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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukrainian Americans aid Ukraine via diverse programs

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The summer of 2006 proved particularly busy with diaspora Ukrainians lending a helping hand to Ukraine as it approaches its 15th anniversary of independence.

By developing sports programs, extending medical help and donating much-needed equipment, they've proven that vast wealth isn't necessary to make a difference in Ukraine.

Desire, effort and support from Americans, particularly institutions such as the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, make it all possible, charity leaders said.

"Each person who supports us makes a difference," said George Kuzma, founding trustee of Ukrainian Gift of Life Inc. (UGoL), a charity based in Glen Rock, N.J.

Ukrainian Gift of Life Inc.

When Ukraine achieved its independence, Mr. Kuzma distinctly remembers how he wanted to do something to help. He just didn't know what exactly.

Inspiration struck when he and his wife Kathy hosted a Polish child for a U.S. heart surgery in 1990 on behalf of the Ridgewood Rotary Club.

"I knew I could get at least one kid's life saved through the Rotarians," Mr. Kuzma said.

They've done better than that.

By launching Ukrainian Gift of Life the Kuzmas have helped rescue the lives of more than 300 Ukrainian children by providing them with desperately needed

heart operations, either in the United States or at the Lviv Surgical Center.

The two other trustees involved in launching UGoL were Anna Kowal and Maria Hywel.

More than 800 people, mostly UGoL beneficiaries and relatives, but volunteers as well, attended its 10th anniversary celebration on July 8 in Lviv, where nine American families were able to re-unite with the Ukrainian children and mothers they hosted.

Among those making the trek were Paul and Carmen Platek of Teaneck, N.J., who hosted 8-year-old Anatolii Oleksyn and Daria Zarichnaya, a 1-year-old who avoided death as a result of major reconstructive heart surgery.

Helping to save a life by simply providing a residence, food and transportation for a child and mother has brought them joy, the Plateks said.

"We hear from them on holidays and birthdays, and send them things," Mr. Platek said. "It fulfills us."

Beyond arranging operations, UGoL has provided \$15 million in doctor costs, hospital services, medical equipment and consumables to Ukraine's ill children.

With no extraordinary medical knowledge or financial resources, the Kuzmas have demonstrated that average Ukrainian Americans can make a significant mark.

Of the 106 children who traveled to U.S. hospitals for operations, 96 percent survived, according to UGoL.

God's blessings helped them along the way, the Kuzmas said, and among

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Rights activist Nadia Svitlychna is mourned and laid to rest in Kyiv



Zenon Zawada

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko mourns alongside Nadia Svitlychna's family — her husband Pavlo Stokotelnny and son Ivan — and her colleagues at her August 17 funeral in Kyiv.

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — She now rests at Baikove Cemetery, beside the fearless dreamers who stood up to a vicious Iron Curtain at a time when it appeared invincible and those who defied it seemed foolish.

Though Nadia Svitlychna wasn't as prolific as her Shestydesiatnyky colleagues, the tight-knit community of legendary artists and writers paid her the highest respect at her August 17 funeral proceedings in Kyiv, honoring her defiant spirit and courageous deeds while mourning her loss.

"In that time when we whimpered in Ukrainian and complained about our fate and evaded the possibility of danger, Nadiyka Svitlychna went into the midst of the greatest danger completely defenselessly and never thought of how she would pay," said Shestydesiatnyk and Soviet dissident Yevhen Sverstiuk.

"She had a Kozak motto — 'It will work out somehow, because it never was that it didn't workout in some way.' And she had another Kozak motto — 'God give us wisdom, and let us be.'"

Ms. Svitlychna died at age 69 on August 7 in New Jersey. Requiem services were held on August 12 at St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, N.J.

In Kyiv on August 17, after a morning viewing and noon panakhyda (requiem service) at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv, more than 100 of Ms. Svitlychna's family, friends and admirers gathered at her gravesite to eulogize the former Soviet political prisoner who risked her

life because of her love for Ukraine and its people.

Father Volodymyr Cherpak of St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Kyiv led the panakhyda.

He described Ms. Svitlychna as a loving and compassionate woman who loved her family, friends and the Ukrainian people.

While most Ukrainians didn't challenge the Soviet authorities for fear of losing their jobs and their apartments, or fear of their children losing opportunities, Ms. Svitlychna placed her life at the altar of the Ukrainian people, becoming an outspoken human and national rights activist.

"This woman lifted her voice against the nation's prisons, lifted her voice against what she described as the largest concentration camp in the world," Father Cherpak said in his eulogy.

May God allow us to love Ukraine and its people as much as Ms. Svitlychna did, Father Cherpak said.

Ms. Svitlychna's devotion to Ukraine drew the attendance of President Viktor Yushchenko, who arrived in a somber mood and placed a bouquet of red roses upon her coffin.

He extended his condolences on behalf of the Ukrainian government and said Ms. Svitlychna would be in his family's prayers. In his eulogy, Mr. Yushchenko venerated the Shestydesiatnyky as a legendary generation of people.

The Shestydesiatnyky were a collective of Ukrainian artists and writers who openly questioned and challenged the Soviet government during the 1960s

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Zenon Zawada

The boys from Donetsk Orphans School No. 1, a beneficiary of the Ukraine Baseball program, want to practice their baseball skills by hosting American orphans on a visit to their city.

ANALYSIS

Taking a closer look at Ukraine's newly formed Cabinet of Ministers

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Ukraine's tortuous, four-month-long process of forming a new government ended on August 4 with the confirmation of Party of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich as new prime minister.

The Ukrainian Parliament also endorsed a new Cabinet of Ministers, in which the Party of the Regions will control some major portfolios concerning the country's economy.

Mr. Yanukovich will have four deputies, as he had in the Cabinet he oversaw during his previous stint as prime minister in 2002-2004. Mykola Azarov will serve as both first vice prime minister and finance minister, as he did during Mr. Yanukovich's first term. The three vice prime ministers will also take on additional roles. Andrii Kliuyev will be in charge of the fuel and energy sector, Dmytro Tabachnyk will oversee humanitarian and social issues, and Volodymyr Rybak will head the Construction Ministry.

Messrs. Azarov and Kliuyev are among Mr. Yanukovich's oldest and staunchest allies. Mr. Azarov is generally seen as a technocrat. As head of the State Tax Administration in 1996-2002, he was repeatedly accused by the opposition of applying fiscal and tax pressure on businesses linked to political opponents of former President Leonid Kuchma.

Mr. Kliuyev is a wealthy businessman with interests in the machine-building sector who led the Yanukovich campaign team in the 2004 presidential election. He was rumored to be the main player behind the falsification of election results in favor of Mr. Yanukovich, although those rumors have never been confirmed by investigators.

The Party of the Regions quota of ministerial posts also includes Minister for Liaison with the Verkhovna Rada Ivan Tkalenko, Labor Minister Mykhailo Papiyev, Environment Minister Vasyl Dzharty, Coal Industry Minister Serhii Tulub, Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko, Economy Minister Volodymyr Makukha and Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers Anatolii Tolstoukhov.

Virtually all of the Party of the Regions ministers have considerable experience in serving in senior government posts. This favorably distinguishes Mr. Yanukovich's Cabinet in comparison to that led by Yulia Tymoshenko in 2005. Her Cabinet to a large extent consisted of Orange Revolution personalities with little or no experience in government.

It can be expected that the new Ukrainian Cabinet should easily be able to agree on a basic set of economic reforms, which will be needed to continue the current positive trends in the economy. After all, it was under Mr. Yanukovich's prime

ministership in 2004 that Ukraine posted impressive economic growth of 12 percent.

However, a disturbing feature of Mr. Yanukovich's Cabinet is that – as in virtually all former Ukrainian Cabinets – there is no clear separation between politics and business. Many Cabinet members have vested interests in different business spheres. This could become a seed of future conflicts in the uneasy “coalition of national unity,” which includes not only ministers from the largely oligarchic Our Ukraine, but also from the Marxist-Leninist Socialist Party.

In accordance with the Constitution amended in 2004, President Yushchenko nominated the foreign affairs minister and the defense minister, Borys Tarasyuk and Anatolii Hrytsenko, respectively. Both politicians are strongly supportive of Ukraine's integration with Euro-Atlantic structures and were delegated by Mr. Yushchenko to assure the public both at home and abroad that Ukraine's pro-Western course will not undergo any significant changes under Mr. Yanukovich's prime ministership.

Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, a former Socialist Party member who is now independent, is also seen as a Yushchenko man in the government. Mr. Lutsenko, an iconic leader of the Orange Revolution, is widely seen as an uncompromising custodian of the “Augean Stables,” to which Ukraine's notoriously corrupt police force is sometimes compared.

In accepting his post, Mr. Lutsenko asserted that he sees the possibility of implementing the president's policies in the Yanukovich Cabinet. However, most Ukrainians have apparently not yet forgotten that he completely failed to implement a major tenet of the Orange Revolution – “bandits will go to jail” – in the preceding Cabinets of Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yekhanurov. No major investigation by the Internal Affairs Ministry into corruption or election falsification has resulted in jail terms. It is hard to imagine that Mr. Lutsenko will be more successful now that some of the “bandits” have returned to the government.

Our Ukraine, which has yet to sign a formal coalition accord with the three other parties in the Cabinet, is represented by Justice Minister Roman Zvarych, Family and Sports Minister Yuriy Pavlenko, Emergency Situations Minister Viktor Baloha, Culture Minister Ihor Likhovyi, and Health Minister Yuriy Poliachenko.

Taking into account that the Verkhovna Rada is headed by Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist Party and that all vice prime-minister positions are filled by people from the Party of the Regions, it is clear that the pro-presidential Our Ukraine has no major post in the government. This is the price Our Ukraine had to pay for its clumsy coalition negotiations following the March 26 parliamentary elections and its protracted

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NEWSBRIEFS

PM comments on Russian language

SYMFEROPOL – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich told journalists in Crimea on August 11 that he sees no possibility for the time being of giving the Russian language official status in Ukraine, UNIAN reported. Mr. Yanukovich explained that in order to change the status of the Russian language, at least 300 lawmakers would have to support a change in the Constitution of Ukraine or the issue would have to be subject to a referendum. “Both the first and the second option are unrealistic at the present moment,” Mr. Yanukovich added. According to him, Ukraine should instead adopt a law regulating the use of the Russian language and enforce the implementation of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM cites possible delay in WTO talks

SYMFEROPOL – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich also told journalists in Crimea on August 11 that his government is committed to joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) but may delay talks to ensure that WTO membership conditions meet producers' needs, Reuters reported. President Viktor Yushchenko wants Ukraine to join the WTO by the end of this year, but Mr. Yanukovich believes that more time to study all conditions may be required. “If we manage to [join the WTO] in 2006, then it will be 2006. But our task is to resolve this issue in a clear way and within national interests. If we need to extend the term to do it, then we will extend it,” Mr. Yanukovich noted. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv to respect gas deal with Russia

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich declared during a news conference in Kyiv on August 10 that his government will abide by the gas deal concluded in January with Russia by the preceding Cabinet of Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. Kyiv agreed to an increase in the price of gas imports from

\$50 to \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters after the Russian gas giant Gazprom briefly cut supplies to Ukraine and Europe. Critics of the gas deal, including former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, have repeatedly called for its review. “I have never said that we are going to change or review anything,” Mr. Yanukovich said on August 10. “We are working to secure adequate gas supplies and optimal gas prices for our country. In the very near future I will visit Moscow and then I will be able to give a more concrete answer on gas issues.” Mr. Yanukovich said at the same news conference that he will visit Russia on August 15-16. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New PM begins visit to Russia

KYIV – Viktor Yanukovich, who was confirmed in office by the Ukrainian Parliament on August 4, went to the Black Sea resort of Sochi on August 15 to participate in a two-day informal summit of the Eurasian Economic Community hosted by vacationing Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian media reported. Ukraine has observer status in the Eurasian Economic Community, which consists of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is widely expected that Mr. Yanukovich, while in Sochi, will discuss the price of Russian gas supplies to Ukraine in 2007 with Mr. Putin and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov. Mr. Yanukovich told journalists in Kyiv on August 14 that this year he does not expect any changes in the current gas-supply scheme, under which Ukraine pays \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters of a Russian-Turkmen gas mix supplied by the Swiss-based intermediary RosUkrEnergo. The Ukrainian prime minister also assured journalists that Ukraine's gas transport system, which Moscow has been seeking to manage jointly with Ukraine through an international consortium, will remain in Kyiv's ownership. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian, Ukrainian PMs meet ...

SOCHI, Russia – On the sidelines of the three-day informal summit of the Eurasian Economic Community, to which Ukraine is an observer, Russian Prime Minister

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Quotable notes

“Everybody, absolutely all of the Ukrainian people are sick and tired of this [situation]. Our government and [President Viktor] Yushchenko have allowed such chaos that now they can't do anything properly, they can't divide [their] power. They are not fighting to improve the life of the people; they are fighting for posts in which they will be able to rob [the people]. This is what they are fighting for.”

– An unidentified resident of Kyiv, speaking on August 1 with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, as reported by RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report.

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Ukraine as a labyrinth of mirrors

by Roman Kupchinsky

Explaining the reasons why recent events in Ukraine took the direction they did is a tricky task. Ukrainian politics, as many have discovered, is a labyrinth of mirrors that can deceive, distort and disorient anyone who steps inside.

The short explanation is that the Orange coalition fell apart and the opposition stepped in to replace them. This is not unusual and is something which happens often in societies with longer and more developed democratic traditions.

There was no Latin American coup d'état in Kyiv, with pompous generals, their hats brimming with chicken feathers, running around proclaiming themselves the new masters.

Ukraine did not disband itself as an independent nation, nor did it apply to join the Russian Federation. It did not throw the Ukrainian language out with the Orange dishwater, neither did it abandon its perpetual pipedream of joining the European Union. It merely underwent a change of government.

Pavlo Tychyna's maidan

The reason most often cited for the swap of governments, however, was that the Orange leaders were incompetent and disinterested and most pursued their own agendas. The voters saw this and booted them out.

In retrospect, the supporters of the Orange Revolution were, by and large, more honest and firm in their convictions than their leaders. This is popularly known as "being taken for a ride."

And were they ever! The followers of the Orange coalition became victims of the "hall of mirrors" factor. They came to believe in a distorted image. The men and women who cynically won their support did so by hiring rock bands to sing a jingle that their snake oil was far superior to the snake oil peddled by Leonid Kuchma and his mob. And in some respects, such as press freedom, it was. But it was not the panacea for Ukraine they claimed it to be.

Most Ukrainian politicians are very

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polished and articulate orators. They know how to coin a phrase and convince the most cynical crowd into believing that they are now a revolutionary vanguard.

Take Yulia Tymoshenko for example. Her Trotskyite style of demagoguery was so astonishing, so brilliant, that nobody bothered to listen to the actual meaning of her words. In the euphoria of revolution, with music and lyrics proclaiming that "we are many, we cannot be defeated," Ms. Tymoshenko played the role of Evita Peron and Joan of Arc rolled into one and dominated the crowds.

Needless to say, she was able to create the illusion that the Orange leadership was as pure as the driven snow that covered the maidan. Her comrades – Viktor Yushchenko, Oleksander Moroz, Petro Poroshenko, Yevhen Chervonenko and others – were merely a sideshow, the "bearded ladies" of the Orange Revolution. It was Yulia's show from the very beginning.

The loud calls for justice and fair play that filled the maidan during the dramatic events of the winter of 2004 were indeed touching and inspiring. A new Ukraine was being born! Right in the very heart of Kyiv! It was Pavlo Tychyna's legendary "Maidan by the Church" come to life, as the old corrupt regime of Mr. Kuchma and his gang was being thrown onto the "garbage heap of history" by people power.

Russian political technologists, brought in to manipulate and obfuscate the issues and discredit Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yushchenko ran for deep cover.

Western NGOs rejoiced in the knowledge that they had contributed to a rebirth of democracy in a land that had become a pariah. Suddenly Ukraine was no longer "half free" or two-thirds free – it was ready to join NATO, the EU, the WTO and God knows what else.

The revolution on the maidan, in hindsight, was the ultimate Steven Spielberg production; it was a Ukrainian fairy tale that finally came true.

In the center stood Mr. Yushchenko, the once handsome, eternal hero, the silent strong Knight Templar defending his land. His face disfigured from a poisoning attempt by unknown sinister agents, he was now the official darling of the West, while his brutish opponents sulked in the shadows of Donetsk slums along with Vladimir Putin and other emissaries of the evil one.

His American wife and cute children beside him on the stage, the Yushchenkos were surrounded by a pretty lady with braided hair and hundreds of stalwart youths, the new Red Guards, standing ready to protect the leader of the reborn nation. The Great Ukrainian Proletarian Cultural Revolution had finally triumphed!

It was a scene straight out of a Maoist revolutionary poster! Western democracy had, at long last, managed to find a personality, a real Marlboro Man, who could spruce up democracy's fading image, and replace the popular perception of democratic leaders as being dismal, lackluster little men who could not impress a kindergarten class.

But anyone who cared to take a closer look at the stage set up on the maidan, soon begin to wonder why was it filled with so many people of dubious character, and even more dubious sources of income. And while it was gratifying, although somewhat suspicious, to see members of the hated Kuchma entourage standing on stage, bedecked in orange ribbons yelling "Bandits belong in prison," passions generated by the scent of victory close at hand did not allow doubts to creep in.

