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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXIV

No. 18

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Chornobyl catastrophe remembered with prayers, conferences

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – On the day of the Chornobyl nuclear catastrophe 20 years ago, Oleh Cherviakov rode a bus directly into the furnace of death.

His shift as a communications chief at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant began at 8 a.m. on that ominous Saturday morning.

Though he noticed his co-workers being shipped off to hospitals, and though he knew that he risked radiation poisoning, he did not think twice about working that day.

"We were fulfilling our responsibilities," he said, dismissing the idea of not reporting for work during such an emergency. "We could not leave. We weren't allowed to leave."

Though Prypiat was evacuated the next day, the plant managers had to remain, and Mr. Cherviakov worked two consecutive night shifts following the accident.

Though only 52 years old, Mr.

Cherviakov has already suffered a stroke and is classified as disabled.

Ms. Cherviakov was among more than 300 Ukrainians who joined President Viktor Yushchenko in an early morning moleben service on April 26 led by Kyiv Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate to pray for those who perished and suffered as a result of the Chornobyl accident.

Ukrainians and foreigners alike spent the week commemorating the Chornobyl nuclear catastrophe by attending government ceremonies, academic conferences, religious services and reunions held throughout Ukraine, particularly in the Kyiv Oblast that is home to the Chornobyl plant.

1:23 a.m.

Precisely at 1:23 a.m., on April 26 the bell atop a memorial mound at the Warriors of Chornobyl Memorial rang

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Zenon Zawada

Protesters standing outside a Chornobyl conference venue in Kyiv on April 24 urge an end to the use of nuclear power in Ukraine.

## Helsinki Commission hearing focuses on Chornobyl's legacy

U.S. Helsinki Commission

WASHINGTON – The Helsinki Commission on April 26 held a hearing on "The Legacy of Chornobyl: Health and Safety 20 Years Later," commemorating the 20th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident at the Chornobyl power plant in Ukraine.

The health, environmental and socio-economic costs of the disaster at Chornobyl continue to have a profound impact on people in the region, especially in Ukraine and Belarus, which bore the brunt of Chornobyl's radioactive fallout.

"The bitter legacy of Chornobyl continues to be felt 20 years later, and its consequences will remain for the people of the region and beyond for a long time to come," said the commission's co-chairman Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-

N.J.) who chaired the hearing. "We need to be vigilant of the latent health effects that still are expected to emerge and ensure that there is public awareness about the health threat."

Rep. Smith stressed the importance of the completion of the Chornobyl Shelter Implementation Plan to cover the rapidly deteriorating sarcophagus covering the damaged reactor: "We need to do everything possible to protect people and the environment from the large quantity of radioactive remains of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant even as we persist in our assistance to the victims."

"An important lesson from Chornobyl – one that remains relevant today – is in the importance of transparency in governance," said Ranking Member Rep.

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## Program of the 36th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

to be held in Kerhonkson, N.Y., at Soyuzivka  
Friday, May 26, through Monday, May 29, 2006,  
beginning at 9 a.m.

1. Opening of Convention
2. Report of Credentials Committee
3. Acceptance of Convention Program
4. Approval of Minutes of the 35th Convention
5. Election
  - a. Convention chairperson, two vice-chairpersons
  - b. 11-member Election Committee
  - c. 5-member Committee on Petitions
  - d. 6-member Secretaries Committee
6. Appointment of Press Committee, Resolutions Committee and two sergeants-at-arms
7. Reports of UNA Officers – Executive Committee: President Stefan Kaczaraj, First Vice-President Martha Lysko, Director for Canada Al Kachkowski, National Secretary Christine E. Kozak, Treasurer Roma Lisovich
8. Reports of UNA Auditing Committee members: Zenon Holubec, Alexander Serafyn, Yaroslav Zaviysky
9. Reports of UNA Advisors: Eugene Oscislawski, Stefan Hawrysz, Vasyl Luchkiw, Myron Pylypiak, Wasyl Liscenesky, Pawlo Prinko, Andriy Skyba, Michael Kuropas, Myron Groch, Gloria Horbaty
10. Report of Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Irene Jarosewicz
11. Report of The Ukrainian Weekly Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz
12. Discussion of reports and their acceptance
13. Report of By-Laws Committee, discussion and approval of proposed changes
14. Discussion: "Development plans for Soyuzivka"
15. Discussion: "Status of the UNA in Canada"
16. Discussion: "UNA: Shaping the Future"
17. Report of Financial Committee and determination on bonding and salaries of officers
18. Election of General Assembly
19. Report of Petitions Committee, discussion and resolutions
20. Report of Secretaries Committee, discussion and resolutions
21. Resolutions and recommendations for the well-being of the organization
22. Miscellaneous
23. Adjournment



## ANALYSIS

# The geopolitical implications of Ukraine's 2006 elections

by Taras Kuzio

Five political forces have entered the 2006 Verkhovna Rada which is legally in place until March 2011. Of these political forces, the left (Socialists and Communists) received 10 percent, the centrist Party of the Regions 32, and two Orange forces (Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc) 36 percent.

There is little consensus among these five political forces over the course of Ukraine's foreign policy. As Yulia Mostova wrote in the influential Zerkalo Nedeli weekly, "Half the country wants to be like Belarus and the other half like Europe."

The left controlled the Parliament in the 1990s but was unable to influence the course of Ukraine's foreign policy. Centrists dominated Ukraine's presidency in 1991-2004 and this led to a constantly vacillating multi-vector foreign policy.

Under President Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine had an extensive program of cooperation with NATO's Partnership for Peace and bilaterally with the United States and the United Kingdom through "In the Spirit of Partnership for Peace." Mr. Kuchma also sent the third largest military contingent to support the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

Since the victory of Viktor Yushchenko in the 2004 elections, the executive has been dominated for the first time by the center-right which traditionally has been more pro-Western and critical of Mr. Kuchma's multi-vector foreign policy. President Yushchenko has attempted to balance maintaining good relations with Russia with orienting Ukraine toward NATO and European Union membership.

As in the Kuchma era, the left have been frozen out of foreign policy decisions. With even fewer seats in the newly elected Parliament they will have little influence on Ukraine's foreign policy orientation. The pro-Orange Socialists and anti-Orange Communists have a combined total of approximately 50 seats out of 450.

That the Communists will have no influence over Ukraine's foreign trajectory is not surprising. Even during the 1990s, when they had the largest parliamentary faction, they were unable to block Ukraine's cooperation with NATO.

The Socialists pose a different problem. They provide crucial numbers to the Orange forces that gives the coalition more than 50 percent of seats in the new Parliament. The Socialists also play an important role in combating corruption and promoting democratization. Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, a Socialist, has a good image in this field.

At the same time, the Socialists voted throughout 2005 with the Communists against WTO legislation. The Socialists also agree with the Communists in opposing Ukraine's NATO membership. Indeed, Ukraine is the first aspiring member of NATO where the entire left, both pro- and anti-Orange, is against Ukraine joining NATO. In other post-Communist states the post-Communist left, such as former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, supported

NATO membership.

What of the largest parliamentary faction, the Party of the Regions, whose size is twice that of President Yushchenko's Our Ukraine? The Party of the Regions is in favor of economic reform because it is dominated by oligarchs and businessmen. Yet, it voted against WTO legislation in 2005 as a protest vote against Mr. Yushchenko. Now that the elections are over, the Party of the Regions will move into a pro-WTO position.

More problematic are the Regions' attitudes toward NATO and the Commonwealth of Independent States – two areas making it difficult for Our Ukraine to agree on a "grand coalition" with the Party of the Regions. The Party of the Regions is in favor of full membership in the CIS Single Economic Space (CIS SES). Our Ukraine and the Tymoshenko Bloc described the CIS SES as "treasonous." President Yushchenko has followed President Kuchma in agreeing only to the first step of the CIS SES – a free trade zone.

The Party of the Regions has promoted Ukraine's full membership in the CIS SES beyond the first stage; that is, a customs and monetary union. These two stages would rule out integration into the EU as no country can be in two customs unions at the same time.

These contradictions in the Party of the Regions are not unusual as it is the most unstructured and ideologically amorphous party to enter the new Parliament. The Party of the Regions has been touted by its U.S. supporters (U.S. political consultants played a role in its successful election campaign) as dominated by pro-EU businessmen. This argument is contradicted by the Slavophile orientation of senior officials of the Party of the Regions and its absorption of many former Communist Party voters.

A second problem with the Party of the Regions is its attitude toward NATO that will be more difficult to change than its contradictory attitudes towards the CIS SES and EU. The largest faction in Ukraine's Parliament – Party of the Regions – is against NATO membership. Such a hurdle has not presented itself to other post-Communist countries who have joined NATO. That the Party of the Regions is the largest faction – and not Our Ukraine – is entirely a product of strategic mistakes made by President Yushchenko since the September crises.

Unlike the Tymoshenko Bloc, President Yushchenko and Our Ukraine never ruled out a coalition with the Party of the Regions.

This is now unlikely as Our Ukraine obtained half the votes the Party of the Regions did and, therefore, would be the junior partner in any coalition.

A "grand coalition" would send the wrong signal to the EU and NATO that the Orange Revolution was in retreat. The EU already is passive in its attitudes towards Ukraine, and an Our Ukraine – Party of the Regions coalition would give sustenance to those inside the EU who do not want Ukraine to join the membership queue.

Mr. Yushchenko's alliance with a political force hostile to NATO membership would also lead to a postponement of NATO offering Ukraine a Membership Action Plan at its November summit in Riga. If this were to transpire, Ukraine would miss being invited to join NATO

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Ukraine, Belarus recall Chornobyl

SLAVUTYCH, Ukraine – Hundreds of people filed shortly after midnight on April 26 through the streets of Slavutych, the Ukrainian town built to house Chornobyl plant workers after the world's worst civilian nuclear accident on April 26, 1986, Ukrainian and world agencies reported. Later the same day in Kyiv, the Verkhovna Rada, elected in 2002, held its last session, which was devoted to a hearing on the Chornobyl aftermath. In Homiel, Belarus, the Belarusian opposition on April 25 held a conference of scientists, lawyers and political activists on the Chornobyl aftermath. In the afternoon of April 26, the opposition was to stage a "Chornobyl Way" demonstration in Miensk, at which opposition leader Alyaksandr Milinkevich was expected to publicize the Homiel conference's conclusions and announce the creation of a broad pro-democracy movement in Belarus. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Deceased Chornobyl liquidators honored

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on April 25 signed a decree to posthumously confer the title Hero of Ukraine and the Gold Star State Order upon five Chornobyl eliminators: Mykola Vaschuk and Vasyl Ihnatenko, subunit commanders of the 6th Detached Paramilitary Fire-Fighting Unit; Oleksander Lelechenko, deputy chief of the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant's electrical workshop; Mykola Tytenko, a firefighter with the 6th Detached Unit; and Volodymyr Tishura, a former senior firefighter of the 6th Detached Unit in the town of Prypiat. (Ukrinform)

### China donates to Chornobyl project

KYIV – As announced by the Economy Ministry's press service, on April 25 Minister of the Economy Arsenii Yatseniuk and Chinese Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to Ukraine Gao Yuishen signed a Ukrainian-Chinese intergovernmental agreement. Under the agreement China will grant 10 million yuans (\$1.2 million U.S.) to Ukraine to implement a

project within the framework of Ukraine's program toward eliminating the consequences of the Chornobyl nuclear accident. (Ukrinform)

### Some Chornobyl documents declassified

KYIV – Security Service of Ukraine Chief Ihor Dryzhchanyi stated on April 25 that as many as 10 classified documents on consequences of the Chornobyl accident have been declassified. Mr. Dryzhchanyi also said that the list of unclassified files will be enlarged and that experts are considering declassifying other top-secret documents. The recently declassified documents include an April 30 to May 2, 1986, graph of radiation movement in Kyiv; a May 1, 1986, report of the 6th Administration of the USSR Committee of State Security on radiation levels; an October 16, 1986, report on radiation pollution of the USSR; and a May 16, 1986, conclusion of experts of the Committee of State Security about the Chornobyl accident. (Ukrinform)

### 3 million are victims of Chornobyl

KYIV – The international conference "Twenty years after the Chornobyl Accident: Future Outlook" opened in Kyiv on April 24 with President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov in attendance. The president said in his address to the conference that the parameters of scientific studies of Chornobyl issues should be expanded. He said that some 3 million people suffered from the Chornobyl accident and its consequences. Over 20 years Ukraine has spent almost \$15 billion (U.S.) to liquidate the disaster's consequences. He noted that Ukraine can hardly expect to turn the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant into a technologically safe and ecologically friendly facility on its own, and he called on the world community for assistance. The assistant secretary general of the United Nations and director of the U.N. Development Program's Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, Kalman Mizsei,

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members — \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN — 0273-9348)

The Weekly:

Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510

UNA:

Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly  
2200 Route 10  
P.O. Box 280  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz

Editor:

Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com); e-mail: [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com)

The Ukrainian Weekly, April 30, 2006, No. 18, Vol. LXXIV

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# THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

## Chornobyl catastrophe...

(Continued from page 1)

for one minute amidst reflective silence.

Afterwards, President Yushchenko, alongside Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi, Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov and outgoing Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, placed bouquets of red roses at the mound.

Vitalii Klitschko was among those attending the service and placing roses, though he was not part of the president's entourage that participated in a brief service afterwards inside St. Michael the Archangel Chapel.

Later Mr. Yushchenko and Patriarch Filaret joined worshippers inside a tent where vodka and juice were served, as well as complementary paska (Easter bread). Some brought their own food, as April 26 has become an annual commemoration for those who were directly affected by the Chornobyl accident.

Every year, hundreds of former Chornobyl zone residents meet at the Warriors of Chornobyl Memorial on Peace Boulevard on Kyiv's left bank to catch up on the latest news, exchange new telephone numbers and reminisce about their lives before the accident.

Once joyful family weekends and idyllic summers provide painfully fond memories for Liudmyla Vanhorodska, 44, of her grandparents' village of Ludanka.

"When I was a child, I remember building our aunts' home with our own hands, building the well. And we planted the trees," she said. "To leave that all behind was very sad."

Just 35 kilometers (22 miles) from the Chornobyl nuclear station, Ludanka was evacuated within days of the catastrophe.

Visiting the village two years ago, Ms. Vanhorodska said she saw wild boars roving about abandoned houses, in which growing trees burst through floorboards. Forest covers what used to be roads. "I didn't know the village anymore," she said tearfully.

Former Prypiat resident Fayina Kleshenok wasn't at the plant the day of the accident, but her 13-year-old daughter had returned from the city of Chornobyl that morning.

Nobody knew what had actually happened, but residents were told to evacuate with the expectation that they would return in three days.

Ms. Kleshenok would return to her apartment only once more; she was only

allowed to retrieve family albums.

She is convinced that she's ill from the accident, having been in the hospital for a month because "my legs and arms refused to move. I couldn't move them," she said.

Her daughter was diagnosed with leukemia.

To make matters worse, Ms. Kleshenak's class designation as Chornobyl disabled doesn't qualify her to receive medicines. Class 1 disabled, many of whom gave bribes to get the status or falsified certificates, now receive medicines at a discounted price, Ms. Kleshenok said.

"I think I deserve it since I worked at the third reactor block in the deactivation department," she said of her experience as a liquidator. "It was the dirtiest work there done by our department. We served the people who worked on the roof, taking off their clothes and washing them."

### "Twenty Years After Chornobyl"

At the Ukrainian Home on European Square, scientists and engineers met on April 25 and 26 to discuss their research at the "Twenty Years after Chornobyl" conference sponsored by the Ukrainian government and other governments and international organizations.

Among the speakers was Ihor Masnyk, the project director of Chornobyl research projects at National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., who discussed the execution of the largest study performed in examining leukemia cases among liquidators and thyroid cancer in children.

The liquidators' study, financed by the U.S. Department of Energy and the French Institute of Nuclear Protection and Safety, began in October 1995, while the thyroid cancer study began screening its subjects in 1997.

The project's first challenge was cooperation between the Ukrainian, Belarusian, French and American scientists and administrations, Dr. Masnyk said.

Problems plaguing the pilot study were poor understanding of the project, inadequate follow-up and less than optimal screening sites, long waiting lines and cold relations between staff and participants.

Specific measures alleviated these problems.

The National Cancer Institute took over the project in 1999 with continued Department of Energy funding, providing more scientific oversight and review bodies.

Further problems included delayed



First Ladies Kateryna Yushchenko of Ukraine and Maria Kaczynska of Poland.

delivery of equipment, unresponsiveness of potential cohort members, weather, vacations and long distances to screening centers.

Original plans for locating subjects had to be re-worked because of incomplete information provided, early plans for laboratories were too ambitious, budgets were inefficient, and computers were lacking for data processing.

"The early enthusiasm and promises were over-ambitious, although well-meant," Dr. Masnyk said. "The majority of the requirements were achieved, professional judgments prevailed, negotiations provided satisfactory solutions and the completed screening of about 90 percent compliance per screening cycle manifested a success of the operation."

These studies led by Dr. Masnyk were the largest and most intensive on the effect of the Chornobyl accident on leukemia in liquidators and thyroid cancer in children.

### "Rebirth, Renewal and Human Development"

Across the street at the Philharmonic Hall, social scientists and government experts discussed Chornobyl's social impact at the "Rebirth, Renewal and Human Development" humanitarian forum organized by First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko's Ukraine 3000 fund and the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF).

The main lesson the world learned from the Chornobyl catastrophe is that

governments need to tell the truth, Mrs. Yushchenko said.

Another lesson is that governments need to shed an egotistical view of the world and adopt a strategic approach to meeting the needs of people.

Global problems need to be resolved through cooperation of different nations, Mrs. Yushchenko said.

Ukraine's first lady also announced a partnership between the Ukraine 3000 fund and CCRDF in which they will improve the training, technology, medicine and overall standards in one children's hospital in each region of Ukraine.

They will also work together to create a new state-of-the-art children's hospital in Kyiv so that Ukrainian children won't have to travel abroad to receive top-notch medical treatment.

Also attending the forum was the world-renowned author Paolo Coehlo of Brazil, who revealed his particular interest in the Chornobyl disaster and its effect on humanity.

In his first visit to Ukraine, he was forbidden to travel to the Chornobyl zone, so Mr. Coehlo instead visited the Chornobyl Museum at Kontraktova Square.

"I was moved to tears when I saw the consequences of the disaster," he said.

Mr. Coehlo then wrote about his impressions in his column published in periodicals in 35 different countries.

"To my surprise, most people had already forgotten the meaning of Chornobyl, either because they are young ... or because they did not get close to the

(Continued on page 13)

## Helsinki...

(Continued from page 1)

Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.). "The nature of the Soviet system did not lead to a humane or rational response to the tragedy. The consequences of this secrecy remain with us to this day. They are a vivid reminder of the value of open, democratic and accountable governments which respect the human rights and dignity of the individual."

Testifying at the hearing were: Stephen G. Rademaker, acting assistant secretary of state, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation; Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States; Dr. David Marples, professor of history at the University of Alberta and author of three books on Chornobyl; Pablo Rubenstein, M.D., director, National Cord Blood Program at the New York Blood Center; and Kathleen Ryan, executive director, U.S.A., Chornobyl Children's Project International.

According to a press release from the Embassy of Ukraine, in his testimony at the hearing Ambassador Shamshur provided facts illustrating the enormous losses Ukraine suffered as a result of the Chornobyl accident and focused on the problems that might emerge in the near future. He emphasized the urgent necessity to finalize preparations for the erection of the new sarcophagus around the stricken reactor No. 4, work that must commence by 2007.

An unofficial transcript of the hearing will be posted on the Helsinki Commission's website, [www.csce.gov](http://www.csce.gov).

