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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

ONE YEAR AFTER THE ELECTIONS: Party list voting shortchanged voters

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

This the first article in the three-part series "One Year After the Elections."

KYIV – For the 2006 parliamentary elections, the Ukrainian government offered its people a peculiar deal.

Voters could choose their favorite leader, whether Viktor Yanukovich or Yulia Tymoshenko, but along with that selection came a bloc or party of hundreds of pre-determined candidates they had to accept as part of a closed party list electoral system.

Those voting for their favorite Orange revolutionary, Ms. Tymoshenko, ended up selecting businessmen with entanglements in corruption, who were neatly tucked away on the lists so as not to draw attention.

Tymoshenko Bloc National Deputy Oleksander Abdullin had close links to fugitive and suspected criminal Ihor Bakai, while wealthy businessman Vasyl Khmelnytskyi prospered from his close relations to the Kuchma family. In his earlier political life, Oleksander Feldman was a Party of the Regions leader in his native Kharkiv.

"The closed list system on all levels has very negatively harmed our rights and ability to influence government," said Svitlana Kononchuk, the director of political programs at the Ukrainian Independent Center for Political Research, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy.

The system encourages already cynical national deputies to march further down "the road toward corruption in politics," she said. "It's a phenomenon that eats at the core of the political system, ruining citizens' trust in government."

If Ukraine's political observers can find consensus on any issue, it's that the closed party list electoral system must be replaced with some form of single-winner plurality voting, in which a voter is able to select at least one candidate to represent a geographically defined district.

Prior to the introduction of the closed party list system in 2004, the Verkhovna Rada was partially selected based on single-mandate constituent districts, and partially based on closed party lists.

Every Ukrainian citizen could point to a national deputy who was accountable to him, based on the election district that deputy represented.

For example, independent Victor Pinchuk won the seat to represent District 26 of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, while Yonkers, N.Y., native Roman Zvarych of Our Ukraine won the right to represent District 90 in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast.

As a result, a wider diversity of politi-



Zenon Zawada

Ukrainian People's Party Chair Yurii Kostenko is leading an uphill battle to eliminate Ukraine's closed party list electoral system.

cal parties was reflected in the Verkhovna Rada, as well as a larger number of deputies who were independent.

Representing single-mandate districts in the Lviv Oblast, even Ukrainian nationalists such as Oleh Tiahnybok and Andrii Shkil were able to qualify for Parliament – a phenomenon not possible had the elections been entirely based on closed party lists. (Mr. Tiahnybok's All-Ukrainian Union Svoboda failed to surpass the 3 percent barrier in the 2006 elections, while Mr. Shkil toned down his nationalism after joining the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.)

Ukraine's closed party list system was born of the cynical and subversive practices of pre-Orange Revolution government.

Following the 2002 elections, former President Leonid Kuchma fiercely lobbied for constitutional reforms that would transfer the balance of power in Ukrainian government to the prime minister.

In Ms. Kononchuk's view, Mr. Kuchma was secretly maneuvering to enter Parliament as a national deputy with the hope of eventually getting selected as the newly empowered prime minister.

As part of Mr. Kuchma's scheming, his political technologists suggested closed party list elections as a means of maintaining the status quo in the Verkhovna Rada and preventing political opponents from making gains in the 2006 elections, she said.

Pro-democratic forces were fervently

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Ukraine plunges into political crisis, Rada's dismissal seen as possible

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Ukrainian government plunged into political crisis on March 29 as the major political powers prepared their rank and file for the imminent possibility that President Viktor Yushchenko will dismiss Parliament and call for pre-term elections.

As his signal that he was seriously mulling the option, the Ukrainian president said he believed the coalition government was forming its 300-vote majority in violation of the Constitution of Ukraine because a coalition can only be based on existing factions, not by recruiting individuals.

Coalitions also must be formed within 30 days of the first parliamentary session, according to the Ukrainian Constitution.

"If some political forces believe that they have claim on 300 votes and announce that they will have 300 votes in Parliament, then please, it's necessary to make the political decision to conduct pre-term parliamentary elections," Mr. Yushchenko told reporters during a visit to Luhansk.

If the president doesn't reach an agree-

ment with the parliamentary coalition to stop its campaign to form a 300-vote constitutional majority, he may have the legal basis to dismiss Parliament in order to prevent the coalition from overriding his vetoes and decimating his authority.

Pointing to the parliamentary coalition's attempt to form a constitutional majority – which would enable it to rewrite the Ukrainian Constitution – Mr. Yushchenko accused its leaders of usurping government, violating the Constitution and revising the results of the 2006 parliamentary elections.

Despite the coalition's aggressive pursuit of power, Mr. Yushchenko still left the door open for negotiations, requesting a meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, Verkhovna Rada Chair Oleksander Moroz and other coalition leaders on March 30.

Parliamentary opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, who has actively campaigned for pre-term elections both domestically and internationally, cut short a visit to France after just a day and a half to return to Kyiv to prevent coali-

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One year after parliamentary elections, Yushchenko points to political intrigues

Following is the text of Viktor Yushchenko's statement on the first anniversary of the March 2006 parliamentary elections, which was issued on March 29 by the Press Office of Ukraine's President.

Ukraine held its first fair and democratic parliamentary election on March 26, 2006.

My ultimate belief both before and after that vote was that one must adhere to democratic standards and preserve law and order.

However, I must admit that fulfillment of political obligations and responsibility for the country's fate and people's welfare have not become a crucial motive for many Ukrainian lawmakers. Certain political forces started manipulating the Constitution: they have been misinterpreting and misrepresenting its clauses instead of acting in a lawful manner.

In the past eight months we have all been witnesses to deliberate attacks on the country's constitutional order and a permanent power struggle violating the will of our voters. Political instability poses a formidable threat to national security, sovereignty and economic development. The country is losing the

opportunities to uproot poverty, criminality and corruption, carry out policies aimed at improving social standards, introduce health care reform and satisfy the people's needs.

The country has seen many cynical political intrigues in the past year, but what is truly threatening is the conspicuous tendency to usurp power. The parliamentary majority passed the illegal bill on the Cabinet of Ministers, which outlaws the government, violates the Constitution and limits the constitutional rights of the citizens of Ukraine.

The Verkhovna Rada launched an impudent and fearless campaign to entice some deputies into the ruling coalition despite the national law. Under Ukraine's Constitution, deputies factions in the Verkhovna Rada form a parliamentary coalition within one month after their first session or within one month after the dissolution of the previous coalition of deputy factions.

I would like to emphasize that the Constitution sets the deadline to form this coalition and defines its essence clearly as an entity of deputies factions not a body formed on the basis of indi-

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ANALYSIS

Yushchenko's Our Ukraine is threatened by defections

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

On March 21 Anatolii Kinakh accepted an offer from Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's government to become minister of the economy. The government is allied with the National Unity (formerly Anti-Crisis) coalition composed of the Party of the Regions, and the Communist and Socialist parties. Mr. Kinakh's appointment marks a key shift in the political allegiances of Ukraine's business sector and revealed another fault line within the Our Ukraine bloc.

President Viktor Yushchenko described Kinakh as a "morally shameful Ukrainian politician" and removed him from the National Security and Defense Council. Our Ukraine called for the expulsion of Kinakh's Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (PIEU) from its faction, which would leave only 71 deputies. Four deputies from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc also defected.

Mr. Kinakh and his party are part of Ukraine's small centrist faction. In 2001-2002, Mr. Kinakh served as interim prime minister between Mr. Yushchenko and the first Yanukovich government. The PIEU traces its origins to the "red directors" Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and was a member of the pro-Kuchma bloc For a United Ukraine in the 2002 elections.

Mr. Kinakh led one of two parties that defected to the Yushchenko camp in the second round of the 2004 presidential elections (the other being the Socialists).

Both the PIEU and the Socialists have since switched allegiance back to the Yanukovich camp.

Mr. Yushchenko and Our Ukraine have poor records of attracting and maintaining centrist parties affiliated with former President Kuchma. Their strategy has been twofold: to attract financial and other resources for national democratic parties and to win votes in Eastern Ukraine.

During the 2002 elections, Our Ukraine reached out to Donetsk by including the marginalized Liberals. The decision to include the Liberals in Our Ukraine in the 2002 elections aimed to compensate for the collapse of the Poroshenko Solidarity Party project to build an alliance with the emerging Party of the Regions. The Liberals were the failed party of power in the 1990s but disintegrated following the November 3, 1996, assassination of the Yevhen Shcherban, the alleged "boss of the Donetsk clan." The Liberals' position in the Donbas was taken over by the Party of the Regions in 2000-2002.

Following the elections, most Liberal Party members of Our Ukraine defected to Mr. Kuchma's pro-presidential majority, reducing Our Ukraine from 118 to 102 deputies. The Liberals claimed they had agreed to join Our Ukraine because it had not declared itself as an "opposition" force. The Liberals' defection has echoes of the current defection of the PIEU.

Liberal Party leader Volodymyr Scherban's chairmanship of the Sumy

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Ukrainian language remains a priority for Yushchenko

by **Pavel Korduban**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

The language card is being played in Ukraine again, which often happens when elections loom. On February 22 Ukraine's parliament, which is dominated by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Party of the Regions (PRU), decided to vote by the end of July on a bill that grants the Russian language official status. President Viktor Yushchenko will oppose this bill.

The re-established opposition alliance of Yushchenko's Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc is pushing for an early parliamentary election. The ruling coalition, backed by Mr. Yanukovich, may retaliate by amending the legislation to call an early presidential election. This would be bad for Mr. Yushchenko, as his re-election chances currently are slim. PRU deputy Vasyl Kyseliov announced on February 28 that a bill may be submitted to Parliament to hold early parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously on September 30.

Linguistic identity is a sensitive issue in a society divided roughly in half along linguistic lines. Ukrainian parties often focus on the language issue when they want to mobilize their electorates. Mr. Yanukovich's PRU quite successfully played the language card in the run-up to the March 2006 parliamentary election. One of its main election promises was to give Russian official status.

There are signs that the PRU is resorting to the same tactics now, while

President Yushchenko has been de facto playing into their hands, inadvertently mobilizing his Russian-speaking opponents. Speaking in public recently, he has been regularly stressing the priority of the Ukrainian language.

Courts in the Russian-speaking regions, where the PRU dominates the political scene, recently delivered verdicts in favor of granting Russian the status of a regional language. On February 6 the Kharkiv Regional Court of Appeals overruled a verdict by a lower court dating from August 2006, by which the Kharkiv City Council's March 2006 decision to grant Russian the status of regional language had been outlawed. Similar rulings were made on February 20 by a court in Donetsk relating to the regional status of Russian there, and by a district court in Kyiv on March 6 relating to the regional status of Russian in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv.

On February 21 the PRU's Donetsk regional branch issued a statement calling on the government to "stop limiting the rights of Russian-speaking citizens." The statement, in particular, protested the Culture Ministry's initiative to introduce compulsory Ukrainian-language dubbing for half of all foreign-made movies for adults and for all movies for children. The statement described this as "discrimination against the Russian language."

The Donetsk City Council was more straightforward. On the same day it unanimously passed a statement pledging to

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NEWSBRIEFS

Brussels hosts Holodomor exhibit

KYIV – The Brussels-based European Parliament House is hosting the exhibition "Unknown Genocide" dedicated to the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. Deputies of the European Parliament will be able to tour the exhibition, which comprises pictures and archive documents on a display provided by the State Archive Committee, the Institute of History and the Security Service of Ukraine. The exhibition was initiated by the Cabinet of Ministers together with the International Charitable Foundation Ukraine-3000 and the support of Deputies Konrad Szymanski, Charles Tennok, Marek Silvec and Rebecca Harms, representing various political forces. The event aided in collecting signatures of members of the European Parliament advocating recognition of the 1932-1933 Famine as the genocide against the Ukrainian nation. The exhibition ran through March 30. (Ukrinform)

Russian businessman shot in Kyiv

KYIV – Russian businessman Maksim Kurochkin, 37, was fatally shot on March 27 near the Sviatoshynskiy Regional Court of Kyiv. According to law enforcement authorities, Mr. Kurochkin was shot as he was being led out of court during a break in his extortion trial. He died soon afterwards. According to the Internal Affairs Ministry, shots were fired by two snipers shooting from an adjacent building. A security officer who was escorting Mr. Kurochkin also was shot; he was taken to the hospital, where he was to undergo surgery. Mr. Kurochkin was arrested at Boryspil International Airport in November 2006. He had repeatedly asked to be released on bail and said he feared for his life, as he claimed he had survived 18 assassination attempts. He said the charges against him were fabricated. Mr. Kurochkin ran an organization called the Russian Club, which supported Viktor Yanukovich during the 2004 presidential campaign. Mr. Kurochkin, known as "Mad Max," was suspected of having ties to organized crime. (Ukrinform, Ukrayinski Novyny, Associated Press, RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian PM visits Brussels

BRUSSELS – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich on March 27 visited Brussels, where he discussed the progress of work on an enhanced partnership agreement between Ukraine and the European Union with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and other EU officials, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. "We want an agreement that reflects the importance of our relationship and brings Ukraine and the European Union closer to each other. ... These negotiations will open new opportunities, such as a free-trade area and a deepened partnership on energy," Mr. Barroso told journalists. Mr. Barroso stressed that due to "some vast and complex issues," he cannot say exactly when a new enhanced cooperation agreement with Ukraine will be signed. He also said a free-trade agreement between the EU and Ukraine can only be negotiated once Kyiv has completed its accession process to the World Trade Organization. "In our view, a new [EU-Ukraine] agreement should ensure a transition from cooperation and partnership principles to principles of political association and economic integration," Prime Minister Yanukovich said in Brussels. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko says Ukraine in crisis

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko called the situation in Ukraine a "crisis" at a March 27 meeting with judges of the Constitutional Court. He noted the meeting was held in view of repeated reports on violation of human rights. "We are revising the results of the 2006 parliamentary election," Mr. Yushchenko said. He stated his conviction that the Constitutional Court's activity will not be linked to politics, as the Constitutional Court shoulders immense responsibility. The meeting with the president was held on the initiative of the Constitutional Court's judges, the president's press service said. The Communist Party and the Party of the Regions accused the president of pressuring the court's judges. (Ukrinform)

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State Department's report on human rights notes improvements, problem areas in Ukraine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — In its annual report on human rights practices worldwide, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor reported that in 2006 the most significant improvements in the Ukrainian government's performance were in the parliamentary elections held in March.