If the Orange Revolution was to be a popular uprising, then everyone would be allowed to join – regardless of class origins or Interpol warrants issued for their arrest. History was being made and the dismal past was being swept away by the revolutionary Ukrainian masses.

The revolution was an equal opportunity employer, built on the premise that the Orange locomotive of history did not discriminate against the engineers who drove it. It was Lenin's old adage come to life again: "We are building a society where any housemaid could become president!"

Orange reality

Finally, with the help of the Almighty and good PR, the Orangepeople took power. One year later they were openly at each other's throats.

The government of Ms. Tymoshenko lay in ruins, its ministers discredited for their lack of valid diplomas and their even more appalling lack of competency. The energy sector of the country was in ruins, destroyed by singularly bungling managers whose only qualifications were that they headed the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists.

No crooks had been arrested; no people were punished for their past misdeeds. No promises had been kept. Mr. Kuchma, the wily old fox, sat in his lair and laughed as he gave interviews to the press. These interviews were not given from a jail cell which the Orange crowds wanted him to rot in – but from a richly furnished, elegant old mansion in the center of Kyiv which he bought for his "cultural fund."

After the March parliamentary elections, where the Our Ukraine bloc suffered a bloody nose, and the Party of the Regions of Ukraine won, the country seemed to tumble into what western Ukrainians see as a dangerous phenomena, and which the eastern Ukrainians seem to accept more readily -- Makhnivschyna, or anarchy.

But, despite the screams of agony from the president's men, the lack of a functioning government and a president who seemed detached from reality, a miracle of sorts was in the works.

Suddenly, the economy took advantage of anarchy and began rapidly growing again. The saying that "the government which governs least, governs best" unexpectedly kicked in. In Ukraine, where government – Orange or otherwise – did not exist and therefore could not hinder economic growth, life began improving. The Ukrainian Hall of Mirrors once again came through in a big way.

"We survived collectivization and we shall survive democratization" is a recently coined proverb in Ukraine. It is aptly applied to the unusual set of post-

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IN THE PRESS

Yushchenko's tough choice and the possible results

"Oranges and apples? Ukraine's political crisis," The Economist, August 5:

"... Faced with a constitutional deadline, Mr. [Viktor] Yushchenko had to choose between two unappetizing options. One was to dissolve Parliament and call fresh elections. The other was to agree to nominate Mr. [Viktor] Yanukovych, whose candidacy had been agreed by a coalition comprising his Party of the Regions, the Communists and the Socialists. Although his decision may puzzle some foreign admirers, Mr. Yushchenko has made the right choice, for two reasons.

"The first is that Mr. Yanukovych and his allies have every right to form a coalition and get their man in as prime minister on the basis of the election results, in which Mr. Yanukovych's party won the most seats. ...

"The other reason is that, if Mr.

Yushchenko had called fresh elections, it would have disrupted the country at home and discredited it abroad, only, probably, to produce similar results, but with more vitriol. Mr. Yanukovych would probably still have ended up as prime minister (the job he held before the 2004 elections, but which now has increased powers under a constitutional reform agreed during the revolution). Our Ukraine might well have done even worse. ...

"It is just possible that a governing axis of the two Viktors might help to stabilize the country, helping to bind east and west together. It may result in more sensible economic policy than a government that included the populist Ms. Tymoshenko. And the president has tried to make Mr. Yanukovych commit to a set of policy principles designed to safeguard the pro-Western cause that Mr. Yushchenko is committed to. On the other hand, there may be chaos."

Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

On Friday, August 5, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz announced the approval of the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Cabinet was approved by 269 votes (226 were needed). Below is a breakdown of Cabinet positions, appointees and their party affiliations.

Prime Minister	Viktor Yanukovych	(PRU)
First Vice PM, Finance Minister	Mykola Azarov *	(PRU)
Vice PM, Construction, Architecture and Housing and Communal Services	Volodymyr Rybak *	(PRU)
Vice PM	Andrii Kluiyev	(PRU)
Vice PM	Dmytro Tabachnyk	(PRU)
Internal Affairs Minister	Yurii Lutsenko **	(N/A)
Foreign Affairs Minister	Borys Tarasyuk	(OU)
Coal Industry Minister	Serhii Tulub	(PRU)
Culture and Tourism Minister	Ihor Likhovyi	(OU)
Defense Minister	Anatolii Hrytsenko	(OU)
Economy Minister	Volodymyr Makukha	(PRU)
Education and Science Minister	Stanislav Nikolayenko	(SPU)
Fuel and Energy Minister	Yurii Boiko	(PRU)
Labor and Social Policy Minister	Mykhailo Papiyev	(PRU)
Health Minister	Yurii Poliachenko	(OU)
Agricultural Policy Minister	Yurii Melnyk	(CPU)
Industrial Policy Minister	Anatolii Holovko	(CPU)
Environmental Protection Minister	Vasyl Dzharty	(PRU)
Transport and Communications Minister	Mykola Rudkovskiy	(SPU)
Minister for Emergency Situations	Viktor Baloha	(OU)
Youth, Family and Sports Minister	Yurii Pavlenko	(OU)
Justice Minister	Roman Zvarych	(OU)
Minister for Liaison with the Verkhovna Rada	Ivan Tkalenko	(PRU)
Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers	Anatolii Tolstoukhov	(PRU)

* Messrs. Rybak and Azarov hold two Cabinet positions each and are both deputy heads of the PRU in Parliament.

** Mr. Lutsenko, who was previously a member of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, recently resigned his membership and is now an independent.

The Washington Group sponsors summer intern at Embassy of Ukraine

WASHINGTON – After reviewing several highly qualified candidates, the Ukrainian Embassy announced recently that Bohdan Bondarenko has filled its prestigious internship position for 2006.

Every summer, The Washington Group's Fellowship Fund sponsors an intern at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. This year's TWG Embassy Internship program attracted a number of highly qualified applicants.

Born in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Mr. Bondarenko received a degree in international relations from the Institute for Oriental Studies and International Relations. After graduation, Mr. Bondarenko worked for two years in the Parliament of Ukraine – the Verkhovna Rada – as an assistant to the head of the Special Control Commission on Privatization in Ukraine.

Mr. Bondarenko moved to Germany, where he learned German and eventually enrolled at Humboldt University in Berlin, where he studied computer science. Currently, Mr. Bondarenko is a graduate student at the Berlin School of Economics in Germany. He expects to graduate this fall with a master of arts degree in international economics. In Berlin, Mr. Bondarenko is actively involved in student activities, having co-founded the Berlin branch of the Union of Ukrainian Students in Germany, which organizes and coordinates student activities in the German capital.

Mr. Bondarenko recently completed an internship in the German Parliament on the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The field of international relations is a high priority in Mr. Bondarenko's career planning. Having absorbed the finest traditions of European and, in particular, German foreign policy making practices, he is thankful to have been an asset at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington.

"We really appreciate cooperation with The Washington Group," said Nataliia Holub, second secretary in the Cultural, Information and Press Office of the Embassy of Ukraine. "The benefit from the Summer Internship Program for the Embassy is significant. Although the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington is one of the biggest Ukrainian representations abroad, we could always use a helping hand, especially considering the high level of educational and professional background demonstrated by TWG



Bohdan Bondarenko, The Washington Group's 2006 intern at the Embassy of Ukraine.

interns."

Mr. Bondarenko said, "I came to the Embassy with the goal to make some important decisions as to the future of my professional career. This particular internship fulfilled all of my expectations. I highly recommend the internship for any student seeking a chance to look behind the scenes of foreign policy making. I do hope future interns will share my enthusiasm towards the summer internship program of TWG."

Mr. Bondarenko's enthusiasm was demonstrated by seeking out the internship while in Germany, contacting the Ukrainian Embassy there for a networking interview, and being strongly motivated to come to Washington, on his own dime, if needed, for this internship. All of this contributed to his selection.

Since 1996, the Washington Group's Fellowship Fund has sponsored 11 interns at the Embassy of Ukraine at a cost of \$16,500. Since its inception in 1987, the TWG Fellowship Fund has awarded over \$45,000 in grants for 33 distinct projects. From 1987 to 1990, grants were awarded exclusively to Ukrainian Americans or Canadians to conduct educational or work projects to further Ukrainian American interests,

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ODFFU holds quarterly meeting, to celebrate its 60th anniversary

by Marko Suprun

PASSAIC, N.J. – The board of directors of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (ODFFU) held its quarterly meeting on July 29 here at the Ukrainian Center, one of the oldest Ukrainian community centers in the United States.

The ODFFU is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and will mark the event with a commemorative banquet on Saturday, October 28. The organization was founded in 1946 by a conference of Ukrainian American organizations in New York to support the struggle for a free and independent Ukraine.

The political stalemate in Ukraine was a topic of discussion among members of the board. "As members of the Ukrainian diaspora, we reiterate our solidarity with the people of Ukraine who stood their ground in defense of their liberties on the maidan

[Independence Square] in 2004. Despite the outcome of the current crisis, be it a new round of elections or a national unity government, Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations have to be safeguarded," said Michael Koziupa, president of the ODFFU.

Prof. Walter Zaryckyj, ODFFU's external affairs director, announced this year's annual roundtable conference will be held on October 17-18 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington. This year's roundtable theme will be: "Ukraine and NATO Membership." The ODFFU aims to raise public awareness about Ukraine and sponsors programs that safeguard the rights and liberties of Ukrainians around the world. Earlier in the year, ODFFU organized a letter campaign to representatives of the Russian Federation in the West to stop energy blackmail. Over 800 letters were downloaded from the ODFFU website, www.fourfreedoms.net.

28 students in Ukraine awarded over \$6,000 in scholarships by U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

WASHINGTON – The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, through its Maryniuk Scholarship Fund, has awarded 25 students in the village of Zheldets, in the Kamianka-Buska region outside of Lviv, \$5,625 in college stipends. Three other students, from the nearby village of Volia Zhovtanetska, received scholarships totaling \$450 from the Andrew Kun Scholarship Program.

The May 28 awards ceremony began in the village church, and proceeded to the students' school in Zheldets. Welcoming remarks were given by Hanna Pajtra, director of the Zheldets School, who introduced the Maryniuk family and expressed gratitude for their generosity. Recognition was also given to the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, whose financial support was used to purchase furniture for the Zheldets school auditorium, and procure a CD-ROM for the school computer.

"I want to express my deepest appreciation to the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and to the Kun family. It is wonderful to see that Mr. Andrew Kun, who is 94 years old and resides in Rhode Island, is so dedicated to the village in which he grew up," said Ms. Pajtra.

Recipients of the scholarships were Bohdana Palas, Maria Burko, Halyna Zubeyko, Iryna Kupetska, Iryna

Shchehelska, Ivanna Berezyuk, Ihor Kit, Maria Kozhushok, Lyubov Marko, Maria Kurnat, Olha Mykhajliuk, Myroslava Herman, Nadiya Branets, Nadiya Stetsyk, Natalia Berezyuk, Natalia Bokhonko, Natalia Borodiy, Nelia Storozhuk, Oksana Chorna, Oleh Oleksyn, Olha Zubeyko, Halyna Rokush, Roman Tyutyunnyk, Volodymyr Stanishevsky, Tetyana Martysiv, Volodymyr Zubeyko, Bohdan Zhinchin and Svitlana Drozkevych.

In attendance at the awards ceremony were Andrew, Luba, Jarko, Jurko and Adam Maryniuk. Speaking on behalf of the Maryniuk Scholarship Fund, Luba Maryniuk delivered a very moving address to the scholarship recipients. In turn, the students thanked the Maryniuk and Kun families for their generosity.

Speaking about the visit to Zheldets, Ms. Maryniuk stated: "For us, the scholarship ceremony and the meeting with the students from the two upper classes, the teachers and the parents was very important, and allowed us to have a fruitful exchange of ideas and viewpoints. The Maryniuk Fund is in its fifth year, and the time has come for certain changes to be made. Our sons will now be taking a more active role in these types of activi-

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Human Rights Committee meets with Sen. Byron Dorgan

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian Human Rights Committee met with Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota to discuss the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Famine-Holodomor in Ukraine. Earlier, Sen. Dorgan, then a congressman, and Ulana Mazurkevich of the UHRC, had served together on the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine.

In 1998 the U.S. Congress established the Commission on the Ukraine Famine. The commission comprised: two senators – Dennis DeConcini and Robert Kasten; four congressmen – Ben Gillman, Dennis Hertel, Mr. Dorgan and William Broomfield; five public members: Bohdan Fedorak, Oleh Weres, Daniel Marchishin, Myron Kuropas, Anastasia Volker and Ms. Mazurkevich. The purpose of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine was to "conduct a study of the 1932-1933 Ukraine Famine in order to expand the world's knowledge of the Famine and to provide the American public with a better understanding of the Soviet system."

The Commission on the Ukraine Famine held hearings throughout the United States and heard testimony from 57 eyewitnesses. The hearings collected an impressive body of material detailing the horror that befell Ukraine.

Full texts of the hearings have been published and are included together with over 200 in-depth interviews with eyewitnesses to this horrific man-made Famine. The full text of these interviews, some in Ukrainian, others in English, run over 2,000 pages and are all included in the commission's published report. The report of the U.S. Commission on Ukraine Famine was submitted and accepted by Congress and published by the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Sen. Dorgan said he felt it would be beneficial to reprint the testimony of the survivors of the Famine-Holodomor and to present copies of these eyewitness testimonies on the anniversary of the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Holodomor, as a gift to the people of Ukraine.



Sen. Byron Dorgan is flanked by members of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, Ulana Baluch Mazurkevich (left) and Chrystia Charyna Senyk.

Yanchuk continues to explore Ukraine's history with Sheptytsky film

by Khristina Lew

NEW YORK – Ukrainian filmmaker Oles Yanchuk gets visibly excited when he talks about Ukrainian history, especially those chapters he hopes to illuminate for the Ukrainian viewer. “My mother wanted me to become a historian,” he chuckled during a recent meeting in Manhattan. “Historical themes interest me, particularly themes unknown to a Soviet audience,” he said.

His zeal to expose Ukraine's historical past resulted in the ground-breaking, award-winning film “Famine-33,” a haunting depiction of one family's struggle during the Great Famine, which was released in 1991. The film was pioneering on many levels: it was the first during the Soviet era to explore the taboo subject of the Holodomor, and it was financed entirely by donations from Ukrainians around the world, sidestepping state



Director Oles Yanchuk photographs a potential “Andrey” for his new film.

sponsorship and, by extension, state censorship.

“I gave two-three years of my life to ‘Famine-33,’ and when I saw the reaction of the audience, the emotion – not just in Ukraine but in Europe and the United States as well – I realized that it was better to devote my time to themes that enchant people,” he said.

“Famine-33” was screened in New York at the Film Forum in 1993 and was positively reviewed by The New York Times, New York Post, Village Voice and Time magazine.

His latest project, a feature-length film about the life and times of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, called “Vladyka Andrey,” should be equally captivating. The original screenplay, based on documents and facts from the life and work of Sheptytsky, traces the evolution of both the spiritual pastor and the political activist, against the backdrop of Ukraine's tumultuous history: as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Poland and the USSR, the war years, the occupation of Lviv.

Mr. Yanchuk said “Vladyka Andrey” is really a psychological drama, an exploration of Sheptytsky as a person. “Who is this man? Why did he choose this path of religious life?” he ruminates.

Andrey Sheptytsky (1865-1944), metropolitan of Halych, archbishop of Lviv and bishop of Kamianets-Podilskyi, played an important role in both Ukraine's spiritual and political growth. He cultivated the Ukrainian character of the Greek-Catholic Church and was instrumental in maintaining the Church's integrity until his death. Sheptytsky also was a member and vice-marshal of the Galician Diet (Parliament) and a member of the Austrian House of Lords and the Imperial Ministerial Council, championing the rights of Ukrainians in Halychyna and later supporting Ukraine's struggle for independence.

“Sheptytsky the man is not known in Ukraine,” said Mr. Yanchuk. “In Central and East Ukraine, people only know of him from Soviet propaganda – that he collaborated with the Nazis. To see the true face of Sheptytsky – for me, that is very interesting.”

Mr. Yanchuk has rehearsed several actors for the role of the metropolitan, and said that he will have several “Andreys.” “If this was a Hollywood production,” conceded Mr. Yanchuk with a smile, “we would be able to age one actor – and we will try to do this – but, most likely, we will use two.”

The film will be shot in Lviv and Lviv Oblast, Rome



Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky

(Mr. Yanchuk has a small scene set in the Vatican) and Suzdal, Russia. Mr. Yanchuk anticipates that he will begin shooting this September; a tentative release date for “Vladyka Andrey” is July 2007.

The majority of the film is financed by Ukraine's Ministry of Culture and the Lviv Oblast Administration. Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union recently made a substantial donation to the project. Mr. Yanchuk serves as the film's producer; co-production billing is shared with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Mr. Yanchuk's longtime partner.

That fortuitous relationship began in December 1993 when Mr. Yanchuk arrived in New York to screen “Famine-33” at the Film Forum. With the screenplay for

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59th annual Ukrainian Orthodox League convention held in Lancaster, Pa.

LANCASTER, Pa. – Ukrainian Orthodox League members from across the nation gathered at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center in Pennsylvania's Lancaster County on July 26-30 for the 59th annual UOL convention, which was hosted by the Senior and Junior UOL chapters of Holy Ghost Parish of Coatesville, Pa.

