad hoc commission member Mikhail Pozhivanov, during the commission's work not a single document was found to confirm Mr. Berezovsky's involvement in financing the Yushchenko campaign. On March 14 the ad hoc commission was to convene a session, but it had to be canceled as there was no quorum. As Mr. Pozhivanov noted, the commission's members got sick and tired of sundry speculations on the subject and decided to discontinue their sittings. The commission will deliver no report as no such decision was made. According to Mr. Pozhivanov, the ad hoc commission's chairman, Yurii Solomatin, may avail himself of the opportunity, offered by the Verkhovna Rada's rules for speeches by faction members, to make a speech on the subject. It was Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, who on September 14, 2005, said that Mr. Berezovsky had financed Mr. Yushchenko's election campaign. According to Mr. Kravchuk, organizations affiliated with the Russian tycoon remitted \$15 million to businesses that financed the Yushchenko campaign. Mr. Berezovsky admitted there were money transfers, but said that the money had never been meant for financing the campaign. (Ukrinform)

PGO investigating illegal wiretapping

KYIV – The Procurator-General's Office (PGO) has confirmed that a criminal case has been launched in connection with allegations that operatives of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) illegally eavesdropped on the telephone conversations of certain government officials and politicians. According to the press service of the PGO, these violations took place in March 2005 and are classified as crimes punishable under Article 163 (violation of the secrecy of telephone conversations) and Article 424 (military officers exceeding their power or authority) of the Ukrainian Criminal Code. According to the press service, the PGO is presently questioning witnesses and victims, and has scheduled forensic examinations in connection with the case. Furthermore, the Procurator-General's Office received from

the SBU materials about similar violations of the rights of citizens over a long period at one of the regional divisions of the SBU. The PGO has also opened a criminal case into these violations. (Ukrinform)

Kyiv refutes allegations of CIA jail

KYIV – Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko disclosed on March 15 that the ministry has demanded that the Russian side promptly disavow an RTR Channel report alleging the existence of a CIA clandestine prison in Ukraine. According to Mr. Hrytsenko, the report is either an informational provocation or a special operation, carried out through the RTR, and has seriously harmed Ukraine and its armed forces. Mr. Hrytsenko disclosed that, in compliance with President Viktor Yushchenko's order, the Russian Embassy's military attaché has been invited to visit the Makarov-1 facility. The minister has invited journalists to join in, saying they will be shown hitherto off-limits facilities, where nuclear weapons were once kept. We are making this unprecedented step, Mr. Hrytsenko noted, to convince everybody that the report about alleged CIA prisons in Ukraine is a brazen lie. In fall 2005 a scandal broke out in the European Union when the news media published documents on the existence of the secret CIA jails in Europe. The documents were allegedly provided by Swiss intelligence sources. Initially the prisons were reported to be located in Romania and Poland; a later report pointed to a CIA jail in some East European nation. According to the RTR report, one of the clandestine jails could be located on the territory of the Makarov-1 military garrison in the Kyiv region. (Ukrinform)

RosUkrEnergo interested in Kerch

KYIV – The company RosUkrEnergo has intimated its intention to participate in a tender for developing deposits of carbohydrate fuels in the Black Sea shelf's Kerch segment. RosUkrEnergo has obtained all the documents necessary to allow it to participate in the tender, Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov told the Cabinet's session on March 1. According to Mr. Yekhanurov, 15 companies have stated their intention to participate in the tender, including entities in Ukraine, the United States, China and Britain. He named Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil and Petrobras among them. On December 24, 2005, the government had announced a tender to vie for the right to conclude an agreement on distributing petroleum and gas, extracted from the Kerch segment of the Black Sea shelf. In line with Ukraine's legislation, the Ukrainian state's share is at least 20 percent in the money equivalent. The Kerch segment occupies a 12,960 square kilometer territory. Its exploitation will allow Ukraine to annually get additional 4 billion cubic meters of gas and 3 million tons of petroleum. The tender's winner will get a special license for extracting carbohydrate fuels in the Kerch segment for 30 years, and the agreement may be then extended. The tender's outcome was supposed to be made public on March 24. (Ukrinform)