However, problem areas remained in Ukraine's enforcement of laws in the areas of the penal system, discrimination against minorities, human trafficking, limitations on unions and collective bargaining, corruption, and violence against women and children.

The State Department's country report for Ukraine highlighted that, unlike in previous years, there were no reports that the government or its agents committed or were involved in politically motivated disappearances and killings. Although fatal attacks occurred that could have been politically motivated, business, government and criminal activities were intertwined to such an extent that it was difficult to determine the motives.

Law enforcement officials competing to solve criminal cases routinely used force to extract confessions and information from detainees, the report notes. In response, authorities continued their efforts to prosecute these officers. During the first 10 months of 2006, the Ministry of Internal Affairs confirmed 385 cases, 23 torture cases, 152 cases of violence and 57 cases of unlawful detention, with 35 officers being subject to disciplinary measures.

According to the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association, the Ministry of Health did not always cooperate with attempts to monitor cases of abuse. On a few occasions, persons involved in property inheritance or divorce disputes were wrongfully diagnosed with schizophrenia and were confined to psychiatric institutions, and stripped of their civil rights and property without being present at the hearings or notified of the rulings.

Reports of violence against conscripts continued in the armed forces, including hazing and beatings in a practice known as "divivshchyna." According to the military watchdog group Mothers of Killed Soldiers, most deaths are labeled suicide or accident without investigation.

Conditions at prisons and detention centers remained poor and, although still a major problem, overcrowding was eased by the decriminalization of many

offenses and alternative sentencing practices. Tuberculosis also continued to be a concern in the prison populations with cases reportedly reduced by new screening methods.

Police corruption

Police corruption received more publicity in 2006 and the media reported greater satisfaction with the traffic police, but corruption remained a problem. The Ministry of Internal Affairs made greater efforts to expose police abuses and took disciplinary action against a far greater number of law enforcement authorities than in previous years. However, impunity remained a serious problem, according to the report.

Legal observers reported that in cases of arrest and detention, police were provided with time to coerce confessions and there was an insufficient number of defense attorneys to protect suspects from unlawful and lengthy detention. Additionally, attorneys often refused to defend indigents for low payments provided by the government, making access to an attorney dependent on the social status and financial resources of the accused.

The denial of a fair and public trial was compromised by the lack of an independent judiciary, which suffered from corruption and bribery. Various forms of pressure, including political interference from phone calls to judges by government officials, were exerted on the judiciary from the other branches of government. In May 2006 President Viktor Yushchenko issued a decree that will improve the impartiality, transparency and independence of the judiciary. The report also acknowledges the incomplete procedural law, low salaries for judges and ineffective implementation of court judgments.

The judicial system was plagued also by the failure to enforce court decisions in civil cases. The chairs of the Supreme Court, the regional courts and the Kyiv municipal court have the authority to suspend court decisions, which provide additional opportunities for outside interference, manipulation and corruption.

Trial proceedings were limited by the absence of implementing legislation, which continued the high conviction rates of the Soviet-era criminal justice system, a jury system had not been implemented and, as a result, most cases were decided by a single sitting judge, although the law

requires that two judges and three public assessors must hear cases that involve the possibility of a life prison sentence. Human rights groups reported that prison or investigative officials occasionally denied suspects their client-attorney privilege, with some reports of the use of verbal and physical abuse to obtain signatures on waivers. Defendants have become more aware of their rights, according to the report, but many defendants remained unaware of the safeguards in place.

Elements within the government arbitrarily continued to monitor the private communications and movements of individuals, infringing on citizens' privacy rights. It was unknown the extent to which the procurator general used his authority to monitor the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) activities and to curb excesses by security officials, but citizens have the right to examine any dossier concerning them in the possession of the SBU and to sue for physical and emotional damages incurred by an investigation. However, this was not respected in practice, and the necessary implementing legislation was lacking.

Freedom of the press

Respect for civil liberties in the form of freedom of speech and the press were reportedly generally respected by the authorities. Despite Freedom House's rating of the country's media as "free," there were reports of intimidation of journalists by local officials, as well as continued media dependence on government resources, which inhibited investigative and critical reporting that occasionally led to self-censorship.

Broadcast media, the primary source of news for most citizens, were either state-owned or owned by powerful business interests. Four radio stations broadcast information, the remaining were music stations. State-run television UT-1 had the widest geographic coverage, but low viewership. Most local television stations were associated with political parties or powerful regional business interests.

Private newspapers often depended on political patrons who could facilitate financial support from the State Press Support Fund and received close scrutiny from government officials, particularly at the local level. Threats of civil libel suits continued to inhibit freedom of the press and media watchdog groups continued to express concern over extremely high monetary dam-

ages that were demanded, and sometimes awarded, by courts for alleged libel.

Reportedly, the Internet continues to be monitored by law enforcement bodies, and access, although expanding rapidly, was still limited to wealthier members of society and those with access at schools, libraries and workplaces.

University and academic work remained tainted by corruption, although the government began implementing a national examination system during 2006 to combat the phenomenon the report noted. Administrators and research institute directors could silence colleagues by denying them the ability to publish, withholding pay and housing benefits, and directly terminating them.

In a few instances, regional governments infringed on freedom of assembly rights, with most local authorities referring to resolutions to these questions from the Soviet-era rather than the current Constitution of Ukraine. The Kyiv city administration attempted to impose restrictions on demonstrations on several occasions, but the courts overruled the city government.

Some restrictions remained on freedom of association, but generally the government respected this right in practice. The law places restrictions on organizations that advocate violence or racial and religious hatred, or that threaten the public order or health.

The right to practice religion freely was generally protected by the government, but some minority and non-traditional religions experienced difficulties in registration and in buying and leasing property. Conflicts between local representatives of contending religious organizations in some cases adversely affected broader ties among religions in society. There were a number of acts of anti-Semitism and several of them involved physical attacks. Anti-Semitic articles appeared frequently in small publications and irregular newsletters, but rarely appeared in the national press.

Refugees and migrants

The government committed serious violations of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 protocol. Infrequently, the government granted refugee or asylum status, providing only

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OSCE in Kyiv trains NGOs to help trafficking victims

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

KYIV — Twenty-five NGO representatives are taking part in a training course on helping victims of human trafficking, organized by the office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union.

"In Ukraine, NGOs often lack knowledge of relevant legislation and understanding of the key role they should play when assisting victims of trafficking during court proceedings," said Begona Pineiro Costas, Human Rights Officer at the Project Co-ordinator's Office, "As a result, they are not always able to provide the assistance that victims require."

The course aims to strengthen the capacity of social workers and psychologists working for NGOs and help them develop skills to better assist trafficking victims.

Participants will learn about human rights standards related to the protection of trafficking victims, legal responsibili-

ties for actions connected with human trafficking (criminal and civic responsibility and administrative procedures), as well as stages and tasks of the criminal procedures. They will also discuss the rights of victims and their representatives, and compensation for moral and material damage to victims. Participants will also get the opportunity to conduct a case study on protecting the rights of trafficking victims.

"Victims of trafficking in Ukraine need better support when they return to their country, not only during the criminal proceedings, but also following the final verdict. NGOs could provide more comprehensive assistance to victims, including support during investigation procedures and in court," added Ms. Costas.

Another training course is planned for July 10.

The courses are financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the Danish Program Against Human Trafficking in Eastern Europe.

Quotable notes

"A recent visit to Washington by Yulia Tymoshenko, the former Ukrainian prime minister, appears to have given the Bush administration hope that the United States has found a leader among Russia's immediate neighbors with the will to stand up to Vladimir Putin's increasingly receding democracy.

"Until recently, the United States had relied upon the Ukrainian president, Viktor Yushchenko, to protect Ukraine's independence.

"But a series of disastrous decisions by Yushchenko over the last year — the key one being his choice to name as prime minister Viktor Yanukovich, the man he defeated in the Orange Revolution, rather than Tymoshenko — has sapped U.S. support from him.

"In Washington, Yushchenko is now seen as spineless and directionless, not the sort of traits that give confidence, particularly if you are supposed to be someone protecting the interests of the West against Putin. ...

"But this time around, after meetings with Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Tymoshenko left Washington with clear American support for her vision of Ukraine's future and its role in European political and energy security. It is she and not Yushchenko who now appears as the country's leading emissary to the West.

"Tymoshenko should be writing a thank-you note to Putin for the success of her visit. The Russian president's tough-minded speech on America's role in the world in Munich last month, and the threats senior Russian generals have been making against Poland and the Czech Republic because of their willingness to provide sites for U.S. antiballistic missiles, has tipped the American debate about Putin definitively toward the negative. ..."

— Nina L. Khrushcheva, in a commentary in the *International Herald Tribune* on March 15.

Visiting Ukraine, U.S. general discusses missile defense

RFE/RL

PRAGUE – A top Pentagon official on March 14 held talks with Ukrainian officials to discuss a U.S. plan to deploy part of a missile-defense system in Central Europe.

Lt. Gen. Henry Obering, the director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, was in Ukraine that day in a bid to win the country's support for the Pentagon's missile

shield project. Under the plan, the United States would place part of its defense shield in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Lt. Gen. Obering, together with a U.S. delegation, met with officials at the Defense Ministry, Ukraine's Security Council and the President's Office.

Speaking at a news conference in Kyiv, Lt. Gen. Obering vowed his country had no

plans to deploy other parts of the shield in Ukraine. In response to a question by RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, he rejected reports that the United States sought to place a radar in one of the Caucasus nations.

Lt. Gen. Obering reiterated that the system is designed to protect Europe from potential missile attacks by "rogue nations" such as Iran and North Korea.

He also said that Ukraine has nothing to fear from a potential missile intercept over Ukraine. In that case, he said, the entire warhead would be destroyed and no debris would fall over the country.

Ukraine, which neighbors Poland, is still divided on the U.S. missile plans. Some, like Western-leaning President Viktor Yushchenko, have given the plan a cautious welcome. Mr. Yushchenko says it could help Europe create a unified defense system.

Others in Ukraine are worried about its impact. The Moscow-backed prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich, has cautioned that Ukraine, by allowing the U.S. defense system to be set up on its doorstep, could damage relations with its neighbors.

Ukraine's government has yet to give a formal response.

The U.S. plan has sparked an angry reaction from Russia, with Russian military officials warning Poland and the Czech Republic that hosting the U.S. defense system on their soil could make them targets of a Russian missile strike.

Lt. Gen. Obering said Russia's anger is unfounded.

"Of course, we had a reaction from the Russians that was unexpected and they referred to changing the strategic balance between the United States and Russia. We disagree with this, respectfully. We're

talking about no more than 10 interceptors and they would have no effect against the hundreds of missiles or thousands of warheads that the Russians have," Lt. Gen. Obering said.

While Lt. Gen. Obering was able to address some of the worries caused by the Pentagon's missile initiative, his visit to Kyiv also gave him the opportunity to witness first-hand Ukrainian hostility to the plan.

Demonstrators disrupted his press conference, chanting "Yankee go home!" and holding a banner reading "Ukraine is against NATO."

Lt. Gen. Obering's Ukrainian visit was part of an information campaign around Europe about the U.S. missile shield. He next traveled to Berlin and Paris to discuss the project with senior officials of both countries.

In Brussels on March 14, a NATO spokesman said the alliance will "in the coming weeks" begin talks on the missile defense system.

The spokesman, James Appathurai, said, however, that NATO does not want to "interfere" with current U.S. plans to build interceptor and radar sites in Poland and the Czech Republic, but to "complement" them.

"The challenge is not, certainly from NATO's view, to, as I say, interfere with or slow down the U.S. bilateral discussions with allies. The challenge is, a), to get a common view [among the allies], and, b), to see how we can potentially complement this initiative," Mr. Appathurai said.

Mr. Appathurai added that NATO wants to ensure the same level of protection for all its member-states.