The convention began with Great Vespers before the business sessions were called to order at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26. Sessions were opened with prayer, the presentation of colors, “The Pledge of Allegiance,” the singing of the U.S. national anthem and opening remarks by Senior UOL National Executive Board President Melanie Nakonachny, Junior National Executive Board President Katya Carman, Convention Spiritual Advisor the Rev. Anthony Ugolnik, Convention Committee Chairwoman Diana Teijaro and Junior Convention Chairmen David Bentley and Meghan Teijaro.

That evening delegates divided into committees to review the progress made throughout the past year and begin planning for the upcoming year. Business sessions recessed at 9 p.m., allowing plenty of time for members to meet and socialize during a hospitality evening sponsored by the Holy Ghost chapter of the UOL.

The following morning began with a divine liturgy celebrated by hierarchs and clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Vsevolod, the

Rev. Ugolnik, the Very Rev. John Nakonachny and the Very Rev. Myron Oryhon. After a brief recess, business sessions resumed and delegates continued working in committees.

During the afternoon executive board members from the Ukrainian Gift of Life Inc. addressed the convention body and were presented with a donation that the Junior UOL collected through their Great Lent Giveaway project. One of the highlights of the afternoon was presentations on the progress of the All Saints Camp Chapel and the College Student Mission Trip to Ukraine. The day ended with a western-themed dinner dance held at the Lancaster Host.

Friday's program began with a Moleben to St. Volodymyr on the occasion of his feast day. The remainder of the day delegates worked to approve committee recommendations that will be implemented throughout the coming year.

One of the most important decisions made during these sessions was the formation of a committee that will work to raise the funds to cover the cost of the

iconostas, iconography and other internal items that will be needed at the All Saints Camp Chapel.

The convention body was thrilled at the donation in the amount of \$4,262.75 presented to St. Andrew's Society to benefit its Ukrainian Soup Kitchen Project.

Participants also had the opportunity to hear the director of International Orthodox Christian Charities speak on being “Doers of the Words as an Orthodox Family.” Through this organization, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. contributed over \$70,000 to help those in need following the destruc-

tion wrought by Hurricane Katrina, and later, Hurricane Rita.

With business sessions concluded, Saturday was a free day for participants to explore the local culture or participate in religious workshops. Participants began the day with an Akathist to Mary. Following the service, Junior UOL members prepared IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) Health Kits for the needy and participated in a Ukrainian dance workshop. Senior UOL members were able to attend workshops

(Continued on page 11)



Participants of the Ukrainian Orthodox League's 59th annual convention.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The 15th anniversary

It's been 15 years since that fateful day of August 24, 1991, when the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic's Supreme Council declared the republic's independence from the USSR, re-inserting the name "Ukraine" onto the world map and proclaiming that this nation of 52 million was taking its future into its own hands.

This unprecedented and unexpected act took place in the aftermath of the failed Moscow coup as the Ukrainian Parliament focused on the shameful behavior of the country's government and Communist Party leaders at the time of the crisis. The opposition in Parliament, grouped in the National Council, demanded an immediate declaration of Ukraine's independence. Meanwhile, outside the Parliament building thousands chanted "Independence."

The extraordinary session of the Supreme Council lasted for 11 hours. The debate was heated; several breaks were called to permit the Communist majority and the opposition minority to hold strategy meetings. In the end, the Communists heeded the words of their party chief, Stanislav Hurenko: "If we don't vote for independence, it will be a disaster."

At 5:55 p.m. local time, the Supreme Council voted 321-2 with six abstentions (out of 360 members present) to approve the "Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine."

It was the beginning of the end of the USSR.

And it was the beginning of a new life for Ukraine and its people.

Ihor Yukhnovsky, a member of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Council and leader of the National Council, wrote on September 1, 1991, on the pages of this newspaper: "The emergence of Ukraine as a state is a logical outcome of the striving of the Ukrainian people for self-determination." He underscored: "Independence for us means that we finally have a chance to establish a free and open society."

In the days that followed, the first steps were taken toward building an independent Ukrainian state. In succeeding years, of course, Ukraine made use of the opportunity that arose 15 years ago, making commendable progress toward becoming a democratic state governed by the rule of law.

Sure, there have been ups and downs (and the fact that Viktor Yanukovich is now prime minister is one of the "downs"), but we must remind our readers that, on the whole, Ukraine is making real progress. The proof is seen in the country's elections, its news media, its new Constitution, its Olympic team, its presence and involvement in the world community of nations...

However, the most noteworthy development of the past 15 years of Ukraine's independence is the empowerment of the people. Indeed, a nation once terrorized into submission by the Soviet regime has undergone a great awakening in the past few years – most recently during the Orange Revolution of November-December 2004.

Yes, we all recall that the Orange Revolution garnered huge headlines and vivid TV coverage around the globe, but we should also remember that it was the historic act of August 24, 1991, that began it all. Ukrainian Independence Day truly is something to celebrate.

Viva Ukraina!

Aug.
22
2004

Turning the pages back...

An article that appeared two years ago in The Weekly analyzed what Ukrainians thought about then-Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. This perspective was prior to the presidential elections and Orange Revolution of 2004.

According to the article, two main factors that contributed to the candidacy of Mr. Yanukovich were his considerable support in eastern Ukraine and his potential to pull left-wing voters that would have voted against Viktor Yushchenko.

It was further predicted that if the two factors played out, a return to the 1994 Kuchma-Kravchuk election would result, in which Leonid Kuchma appealed to eastern Ukrainians and Leonid Kravchuk to the western and central voters. Mr. Kravchuk lost votes from the left, who saw him as a "nationalist." However, in the second round, voters would have a more clear-cut decision: vote for the "vlada" (the authorities in power) or for a reformer.

Volodymyr Lytvyn, the former Verkhovna Rada chairman, commented that Mr. Yanukovich's chances would be greater if he was a "self-declared" candidate similar to Mr. Yushchenko, rather than the anointed candidate of the outgoing administration.

The article continued by noting that, due to the hostility toward the Kuchma regime, Mr. Yanukovich would likely lose votes from other parties that do not support the administration of the time. A Razumkov Center poll that appeared in Zerkalo Nedeli supported this speculation, with 26 percent of Communists reportedly voting for Mr. Yanukovich.

Further data from the Razumkov Center that appeared in Zerkalo Nedeli said that leading Ukrainian political experts were negative about Mr. Yanukovich's stance on European relations. This was based on speeches by Mr. Yanukovich in which he stressed economic growth and development, but remained silent on promoting democratic initiatives.

In another report by the Razumkov Center, analysts argued that, "Oligarchs by their very nature are incompatible with democratization and are not influenced by societal interests." When asked which candidates would defend society and put Ukraine's interests ahead of their clans, the center found Oleksander Moroz at the top of the list, followed by Mr. Yushchenko. Similarly, when asked who they felt were "professional" and had "intellect," Mr. Yushchenko came first, followed by Mr. Moroz.

In these same polls, Mr. Yanukovich was placed at the bottom of both lists. As the head of "the party of power" of Ukraine's most criminalized and wealthiest clan, based in Donetsk, his election would be catastrophic. Michael Brodsky, leader of the Yabluko Party, told Ukrainska Pravda that Mr. Yanukovich's election could lead to "the threat of a criminal-bandit revolt."

Source: "What do Ukrainians really think of Yanukovich," by Taras Kuzio, The Ukrainian Weekly, August 22, 2004, Vol. LXII, No. 34.

FOR THE RECORD

UCCA statement on Ukraine's 15th anniversary of independence

Following is the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America statement on the 15th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. The statement is dated August 2.

The Ukrainian American community has actively worked to restore Ukraine's independence for decades. After this dream was realized in 1991, our focus turned to building a stable system of democratic governance in the country. During the last 15 years, Ukraine has achieved significant progress in this respect: the Ukrainian people have internalized democratic ideals and upheld their right to free and fair elections; Ukraine is at the threshold of entering the Euro-Atlantic community.

Our community has made a significant contribution to these successes, in particular, to the development of bilateral U.S.-Ukraine relations. It is our goal to continue actively participating in the process of democratization so that Ukraine can reclaim its rightful place in the international democratic community. During this time of celebration we look back on the progress Ukraine has made and rejoice together with the people of Ukraine. However, we also remember that there is much work ahead.

Ukrainian Americans continue to work

for the benefit of the Ukrainian people in Ukraine, as well as the U.S., especially during these trying times when Ukraine faces the challenge of securing its democracy. On the occasion of Ukraine's 15th anniversary of independence, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America sends its sincere and heartfelt congratulations to the Ukrainian American community and encourages it to appropriately commemorate this event. Although there is much to be done in the future, we are confident in the fact that Ukraine will soon take its rightful place as an equal member of the Euro-Atlantic community. The UCCA also sends its warmest greetings to the people of Ukraine and asks God to lend the nation strength in this time when Ukraine's future is being determined.

We urge our community to take an active part in the civic and political life of the United States and Ukraine. With your help Ukraine will overcome any obstacles and will build a democratic, prosperous state ruled by law!

Glory to Ukraine!

On behalf of the
UCCA Executive Board:

Michael Sawkiw Jr., president
Marie Duplak, executive secretary

Quotable notes

"... Who wants to be in a coalition, be there. Those who want a cooperation agreement can have it. Those who like the idea of opposition can live that way. But I am asking that Parliament should be decisive.

"I would like to ask everyone in this hall and those who are not here to stop the policy of political wars. Replace the policy of political war with the policy of competition.

"This is how it is done in every country. Let us recognize that the political session hall is what it is today and there will be no other.

"If we don't realize this I am sure the entire nation will be in opposition to such political forces. So, I am calling on the Ukrainian Parliament to reach understanding and realize its great consolidating mission, which you are bearing on your shoulders. ..."

– President Viktor Yushchenko addressing the Verkhovna Rada on August 4, when he submitted the candidacy of Viktor Yanukovich for prime minister, as carried live on TV Channel 5 and reported by the BBC Monitoring Service (from Action Ukraine Report).

"... What are we going to do? Are we going to look for what disunites us, or is it better for us to look for what unites us? The path that we have recently walked down has convinced us that we will only achieve positive things if we look for a way toward what unites us.

"It is not easy, but if you want to get anywhere you need to start walking. We have walked down that road. We have found positive things. I am certain that society, too, has felt that, when the politicians presenting general public moods sit down at the negotiating table and find a road toward understanding. ..."

– Viktor Yanukovich, speaking in the Parliament on August 4 after the president submitted his candidacy for prime minister, as carried on Channel 5 and reported by the BBC Monitoring Service (from Action Ukraine Report).

"... Russia needed to achieve one thing – to ensure that there was no 'Orange' ideology and practice in Ukraine threatening the bases of the so-called managed democracy in Russia.

"And as for relations with the West, including economic ones, we'll see what happens. Of course, the West will not be ecstatic over the change of the Ukrainian government, but, on the other hand, the West was not offering us anything real. So we will rely on our own forces and believe that Ukraine has already seen the very worst. We will be optimists. ..."

– Myroslav Popovych, director of the Skovoroda Philosophy Institute of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, offering his commentary on the new Coalition of National Unity on August 4 in the newspaper Den, as reported by the BBC Monitoring Service (from Action Ukraine Report).

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The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

A never-ending story, or why we still need to do what we do

Remember the late 1950-mid-1960s? Remember registering to study political science and Russian at college? (Ukrainian was not offered at the time.) We were going to free Ukraine, or at least strive our damndest to get close to that goal for our parents and for ourselves.

We were also the ones who made presentations about Ukraine in our grade schools and high schools, and explained – whether they wanted to hear it or not – that Ukraine was not Russia; no, we are not Russians; yes, we are Europeans, and a separate nation even though we are part of the USSR ... (And we were the only ones in school who had the excuse notes for being absent on January 6 and 7.)

We did this willingly, on our own, with a zeal that surprised even our parents. They were still afraid of “them.” We were not. And I doubt that most of us were consciously indoctrinated with that Ukrainian patriotism. I think we got it through osmosis. We felt the pride, and the pain, and the sorrow.

I am saying “we” because I do not think that I was the only one feeling and thinking like this. I do not know how many of “us” there were, but I am sure that the number of Ukrainian Canadians and Ukrainian Americans active in Ukrainian life over the past half-century indicates that there were more than a few.

And our children and grandchildren, born and nurtured on North American soil, are dually patriotic, fiercely American or Canadian, and at the same time, very Ukrainian – and see no problem in this at all.

This voluntary patriotism is not limited to the post-World War II, DP (displaced persons) generation. Those refugees arrived to the welcoming arms and homes of the Ukrainians already established on the new continent for almost a century. The churches, schools, associations, publications and cultural institutions were here already. The newcomers joined in, or created new ones, and sometimes, regrettably, caused rifts in the old ones.

The early pioneers who were not planning to return to Ukraine were still patriotic Ukrainians while integrating into Canadian and American society. The later immigrations owe them a great debt. The many “born-again Ukrainians” are from those earlier generations, just as fiercely patriotic, often learning the Ukrainian their parents had forgotten or tried to hide in order to blend into whatever they thought the establishment was.

After hoping against hope for a free Ukraine for so many decades – lifetimes even – and not fully imagining how this would come about, the Orange Revolution caught most of us by surprise. A brilliant, joyful, God-bless-’em surprise. So many of us helped in whatever way we could. And now the let-down after the euphoria. What in the world is going on with the leaders there? They promised! How easy for us here – and there – to expect instant democracy, instant good order. After what Ukrainians have gone through in just the 20th century, they’ll just roll with the punches over the few steps back mixed in with the steps forward.

The major problem is overcoming the influence of the insatiable neighbor to the north, and his fifth column within Ukraine. No wonder the “yanychary” (native

Ukrainian traitors of Ukraine) word is so appropriate now. The Russian imperialist mind-set has permeated so deeply into Ukrainian life in the past century that its influence will not be easy to eradicate. One obvious and ugly example is the prominence of the Russian language, thought to be more “prestigious” than Ukrainian (which, in the late 19th century was declared not to have existed and will not exist). How much and how long will it take for young Ukrainians to realize and accept the beauty and originality of their own language?

The fifth column of the Moscow Patriarchate in Ukraine is a ticking time bomb. Two titles covering this scary subject are: “Litos” by Halyna Mohylnytska (Brovary: Ukrainska Ideya, 2005. ISBN 969-7958-01-9) and “The Mitrokhin Archives,” I and II by Christopher Andrew (London: Allen Lane, 1999 and 2005. ISBN 0713993588 and 0713993596).

Soon after August 24, 1991, I began hearing what I deem a Ukrainian urban legend, because I never heard anyone actually say it, but only as something heard from someone else. It did not make sense. Since Ukraine was now independent, there was no need anymore for those outside Ukraine to continue “being Ukrainian.”

The discussion even made it into a mystery book by Canadian writer Paul Grescoe, of the prolific and talented Grescoe writing family, in the Dan Rudnicki mystery “Blood Vessel” (Toronto: McLelland and Stewart, 1994; paperback; 1993 hardcover):

“I figure there are Ukrainian North Americans like you and me, then there are Ukrainians who happen to live in North America. And it’s all those professional Ukrainians who have been trying to preserve the old ways – because they thought their heritage was being lost back in the homeland. So now that Russia has loosened its grip on Ukraine, the Ukrainians here don’t have to preserve their identity so defiantly.”

“Wrong. Do you know how many Ukrainians over here are trying to help them over there as they struggle through independence? For the first time, they can travel freely back and forth. And every time we send aid, or set up joint ventures, the ties between us and them keep growing – and so does our sense of Ukrainian-ness. Anyway, don’t lump me in with you as one of those wimpy Ukrainian North Americans. I’m proud of being Ukrainian.”

“Professional Ukrainians” – that term comes up often, not necessarily in a positive light. No, these are not Ukrainians who happen to be professionals, but those few who use their Ukrainian-ness for personal gain, not for the greater good – somehow their Ukrainian soul is missing. Now, a person can advance on talent and ambition – more power to him or her – but when people around sense that the community is being used, well, that is different. They are Ukrainians of convenience. Then there are the prominent writers, artists and academics who seem to be unhappy being of Ukrainian origin, and yet return to Ukrainian themes in their works, often in a negative light. The half-empty glass they bring to the public eye contains the unseemly aspects of Ukrainian life and history, so often viewed through the prism not of historical accuracy

(Continued on page 20)

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Why can't they be like us?

“Betrayal” is the word I hear most often in our community these days.

People tell me that Viktor Yushchenko betrayed Ukraine, the Orange Revolution and the people who sat in the freezing cold of the maidan protesting a stolen election. Viktor Yushchenko promised to unite the nation. He hasn’t. Viktor Yushchenko promised to take care of corruption. He didn’t. Viktor Yushchenko promised to bring the Kuchma gang to justice. He hasn’t. Viktor Yushchenko promised to appoint only qualified and honest people to government posts. He hasn’t. Viktor Yushchenko promised to abide by the Constitution. He hasn’t.

On the eve of Ukraine’s 15th year of independence we have a three-ring circus with Viktor Yanukovich, Yulia Tymoshenko and President Yushchenko centered in each of the rings.

Questions abound: What happened? Why can’t the Orange Revolutionaries get their act together? Don’t they understand what’s at stake? What’s with all those egos? Can we trust them to do the right thing? And, finally: Why can’t they be like us?

Guess what! They are like us.

Ukrainians have been in North America for over 100 years and we’re just like those guys over there. Worse!