(Continued on page 21)

UNA SENIORS' CONFERENCE

at
SOYUZIVKA
on

June 11-16, 2006 – Senior Citizens' Week

**Ladies and Gentlemen! 2006 is already well on its way.
We wish you good health and invite you to visit SOYUZIVKA!**

On behalf of the UNA Seniors Club, we would like to invite all seniors to participate in our annual UNA Seniors Club Week, which will be held from Sunday, June 11, to Friday, June 16, 2006. For your general information, please note that the Seniors Club was organized over 30 years ago. The purpose of the UNA Seniors is to support UNA endeavors, to preserve and cultivate the Ukrainian heritage, promote unity within the community, develop social activities and maintain Ukrainian community life in America. We have finally reached a time in our lives when Ukraine is independent and living a democratic life. Ukraine will always have our thoughts and support. But there is a time when we must concentrate on maintaining our own Ukrainian community. There is much that can be done. We will try to make the week interesting and fun. As you may have read in our publications, last year we had over 60 participants, seven interesting speakers and entertainment in the evenings. Fun was had by all. Again, we have an interesting program scheduled and hope that you will be able to join us for an interesting, inexpensive weekend. Follow the press for further information about Seniors Citizens' Week.



Make your reservations for the UNA Seniors' Conference, which will be held at our mountain resort SOYUZIVKA, beginning Sunday, June 11, starting with a buffet dinner, through Friday, June 16, including brunch. All inclusive: five nights, all meals, banquet, entertainment, special speakers.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 20)

Suspected arms trafficker extradited

KYIV – Oleg Orlov, a Russian businessman suspected by Ukrainian prosecutors of illegal trade in weapons, was extradited from the Czech Republic to Ukraine on February 25, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Mr. Orlov, 57, is accused of illicit sales in 1999 of a P14F radar to Eritrea and of Soviet-made Kh-55SM (also known as AS-15) cruise missiles to China. Mr. Orlov unsuccessfully applied for asylum in the Czech Republic in 2004 and was subsequently arrested at a Prague airport while trying to leave for the United Arab Emirates. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine not to store spent nuclear fuel

KYIV – Ukrainian Nuclear Regulation Committee Chair Olena Mykolaichuk told journalists on February 23 that Ukraine will not store foreign spent nuclear fuel in a “central spent nuclear fuel storage facility” that the country is going to be built at the former Chornobyl nuclear power plant, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Ms. Mykolaichuk was responding to criticism from some politicians in Ukraine, including Yulia Tymoshenko, that the planned facility is to keep spent nuclear fuel from many foreign countries, including the United States. Ms. Tymoshenko also cast doubt on the credibility of the U.S. company Holtec, which was selected by Ukraine’s Enerhoatom last year to build such a storage facility at Chornobyl. “One important lesson from the natural gas crisis in January 2006 is the need for Ukraine to strengthen its own energy security. The Holtec-Enerhoatom agreement is a major step in that direction,” the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv said in a statement disseminated on February 23. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Funds allocated for St. Sophia

KYIV – A total of 46.5 million hrv will be allocated for the restoration and rehabilitation of the St. Sophia historical and cultural preserve in 2006, reported <http://www.for-ua.com>, citing the press service of the Ministry of Construction, Architecture and Municipal Housing Services. According to the press service, this is the first time in the history of independent Ukraine that such a large sum will be spent on the restoration of St. Sophia. The state budget will allocate 5 million hrv; the municipal budget will furnish 26.5 million, and the Donetsk region will supply 15 million in the form of philanthropic contributions. The project’s top priority tasks include the restoration of the metropolitan’s building on the premises of St. Sophia. (The Day Weekly Digest)