Quotable notes

"Due to unprofessional running of the country by the so-called Anti-Crisis Coalition, Ukraine is afflicted with a full-fledged political, social and economic crisis unseen in the history of independent Ukraine. The situation has endangered the national security of Ukraine.

"For the first time since gaining independence, Ukraine is faced with a real threat of losing its independence.

"Due to the proposed entry in the Single Economic Space with Russia, deliberately created and growing dependence of the country on energy supplies from Russia, rejection of Ukraine's EU aspirations, destruction of the Ukrainian identity, Ukraine will inevitably cede part of its sovereignty.

"The country has been hit with managerial chaos, a sharp increase in the number of Ukrainians living below the poverty line, continued opaque transfer of national wealth to oligarchs, a growing black market economy, rampant corruption and crime, various crises involving agriculture, utility payments, customs, etc. This is just a short list of problems that increasingly begin to afflict Ukraine.

"The threats may become irreversible following a possible creation, by coercion and graft, of a 300-strong constitutional majority in Verkhovna Rada by the present ruling coalition.

"At this crucial moment, the Parliament of Ukraine, which should have been playing a stabilizing role in accordance with the Constitution and common sense, has irreversibly turned into an obedient tool of the Yanukovich government, rubber-stamping destabilizing legislation proposed by the government.

"We place the responsibility for everything going on in the country personally on [Viktor] Yanukovich, his docile majority in the Verkhovna Rada, his government and his pocket allies, [Petro] Symonenko and [Oleksander] Moroz.

"Today, all political parties and executive structures must urgently take steps in order not to lose our independence in the near future. ..."

– Introduction to the joint statement by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine signed on March 13 that laid out the unified opposition's 17 demands.

Visa call center to begin operations at U.S. Embassy

Embassy of the United States

KYIV – As announced by United States Consul General Landon Taylor on February 23, the U.S. Embassy's call center to provide visa information and to schedule visa appointments began operations on Monday, March 26. The call center hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Kyiv local time. The Ukraine call center telephone number is 44-207-7071. If calling from the United States on behalf of relatives in Ukraine, the telephone number is 1-888-889-3780.

In order to acquaint Ukrainians with the call center feature, beginning on Monday, March 26, and continuing until April 9, the call center will provide visa information and schedule all non-immigrant visa appointments free of charge to the public.

On Tuesday, April 10, the call center will begin providing visa information and scheduling appointments for a fee of \$12 for eight minutes. To pay for this service, you must purchase a personal identification number (PIN). You may purchase a PIN in three ways:

- You can purchase your PIN with a credit card by telephoning the call center.
- You can purchase your PIN from a local bank branch of ProCredit Bank.
- Finally, those who are not served by a ProCredit Bank branch may telephone the call center to schedule their appointment and purchase their PIN at the ProCredit Bank branch in Kyiv at the same time they pay their MRV fee.

More information about the PIN payment options is available by telephoning the call center at 44-207-7071.

New envoy to Australia is appointed by Ukraine

KYIV – The President of Ukraine has appointed Vadym Adamaitus Ukraine's new Ambassador to Australia.

Mr. Adamaitus is well-versed in Australian affairs and the region, spending a number of years heading the Asia-Australia Desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ukraine.

He was active in promoting bilateral relations at that time. He has worked in a range of countries and is now looking forward to the new posting. He noted that he sees great potential for strengthening bilateral relations between Australia and Ukraine.

Australian Federation of Ukrainian

Organizations Chairman Stefan Romaniw met with the new envoy in Kyiv on Sunday, March 18. Issues of cooperation between the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian Community were discussed. "Australia is fortunate in having Mr. Adamaitus appointed as ambassador as he knows the region well and has also been very active in his work," Mr. Romaniw said.

"We look forward to his arrival and then working with him. Mr. Adamaitus arrives on Tuesday, March 27, in Canberra and will lodge his diplomatic note to the governor general later that week," Mr. Romaniw explained.



1st Annual SUSTA Conference

Rutgers University – New Brunswick, NJ

Panel Discussions	APRIL 21st, 2007
Job Market Lectures	10:00 am
Susta Elections	Rutgers University
Film	Allison Road Classroom Building
...and more	618 Allison Road
	Piscataway, NJ 08854

All American and Canadian University Clubs and guests are invited to attend.

As many of you may know, SUSTA was an organization in the 60s and 70s that served as the umbrella organization of Ukrainian Clubs in America, similar to SUSK in Canada. Since that time, the organization fell apart and little (if anything) can be found about it. We have taken the initiative to give Ukrainian students the same opportunities that were given to our parents when they were members of SUSTA.

On April 21, 2007, we are holding a national conference at Rutgers University, which will consist of a variety of lectures, films, and panel discussions relating to contemporary Ukrainian issues, Ukrainians in the workplace and the role of Ukrainian students. During the conference, we will also be holding a summit of SUSTA leaders in order to elect the next governing board and further expand the organization. The topics of the lecture and panels are not finalized but more details will be made available with our registration packet.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Friday the 20th - Pub night for early arrivals
 Saturda 10am - Check in/Breakfast
 11am-2pm Panels
 2pm - Lunch
 2:45pm - 5/6pm Panels/Individual sessions/Film
 6-7pm Ukrainian Dinner at local church

Fees:

STUDENTS: Rutgers Students - Free
 Other Students - \$15 with pre registration form.
 \$20 with RSVP and payment at the door.

NON STUDENTS: \$20 with pre registration form or RSVP.

****Anyone not pre-registering must RSVP by emailing rusc@eden.rutgers.edu or by calling 201-230-6958. Please list names of all attending. Fee will be assessed upon the check in for those that are only RSVP. Pre-registration forms must include fees. Deadline for RSVP and Registration forms is April 10th.**

Forms are located at <http://ukrainians.rutgers.edu>



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Ukrainian National Association Auditing Committee Report

The Auditing Committee, in accordance with relevant by-laws, conducted a review of selected finances, management and operations of the Ukrainian National Association (UNA) for the six months ended December 31, 2005 and for the 12 months ended December 31, 2006. Where financial data or other information is presented for any period of time other than year end, it is clearly noted in this report. The Auditing Committee conducted its review at UNA's Home Office in Parsippany, N.J., on February 1 and 2. Accordingly, where appropriate, the Auditing Committee has proposed recommendations to the Executive Committee with the intention to improve and strengthen aspects of UNA finances, management, or operations.

The Auditing Committee's work plan consisted of reviewing actions taken by UNA's Executive Committee toward implementation of resolutions approved by the 36th UNA Convention, the progress made in implementation of current strategic plans and overcoming stated management challenges, the activity of the financial and organizing departments, UNA publication sales and production efficiencies, business development and financial condition of the UNA resort Soyuzivka, the status of insurance sales in Canada, and other relevant matters.

The results of the review are as follows.

1. Resolutions of the 36th UNA Convention

Delegates to the 35th Convention decided to hold the 36th UNA Convention at Soyuzivka. The 36th Convention was held May 26-29, 2006. In the UNA's 112-year history this was the first-ever meeting of a UNA Convention on its own premises – the Ukrainian resort at Soyuzivka. The Convention included 96 delegates and 17 honorary and other members representing 164 branches from across the U.S.A. and Canada. The delegates passed 12 resolutions. Our review concluded that five resolutions have been fully implemented, two resolutions are partially implemented (currently in progress), three resolutions are pending the start of preparations for the 37th Convention in 2010, and two resolutions are awaiting action.

Recommendations:

1. Establish a tracking and reporting system that will provide relevant information as to actions taken to implement the resolutions passed by the Convention.
2. Assign to officers, staff or a committee responsibility for implementation of individual resolutions.
3. Establish due dates for accomplishment of individual resolutions.
4. Document all actions taken in regard to the implementation of individual resolutions to enable preparation of a report to the General Assembly.

2. Accomplishment of strategic plan

Executive powers in the UNA rest with the General Assembly, except during any recess when such powers are vested in the Executive Committee to enable the UNA to maintain overall operations. The UNA Executive Committee consists of six elected officers, of which three are non-salaried volunteers and three are full-time salary offices. The UNA Executive Committee as a whole meets periodically to direct and guide operations, whereas the three full-time committee officers are responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the UNA.

The Executive Committee created its first strategic business plan to deal with fundamental issues facing the UNA for calendar year 2003-2004. The strategic plan detailed the work not only of the UNA as a whole but its fraternal benefits, primarily Soyuzivka and its publications.

The Executive Committee has identified the major challenges facing the UNA. They include: (1) membership decline, (2) Soyuzivka and newspaper publication loss-



The UNA Auditing Committee (from left): Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw, Dr. Wasyl Szeremeta and Slavko Tysiak (chairperson).

es, and (3) Canada operations. In addition, the 36th Convention called attention to the need for succession planning to replace retiring and departing UNA branch secretaries.

UNA executive officers see the build-up of surplus (reserves) as fundamental to the UNA's continued viability as a going-business concern. New revenue sources that add to reserves will ensure the UNA's growth and enable it to continue to support offering fraternal benefits.

The Auditing Committee reviewed with executive officers a specific set of business challenges and opportunities that will enable the UNA to increase its reserves. The Auditing Committee has concluded that the Executive Committee has a workable plan to build up reserves. It further was noted that no specific plan is currently in place to address succession planning with respect to UNA branch secretaries.

Due to the time-critical and sensitive nature of current negotiations with a number of interested parties, the Auditing Committee is able to provide only a general description of the multiple interconnected business opportunities that, if implemented as envisioned, should enable the UNA to increase its reserves.

The business strategy being pursued involves the conversion into cash of certain assets that may be either idle or unproductive in terms of unrealized intrinsic value and that, if successfully leveraged, will have the twin benefits of increasing reserves and reducing costs. The strategic plan being pursued involves the sale of certain real property holdings that will provide the UNA with an infusion of cash and thus increase reserves. Concurrently, the plan envisions the transfer from the UNA's books the accounts of Soyuzivka, and possibly the newspaper publications, to those of either a tax-exempt foundation or corporation as allowed by law. Such a transfer of assets will also enable the UNA to eliminate certain operating costs associated with these fraternal benefits from the UNA's financial statements.

According to the strategic plan, part of the cash proceeds from the conversion of certain

(Continued on page 12)

DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.
at the Ukrainian Women's League
St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral
5720 State Road, Parma, OH

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

102, 112, 180, 230, 233, 240, 291, 358, 364

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Zenon Holubec, UNA First Vice-President
Taras Szmagala, Sr., Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly
and Honorary District Committee Chairman

DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Evhen Baczynskyj, District Chairman
Alice Olenchuk, Secretary
Natalie Miahky, Treasurer

DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES OF CHICAGO, IL

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007, at 11:00 a.m.
at the Ukrainian Cultural Center
2247 W. Chicago, Ave., Chicago, IL

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

17, 22, 114, 125, 131, 139, 220, 221, 259, 379, 399, 423, 452, 472

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Bohdan Kukuruza, UNA Advisor
Dr. Myron Kuropas, Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly

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

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The escalating crisis

As the last pages of this issue were being laid out, there was new news about the escalating crisis in Ukraine. It seemed more and more likely that the Verkhovna Rada would be disbanded by the president and that new elections would have to be held.

President Viktor Yushchenko said so himself at a press conference on Thursday, March 29, explaining that if the parliamentary majority is not constituted in accordance with provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine, he must call for early elections.

You see, what is now going on in Ukraine is that individual national deputies, who are part of parliamentary factions, are joining the parliamentary majority, whose ultimate goal is to create a constitutional majority of 300 members. The Constitution of Ukraine does not provide for individuals to form a majority coalition in the Verkhovna Rada; that is in the purview of the Rada's factions.

"What is happening in the Verkhovna Rada now is not just a rebirth of the coalition but a blatant revision of the will of the Ukrainian voters. It is a straight path to anarchy," the president stated. He was referring, of course, to the fact that national deputies, who were elected by the voters based on party lists, are switching parties and/or joining a coalition that their party factions do not belong to. In effect, then, the constitutional rights of the citizens are subverted. Furthermore, the president argued, under the Constitution, parliamentary factions have to form a coalition within one month after their first session. "It is the eighth month now," he said.

The president called on the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to finally rule on the most important issues facing Ukraine. Indeed, in the past month the court has received 10 urgent appeals from the president of Ukraine – among them one concerning the controversial law on the Cabinet of Ministers, which severely curtailed presidential authority – and 17 from the government and the Anti-Crisis Coalition.

President Yushchenko accused the majority coalition – which has now adopted the name National Unity Coalition – of "usurping authority and changing the constitutional order in Ukraine." He added that he must act as "the guarantor of the Constitution" to ensure that the will of the voters is realized.

At the same time there is fear that opposition and pro-government demonstrators may clash on the streets of Kyiv over the next several days. An opposition rally demanding the dismissal of the Verkhovna Rada is planned for March 31, and pro-government forces are planning counter-demonstrations for that date as well as the days immediately before and after. (On top of everything else, there is a meeting of the National Salvation Committee, recently revitalized by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, on March 30, and the Our Ukraine party congress is to take place on March 31.)

Meanwhile, it was announced that a meeting of the president, prime minister, Rada chairman and parliamentary coalition leaders was to be held in an effort to deal with the crisis.