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, is a U.S. government agency that monitors progress in the implementation of the provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Accords. The commission consists of nine members of the Senate, nine from the House of Representatives, and one member each from the departments of State, Defense and Commerce.

## FOR THE RECORD: President Bush's statement on Chornobyl's 20th anniversary

*Following is the text of President George W. Bush's statement on the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster. It was released on April 25 by the Embassy of the United States in Ukraine.*

On the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, I join my fellow Americans in expressing our deepest condolences for this tragedy. Today, we remember the victims of this horrible accident and recognize those who still suffer great hardship in its aftermath.

By closing Chornobyl more than five years ago, a free Ukraine removed an environmental threat built by an oppressive government, created the cir-

cumstances for a safer and more prosperous region, and acted with courage in the march of democracy. I appreciate the people around the world who continue to show their compassion for those still suffering in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, and I reaffirm America's commitment to the ongoing effort to improve the safety and security of Chornobyl by confining its nuclear reactor.

On this solemn anniversary, we pay tribute to the lives lost and the communities hurt in the devastation following the disaster at Chornobyl. We are encouraged as the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions resolve to rise again and reclaim a future of hope and dignity.





# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Young UNA'ers



Lucas D. and Ava Prysazniuk, children of Yarema and Tracy Prysazniuk of Lenox, Mich., are new members of UNA Branch 174. They were enrolled by their grandparents Yarema and Stephanie Prysiazniuk.



Daria Pareez Shepelavy, daughter of Danylo and Roxanne Shepelavy of Philadelphia, is a new member of UNA Branch 13. She was enrolled by her grandparents Julia and Taras Shepelavy.



Paul and Andrew Williams, sons of Christine and Andrew Williams of Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., are new members of UNA Branch 353. They were enrolled by their grandmother Lydia Crosier.



Aidan Bruce Van Schaick, son of Bruce and Melanie Van Schaick of Jamesville, N.Y., is a new member of UNA Branch 39. He was enrolled by his parents.



Maya Maria Nyzhnykevych, daughter of Olena and Yuriy Nyzhnykevych of Kyiv, is a member of UNA Branch 171. She was enrolled by her grandparents Maria and Stephan Welhasch.



Nicole Emilia Deychakiwsky, daughter of Nicholas Deychakiwsky and Oksana Pronych of Brighton, Mich., is a new member of UNA Branch 233. She was enrolled by her parents.



Peter Matthew Hrycak, son of Orest and Margaret of Cranford, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 234. He was enrolled by his grandparents Petro and Ria Hrycak.

## CONVENTION PRIMER: Program and committees of a UNA Convention

*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 explains the UNA's goals, structure and operations.*

On the front page of this issue, readers will notice the official announcement of the program for the 36th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association. In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, the convention program must be announced "at least 30 days prior to the Convention."

The By-Laws also stipulate that "The Executive Committee at a special session called by the President, shall prepare a program for the Convention." That meeting was held at the UNA headquarters on April 7.

Also at their April 7 meeting, once again as directed by the By-Laws, the UNA Executive Committee approved the delegates and alternates to the 36th Convention, and appointed five members each to the Credentials Committee, Committee on Revision of By-Laws and Financial Committee from among the delegates elected by their branches to serve during the convention.

The By-Laws state that "The delegates on each respective committee shall be from different states; they shall elect from among their number a chairperson and secretary and shall meet with one or more members of the Executive Committee." The By-Laws also spell out the duties of these committees.

Meeting on April 13, the Credentials Committee verified the status of all delegates in accordance with the UNA By-Laws.

The names of the delegates and alternates, as well as the appointed committee members, were published in this newspaper's April 23 issue.

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The UNA Manuals, which are appended to, but not a part of the UNA By-Laws, stipulate that a UNA Convention is called to order by the UNA president. Once the conclave has been declared formally in session and the Credentials Committee has presented its report and the list of delegates, "the delegates shall elect from among themselves a Chairperson of the Convention and two Vice-Chairpersons."

Also elected are an 11-member Election Committee and a five-member Committee on Petitions. In addition, the Manuals provide for the appointment of "a Press Committee and any other Committees which may be deemed necessary." It is customary that a Secretaries Committee and a Resolutions Committee are named. Delegates elected to the Election Committee cannot be nominated as candidates for any office on the General Assembly. The duties of the Election, Petitions and Press committees

(Continued on page 5)





# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Chicago UNA District Committee holds annual meeting

by Myron B. Kuropas

CHICAGO – The annual meeting of the Chicago UNA District Committee was held at the Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Community Center on Saturday, April 8.

The meeting was brought to order by District Committee Chair Stefko

During the discussion that followed, Stefko Kuropas reported that by enrolling 16 new UNA members (\$245,000 of insurance), the Chicago District Committee achieved 106 percent of its annual membership quota. Stefko Kuropas enrolled four new members, while Myron Luszcak, Nadia Salabay,

There was unanimity regarding UNA Christmas cards which were criticized as being aesthetically poor – “horrible,” one person declared. Everyone wondered why Chicago members received the cards after Christmas.

Some delegates wondered why the UNA’s application forms have not been modernized. It was agreed that they are needlessly long and repetitive. One person wondered why it was perfectly acceptable to have applications in the Ukrainian and English languages for over 100 years and now, when we have a new immigration that hasn’t mastered English, the applications are all in English. Adviser Skyba explained that English only was mandated by the New Jersey State Insurance Commission.

One General Assembly member wondered if the UNA couldn’t take the insurance commission to court for ethnic discrimination. “If we can have official U.S. government documents in Spanish, why can’t we have our applications in

Ukrainian? Is the New Jersey commission trying to sink the UNA?” he asked.

The problem of an effective national organizer was brought up as was the hiring of a publications director. One delegate wondered why the UNA hired a publications director to “fix” our publications when what we really needed was another organizer for the Midwest. “Why fix something that isn’t broken?” he asked.

It was also pointed out that since the minutes of the last convention (2002) have not been published, it is ridiculous to think that delegates could offer “changes for the good and welfare of the association.” One delegate seemed to recall that a resolution was passed at the Chicago convention to purchase “Helm of Destiny” videos or CDs for use by secretaries in marketing the UNA. This was not done. “No one seems to understand marketing at our Home Office, not for our products, for Soyuzivka for that matter,” he stated.

The meeting ended with a buffet luncheon for members and guests.



UNA’ers at the Chicago District Committee meeting.

Kuropas. Elected to the presidium were Myron Kuropas, chairman, and Andrij Skyba, recording secretary.

Annual reports were presented by Chairman Stefko Kuropas, Secretary Skyba, and Treasurer Bohdan Kukuruza. Following a short discussion, a motion to accept the reports as read was made by the auditing committee. The motion was approved unanimously, as was a motion to re-elect the same three officers, namely, Stefko Kuropas, chairman, Mr. Skyba, secretary, and Mr. Kukuruza, treasurer.

Stephan Welhasch and Steven Woch enrolled two each.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to concerns which branch secretaries and General Assembly members had regarding the future of the UNA.

One UNA branch secretary mentioned that he has been paying for UNA ads in Chas i Podiia, one of the local Chicago papers, with relatively good results. He wondered why the Home Office was not willing to pay for more of them in Chicago.

## Program...

(Continued from page 4)

are delineated in the Manuals.

The manner of voting at the convention also is dictated by the Manuals: “On any question before the Convention, except the amendment of the By-Laws, the majority vote of the delegates present shall govern. The presiding officer [the chairperson, or in his absence one of the vice-chairpersons] shall take the vote in such a way as he sees fit, except for the election of officers, which shall be by

ballot and voting machines.”

In order for an amendment to the UNA By-Laws to pass, it must be approved by “not less than two-thirds of the delegates of all Branches” at a UNA Convention. The UNA Manuals, on the other hand, can be changed more readily as all that is required is two-thirds approval of the 20-member General Assembly, which meets annually.

All convention proceedings are run in accordance with “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

– Roma Hadzewycz

## Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

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

### To the Members of the UNA:

The 2002 UNA Convention mandated several changes to the UNA By-Laws. The revisions made are now available in print. Those wishing to receive a copy of the revisions, should contact the UNA Home Office at 800-253-9862.



### HAVE YOU HEARD?

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Putin's G-8

There have been calls from various quarters for the Group of Eight industrialized countries to take a stand against the conduct of one of its own members, albeit a new member. That member, which currently holds the G-8 chairmanship, is Russia.

U.S. Sen. John McCain stated on April 2 that the "glimmerings of democracy are very faint in Russia today" and called on the U.S. to take a tough stand against the Putin administration's regressive policies. He pointed to President Vladimir Putin's repression of the news media; his backing for Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus, known as "the last dictator in Europe"; and his refusal to cooperate with the U.S. on the issue of nukes in Iran. The senator is so critical of Russia's behavior that he called on President George W. Bush to not attend the G-8 summit scheduled to take place in Mr. Putin's hometown of St. Petersburg in July. Others in the U.S. have echoed the senator's call for a boycott of the summit.

The Washington Post, in an April 23 editorial titled "Imperialist Gas," stated that "Russian foreign policy seems to grow more aggressive with each week that President Vladimir Putin serves as chairman of the Group of Eight." The Post pointed to Gazprom's and Russia's bullying of client states and neighbors over gas supplies, the most striking example of which was the New Year's Day cutoff of gas to Ukraine. Most recently, RFE/RL reported that Gazprom has begun talking about the new price for gas that Ukraine will have to pay come July, adding that price concessions could be considered only if Ukraine agreed to a consortium with Russia for joint control over the Ukrainian gas-pipeline network – a tactic Russia has used with other neighbors.

At the same time, Andrei Illarionov, a former senior economic advisor to Mr. President Putin, has gone on record on more than one occasion as questioning whether Russia should even be a member of the G-8. Writing in The Washington Post on April 18, he noted that Russia "meets only one criterion for membership: the size of its economy." Otherwise, on measures of political rights, the battle against corruption, independence of the judicial system, etc., it doesn't even come close to matching international standards.

President Bush, meanwhile, has stated that he intends to attend the summit because he fears that snubbing ol' Vlad would be counterproductive. "I need to be in a position where I can sit down with [him] and be very frank about our concerns," he explained, adding that he has not "given up" on Russian democracy.

But it's not enough to have a quiet chat with Mr. Putin. Some sort of public demonstration of censure is called for on the part of the seven other members of the G-8. Otherwise, as Mr. Illarionov and others have pointed out, the summit will be seen as a sign of support for the Russian president and his odious policies.

Otherwise the G-8 summit will be Mr. Putin's show.

May  
2  
1999

### Turning the pages back...

Seven years ago on May 2, 1999, The Ukrainian Weekly carried an article about the settlement signed on April 21 regarding the CBS "60 Minutes" broadcast of "The Ugly Face of Freedom" that aired five years earlier on October 23, 1994.

The settlement was signed by lawyers representing the plaintiffs, Alexander J. Serafin of Detroit, Oleg Nikolyszyn of Providence, R.I., and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and attorneys for CBS. A petition for approval of the settlement was sent on the day of the signing to the Federal Communications Commission.

The U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia had found that there were serious questions about whether CBS intentionally distorted information in that news report and ordered the FCC to revisit the case. The court ruled that the FCC "acted arbitrarily and capriciously" in denying a petition for a hearing on whether CBS engaged in news distortion. The FCC had three options: to revisit its decision, call for more evidence or convene a full-scale hearing on the matter. The difficulty was whether the Ukrainian American plaintiffs could prove that CBS presented its distortions intentionally.

The actual settlement was an attempt by CBS to offer an olive branch to the plaintiffs in order to put an end to the case. In the settlement, "the CBS Parties" agreed "to reimburse the legal expenses (totaling \$328,000) incurred by 'the UCCA Parties' in filing and prosecuting such petitions and other objections and to provide the UCCA Parties with a settlement letter."

The settlement letter also stated that CBS regretted that Ukrainian Americans were offended by the segment, but it fell short of apologizing for misrepresentation. The settlement letter, written by Louis Briskman, vice-president and general counsel of CBS, also stated: "I want to squarely address the suggestion that our broadcast intended to imply that Ukrainians are somehow genetically anti-Semitic. Nothing could be further from the truth. This was not our intention when we first broadcast the report, nor is it our belief today."

The letter also indicated that the two parties were not in agreement on the principal issue: the accuracy and fairness of "The Ugly Face of Freedom." The letter states: "While CBS and your clients may not agree about the merits of the '60 Minutes' broadcast and may have differences concerning possible future programs, I am hopeful that our meeting helped to promote mutual respect and understanding. In this regard, let me assure you that CBS has no 'agenda' with regard to the Ukrainian people and country. Our desire is to maintain good relations with all segments of the television audience and, obviously, the Ukrainian American community is no exception."

Arthur Belendiuk, a lawyer for the Ukrainian American plaintiffs stated, "They wanted us to agree that they had not intentionally distorted [the news] – we refused to do that. We're just saying that we're dropping the case. We agreed to disagree." But he commented on CBS's actions saying, "they are making some pretty significant steps."

Source: "CBS and Ukrainian Americans sign settlement agreement regarding 'The Ugly Face,'" by Roma Hadzewycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 2, 1999, Vol. LXVII, No. 18.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### From the maidan to Main Street: Ukraine's landmark elections

by staff of the U.S. Helsinki Commission

While pundits attempt to sort out the political meaning of Ukraine's March 26th parliamentary elections to fill the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada, the significance of the conduct of the elections should not be missed. "Free and fair" was the resounding assessment of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) that also included observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Office of Democratic Elections and Human Rights (ODIHR). This unqualified positive appraisal – a first among the 12 former Soviet republics outside the Baltics that have conducted scores of elections since the 1991 break-up of the Soviet Union – underscores the consolidation of democratic gains made in Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution following years of political stagnation.

These clean March 26 elections stood in stark contrast to the fatally flawed first rounds of the Ukrainian presidential elections that ushered in popular revolt 16 months earlier. Coming on the heels of the blatantly undemocratic presidential "elections" in neighboring Belarus a week earlier, comparisons were inevitable. The Rada elections also followed a series of recent electoral contests elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, including in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, which to varying degrees fell short of international standards. The OSCE assessment in Ukraine returns the "free and fair" formulation to the lexicon of international election observations, departing from the heavily nuanced appraisals that have become common in recent years. This development has potentially significant implications for future OSCE observations, especially with parliamentary and presidential elections expected in Russia in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, current president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed by the OSCE chair-in-office to serve as special coordinator for short-term observers. Commission staff observed on Election Day, as part of the IEOM deployment of 914 observers coming from 45 OSCE countries, including Russia. In all, the group examined voting and the vote count in nearly 3,000 polling stations. The commission contingent observed balloting throughout the Kyiv and Cherkasy regions.

The Ukrainian government declined to invite observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an entity discredited in the eyes of many for its effusive praise of fundamentally flawed elections elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, including Belarus' undemocratic March 19 presidential contest. The CIS stood out for its sharply critical evaluation of Ukraine's December 26, 2004, presidential elections that resulted in Viktor Yushchenko's victory in elections widely considered to have met democratic standards. Ukraine has refused to participate further in CIS monitoring missions. The two dozen Russian Duma observers present offered tempered, mixed opinions about the conduct of Rada elections.

Whatever shortcomings there were in these elections – and no undertaking of this scale is perfect – they appear to have resulted from late or otherwise poor planning. Among these were delays in the formation of some district and precinct election commissions, the absence of a functioning Constitutional Court, long lines and crowding at some polling stations, and lingering inaccuracies in voter lists. On the positive side of the balance sheet were the significantly freer media and decidedly more balanced media coverage; no systematic use of administrative resources; the transparent, consensual and professional administration of the elections at all levels; inclusion of domestic, non-partisan observers; and an overhaul of voter lists.

Election day began early with polling stations opening at 7 a.m. There were over 34,000 polling stations. Adding to the vibrancy of the elections was the large number of domestic observers, an indication of buy-in on the part of Ukrainians young and old alike with many affiliated with particular parties or candidates and others representing NGOs.

Upon entering the polling stations, one was struck by walls plastered with informational bulletins on candidates and parties. Forty-five parties and blocs vied for seats in Parliament. While the international community was mainly focused on the parliamentary balloting, voting was also under way for regional and local government. Voters were thus presented with four lengthy ballots: national and regional, as well as local councils and mayoral races. While some older voters were befuddled by this collection of papers, most voters seemed to take it in stride. Election commission poll workers seemed attentive to their duties. This was put to the test in the complicated tabulation process that began, once polling stations closed at 10 p.m., typically involving the sorting and counting of thousands of papers. Processing the Rada results alone went into the wee hours of morning, with the three remaining stacks of ballots from other contests proceeding well past daybreak.

The undeniable success of the domestic observation in these elections, buttressed by years of investment in training and support by the United States and others, raises obvious questions about the need for future international observations in Ukraine. Has the time come to "graduate" Ukraine from such scrutiny and leave that necessary task to Ukrainian stakeholders themselves? Many believe the March 26 elections confirm that that time has come, especially if Ukraine continues on its increasingly democratic trajectory. The greater and more prominent role of domestic observers, also reinforces the notion that the time for Ukraine's "graduation" has come. Indeed, the OSCE should continue to encourage domestic stakeholders to prove themselves to their own people.

The maidan, Kyiv's Independence Square that featured so prominently in the massive demonstrations by orange-clad protesters in November 2004 and the jubilant crowds following Mr. Yushchenko's victory a few weeks later, was calm on the Monday following the Rada elections. Strolling past this bustling area, Ukrainians were going about their routines, perhaps an indicator

(Continued on page 25)



## COMMENTARY

## Remembering Gareth Jones in Wales

by Lubomyr Luciuk

He was born in Barry and murdered in Mongolia. It was a short life – he was killed on the eve of his 30th birthday – but the span graced to Gareth Richard Vaughan Jones was used well.

Between 1925 and 1929 he secured a first class degree in French from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, then another in medieval and modern languages from Trinity College, Cambridge. Fluent in French, Welsh, English, German and Russian, he found employment by 1930 as a private secretary for foreign affairs to Lloyd George, the World War I leader and only Liberal ever to be a prime minister of the United Kingdom, “the Welsh Wizard.”

More interested in journalism than academic life, Jones moved to the Wall Street offices of Dr. Ivy Lee’s public relations firm in 1931. That same year he made his second trip to the USSR, escorting Jack Heinz II, son of the founder of the famous “Heinz 57” fortune. They met many Soviet boosters, from Maurice Hindus to Louis Fischer to Walter Duranty. They even secured an interview with Lenin’s widow, Madame Krupskaya, first being “thrilled” to view Lenin’s mummy in its Red Square mausoleum, “the body of a man dead seven years.”

The Depression forced Jones home but employment awaited with George and later with The Western Mail. As his diary entries and regular Sunday letters reveal, Jones possessed a near-irrepressible curiosity, coupled with determination to interview the great men of his time. And he did – chatting with Dr. Joseph Goebbels, Frank Lloyd Wright, Sir Bernard Pares, Upton Sinclair, Walter Lippman and William Randolph Hearst, to list but a few. And, on February 23, 1933, he was the first non-Nazi journalist invited to fly with the fuhrer to Frankfurt, in Chancellor Adolph Hitler’s private plane, the Richtoffen, observing, “If this aeroplane should crash, the whole history of Europe would be changed.”

From Germany Jones went to “the home of Bolshevism,” arriving in Moscow on March 6, 1933, that very evening meeting Malcolm Muggeridge. Then, surreptitiously, he set out for Kharkiv, intent on learning the truth of rumors about a great famine. Detraining, he tramped through the Ukrainian countryside, finding widespread hunger. His pocket diary recorded a village elder saying: “In the old times we had horses and cows and pigs and chickens. Now we are dying of hunger. In the old days we fed the world. Now they have taken all we had away from us ... I should have bade you welcome, and given you, as my guest, chickens and eggs and milk and fine white bread. Now we have no bread in the house. They are killing us.”