Kinakh receives Lithuanian medal

KYIV – Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Anatolii Kinakh, while on a working visit to Lithuania on February 16, was decorated with the Cross of Commander of the Order for Merits to Lithuania. Mr. Kinakh received the high order from President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania together with other foreign political figures, who, according to the Lithuanian leadership, made a significant contribution to the modern history of the state. The order was also awarded to Belgian Defense Minister Andre Flahaut, an active supporter of Lithuania’s integration with Euro-Atlantic entities, and to Georgian State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Giorgi Baramidze. (Ukrinform)

First liturgy at UGCC cathedral

KYIV – The first liturgy was celebrated at the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church’s Patriarchal Cathedral of the Holy Resurrection in Kyiv on January 19. The

liturgy was celebrated in the basement of the church, as construction of the church continues. The principal celebrant of the liturgy was Patriarch Lubomyr Husar, head of the UGCC. Liturgies will now be celebrated in the basement of the church only on Sundays; on weekdays, liturgies will be held at a temporary location on the territory of the construction site. The construction of the patriarchal church should be completed in 2007. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

UOC-MP recalls “Lviv Sobor”

KYIV – The Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) held its first regular session of the year, headed by Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan, head of the UOC-MP, at the Kyivan Monastery of the Caves on February 9. At the beginning of the session, Metropolitan Volodymyr emphasized “the importance of the Lviv Church Sobor [Assembly] of 1946 for the history of Orthodoxy in Ukraine. This year we will celebrate its 60th anniversary.” The synod “decided to honor this historical event.” As a result, a special committee was created, headed by Archbishop Serhii Hensytskyi of Ternopil and Kremenets. The so-called Lviv Sobor was held on March 8-10, 1946, with clergy of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) who were forcibly assembled by Soviet authorities. The “sobor” declared that the UGCC had ended its union with Rome and “returned” to the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church. All the bishops of the UGCC and many priests, religious and faithful were then imprisoned or sent to hard labor camps. The UGCC, which was liquidated by the Soviet government, went underground for more than 40 years, during which it was the largest illegal religious organization in the world. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Ukraine releases Putin coin

KYIV – Within the framework of an all-Ukrainian and international event geared toward popularizing the hryvnia and on the occasion of 10th anniversary of its introduction into circulation, the presentation of the souvenir coin “President Vladimir Putin of Russia” took place on February 8. According to the chairman of the Public Council, Valentyn Khaletskyi, the sketch and design of the coin were agreed upon with Mr. Putin. Coins with images of Yulia Tymoshenko, Viktor Yanukovych, Leonid Kuchma and Leonid Kravchuk had been issued earlier. (Ukrinform)

Religious relics returned to Crimea

SYMFEROPOL – A relic reputed to be a piece of the true cross of Jesus Christ, and other relics which were taken from Crimea in 1943, were returned to Ukraine on January 24. A delegation headed by Metropolitan Lazar (Shvets) of Symferopol and Crimea of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) welcomed at the Symferopol airport an ark containing a piece of the true cross of Christ, and relics of St. Paraskeva and the martyr St. Panteleimon. Because the relics had been in danger for decades because of religious repression under the Soviet regime, they were taken out of Crimea in 1943. First they went to France; since 1971, they had been kept at a monastery in Jerusalem. When it became known that the Crimean relics were being kept in Jerusalem, Metropolitan Lazar contacted Archbishop Mark of Berlin-Germany and Great Britain, overseer of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, with the request to return the ark with the relics to the St. Paraskeva Women’s Monastery of the UOC-MP’s Symferopol-Crimea Eparchy. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

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There will be many levels of membership, but at the heart of it all, members will be individuals who share the vision of Soyuzivka as the epicenter of the Ukrainian American community, members who desire to promote and preserve their cultural, educational, and historical Ukrainian-American heritage. Since 1952, Soyuzivka has been the hub of the Ukrainian American community, a gathering place to which the descendants of the many waves of Ukrainian immigrants keep returning to experience their rich cultural heritage and to meet other Ukrainian Americans. Today, in the establishment of a Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, Ukrainian Americans and supporters of Soyuzivka join in their efforts to preserve this cultural jewel.