Do we have our act together? No. Do we understand what’s at stake? No. Can we trust our leaders to do the right thing? Probably not. How can we expect those guys to do a better job over there in 15 years when us guys, despite far more advantages over here, haven’t done it in almost 125 years?

Think of it. Politically, we’re split. In fact, we’re worse off today than we were in 1980 when the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America began imploding. Despite over 25 years of negotiation between the UCCA and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, unity is farther away than ever. Michael Sawkiw and Ihor Gawdiak have no intention of coming together in a single body. Why would they?

Other so-called “neutral” organizations are playing the unity card. “As long as there is no single umbrella organization to unite us,” they exclaim, “we remain on the sidelines.” Talk about a cop-out.

Our fraternal insurance associations are in trouble. One fraternal organization, the Ukrainian National Aid Association, has already bit the dust. The three remaining fraternal organizations, the Ukrainian National Association, the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and the Providence Association, are struggling. Our fraternal leaders seem to be vision-challenged.

Religiously, we’re at odds. There are two major Orthodox jurisdictions in the United States and there is animosity between them. Ukrainian Orthodox in the United States appeared united during the Mstyslav era. No more.

Ostensibly, Ukrainian Catholics have one jurisdiction but there is turmoil within the ranks. Some Catholics still maintain that our Church is a national Church where only Ukrainians need apply! Hold that thought and see what happens in the next 20 years.

Economically we’re in pretty good shape. We live well. We and our children have incredible opportunities to create wealth and improve their lot in life. We’re watching the Fourth Wave prosper in an

astounding way. No other Ukrainian immigration has moved up the socio-economic ladder faster. No other immigration has moved into the American mainstream faster. No other immigrant children have assimilated faster. As the Third Wave old guard fades away, the Fourth Wave will take over those institutions which they prize the most, the credit unions.

Back to Ukraine. Are things really that bad? No. The glass is half full. The last election was the most democratic Ukraine has ever had. We might not like the results but that’s what vox populi is all about. Face it. Mr. Yanukovich and his party won fair and square. Will Prime Minister Yanukovich pull Ukraine into Vladimir Putin’s orbit? I doubt it. He may not be a cultural renaissance man, but he’s no dummy. Why would he want to trade being on top of the heap in Ukraine to being lost in the heap in Russia?

Mr. Yanukovich signed the Universal of National Unity which recognized Ukrainian as the state language and the “basis for the self-identity of the people and the state.” He didn’t protest when Ukraine’s Parliament voted overwhelmingly to authorize stationing foreign troops in Ukraine during military exercises, a bow to NATO.

Is Mr. Yushchenko really so awful? No. He cut the best deal he could under the circumstances. Will Yulia rally the Orange troops and come back swinging? Now there’s a thought! She came in second. She’s obviously brighter than the two Viktors. She has a following. She has appeal as a populist. She’s determined. Don’t count her out.

So, dear readers, here’s my advice regarding Ukraine. Take a deep breath, sit back and relax. There’s little we over here can do to influence events over there. We can preen and posture as some of our leaders have done, but let’s face it, we’re small potatoes, or “male pyvo,” as they say.

If you want to help Ukraine, put down your placard and do something useful. Become involved with an educational institution over there. Donate money to Ostroh, Mohyla or the Ukrainian Catholic university.

There are thousands of needy orphans in Ukraine. Underserved physically and mentally handicapped children abound. Pocket your ego and get involved with them. Help improve their living conditions. Volunteer your talents, your time, your treasure. Nothing is more rewarding than helping the younger generation.

If you can’t do any of the above, become more involved with your local Ukrainian community. Become a registered church member. Join the UNA. Join a choir. Enroll your kids in Saturday school. Enroll them in Plast, SUM or ODUM. Become a Saturday School teacher. Subscribe to The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. Become an active Republican or a Democrat (if you must). America is your country now. Your Ukraine is here, not there.

We live in interesting times and the next 10 years in Ukraine will be more interesting than ever. Enjoy. We will witness history being made.

One final word. If you get depressed about Ukrainians in Ukraine, remember this. They’re just like us. In fact, they are us!

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THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

A look back: The Ukrainian Weekly's editorials on Independence Day

To mark the 15th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, we publish excerpts of editorials printed in *The Ukrainian Weekly* after the declaration of independence in 1991, as well as on the occasions of the first, fifth and 10th anniversaries of that fateful August 24, 1991.

September 1, 1991, Independence: bye-bye, USSR

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is no more. In its place, on August 24, arose an independent democratic state called, simply, Ukraine.

Events unfolded quickly. Almost without warning and, literally, overnight Ukraine's long-sought independence became reality. Impelled by the failed coup in Moscow, the obvious disintegration of the union and the hopeless demise of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Parliament overwhelmingly adopted the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine. Democrats, Communists and those in between all saw that Ukraine simply must seize the moment, that Ukraine must take its future into its own hands and not wait for outside forces to determine the destiny of this nation of 52 million. ...

All around, day by day, the USSR was withering away. The coup's principal achievement was to prove that central power in the Soviet empire is dead, and power was fast devolving to the republics. "What has happened is the collapse of the central empire, the full destruction of the structures of imperial power. There can be no illusions: the Soviet Union no longer exists," Dr. Yuriy Shcherbak, people's deputy from Ukraine told the USSR Supreme Soviet.

... Russia's emissaries had to travel to Ukraine to persuade that newly independent state to sign a temporary bilateral agreement on military and economic matters in an attempt to halt the "uncontrolled disintegration" of the union seen by many around the globe as an extremely dangerous situation – especially in view of the fact that nuclear weapons are

found in various republics. Ukraine acted responsibly, signing an agreement with Russia on these crucial matters but at the same time emphasizing that this is a bilateral, horizontal agreement between two equals – not a precursor to any new form of union. (It should be noted that the pact goes so far as to refer to the "former USSR.") And, a pledge to respect each other's territorial integrity was reconfirmed as part of the deal.

Thus, Ukraine appears to have passed its first big hurdle as an independent

overwhelmingly to adopt the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine. The vote came at an extraordinary session of the republic's Parliament convened on the initiative of the democratic opposition – a minority in the 450-member body. It came as a great surprise to the Ukrainian population that the Communist Party-dominated Parliament voted 321-2 with six abstentions (out of 360 members present) for "the creation of an independent Ukrainian state – Ukraine." A companion resolution pro-

Ivan Pliushch, said: "A new European state has emerged on the map of the world. Its name: Ukraine." Four days later the newly elected president, Leonid Kravchuk, took the oath of office while placing his hand on two documents: the Constitution and the declaration of independence of Ukraine. ...

August 18, 1996 Independence: the fifth anniversary

... On the heels of the [August 19-21 attempted] coup [to depose Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev] came the Ukrainian Supreme Council's unexpected declaration of Ukraine's independence on August 24, 1991, and that clinched the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union.

On December 1, the Parliament's act was overwhelmingly affirmed by the people of Ukraine, as over 90 percent voted "yes" for independence. Four days after the plebiscite, Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, took the oath of office.

And thus, Ukraine embarked on the road to accomplishing the twin tasks of state-building and nation-building – tasks that continue to this day. Although it was apparent that modern-day



The scene outside Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada on August 24, 1991, after independence was proclaimed.

state. But what lies ahead? Many more hurdles, we are certain. As we've seen lately, so much can happen in so little time. And there are three months between now and December 1 when the people of Ukraine of all nationalities will be asked to affirm Ukraine's independence declaration in a plebiscite. ...

So, what lies ahead? Much work in preparation for the December 1 referendum in Ukraine. Much work in preparing world leaders to accept an independent Ukraine as a participant and partner in international affairs. Will the leaders and people of Ukraine, and Ukrainians in the diaspora, be equal to the task?

August 23, 1992 The first anniversary

Last year, on August 24, 1991, as a direct consequence of the failed coup d'état in Moscow, members of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Council voted

for immediate implementation of the proclamation of independence and for a public referendum on December 1, 1991, to affirm the declaration. And thus, the balance of power in Ukraine had shifted in favor of fledgling democratic forces and Ukraine had crossed the Rubicon, choosing the path toward independence.

In short order, structures of the Communist Party of Ukraine were dismantled, Lenin's towering likeness was removed from the most prominent spot on the Khreshchatyk, the Ukrainian capital's main boulevard, and Independence Square in the center of Kiev was officially renamed October Revolution Square. Similar repudiations of the repugnant Communist past occurred throughout Ukraine.

Much more significant, however, was that Ukraine's declaration of independence – the realization of a centuries-old

dream borne by Ukrainians around the globe – put an end, once and for all, to any hopes for the conclusion of a new union treaty and guaranteed the disintegration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. ...

After December 1, when over 90 percent voted "yes" for Ukraine's independence in a nationwide plebiscite, the first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament,

independence owed much to the sacrifices of the past, it soon became clear that there were new sacrifices that had to be made by the current generations.

Adding to the growing pains experienced by the newly independent state was the pressure exerted by the ever-present "elder brother," as Russia began asserting itself as a great power with a special regional role to play. Internationally, Ukraine was nearly made out to be a pariah as the major powers sought its denuclearization and disarmament, and the closing of the stricken Chornobyl nuclear power plant. Domestically, the president (who did much to make the world understand that, yes indeed, Ukraine is independent), the Parliament and the government were involved in a power struggle, resulting in a deleterious stalemate.

Pre-term parliamentary and presidential elections were scheduled, respectively, for March and June of 1994, and a second Leonid – Leonid Kuchma – then an unknown quantity, was elected president in the July 10 runoffs. He came into office speaking of a Eurasian space, working within the CIS, normalizing relations with Russia and making Russian an official language of Ukraine. But his on-the-job training, so to speak, has apparently been successful, as he has grown into the role of president of independent Ukraine.

Ukraine's orientation now is definitely Westward – toward Europe and beyond; Russia knows where it stands in relation to Ukraine; and Ukrainian remains the

(Continued on page 18)

UKRAINE – THEN AND NOW

	1991	2006
Population:	51.9 million	46.7 million
Labor force:	25.2 million	23 million
Median age:	N/A	39.2 years
Fertility rate:	2.0 children per woman	1.17 children per woman
Infant mortality:	22 deaths per 1,000	9.9 deaths per 1,000
Birth rate:	14 births per 1,000	8.82 births per 1,000
Death rate:	12 deaths per 1,000	14.39 deaths per 1,000
Life expectancy:	70 years	70 years
GDP:	\$205.4 billion	\$340.4 billion
Inflation rate:	83 percent	13.5 percent

Sources: 1992 CIA World Factbook, 1994 CIA World Factbook, 2006 CIA World Factbook

Scholars comment on the 15th anniversary of Ukraine's independence

It has been 15 years since Ukraine declared its independence on August 24, 1991. In that time, Ukraine has followed a difficult path along the road of its democratic evolution. There have been setbacks as well as accomplishments for the nascent country.

The Orange Revolution of 2004 echoed a popular desire for change and, to a large degree, the people's commitment to democratic ideals. However, two years after the revolution, the government appears unable to live up to those high standards.

If anything can be learned from events in Ukraine over the past 15 years, it is that predicting its evolution as a democracy is no easy task. What lies ahead in the next 15 years for Ukraine? It is with exactly this in mind that The Ukrainian Weekly recently questioned Ukrainian scholars and experts.

What follows is the conclusion of a two-part series prepared by Matthew Dubas and Andrew Nynka in which scholars evaluated just how far Ukraine has come on issues of Ukraine's integration with Europe, its development of national identity, and the most recent developments in the government and Verkhovna Rada.

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EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Given Ukraine's past statements on joining European institutions, and since then its lack of movement in that direction, is there a future for Ukraine in Europe? Can Ukraine be taken seriously by Western European institutions? What steps must Ukraine take to be accepted by these institutions? What progress has been made?

Ukraine's future in Europe is assured, because Ukraine is and always has been in Europe. And its links with other European states are growing with every year. The question is: Does Ukraine have a future in the European Union? And the answer to that is: Only if the EU takes itself seriously as a community of democratic values.

The fact is that the EU is terrified of stepping on Russia's sensitive toes and, thus, equally terrified of the prospect of Ukraine possibly joining — even at some point in the very distant future. The EU knows full well that offering states the eventual prospect of membership acts as an accelerator of reform. So why doesn't the EU simply state that Ukraine would be welcome in the EU if and when it fulfills all the EU's membership criteria?

Since that won't happen for a long time — after all, becoming a full-fledged democracy and market economy is no easy task — that's a no-lose, risk-free proposition for the EU. But the EU's lack of will and Germany's spineless behavior toward Moscow prevents Brussels from taking so easy a stand.

Ukraine must, therefore, keep on doing what it has been doing since 1991: moving slowly but surely toward the

institutionalization of democracy and the market. That's good, regardless of what the EU does or does not do. Fortunately for Ukraine, the EU's hypocrisy and spinelessness will also deter it from ever telling Ukraine in no uncertain terms that it cannot join.

NATIONAL IDENTITY

The language issue: How important is it for Ukraine to find consensus on the issue of a national language? The use of language — Ukrainian versus Russian, whether in schools, textbooks, the government, etc. — has been and surely will continue to be a hot topic in Ukraine. Is resolving this issue critical for Ukraine? Can Ukraine develop a strong national identity while, at the same time, maintaining both the Russian and Ukrainian language?

The reality in Ukraine is that both Ukrainian and Russian are entrenched, and there is no reason to think that will change. If so, policy has to proceed from that fact. What then should Kyiv do?

Ironically, the PRU [Party of the Regions of Ukraine] suggested the perfect solution to Ukraine's language problems when it declared Russian a "regional language" in several oblasts. Were the Orange camp a tad smarter, it would have pounced on this solution and adopted it as its own. Ukrainian would then have the status of a "state language" and the lingua franca of Ukraine. In turn, Russian, Polish, Belarusian, Crimean Tatar, Hungarian, Rusyn and many other languages spoken by minority groups would have "regional" status. State officials would have to know Ukrainian and some regional language or languages. The media, publishing, education, and culture would also reflect this reality.

And the population of Ukraine would be encouraged to know Ukrainian and to speak whichever language they desire on an everyday basis. Could that lead to a strong sense of political community and national identity? Why not? If other countries can be multilingual, why shouldn't Ukraine?

PARLIAMENT

This year we've seen the Parliament in turmoil and the year of the "crisis." What lessons can be learned from this? How has Parliament changed in the last 15 years? What does it mean for Ukraine to have Viktor Yanukovich as PM? What does this bode for Ukraine's domestic and foreign policies? What do you make of Moroz's "betrayal"? What are the futures of Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko?

It's high time to stop using the overwrought term "crisis" (which means a life-threatening condition) and recognize that Ukraine's political system has simply been beset with problems, some big, some small. Of course, all political systems have problems, and once we recognize this fact, we can begin to appreciate that Ukraine looks remarkably like many other countries that chug along with their periodic ups and downs.

Ukraine's primary problems are twofold. The constitutional reform was poorly conceived, leaving too many questions unanswered (and with the absence of a Constitutional Court, that spells trouble). And, even if it had been well-conceived, it would have taken time for inexperienced parties and politicians to adapt to it. But the insufficiently noticed achievement of Ukraine's political system is that its democratic rules of the game are gradually becoming more institutionalized.

For all the mudslinging and cynicism and charges of treason, the fact is that the elections of March 26, the post-electoral maneuverings of the parties, and the ultimate formation of a coalition between the PRU, Our Ukraine, the Socialists and the Communists happened within the Constitution. That is great news.

That means that Prime Minister Yanukovich will be governing a country and a political system that have changed enormously since 2004. We forget, in our breathless obsession with day-to-day politicking, that the Orange Revolution changed Ukraine's institutions, mentality and political culture. Just as Yanukovich and his pals will have to live with that, so too will Moroz, Yushchenko and Tymoshenko.

The bottom line is that these individuals do not warrant all the attention they're getting from crisis-mongering analysts here and in Ukraine. We should be focusing on Ukraine and its political and economic institutions, and on how they are changing — and that is generally for the better, regardless of who governs.

PRESIDENCY

With the recent shift in power from president to prime minister, does the prime minister have too much power? Are we likely to see the removal of the office of president? How has the presidency progressed since independence?

Parliamentary systems are generally a good thing, and having powerful prime ministers is also generally a good thing. The real issue is whether the Constitution delineates, with sufficient clarity, how a more powerful prime minister and a still-powerful president are to get along. The present reform doesn't, which means that a Constitutional Court is all the more imperative. By the way, let's remember that the president still possesses enormous power: he appoints a range of ministers, approves the government and can take advantage of the constitutional reform to impose his will on the process. Yushchenko may or may not have done that well, or well enough, but he certainly could have.

Removing the office of the president is in no party's interests — after all, every politician of every party wants to be president and Yushchenko will not be around forever. Threatening to impeach Yushchenko or threatening to abolish the post makes for good political sloganeering, however, so we should expect that to continue.

REFORMS

People believed in the Orange Revolution, few still believe. This disenchanting nature of the Ukrainian people can be equated to the Missouri slogan — "show me." What can Ukraine show the world it has accomplished since it gained independence?

The notion that Ukraine hasn't progressed since 1991 is one of the most durable and ridiculous myths. Quite the contrary, today's Ukraine is radically different from Ukraine in 2004 and unrecognizably different from Ukraine in 1991. And Ukraine is better. It has a vigorous press, a robust civil society, a market economy and functioning, though immature, democratic institutions. That's not bad for a country that has ostensibly done nothing but remain mired in "stagnation" for 15 years.