Only one thing is clear at this point: the system in Ukraine is broken. The question is: How is it to be fixed?

April
13
1997

Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, The Ukrainian Weekly reported on the meeting between representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community and Canadian Cabinet minister Stéphane Dion to discuss the matter of redress for the internment of Ukrainian Canadians in 1914-1921.

On March 13, 1997, Minister Dion met in Winnipeg at the College Universitaire de St. Boniface with Oleh Romaniw, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Saskatchewan Provincial Council, Adrian Boyko, chairman of the National Governmental Relations Committee, and committee member Prof. Bohdan Kordan of Saskatchewan University.

Recalling the significance of the meeting, Mr. Boyko said, "This was the first time that Minister Dion had asked for the participation of the Ukrainian community, the Métis community and other aboriginal communities, [including] the French Canadian community and the Jewish community in a meeting that brought everyone together to talk about the issue that concerns all of us as citizens: the country's unity and our sense of our participation in it."

Commenting further, Mr. Boyko added, "The principle is simple: Ukrainian Canadians were unjustly interned, the government took property from the community, and we want it back."

A 25-minute session with Minister Dion covered two major points: redress for internment, and an appropriate response to the UCC's proposal to the government concerning Canadian unity issues and the role of multiculturalism, which was submitted in April 1996 and was not acknowledged.

According to a statement on the redress issue released by the UCC on March 14, 1997, "only by dealing with the issue seriously could the Ukrainian Canadian community move forward as full participants in Canada's future."

In the same statement, the UCC "applauded [Minister Dion's] recent personal intervention to remove from display in Regina's Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum the rope that hanged [19th century Métis leader] Louis Riel. [UCC officials] appealed to the minister to show the same sensitivity on Ukrainian internment by helping to [resolve] the long-standing issue."

Regarding the redress issue, Mr. Romaniw said, "We understand that this places the government in a ticklish position with those who are opposed to multiculturalism in Canada, who see this as one more issue that divides. But this is precisely the challenge the government must face and overcome."

Demonstrating the UCC's cooperative spirit, Mr. Boyko said, "We are prepared to assist the government in finding a constructive solution to the problem."

Source: "Canadian Cabinet minister meets with Ukrainians on redress issue," by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 13, 1997.

EASTER PASTORALS

'Goodness, truth and love will forever prevail'

Following is the text of the Paschal Encyclical 2007 issued by the Permanent Council of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine.

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics and all Devout Children of our Holy Church, entrusted to our care and to our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine:

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen!

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let the whole world, both visible and invisible, keep festival: For Christ is Risen, our eternal joy. (Canon of Pascha)

Dearly beloved in Christ!

Today, on this joyous and saving Day of Christ's Resurrection, the entire world is rejoicing, beaming with the divine light. The world of Angels and the Heavenly Church "triumphant" are glorifying the Risen Lord and we – the children of the earthly Church "militant" – are called upon to join them. We greet you all, our Brothers and Sisters, on this occasion of the Holy Pascha and proclaim to you "Christ is Risen!"

No other greeting can bring such radiant joy to a believer's heart than these victorious words. They remind us of the fact that death has been conquered, that

the graves holding our departed loved ones are only temporary, and that the time will come when the dead will rise to live a new and eternal life.

This Paschal greeting also tells us that in the earthly life of mankind, any victory of falsehood and evil is only temporary and that in the eternal life goodness, truth and love will forever prevail.

Holy Pascha is for all of us the Feast of Feasts and the Exultation of Exultations. We perceive this jubilation in our Paschal Services. During this hallowed night God's special grace can be felt in our churches and our heartfelt prayer lifts closer to our Savior. The clouds of incense fill the temple, as if they were the wings of angels carrying that prayer directly to God's throne. The joyous greeting of the clergy "Christ is Risen" is answered by the multitude of faithful with a thundering "Indeed, He is Risen!" The light of thousands of candles and the brilliantly white robes of the clergy remind us of the Divine world into which Christ our Savior is risen from the dead. Through His resurrection, our Lord opened the way of Resurrection to a new life for each of us as well, and He gave us back the right to be God's children.

(Continued on page 10)



"Ukrainian Easter Card" (circa 1954) by Jacques Hnizdovsky. (Copyright S. Hnizdovsky, 1985-2007, www.hnizdovsky.com. Reprinted with permission.)

'Receive the forgiveness offered by the Risen Christ'

Following is the text of the Easter Pastoral Letter of the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs of the U.S.A.

Our Brother Bishops, Reverend Clergy, Religious, Seminarians and Faithful:

Christ is Risen!

The women who ran to the empty tomb on that first Easter morning were met by an angel who told them to gather the apostles because the Risen Christ was to appear among them. Specifically, the angel asks that the apostles "and Peter" be told to be there.

Peter was one of the apostles who could not stay awake with Jesus in those final painful prayerful hours at Gethsemane. Peter reacted with rage in defense of Jesus when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, and cut off the ear of one of the temple guards. It was Peter who denied Jesus three times as Jesus was being interrogated by the chief rabbis. And yet, this apostle Peter is specifically invited by name to be present for Jesus' appearance with the disciples.

We have journeyed through the Great Fast and are approaching our personal meeting with the Risen Christ at Pascha!

Like Peter, many of us have probably not stayed awake or been faithful in our Great Fast promises of prayers and sacrifices. Some of us have undoubtedly even reacted to others in less than charitable ways, especially when "pushed" with our own limited personal resources. Like Peter, we too have failed to stand up for truths and teachings given by Jesus, and have denied Him in our words and in our manner of life. Have we responded in charitable and caring ways when invited to help? Have we been people of nurture to those in chaos and need? And yet, you and I are also specifically invited by name to be present for Jesus' appearance at Easter.

Jesus Christ walked through solid walls to greet His disciples, and Peter, at the first Easter. The Risen Christ walks through our personal walls to come to you and to me, to us, at Easter. We, like Peter, are invited to make ourselves present to the Risen Christ this Easter. Jesus Christ thirsts to be present to you and to me, despite our failings, our sinful behavior and our denials. Jesus Christ offers His forgiveness to you and to me through the Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Continued on page 33)

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

Winners and losers

On a bright, still cold spring morning in 1971 I stood with a group of Ukrainian students by a coffee-bar across the road from the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome, waiting for the great man to arrive.

Every Sunday for the past several weeks, I had picked up a box lunch from the nuns at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies on the Janiculum and walked the length of the Parco Garibaldi, with its magnificent view of the Eternal City, down the steps past St. Onuphrius Church to the Porta dei Cavalleggeri. There I'd take the bus out along the Via Boccea to the jumbled semi-rural suburb of Montesaccato, getting off by the golden-domed Byzantine church of St. Sophia and the seminary, with its statue of Taras Shevchenko in a toga. I would attend the liturgy and listen to a sermon delivered in Italian with a jarring Ukrainian accent ("quello" came out as "kvello"). One day I was approached by a pleasant young priest named Father Lubomyr Husar, who introduced me to Rome's Ukrainian community. And so here I was, at a congress of university students from around Europe, all of whom could understand my kitchen Ukrainian.

Finally the great man arrived, and we filed into the seminary auditorium to hear him speak. It was, of course, Cardinal Josyf Slipyj, exiled metropolitan of Lviv, who just eight years earlier had been expelled from the USSR after 18 years of captivity. I remember not so much his words as the spiritual power that he projected, like an Old Testament prophet. One point, however, stuck in my memory. Exhorting us to excel in our studies, he cited the example of Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952), the world-famous chemist who had helped establish the state of Israel and served as its first president. Professional success and consequent fame could enable us to serve the Ukrainian cause.

This thought troubled me for many years. On the one hand, success for the glory of Ukraine was an attractive goal. The ancients had praised fame as "the perfume of heroic deeds" (Socrates), "the shadow of virtue" (Seneca). On the other hand, the pursuit of fame and success seemed selfish and vulgar. It should not be confused with hard work and achievement. I grew up with a certain contempt for "careerism." Ambition, as the Galician Jewish writer Joseph Roth put it (in "The Triumph of Beauty," 1935), was a trait of the plebeian. I remember the late Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw, perhaps one of the last gentlemen and scholars, gently disparaging the self-promoters of the academic world.

Yet, in the academic as well as the professional world, shameless self-promotion has become virtually a condition of survival. In our society of winners and losers, aggressiveness has always been a virtue. Mark Twain was not exaggerating much when he said, "All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence; then success is sure." We exalt the winners, the upwardly mobile, the relentlessly ambitious. We don't talk much about those whose mobility points in the opposite direction. Even Homer Simpson, that quintessential homo americanus, expresses

his deepest scorn with the cry, "Loser!"

In the Ukrainian psyche, however, there is a deep-seated distrust of success. Often it's mere envy. Indeed, Cardinal Slipyj's native village is named Zazdrist'. We know how in the 1920s some peasants resented the kurkul (Russian kulak) – often the most talented, hard-working, productive member of the community – even to the point of denouncing him to the Bolshevik authorities. Here in the diaspora, we may have experienced the poisonous envy of the losers towards the winners, especially when the winners belong to a more recent immigration.

But in late Soviet Ukraine, distrust of success was justified. Few could advance without lying, cheating or stealing. There is more involved here than mere envy. There is the realization that success often carries a morally unacceptable price.

Most honest, hard-working individuals, however gifted, achieve only moderate success. Nor should we neglect to honor the humbler achievements of parents who work at dull, dead-end jobs to support their families, of mothers who forgo careers to raise children, of community activists patiently struggling to raise their neighbors' consciousness.

So was Kyr Josyf mistaken in pointing out the eminent chemist's service to his people? Of course not. But fame doesn't always work that way. Most aeronautical engineers are familiar with the Dzus Fastener, named after renowned Ukrainian immigrant and philanthropist William Dzus (1895-1964). But they are no more likely to associate it with Ukraine than with ancient Greece: Americans pronounce the name "Zeus."

Metropolitan Josyf's own example taught a different lesson. During his imprisonment, he was offered the post of Russian Orthodox metropolitan of Kyiv. It would have spared him interminable suffering and raised him from criminal convict to chief churchman of Ukraine. It might have been an opportunity to save Ukrainian Christianity. Better to have a Ukrainian patriot in this position, he might have thought, than some Russian or Russophile. Like many of his clergy, he could have remained a Catholic in his heart; the pope and the people back home would have understood.

It must have been a tempting proposition. But he knew that the price was betrayal of Church and people, and collaboration with evil. He declined. And so it was back to the camps.

This month, many of us commemorate Josyf Slipyj's own role model. He was an obscure Jewish workman who, unlike Chaim Weizmann, disappointed his people's expectations of political freedom and independence. Deserted by his friends and denounced by his followers, he was sentenced to death as a criminal. Even in his dying hours, he was taunted and insulted by chance passers-by. He was, in short, a loser. And he chose this role freely, for our sake – that we might all be winners in the end.

For further reading: Jaroslav Pelikan, "Confessor Between East and West: A Portrait of Ukrainian Cardinal Josyf Slipyj" (Grand Rapids, Mich. 1990).

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at samboritanus@hotmail.com.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



The next Ronald Reagan? Perhaps not!

Not overly enthused with the current crop of leading presidential contenders, some Ukrainian GOP conservatives are wondering who the next Ronald Reagan will be.

Given that the presidential primaries are only months away, there is reason to worry, especially since Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are dominating the media and firing up their Democratic base.

Perhaps there is no next Ronald Reagan: Perhaps there never will be another. Perhaps the circumstances that produced Ronald Reagan over 25 years ago will never occur again.

Mr. Reagan won a landslide victory in 1980 because he ran against an incredibly weak opponent, one that had lost the confidence of many in his party as well as most Americans.

In his first year in office President Jimmy Carter, who championed human rights, told a Notre Dame commencement audience that, "We are now free of that inordinate fear of Communism which once led us to embrace any dictator who joined us in our fear." Shortly thereafter the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and the Ayatollah Khomeini took over Iran and, eventually, the American Embassy.

A pessimistic Mr. Carter accused the American people of suffering from "malaise." As John O'Sullivan points out in his recent book, "The President, the Pope, and Prime Minister," "there were wars, civil wars, revolutions and famines in Angola, Mozambique, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) Ethiopia, South-West Africa (now Namibia), and the Horn of Africa ... China invaded Vietnam, Vietnam invaded Cambodia, and Cambodia's Marxist government killed off an estimated one-fifth of its people."

On the domestic front there were gasoline shortages and double-digit interest and inflation rates. A dour President Carter was an easy target for an optimistic and charismatic Mr. Reagan, who won easily.

President Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Britain's conservative prime minister, and Pope John Paul II, (a trio some have called the "Holy Alliance") worked together to bring down the Soviet Union. President Reagan called Russia "the evil empire" to the consternation of many who believed such words only exacerbated tensions between the USSR and the USA. "Primitive," wrote Anthony Lewis of The New York Times. A "holy war mentality," opined Tom Wicker, also of The New York Times.