Many of these descendants are experiencing a renewed interest in their ethnic roots. The Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation is an initiative to re-educate both young and old in an effort to maintain a proud heritage.

Members will be people who enjoy Soyuzivka enough to want to give something back – to make a personal investment in its exhibits and programs, and renovation and preservation initiatives— for themselves and for their community.

You can be sure that your membership commitment to the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, at any level of support, WILL make a difference.

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Students 17- 23	\$ 40.00 (pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 5% discount in gift shop
Seniors over 65	\$ 30.00 (pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 5% discount in gift shop
Family (children under 16)	\$150.00 (pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 5% discount in gift shop
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All members who join prior to July 31, 2006, will receive a Soyuzivka logo tote bag.

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- New dual air conditioning/heating system for Veselka
- Additional new mattresses
- New curtains in Main House rooms

TRAVEL TIPS: Surfing the web and direct flights to Ukraine

by Walter Prochorenko

You're an expert websurfer and an experienced traveler, but finding the best deal for a flight to Ukraine can still be a daunting experience. One of the reasons is that the only airline that flies directly to Ukraine – AeroSvit – still does not appear on many of the popular travel sites. The other reason is that even if you do find AeroSvit flights on your favorite travel pages, the prices can be quite different from each other.

AeroSvit is not usually the least expensive for such flights, but for a nine- to 10-hour flight, very few people are willing to extend this time by adding the time it takes to connect on top of this. The cheapest fare for this route was actually via Moscow with an Aeroflot/AeroSvit connection, which came to \$647, including taxes.

A recent survey of the most popular websites showed a marked difference in pricing among them. The chart above shows these differences for an AeroSvit flight originating at New York's JFK International Airport to Boryspil for the dates March 19-26. Please note that taxes can be a large portion of your flight bill. The AeroSvit flight fare on its website showed a charge of \$484, but the tax on top of this was \$244.50.

Website	Round-trip air fare
www.AeroSvit.com	\$728.50
www.AirGorilla.com	\$707.93
www.CheapSeats.com	Not shown
www.CheapTickets.com	Not shown
www.Expedia.com	\$1,949.00
www.Kayak.com	\$849.00
www.OneTravel.com	Not shown
www.Orbitz.com	\$859.00

For those who are not familiar with AeroSvit or its flights, AeroSvit utilizes Boeing aircraft and is the airline that took over the Air Ukraine routes when Air Ukraine was no longer allowed to land its Soviet-era planes at international airports due to noise and air pollution regulations.

For business travelers AeroSvit airlines can be a substantial bargain since the flight costs can be 50 percent to 70 percent (and sometimes even more) less than connecting business-class flights on other airlines.

Service on AeroSvit is a marked improvement over the old Air Ukraine flights that were often marred by very poor quality of service, bland meals and noisy airplanes.

For those who don't want to purchase tickets online, you can still call your local travel agent and ask for a booking on AeroSvit.

Notice to publishers and authors

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

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: Editorial Staff, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



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UNWLA branch hosts screening of “Between Hitler and Stalin”



Branch 98 members with their guest speaker: (sitting from left) Victoria Mischenko, Professor Taras Hunczak, Anna Krawczuk, (standing) M.Orysia Jacus, Maria Polanskyj, Luba Bilowchtchuk, Olha Hunczak, Rita Oberleitner and Irene Krawczuk.

by Irene Krawczuk

MANALAPAN, N.J. – Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Branch 98 of Holmdel/Middletown, N.J., and the Monmouth County Library Headquarters co-sponsored a screening of the documentary film “Between Hitler and Stalin: Ukraine in World War II – the Untold Story” on February 4. This stunning film was produced and directed by Slawko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC) and is narrated by Jack Palance.