Naturally, Ukrainians aren't happy with this, because they want their living standards to improve radically and immediately. I would too if I lived there. But radical and immediate change happens only in countries experiencing bloody

revolutions, and they never end up changing in the way the population desired.

So Ukraine's snail-like progress is just

... today's Ukraine is radically different from Ukraine in 2004 and unrecognizably different from Ukraine in 1991.

right: it's going in the right direction and, because its progress is slow, it's going to stick. The main change awaiting Ukraine is membership in the WTO. That'll force the Ukrainian economy to adopt even more market-friendly reforms and, although we shouldn't expect miraculous transformations, that will push Ukraine further along the road toward integration with the global economy.

Significantly, there's consensus in Ukraine on that goal, all the more so since Russia aspires to it as well; hence, in contrast to NATO membership, there is no way that WTO accession can be construed as being anti-Russian.

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EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The collapse of the Orange coalition (OC), after three months of negotiations and back-room dealing, suggests that Ukraine could return to the vacuous "multi-vector" foreign policy of the Leonid Kuchma era under the Anti-Crisis Coalition (ACC). Our Ukraine (OU), with the president's consent, ignored U.S. and Western advice and negotiated simultaneously with its Orange partners and with the Party of the Regions (PRU). This led to the defection of the Socialists and the creation of the ACC. For President Viktor Yushchenko and OU it would seem to have been more of a priority to not permit Yulia Tymoshenko to return as PM than to achieve a breakthrough in foreign policy. Ukraine could have now lost its chance of entering the World Trade Organization (WTO) before Russia and of ever joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Following the Orange Revolution and Viktor Yushchenko's election, Ukraine was on track to join the WTO and NATO. Ukraine missed its chance of joining the WTO in December 2005 due to the obstruction of the Kuchma-era Parliament and President Yushchenko's weak and delayed strategy to achieve this goal.

The aim of joining the WTO was outlined during President Yushchenko's April 2005 visit to Washington, D.C. But, he did not release a decree to this effect until late May and his parliamentary allies and the Yulia Tymoshenko government only began working on adopting the required legislation in early June. The final month of Parliament before its summer recess on July 8 was insufficient time to adopt all of the required WTO legislation.

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Scholars comment...

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There is a possibility that Ukraine could join the WTO in the fall of this year. With an OC this would have been a certainty. With an ACC this is now unclear as all three members of the coalition voted against WTO legislation in the 2002-2006 Parliament.

Ukraine's chances of joining NATO following the election of Yushchenko were the best it ever possessed. During Yushchenko's Washington visit, President George W. Bush successfully lobbied NATO to upgrade Ukraine into the Intensified Dialogue on Membership Issues, the stepping stone to a Membership Action Plan (MAP). If the MAP had been successfully implemented, NATO planned to invite Ukraine into membership at its 2008 enlargement summit, followed by actual membership of NATO in 2010.

These plans are now in ruins following the creation of the ACC, whose three members are against NATO membership. The fault lies squarely with President Yushchenko and his OU bloc, who put personal conflicts (with Tymoshenko) above national and state interests of joining NATO.

The European Parliament has lobbied for the EU to change its stance on Ukraine's membership prospects. But, this has been to no avail. The EU has blamed its inability to open the door to Ukraine on its internal crises with Turkish membership, the failure of referendums on adopting the EU constitution and enlargement fatigue.

More detailed answers to this question can be found in my "Is Ukraine's future in Europe?" published in the Washington Quarterly, the journal of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, (http://www.twq.com/06summer/docs/06summer_kuzio.pdf).

NATIONAL IDENTITY

The language issue is highly exaggerated as a problem for Ukraine, and is often blown out of all proportion during elections. The reality is that the language issue has been "resolved" for all intents and purposes under the 1989 language law and 1996 Constitution and Council of Europe Charter. In the Universal [of National Unity], Ukrainian will continue to remain the state language while Russian, Hungarian, Romanian and Tatar will continue to be permitted free use in areas of Ukraine where these languages are widely used. This conforms to the Constitution and Council of Europe Charter on Minority and Regional Languages requirements.

When Western scholars and media speak of Ukraine divided into two linguistic groups they miss two crucial points. First, language in Ukraine is not a marker of ethnic identity, unlike in Belgium, Canada or other regions of the world. The majority of Russophones in Ukraine are ethnic Ukrainians. Second, the population is divided into three, not two groups. Approximately one-third of Ukrainians are primarily Ukrainophones, another third are Russophones and a final third are bilingual.

The ramifications of this are clearly seen in the political arena. In Kyiv most schools have long used only Ukrainian, yet, one hears more Russian than Ukrainian in Kyiv. At the same time, Kyivites have always voted for national democratic parties and backed the Orange Revolution. In Donetsk most schools are Russian and there are few people who are bilingual. The majority vote for the PRU and opposed the Orange Revolution.

In other areas of nation- and state-building, there has long been an elite

consensus. This includes majority support for Ukraine's territorial integrity throughout Ukraine. Regionalism does not translate into separatism, as it does not in many other countries of the world. In education and teaching, national historiography has always been taught, rather than Sovietophile and Russophile texts and theories. This is one area that has been largely ignored by the diaspora. Ukrainian textbooks (which I have been assiduously collecting since the early 1990s) have long included positive coverage of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), even though their political status has still to be resolved.

PARLIAMENT

Constitutional reforms moving Ukraine from a semi-presidential system to a parliamentary-presidential system will prove to be positive in the medium to long terms. Successful post-communist democracies have created parliamentary systems while autocracies thrive in the super-presidential systems of Russia and the CIS. In December 2004 all of Ukraine's factions — except the Yulia Tymoshenko bloc — voted for constitutional reforms.

In the short term, it is the opponents of democratization who have gained. Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, who first initiated constitutional reform proposals, is parliamentary speaker after defecting from the Orange coalition. The Party of the Regions control the parliamentary coalition and government. The prime minister's position has been enhanced. Yushchenko, who won the 2004 elections, is in danger of being sidelined through these constitutional changes and his own inaction, lack of strategy and weak political will.

The first nail in the coffin for the OC came in September 2005 when President Yushchenko disbanded the Tymoshenko government (under the new constitutional reforms the president will no longer have the right to remove the government). The mistake permitted the PRU to soar from an average of 20 percent support in 2006 to over 30 percent in the 2006 elections.

As a consequence of the September crisis, OU came in third place in the 2006 elections with 9 percent fewer votes than in 2002. Because OU had arrogantly assumed it would come in second place (i.e., first in the Orange camp) but in reality came in third, it wished to renege on the informal agreement struck with its Orange partners that whoever came first in the Orange camp could put forward its candidate for PM. OU should have immediately accepted the results and ceded the PM position to Tymoshenko. This is what Roman Bezsmertnyi advised OU to do. Instead, OU chose an alternative path to simultaneously negotiate with its Orange partners and the PRU.

This became a second nail in the OC coffin when, after three months of tortuous negotiations and back-room dealing, an OC finally established itself but collapsed before a government, again led by Tymoshenko, could be created.

Yushchenko is in danger of following Leonid Kravchuk in losing power ahead of the end of his term through early elections. July 2006 polls show that Yushchenko would come third with only 8 to 14 percent in a presidential election held today, trailing Yanukovich at 31 to 36 and Tymoshenko at 20 percent. The position of PM has been enhanced after constitutional reforms, Yanukovich controls the largest parliamentary faction, PRU, and he has greater political will than Yushchenko.

With Yanukovich approved as PM, the PRU will have what it has always sought since 2004; namely, revenge for the "betrayal" by Kuchma of its election victory. The Orange electorate will feel that Yushchenko has "betrayed" the Orange Revolution, as has the Socialist Party, and will flock to Tymoshenko. Calls by

diaspora NGOs to rally around Yushchenko are, therefore, out of step with developments in Ukraine.

There is a possibility for the ACC to push ahead with further constitutional reforms to transform Ukraine into a full parliamentary republic (where the president is elected by parliament). The two left-wing members of the ACC would support this move, as would anti-Yushchenko forces inside the PRU.

PRESIDENCY

It would be wrong to ignore many positive advances made since the Orange Revolution in the sphere of democratic rights. At the same time, it would be also true to say that the Yushchenko presidency is largely one of failed and missed opportunities.

A major failure was that Yushchenko was never interested in breaking with the Kuchma era and moving Ukraine decisively ahead, in both the domestic and foreign domains. He reneged on key 2004 election promises of dealing with the oligarchs by separating business and politics and of putting "bandits in prison." Instead of prison, these "bandits" are sitting in Parliament, and are likely to enter government.

Why has this happened? Yushchenko never seriously intended to deal with this issue as he maintained Prosecutor Sviatoslav Piskun in place until October 2005. Piskun is now a PRU deputy. Piskun protected senior Kuchma-era officials from being prosecuted and allowed many of them to flee Ukraine.

Is this issue not important for democratic progress and the rule of law in Ukraine? This question needs to be asked because the Orange Circle has spent the last year arguing in presentations throughout North America that "bandits to prison" did not take place is not a tragedy. The Orange Circle argued that nobody was sentenced for Soviet crimes and therefore, why should there be such an issue over Kuchma-era crimes! This comparison of Soviet and Kuchma-era crimes is morally repugnant. During the Orange Revolution nobody campaigned in favor of putting Soviet war criminals on trial.

The outcome of this inaction on this issue has been a return of Kuchma-era officials into government and Parliament. The rule of law has not progressed as senior Ukrainian officials have once again protected each other from prosecution. They, as in the Kuchma era, are again seen to be above the law. The only individuals to have been charged have been middle- and lower-ranking officials due to the work of the Internal Affairs Ministry headed by Yuriy Lutsenko. The Prosecutor's Office, which deals with crimes committed by high-ranking officials, continually fails to initiate any charges.

Contrast these policies to those in Russia under Vladimir Putin. When Putin came to power in 2000 he gave immunity to Boris Yeltsin on condition that he stay out of politics and did not comment to the media. Yushchenko also gave immunity to Kuchma but ignored the part of the deal demanding that he stay out of politics and the media.

Putin also told oligarchs that they could keep what they have but they had to stay out of politics. Most of them abided by this deal; those that did not went into exile or were jailed. In Ukraine there was only one re-privatization and no deal with the oligarchs. In contrast to Russia, oligarchs and big businessmen flocked into the 2006 Ukrainian Parliament.

In Ukraine and in the diaspora there has not been a separation of business and politics but instead a tighter relationship between business and politics than that in the Kuchma era. In Ukraine this is seen by the influx of an even greater number of businessmen into Parliament in each

of the five factions. PRU oligarch Rynat Akhmetov sent many of his business managers from his Systems Capital Management companies into Parliament. The large number of businessmen in parliament do not desire to be in opposition to one another or to the government, as businessmen in Ukraine still believe that good relations with the authorities is essential for good business development. The larger number of businessmen in Parliament explains why OU and the PRU felt close enough to each other to hold coalition negotiations.

REFORMS

Ukraine's negative international image changed 180 degrees during the Orange Revolution. Much of this has been squandered since the implosion of the OC in September 2005. The positive international response for Ukraine having conducted a free and fair election in March has been overshadowed by months of failed coalition negotiations between Orange Revolution partners.

What we have now is creeping Ukraine fatigue among the friends of the Orange Revolution in the West who always wanted to see Yushchenko succeed. The summer 2006 crisis, and return of Yanukovich to government, is a crisis of President Yushchenko's own making. It did not have to be like this.

The biggest disappointment will come domestically. Throughout 2005 Ukrainians felt increasingly disappointed by developments inside Ukraine (see the International Foundation for Electoral Systems survey at <http://www.ifes.org/publications-detail.html?id=270>). Most of the Ukrainians who went on the streets during the Orange Revolution did so because they believed Yushchenko and his team were different from Kuchma-era politicians who were only interested in personal gain. This view has been shattered and we are in danger of a return to the cynicism and apathy of the Kuchma era among Ukrainian citizens.

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EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

If by "Europe," we mean domestic standards of democracy, the rule of law, human and minority rights, and free markets, then there is a definite future for Ukraine in Europe, and the steps that Ukraine must take have been known for more than a decade. Two years ago the Ukrainian government

The major disappointment in the past year and half is the poor leadership displayed by the "Orangists," beginning with Yushchenko.

was censoring the broadcast media, intimidating businesses and political opponents, and gearing up for a fraudulent campaign. Tremendous progress has been made on these fronts, especially when compared to the stifling of political contestation in Russia. Yet, as long as the Ukrainian political leadership remains incapable of moving forward with a coherent reform program based on a strong consensus, Ukraine will not be taken very seriously in Brussels.

The Coalition of National Unity, between the Party of the Regions and

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Rights activist...

(Continued from page 1)

without fear of persecution.

Soviet authorities responded to their activities with brutality, sending dozens to hard labor camps and prisons, where some even perished, among them writer Vasyl Stus.

Without Ms. Svitlychna's contributions, Ukrainians would not have seen manuscripts from Soviet dissidents imprisoned in Siberia and Magadan, President Yushchenko noted. In her literary and editorial work, she also offered a better understanding of the writings of Mr. Stus, he said.

The conditions of the time demanded large sacrifices, Mr. Yushchenko continued, and Ms. Svitlychna's life was a good example of how, in your own way and in different times, it's possible to serve Ukraine.

"I am convinced that her position, her views, the way she lived her life and passed along values to the next generation, has left footsteps to follow for millions of contemporary Ukrainian patriots," Mr. Yushchenko said.

"She did not live in vain. I am convinced that she is happy today because the values with which she lived all her life are the values of millions of people today," he said.

Shevchenko Prize laureate Lina Kostenko delivered the final eulogy, in which she described the Shestydesiatnyky as a crystal for Ukrainian history, who loved their country infinitely. Among them, Ms. Svitlychna was an immortal angel who was a Shestydesiatnyk to the very end, she said.

Ms. Kostenko recalled an incident with Ms. Svitlychna in which they together stood at Gen. Petro

Grigorenko's grave at South Bound Brook, N.J.

Someone came along with a camera and, rather than photographing them, snapped their reflections in his gravestone.

"I recalled the Bible verse that life is a passing of shadows," Ms. Kostenko said. "I hope that no one goes through this. But we need to face up to this. We need to love those who gave us our presence."

In the vicinity of Ms. Svitlychna's grave are many Shestydesiatnyky, Ms. Kostenko pointed out.

After the eulogies, President Yushchenko joined the mourners in the tradition of singing "Vichnaya Pamiat" (Eternal Memory) chants before Ms. Svitlychna's coffin was lowered into the grave.

Along with other mourners, which included former Soviet political prisoners Mykola Horbal and Bohdan Horyn, Mr. Yushchenko picked up a handful of soil and tossed it to bid farewell.

Amidst the eulogies, Mr. Sverstiuk read a prayer that Ms. Svitlychna had written:

God, allow me to greet
with spiritual calm
whatever this day brings me.
Allow me to completely surrender
to Your holy will.

Whatever news I get today,
teach me to accept it
with a calm spirit
and firm conviction
that everything is Your holy will.

In all Your actions and words,
guide my thoughts and feelings.
In all unforeseen situations,
don't let me forget



Renowned Ukrainian poet Lina Kostenko delivers a eulogy at Nadia Svitlychna's August 17 funeral in Kyiv. Next to her is Shestydesiatnyk Yevhen Sverstiuk.

that You sent everything.

Teach me to deal with all people
simply and wisely,
offending or aggrieving no one.

God, give me the strength
to bear all the events on this day.
Guiding me with Your will,
teach me to pray, believe, hope,
endure, forgive and love.

Ukraine as...

(Continued from page 3)

Soviet rules governing the Ukrainian body politic where mirrors distort what little truth is left. It is a wise proverb and should not be laughed at.

For this reason, my conclusions are as follows:

- The creation of a new government led by Mr. Yanukovych is not a tragedy or a sufficiently good enough reason to drown oneself. It will probably be more competent than the two previous Orange ones. It should be given a chance and be accepted by the Ukrainian diaspora.
- Anarchy is not the terrible curse it is

made out to be as recent Ukrainian GDP growth shows and should be given a fair hearing in the Ukrainian Parliament and in the media. If the Yanukovych team fails, then I would personally vote for permanently disbanding all forms of government in Ukraine.

- Eastern Ukrainians are not agents of Moscow and western Ukrainians are not agents of Washington. They are simply two sides of the same coin and, if left to themselves, will resolve their differences in their own peculiar manner. Western NGOs and Russian political technologists, therefore, should pack up, leave Ukraine and go to Baghdad or Grozny, where they can play a much greater and needed role.

59th annual...

(Continued from page 5)

given by Protopresbyter George Hnatko, Father Deacon Joseph Kreta and Zachary Ugolnik.

Following Great Vespers that evening, more than 250 UOL members and guests gathered for the banquet and ball. Ms. Nakonachny, the senior UOL president, presented Metropolitan Constantine with the Metro J. Baran Award for outstanding work with the youth of the diocese, Archbishop Antony with the Distinguished National Service Award for a lifetime of dedication to the league, Edward Zetick of St. Vladimir Cathedral in Philadelphia with the Father Hallick-Holutiak Senior Recognition Award, and the Senior UOL Chapter of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Northampton, Pa., with the Chapter of the Year Award.

Following the banquet everyone enjoyed dancing to the music of the famed Ukrainian band Fata Morgana. As is customary, the convention concluded with a Sunday hierarchal divine liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony, the Rev. Ugolnik and many visiting clergy. The liturgy concluded with the induction of newly elected Senior and Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League national executive boards.