The "experts" weighed in. In 1981, Mr. O'Sullivan reminds us, "Strobe Talbott, then of Time magazine, later of the Clinton administration, had written, 'Though some second-echelon hardliners in the Reagan administration ... espouse the early 1950s goal of rolling back Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, the U.S. simply does not have the military or political power to do that.'" Historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Mr. O'Sullivan notes, "declared confidently that 'those in the United States who think the Soviet Union is on the verge of economic and social collapse [are] wishful thinkers.'" As late as 1989 economic columnist Scott Thurow still believed that a command economy worked. He pointed to the Soviet Union, calling it "a country whose economic achievements bear com-

parison with those of the United States."

So concerned was Sen. Ted Kennedy with President Reagan's "recklessness," that he requested an interview with then Soviet Premier Yuri Andropov because, according to one Soviet source cited by Mr. O'Sullivan, "in the interest of world peace it would be useful and timely to take a few extra steps to counteract the militaristic policies of Ronald Reagan." The request was spurned but Sen. Kennedy did meet with Premier Mikhail Gorbachev at a later date and, again according to a Soviet source, offered "practical guidance on how to outmaneuver Reagan in future negotiations."

Even though Senator Kennedy is still around, the world has changed dramatically since President Reagan's time. As evil as the Soviets were, they were rational. They couldn't be trusted, but one could sit down and negotiate. The success of the so-called MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction) policy was based on the belief that the Soviet leadership wasn't anxious to self-destruct. Not so today. Islamic terrorists look forward to a martyr's death in the name of Allah.

Have America's conservatives lost their way under George W. Bush? That is the premise suggested by Karen Tumulty in a recent Time cover story titled "How The Right Went Wrong." The cover features Mr. Reagan's face with a tear running down his cheek.

"Some on the right," writes Ms. Tumulty, "have been keeping a light in the window for the last conservative to have led a revolution," namely Newt Gingrich, who has not formally announced. Conservatives who have announced are Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas and former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas.

I don't believe that America's conservatives have lost their way nor do I believe the Democrats have the 2008 presidential election sewed up. Far from it! Much will depend on what happens in Iraq and the rest of the Middle East in the months prior to the 2008 presidential election. Other factors will also be in play.

The U.S. economy should remain in fairly good shape for the rest of the year. There are growing foreign policy issues looming on the horizon, however: Russia under Vladimir Putin, an imperialist bully; South America under the growing influence of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, a socialist friend of Fidel Castro; Iran, anxious to be a nuclear power in the Middle East; China, a growing economic giant with imperialist ambitions; a nuclear and unpredictable North Korea. Like it or not, the U.S. can't adopt an isolationist policy in a world fraught with people anxious to do us serious harm.

It will be interesting to see what issues Democratic and Republican candidates address in the months ahead. It will be even more interesting to hear their solutions to problems facing the U.S. today. The media, unfortunately, is predicable in the way it will skew the news. That is why it is important for all Ukrainian Americans, Democrats and Republicans alike, to be especially vigilant in the discernment process that will lead to their exercise of one of the most important privileges they enjoy as American citizens: their right to vote.

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



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Protecting our pysanka

It has happened before, it is happening now, and it will happen again – another ethnic group claiming our pysanky as their own. We correct, we explain, we continue to correct.

This time, my friend Dora passed on to our folk arts group a website about “pisanki” from a Polish craft group, with a photo of a plate of definitely, undeniably Ukrainian pysanky (<http://culture.polishsite.us/articles/art344fr.htm>). Now the Poles do have their pisanki, as do most other Slavs, and in the distant past many nations around the world had the egg as a symbol of spring, fertility, renewal and rebirth.

But, as with other forms of folk art, each nation uses particular symbols in its own particular way and, while some are universal, they have developed into clearly identifiable ornaments of each individual group. There may be some designs that are common, but the combinations of designs, the variations in colors used and other elements usually make it clear that this pysanka is Ukrainian, while that batiked egg is Moravian.

So, having this strong personal and spiritual relationship with my pysanky, I needed to write to the author of the article on the Polish pisanki: “I am confused and disturbed by your ‘pisanki’ article on this site. I am sure that the Poles have their own Easter eggs, with their own traditional designs. Why then,

in the photo, are Ukrainian pysanky shown? There is a difference in the ornaments and the symbolism, and the ones shown are very clearly Ukrainian pysanky. Someone Polish may have written these particular ones, but Ukrainian designs were used. It would be so interesting to see real Polish pisanki instead of these. Polish culture has its own beautiful examples of folk art. There is no need to continue to portray those from the formerly occupied Ukrainian lands.”

The reply received was a bit confusing. The person said she teaches “East European” egg decorating, and has learned Hungarian, Lithuanian, etc.; the eggs were decorated in New Jersey; and even Irish and Mongolian friends have written them. My original point was missed completely.

The webmaster then replied that she had been the one to provide the illustration, and that photos of Polish eggs also appear on the site.

Then the author’s husband wrote to me complaining that I am harassing her because she only mentions East European eggs, and provides a link to the Wikipedia site on “pisanka.” Most are familiar with the disputed authority of this site (in the news recently for fraudulent contributors). Listed are “Russian pisanka” also (the Russians do not have pysanky in their tradition), and missing



V. Gritsik

Ukrainian pysanky from the Folk Art Collection of The Ukrainian Museum.

are the Moravian (Czech) ones. I doubt this group understands a very simple distinction.

My original point about the photo being used was missed completely, with the writers becoming very defensive.

In the past, I have had a few run-ins over pysanky with people from Ukraine’s western borders (described in “Confessions of a Pysanka Nut” in this paper back in April 1987). I had prepared a large exhibit of pysanky in the main library at the University of Manitoba in the early 1970s. When I arrived for work the next day, my ornamented sign “Pysanky – Ukrainian Easter Eggs” was missing, and in its place, a crude cardboard sign stated “Pisanki – Slavic Easter Eggs.” I feared that my exhibit would be damaged as the next step. After investigating, the supervisor discovered

it was a Polish part-time staff member who had done this in the evening. The incident was dealt with.

I still remember the intense and fierce anger I felt when I met her in the building later. When I asked why she had done that, she defiantly said, “Well, pisanki are not just Ukrainian eggs.” My barely controlled reply was, “Do your own exhibit of Polish eggs, but do not tamper with mine.”

Another time, when Vera Senchuk and I curated a major exhibition on pysanky in the Gallery of Oseredok – the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center in Winnipeg – a group of Polish women asked, “If you say they are universal symbols, why do you call them Ukrainian?”

I suppose this is envy that Ukrainian pysanky have reached the status that they have. And, of all the decorated folk examples of Easter eggs, our pysanky stand out as being the most varied with the greatest number of symbols and rituals.

Some of our neighbors, western or northern, still mourn the loss of their empires. While demeaning the Ukrainians they subjugated, they were most eager to misappropriate prominent individuals and aspects of Ukrainian culture as their own. Today, this is done either consciously, or what they perceive to be their “right” – after all, for example, Halychyna and Lithuania were “theirs.”

For example, a small book in Polish on Hutsul music – “Muzyka Huculszczyzny” by Stanislaw Mierczynski published in 1965 – does not mention the words “Ukraine” or “Ukrainians” at all. A few years ago, at a multicultural festival, Hutsul woodcarving and pysanky were exhibited in the Polish pavilion. As for Russian appropriation of things Ukrainian, volumes could be written, and a few have been.

Before we get too smug, sometimes we also are guilty of misappropriation. The continuation of Rumanian blouses being worn by Ukrainian women for Ukrainian events is one example. I am sure this is done innocently, in ignorance. “Well, it is cross-stitch embroidery, and looks Ukrainian. ... and was bought in a Ukrainian store...” There is a clear difference between the two, and we should know better. It may be a surprise to some, but other nationalities out there also embroider (and the all-beaded floral blouses now so popular in Ukraine and here are certainly a Rumanian-influenced thing).

We cannot be ethnocentric. At the same time, when it comes to our cultural treasures, we know – and should know – what is ours and must be defended.

And – don’t mess with my pysanky!

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Ukrainian Film Festival inaugurated in Philadelphia

by Christina Kotlar

PHILADELPHIA – Sword-fighting Georgians, happiness in a box, hijacking a hot air balloon to a faraway place where a “Spoon is still a Spoon” were among the highlights of some of the films screened at a three-day inaugural event dedicated to modern Ukrainian film and independent filmmakers. The Ukrainian Film Festival, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia and the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, was held March 9, 10 and 11, as part of the league’s 90th anniversary celebration.

Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture at Columbia University and founder of the Columbia University’s Ukrainian Film Club (UFCCU), a forum for showcasing the best of Ukrainian cinema, both classic and new, curates contemporary Ukrainian film programs presenting them to film enthusiasts across the United States and Canada.

He introduced the opening night event on Friday evening with “Short Feature Films and Documentaries” ranging from Crimean Tatar culture in Victoria Melnykova’s “With Best Wishes, Enver,” impressionistic “Castles of Ukraine” by Artem Sukharev and remote village life to the maidan amid opposing forces of the Orange Revolution and reminders of present-day Ukrainian mentality in Serhiy Maslobovshchikov’s “Neveremos, People from Maidan.”

A discussion followed, offering members of the audience an opportunity to ask questions, express their observations and comment on the films’ impressions on them.

Saturday evening opened with insightful production and background stories about films and filmmaking in the “Best Ukrainian Short Films” program, starting with Ihor Strembitsky’s documentary film “The Wayfarers” (Podorozhni), winner of the most prestigious Golden Palm Award for Best Short, the Palme d’Or, at the Cannes Festival in 2005; “Counterclockwise” by Valentyn Vaslanovych, winner of a Special Jury Prize at the seventh International Short Film Festival at Clermont-Ferrand, France, in 2005; “Streetcar No. 9” by Stepan Koval, a stop-action animated claymation, winner of the Silver Bear at the 53rd Berlinale (Berlin) International Film Festival in 2003 and another animation, “Zlydni”; “The play for three actors” by Oleksander Shmyhun, winner of the Viewers’ Award for Best Short Animation at the Sao Paulo International Film Festival in 2005; and “A Tragic Love for Unfaithful Nusia” by Taras Tkachenko, winner of the award for Best Narrative Short at the Open Night Film Festival in Kyiv in 2004.

Due to the audience’s enthusiasm, additional films were shown well into the evening.

The final day, Sunday, began with a filmmaker’s brunch sponsored by the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia and graciously hosted by executive Sofeeka Hasiuk. Guests had an opportunity to meet and mingle with the filmmakers in a relaxed atmosphere.

Christina Kotlar is an independent filmmaker working on completing her documentary “Sons of the Forest” this summer. She founded Film Festival reviews and produces weekly podcast programs exploring the increasing number of film festivals around the world assessing current trends in independent filmmaking, festival venues, emerging filmmakers and markets with a continuously updated worldwide film festival schedule at www.filmfestivalreviews.com, an informative site for both the independent filmmaker and discerning film audience. Conversations with the filmmakers can be downloaded via the Film Festival reviews website or Podango.com on the Culture Catch podcasting station.



Participants and organizers of the Ukrainian Film Festival: (first row, from left) Natasha Mykhalchuk, Sofeeka Hasiuk, Christina Kotlar, (second row) Yuri Shevchuk, Lesya Kalynska, Andrea Odezynska and Andrew Kotliar.

Festival coordinator and visionary Andrew Kotliar described his reasons for undertaking the festival’s planning and implementation, with hopes for creating a place where a homegrown Ukrainian filmmaking community can take root and flourish. While funding for independent films in the U.S. is a major challenge for all independent filmmakers, it was noted that Ukrainian filmmakers in Ukraine work in an extremely frustrating environment.

Recent developments affecting the Ukrainian population’s right to watch foreign films dubbed or subtitled in the Ukrainian language led to a “compromise” between the Ukrainian government and film distributors; however, exceptions to ascribed Ukrainian-language quotas will be made for documentaries, independent productions and art house films. This is a disappointing decision that may have serious repercussions on what would be considered a Ukrainian film at independent film festivals (which number over 3,000 organized festivals in a calendar year) where film distributors, independent cable stations and film buyers scout for potential theatrical releases.

The afternoon program moderated by this writer gave attending filmmakers an opportunity to discuss their work and voice personal opinions regarding circumstances that affect them as independent filmmakers. Natasha Mikhalchuk introduced her first film, “Kolky,” a short documentary and character study of her now deceased grandparents through oral histories from her family’s heritage and members of the village of Kolky, capturing the memories of rural women who lived through some of the most devastating events of the 20th century.

Lesya Kalynska from Kyiv is currently enrolled in the M.F.A. program at the New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where she is majoring in film directing. Two of his short films, the documentary “Niko” and the narrative “The Balloonist” (shot in Super 16 and winner of the 2006 Best Student Film Award at the U.S. Hope and Dreams International Film Festival) speak a universal language reflecting the American dream – the hope and desire people have when they come to this country, usually from repressed societies, only to find the streets are not paved in gold. Ms. Kalynska also produced a short film “The Debt,” directed by Levan Koguashvili, that was an “Official Selection” for the Tribeca and Sundance film festivals.

While their filmmakers were not in attendance, two films that gained festival and national attention were “Happiness,” written and directed by Sophie Barthes (Official Selection at the Sundance Film Festival) and “Mertvi Pivni” (Dead Roosters), directed by Andriy Parekh who was also the cinematographer for the independent film, “Half

Nelson” that was recently nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Actor category. Two films, “Les Demarches des Papiers” and “The Haircut,” by Bohdana Smyrnova, an award winning filmmaker who is pursuing her M.F.A. at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, also were shown although Ms. Smyrnova was not present.