Irene Krawczuk is secretary of UNWLA Branch 98.

Admission was free and refreshments were served. The program included a discussion period following the film, conducted by Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor emeritus of Rutgers University. Branch 98 President Victoria Mischenko, welcomed Prof. Hunczak and Olha Hunczak, members of the branch, as well as the audience of more than 100 people. The purpose of the screening was to inform the public about World War II in Ukraine where, according to Edgar Snow, a U.S. war correspondent, “the whole titanic struggle was first of all a Ukrainian war.” Graphic archival footage of events of the

(Continued on page 27)



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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Boston activists promote Famine curriculum



Seen during the Ukrainian community representatives' meeting with Sid Smith of the Boston School District are: (first row, from left) Dr. Lubomyr Hajda, Anna Raniuk, Maria Walzer, Dr. Oleksander Zaytsev, (second row) Father Roman Tarnawsky, Mr. Smith and Father Yaroslav Nalysnyk.

BOSTON – Back in November 2005, a group of Ukrainians met with Sid Smith, who is in charge of the history curriculum for the Boston School District, to discuss the inclusion of information about the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 on the history website used by the school district's teachers.

Present at the meeting were: Anna Raniuk, a survivor of the Famine; Father Yaroslav Nalysnyk and Roman Tarnawsky, respectively, of the local Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox parishes; Dr. Lubomyr Hajda of Harvard University; Dr. Oleksander Zaytsev of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv; and Maria Walzer, vice-president of the Boston Chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

After reviewing the material presented, Mr. Smith said he would place it on the website provided he had the permission of Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, an educator and historian, to scan his curriculum guide, which was released by the Ukrainian National Association. Dr. Kuropas readily agreed.

“The Forced Famine in Ukraine 1932-1933: Curriculum and Resource Guide for Educators” includes a 29-page section for teachers and a 33-page section for students. (Copies of the curriculum guide are available from the UNA Home Office by calling or writing to Steven Woch, Ukrainian National Association, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054; 973-292-9800, ext. 3013. Copies of the guide are free; however, there is a postage charge.)

The Ukrainian community activists also presented Mr. Smith with a booklet that contains copies of a selection of testimonies from the three-volume report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, a bibliography of books and websites that have information about the Famine, and a copy of a proclamation on the Ukrainian Genocide issued in 2004 by Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. (Copies of the booklet are available to the public for \$3. Checks should be made payable to the UCCA Boston Chapter and orders sent to: Maria Walzer, 11 Green Valley Road, Medway, MA 02053.)

UCCA New York...

(Continued from page 10)

supra-nationalist. Ukraine will have to develop a variety of vectors, including one toward Russia, he added.

Later, elaborating on how he envisioned a vector toward Russia, Rep. Hastings underscored that President Vladimir Putin is one of the world's “craftiest politicians” who recognizes the significance of the Russian population in Ukraine. He added that the Ukrainian leadership has to deal with that fact. “Russia has also not gotten over losing the near abroad,” and Ukraine can expect that Russia will continue to manipulate that situation, Rep. Hastings said, emphasizing that the relationship is complicated and sustained work is needed.

Rep. Crowley added that whichever vector Ukraine chooses, what is most important is transparency in foreign relations.

Rep. Hastings, who hails from Florida,

concluded that he is looking for the same standards in the United States – fairness in the vote count and no stuffing of ballots – and would call everything the way he sees it when monitoring the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

Rep. Crowley, whose congressional district includes Queens and the Bronx, is a member of the House Committee on International Relations and an active member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

Rep. Hastings is a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the president of the Parliamentary Assembly, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In this role, the congressman will lead the U.S. delegation to observe the upcoming Ukrainian elections, serve as the parliamentarian in charge of all international observers and have the important duty of announcing the final conclusion on behalf of the international community.

Need a back issue?