Jones returned to Berlin, on March 29, filing numerous articles about the famine, provoking a near-immediate riposte from none other than Duranty, in The New York Times on March 31, “Russians Hungry, but Not Starving.” Belittling Jones, Duranty would justify the forced collectivization of agriculture with the infamous prescription, “to put it brutally, you can’t make an omelette without breaking eggs.” Dissimulating further, he wrote: “there is no actual starvation or deaths from starvation but there is widespread mortality from diseases due to malnutrition.”

Duranty never admitted how, on September 29, 1933, he had called in at the British Embassy, stating that “as many as 10

million people may have died directly or indirectly from lack of food in the Soviet Union during the past year.” Nevertheless, he got the 1933 Pulitzer Prize for his “objective reporting” about the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, Jones was targeted. Soviet Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov declared him persona non grata, forever banned from the USSR. Ominously, he was placed on the secret police’s watch list. Like Muggeridge, he was censured and scorned, repeatedly. Writing to Jones on April 17, Muggeridge left an impression of what that was like. Agreeing that Duranty was, “of course, a plain crook,” he complained of how his own famine articles were censored by the Manchester Guardian’s editor, William Crozier.

Breaking his ties with that newspaper, Muggeridge had offered a rejoinder: “You don’t want to know what is going on in Russia, and you don’t want your readers to know either; if the Metrovick [Metropolitan-Vickers Trial] people had been Jews or Negroes, your righteous indignation would have been unbounded. You’d have published photographs of their lacerated backsides. They being just Englishmen, you refuse to publish the truth about their treatment or the general facts which make that truth significant – and this when the MG is packed with stories of what the Nazis are doing to the Jews and the Poles to the Ukrainian and Silesian minorities.”

Banned from the USSR, Jones turned his attentions to Asia, in late 1934 embarking on his “Round-the-World Fact-Finding Tour.” Particularly intrigued by a growing conflict between Imperial Japan and China, Jones ended up in Manchukuo where, near Kalgan, he met his end on August 12, 1935, having been kidnapped by Chinese bandits 16 days earlier. How Jones died is not in dispute. The investigating officer, Lt. K.E.F. Millar, reported he was dispatched with one bullet to the head, two to the chest.

Why Jones was murdered, however, remains controversial. Was it because he was an eyewitness to the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine, the Holodomor? Certainly, but unbeknownst to him, as he made his way from Japan to Inner Mongolia, he was surrounded by characters now known to have been Soviet agents of influence, perhaps worse. He shared an apartment in Tokyo with Gunther Stein, not knowing it was used for secret wireless broadcasts to Moscow by the Soviet spy Richard Sorge.

When Jones set out on his last expedition he traveled in a car provided by a Mr. Purpis, who ran the Wostwag fur trading company, a cover for Communist espionage activities in the Far East. Their “White Russian” driver, Anatoli, disappeared after the ambush, never interviewed, while Dr. Herbert Muller, his traveling companion, was released unharmed, no ransom paid. The bandits themselves were then tracked down, some killed, the others scattered, the immediate perpetrators thus lost to history.

Perhaps Jones was just an ill-fated fellow. Or he fell victim to assassination, being a man who, as Lloyd George wrote, “knew too much of what was going on.” We may never find out.

What is indisputable, however, is that Jones wrote truthfully about the Holodomor even as Duranty did not. And for that reason a trilingual Welsh-Ukrainian-English plaque, the first ever, is to be unveiled at the University of Wales on May 2. It hallows the memory of a decent young man who wanted nothing more than to be an honest reporter and probably paid for his commitment to his calling with his life. Much better, I say, to honor the truth-teller than the Prize-winning liar.

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



## Welcome back, pilgrim!

Thanks to ham-fisted INS agents, the Karanoukh family – Vassili, Maria, Sviat, Ihor – are now in Kyiv, where Ukraine’s embrace of these “pilgrims” is not exactly welcoming.

The Karanoukhs lost everything they had accumulated during their 15 years in the United States: their house, their business, their ID cards (including Sviat’s Stevens Institute ID – he was scheduled to graduate in May) and many of their personal belongings, including two gold rings.

Last February, INS agents hustled the Karanoukhs to the airport in vans with black-tinted windows. They were denied an opportunity for a final farewell with their aging grandmother who remained behind because she had a green card. On their trip to the airport, according to Sviat, one of the INS agents turned the volume up on the radio, making it difficult for the family to communicate.

Upon arriving in Kyiv, Ukrainian authorities questioned them for about an hour. They were especially interested in the father’s political asylum request. His passport had “08” stamped in the category section which stands for political asylum.

So how are these former pilgrims doing in Ukraine? Not well. Ukraine, as I have mentioned many times on these pages, does not recognize American college degrees. The father’s computer programming degree, earned in the United States, is dismissed as meaningless by Ukrainian authorities. The sons’ high school diplomas and college credits also are unacceptable. The boys were told they would have to return to school to earn a diploma from a Ukrainian secondary school. Ukrainian authorities have this inflated idea of the value of Ukrainian higher education, despite the fact that of 500 rated universities in the world, not one – NOT ONE – is in Ukraine.

Instead of college, Sviat and Ihor now face military service, where the old Soviet army tradition of savage beatings of recruits – “didovschina” – is still very much in vogue. Given the low opinion Ukrainians have of Ukrainians from the U.S., their military welcome should be especially exquisite.

One more thing. As in Soviet times, Ukraine has two passports, an international one and an internal one. Sviat and Ihor do not have internal passports. Without internal passports, they can’t be employed. If they apply for internal passports, the lack of military service will be a red flag. They may be drafted before they can attend any school.

Is the Karanoukh debacle an unusual case? No. Are other Ukrainians at risk, are they really low-hanging fruit as Camille Huk would have us believe? Absolutely!

In my last column I wondered if the Ukrainian community has done anything on behalf of the Karanoukhs. I’ve done some poking about and discovered that our people here have tried to help. Ukrainian National Association Treasurer Roma Lisovich has informed me that both the UNWLA and the UNA have addressed this issue and enlisted the assistance of New Jersey’s two U.S. senators in the Karanoukh case.

A few weeks ago the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America and the Passaic branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America organized a meeting of Fourth Wavers to

explain what is at stake. Immigration law professors from Seton Hall University were present and mentioned that they operate a free legal aid office for immigrants. The UNA offered to provide translators if necessary.

Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) President Bozhena Olshaniwsky told me that her organization held an information night for Fourth Wavers a while back and only four people showed up.

Part of the reason Fourth Wavers are at risk is their mentality. Having lived in Soviet Ukraine and beyond, they still believe that anything is possible for the right price – college diplomas, green cards, asylum, whatever. As soon as they earn enough money over here, our newest immigrants are willing, even anxious, to squander it on some unscrupulous attorney or other shyster who promises relief for the right price. When we tell them that we live in a country of laws, they find it difficult to believe, especially when some of their friends really do get taken care of by people who somehow manage to get them a visa in Kyiv, a green card, a driver’s license and whatever else they need – all for the right price.

One can hardly blame our newest immigrants for maintaining a low profile. If they’re illegal, they’re afraid to come forward. They refuse to join our organizations out of fear that their status will somehow be betrayed. The idea of voluntary membership in a community organization, moreover, is an unfamiliar concept, especially since “voluntarism” in Soviet Ukraine was hardly voluntary. Illegals are always looking over their shoulder, wondering when they will be discovered and sent back. The Karanoukh debacle doesn’t offer much solace.

Although some 11 million illegal immigrants, mostly Hispanic, still live freely in the United States enjoying various benefits, four Ukrainians who followed the proper procedures have been deported. Some Ukrainians tell me that the Karanoukhs deserved what they got because they lied about their need for asylum. Their lives were never in danger. But who can say what constitutes peril in today’s Ukraine?

Are Jews in danger in Ukraine today? Jewish émigrés are returning from Israel in droves, so most of us would say no. But the fact remains that up until very recently (perhaps even now), Jewish immigrants from Ukraine were granted U.S. asylum simply for the asking. Some Jewish organizational leaders still promote the idea that Ukraine is a hotbed of anti-Semitism.

Gone are the days when we condemned Fourth Wavers for immigrating because we wanted them to remain in Ukraine to help build a new nation. Like it or not, a new, nationally aware and economically stable Ukraine is still decades away. The time has come to accept and assist our Fourth Wave, unquestionably the largest immigration we’ve ever had. They’re here and we need them to help us build a new Ukrainian America. We may not like their attitudes, their mind-set, or their way of thinking, but in the end, they’re our people. They’re family for God’s sake!

Myron Kuropas’s e-mail address is: kuropas@comcast.net.

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk is a professor of political geography at the Royal Military College of Canada.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Kudos to Zawada for election reports

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Zenon Zawada of The Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau for his comprehensive, informative and well-written coverage of the Ukrainian elections in the April 2 issue.

Although I was present in Ukraine as an election observer and read a variety of reports and other materials on the elections, I found the timely information in Mr. Zawada's articles, including his interviews with other observers, valuable in rounding out my own knowledge as I prepared for appearances at various forums to discuss this milestone event in Ukraine's democratic evolution.

Thanks, and keep up the good work.

**Orest Deychakiwsky**  
Washington

### Internment victims were dishonored

Dear Editor:

In the summer of 2002, I was on a family vacation in upstate New York. We took the ferry across the St. Lawrence River over to Kingston, Ontario, and came upon Fort Henry. There, while on a tour of the historic fort, we encountered a plaque on the inside wall, marking it as one of the sites of internment of Ukrainians by the Canadian government during World War I. It was placed there by the efforts of Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA).

Last week, we traveled to Banff, Alberta, to visit and ski in the Canadian Rockies for our very first time. On April 8, after our arrival, and settling in, we randomly chose to drive up the Bow Valley Parkway toward Lake Louise and explore the area. Suddenly, my wife, Irena, noticed a roadside sign: "internment camp." We pulled over. Much to my amazement, again, we encountered a trilingual plaque and statue of a Ukrainian internee near the base of Castle Mountain. As I took photos and video, I was again amazed at yet another coincidental "find" while vacationing in Canada.

We posed for family pictures. It was a serene and peaceful place. The plaque and statue were decorated with colorful natural and artificial flowers, which accented the monument relative to the background of the snowy forest.

But one thing disturbed me. On one corner of the plaque, someone had scratched in the f--- word, and, on the base of the statue by John Bostel, the letters "BS." They were noticeable, but seemed, thankfully, somewhat faded.

When we returned home, I came across Dr. Luciuk's article about the defacement of this very same monument in the April 16 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly. The defacement is documented on my digital video footage. I had much

the same feelings as Dr. Luciuk. I felt that a part of me was dishonored and violated because this was a memorial to my people. As I looked at the face of the man depicted in the statue, it would have been a contemporary of my great-grandfather.

I wondered, was it a premeditated action, or the random act of an intoxicated hooligan? Regardless, the individual who defaced such a monument was filled with hate and bigotry. Later, I walked around the woods behind the monument, presumably the remnants of the camp. I wondered just how the internees and their families might have felt; betrayed, mistrusted, mistreated, victims of ignorance and prejudice. Our pain must have paled in comparison to theirs.

It reminded me of how important such memorials are. This was the action of one sick individual. However, during the more than 10 years that the memorial to the Ukrainian internees had been in place, perhaps many thousands of people had visited the site without acting out in such a disrespectful manner. Perhaps many thousands thought about the answer to "Why?" Many thousands were reminded of the injustices that prejudice and bigotry bring upon humanity. Hopefully, the more we are reminded of tragic events in history, maybe, just maybe, the chances of recurrences in the future might slowly fade.

As an individual, I may not agree with the UCCLA's proposals regarding prosecuting Stalin-era war criminals. But the concrete work that these volunteers do to research, inform and memorialize injustices that the Ukrainian nation has suffered is extremely important. Organizations such as the UCCLA deserve our moral and material support.

**Dr. Yuri A. Deychakiwsky**  
North Potomac, Md.

### About identifying 'unidentified' guests

Dear Editor:

I am grateful to Luba Mudri and Yaro Bihun for identifying the "unidentified guest" as Msgr. Dmytro Gresko in my article about the Ukrainian community in Apopka (March 12). Many community members tried very hard to identify him before I submitted the photograph for the article, and we even passed around the original photo at our church. Unfortunately, most of the parishioners who were around when that photo was taken almost 30 years ago have sadly passed on, or could not remember. We simply couldn't get the information, and the oversight was never intentional. Actually, we're glad to know who he was as part of our community history, too.

I am also glad that my article sparked another one that features Msgr. Gresko and his contributions. Publications such as The Ukrainian Weekly are so valuable because they provide a forum to commemorate and appreciate the people who have dedicated themselves to the

Ukrainian community through their vocations, ideals and causes, and who would otherwise perhaps go unnoticed or forgotten over the years.

Which brings me to the photograph from 1956 included in the article about Msgr. Gresko in which "an unidentified nun" is mentioned in the caption. Perhaps someone else will identify her and someday write about her contributions as well. It's very likely hers is a story that also needs to be told, along with those of so many other unnamed heroes and heroines.

**Irene Zabytko**  
Apopka, Fla.

### Ukraine's "friends" in the United States

Dear Editor:

The pseudo-explanations given by Ohio Democratic Reps. Marcy Kaptur and Dennis Kucinich for their failure to support HR 1053 to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment (March 26) ring hollow and bring to mind the saying: "With friends like these, who needs enemies?"

Their mention of the Anti-Defamation League and implied reference to the controversial Interregional Academy of Personnel Management (MAUP) to justify their refusal to vote for Ukraine when the chips were down makes one wonder just how much they are kowtowing to the ADL. After all, it is common knowledge that Ukraine has granted extensive civil rights to minorities, especially Jews.

Seems that our critical "friends" will not be satisfied, and will continue to ignore statements by Ukraine's highest officials (starting with the president) condemning anti-Semitism, until the Ukrainian government shuts down the MAUP (freedom of speech be damned).

Then, our "friends" will search with their magnifying glasses until they find another wrinkle on the beautiful face of Ukraine that is pointed out by powerful special interests who cannot accept the existence of an independent Ukraine.

**Leo Iwaskiw**  
Philadelphia

### Yushchenko's prime time is over

Dear Editor:

The outcome of the parliamentary election in Ukraine on March 26 was succinctly described by Tom Warner in the Financial Times of April 8: "A divided pro-Western Orange camp won a narrow victory over Blue pro-Russian forces."

With the wipeout of the 22 percent of the vote cast for a multiplicity of small parties failing to get at least 3 percent, the line-up in the Verkhovna Rada will be 54 percent vs. 46 percent in favor of the Orange parties.

Had the vote for Russian flag-waving

Natalia Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc cleared the 3 percent threshold (which it missed by a hair), the Orange parliamentary majority would have slipped to 51.7 percent.

These numbers should dampen the notion that Viktor Yanukovich, with his Party of the Regions getting 32 percent of the popular vote, has failed to match the 44 percent he received in the presidential contest in December 2004. The 46 percent pro-Russian minority (consisting of the Party of the Regions and the Communist Party) in the next Verkhovna Rada is effectively Mr. Yanukovich's brigade, which would make him prime minister if it had the strength that it almost achieved.

The line between the Orange and pro-Russian camps has been almost immutable, reflecting a quasi-permanent regional divide clearly seen on the electoral results map. Zenon Zawada, in his "Reporter's Notebook," (March 26) offered a thoughtful description of the prevailing mindset in southeastern Ukraine. It also showed the unbending determination of "Blue" strategists to nurture their notions of right and wrong, with scant regard for "foreign" perceptions.

The crucial few percentage points that tipped the election's outcome were assiduously courted. With the collapsing credibility of President Viktor Yushchenko — a sequence that started shortly after he took office and is vividly recapitulated in Taras Kuzio's analysis in The Ukrainian Weekly of April 2, among others — Mr. Yanukovich was poised for a comeback win.

The key and initially unnoticed or ignored counter-process that at the end frustrated his effort was the shift of the Orange center of gravity toward Yulia Tymoshenko. It was set in motion by the dramatic resignation of Oleksander Zinchenko, the president's chief of staff and his campaign manager in the 2004 election, on September 3, 2005, and it turned Mr. Yushchenko's loss into Ms. Tymoshenko's gain.

"The exquisite Yulia" pulled it off again. In a bold move to revive the Orange cause, the majority of Mr. Yushchenko's team apparently decided to openly challenge their leader to weigh in against corruption in his own circle. When he balked, their choice of Ms. Tymoshenko was inevitable.

Mr. Zawada, while acknowledging in his column the corruption in Mr. Yushchenko's entourage, agreed with him that "Ms. Tymoshenko sometimes puts her own interests ahead of all others." This is a philosophical statement. Given Mr. Yushchenko's breathtaking vacuum of leadership, a critical opinion of Ms. Tymoshenko sounds almost like a certification of good behavior. It reminds one of former New York Mayor Ed Koch's quip that he (Koch) would be perfect if he were modest.

As of now, Ms. Tymoshenko's strong showing effectively means that she has taken over as standard-bearer of the Orange Revolution. No matter what the shape of a ruling parliamentary coalition will be, Mr. Yushchenko's prime time is over. Sadly, he is a lame duck president.

**Boris Danik**  
North Caldwell, N.J.



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# Foreign policy community hosts discussion of Ukraine’s elections

by **Oleg Ivanov**  
*U.S.-Ukraine Foundation*

WASHINGTON – The American Foreign Policy Council joined the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations on April 4 in hosting a discussion of the recent parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The panel assembled for the debriefing consisted of four members: Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States; Karen Stewart, director of the Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; Ronald McNamara, deputy chief of staff of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe; and Adrian Karatnycky, president of The Orange Circle.

Held in the Capitol, the near-capacity meeting was attended by various policy-makers, scholars and NGO staff members. After a few brief remarks from Ilan Berman, the discussion’s moderator and vice-president for policy at the American Foreign Policy Council, Ambassador Shamshur provided a general assessment of the elections. While acknowledging certain shortcomings in the actual voting process, like the lengthy and complicated ballots and some miscommunication

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between the central and local election commissions, the ambassador focused mainly on the positive lessons of the Verkhovna Rada elections. Chief among these were the free and fair nature of the elections and the pro-Western mandate that the outcome of the vote seemed to imply.

For the first time in the nation’s history, according to Dr. Shamshur, Ukraine pulled off a wholly transparent, democratic and undisputed election. This was especially evident among the press, which was completely unhindered by the government in its attempt to provide an accurate account of the election process, and the Central Election Commission, which was singled out by the ambassador for its competency and evenhandedness.

“Ukraine passed the test of democracy,” Ambassador Shamshur declared, citing the 70 percent turnout rate to support President Viktor Yushchenko’s claim that the nation has completed the “post-Soviet democratization process.”

Possibly even more important, however, was that the results of the elections, which gave the ruling Orange bloc of the president and his allies 42 percent of the vote, appeared to bode well for further Euro-Atlantic integration. The ambassador saw these results as a show of support for the president’s various policies, such as his democratic and free market reforms, whose ultimate goal is to make it possible

for Ukraine to join the European Union and NATO. Ukraine’s improving living standards and developing democratic institutions have moved it closer to Europe and America than it has ever been – both diplomatically and economically.

Ms. Stuart echoed these sentiments in her brief statement, proclaiming that the results of the elections signaled a continuation of the Orange Revolution. Like the Ukrainian ambassador, she saw the vote as evidence of a positive outlook towards Euro-Atlantic integration among the Ukrainian people. And while she saw the first “Orange year” as a successful one, Ms. Stuart did call on the Ukrainian government to do more to fight corruption throughout every sector of society.