Veteran filmmaker/video artist Andrea Odezynska is a graduate of the American Film Institute’s Program in Directing whose film “Dora is Dysfunctional” won accolades at the Hampton and Rotterdam film festivals. She went to Ukraine with the Yara Arts Group as a videographer and became the subject of a film. “The Whisperer” is as lyrical as the songs within

the film itself. Sometimes it takes an editor’s intuition to find the story, as was the case with Ms. Odezynska and Katherine Barnier, a noted editor whose most recent documentary “Banished,” was screened at the Sundance Film Festival this year.

“The Whisperer” captivates viewers with its presentation of spiritual incantations and ritualistic healing arts in the heart of the Carpathian Mountains, where tradition goes back centuries and is handed down orally from one generation to the next. After completing this as a personal story, Ms. Odezynska’s changed luck continues as she followed the film festival circuit, found a distributor and through someone’s DVD purchase was invited to the Independent Spirit Film Festival in Tel Aviv this April, thus prolonging the film’s screening life.

* * *

Since its establishment in 2004, the Ukrainian Film Club has become a unique international initiative with a mission to provide a forum promoting the best of Ukrainian cinema and connecting Ukrainian filmmakers with the rest of the world. For more information go to the website at www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc.

The Ukrainian League of Philadelphia was founded in 1917 to serve as a social club for Ukrainian immigrants, and this year is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Located near the Art Museum in downtown Philadelphia, it is uniquely situated to serve as a venue showcasing modern Ukrainian culture in a revitalizing urban American neighborhood. League members said they will continue to work with the New York-based Ukrainian film community to promote independent filmmaking. For more information contact Andrew Kotliar at ukrainianfilmfestival@hotmail.com



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Ukraine plunges...

(Continued from page 1)

tion leaders from swaying the president in their political direction.

"I am afraid, which is why I'm quickly returning to Ukraine," she told reporters in France.

As Ukraine plunged into yet another crisis, history began repeating itself as the Orange leaders announced a March 31 political rally and concert on Independence Square, while the Party of the Regions declared that thousands of its supporters would be arriving on buses from Donetsk.

A National Unity Forum rally to support the coalition government was planned for the afternoon of March 30 on European Square, under the slogan "Ukraine's Future is in the Country's Unity."

It's no coincidence that the opposition had already planned an event at the Ukrainian Home, which faces European Square, at the same time.

Our Ukraine's faction chair, Viacheslav Kyrylenko, and Ms. Tymoshenko will lead the first session of the National Salvation Committee.

The Tymoshenko Bloc reported it has received reports from its regional offices that Transportation Ministry officials have been blocking its members from traveling to Kyiv to participate in the session.

"Various documents, agreements, invitations and whatnot are being demanded from people," the Tymoshenko Bloc's press service reported. "At the same time, state industrial workers are being transported to Kyiv from Ukraine's eastern regions in an organized manner, without obstacle."

Minister of Transportation Mykola Rudkovskyi called the accusation absurd.

Mr. Yushchenko's request to meet with coalition leaders was met by a response from Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chair Adam Martyniuk, who said they preferred an April 2 meeting because Mr. Moroz was on an official visit to the People's Republic of China.

However, Mr. Martyniuk's suggestion may have been a tactic to buy time as the parliamentary coalition is already prepar-

ing for Parliament's dismissal.

On the evening of March 29, coalition leaders were gathering signatures to request that Mr. Moroz call an extraordinary parliamentary session.

Following the defection of former Orange Revolution participant Anatolii Kinakh and several deputies of Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, close to a dozen more politicians abandoned the opposition to seek shelter within the coalition government.

Mr. Moroz opened the March 23 Verkhovna Rada session by proudly announcing that the recently renamed National Unity Coalition had lured five Tymoshenko Bloc and six Our Ukraine deputies to its ranks.

Perhaps as a demonstration of his loyalty to the ruling coalition, Tymoshenko Bloc defector Oleksander Kovtunenکو launched a sensational accusation at his former ally, accusing her of signing an agreement to cooperate with pro-Russian radical Natalia Vitrenko in the Donetsk Oblast.

Tymoshenko Bloc National Deputy Andrii Shkil said the accusation was absurd.

As the opposition continued to hemorrhage deputies, President Yushchenko met with Constitutional Court judges on March 27, requesting that they urgently review the constitutionality of how the coalition government is forming itself, as well as the law on the Cabinet of Ministers, which limits presidential authority.

He also urged the court's judges to resist political pressures placed upon them.

The meeting drew several dozen protesters and criticism from coalition leaders, who accused the president of exercising pressure on the judges to make a ruling to justify the Parliament's dismissal.

"Taking into account the secrecy of this meeting, this is an attempt to interfere with justice," said Olena Lukash, a Party of the Regions lawyer and first assistant to the Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers.

In another indication of the president's seriousness, Presidential Secretariat Chair



Our Ukraine Youth Association demonstrators hold a banner in front of the Presidential Secretariat building on March 29 that calls for disbanding the Verkhovna Rada.

Viktor Baloha said on March 28 the Secretariat was ready to prepare a presidential order to dismiss the Parliament should Mr. Yushchenko reach such a decision.

The president is "assiduously learning all the possible legal ways to resolve the deep political crisis, which with every day causes a bigger destructive influence on society and the nation," Mr. Baloha said.

The presidential order calls for a tentative date of May 27 for pre-term elections, according to 1+1 television news reports.

Meanwhile, a Kyiv court dismissed charges of illegally distributing firearms

filed against People's Self-Defense leader Yurii Lutsenko by the Procurator General's Office.

Opposition leaders accused the government of carrying out political persecution in filing criminal charges against Mr. Lutsenko, which he had already successfully fought in December 2006.

Mr. Lutsenko remained undaunted following his arrest, leading rallies in Chernihiv and Zhytomyr that drew thousands of supporters.

The March 31 Kyiv rally is expected to draw about 250,000 protesters, according to media reports.

One year after...

(Continued from page 1)

vidual or group membership.

What is happening in the Verkhovna Rada now is not just a rebirth of the coalition but a blatant revision of the will of the Ukrainian voters. It is a straight path to anarchy.

All these actions create reasons to recognize the parliamentary majority and its performance unconstitutional and the government illegitimate. I responsibly declare that the past year does not correspond to the expectations of the citizens of Ukraine and a few positive achievements have been devaluated by systemic political and legal violations. The fast development of negative

tendencies proves again that last year's promises and declarations were empty and false.

This must be immediately changed. As president, I demand that the parliamentary majority and its government stop acting unconstitutionally. I call on the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to immediately announce their rulings on the most controversial and important issues and insist that Parliament pass a bill containing key agreements between the majority and opposition forces aimed at the fulfillment of strategic priorities of the country and its citizens.

The period of ineffective roundtables is over now. Politicians must be responsible for what they do, otherwise the Ukrainian nation will speak out.

'Goodness, truth...'

(Continued from page 6)

We greet you all on the occasion of this glorious Holy Day. St. John the Theologian writes that the first words Christ the Savior said to his disciples after His Resurrection were "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). These words are of utmost importance to us, because today's world is in dire need of peace. St. John the Chrysostom says: "If we lose peace, we will become enemies to those who heard Christ say: 'Peace be with you.'" Let us, therefore, preserve this peace and prayerfully beseech the Risen Christ to make it reign in our communities, in our families and, most importantly, in each of our souls.

During these joyful days, when the entire creation is rejoicing, let us thank the Lord in our prayers for having allowed us to witness these Holy Days and to participate in the Paschal services. Let us preserve this Paschal joy throughout the entire year. Let us unite spiritually, let us embrace one another, in order that the benevolent Lord may see love and unity among us and allow us to "glorify His sublime Resurrection for ever and ever."

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

+ Constantine – Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the
U.S.A. and Diaspora

+ John – Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ Antony – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
of the U.S.A.

+ Vsevolod – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
of the U.S.A.

+ Ioan – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church in
Diaspora – Australia
and New Zealand

+ Yuriy – Archbishop
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A REMEMBRANCE: Basil Nadraga (1910-2006), 'super-sleuth' at Library of Congress

by Jurij Dobczansky

WASHINGTON – The January 31 issue of The Washington Post carried “The saga of the lost space tapes: NASA is stumped in search for videos of 1969 moonwalk.” The following thought immediately came to mind: they need Basil Nadraga. He would certainly be able to find the missing tapes. But Mr. Nadraga retired from the federal service back in 1988.

On March 20, 2006, last year, Basil Nadraga passed away in San Antonio, Texas – far away from Washington and his beloved Library of Congress. Sharing an office with him in the John Adams Building from 1976 to 1982, I gained a unique insight into the workings of a major research library. While pursuing a degree in librarianship, I learned much from Mr. Nadraga. This tribute is offered in appreciation and in recognition of his many contributions, most of them unknown to the general public.

First, I was amazed by the energy level of this smartly dressed, older gentleman. I observed him scurrying around the library with a pack of cards hunting for one obscure publication or another. Eager to be of assistance, he would answer the phone – before it could even ring twice – with a crisp “Five-four-von-seven – Nadraga!” Affectionately known to his colleagues as “Pan Kartka,” he was appreciatively referred to by our chief as the division’s “super-sleuth.” If no one else could find the sought-after document, you could rely on Mr. Nadraga to know where to look for it.

Officially, Mr. Nadraga was the European Division’s senior searcher and reference assistant from 1962 through 1988. With no formal library training, Mr. Nadraga provided services so comprehensive as to astonish the professionals he served. His knowledge of languages was most impressive. He had an almost photographic memory when it came to identifying topics and obscure authors. His generous help and advice is duly acknowledged in countless scholarly articles and books. At least two generations of staff members, as well as researchers from inside and outside the library, benefited from Mr. Nadraga’s intimate knowledge of the library’s vast collections.

Readers often visited his office and lavished him with praise for finding what they needed for their research projects. As an expression of gratitude one frequent visitor insisted on calling him “Dr. Nadraga” – a title he vigorously rejected. A decade before Ukrainian studies developed into a recognized academic special-

Jurij Dobczansky is a senior cataloguing specialist and recommending officer for Ukraine at the Library of Congress.

ization and long before a Ukrainian area specialist was appointed, Mr. Nadraga served as the library’s chief resource on Ukrainian holdings.

Mr. Nadraga was born on January 9, 1910, in Sadzhava, near Ivano-Frankivsk. As a young man, he completed business school in Krakow, Poland. In 1949 he came to the United States and worked as a bookkeeper in Philadelphia. Moving to Washington, he began his Library of Congress career in the Slavic Division, later named the European Division. It was here that his calling to be “keeper of the books” developed to the highest level.

Mr. Nadraga felt it was his duty to fill in all the pieces of the puzzle – to pursue a book’s progress from purchase order to acquisition, through cataloguing and eventual accession to the collections. Corresponding widely with authors and publishers he encouraged them to submit their publications.

Whenever he had the chance, Mr. Nadraga promoted the nation’s library as the ultimate registry of Ukrainian materials. He maintained an active contact with almost every archive and library in the Ukrainian diaspora from Minneapolis to Munich and from Winnipeg to Buenos Aires. A generous man, he was even known to replace missing issues of journals with copies from his personal collection.

In the 1970s the library’s cafeteria was a favorite gathering place for its 50-plus Ukrainian-speaking employees. “Pan Kartka” was a regular participant in discussions of the latest news – all the while thumbing through his packs of printed cards. During lulls in conversation, he would tell us of his latest finds – cataloguing errors or a particularly scurrilous piece of Soviet propaganda. He would show us an urgent letter he was preparing to such-and-such a publisher, who hadn’t sent in a promised item.

In addition to his busy schedule at the library, he found the time to be an active member of the Ukrainian Historical Association and the Ukrainian Association of Washington, and served for many years as the treasurer of the Ukrainian Library Association of America.

Over a period of 26 years in the European Division, Mr. Nadraga single-handedly amassed a file of over 55,000 cards toward a future bibliographic guide to the Ukrainian holdings of the Library of Congress. Most of this work was accomplished alongside his routine tasks. This monumental compilation owes its existence to Mr. Nadraga’s seemingly inexhaustible energy and his personal dedication.

His meticulous attention to detail is evident in the thousands of entries, annotated



Olenka Dobczanska

Basil Nadraga at work at the Library of Congress.

and typed in by hand. Especially valuable were bibliographic entries listing chapters and hard-to-find special subject bibliographies found in other publications. It now resides in the library of Washington’s Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine. In a recent memoir of his 1990 journeys to the West, Ukrainian historian Serhii Bilokin placed the “Nadraga file” high among the numerous points of interest in the diaspora.

Before the rise of bibliographic utilities like the Research Library Information Network, OCLC, cooperative cataloguing and the proliferation of online public access catalogues, the Library of Congress catalogue record was, in Mr. Nadraga’s favorite phrase, “an international passport for books.”