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TENNIS CAMP AGES 10-18

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June 25- July 7, 2006

\$540- UNA Members, \$590- Non UNA Members + \$130 Instructors Fee/Per Student

EXPLORATION DAY CAMP AGES 7-10

A day camp for boys and girls ages 7-10, with daily supervised day fun in the outdoors!

Session #1: June 26- June 30, 2006

Session #2: July 3- July 7, 2006

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

DISCOVERY CAMP AGES 8-15

Calling all nature lovers for this sleepover program filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, scuba, organized sports & games, bonfires, song and much more. Older kids will participate in overnight campouts with focus on wilderness survival skills. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, and a life time of memories are included!

Session #1: July 9- July 15, 2006

Session #2: July 16- July 22, 2006

\$400- UNA Members, \$450- Non UNA Members

CHILDREN'S UKRAINIAN HERITAGE DAY CAMP AGES 4-7

Formerly known as Cherny Camp, this day camp exposes kids to their Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games, ending w/a performance.

Summer Camps 2006

Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.

Session #1: July 16- July 21, 2006

Session #2: July 23- July 28, 2006

\$150 Per Camper, \$190 Per Camper If Not Overnight Guest

SCUBA DIVING COURSE AGES 12-ADULTS

This one week course will complete your academic, confined water and open water requirements for PADI open water certification. Classes are given by George Hanushevsky, scuba-diver instructor. Space is limited so sign up now!

July 16- July 22, 2006

\$400 for Course (\$120 Deposit Required)

UKRAINIAN "SITCH" SPORTS CAMP AGES 6-18

This is the 37th Annual Ukrainian "SITCH" Sports Camp that will take place here at Soyuzivka for the 1st time. Run by the Ukrainian Sitch Sports School, this camp will focus on soccer and tennis and is perfect for any sports enthusiast. Registration for this camp is done directly by contacting Marika Bokalo at 908/851-0617.

Session #1: July 23- July 29, 2006

Session #2: July 30- August 5, 2006

\$340 Per Camper, \$145 for Day Campers

GOLF DAY CAMP AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL DAY CAMP AGES 8-ADULTS

Instructional golf sessions w/golf instructors, between 8-11am & evening beach volleyball w/professional instruction by All American Volleyball Player between 6:30-8:30 pm.

Session #2 SITCH campers may participate- call for details.

July 31- August 4, 2006

GOLF-\$35 Per Camper/Per Day & VOLLEYBALL-\$20 Per Camper/Per Day

TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE CAMP AGES 8-16

Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky). This sleepover camp has been a Soyuzivka favorite for over 25 years, offering expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced dancers. Attendance is limited to 60 students. The camps end with a grand recital which is always a summer highlight!

Session #1: July 23- August 5, 2006 (NEW ADDED WEEK)

Session #2: August 6- August 19, 2006

\$610- UNA Members, \$660- Non UNA Members + \$300 Instructors Fee Per Student

\$75 Deposit Required to Register Child into most Camps.

For more information & for camp applications call: (845) 626-5641

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OUT AND ABOUT

April 1 Whippany, NJ	Cabaret Night fund-raiser for Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-537-7053
April 1 Jenkintown, PA	Benefit dinner for Ukrainian Catholic University, 773-235-8462
April 1 New York	"James Giles Project" Concert, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660
April 2 Hillside, NJ	Pysanky workshop, Immaculate Conception Church, 908-289-0127
April 4 Ottawa	Roundtable discussion about Ukraine's parliamentary elections, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, 613-562-5800, ext. 3692
April 7 North Port, FL	Ukrainian Easter Bazaar, St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 941-426-2182
April 8 New Britain, CT	Easter Festival, St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 860-828-5087
April 11 Toronto	Roundtable discussion on Ukraine's parliamentary elections, University of Toronto, 416-947-8113

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.

UNWLA branch...

(Continued from page 24)

war combined with compelling witness accounts and comments by well-known authorities are presented in the film.