As everyone said their good-byes, talk was heard of plans already being made to attend the 60th annual UOL convention which will be held July 26-29, 2007, at St. Peter and Paul Parish in Carnegie, Pa.

The Senior and Junior Ukrainian Orthodox Leagues Chapters of Holy Ghost Parish in Coatesville, Pa., were commended for their hard work and dedication to making this convention a tremendous success, working tirelessly for three years to ensure that their guests enjoyed themselves during the convention.

UKRAINIAN SPORTS FEDERATION OF U.S.A. AND CANADA AND KLK

UKRAINIAN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS of USA and CANADA LABOR DAY, 2006

Dates: September 2-4, 2006.

Place: Soyuzivka, UNA Resort, Kerhonkson, NY

Starting Times: Play will start Sat., Sept. 2 at 8:30 a.m. For individual starting times contact tournament committee at Soyuzivka after 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 1.

Rules: All USTA and USCAK rules for tournament play will apply. Participants must be Ukrainian by birth, heritage or marriage. Play will be in singles only. Players should enter only one playing group. However, players wishing to play in second group should indicate so on the entry form but designate first choice group. Play in two groups will be determined by the tournament committee.

Awards: Trophies, funded by the Ukrainian National Association, will be awarded to winners and finalists in each playing group. Financial stipends, funded by Winner Ford Group, Mr. John Hynansky, owner, will be awarded to winners and finalists of men's women's and junior groups.

Host Club: KLK, Ukrainian American Sports Club.

Entry: *Advanced registration is required for singles and must be received by August 29th. Send entry form along with \$20 fee made out to KLK to:*
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Additional information about the tournament will be available in the UNA's publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

Registration Form

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Club _____

Group:

Men _____ Men's 35 _____ Men's 45 _____ Men's 55 _____

Women _____ Sr. Women _____ Boys _____ Age _____

USCAK 2006 _____ Girls _____ Age _____

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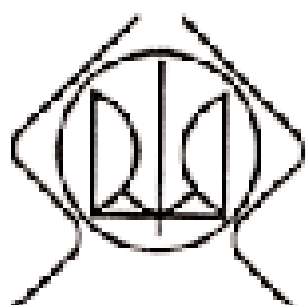
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Stefan Kaczaraj, President**



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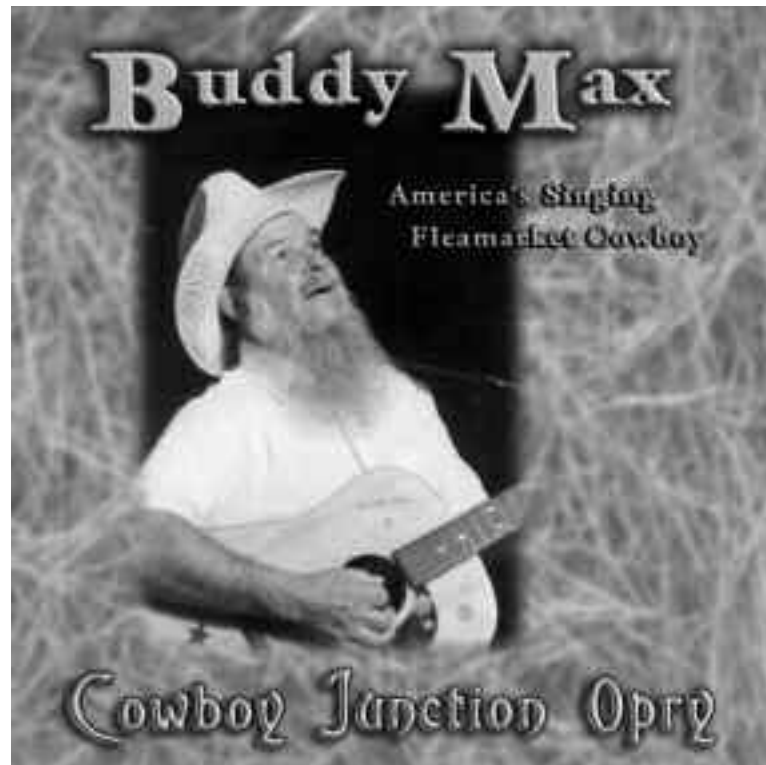
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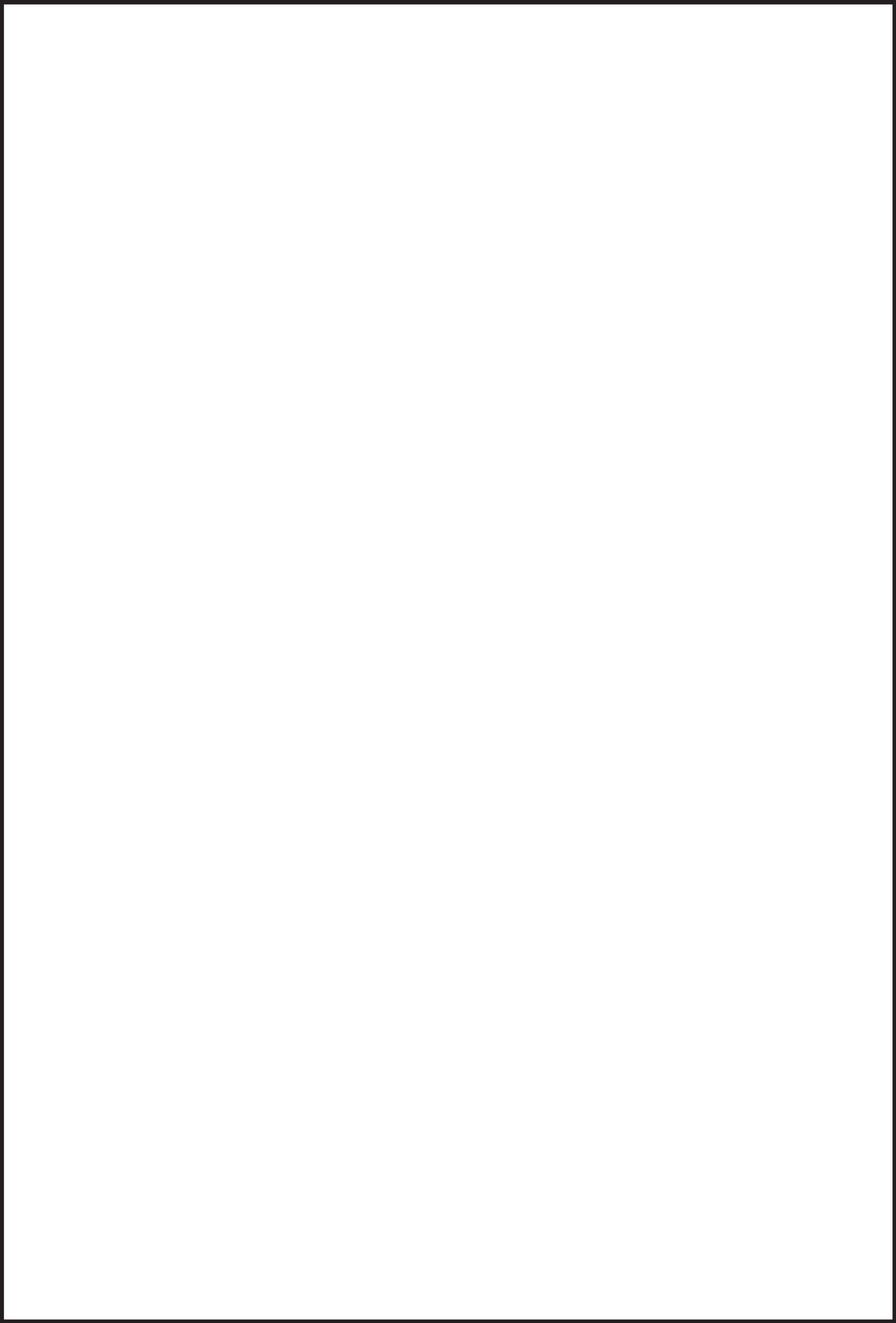
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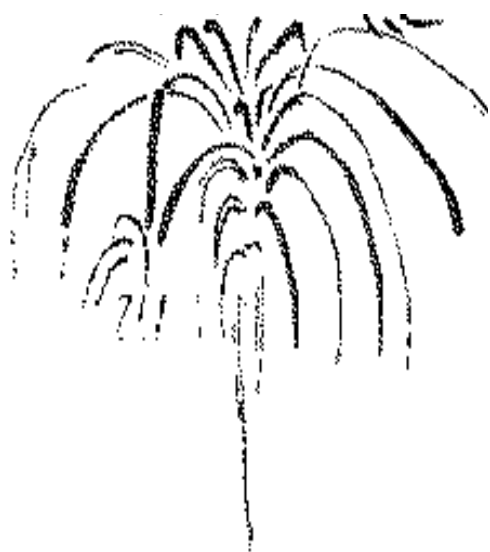
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A look back...

(Continued from page 8)

only state language (though language rights are guaranteed to all of Ukraine's minorities). Ukraine today is successfully being integrated into international and

European structures, and it finally has a new Constitution to boot. ...

August 19, 2001
Ukraine lives!

Ten years ago we witnessed an event that many of us had dreamed about for

decades: the rebirth of an independent Ukrainian state. When we think back to August 24, 1991, and the period immediately after this historic day, we recall the great joy within our community in this country and throughout the entire Ukrainian diaspora. The seemingly impossible had come to pass. Ukraine was free! And, caught up in the emotion of the moment, many naively thought it would all be smooth sailing ahead. ...

Now it is 10 years later – a decade has passed in a flash. During that time Ukraine has made great strides in nation- and state-building. We need only recall several free elections, the peaceful transfer of power from independent Ukraine's first president to its second, the adoption of a new Constitution of Ukraine, Ukraine's peaceful and good relations with all its neighbors, its growing presence in the international community of nations, Team Ukraine's participation in the Olympic Games and, of course, Pope John Paul II's momentous visit to Ukraine. There is no longer any doubt, as there was at several points during the fledgling state's first few years, that Ukraine will retain its independence.

But there are problem areas: corruption, abuse of power, a cynical and apathetic public that doesn't realize the power it wields, economic reform that

hasn't progressed as quickly as had been hoped, and the replacement of Ukraine's once thoroughly pro-Western stance with a so-called multi-vectored foreign policy. Are these the growing pains of a young state, or something more deleterious and sinister? Time will tell, but so will the actions of both the leaders and the people of Ukraine. It is our fervent hope that these problems will be overcome – not simply be overlooked – for that will guarantee Ukraine's further development as a democratic state. ...

We should celebrate on this August 24 because we have been blessed with the chance to witness the proclamation and development of Ukraine's independence. We should celebrate Ukraine's independence because, though it seemed to happen overnight, this independence was the fruit of decades of dreams and work – in countless cases, of extreme sacrifice. As well, we should celebrate the fact that many of us, like our forebears, have been able to contribute to Ukraine's rebirth, albeit in different ways.

Thus, as we mark the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence Day, we should recall the decades of hope and struggle from which it was born. And we should ponder how fortunate we are to be able to declare two very simple, yet eloquent, words: Ukraine lives!

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee extend greetings to all its supporters and to all Ukrainians around the globe on the occasion of the

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We send our best wishes to the Ukrainian nation and trust that God will lend them strength and wisdom during this difficult time of consolidating our nation for the betterment of Ukraine.



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The word independence has a special meaning for Ukrainians around the world. Throughout history, they resisted occupation, survived genocides and unjust imprisonment, and yet the nation persevered.

The struggle for an independent state in the ranks of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists during and after World War II left a historical legacy that formed the basis for the dissolution of the world's worst totalitarian state, the Soviet Russian Empire.

Fifteen years ago, the Ukrainian people, in a national referendum, wholeheartedly embraced Ukraine's declaration of independence. It brought about an end to the Cold War and ushered in a new "springtime of nations."

Ukrainian statehood has gone through a number of trials and tribulations since independence. Most recently, the Maidan has come to symbolize the spirit of resistance when millions stood their ground in defense of their liberties and expressed their national solidarity for free and fair elections.

The Ukrainian leadership should embrace this spirit and recognize the will of the people. They should reaffirm their commitment to hallowing the memory of the millions of Ukrainians that lost their lives in the struggle to reestablish Ukrainian statehood.

The Diaspora will continue to build bridges of understanding between our host countries and our homeland. At the same time, the Ukrainian government needs to inculcate a culture of professionalism, transparency and openness in government. Today, Euro-Atlantic integration and NATO membership are possibilities for Ukraine that must be pursued and realized.

The Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine extends its sincere congratulations to the Ukrainian people on their 15th year of independence. We continue to believe in the independent spirit of the Ukrainian people. On this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to helping Ukraine develop a bright and prosperous future!

God Bless Ukraine! "Slava Ukraini!"

Michael Koziupa – President ODFFU
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Mikhail Fradkov and his new Ukrainian counterpart, Viktor Yanukovich, met in Sochi on August 16 to take stock of bilateral relations for the first time following the recent change of government in Ukraine, RIA Novosti reported. Mr. Yanukovich said that “we have to eliminate disproportion in the relations between Russia and Ukraine,” adding that both countries should “maintain and intensify intergovernmental contacts aimed at establishing a common economic space.” For his part, Mr. Fradkov expressed satisfaction regarding Mr. Yanukovich's intention to make relations with Russia a foreign-policy priority. “Our governments have many objectives to accomplish: to increase trade turnover, coordinate efforts to join the [World Trade Organization] WTO, establish market relations in the energy sector, and develop cooperation in aerospace industry,” Mr. Fradkov said. The Eurasian Economic Community consists of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with Armenia and Ukraine as observers. The summit's agenda is expected to center on energy and water issues, the formation of a customs union, issues related to the WTO, and strengthening the CIS Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and Uzbekistan's relations with it, the daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta reported on August 16. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... and reach agreement on gas prices

SOCHI, Russia – Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said in Sochi on August 16 that Ukrainian and Russian delegations have agreed on “price parameters” for Ukraine's gas purchases from Russia through the end of 2007, Interfax reported. He added that the price, which will be announced at an unspecified later date, “will be market-based, but the price mechanism will be transparent and reflect the level of economic relations between Ukraine and Russia.” Elsewhere, Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed the importance of coordinating plans for the formation of a customs union for members of the Eurasian Economic Community with plans to join the WTO, Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Crimean Tatars scuffle with market traders

BAKHCHYSARAI, Ukraine – Some 300 Tatars got involved in a brawl with a

similar number of vendors at an outdoor market in Bakhchysarai in Crimea on August 12, Ukrainian media reported. Both sides reportedly used stones, batons and smoke candles in the fight, which led to several dozen injuries. A special police unit fired several shots in the air to break up the scuffle. Crimean Tatars demand that the market be closed since it is located at the site of a former Muslim burial ground. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Blast at coal mine kills six

KRASNODON, Ukraine – An explosion at the Sukhodil'ska-Skhidna coal mine in Krasnodon, Luhansk Oblast, on August 13 killed six miners and injured seven, Ukrainian media reported. Local authorities have opened an investigation into the accident. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yanukovich backs down on federalism...

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich suggested at a news conference in Kyiv on August 10 that his Party of the Regions, which in 2004 called for federalization of Ukraine, may abandon this stance in favor of expanding the prerogatives of local self-governments, Ukrainian media reported. “The question of a federal system for our country arose on an emotional basis at the time of the elections in 2004,” Mr. Yanukovich said. “It was an answer to that part of the population that felt itself at some level to be either cheated or placed in discriminatory circumstances. That was a natural reaction. We, as politicians, were reacting to the wishes of our electorate. We did not put this question categorically. We invited society into a discussion. Today, at this point, the issue of reforming local rule is one that requires reform. ... We should be taking steps to decentralize power and come to such a level where we will all feel that that local power will be strong enough to carry out governmental powers,” he said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... speaks for promotion of Ukrainian

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich told a news conference in Kyiv on August 10 that “the language problem has been created artificially by politicians,” thus echoing the opinion often voiced by President Viktor Yushchenko, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Yanukovich noted that “forcible Ukrainianization” produces “opposite results,” but he simultaneously stressed

belong to the quota of the Communist Party, which brings 21 votes to the coalition. But Mr. Melnyk is known for his anti-Communist views and pronouncements. Some Ukrainian media suggest that the Communists exchanged their Cabinet portfolios for an undisclosed sum, which was paid by some unidentified sponsors.

On the whole, Mr. Yanukovich's Cabinet seems to be more carefully assorted in terms of professionalism than those of Mr. Yekhanurov and Ms. Tymoshenko. But it is too early to predict whether the new government will become an immediate success or can contribute something substantial to bridging the east-west divide in the country, as some commentators expect. In actual fact, neither the 2004 Orange Revolution nor the 2006 parliamentary elections have brought any significant changing of the guard in Ukrainian politics. Instead, it is the country's voters who seem to have undergone an important transformation. They are now more politically active and more inclined to judge their political leaders by deeds rather than pledges. And if the trend of Ukrainian voters keeping a watchful eye on their government continues, their chances of seeing a change in their political elite might improve.

the need for implementing a program of support for the Ukrainian language in Russian-speaking regions. “Today, the Ukrainian language needs to grow and those Russian-speaking regions need a program of Ukrainian-language development,” Mr. Yanukovich said. “And, of course, we should not discriminate against the Russian language,” he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine posts 11.4 % growth in July

KYIV – Ukraine's industrial output grew by 11.4 percent year-on-year in July and 4.8 percent year-on-year in January-July 2006, Interfax-Ukraine reported on August 9, citing the State Statistics Committee. In 2005, Ukraine's industrial growth slowed down to 3.1 percent, compared to 12.5 percent in 2004. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Putin congratulates Ukraine's leaders

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin telephoned his Ukrainian counterpart, Viktor Yushchenko, on August 7 to congratulate him for ending the political stalemate in Ukraine by naming Viktor Yanukovich, leader of the pro-Moscow Party of the Regions, to head Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, Interfax reported. Mr.