In an era of Internet-based research, library services are being dramatically

transformed. Some of these changes are inevitable. Regardless of how technologically sophisticated an information system may be, the value of human intervention and input has not diminished. Knowledgeable, energetic individuals like Mr. Nadraga are needed as intermediaries and navigators. There are now many more publications on Ukrainian topics: books, audio recordings, articles, computer files, websites, e-zines, blogs, etc. They are multiplying at tremendous speeds. Basil Nadraga would likely be overwhelmed today. Yet, he would be pleased to know that his dedicated efforts during his tenure at the Library of Congress were not in vain.

Without a doubt, his contributions were a vital impetus to the developing information base for current Ukrainian studies.

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UNA Auditing Committee...

(Continued from page 5)

idle or unproductive assets will provide the seed money for the development of a professional sales force. According to executive officers the development of a professional sales force is the centerpiece of the UNA's strategic plan going forward. The sale of more policies also addresses one of the UNA's major challenges, that is, the need to increase its core insurance business and thus increase the number of members. As detailed elsewhere in this report, the number of insurance policies and annuities sold by UNA secretaries is not at a level high enough to generate sufficient revenues to meet its financial needs.

The UNA employed four licensed producers at the Home Office as of December 31, 2006; in addition, the UNA encourages branch secretaries to become licensed to sell its products and had seven licensed producers within the branch structure. In addition, the UNA had five active professional independent agents selling insurance products during calendar year 2006. According to UNA executive officers, an increase in cash reserves will enable the hiring of a director of sales and marketing, and the recruitment of a network of licensed insurance producers.

The Auditing Committee has prepared this overview of the UNA's strategic thinking in the interest of providing UNA policyholders with useful information on current and planned actions by UNA's executive officers. Members reading this report are cautioned that the strategic plan and the anticipated actions are based on management's best judgments and current conditions and, as such, can change suddenly in response to real-life events that may or may not happen as anticipated, planned or as timed.

While the Auditing Committee provides no assurances that actual outcomes and results will be as envisioned by the Executive Committee, the Auditing Committee will continue to monitor and evaluate progress toward the stated goals and to report results.

3. Organizing Department

The UNA is a member-owned fraternal insurance society, and as such currently depends primarily on the referral of potential members. At the end of calendar year 2006, the UNA consisted of 19 districts in 15 states in the USA, five districts in six provinces of Canada, and 164 branches in both countries. The UNA showed 39,542 insurance policies-in-force as of December 31, 2006. This reflected a decrease of 3.77 percent in the number of policies-in-force.

U.S. operations

For the calendar year ended 2006, the UNA sold 333 life insurance policies with a total face value of \$3,474,000 and annual premiums of \$124,828 in the U.S. market. In the last six months of 2005, the UNA sold 144 life insurance policies with a face value \$2,770,000 and annual premiums of \$66,986. This number includes 25 policies for the sum of \$397,000 sold by independent insurance producers in 2006 and 14 policies for the sum of \$175,000 in 2005. In addition, in 2006, the UNA sold 33 annuities with \$575,803 in first-year premiums, in comparison to all of 2005, when the UNA sold 76 annuities for a total of \$1,607,933 in first-year premiums with 34 annuities \$1,013,701 in first-year premiums sold during the last six months of 2005. At year end 2006, the UNA had \$20,941,921 in force in annuity business. The sales of annuities experienced a decline in 2006 over 2005 attributable primarily to the availability of higher rates of certificates of deposits by financial institutions that offered special introductory short-term offers to new account customers, however, recognizing the need to match competition, the UNA did raise its rates of return as UNA investment yield allowed beginning in November 2006.

Canada operations

As of calendar year end 2006, the UNA had 2,486 life insurance policies with 10 policies added during the year; in comparison there were 2,649 life insurance policies with five policies added in the last six months of 2005. The 2,649 life insurance policies on record had a total face amount value of \$8,972,070 (Canadian) as of December 31, 2005. At year end 2006, the UNA had 2,486 policies with a face amount value of \$8,513,087.

The combined total cost of Canadian operations to the UNA amounted to \$586,000 for the calendar year ended 2006, whereas the UNA collected \$1,987.30 in first-year annual premiums for the same year. In comparison, the UNA collected \$1,657.70 in first-year annual premiums in Canada for the last six-months of calendar year 2005.

At the request of the Auditing Committee, UNA officers estimated that it costs \$175 to create and file all the prescribed paperwork to establish a life insurance policy in Canada. Based on the estimated price to create and file all necessary paper work for one policy, the Auditing Committee concluded that at the current level of life insurance sales in Canada (less than one new life insurance policy each month), the UNA is barely recovering its clerical costs in the first policy year without even considering all recurring costs associated with underwriting life insurance policies in Canada.

Recommendations:

1. Canadian district and branch secretaries need to develop a new business model uniquely suited to their market to generate more life insurance sales in Canada.
2. Absent a new business model for Canada, the Executive Committee should take steps to convert Canadian life insurance policies to U.S. life insurance policies.
3. Alternatively, the Executive Committee should explore the option of selling its life insurance portfolio to a suitable fraternal insurance company based in Canada.

4. Financial Department

The UNA's financial statements are subjected to an annual audit by the independent accounting firm of Scott Associates LLC. The most recent report issued by the independent accounting firm for the calendar year ended December 31, 2005, stated that the UNA fairly and accurately presented its financial statements for the period audited and provided no comments for corrective action to the UNA Executive Committee.

The UNA is regulated by its state of domicile, the State of New Jersey, specifically the Department of Banking and Insurance, and subject to all relevant state and federal laws applicable to financial institutions such as the UNA. Every three years, state examiners from the Banking and Insurance Department of New Jersey conduct a comprehensive audit of the UNA's operations, and the most recent such audit took place in 2006 covering the three-year period ended December 31, 2005.

On February 15, 2007, State examiners released a final report, dated October 20, 2006, that noted no significant exceptions regarding accounts and records maintained by the UNA for the calendar year ended December 31, 2005. The final report, however, did call for more complete and better documented UNA business continuity plan and disaster

recovery plan, the need for conflict of interest statements filed by officers and key employees to be reviewed by either the General Assembly or Executive Committee, and the need to amend current custodial agreements with financial institutions that hold UNA investments to better safeguard the UNA in the event any such investments are lost or stolen.

The Auditing Committee, in addition to reviewing the work results of outside overseers, reviewed the most detailed budgetary and financial results immediately available at the time of the audit and focused specific attention on the most important indicators of the UNA's financial condition that are more fully detailed below.

The UNA's reserve balance as of December 31, 2006, has declined by \$895,000 to \$3,368,000; whereas the reserve balance had been at \$4,263,000 as of December 31, 2005.

Subsidies to Soyuzivka and to UNA publications contributed \$637,000 to the decreases in UNA's reserve balance during the 12-month period ended December 31, 2006.

A sizable portion of UNA revenue is generated by investment income. The investment portfolio has experienced continued improvement over prior years as the average yield of the portfolio at December 31, 2006, was 5.4 percent in comparison with 4.86 percent for the same period ended December 31, 2005, after making changes to UNA investment strategies. The credit quality of the investment portfolio remains strong – an average rating of AAA1, with an average maturity of four years.

The UNA Corporate Headquarters building continues to record a profit. Net income amounted to \$157,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 which shows a marked improvement from the net profit of \$152,000 recorded for the entire year ended December 31, 2005. Of the 65,000 total square footage, 6,000 square feet were available for lease as of December 31, 2006. The 6,000 square feet of vacant space are expected to be fully leased by the end of the first quarter, March 31, 2007.

5. UNA publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly

For the calendar year ended 2006, the combined readership of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly totaled 44,000 – about equally divided between the two newspaper publications. In calendar year 2005, subscriptions to The Ukrainian Weekly surpassed subscriptions to Svoboda for the first time.

The deficit of both publications for the nine-months ended September 30, 2006, was \$224,000, or \$3,000 more than for the nine-months ended 2005. The UNA continues to experience deficits in its publications despite attempts to reorganize and restructure its publication activities. On a positive note the Auditing Committee observed a slight increase in advertising revenues and subscriptions for calendar year 2006. The Auditing Committee further observed that the UNA needs to develop a better picture of what mutual benefits are shared between its publications and its insurance business.

A new computer system became operational for newspaper publishing in 2006. The UNA spent \$15,000 on the new computer system, excluding set-up costs. The upgraded publications technology offers a platform that's expected to enable the new editor-in-chief to more efficiently publish the UNA's two weekly newspapers.

The Auditing Committee further observed that the UNA needs a better picture of mutual benefits relative to internal advertising of the UNA activities. Currently, the UNA provides certain administrative and financial support for the newspaper publications and, in return, the newspaper publications provide advertising space and news coverage for UNA activities.

The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda press funds received a total of \$46,000 from the Ukrainian community in 2006, and the proceeds are used to offset the operating deficits incurred by the two newspaper publications.

Recommendation:

Develop a cost-accounting methodology to allocate in-house services shared between the UNA's insurance business and the newspaper publications.

6. Soyuzivka resort

For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2006, the Soyuzivka resort's net losses totaled \$413,000. In comparison, for the same nine-month period ended September 30, 2005, the resort experienced a deficit of \$333,000 as fixed costs continued to rise.

In 2006 Soyuzivka was the site of the UNA's 36th Convention. Hosting the convention at Soyuzivka allowed money to stay within the UNA that otherwise would have been spent at an outside facility. It also provided a learning experience to Soyuzivka management and staff for what it takes to host a successful convention. It's widely viewed within the UNA that the convention gave a psychological lift because Soyuzivka management and staff now know they can handle convention business. One direct financial pay-off is that Soyuzivka was selected to be the site of another national convention in June 2007.

The 35th Convention held in Chicago in 2002 established a committee whose goal was to halt the need for annual cash infusions from the UNA and at same time to keep the resort in the UNA's custody as a cultural icon in trust for the Ukrainian community.

The UNA's current Executive Committee has continued to work on finding a way to improve Soyuzivka facilities since the 35th Convention. The Ukrainian National Foundation Inc. has been collecting funds for the Ukrainian community for various causes. During calendar year 2005 and the six months ended on June 30, 2006, the foundation collected \$113,960 for the benefit of Soyuzivka.

Recommendation:

Publish information in the UNA's newspapers on contributions collected by the foundation and the amounts distributed.

7. Other matters

Complaints and litigation: No complaints or liability pending litigation was reported for the 18-month period ended September 30, 2006.

Newspaper delivery: The editor-in-chief expressed concerns about ongoing problems with the delivery of the UNA's weekly newspapers. The newspapers are mailed as second-class mail. Online newspaper subscriptions, when available, may offer a partial fix, but will not deal with the root cause of the late delivery problem.

Recommendation:

UNA Executive Officers, together with the Press Committee, should contact the U.S. Postal Service to investigate the reasons why the UNA continues to experience problems with poor delivery service and identify corrective actions.

For the Auditing Committee:
Slavko Tysiak, chairperson
Dr. Wasył Szeremeta
Dr. Vasył Luchkiw



**ГОЛОВНИЙ ЕКЗЕКУТИВНИЙ КОМІТЕТ
УКРАЇНСЬКОГО НАРОДНОГО СОЮЗУ
РЕДАКЦІЇ „СВОБОДИ“ і „THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY“ ТА УПРАВА СОЮЗІВКИ**

— складають —

ЧЛЕНАМ ГОЛОВНОГО УРЯДУ, ГОЛОВАМ ОКРУГ, СЕКРЕТАРЯМ та ЇХНІМ УПРАВАМ,
ВСІМ НАШИМ ЧЛЕНАМ, ПЕРЕДПЛАТНИКАМ, ЧИТАЧАМ і ГОСТЯМ СОЮЗІВКИ

найкращі побажання

ВЕСЕЛИХ СВЯТ ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ХРИСТОВОГО!



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ВОСКРЕСІННЯ
ХРИСТОВОГО**

РОДИНІ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ, ЗНАЙОМИМ,
ГОЛОВНОМУ УРЯДОВІ УНСОЮЗУ,
ПРАЦІВНИКАМ, УПРАВАМ ОКРУГ та ВІДДІЛІВ

щиро бажають

**СТЕФАН І СВЯТОСЛАВА
КАЧАРАЇ з родиною**

HAPPY EASTER

*to all our family and friends,
members of the UNA General
Assembly, District Committee
Chairpersons, Branch Secretaries
and all UNA members.*

Christine E. Kozak and family

**РІДНІ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ І ЗНАЙОМИМ
з днем
ХРИСТОВОГО ВОСКРЕСІННЯ**
здоров'я, щастя і багатьох літ
бажають

**ГАЛИНА КУЗЬМА
і МИРОСЛАВА МИРОШНИЧЕНКО**

**Wishing a
Happy Easter**

to members of the General Assembly, District
Committee Chairpersons, Branch Secretaries,
UNA members and their families and friends,
and to all Ukrainians in the Diaspora and
Ukraine.