These elements combine to reveal how greatly Ukraine suffered in the great conflict between the regimes of Hitler and Stalin. One chilling statistic, provided by Snow, is that "no fewer than 10 million people had been lost" to Ukraine since 1941.

Prof. Hunczak engaged the enthusiastic audience in a post-screening question and answer period. He spoke of his own wartime experience, as well as answered many questions posed by a very interested audience. Some questions revealed a lack of public awareness of the plight of Ukraine during the war.

The lively session ended with applause and appreciation from many who complimented Branch 98 members and asked if other similar events were scheduled. Branch members were delighted at the audience response, thanked Prof. Hunczak for his participation, and agreed to plan other events to further public awareness of Ukrainian history and culture.

Last year Branch 98 collaborated with the library on two special events: the screening of the film "Harvest of Despair," and a monthlong exhibit of Ukrainian arts and crafts provided by its members. Both screened films have been donated to the library.

UNWLA Branch 98 expressed gratitude to the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, and, in particular, Flora Higgins for co-sponsoring these events.

Want to reach us by e-mail?

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The next issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly's*

Wedding Announcements

will appear in the April 30, 2006, issue.

For a wedding announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by April 20, 2006.

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

We hope you will announce your wedding in *The Ukrainian Weekly*, or send a greeting to your favorite newlyweds.

Rates for announcements and greetings:

One-column wedding announcement: \$100

Two-column wedding announcement: \$200

Wedding greeting: \$75

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- March 31 - April 2, 2006

Plast Kurin "Chornomorski Khvyli" Annual Rada

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz
- April 2, 2006

Wedding Shower
- April 7-9 2006

BUG (Brooklyn Ukrainian Group) Spring Cleaning Volunteer Weekend
- April 16, 2006

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.
- April 18-19, 2006

Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Program
- April 22, 2006

Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal Dinner Banquet
- April 23, 2006

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.
- April 28, 2006

Ellenville High School Junior Prom
- April 28-30, 2006

Spa Weekend organized by UNWLA Branch 95
- April 29, 2006

Birthday Party Banquet

TAPS New York Beer Festival at Hunter Mountain, round trip bus from Soyuzivka, \$20; special room rate - \$60/night
- May 5-7, 2006

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz
- May 14, 2006

Mother's Day Brunch
- May 20, 2006

Wedding
- May 21, 2006

Communion Luncheon Banquet
- May 26-29, 2006

UNA Convention
- June 2-4, 2006

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz
- June 3, 2006

Wedding
- June 5-9, 2006

Eparchial Clergy Retreat
- June 10, 2006

Wedding
- June 11-16, 2006

UNA Seniors' Conference
- June 16-18, 2006

3rd Annual Adoption Weekend
- June 17, 2006

Wedding
- June 18, 2006

Father's Day Luncheon and Program
- June 23-24, 2006

Plast Kurin "Shostokryli" Rada
- June 24, 2006

Wedding
- June 25-July 2, 2006

Tabir Ptashat Session #1
- June 25-July 7, 2006

Tennis Camp
- June 26-June 30, 2006

Exploration Day Camp

To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, March 31

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club presents "Remembrances," an evening of personal accounts by members of the Shukhevych family. Speakers will include Ulana Starosolska, George Jarymowycz, Jaroslawa Gerulak and others. Lavrentia Turkewicz will provide an eyewitness account with commentaries on the Shukhevych convention in Ukraine which took place in July 2005. Donation: \$7; students, \$5. The event will take place at 7 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. For more information call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 477-6175, log on to www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/, or e-mail ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com.