Mr. McNamara, who observed the elections at several polling stations on behalf of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also gave an unqualified positive appraisal of the voting process. He saw these as the first truly free and fair elections among all of the ex-Soviet states of Eurasia.

Like Mr. Shamshur, Mr. McNamara also noted that the media coverage of the elections was far more balanced than it has ever been in Ukraine. He also emphasized the overwhelming enthusiasm and diligence of the poll workers. Like his co-panelists, Mr. McNamara saw the elections as a sign of Ukraine’s continuing

political, economic and social progress.

As the only member of a non-government organization on the panel, Mr. Karatnycky went a little further than the other panelists in his assessment of the elections and what they meant for Ukraine’s future. Unlike the others, he pointed out the harsh political discourse between the Orange and anti-Orange political forces that accompanied the election. Despite the quarrelling, he argued, the differences between these two blocs are actually narrowing; he pointed out that Viktor Yanukovich, the head of the government opposition, has even recently declared his support for further European integration. “The majority of Ukrainians,” Mr. Karatnycky argued, “are pro-Europe, pro-business and pro-rule of law.”

“Ukraine is a European state,” Mr. Karatnycky stated. He predicted that the new government, which will likely be another Orange coalition headed by Yulia Tymoshenko as the prime minister, will embody this quality above all others. Though problems related to the nation’s initial post-Soviet privatization efforts will continue to surface, the new Orange government will continue to seek conciliation with its opponents to keep Ukraine on track toward Euro-Atlantic integration. As President Yushchenko recently declared, it will take a bipartisan effort to implement the reforms necessary for Ukraine’s continuing economic and democratic success.

## Panelists review the parliamentary elections in Ukraine

**Oleksandr Khapatnyukovsky**  
*U.S.-Ukraine Foundation*

WASHINGTON – The Washington Group (TWG), in conjunction with the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), on April 10 hosted a presentation titled “The Recent Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine: A Review.” Speakers included Orest Deychakiwsky, senior staff advisor at the U.S. Helsinki Commission and an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) election observer in Ukraine; Adrian Karatnycky, president of The Orange Circle; and Serhiy Kudelia, Ph.D. candidate at the SAIS.

The panelists assessed the procedure of the first parliamentary elections in Ukraine after the constitutional reform had come into power, analyzed how the elections were conducted and gave their perspectives of the election’s implications.

As the evening’s first panelist, Mr. Deychakiwsky emphasized the importance of the post-election assessment of the OSCE-led election mission, which included observers from the parliamentary assemblies of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, European Union, Council of Europe and NATO. This was the first time the OSCE had called any elections among the 12 former Soviet republics outside the Baltics “free and fair.” This, according to Mr. Deychakiwsky, underscores the consolidation of democratic gains made in the Orange Revolution.

Comparing the recent elections to the first two rounds of the 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine, Mr. Deychakiwsky noted that “temnyky,” state interference, and the use of administrative resources and intimidation, harassment and outright fraud were largely a thing of the past. This time there was a freer media and decidedly more balanced media coverage, and the elections were conducted in an atmosphere of true competition. He also compared the Rada elections with the presidential elections in Belarus held a week earlier, describing the latter as a “farce.”

However, there still were some shortcomings in the election process, Mr. Deychakiwsky said. The holding of both national and local elections at the same time added to difficulties in the efficiency of the election process, leading to long lines and overcrowding in some polling stations. Outdated or incorrect information in voter lists with the recent voter registration overhaul also led to complications – even disenfranchising some voters.

Mr. Deychakiwsky praised the hundreds of thousands of election workers and non-partisan domestic and party observers for their hard work in ensuring the transparen-

cy of the voting and vote count. He stressed that the shortcomings were mostly organizational and logistical, and not the result of a centralized, planned attempt to manipulate the election, and that the election results reflected the will of the people. With these elections, said Mr. Deychakiwsky, “Ukraine’s leadership and people have shown their commitment to democracy in a very tangible way.”

Mr. Kudelia focused on the results of the elections. He strongly criticized President Viktor Yushchenko for his failure to unite the Ukrainian people after the Orange Revolution of 2004. “Cultural and regional identities in Ukraine transformed into political ones,” said Mr. Kudelia. He characterized the election campaign of the president’s political party, Our Ukraine, as a “brilliant failure.” To make his point, Mr. Kudelia compared Our Ukraine’s 24 percent support rate in the 2002 parliamentary elections with the less than 14 percent backing received in 2006.

At the same time, the speaker underlined the success of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which came second with 22 percent of the vote, outpolling Yushchenko’s Our Ukraine two to one or higher throughout most of central and eastern Ukraine.

There are some reasons for this success, remarked Mr. Kudelia. Firstly, unlike President Yushchenko, Yulia Tymoshenko “has passed the test of power.” “During her term as prime minister, she did not steal anything. On the contrary, she tried to return the stolen property to the people,” said Mr. Kudelia, explaining the popularity of Tymoshenko among common citizens.

Secondly, according to Mr. Kudelia, Tymoshenko won the corruption debate that dominated the election. Having dismissed Ms. Tymoshenko from the government in September 2005, President Yushchenko accused her of plotting a coup against him and favoring certain businesses. Ms. Tymoshenko, in turn, accused Mr. Yushchenko of surrounding himself with corrupt politicians who manipulated him. “The untransparent gas deal with Russia in January 2006 served as the critical evidence of corruption among Ukraine’s top officials,” stated Mr. Kudelia.

Thirdly, Ms. Tymoshenko in her election campaign appealed to socially unprotected people, like students, pensioners and doctors. “It was not new for Ukrainian politicians,” said Mr. Kudelia, “but this time she prom-

(Continued on page 23)

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*Sincere thanks to all contributors to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.*

*The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the sole fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.*

*Oleksandr Khapatnyukovsky is an intern at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.*



# Political expert evaluates impact of Ukraine's parliamentary elections

by Peter T. Woloschuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – “My main thesis,” Dr. Olexiy Haran said, speaking before an audience composed primarily of academic and regional specialists, “is that the results of Ukraine’s March parliamentary elections shouldn’t be viewed with alarm. They were a real victory for the principles of the Orange Revolution. Ukrainian politics are becoming normal and European, and are dramatically different than those in most of the other post-Soviet successor states.”

“As a result of these elections,” Dr. Haran continued, “the major political parties in Ukraine have been forced to attempt to build coalitions with various partners. In order to get power they have to compromise and make deals. And that is at the heart of all Western politics.”

“Despite all of the problems associated with the campaign and elections, on the national level, they were free and fair,” Dr. Haran pointed out. “Each party campaigned freely, each party had access to media, even government media, and there was no interference or manipulation by the government.”

These remarks came in a lecture that Dr. Haran delivered at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute’s (HURI) 13th annual Petryshyn Memorial Lecture which was co-sponsored by Harvard’s

Center for Government and International Studies and held in the Belfer Case Study Room on April 10.

In his lecture – titled “Post-Orange Ukraine and the March 2006 Elections: What Now?” – Dr. Haran looked at the outcome of the elections and posited various scenarios for the formation of a new government, and then scrutinized each in turn.

He pointed out that Parliament has 30 days to convene after the election results have been ratified and promulgated, and then the various parties have 30 days after Parliament convenes to form a government. If they fail to do so within that time period, under the Constitution the president has the right to disband the Parliament and call for new elections.

“I don’t think it will come to that, though,” Dr. Haran emphasized. “The election results have not yet been certified and, once they are, the major victors in the election basically have 60 days to pick the prime minister. There is plenty of time for bartering and negotiations.”

Dr. Haran analyzed the results of the elections and pointed out that more than 70 percent of the population voted in spite of disenchantment with the current state of affairs and the recent energy deal with Russia. He also underscored the fact that on the national level the results closely mirrored those of the 2004 presidential elections. “The Party of the

Regions and its allies carried 10 oblasts, while Our Ukraine and the Tymoshenko bloc and its allies won 17,” Dr. Haran said. “This was exactly the same as in Round 3 of the presidential elections in December 2004.”



Dr. Olexiy Haran

“Although much has been made of the fact that the Party of the Regions won a plurality of votes, it must be emphasized that, even with the Communists and their other allies, they do not constitute a majority and have virtually no chance of forming a new government themselves,” Dr. Haran continued.

He also pointed out that this was the first proportional election for the parties as mandated by recent constitutional reforms and that it actually worked to strengthen the parties and give stability to the government. Finally, he noted that the situation on the local level was much more complex, pointing out that the Odesa Oblast had voted for the Party of the Regions but the city of Odesa elected a mayor who belongs to Our Ukraine.

“Under the old system, members of Parliament were free to do as they pleased. There was little party discipline and members could take independent positions on any issue they wished. The electorate was never sure that their deputy was fulfilling their wishes or watching out for their interests,” Dr. Haran explained. “Now deputies have to follow the dictates of their party.”

“The unfortunate piece of this new system is that deputies run on a national party slate and don’t have to come from any particular region,” Dr. Haran said. “As a result, in the new Parliament almost 60 percent of all of the deputies come from Kyiv and another 12 percent come from Donetsk.”

He continued: “In the new Parliament 75 percent of the deputies belong to the major parties, 61 percent have been elected for the first time, and only 8 percent are women.”

“However, Dr. Haran added, “these women are strong, vocal figures who are very charismatic.”

In analyzing the outcome of the March elections, Dr. Haran cited three possible scenarios:

- the re-establishment of the Orange coalition with Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc forming a new government, perhaps with the Socialists;
  - a coalition of Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions – uniting the Orange with the Blue; or
  - a grand coalition composed of most, if not all, of the parties in Parliament.
- “At the beginning of the campaign, polls indicated that Our Ukraine would

come in ahead of the Tymoshenko Bloc,” Dr. Haran said, “and it was predicted that Tymoshenko would play a major role in the new government, but not as prime minister. However, the bloc’s dominant showing made it clear that Tymoshenko now won’t accept anything less than the top spot. Her victory is due to skillful campaigning and the fact that she personally campaigned all across the country and attacked both [Viktor] Yushchenko and [Viktor] Yanukovich. As a result she came in first in 14 oblasts and second in nine, including all of the oblasts in the south and east except for Luhansk, Donetsk, Crimea and Sevastopol. If the Tymoshenko Bloc can continue this trend, it has the possibility of becoming the first truly national political party.”

“Even if the Orange forces come back together, there are great differences between Yushchenko and Tymoshenko, particularly in the areas of European integration and NATO,” Dr. Haran said. “However, under the new Constitution, Cabinet officers are sacrosanct for one full year and so they would have to learn to work together.”

The second scenario could happen, Dr. Haran said, but it would be forced by businessmen in both camps, not by Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich. “There are businessmen on both sides who want reform to continue and who want to trade with the West,” Dr. Haran pointed out. “However, such a coalition would cause a major moral dilemma for many loyal followers in both camps, and, as a result, would have little chance for success.”

“The final possibility,” Dr. Haran added, “is some sort of a grand coalition of most, if not all, of the major parties,” but he quickly pointed out that there were too many disparate demands made by all these groups and the likelihood of them working together was slim at best.

Dr. Haran concluded by saying that he is an optimist and that the ongoing political process in Kyiv gives hope for the future.

“These elections show that Ukraine is beginning to mature politically and that it is developing normal Western inter-party relations,” he said. “These elections and their aftermath are really the offspring of the Orange Revolution and give hope for the future.”

Born in Kyiv in 1959, Dr. Haran graduated from the department of international relations at Kyiv University (1981) where he also received his candidates degree in international relations (1986) and his doctorate in contemporary history (1996). He has been a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and has lectured extensively in the United States.

Dr. Haran spent six years as a researcher at the Institute of History at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and in 1994 became the dean and organizer of the faculty of social sciences and the first head of the political science department at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NUKMA).

In 2002 he became the founding director of the NUKMA School for Policy Analysis and in December 2004 began serving as the Eurasia Foundation’s regional vice-president for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. The foundation has given out more than 1,400 grants in Ukraine since 1994, averaging more than \$20,000 each.

Dr. Haran is the author of “To Kill the Dragon: From the History of Rukh and the New Political Parties of Ukraine” and is the co-author of several other

## Von Hagen revisits the question “Does Ukraine Have a History?”

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK – Dr. Mark von Hagen, director of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, revisited the topic “Does Ukraine Have a History?” in a lecture at the International Affairs Building that kicked off the university’s spring 2006 semester.



Zenon Zawada

Prof. Mark von Hagen, director of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University.

It was back in 1995 that Prof. von Hagen first addressed that topic in an essay by the same title in which he asked whether Ukraine has “a written history of its experienced past that commends some widespread acceptance and authority in the international scholarly and political communities.”

Eleven years ago, as he examined the history and historiography of Ukraine, Prof. von Hagen found that the answer was not quite so simple. (His article was

published in the fall 1995 issue of *Slavic Review*.) He noted that, “if we ... look to the political geography of history teaching, we find virtually no recognition that Ukraine has a history.” Ukrainian history as a field “does not exist per se,” he wrote.

He went on to note that it seems Ukraine does not have a history because Ukraine, and other states of Eastern and Central Europe, “were pawns in the international system. Before 1914 the ‘non-historical peoples’ were long subject to three Central European dynastic empires: the Romanovs, the Hohenzollerns and the Habsburgs.” Later these nations became “the pawns of either the German Reich or the Soviet Union.”

Furthermore, Prof. von Hagen observed that “two hegemonic historiographies ... have had a vested interest in the failure of East and Central European states, the German and the Russian/Soviet.”

On February 1, Prof. von Hagen, who is the Boris Bakhmeteff Professor of Russian and East European Studies and teaches Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian history at Columbia, addressed the topic anew and from the perspective of a Ukraine one year after the Orange Revolution.

Introduced as “an organizer of Ukrainian studies both nationally and internationally” by his colleague Frank Sysyn, professor of history at the University of Alberta and a Petro Jacyk Visiting Scholar at Columbia, Prof. von Hagen spoke before an audience comprising students and faculty, as well as interested guests from outside the Columbia University community.

He began his talk by stating, “The question of what made Ukrainian history ‘Ukrainian’ was no doubt behind my provocative essay title of a few years back.” After all, he explained, he had come to Ukrainian studies from years of work in the history and languages of Russia and Poland, as well as graduate work in mod-

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## THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

### First International Youth Ecology Forum held in Slavutych

*U.S.-Ukraine Foundation*

SLAVUTYCH, Ukraine – On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster, the First International Youth Ecology Forum was held in the city of Slavutych on April 4-7.

Bringing together youth from across Ukraine, the goal of the forum was to attract youth to public life through ecological education, raise a generation that is ecologically aware and provide reliable information on the radioecological problems of the catastrophe.

The forum, a component of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's heralded Youth Leadership Program, demonstrated that, by uniting their intellectual forces, youth and local government can take on the

general director of the Research Center for Radiological Medicine, member-correspondent of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine;

- "Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant – The Trial Years" – Oleksander Yevhenovych Novikov, deputy technical director for Nuclear Safety at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant;

- "Rehabilitation of radioactive territories" Anatolii Volodymyrovych Nosovsky, Ph.D. in technical sciences, professor, director of the Slavutych Training Center at the Chernihiv State Institute for Economics and Management, director of the Slavutych branch of the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute; and

- "Techno-Eco-Polis Slavutych –



**Participants of the Youth Ecology Forum: (bottom row, from left) Oleksiy Lyzenko (Kirovske, Donetsk Oblast), Yulia Olabenko (Voznesensk, Mykolaiv Oblast), Volodymyr Boyaryn (Volodymyr-Volynskyi, Volyn Oblast), (top row, from left) Oleksandra Prudnikova (Korosten, Zhytomyr Oblast), Natalia Tatarina (Kamianets-Podilskyi, Khmelnytskyi Oblast)**



**Participants standing by the Chornobyl Memorial in the city of Slavutych.**

battle for an ecologically sound environment and healthy way of life.

Participants included students from state universities in Uzhhorod, Sevastopol, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Odesa, the Slavutych lyceum, members of the Kyiv Oblast student council and youth representatives from the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's Community Partnerships Project (CPP) cities of Kamianets-Podilskyi, Kirovske, Komsomolsk, Korosten, Volodymyr-Volynskyi and Voznesensk.

The forum initiative was co-sponsored by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (USUF), the Executive Committee of the Slavutych City Council – Division of Family and Youth, the State Specialized Enterprise Chornobyl Atomic Energy Station and the Kyiv Oblast State Administration – Department for Family and Youth.

In his introductory remarks at the forum's opening on April 5, Slavutych Mayor Volodymyr Udovychenko noted that we will probably never know the true consequences of the Chornobyl catastrophe. He pointed out that, unfortunately, our youth do not have enough information about it – thus stressing the importance of such events. He expressed his hope that this will become an annual forum.

Presentations were then given by experts on the following issues and problems related to the Chornobyl disaster:

- "Radioecological Problems of the Exclusion Zone" Yuri Oleksandrovych Ivanov, Ph.D. in biology, chief research engineer, International Radioecology Laboratory at the Chornobyl Center for Nuclear Safety, Radioactive Waste and Radioecology;

- "Medical aspects of the Chornobyl Catastrophe" – Volodymyr Hryhorovych Bebesko, Ph.D. in medicine, professor,

Effective Socioeconomic Rehabilitation" – Volodymyr Petrovych Udovychenko, Ph.D. in economics, winner of the State Prize of Ukraine in Science and Technology, member of the Ukrainian Ecological Academy of Sciences, member of the Congress of Local and Regional Governments of Europe.

The participants then broke up into sections to further discuss these topics. The USUF hosted a discussion titled "Youth and Local Government: Partners in Solving Ecological Problems in a Community."

The next day participants traveled by train to the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant inside the 30-kilometer exclusion zone. They were given an overview of the accident using a detailed model of the interior of reactor No. 4, told of current measures being taken to safeguard the reactor and, plans for building a new shelter, and were provided a description of life within the exclusion zone.

The trip continued two miles farther to the abandoned city of Prypiat, and then on to the city of Chornobyl, which still houses some temporary workers.

Back at the plant, the participants met with the head of the Information Department, who discussed the history of the plant and the reasons for its shutdown. He assured them that while everyone at the plant is working hard and doing their best to make it as safe as pos-

sible, unfortunately, Chornobyl will remain a problem for the next generation.

On their train ride back to Slavutych, participants were able to talk with workers heading home after their daily shifts.

At the close of the forum, participants unanimously adopted a resolution, before attending a commemorative performance by Slavutych youth and laying flowers at the town's memorial to Chornobyl liquidators.

Slavutych, a participant in the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's Community Partnerships Project since 1997 – it is a partner city of Richland, Wash. – was built by people from across the Soviet Union in 1987-1989 to house displaced workers from the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant. Slavutych is Ukraine's youngest city, both historically and demographically; the average age of residents is 31. In 2005 it was ranked second among Ukrainian cities, after Kyiv, in terms of socioeconomic development.

For more information about the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation readers may log on to <http://www.usukraine.org>.



**Participants standing around a model of the destroyed reactor 4 at the Chornobyl Shelter Observation Room.**



# THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

## Greenpeace, others challenge IAEA report on disaster's consequences

by Luke Allnutt and Claire Bigg

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Greenpeace has sharply criticized a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency – the United Nations' nuclear watchdog – claiming the 1986 nuclear catastrophe at Chernobyl (Chernobyl) will cause no more than 4,000 deaths worldwide. Like a number of environmental organizations, Greenpeace accuses the report of “white-washing” Chernobyl's impact and claims that some 200,000 people in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus could already have died as a result of the accident.

Parishev, 20 kilometers east of Chernobyl, was once a bustling village of several hundred people. Now, only a dozen people remain.

Speaking to RFE/RL one year ago, Halyna Yavchenko said the number of villagers in Parishev is shrinking and that people are dying one after the other. She herself complained of strong headaches and high blood pressure.