Putin subsequently phoned Mr. Yanukovich to congratulate him on his election. Both Messrs. Putin and Yanukovich said that they want to start “detailed discussions on Russian-Ukrainian issues” soon. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv ready for dialogue with Miensk

KYIV – Ukrainian First Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mykola Azarov declared to Belarusian Ambassador to Ukraine Valyantsin Vyalichka on August 15 that Kyiv is ready for “constructive political dialogue” with Miensk, Belapan and UNIAN reported. Mr. Azarov stressed that a key priority for Ukraine is to increase economic cooperation with Belarus and boost bilateral trade, which he said is expected to total more than \$2 million this year. Mr. Azarov also emphasized the need to sign a bilateral agreement to ease border crossing formalities for employees of the closed Chernobyl nuclear plant residing in the town of Slavutych. Employees have to travel through Belarus to get to work as the road linking Slavutych with Chernobyl, as well as the rail route between them, run through Belarus's Homiel Oblast. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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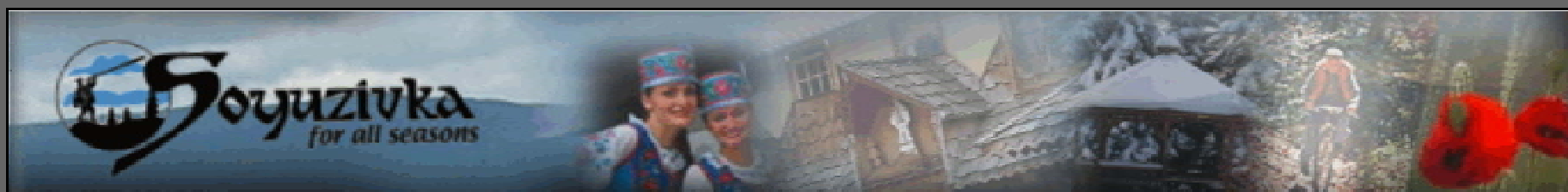
(Continued from page 2)

hesitancy over whom it likes more – Ms. Tymoshenko or Mr. Yanukovich.

Our Ukraine supported Mr. Yanukovich for prime minister on August 4 only half-heartedly: just 30 of the party's 80 lawmakers voted in Mr. Yanukovich's favor. It appears that the cohabitation of Our Ukraine with the Party of the Regions in the ruling coalition – irrespective of whether it will be formalized or not – will not be easy. There seems to be a pervading mood of frustration and political failure among a majority of Our Ukraine leaders and rank-and-file activists.

The Socialist Party is represented in the new Cabinet by Education Minister Stanislav Nikolayenko and Transport Minister Mykola Rudkovskiyi. While Mr. Nikolayenko is seen as a good specialist in education and his reappointment was to be expected, Mr. Rudkovskiyi's main contribution to Ukraine's transportation system seems to lie in his fondness for driving expensive cars and wearing smart suits.

The political affiliation of Agroindustrial Complex Minister Yurii Melnyk and Industrial Policy Minister Anatolii Holovko is not clear. Theoretically, they should



Labor Day Weekend

August 31-September 4, 2006

Thursday 8/31/06

‘THURSDAY NIGHT LIGHTS’- Volleyball Tournament under the stars.
Triples for ages over 30. Entertainment featuring the Soyuzivka House Band at the Tiki Bar, 8 pm.

Friday 9/1/06

- ODESSA SURF & TURF DINNER— 6 pm, on Veselka Patio, \$30++ per person featuring music by Ukrainian band VIDLUNNIA
- ‘FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS’-Open Volleyball Tournament with prizes, 8 pm
- Ukrainian rock band KLOOCH performs at the Tiki Bar, 10 pm
- Night Swim, 8 pm-midnight
- BBQ, 10 pm-midnight

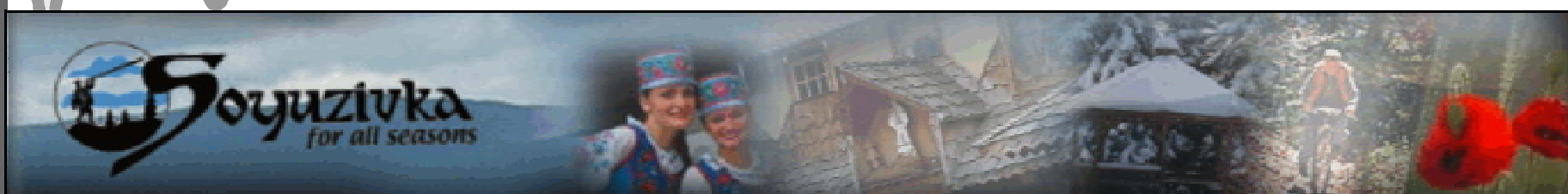
Saturday 9/2/06

- Pig Roast & BBQ
- USCAK Swimming Tournament
- USCAK Tennis Tournament (all weekend)
- Entertainment featuring Ukrainian band HRIM on Veselka Patio, 12 pm
- Dinner in Main House Dining Room, 6-8 pm
- Dance performance featuring YAVIR DANCE ENSEMBLE from Toronto in Veselka Hall, 8 pm
- ZABAVAS featuring two Ukrainian bands ZAHRAVA on Veselka Patio & LUNA in the Veselka Hall

Sunday 9/3/06

- BBQ
- Dance performance featuring YAVIR DANCE ENSEMBLE from Toronto on Veselka Patio at 1pm
- Tiki Bar Entertainment at 3 pm
- ZABAVA featuring Ukrainian band ZAHRAVA in the Veselka Hall, 10 pm
- Sunday Night on Veselka Patio “XAOC”

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Scholars comment...

(Continued from page 10)

Our Ukraine, could actually be a step in the right direction — even though most of the Orange electorate does not see it that way — as no meaningful integration into Europe can take place without the support of Eastern elites. If by “Europe,” we mean joining NATO, then I don’t think Ukraine has a future, and I am not sure it should have one, since the majority of the population, going well beyond an east-west divide, is against it.

In the Universal of National Unity Yushchenko had to accede to Yanukovich’s demand that any accession to NATO would have to be approved by referendum. Since it is how other former Communist states joined the military alliance a few years ago, I don’t quite understand how Orange politicians can argue that you can dispense with a popular consultation on this fundamental question.

NATIONAL IDENTITY

Language is critical because it is linked to identities that seek political recognition. We all know that, outside of western Ukraine, Russian is the socially dominant language in urban areas. In that sense, Ukrainian is effectively a language with a minority status, even though two-thirds of the population claims it as a “native language.” Language politics is about creating incentives to speak another language. Russian-speakers will only have an incentive to use Ukrainian if central institutions of the state function in Ukrainian only. Elites from eastern Ukraine have twice agreed to this core principle: in the 1996 Constitution, following an all-night parliamentary session, and in the universal signed in early August, after marathon talks that lasted nearly a week.

The question is whether Russian-speak-

ing citizens can receive the assurance that they can continue using Russian in public in day-to-day with representatives of the state. This is the meaning of these demands in the southeast for having Russian recognized as a “regional” language based on the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages. Yushchenko had to concede the latter point in the universal. What this means is that the internal language of the state is Ukrainian, but that citizens — citizens, not civil servants — can choose the language they wish to use in official interactions. A strong national identity is based on confidence, not on whether a single language can be used socially, which in Ukraine cannot happen.

PARLIAMENT

After four months of paralysis, Yanukovich became prime minister in a coalition with Our Ukraine and the Socialists. Since the Orange Revolution, it was not healthy to have a government that was in effect excluding the geographical half of the country from power. The major disappointment in the past year and a half is the poor leadership displayed by the “Orangists,” beginning with Yushchenko. But we have to remember the Orange Revolution was about a process — making Ukraine adhere to the “European” standards mentioned above — and not about specific policies. The March elections were fair and free and the media is open.

The Our Ukraine leadership wasted two months before agreeing to the inevitable, i.e. having Tymoshenko as PM since she soundly defeated Our Ukraine in “Orange Country” in March, and then, at the last minute, it wanted to recreate the Poroshenko-Tymoshenko rivalry which proved so disastrous the first time around. Engaging in the character assassination of Moroz, like the Ukrainian media has been prone to do, does not change the basic fact that forcing Petro Poroshenko as speaker

[Rada chairman] was the height of ineptitude. The fact that Moroz defected does not constitute some sort of “coup d’état.”

This is what coalition politics is all about. Parties join, parties leave. If Moroz’s electorate is not satisfied by his choice, there is only one way to find out: at the next elections. The president was certainly not empowered to make that determination in lieu of the electorate. Our Ukraine was thus forced into a coalition with the Regions, and that could turn out to be the best outcome for Ukraine. Tymoshenko, meanwhile, is playing the populist card of purity. She will lead a vigorous opposition in Parliament, which is also very healthy for an open political system.

PRESIDENCY

It is too early to pass judgment on the new arrangement of powers between the president and the PM, especially since it is an experiment in progress. The president controls the three power ministries — Foreign Affairs, Defense and Internal Affairs — and one should note that the inclusion of the Internal Ministry to the presidential jurisdiction was a last-minute concession by the Party of the Regions, as it did not figure in the 2004 constitutional amendments. The major structural problem in Ukrainian politics has been the uncertain delimitation of powers between the executive and legislative branches, which led to the de facto creation of parallel governments encroaching on each other in the Tymoshenko-Poroshenko interlude.

On August 4, after finally filling the quorum of judges in the Constitutional Court, Parliament forbade the court from revisiting the 2004 amendments. It goes without saying that this vote is of extremely dubious constitutional validity, but the experiment of shared presidential-parliamentary powers can hardly move forward if there remains uncertainty on whether the political compromise that led this

demarcation of powers in the first place could be overturned at any moment by the court. The real problem, which was not addressed by the 2004 amendments, are the undefined powers of the Prosecutor General, an office which has retained its Soviet practice of “reviewing” court decisions, which amounts to placing itself above the law. The office of the presidency is not in danger, since it is hard to foresee that a constitutional majority could ever be mustered for its termination.

REFORMS

There is little doubt that we all expected so much more from the Orange government. Yushchenko can’t seem to be able to make a decision when it is time to act, and the Yushchenko and Tymoshenko people don’t trust each other. You can’t have effective reforms in such an environment. Yet we have to put our disillusionment in perspective.

Ukrainian democracy is immature when compared to the West, and even Central Europe, but it still remains a far better alternative than the restoration of autocracy in Russia or the sorry spectacle of a provincial despot in Belarus. Or, for that matter — the “blackmail state” under Kuchma.

Yanukovich himself, even as a comeback prime minister, knows that he will be constrained in his actions — by the political opposition, the presidential administration, the media and international expectations — in ways that he couldn’t have imagined two years ago. That, in itself, is an accomplishment. Unlike Russia, no “vertikal” of authority can be recreated in Ukraine.

Elites from eastern and western Ukraine are forced to compromise, and they will now attempt to work together within a government. If this produces a political paralysis, the same way the Our Ukraine-Tymoshenko marriage produced a paralysis, then we should all become very worried. But I remain optimistic on that score.

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Ukrainian Americans...

(Continued from page 1)

the biggest was their relationship with Dr. Yuri Ivaniv, a cardiologist Mr. Kuzma met in the early days of UGoL.

"He provided the bridge across the ocean that we needed by donating his time, energy and God-given talents," Mr. Kuzma said in awarding Dr. Ivaniv UGoL's 10th Anniversary Heart and Spirit Award.

"From the moment I met him 10 years ago, one morning at 6 a.m., I was impressed with his vision, honesty and integrity. And he has never disappointed."

Among the U.S. surgeons he's worked with, Dr.



Kathy and George Kuzma, founders of Ukrainian Gift of Life, Inc.

Ivaniv has become known as an expert diagnostician in selecting the most needy children.

His professional diagnoses and fact presentations have enabled Ukrainian children to be more readily accepted as compared to patients from other countries, Mr. Kuzma said.

After several years of transporting children to the U.S. for surgery, UGoL's leadership recognized the need for Ukrainian medical institutions to handle heart surgeries themselves so that they're more self-sufficient in pediatric cardiology.

Dr. Ivaniv established training programs in Lviv, while UGoL launched fellowship exchange programs for doctors with Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York University Surgical Center, St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia and, primarily, The Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

Ukrainian surgeons undergo observational training in acute cases and case management to become familiar with modern equipment and leading-edge protocols. They also witness new methods of surgery and post-operative care, which they put to practice upon returning to Ukraine.

Of the 196 UGoL-sponsored child surgeries performed in Lviv since January 2000, 98 percent have survived, according to the organization.

Dr. Ivaniv established a surgical support program in which American sponsors pay for expensive consumables used during a specific child's surgery. The sponsor receives a photo and possible letter from the child, enabling a relationship to form.

UGoL also annually ships about \$500,000 in technological, diagnostic, surgical and other medical equipment and supplies.

For its 10th anniversary celebration, UGoL unveiled one of its biggest projects – refurbishment of the Lviv Surgical Center's Post-Operative Pediatric Cardiology Care Unit and Pediatric Ward.

The unit enables complex surgeries to be performed, particularly involving children age 2 and younger, which is the optimum time for heart surgery.

As a result of UGoL's support, surgeons at the Lviv Surgical Center performed Ukraine's first successful hypoplastic left heart syndrome surgery in April.

"About 15 years ago I had the feeling that our profession would die after we experience a serious economic collapse, when there was absolutely nothing to carry out ordinary operations, for example, because of appendicitis," Dr. Ivaniv said.

"If not for such organizations [as UGoL,] this profession wouldn't exist. It was necessary to renovate everything from the beginning," he added.

UGoL receives most of its financial support from outside the Ukrainian community. By Mr. Kuzma's estimates, Americans of non-Ukrainian descent have provided 80 percent of the financial support.

However, more than 900 Ukrainian Americans consistently make donations ranging between \$5 and \$5,000, he said.

Those donating their time welcome a mother and child at an airport, drive them to appointments or church services, and help translate during doctor appointments.

Contributions to UGoL can be sent to: Ukrainian Gift of Life, 233 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, or by visiting the website <http://www.ukrainiangiftoflife.com>.

United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc.

When Dr. Larissa Lozynskyj-Kyj took the reins at the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) in 1997, she decided it was time to focus its efforts on Ukrainians on the other side of the ocean.

"The mission has dramatically changed because the mission was supposed to help new arrivals," she said. "The UUARC helped relocate 70,000 Ukrainians from displaced persons camps in Western Europe."

This summer the UUARC distributed 560 wheelchairs throughout Ukraine, completing a project with the Danville, Calif.-based Wheelchair Foundation that enabled a total of 840 wheelchairs to reach disabled Ukrainians in the last year.

Shipped in three containers, the wheelchairs cost a total of \$126,000. Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union footed the bill for one shipment.

Ukrainian American individuals and organizations raised \$42,000 to buy high-quality wheelchairs. The Wheelchair Foundation matched every dollar, raising the total to \$84,000, or enough to pay for 560 wheelchairs.

Organizations contributing funds were the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, the SUMA Yonkers Federal Credit Union and the Ukrainian Institute of America.

Wheelchairs from the first container were distributed in June 2005 at a Kyiv nursing home during a ceremony in which First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko of Ukraine and Libby Pataki, the wife of the New York governor, took part.

The effort proved so successful that the Wheelchair Foundation decided to donate 280 wheelchairs at its own cost with the June shipment.

"We sent them back pictures, and we're getting along with them," Dr. Kyj said. "They liked the work of the first distribution, so they gave us an extra container."

On June 20 Dr. Lozynskyj-Kyj and UUARC staff visited the Vinnytsia Geriatric Nursing Home to see the wheelchairs in use and establish relations with administrators.

Prior to the arrival of the new wheelchairs, the nurs-



Vasyl Vyshnevskyi, 54, of Vinnytsia, thanked the Ukrainian American community and The Wheelchair Foundation for his new wheelchair.

ing home staff could only provide residents with wheelchairs that were nearly a decade old, said Liudmyla Tokar, a nurse-manager.

These required frequent repairs, and the handyman even had to switch and reuse parts and wheels to keep some wheelchairs working.

The disabled patients were happy and grateful to receive the new wheelchairs, said Ms. Tokar. They don't fall back and they have a plastic grip on the wheels that don't turn cold like the metal wheels do, the residents said.

"For people unable to walk, a new wheelchair is like a new pair of legs," said Lidiya Kukhta, 42. "These wheelchairs are very comfortable."

Of the wheelchair distributions in June, 56 went to institutions in the Vinnytsia Oblast, 12 to the Chernihiv Oblast, 40 to the Zhytomyr Oblast, 65 to the Luhansk Oblast, 65 to the Lviv Oblast, 55 to the Volyn Oblast, 55 to the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast and 55 to the Ternopil Oblast.

Any remaining wheelchairs were given to other individuals in need.

The Wheelchair Foundation has provided Ukrainians with more than 3,500 wheelchairs.