Friday, March 31-Friday, April 7

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club finalizes its activities at its present location with an exhibit titled "The Shukhevyches: A Family Album," featuring a historical overview of the legendary clan through photos. Gallery hours: Friday, 6-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.. The exhibit will open at 7 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. For more information call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 477-6175, log on to www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/, or e-mail ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 1

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Business and Professional Group (UBPG) of Chicago, the Ukrainian National Museum (UNM) of Chicago and the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University invite members and the community to a panel discussion on "Culture and Identity in Contemporary Ukraine." Three scholars from Ukraine and North America will tackle issues of religion, politics and language: Dr. Mykola Riabchuk, National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, will discuss the policies of post-Communist governments in Ukraine; Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, will analyze the desire for cultural autonomy and the continuing dominance of Russian culture in Ukraine; Dr. Frank Sysyn, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, will examine the role of religious affiliation in the Orange Revolution. The presentation will be held at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago, 721 N. Oakley Blvd. Admission: \$10 for UBPG and UNM members; \$15 non-members and guests. For additional information, call the museum, 312-421-8020, or Anna, 847-359-3676.

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: All are cordially invited to attend a special benefit dinner for the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, to be held at 5 p.m. at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road. The main speaker at the dinner will be the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University. Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka, honorary chair of the event, will be a guest of honor at the dinner. A film will be shown, along with various exhibits from the university. Tickets are \$40 and should be purchased by March 27. Tickets may be purchased at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, the Byzantine Church Supply Store at the cathedral, Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, First Security Bank or from individual committee members. For more information call the Ukrainian Catholic

Education Foundation at 773-235-8462 or e-mail flanagan@ucef.org.

Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2

SILVER SPRING, Md.: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at 16631 New Hampshire Ave., will hold an Easter Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Traditional Ukrainian food, to eat in or take out, will be available; selections include varenyky, holubtsi, bigos, borsch, babka and paska. Pysanky and Ukrainian crafts will be on sale. For information call 301-365-2490.

Saturday, April 8

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) invites all to a presentation of two Ukrainian-language publications about Lesia Ukrainka (1871-1913) in honor of her 135th birthday. Tamara Skrypka will present "Aristocratic Origins of the Kosach Family" (Lviv, 1999), and "Larysa Petrivna Kosach-Kvitka (Lesia Ukrainka). Biographic Materials. Memoirs. Iconography" (Kyiv-New York, 2004). There will be an introduction by Dr. Olexa Bilaniuk and a commentary by NTSh President Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych. The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

NEW BRITAIN, Conn.: The 12th annual Ukrainian Easter Festival will be held at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 54 Winter St. (behind Newbrite Plaza) at 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Snow date is Saturday, April 15. Pysanky and egg-decorating supplies will be featured; other highlights: Easter breads, varenyky, stuffed cabbage, borsch, home-made cakes and desserts. Lunch and takeout will be available. Admission and parking (behind the church) are free. For information call 860-828-5087 or 800-829-1999.

Sunday, April 9

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund cordially invites the public to the final event of its Sunday Music Series, 2005-2006 season. This not-to-be missed concert will feature the U.S. debut of winners of the International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. The two very talented winners – from Ukraine and Russia – will perform works by J.S. Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Lysenko, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, Skjiabin and Sousa. The concert will take place at 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Old Town, Alexandria. Suggested donation: \$20; free for students. This concert is sponsored by TWGCF in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine. For more information please call 202-244-8836 or 703-838-4994.

Tuesday, April 11

TORONTO: The Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the University of Toronto invites the public to attend the roundtable "2006 Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine" that will feature Dominique Arel (Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa); Daniel Bilak (United Nations Development Program, advisor to the government of Ukraine); Adrian Karatnycky (founder and president, The Orange Circle); and Inna Pidluska (president, Foundation Europe XXI, Kyiv). The event will start at 5 p.m. at the Vivian and David Campbell Conference Facility, Munk Center for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place. For information call 416-946-8113, e-mail larysa.iarovenko@utoronto.ca or log on to www.utoronto.ca/jacyk/.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

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

Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

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June 1 - June 30	\$670	May 1 - May 26	\$805
		May 27 - June 10	\$905

* Taxes not included. Travel and Customs \$10 additional.
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