But she said she's not afraid to live in an abandoned village in the middle of a radioactive zone. If only the wild animals would leave her garden alone: “We are used to living here. But we are like wolves here. Last year, boars ate everything they could find.”

Ms. Yavchenko is one of the many affected by the 1986 disaster, where a power surge triggered an explosion that emitted radiation across Europe. But experts disagree how severe the consequences of the disaster have been – and how bad they still could be in the future.

A report released in September 2005 by the Chernobyl Forum, which comprises the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization

and the United Nations Development Program, said fewer than 50 deaths so far could be directly attributed to Chernobyl. The report claimed the disaster will cause no more than 4,000 deaths worldwide. It also found no profound negative health consequences to the rest of the population in surrounding areas.

These figures take into account only the people most exposed: those sent to “liquidate” the consequence of the explosion and those who lived in nearby towns at the time of the accident.

The IAEA says its findings regarding the environmental impact of the blast are also “reassuring,” with radiation levels mostly returning to normal.

The report claims that poverty, disease and mental-health problems in the former Soviet Union actually pose a far greater health threat than radiation exposure.

But this verdict has been challenged by a number of organizations, including Greenpeace and associations of Chernobyl “liquidators.”

Speaking at a press conference on April 18 in Kyiv, Bruno Rebelle, a program director for Greenpeace International, said the number of Chernobyl-related deaths is much higher: “The most recent published figures indicate that in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine alone, the accident resulted in an estimated 200,000 additional deaths between 1994 and 2000.”

A recent Greenpeace report, which is partly based on research from the Russian and Belarusian Academies of Sciences, says that the incidence of cancer in Belarus jumped 40 percent between 1990 and 2000. And, according to the report, children born after 1986 have shown an 88.5-fold increase in thyroid cancers.

Speaking at a Greenpeace news conference in Moscow earlier this month, Lyudmilla Komogortseva, a deputy from the Bryansk Oblast – Russia's region most affected by the accident – said the incidence of cancer in her region is 10 to 15 percent higher than the national average.

“Today one can say with certainty that the Chernobyl catastrophe, even what is called low-radiation doses, has a negative effect on the health of people living in the regions exposed to radioactive pollution,” Ms. Komogortseva said.

Ms. Komogortseva lashed out at the Russian government for failing to pay compensation to the Bryansk population for health damage and slashing ecological and health programs set up in the region after the disaster.

Some experts and local residents are also concerned about the dangers of contaminated food.

Ms. Komogortseva said more than 50 percent of food products in the Bryansk region are contaminated, according to official figures from Russian veterinary sources. In addition, she said, local residents widely consume mushrooms, berries and game from the forests, where most of the radiation is concentrated.

Speaking at the same press conference, Vladimir Chuprov, the chief nuclear expert at Greenpeace's Moscow chapter, said these food products continue to pose a serious health threat: “These food products – mushrooms, berries, meat, dairy products – reach the Moscow market, the St. Petersburg market, the central European part of Russia. Specialized organizations are known to withdraw hundreds of kilograms of these products from Moscow markets every year. The problem here is general, this radiation is spreading, and one should in no circum-

stances close one's eyes to this problem, like the IAEA and our opponents from Rosatom are trying to do.”

The IAEA, however, dismisses such warnings. Didier Louvat, the head of the IAEA's waste safety section that helped coordinate the United Nations report on Chernobyl, told RFE/RL there was no evidence showing low radiation doses increased the risk of cancer.

“The Bryansk region was the Russian region most affected by the [radioactive] fallout. So the Bryansk region forests are certainly the most contaminated. If this can be related to any increase of cancer in the region, among the population, even the population consuming forest products? The WHO report clearly said no,” Mr. Louvat said. “Twenty percent of the population – the Russian population, the world population – are going to die of cancer. There is no way to attribute this cancer to one specific cause.”

Greenpeace believes the authors of the Chernobyl Forum report have an agenda.

Mr. Chuprov said the report is part of a campaign to present nuclear energy as a reliable and safe source of energy: “The question is politicized. There is a powerful lobby, and public opinion on Chernobyl is the last barrier against the construction of new [nuclear] reactors in Russia and in the world. This is part of a PR campaign aimed at eliminating social disapproval, because according to social polls, 78 percent of Russians are against the construction of nuclear plants in their region.”

Russia's atomic energy agency, Rosatom, has announced plans to build 40 new nuclear reactors in the country by 2030.

RFE/RL's Valentinas Mite contributed to this report.

## 20 years later: What lessons have been learned?

by Robert Parsons

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Twenty years ago in the early morning of April 26, while most of Europe lay oblivious and asleep, a chain of events had begun in Soviet Ukraine that was to unleash a catastrophe of unprecedented scale. At 1:23 a.m., a massive surge of power in the fourth reactor at the huge Chernobyl power station triggered an explosion that lifted the 1,000-ton lid off the reactor's core.

Within hours a column of radioactive material some 1 kilometer high was drifting northwest across Europe. As panic gripped the continent, hundreds of thousands of people, many of them volunteers, fought with astonishing courage to control the accident.

Twenty years on, what are the lessons of Chernobyl and what are its consequences?

Snow still lay on the ground in Slavutych in defiance of the early March sunshine. Even at midday, the town had an unnatural stillness, underlined – not broken – by the occasional shopper or group of schoolchildren.

The town's strangeness has a cause. Slavutych is the child of the Chernobyl disaster, a small city constructed from nothing to take in the evacuated staff of the nuclear plant and their families.

Just 50 kilometers from Chernobyl, it was built as a showcase and a demonstration of the indomitable human spirit, but in its own way it, too, has become a testimony to tragedy.

Its energetic mayor, Volodymyr Udovychenko, who is himself a former employee of the nuclear power station, is

a tireless advocate of the Slavutych cause. He argues that the Ukrainian government undertook to guarantee jobs for the workers laid off by the closure of Chernobyl.

“The main problem today is the budget problem of Slavutych – and that's not even addressing the issues of medical care,” Mr. Udovychenko said. “It's not right to apply the same standards for the work force of the Chernobyl atomic station as we have in the rest of Ukraine. Here in Slavutych there are 8,000 people who took part, one way or another, in the containment of the explosion and the clean-up. We can say that the government of Ukraine is not fulfilling its commitments made when closing the Chernobyl nuclear power station.”

Mr. Udovychenko is talking about unemployment. Built as a model town, the continued dependence of Slavutych on the station threatens it with ruin.

“In 1999 we still had 10,000 jobs here at the power station,” he said. “Today, we're down to 3,620. In other words, we've been through a huge transformation. But if we lose those jobs as well, it will be a catastrophe for Slavutych.”

In September 2005, the U.N.-sponsored Chernobyl Forum presented the conclusions of its digest report on Chernobyl's legacy, a massive 600-page analysis incorporating the work of hundreds of scientists and experts. It is the most thorough examination yet made of the health, sociological, environmental and economic consequences of the accident.

It argues that so far fewer than 50 people have died of causes directly attributa-

ble to radiation from the disaster but that, ultimately, several thousand could die from fatal cancers, in addition to the 100,000 cancer deaths expected in the region from other causes.

This is a far cry from the early predictions of a worldwide radiation-induced health disaster in which thousands would die from radiation sickness.

But, it says, less is understood about the dramatic increase in psychological problems caused by insufficient communication about radiation affects, the social disruption of evacuation, and economic depression.

Volodymyr Berkovsky of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Research Center for Radiation Medicine shares the report's view that the mental-health impact of Chernobyl is the largest public health problem unleashed by the accident to date.

“Unfortunately, we cannot discuss mental problems in terms of numbers like we discuss morbidity or mortality,” he says. “It's rather subjective. It could be a consequence of the accident. It could be something like simultaneous action of the total problem in the country plus Chernobyl. It is mostly superimposition of different factors – of economic problems, of economic stagnation, contamination and so on.”

Perhaps it is the subjective nature of the problem that has caused it to be somewhat neglected. The report notes that the psychological distress arising from the accident has been particularly acute among the 330,000 people evacuat-

ed and then relocated from the region most affected by the accident.

As the example of Slavutych shows, unemployment is one of the biggest consequences of the disaster. The station has shut down and the local economy all but collapsed. But, relatively speaking, the people of Slavutych have been privileged.

Most of the evacuees, the report says, have had huge difficulties adjusting to the disruption in their lives. They feel rootless and unwanted, and share a fatalistic belief that their life expectancy has been reduced by exposure to radiation.

At the heart of the problem, the report argues, lies the failure of first the Soviet authorities and then subsequently the Ukrainian authorities to provide full information. Chernobyl has left a legacy of mistrust.

Yes Anders Knappe, a vice-president of the Bureau of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, thinks lessons should and can be learned. Mr. Knappe was attending a conference organized in March by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in Slavutych to share his experiences as deputy mayor of the Swedish city of Karlstad, another town heavily dependent on nuclear energy.

The key, he says, is information. The local people need to be properly informed of the risks of living in the vicinity of a nuclear power station and

(Continued on page 13)



# THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

## Chornobyl catastrophe...

(Continued from page 3)

disaster," Mr. Coehlo said. "I was really shocked because I was convinced that everybody knew."

The humanitarian forum is of major importance in not allowing people to forget those events that affect everyone in the world, he said. It can transform a tragedy into something positive because "we can have good lessons from tragedies," Mr. Coehlo said.

The first and the most important lesson is try not to let it happen again, he said, and then try to learn how to manage these disasters created by human beings.

"I am grateful to you for organizing this event, for making people more aware, for those people who weren't affected or who weren't even born when this tragedy happened," Mr. Coehlo said.

Among the scientists to address the humanitarian forum was Dr. Wolodymyr Wertelecki, chairman of medical genetics at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

He spoke on the influence of Chornobyl on the genetic health of future generations that have been investigated by a large team of researchers.

Dr. Wertelecki's report was among the few, if any, to seriously explore the effect of Chornobyl's radiation fallout on genetics.

Information on Chornobyl's impact on birth defects is quite limited so far, Dr. Wertelecki said, partly because Ukraine doesn't have a broad birth defect surveillance system, with the exception of five scattered centers.

The studies, he said, have pinpointed an epidemic among Ukraine's infants of spina bifida, a genetic disorder in which the spinal canal isn't closed and is exposed outside the skin, or is severed. It is considered among the most serious of birth defects.

Ukraine loses 500 children to spina bifida every year and has lost 2,500 children in the last five years.

If the Ukrainian government were to introduce folic acid into the diet of its citizens, spina bifida cases could be reduced by at least 50 percent in Crimea, and by three-quarters in the most affected regions such as the Rivne and Lutsk oblasts, Dr. Wertelecki said.

He accused Ukraine's minister of health, Yuri Poliachenko, of ignoring the spina bifida epidemic.

"These are not arguable scientific facts," he said. "There is so much data right now that the Center for Disease Control in the U.S. has said monitoring is no longer necessary. This is beyond dispute, in terms of science. But it is dis-



Zenon Zawada

**Dr. Wolodymyr Wertelecki of the University of South Alabama at the "Birth, Renewal and Human Development" forum on April 25.**

putable for the minister of health, who some people contend is committing public health malpractice by not introducing these preventive measures."

Beyond spina bifida, during the last five years four cases of conjoined twins have emerged in the Rivne Oblast, which is the region heaviest hit by ionizing radiation from Chornobyl.

One case emerged in Crimea a week ago, Dr. Wertelecki said.

"This is not attributable to Chornobyl, but is attributable to something," he said.

### "Chornobyl+20: Remembrance for the Future"

Aside from the official conferences, Ukrainian, German and other European environmental organizations combined efforts to host the "Chornobyl+20: Remembrance for the Future" conference, which had an explicit anti-nuclear energy orientation.

Among those attending was Nancy Burton of the Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone, who has led an effort to close the Millstone nuclear power plant in Connecticut since 1988.

She was initially drawn to Ukraine by the Orange Revolution as an election observer and then began to study the Chornobyl disaster.

"I am horrified to learn that far from entering the modern era of conservation and investing in clean, green energy, it sounds like the Orange Revolution's leaders are pushing for a nuclear revival in the homeland of Chornobyl," she said.

catastrophe like this, in the beginning you have a lot of resources and a lot of focus coming from national government and from all over the world," he says.

"But when it comes back to ordinary days, it's the local authorities who have to meet the needs of the local population," he continues. "Of course, if you have an open and democratic local society, you also have a better chance to handle these types of situations."

Controversially, perhaps, the U.N.-sponsored Chornobyl Forum report argues that most of the contaminated territories are now safe for settlement and economic activity. Radiation levels, it maintains, have fallen several hundred times because of natural processes and countermeasures. Only in this way, it suggests, will it be possible for the evacuees of Chornobyl to begin the long process of reclaiming their lives.

"Frankly, it makes no sense to me."

A disaster like Chornobyl could just as easily happen in Millstone, she said, and Americans have no reason to feel comforted that its nuclear industry is in private hands.

"Cutting corners is the name of the game, and they did that in the construction of Millstone," she said. Leukemia, thyroid cancers and extraordinary cancers cases have been increasing and are unusually high in Millstone, she added.

The Chornobyl+20 conference resolution declared that the international community has failed to recognize the truth about the Chornobyl disaster. It condemned the nuclear industry for promoting itself and seeking government subsidies to continue expanding.

It also condemned the drive to make the Russian Federation into an international receptor of nuclear waste, stating that each nation should find ways to cope with its own waste products.

**"Cars crash. But people still drive cars."**

Oleh Cherviakov knew all the men whose plaques decorate the memorial mound at the Warriors of Chornobyl park.

In some ways, the Soviet system was good, he said. People were more solid, they were more friendly.

"And if something like this were to happen now in our country, there's no way Ukraine would be able to solve this task alone," Mr. Cherviakov said.

He doesn't think any other government would have reacted differently compared to how the Soviet government responded to Chornobyl. "Every government has secrets which prevents impermissible things to be disseminated," Mr. Cherviakov said.

Ukraine should keep nuclear energy, he said, especially considering Ukraine's problems with obtaining fuel. Technology is constantly developing to make nuclear plants more secure, he argued.

"Cars crash, but people still drive cars," he said.

## Where were you on April 26, 1986?

*Several participants of the "Rebirth, Renewal and Human Development" conference recalled the moment they learned of the Chornobyl catastrophe. President Viktor Yushchenko offered his comments in an interview on Ukrainian state television.*

### Viktor Yushchenko, president of Ukraine:

I was in Kyiv then, while my family was in the Sumy Oblast. On April 26, there was information that there was a redness to the sky in the Chornobyl district, that two explosions had occurred. And this information seeped into Kyiv. Until May 2, no information was correct.

I remember how May 1 was a clear spring day, and dandelions had blossomed. I remember my daughter Vitalina had arrived, and we walked along the Dnipro's precipice, gathering them.

Then we went to the Khreschatyk, and there was a bike race where many Kyivans stood. There was a feeling of absolute peace. There wasn't any feeling of alarm that an irreversible tragedy had taken place.

I remember the issue was raised in the bank that we need to remove the bank's property from the Chornobyl zone – bank notes, money, valuables. There was a line to go, and I didn't sign up for it. Only experts were needed, those who knew how to manage cashier operations, work with cash, not economists or financiers.



Zenon Zawada

Paolo Coehlo

### Kateryna Yushchenko, first lady of Ukraine:

I think many people can remember the moment they first heard about Chornobyl. I remember it well. I was a member of the Ukrainian diaspora, studying at the University of Chicago. On television late at night, there appeared a special report.

And it showed a map of the Soviet Union, in the middle, where Ukraine was, there was a nuclear radiation. And there was radiation coming out of Ukraine, and nobody knew whether it was a bomb or a nuclear plant. Nobody knew.

And when I began calling my family, there were no lines. And what was tragic is that I knew what was happening in Ukraine before my family did. And I think many people will remember those very tragic moments.

### John Herbst, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine:

I was at that time working at the American Embassy in Moscow. And I remember getting the reports about what might have been happening in Ukraine.

And, of course, that was the time of the policy of glasnost, of opening up. And that was the very first failure of the policy of glasnost because the Soviet authorities, as always, hid the great tragedy that had unfolded before the eyes of the world.

And, most importantly, while Communist officials were shipping their children out of Ukraine, the people of Chornobyl were living and their children were playing in the fields of Ukraine.

As luck would have it, I was visiting with my wife and children in Kyiv and Chernihiv about two weeks before the Chornobyl disaster. And there but for the grace of God would have been my children.

### Paolo Coehlo, world-renowned author:

I remember the day when I heard the news. I was in Brazil. I am a Brazilian. It was quite far away from the disaster itself. But many times, some things that affect one person or a group will affect all of humankind.

On my first visit to Ukraine, I tried to go to Chornobyl but it was impossible. So I went to the museum of Chornobyl. And I was moved to tears when I saw the consequences of the disaster.

## 20 years later...

(Continued from page 12)

trained to know what to do when things go wrong. Like many, he believes the scale of the evacuation was greater than it should have been.

"The reaction [at the time] was that the catastrophe was bigger than we can see [it was] today," he says. "Today we know we haven't had the extreme dimensions of people killed or of areas you can't live in and things like that. So that's very important to give back to people their hopes for the future, give back their land, give back their opportunities for work and living also in areas close to Chornobyl."

But it's not just more information that's needed. Mr. Knape argues that you need greater popular involvement in government as well. "When you have a



# Yuri Onuch reflects on Ukrainian contemporary art

by Oksana Zakydalsky

*The Center for Contemporary Art (CCA) in Kyiv, whose mission has been to foster contemporary visual art and culture in Ukraine, was established in 1993. Currently it has five professional staff, two support staff, one intern and from six to eight volunteers. It is located in the Podil district of Kyiv, in an 18th century historical building that belongs to the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA). Through a contract with the NUKMA, the CCA has use of the premises for 10 years, after which the property reverts to the university.*

*Yuri (Jerzy) Onuch became director of the CCA in 1997. He was born in Poland but, since 1985, has been a resident of Canada. After seven years as the director, Mr. Onuch has left the CCA. He was in Toronto at the beginning of this year and this writer asked him to describe and evaluate his years at the CCA.*

## How did you become the director of the CCA?

The first director of the CCA was Marta Kuzma (from the U.S.), and the CCA was then funded by the Soros Renaissance Fund in Kyiv. In 1997 Soros decided that the CCA should become an independent organization – part of a network of Centers of Contemporary Art, of which there were about 20 in Europe – funded directly from New York. I was successful in the competition for the new director, and it took me a year and a half to register the CCA as a Ukrainian international charitable foundation. The law on charitable organizations in Ukraine is very restrictive and limits their functioning. They can only receive donations and cannot engage in any income-generating activities. For example, a gallery can't charge any entrance fee or sell its catalogue in order to recoup costs.

By 1999 it became obvious that the funding of the Soros network of CCAs was going to stop as Soros was planning to cease the funding of all cultural programs from New York. He agreed to a three-year phase-out period for the CCA, which then had to begin its own fund-raising. Just to run the physical plant – staff, telephone, computer maintenance, garbage collection, etc. – the CCA needs about \$50,000 annually.

We were not able to find any local sponsor that would replace Soros. Hence, it was not possible to remake the institution as I had hoped nor do long-range planning. Today everything is done on a one-off basis. Funding for every project, for every show, for every activity is specific. The \$35,000 the CCA now receives annually from the Kyiv Renaissance Foundation does not even cover the running costs. I invested a good chunk of my life into this institution and, as I leave, I fear that my younger colleagues, whom I have trained and prepared, will not be able to find adequate support and the CCA might change into a post-Soviet organization – not yet dead but no longer living, of which there are many in Ukraine.