However, providing wheelchairs is just one of numerous charitable projects the UUARC is involved with in Ukraine.

The Dido and Babusia Project launched in 1997 distributes \$15 a month to 140 elderly Ukrainians in the Halychyna region, many of whom suffered political repressions during the Soviet era.

The UUARC also supports two cafeterias in Lviv that feed 50 hungry people a full lunch for five days a week.

Every month, the UUARC's aid commission reviews individual requests and distributes \$5,000 to those needing medical operations or assistance.

When addressing the Vinnytsia Geriatric Nursing Home's staff and residents, Dr. Lozynskyj-Kyj explained that it's the values instilled by her immigrant parents that motivate her and the UUARC to engage in charity.

"Ukraine is dear to us," Dr. Lozynskyj-Kyj said. "Our parents raised us to never forget about you."

Those interested in submitting a donation or request to the UUARC can write to: 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111 or visit the website at <http://www.uuarc.org>.

Ukraine Baseball

Call him the godfather of Ukrainian baseball.

Ever since Ukraine's independence, retired New York City math teacher and Major League Baseball talent scout Basil Tarasko has devoted his life to developing the sport in his ancestral homeland.

In June he completed his 42nd baseball mission trip to Ukraine, which had a particular focus on developing the nation's Little League that now consists of 10 organizations from Donetsk to Lviv.

For the first time in five years, Mr. Tarasko distributed new equipment, including 3,000 new baseballs, to Little Leaguers who would otherwise have no ability to acquire such things as bats, helmets, batting tees and catcher's gear.

"Everything you can imagine on a baseball field was somewhere here," Mr. Tarasko said of the 300 cartons of equipment that were shipped with the help of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund.

The U.S. State Department paid for all shipping costs.

Among those benefiting from donated equipment was the Ostroh Little League in the Rivne Oblast, which consists of four teams — one composed of deaf orphans.

With a \$5,000 grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, the 50 boys received 54 brand new uniforms, as well as all the necessary new equipment, said Mr. Tarasko, who is district administrator of Ukraine Little League.

During his baseball mission trip, Mr. Tarasko visited eastern Ukrainian orphanages in seven different cities, with each receiving its own set of baseball equipment, enough for four teams to play.

In all, nine new orphanages will field teams to play in Ukraine Little League's 2007 season.

Orphans are already active in Ukraine Little League. Boys from the Donetsk Orphans School No. 1 played an exhibition match during the June 3 national tournament in Kyiv.

The teams from orphanages typically don't win Ukraine's Little League tournaments, however Donetsk Orphan School One Coach Valentyna Lazarev said they learn valuable life skills along the way.

"It's a creative game," she said. "I haven't seen that in other sports. It's kind and doesn't have anger or aggressiveness. Afterwards, everyone is friendly, hugs, takes pictures and writes letters."

Baseball is also an intellectual sport that enables the boys to develop their mental and logical skills, she said.

Kirovohrad remains Ukraine's Little League powerhouse, with a well-organized player development program that begins in early youth and leads all the way to the professional level.

(Continued on page 25)

Toronto's Bloor West Village to host Ukrainian Festival

TORONTO – Visitors can experience the best of Ukrainian dance, art, music and hospitality on Bloor Street West, at Jane Street and Runnymede Road, in Toronto during the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival on Friday, August 25, through Sunday, August 27.

This year, to mark its 10th anniversary, the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival will extend two more blocks eastward to Glendonwynne Road.

The excitement begins Friday, August 25 as Bloor Street West is transformed into a lively pedestrian zone beginning at 6 p.m. The festival's Main Stage at Jane Street – sponsored in part by Stagevision – and the Windermere Avenue Youth Stage – co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and Buduchnist Credit Union – will showcase dance and music acts from across Canada, the United States and Ukraine.

The Friday night feature event will be a CD launch and stage performance by the vocal ensemble Pid Oblachkom, sponsored by Caravan Logistics Inc. The Friday night zabava (dance) will take place at the Main Stage and at the Windermere Stage.

In addition, visitors to the Children's Midway will find fun, rides and games and can sample tasty Ukrainian fare in the food and beverage gardens.

On Saturday morning visitors can come down early to visit the many vendor kiosks and information booths and soak up the rich culture and heritage of the Ukrainian community. This year there will also be a literary corner featuring contributing authors of the anthology "Kobzar's Children: A Century of Untold Ukrainian Stories," edited by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch.

At 11 a.m. Saturday the traditional parade kicks off at High Park and travels west along Bloor Street West to Jane Street. This year's festival marshal is Sen. Raynell Andreychuk. She, as well as marshalls from the past 10 years, will lead the many colorful bands, dance troupes and floats through Bloor West Village.

Music and dance performances continue all day Saturday and Sunday on both festival stages, featuring the electrifying and often gravity-defying moves of some of North America's finest Ukrainian dance ensembles, as well as vocal and instrumental acts.

As day turns to night, cabaret performances continue on the main stage and include feature performers Chornomor, true Kozaks in full regalia direct from Odesa, Ukraine.

Visitors will be able to try Ukrainian steps, kicks and twirls at the "Teach Me to Dance" sessions on the Windermere Youth Stage. Then, they can fuel up with varenyky and kovbasa at the food and beverage gardens and dance the night away at the Saturday zabava.

Performers, kiosks and attractions will continue to entertain crowds from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Visitors are advised to keep their cameras handy as this year's festival features a photo contest for visitors with great prizes (visit the website www.ukrainianfestival.com for details on submitting entries.)

Since its inception in 1997, the annual Ukrainian Festival in Bloor West Village has grown to include visitors of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Over 400,000 people from across North America and Europe visited the 2005 Ukrainian Festival.

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Camp presents its finale concert at Soyuzivka



KERHONKSON, N.Y. – On Saturday, August 5, the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Camp (Session 1) presented its annual finale concert at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka estate. The program included traditional Ukrainian folk dances and a fairy tale told via dance, "The Six Dancing Daughters." Pictured above, in a scene from the tale, are soloists Orlando Pagan as Kozak Ostap and his daughters, played by Anna Chelak, Larissa Calka, Dianna Dekajlo, Juliana Pederson, Katya Syzonenko and Dianna Shmerykowsky. The concert will be restaged at the finale of the second dance camp on Saturday, August 29, at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to come and enjoy this unique program and celebrate the spirit of Ukrainian dance at Soyuzivka.

Ukrainian Americans...

(Continued from page 24)

For the first time in four years, Ukraine sent a team to Kutno, Poland, in August to play in the Little League European championships.

They were able to afford the cost of traveling to Poland thanks to financial support provided by the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and the Cherry Tavern and Veselka restaurants in Manhattan's East Village, Mr. Tarasko said.

The boys from Kirovohrad defeated the Lithuanian team, but lost to the Germans and Moldovans. The Russian Federation's team went on to represent the European, Middle East and Africa region in the World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

However, American Peace Corps volunteers who umpired the national tournament in Kyiv said they were surprisingly impressed with the level of play in a country where baseball is virtually a non-existent sport.

"Ukrainians love competing," said Patrick Walsh, 23, a native of Washington, D.C., and Peace Corps volunteer. "But in the States, I wouldn't be hugging the other guy or taking pictures with them. By nature, we're different."

Baseball in Ukraine is set for future growth, as Mr. Tarasko has established a new relationship with the U.S. Peace Corps' Youth Development Program in Ukraine.

Starting in 2005, American Peace Corps volunteers began umpiring and participating in games, launching Little League organizations in their communities and establishing links with American towns to transfer much-needed baseball equipment to Ukraine.

Ukraine's Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports supports the program as a means of reducing the growing socio-economic gap between large cities and small towns and

villages, said Anatolii Sakhno, the lead specialist for the Youth Development program.

The boys of Donetsk Orphans School No. 1 want to invite American orphans to visit their city and play baseball with them, Ms. Lazarev said.

Anyone interested can contact Iryna Podzorova, director of the Donetsk Oblast Youth Sports School For Orphans, at the e-mail address school@telenet.dn.ua, or by writing to her at 83014 Donetsk, Prospekt Dzerzhynskoho 16.

Anyone interested in contacting Mr. Tarasko can reach him at the e-mail address bt4ukraine@aol.com.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

Would you like fellow Ukrainians to know about events in your community?
Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents?
Then what are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions
from local community activists.

You may reach The Weekly by phone, (973) 292-9800;
fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com;
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Key individuals working on the film “Vladyka Andrey” are (from left): Oksana Hayova, lead consultant to the film; Bishop Hlib Lonchyna of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church; film director Oles Yanchuk; and screenwriter Mykhailo Shaevych.

Yanchuk continues...

(Continued from page 5)

a film titled “Assassination” in hand, he met with then-UCCA President Askold Lozynskyj to discuss financing.

The UCCA’s Executive Board subsequently agreed to become producer of the film, the story of the murder of Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists leader Stepan Bandera, and the rest, as they say, is history. Mr. Yanchuk and the UCCA have co-produced two films: the a fore-mentioned “Assassination: An Autumn Murder in Munich” (1995) and “The Undefeated” (2000), a biopic of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) Commander-in-Chief Roman Shukhevych. “Vladyka Andrey” will be their third joint

production.

Mr. Yanchuk was born in 1956 in Kyiv and graduated from the Kyiv State Institute for Theater Arts. His other films include “Taking Off” (1989) and “The Company of Heroes” (2004), a Ukrainian-Australian feature film based on the recollections of Yuri Borec, an UPA veteran who survived a joint Soviet-Polish deportation campaign in western Ukraine.

“Film is a lyrical depiction of life,” Mr. Yanchuk has said of his work. “And life is not scripted.”

For more information about “Vladyka Andrey” or Mr. Yanchuk’s other films, contact the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, 212-228-6840.

OUT AND ABOUT

- August 23-25
Chicago

Film festival in three parts, "And the Ship Sails On: Ukrainian Cinema Today," Gallery 37 Rooftop, 312-744-2172 or 312-742-8497
- August 24
Bolton, ON

Ukrainian Independence Golf Tournament, Clublink's Caledon Woods Golf Course, 416-322-9902 or 905-338-5885 or 416-933-6908
- August 24
Oakville, ON

St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Independence Day celebration St. Volodymyr Cultural Center, 416-323-4772
- August 24
Jenkintown, PA

Independence Day concert, sponsored by the Philadelphia Ukrainian Community Committee and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166
- August 24
Scranton, PA

Ukrainian Independence Day ceremony, Court House Square, luncheon at Radisson Hotel, sponsored by Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, pavloosh@adelphia.net
- August 24
Sacramento, CA

Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, State Capitol Building, 916-482-4706 or 916-726-5205
- August 24-27
Warren, MI

Ukrainian Sunflower Festival and Orange Gala, The Ukrainian Cultural Center, 586-582-9057
- August 25
Regina, SK

Ukrainian Canadian Professional Business Association Golf Tournament, Avonlea, 306-791-7666
- August 25-27
Toronto

Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival, 416-410-9965
- August 26
Saskatoon, SK

Ukraine Day in the Park, Kiwanis Park, 306-374-7675
- August 26
Sacramento, CA

Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian Heritage Club of Northern California, 916-482-4706 or 916-649-2122
- August 26- Sept. 30
Upper Montclair, NJ

"New Wings" art exhibit by Valeriy Skrypka, JKK Fine Arts, Gallery of European Arts, 973-744-0111
- August 27
Edmonton, AB

Ukrainian Music Festival, featuring local Ukrainian folk musicians, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, 780-662-3855 ext. 1104
- August 27
Parma, OH

Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, St. Mary Protectress Parish hall, 216-524-6870
- August 27
San Francisco, CA

Ukrainian Day, Golden Gate Park, 650-363-1476
- August 28
Silver Spring, MD

Ukrainian Independence Day picnic, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-384-9192
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 1
Fox Chase Manor, PA

Sisters of St. Basil 75th annual pilgrimage, Basilian Spirituality Center, 215-379-3998
- Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

Through August 28, 2006

Every Monday: Steak Night with music by Soyuzivka's House Band

Through August 30, 2006

Every Wednesday: Hutsul Night with music by Soyuzivka's House Band

Through September 1, 2006

Every Friday: Odesa Seafood Night with music by Soyuzivka's House Band

August 26, 2006

Zabava with Vidlunnia
Christening luncheon

September 1-3, 2006

Labor Day Weekend

September 1, Zahrava band performs
at Tiki Bar, 10 p.m.

September 2, Afternoon performance
by Hrim band; performance by
Yavir School of Ukrainian Dance,
8 p.m.; zabavas with Luna and
Zahrava, 10 p.m.

September 3, performance by Yavir
School of Ukrainian Dance, 1 p.m.;
zabava with band Zahrava, 10 p.m.

September 9, 2006

Wedding

September 11-14, 2006

Regensburg and Berchtesgaden
Reunion

September 12-15, 2006

Landshut Reunion

September 15-17, 2006

UNA General Assembly Meeting

September 16-18, 2006

Mittenwald Reunion

September 23, 2006

Wedding

September 29-30, 2006

Plast Sorority "Spartanky" Annual
Meeting

September 29-October 1, 2006

KLK Weekend, General Meeting
and Banquet

September 30-October 1, 2006

Grace Church Women's Retreat

October 7, 2006

Wedding

October 8, 2006

90th Birthday Party

October 13-15, 2006

Plast Sorority "Ti Scho Hrebli Rvut"
Annual Meeting and
80th Anniversary
UNA Secretarial Courses

October 14, 2006

Road Rally

October 15, 2006

Christening luncheon

October 21, 2006

Wedding

October 27-29, 2006

Halloween Weekend with children's
costume parade, haunted house,
costume zabava and more

November 3-5, 2006

Grace Church Couples Retreat

November 4, 2006

Wedding

November 10-12, 2006

Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization
Orlykiada

November 22-26, 2006

Family Reunion

November 24, 2006

Thanksgiving Feast

To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
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Kerhonkson, NY 12446
E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

ATTENTION PARENTS!

St. Andrew's Ukrainian School in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, announces the upcoming registration of students in grades 1 through 12, kindergarten and pre-school, for the 2006-2007 school year. Our School is a new member of the Ukrainian Educational Council-U.C.C.A. (*Shkilna Rada*).

The school year begins on September 9, 2006, with a prayer service at 8:45 a.m. in the Church Consistory, while registration and commencement of the school day will be at 9:00 a.m. After every school day, children are encouraged to stay for meetings of PLAST-Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Interested parents are asked to contact:

Roman Hirniak, Director
Telephone (908) 625-3714
e-mail: mazepa@verizon.net

PROVIDE YOUR CHILDREN WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, September 1-3

SAN DIEGO, Calif.: The 31st annual Ukrainian Festival begins on Friday with a welcome vatra (bonfire) at Mission Beach near Lifeguard Station 13. Saturday night's concert features the Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Edmonton. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Kroc Performing Arts Theater. General admission is \$25 at the door. Volya and Andriy Kytasty perform on Sunday at the House of Pacific Relations Lawn Stage in Balboa Park at 2-3 p.m. The festival concludes Sunday night with a zabava (dance) at 6 p.m. at the Handlery Hotel and Resort, Hotel Circle, with music by Lviv Muzyky. For festival information call 619 460-5733, e-mail housandiego@aol.com or log on to www.houseofukraine.com.

Saturday, September 2

JEWETT, N.Y.: "Music at the Grazhda" presents the closing concert of the season featuring the Leontovych String Quartet - Yuri Mazurkevich, violin; Viacheslav Moroz, violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; Volodymyr Panteleyev, cello - in a program of works by Mozart, Shostakovich and Schubert. The program, sponsored by Music and Art Center of Greene County, will be held at 8 p.m. The Grazhda is located on Ukraine Road, off Route 23 A; it is five miles west of the town of Hunter, N.Y., in the Catskill Mountains. For directions visit www.grazhdamusicandart.org; for additional information call 518-263-4619.

Wednesday, September 6

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John's Ukrainian Preschool will re-open with Ukrainian-language Montessori sessions each weekday

morning from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Extended hours from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. are available to serve working parents. Minimum age is 2 years 6 months by September. We emphasize respect for the child, individualized learning, and promotion of the child's independence. For more information call Olenka Makarushka-Kolodiy, 973-763-1797, or visit the website at <http://members.aol.com/olenkam/>.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday, November 5

NEW YORK: A benefit luncheon for the Ukrainian Catholic University featuring Father Borys Gudziak, Ph.D., rector, will be held at the Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Ave. For more information call the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 773-235-8462.

Sunday, November 12

CHICAGO: A benefit luncheon for the Ukrainian Catholic University featuring Father Borys Gudziak, Ph.D., rector, will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave. For more information call the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 773-235-8462.

Sunday, December 3

WARREN, Mich.: A benefit luncheon for the Ukrainian Catholic University featuring Myroslav Marynovych, senior vice-rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Road. For more information call the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 773-235-8462.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL:

A subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly!

Give the college students in your family their own nine-month gift subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly. The Weekly is a great resource for students who plan to write college papers on topics about Ukraine, helps students keep in touch with the Ukrainian community throughout the United States and Canada, and gives students the opportunity to keep learning about their Ukrainian heritage once they leave home.

The subscription rate for the academic year is only \$45 (\$35 if the student is a member of the UNA).

To take advantage of this special offer, just fill out the form below and mail it with a check to: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, PO Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Or, phone The Weekly's Subscription Department at (973) 292-9800, ext. 3042, and charge the subscription to your credit card. Or e-mail ukrsubscr@att.net

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