## What do you consider to have been the highlights of your years as director?

We tried to find a balance between international projects and Ukrainian-based projects. As for highlights in the last few years, I could mention the Andy Warhol exhibit

that came to us from Pittsburgh, the Kabakov and Kossuth show, Joseph Beuys, and the "Brand: Ukrainian" show, which had a wide resonance in Ukraine. We took part in the "Year of Poland in Ukraine" program with an outstanding exhibit of seven contemporary Polish artists and were able to produce a wonderful catalogue thanks to financial support from Poland. Six of the artists came to Kyiv and created their projects right in the gallery.

And just recently, we formed a coalition of partners such as The British Council, Goethe Institute, Alliance Francaise and others, to be able to pay the fee of 26,000 euros to bring to Kyiv the World Press photo exhibit.

We have a group of contemporary Ukrainian artists who work with us. This group, which includes people such as Arsen Savadov, Alexander Roitburd, Oleh Tistol and Andrei Sahaidakowsky, began their careers at the end of the 1980s and today the artists are 40 to 50 years old. Everyone had long been waiting for a new generation of artists and finally last year, they appeared. The catalyst for this was the Orange Revolution. The CCA gave these 20- to 25-year-old artists a platform for their creative activity. They adopted the name REP (acronym for Revolutsiyni Eksperymentalnyi Prostir) and gathered and lived at the CCA. They showed tremendous energy – that's not to say that they had very interesting or phenomenal artistic ideas but, because of the maidan (Independence Square), they came out and began to say what they thought, what they wanted and what pained them. [Part of the initial REP maidan exhibit from the CCA was shown recently in Chicago.]

During 2005 they were made artists-in-residence at the CCA. They were able to work there, present shows, projects, actions and performances. Because they were young, they drew in a lot of their own audience. The CCA will continue to have artists-in-residence, but this program will be limited to three artists and one curator-critic.

Usually, a new generation appears every five years, but the gap between the previous group of artists and this new group is 15 to 20 years. Why did it take so long? One of the reasons is the system of art education in Ukraine. The Academy of Arts does not work in the paradigm of contemporary art. Its level of consciousness is stuck in the mid-20th century. People interested in contemporary art have to learn from each other rather than their teachers. The Orange Revolution brought these young together.

## What do you consider to have been your successes?

Today, the CCA is the most important institution in Ukraine which deals exclusively with issues of contemporary culture and contemporary art. Not only the most important but the only one. At the same time, we have been able to maintain a professional level, and even serve as an example to other galleries. We were the first to bring the curatorial system to Ukraine. We at the CCA worked with curators who worked with the artists. We had high standards of how to exhibit visual art – its physical presentation, the design of the exhibit, the lighting and so on. And we brought public relations into our activities – we issued press releases for every activity, organized press conferences before each event and so on. And, finally, all our printed work, such as invitations or catalogues, was on a professional level even when money was tight.



Yuri Onuch

Another thing I am happy about – something that engenders optimism – is the public. When I came to the CCA, the budget was almost half a million dollars annually, but the annual number of visits to the CCA was about 7,000. Whereas, last year, up to November 2005, 43,000 people have come to the CCA. There have been, on average, 40,000 visits annually in the last few years. I estimate that we have about 10,000 persons for whom contemporary art forms part of their cultural life. This does not mean that they are all fans of contemporary art, that they like everything – we often get critical reactions. But the fact that they come, that it interests them, that they want to know about it – this is a great success of the CCA.

I believe we are ready for a generational change in Ukraine. There is a small group of specialists – experts, critics, professionals – who are ready and there is a public that is ready. When the attitude to culture in the official policy is changed, the ground will be ready. There is no need to start from the beginning. That is why it is important to maintain what has been achieved, to have the institution continue to exist.

## You mention the attitude to culture in official policy. What is your evaluation of this policy and have you seen any change in it during your years in Kyiv?

From my perspective of eight years working in the field of culture in Ukraine, I have not noticed any systemic changes or any desire to make them. Remnants of Soviet institutions persist. There are 27 or 28 so-called creative unions or associations (tvorchy spilky), some of which have national status. Although I understand that it's good to have representative organizations, the problem is their monopoly position.

A good example was the Ukrainian presentation at the Venice Biennale in 2001 which I started to organize. The Union of Artists was not interested in the Biennale, maybe it didn't even know it existed. But my competitors for the Ukrainian presentation were able to use the unique monopoly position of the union to sabotage the project. The affair showed that the union was powerful, that it could wreck projects in which its involvement was not sought.

The Ministry of Culture is obligated to partially support its activities and the Union of Artists is sitting on very valuable real estate – union buildings, union establishments – almost all artists' studios (except for Lviv where they have been privatized) are formally owned by the Union of Artists.

## How did Ukraine's neighbors – for example Poland and the Baltics – solve this problem of monopoly?

One must understand that in those countries there were people who wanted systemic changes, and they formed a critical mass among the remnants of Soviet legacy. Many changes took place thanks to the ministers of culture in those countries. For example, the minister of culture in Latvia was a person who was 28 years old. He had no experience but a will to make changes. The CCA in Latvia was created by the state; the director who was appointed was 30 years old. It is important to bring in new people into positions where decisions are made.

In Ukraine no systemic changes in cultural policy have



The REP group of artists prepares its show at the CCA in December 2004.

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## Collection of works by artist Oleksa Hryshchenko transferred to Ukraine

NEW YORK – Nearly 30 years after his death and in keeping with his wishes, a major collection of the great Ukrainian expressionist painter Oleksa Hryshchenko (Alexis Gritchenko) was formally transferred to his native Ukraine at a ceremony at the Ukrainian Institute of America on March 22.

Some 70 works, from oils to watercolors to drawings, as well as books, catalogues, notes, handwritten memoirs and other archival material, had been bequeathed by the artist to the Oleksa Hryshchenko Foundation, founded in 1963 with the provision that they be transferred some day to museums of a free Ukraine. Throughout the years, the foundation was located at the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) in New York.

The transfer act was signed by foundation President Walter Baranetsky and UIA President Jaroslav Kryshchalsky, and, for the receiving side, by Pavlo Bilash, deputy head of Ukraine's state commission for the transfer of cultural treasures, and Anatoliy Melnyk, director of Kyiv's National Museum of Art of Ukraine. The act stipulates that Hryshchenko's works be permanently housed in national museums of Ukraine, not to be sold to anyone or given to other institutions; it gives the

foundation oversight rights to ensure that all transfer conditions will be upheld in the future.

"Hryshchenko will find a new life in Ukraine," declared Mr. Melnyk of the National Museum in Kyiv, in remarks to guests witnessing the transfer ceremony. He hailed the transfer of Hryshchenko's works as a "truly big event for Ukraine," and described the artist as one of the "shining lights" of Ukraine's cultural and intellectual heritage.

Echoing his remarks, Ukraine's new consul general in New York, Mykola Kyrychenko, said he was "glad and proud" that Ukrainian Americans had safeguarded the collection throughout the decades. Hryshchenko's works, he said, "are returning (to Ukraine) but so is his name, and his stature will be restored to the high place where it rightly belongs."

According to Mr. Bilash, the Kyiv museum is scheduling a Hryshchenko exhibit still for 2006, and exhibits are also already being planned for Lviv, Kharkiv and other cities. Mr. Bilash added that the collection will not be broken up among museums but will remain intact.

Mr. Baranetsky, the head of the Hryshchenko Foundation and one of its



Officials of Ukraine, the Oleksa Hryshchenko Foundation and the Ukrainian Institute of America sign an agreement on the transfer of art works by Hryshchenko to his native Ukraine.

original directors, recalled how Hryshchenko, nearing 80 and recuperating from a serious illness, mused nostalgically about his early years in Ukraine. After a life of prodigious output, intensive travel and acclaim, Hryshchenko's only regret, said Mr. Baranetsky, was that his work remained unknown to his countrymen. Paintings that had been in the collections of the Lviv Museum were destroyed by the Soviets as "bourgeois formalism," together with works by such other notable Ukrainian artists as Alexander Archipenko, Mykhailo Boichuk and Yuriy Narbut.

On the suggestion of a group of close friends, among them the artist and art scholar Sviatoslav Hordynsky, then head of the Association of Ukrainian Artists of

America, the Hryshchenko Foundation was established, with the goal of eventually moving the bequeathed collection to museums in an independent Ukraine. The Ukrainian Institute's founder and benefactor, William Dzus, readily agreed to house the foundation at the institute until that time, Mr. Baranetsky said.

The foundation had considered transferring the collection to Ukraine after the country's referendum on independence in 1991, but it was only in recent years that Ukraine's political and legal circumstances had stabilized enough to make a transfer feasible, according to Mr. Baranetsky. He also thanked the Ukrainian Consulate in New York for

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## Donetsk-born pianist Serhiy Salov performs debut concert in Toronto

by Tetiana Tkachenko

TORONTO – Artistic performances that are 100 percent successful in every respect are truly rare, however the Toronto debut concert of pianist Serhiy Salov, which took place on March 1, in the Glen Gould Studio, was indeed an unqualified success.

Winner of the First Grand Prize at the Montreal International Musical Competition in 2004, Mr. Salov was born in 1979 in Donetsk, where he attended a special music school for exceptionally gifted musicians. Upon completion of these studies, he achieved his bachelor of music from Musikhochschule Freiburg in Germany, and received his master's degree from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England. Currently, the pianist resides in Strasbourg, France.

The influence of his early musical training can be felt in the very vivid and passionate, yet ever tasteful refinement of Mr. Salov's performance. He is not only the beneficiary of tremendous God-given talent, but also possesses a phenomenal musical apparatus, which he employs with such precision that it seems he could play ad infinitum without enduring any physical exhaustion or loss of concentration.

In Mr. Salov's performance one senses a combination of emotions and warmth with the intellectual realization of the potential of his instrument, as well as the demands of the works he is playing. To listen to Mr. Salov perform is not only pleasant, but fascinating. He needs to be heard many times, as does his interpretation of works from diverse periods and styles in the compendium of musical literature.

During his March 1 concert Mr. Salov performed almost exclusively the works



Serhiy Salov

of the Romantics: Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, Lysenko and Johann Strauss. He played this repertoire very well – his sound is agreeable and warm, with wide-ranging subtleties, light filigree technique and individuality of interpretation, but without artifice or exaggeration. This pianist does not "suffer," or "agonize," but shares with his listeners the thoughts and emotions of the composers of these masterpieces of the musical art form, as well as his own concept as their interpreter.

However, it must be confessed that Mr. Salov's greatest strength lies in his performance of works by Ukrainian composers. He deeply feels and understands the particularities of Ukrainian folk music. Beneath Mr. Salov's fingers, Mykola Lysenko's well-known second rhapsody sounded completely new, truly exciting. One heard the familiar timbre of folk instruments, lyrical improvisations, pulsing dance rhythms and impeccable piano technique.

The most interesting part of the concert program was the suite by Ihor Shamo titled "Hutsulian Watercolors,"

(Continued on page 25)

*Tetiana Tkachenko is a long-standing member of the Piano Faculty of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, and the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto. (Ms. Tkachenko's article was translated by Ulana Plawuszczak Pidzamecky.)*

## Documentary on internment operations of 1914-1920 now available on DVD

MONTREAL – The award-winning documentary "Freedom Had a Price" depicting Canada's first internment operation between 1914 and 1920 has been released on DVD by the National Film Board of Canada.

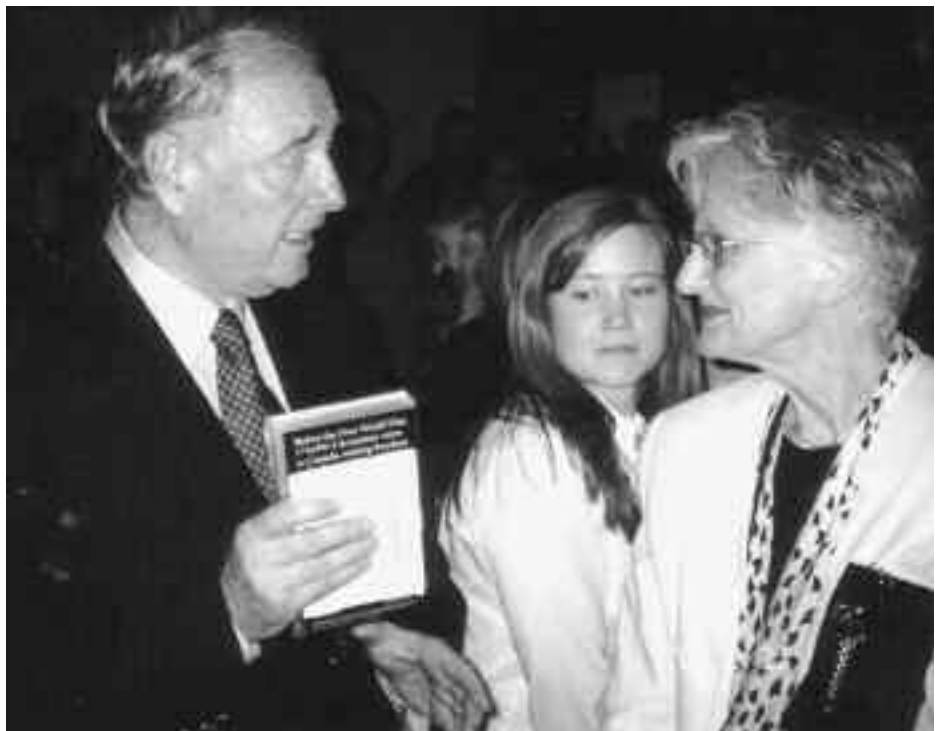
Produced and directed by filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy, the one-hour film documents the over 5,000 Ukrainians in Canada who were imprisoned as "enemy aliens" in 24 internment camps across the country.

Filmed on former locations of internment sites across Canada, this documentary shows the remains of original internment structures and relics discovered by

the film crew. By means of archival footage, vintage photographs, and the compelling testimony of survivors and prominent Canadian historians, the film captures a moving, human story that has finally gained public attention.

Mr. Luhovy first began researching the internment of Ukrainians in Canada in the early 1970s when interest in this aspect of Ukrainian Canadian history was just beginning. He was the first person to find and film many of the original internment sites and found original internment photos of the Spirit Lake internment site

(Continued on page 25)



Former Prime Minister Paul Martin receives a copy of "Freedom Had a Price," a documentary on the first world war-era internment operations, during a meeting at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress headquarters in Winnipeg.







## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 16)

the Moscow Union of Invalids of Chernobyl appealed to President Vladimir Putin at a Kremlin ceremony on April 25 to create a treatment center for the survivors of the clean-up effort that took place 20 years ago, Reuters reported. She said in remarks addressed to the president that "we sent a draft proposal to the government and to you but never received an answer." Mr. Putin gave out medals to the survivors at the ceremony. He stressed their courage in responding to what he called "one of the largest man-made disasters of the 20th century," Interfax reported. He added that "even lacking experience in dealing with such disasters, you and your colleagues worked out a strategy and made decisions swiftly, sometimes relying only on your own knowledge and experience." On April 26, former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov told Interfax that the Soviet government of the time did all that it could to respond to the disaster. He argued that "we did everything possible, based on the knowledge we possessed and using the scientific, organizational and technical means available to us then." Mr. Ryzhkov now represents Belgorod Oblast in the Federation Council. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Court confirms election results

KYIV – The Supreme Administrative Court on April 25 rejected a complaint by four Ukrainian political blocs and parties claiming that the Central Election Commission (CEC) violated legal procedure in announcing results of the March 26 parliamentary elections earlier this month, Ukrainian media reported. The decision effectively opens the way for the

CEC to have the election results validated by publishing them in two state-sponsored periodicals, Holos Ukrayiny and Uriadovyi Kurier. In the March 26 polls, the Party of Regions won 32.14 percent of the vote, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc 22.29 percent, Our Ukraine 13.95 percent, the Socialist Party 5.69 percent and the Communist Party 3.66 percent. In the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada, the Party of Regions will have 186 seats, the Tymoshenko Bloc 129, Our Ukraine 81, the Socialists 33 and the Communists 21. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### President meets with G-8 ambassadors

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko met with G-8 ambassadors to Ukraine and the head of the European Commission delegation to Ukraine on April 24, the presidential press service reported. During the meeting Mr. Yushchenko briefed the ambassadors about the state of a series of key projects related to Chernobyl and he highly assessed their respective countries' assistance to Ukraine. He reiterated that "the Chernobyl issue calls for collective effort and colossal resources" and added that we must first build a safe new shelter for the Chernobyl plant's stricken reactor. The president later told journalists that construction of a new sarcophagus at the Chernobyl plant might start in mid-summer. He said almost \$1 billion (U.S.) has been collected toward the project at three international conferences. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, British Ambassador Robert Brinkley, Russian Ambassador Viktor Chernomyrdin, French Ambassador Jean-Paul Veziant, Italian Ambassador Fabio Fabbri, Japanese Ambassador Mutsuo Mabuchi, Canadian Ambassador Abina Dann, German Ambassador Dietmar Stuedemann and

the head of the European Commission delegation to Ukraine, Ian Boag. The meeting was attended by Ukraine's Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, Emergencies Management Minister Viktor Baloha and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Secretariat Anatolii Matvienko. (Ukrinform)

### Home-made bombs injure 14

KHARKIV – Two homemade bombs exploded at two supermarkets in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, on April 22, injuring 14 people, Ukrainian and world news agencies reported. Police sources said initial indications suggest the blasts were linked to a settling of scores between businesses. Doctors said there were no serious injuries in the blasts, which occurred within minutes around noon in two suburban supermarkets located some 1 kilometer apart. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Intellectuals warn of 'unnatural alliances'

KYIV – According to the official website of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, a group of known Ukrainian intellectuals has sent a message to President Viktor Yushchenko to condemn the idea of creating "unnatural political unions" and to support efforts toward creating a coalition of democratic forces. The message notes that Ukraine has a rare chance to create a "unique tandem of the authority and national intellect," which will be a reliable base and springboard in realizing programs for Ukraine's spiritual and cultural revival, and the nation's integration with the European community. The message argues that the people of Ukraine have confirmed the acceptability of Ukraine's further development under a coalition of three political forces: the Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party; anything else would be deceptive and amoral, the message further says. The Ukrainian intellectuals have called upon the president, as the guarantor of stability, democracy and civil freedoms, to prevent further fanning of political passions and a new wave of public disillusionment. The letter was signed by National Academy of Sciences President Borys Paton, National Union of Musicians Chairman Anatolii Andriyevskiy, Academician Ivan Dzyuba, Taras Shevchenko Literature Institute Director Mykola Zhulynskiy, National Union of Writers Chairman Volodymyr Yavorivskiy, All-Ukrainian Prosvita Society Chairman Pavlo Movchan, writers Pavlo Zahrebelnyi

and Borys Oliynyk, composer and People's Artist of Ukraine Yevhen Stankovych, as well as other intellectuals. (Ukrinform)

### Ukraine-U.S. discuss consular issues

KYIV – The U.S. Department of State hosted negotiations into consular-legal matters between Ukraine and the United States, chaired by the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry's Consular Service Department Director Borys Bazylevsky and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Maura Harty. The U.S. agreed to a Ukrainian proposal for providing consular assistance to Ukrainian citizens who find themselves in difficult situations in countries where Ukraine does not have diplomatic missions. American consular missions can assist them upon the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry's petition in each concrete case. Regarding further simplification of the visa regime between the two states, the Ukrainian side offered to issue multiple-entry/exit visas to relevant categories of citizens of the two countries, in particular to businessmen, journalists and scientists, for a period of up to 10 years instead of current five. During the negotiations the Ukrainian side raised the painful issue of lack of information about some Ukrainian children adopted by U.S. citizens and expressed its hope that the U.S. will settle the problem. Both parties agreed that the next round of consultations on consular-legal matters might be held in the first half of 2007, but, if need be, could occur earlier. (Ukrinform)

### Kyiv hosts Kontakt film festival

KYIV – Kyiv hosted the second international festival of documentary films "Kontakt." The opening ceremony of the festival on April 10 was attended by President Viktor Yushchenko, who underscored that the festival aims to focus on new talents. The festival's program consisted of national and international segments. According to organizers, the festival aims to create interest in documentary films among a broader audience. The top prize of the festival is about \$5,000 (U.S.). Several Ukrainian films, including "There Was A House" by Olena Fetisova, "Nevseremos. People from the Maidan" by Serhii Masloboyschikov, "Adam and Eve" by Murat Mamedov, "Oleksandra Ekster and World Scenography" by Valentyn Sokolovskiy, "Travelers" by Ihor Strembitskyi, "Castles of Ukraine" by Artem Sukhariov and "The Seventh Day" by Oles Sanin were chosen to participate in the competition. (Ukrinform)

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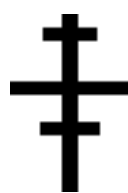
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**Dr. Alexander Gudziak**

(born January 19, 1926 in Pomoryany, Ukraine)

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In hope, faith and love,

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sons	Fr. Borys Gudziak Dr. Marko Gudziak with wife Roma
grandchildren	Kateryna, Gregory, Zachary
sister-in-law	Stephanie Szypula
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(in Lviv)	Teodor Gudziak with family
nieces	Lida Leshchuk Renata Horodysky with family

*May his memory be eternal!  
Christ is Risen!*

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Ukrainian Catholic University through the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 West Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622.



## Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

### Ponikarovsky a new Leaf

Talk about using some special super powers. One day after a late morning practice right around Halloween, Toronto's Eric Lindros made a joking suggestion to teammate Alexei Ponikarovsky. Lindros hinted the up-and-coming Ukrainian star should paint himself green, put on some ratty clothes and go out trick or treating as the Incredible Hulk.

This physical comparison gives you an idea of Ponikarovsky's well-developed muscle tone, but, like the Hulk, his effectiveness also depended on his frame of

mind. Sometimes he could be a Hulklike force; at other times, he could take on the persona of a mild-mannered Dr. Bruce Banner, the Hulk's alter-ego.

For the past several years the Maple Leafs waited for Ponikarovsky to make major league progress, heck, any kind of progress, with his God-given 6-foot-4, 220-pound athletic build. The turning point finally happened in the 2003-2004 season when he played with ex-Leaf Joe Nieuwendyk. The savvy veteran took the young Uke under his wing, effectively teaching him the required practice

habits/work ethic of a true NHLer. This season, despite last year's lockout, Ponikarovsky has truly blossomed into a legitimate offensive threat and a physical force every night.

Despite more than their share of ravaging injuries to key players, this Ukrainian winger has enjoyed a successfully productive breakout campaign. His 18 goals and 28 points through some 70 games is proof a 25-goal season is within easy reach.

### Babchuk a wanted hulk

The official press release from Chicago claimed that in trading defenseman Anton Babchuk to Carolina for defenseman Danny Richmond, the Blackhawks insisted they never gave up on Babchuk, their 2002 first-round selection (21st overall), but instead really liked what Richmond brought to the rink on an everyday basis. And perhaps Richmond would have more to offer long term.

From the other team's perspective, Carolina acquired Babchuk in a swap of 21-year-old blueliners, whose prospects looked more promising in their new surroundings. The Hurricanes obtained the 2002 first-round pick from Chicago for 2003 second rounder (31st overall) Danny Richmond.

Wasting precious little time upon his arrival from Chicago, via their AHL affiliate in Norfolk, Babchuk skated right into the line-up, playing nine minutes in his Carolina debut on January 21. Ten days later, in a game against Montreal when his new club was down to only four defensemen, new-guy Babchuk played more than a whopping 28 minutes as Carolina came back from being down a goal to win going away in a rout, 8-2.

Being yet another Ukrainian blessed with physical prowess, being big – at 6-foot-5 and 212 pounds – armed with a cannon laser-type shot from the point, Babchuk was criticized in Chicago for his noted lack of consistency. Perhaps this 21-year-old is beginning to get the message, as his first 10 plus games with Carolina were quite excellent. If he were to maintain this high level of play, the 'Canes would certainly be bolstered at the appropriate time of season. Nothing like quickly getting acclimated just in time for the post-season.

At the March trading deadline, Carolina's brass decided the recently acquired Babchuk's high level of play would make any additional moves unnecessary.

### Zajac future Devil, current Sioux

A very young Travis Zajac caught the eye of New Jersey General Manager Lou Lamoriello and his scouting staff before deciding to enroll at the University of North Dakota. The Devils certainly were never upset their highly regarded center opted for college hockey in the fall of 2004.

Hoping to add Zajac to a roster already including former North Dakota stars David Hale and Zach Parise, the Devils traded up to get the 6-foot-2, 205-pounder, who played Junior A in Salmon Arm, B.C.

"We didn't want to take a chance," said GM Lamoriello to Devils beat writer Rich Chere (Newark Star-Ledger), shortly after the 2004 NHL entry draft. Lamoriello traded his first-and third-round picks (22nd and 88th overall) to the Dallas Stars to obtain Zajac 20th overall.

"You'd rather get somebody you really want than take a chance," Lamoriello told Mr. Chere. "He's going to get nothing but better. He competes every night. We know he's going to play."

At the time of the draft, Zajac was impressed the Devils traded up to acquire his services. "That means a lot," he

admitted in a chat with Mr. Chere. "It shows they appreciate my level of development and the type of player I am. It's a great feeling to be picked by them. I'm going to a great organization."

### Why Zajac?

Perhaps the key ingredient of an amateur scout's evaluation of a potential prospect is projecting how a player will turn out in five years. Travis Zajac really put the central scouting experts to the test.

"He played Junior A and you'd really like to see how he would do against his (draft eligible) peers in major junior," one scout was quoted as saying in The Hockey News.

In Junior A Zajac put up a lot of points and everybody noticed. It was because of his offensive numbers that a lot of teams scrambled to see him late in the 2003-2004 season.

"He can score and is very competitive," said another scout in the entry draft issue of The Hockey News that year. "He has a good feel for the net."

Scouts loved his skill and intensity, but questioned how he'd do when the going got rough.

"How tough was that league he was in?" asked a scout. "Can he put up big numbers when the other team is out to get him?"

Zajac's scouting report indicated lots of creativity on the ice, great hands and an innate ability to do the little things that win games. His defensive coverage was rated as sound and was predicted it would improve in a solid program the following season (2004-2005). He was off to join the well-established hockey program at the University of North Dakota. Scouts looked forward to getting a better read of his NHL potential.

The New Jersey Devils took a chance on this No. 15 North American rated skater in 2004. Kudos to them.

### Zajac top Devils' prospect

Travis Zajac started 2005-2006 in the same manner he ended the previous year, when he was named an NCAA Frozen Four all-star. As a Fighting Sioux, in only his sophomore year, he is described as an elite player on an elite team. He sees regular time on North Dakota's No. 1 line, while still learning the game. Even though this 6-foot-2, 205 pound 20-year-old has yet to physically mature, he has shown the ability to effectively utilize his size. He has, on more than one occasion, been rather favorably compared to a young Joe Nieuwendyk, based on his hockey intelligence and quick hands.

Zajac's anticipation of the play has earned him ice time on the penalty killing unit, where he has become a shorthanded threat. Of course, being a top-line centerman, he also sees much time on his team's top power play unit. Most scouts agree he will be a top-line forward when he graduates to the show.

About halfway through the 2005-2006 season, Zajac was a point-per game scorer at North Dakota, with 5G-17A-22PTS in 22 games. At the time this article was written, the Fighting Sioux had earned a berth in college hockey's Frozen Four tournament for the second consecutive year.

### Zhitnik and crew lacking in discipline

Coming out of the lockout season, Islanders GM Mike Milbury was forced to overhaul more than half his defense corps. Going into the current 2005-2006 campaign, Milbury was convinced he had put together a unit of blueliners who could adapt to the new NHL.

In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. New York's lazy, undisciplined approach to team defense has greatly contributed to the rise in scoring

(Continued on page 25)



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ROMA STECKIW LONG



# INTERVIEW: Alexei Ponikarovsky of the Toronto Maple Leafs

by Yarema Belej

NEW YORK – With career bests in all aspects of his game, Kyiv native Alexei Ponikarovsky has blossomed into a top-line winger for the Toronto Maple Leafs. He took some time before his team left Madison Square Garden, after losing to the New York Rangers (5-2) on Saturday, March 18, to give an interview to The Ukrainian Weekly.

“I was 5 years old when I first played hockey back in Kyiv,” said Ponikarovsky, relating that his parents pushed him into the sport of hockey because his first love, soccer, was too competitive in the local sport scene.

“I hadn’t skated before that time, so I tried it, and I kept going and going,” said the big left winger. “... then I moved to Moscow, because hockey in Kyiv was not as big, so I had to make the move to better my chances.”

His 6-foot-4, 220 pound frame is one that is becoming typical in the very physical game of hockey. Yet, it is not only Ponikarovsky’s size that makes him a great asset for the Toronto Maple Leafs. It is his style of play that has the Kyiv native playing on the top line of one of sport’s most storied franchises.

“Strong play, the forecheck and my play down low [are what allow me] to score goals,” said Ponikarovsky of his style. Since most of his goals come by way of his hustle and fighting through the opposition, it has become clear that he has to play hard to have an impact.

During the 2003-2004 season, his first full season with the Leafs, Ponikarovsky played in 73 games, scoring nine goals and adding 19 assists. This year he has solidified himself as a real NHLer with 21 goals and 17 assists in 81 games.

Along with a few other NHL players, Ponikarovsky was a member of the 2002 Ukrainian Olympic Team in Salt Lake City,

Utah. “We had a good bunch of guys there ... It was a great experience to be a part of,” he said. “We had a chance to go to the main event but Belarus beat us.” Without any hesitation he declared that he would love to play for Ukraine in future Olympic tournaments if the opportunity were to present itself.

It was a fellow member of that Olympic team that brought hockey’s greatest treasure back to Ukraine in the summer of 2004. Ruslan Fedotenko of the Tampa Bay Lightning had the opportunity to bring back the Stanley Cup, the championship trophy of the NHL, to the streets of Kyiv. Ponikarovsky laughed when asked if he would do the same (probably because his team at the time of the interview was out of the playoff picture). “For sure, it is something everyone dreams of ... if Toronto ever wins the cup I would bring it back home so my parents and friends could see it.”

Ponikarovsky, 26, lives year-round in Toronto with his wife and two children. It is there that he works with a few charities, including the Easter Seals Society, which provides opportunities for people with disabilities. He feels the obligation to give back to a community that has given him great support.

Although he has not yet had an opportunity, Ponikarovsky is very open to the idea of working with a Ukrainian-based charity in the future. He is well aware of the very large Ukrainian community in his city, but he laments that there is little free time in his busy schedule.

In the off-season, Ponikarovsky tries to spend as much time with his children as possible. “I go fishing with them, but soon you have to start working-out for the next season,” he said.

When asked whether he had considered running for mayor of Kyiv when he retires, Ponikarovsky laughed and said, “you have to become really famous to do

that, and I don’t think I am as big as [Vitalii] Klitschko.”

Even though he still has his Ukrainian citizenship, Ponikarovsky is trying to stay out of the political ring right now. “I’m not going to vote, because it is a very

sticky situation. My parents are even split on who they voted for,” he said.

That same even-handedness is evident in Ponikarovsky’s game, as he rarely speaks out, keeps his head down and skates to the corners because he has to.



Alexei Ponikarovsky (left) of the Toronto Maple Leafs with The Ukrainian Weekly free-lance correspondent Yarema Belej.

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# Documentary on Ukraine, “Light from the East,” to be screened in New York

NEW YORK – On the eve of the 15th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence, a new documentary film, “Light from the East,” about an American acting troupe’s tour of Ukraine during the August 1991 putsch that dissolved the Soviet Union, will premiere in New York City at the Pioneer Theater on May 11-17.

The 72-minute feature-length film, written and directed by Amy Grappell, and produced by Ms. Grappell and Christian Moore, follows the Yara Arts Group of New York’s La Mama Theater to Kyiv in the summer of 1991, where the ensemble stages a seminal joint Ukrainian-American

production of a play about the Ukrainian avant-garde theater director Les Kurbas.

The play, also called “Light from the East,” focuses on Kurbas’ revolutionary life and work, and his murder by Stalin in the purges of 1937. Against this backdrop, the American actors witness the overthrow of the Kremlin by a military coup and Ukraine’s declaration of independence.

“Light from the East” was filmed during the region’s massive political changes in 1991. The film is in English and Ukrainian, with English-language subtitles. Film Threat said of the film: “Not only a journey of expression, but also that of freedom,

change and new lives shedding themselves of the old ones. In this case, it’s about the end of being chained to the principles of the Soviet Union.” Director Richard Linklater (“Before Sunset,” “School of Rock”) said, “Personal, political, historical ... I loved it.”

Ms. Grappell said, “because I believe, as the diary of Les Kurbas reads – that ‘art is where the humanity becomes manifest; it’s where our true selves converse with one another’ – I have aimed to create a film that is more a lyrical meditation than a traditional documentary. Like a poem can capture the essence of a complex issue through vivid imagery and evocative language, it is my hope the ‘Light from the East’ will examine the nature of freedom in a changing world through the depth of its characters and the power of its images.”

The film has been screened at South by

Southwest Film Festival 2005, IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival - Amsterdam) 2005, Austin Film Society Doc Tour 2005 and at Harvard University (2005). It will have its New York premiere while screening as part of the Brave New Europe: new films from and about Central and Eastern Europe series at the Pioneer Theater, East Third Street between avenues A and B, on May 11-17 at 9 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at [www.two-boots.com/pioneer/light.htm](http://www.two-boots.com/pioneer/light.htm), or by calling 800-595-4849.

The Brooklyn Ukrainian Group and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America will sponsor an evening with Ms. Grappell and a screening of “Light from the East” on Tuesday, May 16, at 9 p.m. For discounted tickets contact the UCCA, 212-228-6840.

## Program at Anthracite Heritage Museum to focus on Eastern European immigrants

SCRANTON, Pa. – Anthracite Region native James Stevens will present a program at the Anthracite Heritage Museum, in McDade Park, on Sunday, May 7, on “Contract Labor and Eastern European Immigrants.”

Labor contracts attracted thousands of industrious Slavic workmen to the Anthracite coal fields only to find themselves economically exploited as cheap labor and socially excluded as “foreigners.” Mr. Stevens’ talk on their plight will be illustrated.

Mr. Stevens will be available after the presentation to autograph his novel “Coal Cracker Blues,” which features flashbacks to the author’s high school days in Shamokin in the 1950s. Copies will be available for purchase in the museum store.

The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum is located in McDade Park, off

Keyser Avenue, in Scranton (Exits 182 or 191-B off I-81, and Exit 122, Keyser Avenue, from I-476). The museum and iron furnaces are open year-round Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Admission is charged for the museum’s main exhibit, “Anthracite People: Immigration and Ethnicity in Pennsylvania’s Hard Coal Region.” Admission to a temporary exhibit, “The Great Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902,” is included.

Call the museum educator, Ruth Cummings, at 570-963-4804, or see [www.anthracitemuseum.org](http://www.anthracitemuseum.org), for more information.

The Anthracite Heritage Museum is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in cooperation with the Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces Associates.

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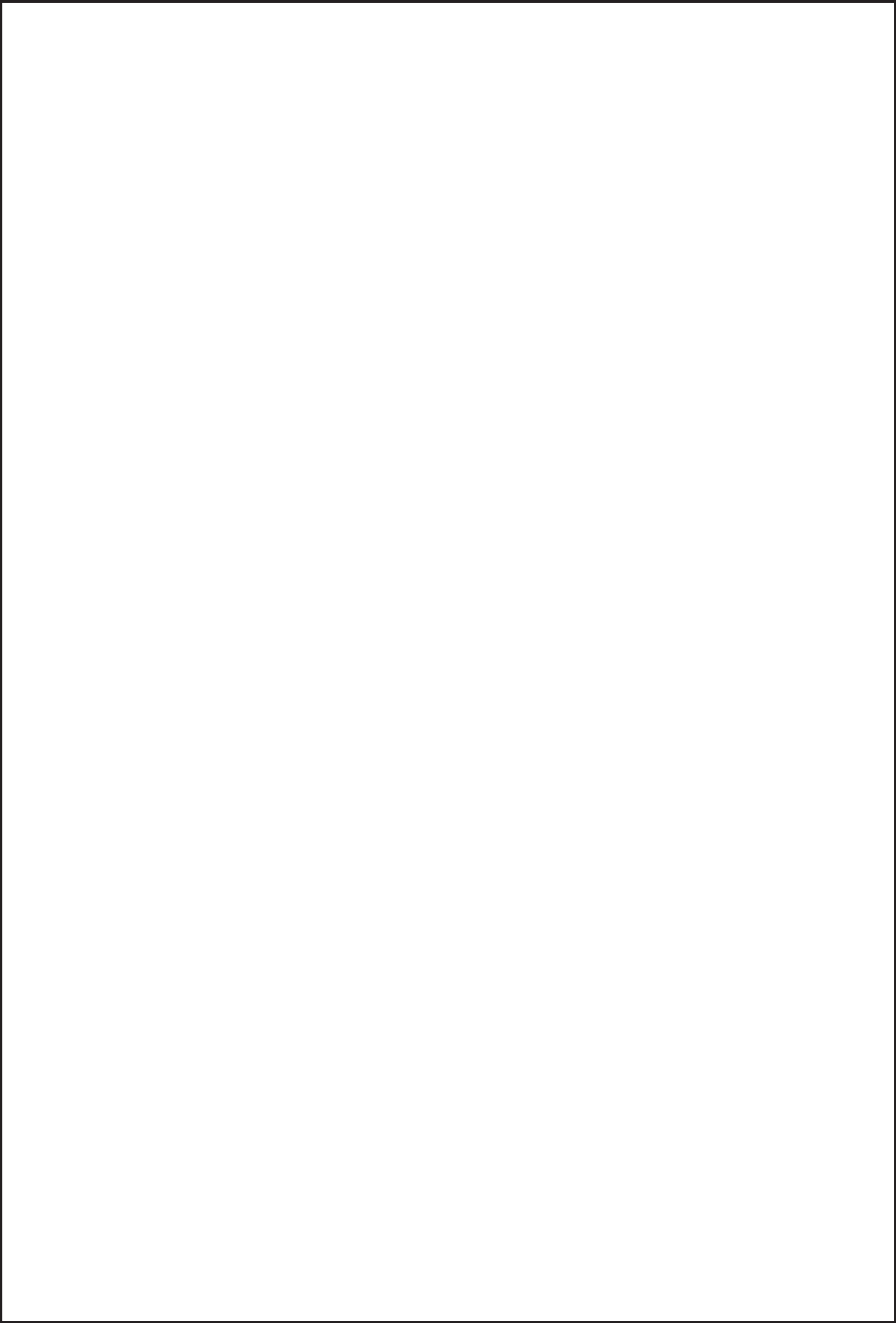
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## Von Hagen revisits...

(Continued from page 10)

ern European history, so he had been “comparing the history of Ukraine to at least those several traditions from the start.”

Prof. von Hagen continued: “One of the things I learned from my first foray into Ukrainian studies, the ‘Does Ukraine Have a History?’ essay, was how contested the intellectual and political stakes have been in Ukrainian history; this is still true, and in some ways even more true, since the latest independence proclamation in 1991.”

Time and place are “important variables in explaining the world,” Prof. von Hagen said he believes, adding that he realized Ukraine was “a marvelous case study of precisely the geographical and chronological determinants of social and political life.”

After quickly reviewing how Ukrainian studies figure in Russia, North America, Britain, France, Germany and Poland – noting both increased interest in the field and some dramatic changes in attitudes, as in the case of Poland – Prof. von Hagen turned to the state of Ukrainian studies in Ukraine itself. “The last dozen years have seen a good part of the Ukrainian historians’ scholarly community integrated to various degrees into various international forms of collaboration and production,” he pointed out. In addition, after a wave of republication of émigré and ‘other formerly proscribed scholarship,’ ” Ukrainian historians have now “been moving beyond the era of rehabilitation of the diaspora narratives and forging new ones based on their own experiences.”

Referring to the seminal work of historian Mykhailo Hrushevsky, known as “the father of modern Ukrainian history,” the speaker said an especially noteworthy

development is that “the Hrushevsky paradigm of Ukrainian history has virtually replaced the former reigning Soviet-Russian imperial one that denied any genuine autonomy to events and developments in ‘southern Russia.’ The Western diaspora played a critical role in nurturing this alternate historiographical vision, so that scholars in contemporary Ukraine did not have to start from zero in rethinking their past.”

Citing some interesting “new directions” for scholars who study Ukraine, Prof. von Hagen noted, for example, that “borderlands studies have found a natural home in Ukrainian history,” which is replete with examples of “pulls between two or more empires or states,” including Poland, Russia, Austria-Hungary and Germany, and geopolitical struggles. Thus, there is much to explore in comparative history by focusing on regions.

As well, transnational and multinational tendencies in political thought in Ukraine, from “Taras Shevchenko’s appeal to all oppressed Slavs to the strong support for autonomy, federalism and minority rights in the mainstream of the Ukrainian national movement of the first decades of the 20th century,” are a fascinating field of study. Modern Ukrainian political thought, he underscored, expresses “transnational solidarity” and recognizes “the need for an ideology of multinational co-existence.” One of the examples Prof. von Hagen cited was from September 1917, when the Ukrainian capital hosted “the most widely representative gathering of the non-Russian peoples of the Russian empire” – the Congress of Oppressed Peoples.

Other focuses of study enumerated by the professor were cities, including those that had the status of Madgeburg Code cities; and institutions, such as the Kozaks and the Ukrainian Greek-

their parents to support annual lectures by distinguished scholars with a national or international reputation in the field of Ukrainian studies. Previous speakers included Ukrainian Ambassador Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, who lectured on Ukraine’s emerging foreign policy; Dr. Marta Bohachevska-Chomiak of the National Endowment for the Humanities, who lectured on political communities and gender in Ukraine; and Dr. Dominique Arel of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa, who lectured on the regional factor in Ukrainian politics in the past decade.

who were responsible for the 2004 presidential election fraud; the second group represents Ukrainian businessmen who have interests in the West, led by Rynat Akhmetov of System Capital Management.

In Mr. Karatnycky’s view Mr. Akhmetov is the true power in the Regions group and a “pragmatist,” but he must distance himself through “concrete action” from discredited politicians in the Regions bloc.

According to Mr. Karatnycky, the Industrial Union Group, the powerful group of enterprises that originated in eastern Ukraine, already has 40 percent of all its investment in the countries of the European Union. The interest of Ukrainian businesses in getting access to European and American markets will spur governmental policy toward Euro-Atlantic integration.

Mr. Karatnycky noted that this free and fair parliamentary election has marked the end of the post-Soviet era in Ukraine and that, finally, Ukraine was moving in the right direction.

Among those present for the panel in the SAIS Rome Auditorium were representatives of think-tanks and NGOs, the mass media, the Ukrainian diaspora and the Embassy of Ukraine to the United States. A reception followed the event.

Catholic Church, both “clearly shaped by Ukraine’s borderlands legacy.”

The literature on borderlands, regions and cities, Prof. von Hagen explained, highlights “how central the fact of Ukraine as a multinational and multiregional idea has been to the history of Ukraine.”

Finally, Prof. von Hagen emphasized that “the histories of nations and nation-states do not cease to exist when they are occupied by a foreign power, however defined and perceived. Instead, much like individual biographies, those countries’ already complex histories take on new layers of complexity as they are interwoven with, interposed on the equally complex histories of a second (or, in some cases, third) country.”

“It is important to recognize that [Ukraine] does have a distinctive set of pasts, and that even when Ukrainian state

sovereignty had been ruptured by outside powers, the ways in which Ukrainian lands, institutions and populations interacted with the new authorities was also part of that distinctiveness,” he added.

The scholar concluded his talk by noting that “time and place do matter” and that, indeed, Ukraine has a history, though perhaps not one that easily fits the traditional nation-state paradigm.

Prof. von Hagen has a B.S. in foreign service from Georgetown University, an M.A. in Slavic languages and literatures from Indiana University at Bloomington and a Ph.D. in history and humanities from Stanford University. He was associate director and director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University in 1989 – 2001, and in 2002-2005 was president of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies.



## CONCERT

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Mozart: Overture to “The Magic Flute” arranged for Piano Four Hands  
by Alexander Zemlinsky  
Ludwig von Beethoven: Six Variations in E-flat Major on  
“Bei Maennern weiche Liebe fuehlen” from  
Mozart’s “The Magic Flute”, Woo 46  
Mozart: Sonata in D Major for Piano Four Hands, K 381/123a  
Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart: Variations on a Ukrainian theme,  
Op. 18 (“U susida khata blla”)  
Johann Nepomuk Hummel: Trio for Piano, Violin and Cello  
in E-flat Major, Op. 12

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## Political expert...

(Continued from page 10)

works. He also served as a member of the consultative board of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) under the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was an expert of the Public Advisory Board of the office of President Yushchenko.

The Vasyl and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lectures were funded by Dr. Wolodymyr Petryshyn and his sister, Olha Petryshyn Hnateyko, in honor of

## Panelists review...

(Continued from page 9)

ised that rich people would help the poor.”

Closing his presentation, Mr. Kudelia expressed hope that politicians would stop using the symbols of the Orange Revolution that divided Ukrainians, but would try to find common ground and achieve reconciliation.

The final speaker was Mr. Karatnycky, who gave his overview of the elections and the business component in Ukrainian politics. The speaker assured the audience that the “Orange” parties (Our Ukraine, the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party) still remain the majority with 54 percent of votes, if you combine their results in the parliamentary elections. He also indicated there was “no question” that Ms. Tymoshenko will be Ukraine’s next prime minister in an “Orange” government.

Mr. Karatnycky’s remarks raised serious concerns about the Party of the Regions, which received the largest share of the votes in the elections with 32 percent. He noted there were two distinct groups inside this party. The first group comprises marginal, pro-Moscow politicians and those

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## From the maidan...

(Continued from page 6)

that the politics of democracy has moved from the maidan to the Main Streets of cities and towns throughout the country.

Whatever the pundits may declaim regarding the election results or the continuing strength of the Orange Revolution, what seemed palpable was a keen appreciation for the business of governing. Neither a democratic revolution nor a single "free and fair" election are guarantees that the resulting government will be in a position to immediately deal with the basic needs of its people. Overcoming these obstacles will have a profound impact on how the next government meets the political and economic

challenges Ukraine faces at home and abroad.

What we can say with confidence is that the March 26 elections were a further essential step in the process of overcoming the legacy of the past – a history marred by foreign domination, genocidal famine, denial of political and cultural freedom, and, more recently, political stagnation. Today, the people of Ukraine are removing the overgrowth of thorns – an image alluded to by the great poet Taras Shevchenko – that prevented them for so long from pursuing their own pathway to a brighter and more prosperous future.

*The article above was released by the U.S. Helsinki Commission on April 20.*

## Collection of works...

(Continued from page 15)

helping over the years to realize the transfer, and singled out Aerosvit Ukrainian Airlines for its generous offer to ship the collection to Ukraine free of charge.

Oleksa Hryshchenko was born in Krolevets, northern Ukraine, in 1883. He studied in Kyiv and then at the Moscow Art School, and in 1911 traveled to Paris, where he became an enthusiast of modern painting, especially cubism, according to notes about the artist written by Hordynsky.

During the Russian Revolution, Hryshchenko became a professor at the State Art Studios in Moscow and a member of the Commission to Protect Historic Monuments. In 1919, fearing he would become a "state functionary," he escaped to Constantinople, producing a series of oils and watercolors that quickly built his reputation in the art world of the time.

Twelve of his Constantinople paintings were exhibited in 1921 in the Salon d'Automne in Paris; Fernand Leger, noted Hordynsky, placed Hryshchenko's works next to his own. Soon Hryshchenko's works were being shown by some of Paris's leading galleries.

After 1924 the artist lived in France, settling in Cagnes, where Renoir once lived (Alexis Gritchenko is the French spelling of Hryshchenko's name). At that time, noted Hordynsky, Hryshchenko had already moved from cubism "toward an explosive color expression."

Influenced by the lights and landscapes of southern France, Hryshchenko's "heavily applied paints and dramatic colors were an expression of the inner forces of a painter who was striving to transform nature according to his own image," wrote Hordynsky.

In 1937 Hryshchenko held a one-man exhibit in Lviv, then under Polish rule. After the war he exhibited several times in the U.S. He died in Vence, France, in 1977.

## Donetsk-born pianist...

(Continued from page 15)

written in 1971. This work employs both 20th century harmonies and the special virtuosic possibilities of the piano. At times our thoughts turn to the French impressionists, however, on balance one feels the influence of Hutsul music.

It seems to me that, of all the aspects of Mr. Salov's talent, the most brilliant is his understanding of the inherent color in music and his masterful recreation of these colors by means of the most diverse array of touches and pedaling. When Mr. Salov played "Watercolors," one heard not the piano, but the Carpathian Mountains and all their songs, musicians, waterfalls, rain and a "light covering of mist."

In his performance of this musically complex, lengthy work with unusual, dissonant harmonies, Mr. Salov reached the soul of each listener and roused the most enthusiastic applause.

It is a pity that the pianist performed only four parts of the suite, and not the entire six. It is essential that Mr. Salov return to Toronto and allow us the opportunity to experience the entire Shamo, as well as works from the Baroque period, Viennese classics and the compositions of French impressionists, and, of course, many more works by Ukrainian composers, performed as only Mr. Salov can.

It was nice to see at this concert individuals of different ages, yet all musically appreciative. The presence of young people and children is in part owed to the Ukrainian Music Festival, which is already training the second generation of Ukrainian music lovers (I saw many familiar young faces) and which this year awarded the most meritorious par-

ticipants of the festival with tickets to Mr. Salov's Toronto debut.

The organizing committee, formed for the purpose of arranging this concert, deserves our heartfelt thanks for its professionalism and active labor of love. It is hoped that the committee will continue its activity for the benefit of a culturally rich, Ukrainian Toronto and that, as a result, we will be able to hear more regularly the performances of our distinguished musical artists.

## Documentary...

(Continued from page 15)

in Quebec which he donated to the National Archives of Canada.

His documentary also provided impetus for making the traveling internment exhibit by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center in Toronto and provided an important resource for the illustrated book, "Silver Threads" by writer Marsha Skrypuch.

Initially, the idea and urgency of making the internment film "Freedom Had a Price" did not receive immediate financial support. As a result, not to lose time in order to interview some of the last internment survivors before they passed away, the documentary was financed almost entirely by the filmmaker with later supporting grants from the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center and completion funds from The National Film Board of Canada.

Don Haig, executive producer of NFB's Studio B, made every effort to support the internment documentary in the final stages, having grown up with Ukrainians in Western Canada and, therefore, being very informed and sensitive to their story of settling Canada.

"Freedom Had a Price" continues to

be shown across Canada and is highly recommended for use in schools across the country as a teaching resource on the subject or for anyone interested in historical documentaries. It has had excellent reviews in various Canadian newspapers with such comments as "extraordinary documentary" – Jim Bowden, in The Toronto Star; "a powerful documentary on Ukrainian internment" – Alan Kellog in The Edmonton Journal, "chilling portrait of national security gone wrong" – Kennedy Gordon in The Sudbury Star; and "significant impact in raising awareness about the internment camps" – John Gregorovich in the University of Toronto Varsity.

Mr. Luhovy, who is a member of the Canadian Film and Television Academy, is presently working on two new documentaries dealing with 20th century history and based on first-hand survivors' stories that have been almost forgotten and never yet filmed.

"Freedom Had a Price," is available to anyone interested in the history of Ukrainians and may be obtained on VHS or DVD format by writing to La Maison de Montage Luhovy Inc, 2330 Beaconsfield Ave., Montreal, Quebec, H4A 2G8; e-mailing mmlinc@hotmail.com; or calling (514) 481-5871. The French and Ukrainian language versions of the documentary are still in the completion stage awaiting funds.

## Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 18)


throughout the league. For all of the Islanders' opponents, of course.

The Isles missed the post-season for the first time since 2000-2001. Why? Not adhering to the newly league-mandated obstruction crackdown (a particular problem for free agent defender Alexei Zhitnik), poor positional play by both forwards and defensemen and some stabilized goaltending.

When questioned by the New York Daily News' Peter Botte regarding the overall performance of his revamped defense corps, GM Milbury replied: "Just unacceptable."

Brent Sopel has been a disappointment at both ends, while Janne Niinimaa was exiled to Dallas in a pure dumping of salary. As for expensive free agent acquisition Zhitnik? Well, he has managed to develop a first-name rapport with NHL penalty box attendants in rinks all over North America. Way too many trips, holds and hooks.

  
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Session #1: July 9- July 15, 2006

Session #2: July 16- July 22, 2006

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### 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

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### 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.

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

Session #2: August 6- August 19, 2006

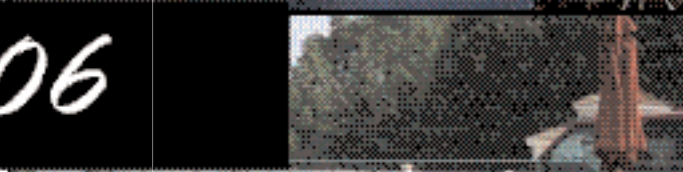
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<b>May 5-7, 2006</b> Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz	<b>June 10, 2006</b> Wedding
<b>May 14, 2006</b> Mother's Day Brunch	<b>June 11-16, 2006</b> UNA Seniors' Conference
<b>May 20, 2006</b> Wedding	<b>June 16-18, 2006</b> 3rd Annual Adoption Weekend
<b>May 21, 2006</b> Communion Luncheon Banquet	<b>June 17, 2006</b> Wedding
<b>May 26-29, 2006</b> UNA Convention	<b>June 18, 2006</b> Father's Day Luncheon and Program
<b>June 2-4, 2006</b> Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz	<b>June 23-24, 2006</b> Plast Kurin "Shostokryli" Rada
<b>June 3, 2006</b> Wedding	<b>June 24, 2006</b> Wedding
<b>June 5-9, 2006</b> Eparchial Clergy Retreat	<b>June 25-July 2, 2006</b> Tabir Ptashat Session #1
	<b>June 25-July 7, 2006</b> Tennis Camp
	<b>June 26-June 30, 2006</b> Exploration Day Camp

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, May 2

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the National Tribune invite the community to a screening of the 90-minute Ukrainian-language film "Day Seven." The film includes exclusive interviews with the top Ukrainian leaders and uses incredible footage taken during the Orange Revolution. The screening will take place at 7 p.m. at 136 Second Ave. (between Eighth and Ninth streets) in Manhattan. After the film, a question-and-answer session will take place with producer Volodymyr Arieu and director Oles Sanin. Ticket price is \$5. For more information call the UCCA, 212-228-6840.

Friday, May 5

**WASHINGTON:** The first of a series of summer socials at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden with a live jazz band. The social begins at 5 p.m. and goes on until dark. Venue: 7 Madison Drive, on the National Mall, between Seventh and Ninth streets NW and Constitution Avenue. The event will take place rain or shine. There is no cover charge. For more information contact Adrian Pidlusky, 240-381-0993 or apidlusky@jhu.edu, or log on to www.TheWashingtonGroup.org.

Saturday, May 6

**NEW YORK:** The "Music at the Institute" chamber music series invites the public to the closing concert of this season, commemorating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. The program, featuring violinist Charles Castleman, cellist Natalia Khoma and pianists Mykola Suk and Katya Grineva, will consist of Mozart's Sonata for Piano and Violin in E-flat Major, K. 380; Mozart's Overture to "The Magic Flute" arranged for Piano Four Hands by Alexander Zemlinsky; Beethoven's Six Variations in E-flat Major on "Bei Maennern welche Liebe fuehlen" from Mozart's "The Magic Flute"; Mozart's Sonata in D Major for Piano Four Hands, K.381/123a; Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart's Variations on a Ukrainian Theme, Op. 18 ("U Susida Khata Bila"); and Hummel's Trio for Piano, Violin and Cello in E-flat Major, Op. 12. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. Donation: \$30; UIA members and seniors, \$25; students, \$20. For additional information and reservations call (212) 288-8660 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a presentation of the first volume of the "Complete Collected Works by Panteleimon Kulish" (published by "Krytyka"). Featured speakers are Dr. George Grabowicz (Harvard University) and Oles Fedorchuk, a scholar from the

Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature in Kyiv. 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.

Thursday, May 11-Wednesday, May 17

**NEW YORK:** The documentary "Light from the East" will premiere in New York as part of the Brave New Europe: new films from and about Central and Eastern Europe series at the Pioneer Theater, East Third Street between avenues A and B. The film, written and produced by Amy Grappell, and produced by Ms. Grappell and Christian Moore, chronicles a tour of the Yara Arts Group to Kyiv during the August 1991 putsch that dissolved the Soviet Union. "Light from the East," in English and Ukrainian (with English-language subtitles) screens at 9 p.m. For tickets visit www.twoboots.com or call 800-595-4849.

Saturday-Sunday, May 13-14

**WASHINGTON:** The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), Branch 78 of the District of Columbia area, invites the community to the opening reception of an exhibit of works by the late Jacques Hnizdovsky. Prints will be available for purchase. The reception begins at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE, Washington, DC 20017. The exhibit and sale continues on Sunday until 3 p.m. Admission: \$10, includes refreshments. For information contact Tania Terleckyj, 703-271-9672.

Tuesday, May 16

**NEW YORK:** The Brooklyn Ukrainian Group and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America will sponsor an evening with filmmaker Amy Grappell and a screening of her film "Light from the East" at the Pioneer Theater, East Third Street between avenues A and B, at 9 p.m. The film, written and produced by Amy Grappell, produced by Ms. Grappell and Christian Moore, chronicles a tour of the Yara Arts Group to Kyiv during the August 1991 putsch that dissolved the Soviet Union. For discounted tickets contact the UCCA, 212-228-6840.

Sunday, May 21

**PHILADELPHIA:** The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble is hosting its annual Spring Festival at St. Michael Ukrainian Church, 1013 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, Pa. The festival begins at 1 p.m. with a performance by the Voloshky School at 2:30 p.m. Admission: adults, \$5; children age 3-12, \$3. All are invited for an entertaining day on the beautiful grounds of St. Michael's. For additional information contact Andreja Kulyk, 215-917-1263.

### PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

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

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

## UNIVERSAL TRAVEL SERVICES ANNA YAWORSKY (215) 725-0377

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The Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey

invites the public to hear

Prof. Yaroslav Hrytsak

speak about

How Ivan Franko Became a Genius

On Saturday, May 6, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.

In the atrium of the UNA Building at  
2200 Route 10 in Parsippany, New Jersey

Professor Hrytsak teaches history at Lviv University and has also taught at Columbia University and the Central European University. He is the author of over 400 publications on history and current affairs; his new biography of Franko is scheduled to appear in September.