**Michael Koziupa with wife Anna
and children Tatyana and Daniel**

Веселих Свят

**ВЕСЕЛИХ СВЯТ
ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ХРИСТОВОГО**

РОДИНІ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ І ЗНАЙОМИМ
бажає

ВАСИЛЬ ШЕВЧУК

**Родині, Приятелям і Знайомим
бажаємо**

**РАДІСНИХ І ЩАСЛИВИХ СВЯТ
ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ХРИСТОВОГО**

**д-р ЮРІЙ та ОКСАНА ТРИТЯК
з дітьми АРЕТОЮ та ЯРЕМІЄМ**

**Радісних Свят
Христового Воскресіння**

Родині, Дружам, Знайомим
і всім членам Головного Уряду, Головам Округ і Секретарям відділів,
Працівникам і всім членам Українського Народного Союзу

бажають

**д-р ЗЕНОН ГОЛУБЕЦЬ
з дружиною МИРОСЛАВОЮ і родиною**



**ВЕСЕЛИХ СВЯТ
ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ХРИСТОВОГО**

РОДИНІ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ І ЗНАЙОМИМ
бажають

**ОЛЕГ і д-р АРІЯДНА ГОЛИНСЬКІ
з донечками АЛЕКСОЮ
і СОФІЙКОЮ**





**З ВОСКРЕСІННЯМ ХРИСТОВИМ!
НАЧАЛЬНИЙ ПЛАСТУН
ЛЮБОМИР РОМАНКІВ**

вітає

ІЄРАРХІВ І ДУХОВЕНСТВО УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ЦЕРКОВ,
ГОЛОВНІ ПЛАСТОВІ ПРОВІДИ, КРАЙОВІ ПРОВІДИ,
УСІХ ПЛАСТУНОК І ПЛАСТУНІВ, РІДНИХ, ПРИЯТЕЛІВ,
ЗНАЙОМИХ Й УВЕСЬ УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАРОД

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ВОІСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС!




**З НАГОДИ СВІТЛОГО ПРАЗНИКА
ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ХРИСТОВОГО**

щиро вітаємо

РОДИНУ, ПРИЯТЕЛІВ І КЛІЄНТІВ

**ЗІРКА і МИРОСЛАВ
СМОРОДСЬКІ з родиною**




**РАДІСНИХ І
ЩАСЛИВИХ СВЯТ
ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ХРИСТОВОГО**

щиро бажають

РІДНИМ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ І ЗНАЙОМИМ

**Мґр ОКСАНА КУЗЬМАК,
доня РОКСОЛЯНА,
АДРІАН і АРІЯНА-ЛЮБОМИРА ЗАЯЦІ**

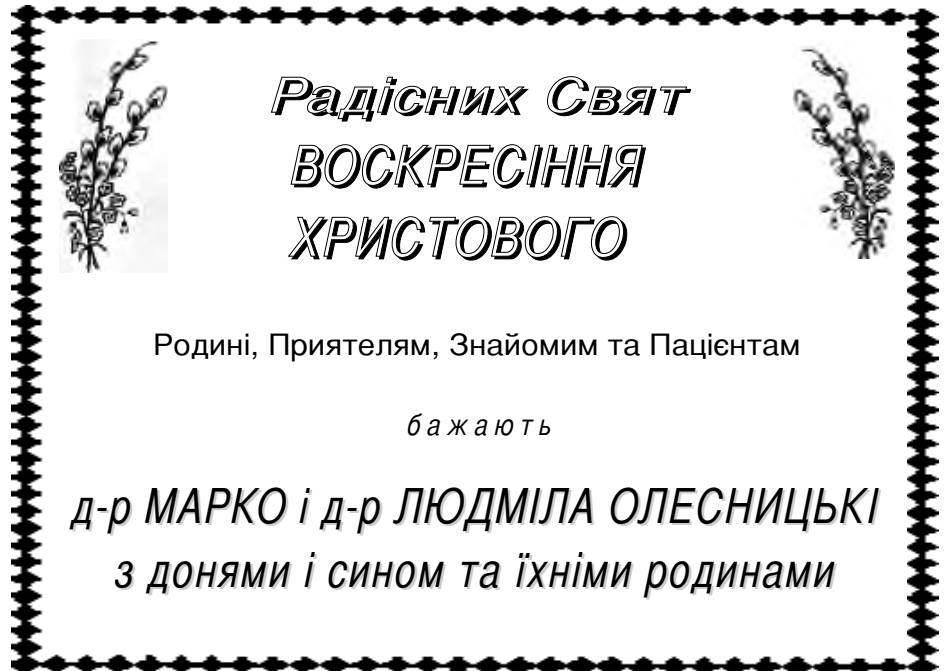




**Радісних Свят
Воскресіння
Христового**

Рідні, Приятелям, Пацієнтам і Знайомим
— бажають —

**д-р ОСТАП і ВІРА ТЕРШАКІВЦІ
з родиною**



**Радісних Свят
ВОСКРЕСІННЯ
ХРИСТОВОГО**

Родині, Приятелям, Знайомим та Пацієнтам
бажають

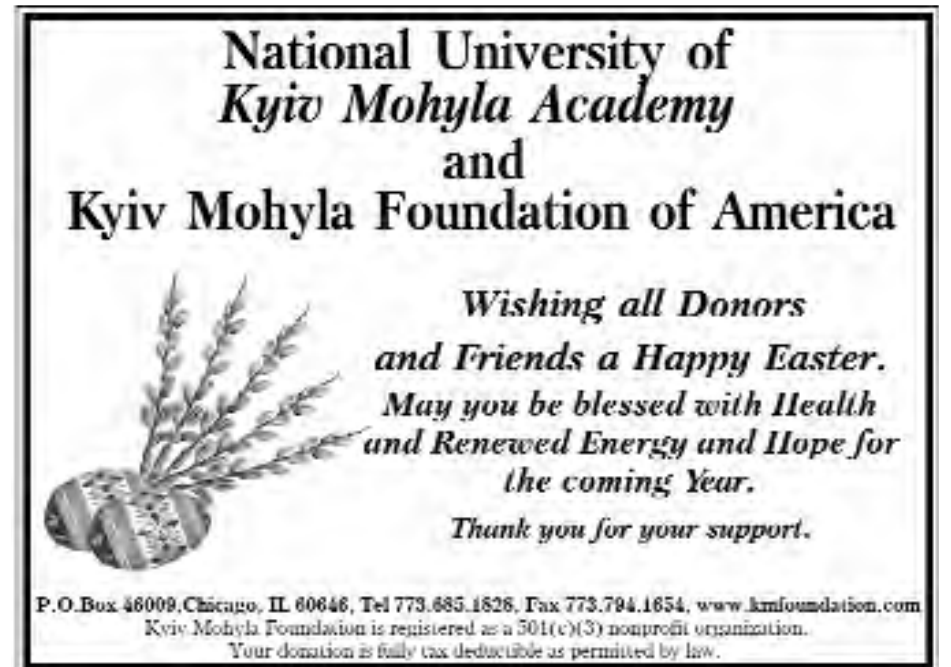
**д-р МАРКО і д-р ЛЮДМІЛА ОЛЕСНИЦЬКІ
з донями і сином та їхніми родинами**




**РАДІСНИХ СВЯТ
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ХРИСТОВОГО**


РОДИНІ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ І ВСІМ ЧЛЕНАМ УАКРади
бажають

**НАТАЛКА та ІГОР ҐАВДЯКИ
з родиною**



**National University of
Kyiv Mohyla Academy
and
Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America**

*Wishing all Donors
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May you be blessed with Health
and Renewed Energy and Hope for
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Thank you for your support.*



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HAPPY EASTER

TO OUR READERS, SUPPORTERS AND
COLLEAGUES.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY
EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION STAFFS
ALONG WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Roma Hadzewycz
Zenon Zawada
Matthew Dubas
Awilda Rolon
Larissa Oprysko
Walter Honcharyk
Mariyka Pendzola
Maria Oscislawski

ІЗ СВІТЛИМ ПРАЗНИКОМ
ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ХРИСТОВОГО

вітаємо

родину в діяспорі і на рідній Батьківщині
та всіх ближчих і дальших друзів

та

бажаємо радісних свят

**ЗЕНОН, ДОЗЯ І ВІКА
КРІСЛАТІ**

Христос Воскрес!



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Огайо

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Ohio

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Протоархимандритові ДІОНІЗІЄВІ ЛЯХОВИЧУ, чину ЧСВВ,

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отцеві АВГУСТИНОВІ ТЕНЕТІ, ЧСВВ

редакторів українського радіо Ватикан

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ігуменові РОБЕРТОВІ ЛУКАВОМУ, ЧСВВ

отцеві ЮРІЄВІ СТЕЦЬ, ЧСВВ

та отцеві, д-рові АНДРІЄВІ ЧИРОВСЬКОМУ, дир. Інституту ім. Митрополита Шептицького

РОДИНІ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ, ЗНАЙОМИМ І ВСІМ ХРИСТІЯНАМ В США І УКРАЇНІ

- б а ж а є -

ІРИНА ЗАХАРКІВ

„Зібрані твори“



**ВЕСЕЛИХ
та
ЩАСЛИВИХ
СВЯТ**

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ХРИСТОВОГО**

**РОДИНІ,
ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ
і ПАЦІЄНТАМ**

бажає

**д-р АРТУР Н. ГРИГОРОВИЧ
з РОДИНОЮ**



67 Irving Place South
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**ПЛАСТ – УКРАЇНСЬКА
СКАВТСЬКА ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯ в ЗСА**

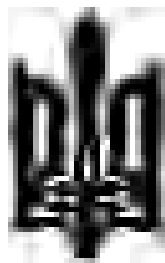
З радісним празником Христового Воскресіння, Крайова Пластова Старшина в Америці вітає Президента України, Віктора Ющенка і його уряд, Ієрархів Українських Церков і їхнє Духовенство, Начального Пластуна, проводи Головної Пластової Ради і Головної Пластової Булави, Крайову Пластову Старшину в Україні та в усіх країнах, де діє Пласт. Рівнож вітаємо усіх пластунів, розкинутих по світі та весь український народ на рідних землях і в діяспорі. Бажаємо всім радісних і веселих свят.

„Молоді ми і світ нам відкритий!”

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!



Крайова Пластова Старшина ЗСА



**ЦЕНТРАЛЬНА УПРАВА
ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ ДЕРЖАВНОГО
ВІДРОДЖЕННЯ УКРАЇНИ
(ОДВУ)**

— вітає —

*все своє Членство,
Братні Організації
та всю
Українську Громаду в США,
з величним Святom*

Христового Воскресіння!

Христос Воскрес!

Воістину Воскрес!

ОЛЕКСАНДЕР ПРОЦЮК, Голова



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ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ХРИСТОВОГО**

щиро вітає

*СВОЇХ ЧЛЕНІВ, УКРАЇНСЬКУ ГРОМАДУ, а зокрема
НАЧАЛЬНОГО ПЛАСТУНА, ПЛАСТОВІ ПРОВОДИ,
УПРАВУ ПЛАСТ-ПРИЯТУ, ВСІХ ФУНДАТОРІВ,
ДОБРОДІІВ та ЖЕРТВОДАВЦІВ.*

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Воістину Воскрес!***

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Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

sends its best wishes

to the Hierarchy of the Ukrainian Churches, the Presidents of the United States and Ukraine, and all the Ukrainian people in our native lands and in Diaspora on the occasion of this Easter holiday. We wish everyone a joyous celebration of Our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection. Ukraine's democratic forces have once again joined their efforts to lead Ukraine down the path of stabilizing its democracy and furthering its Euro-Atlantic integration.

It is our duty to help our brethren to resurrect the Ukrainian State. The UCCA urges the Ukrainian American community to celebrate Easter not only in church, but also through active work to benefit the Ukrainian nation and our community.

Christ is risen! He is truly risen!



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E-mail: ucca@ucca.org

UCCA – Kyiv Office
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E-mail: ucca@i.kiev.ua

Ukrainian National Information Service
311 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Tel.: (202) 547-0018
E-mail: unis@ucca.org



Organization for the Defense of FOUR FREEDOMS for UKRAINE (ODFFU) Inc.

On this Blessed Easter

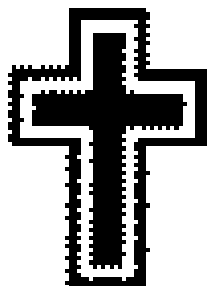
We send greetings to the Free and Independent people of Ukraine, who stood up for their rights and freedoms, we greet President Viktor Yushchenko, the Bishops of the Ukrainian Churches in Ukraine and in the Diaspora, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, with their leader Andriy Nahomachko and all their members, all community and political organizations, all organizations of the World Conference of Ukrainian Freedom Organizations, World Congress of Ukrainians, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, members of the Board of ODFFU, Branch Boards, all our members and their families, we wish you all



Happy Easter

Christ has risen! Ukraine has risen!

Board of Directors of ODFFU



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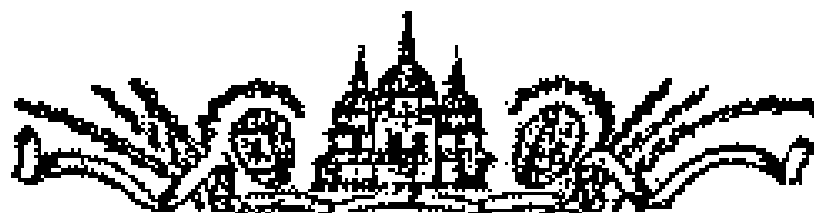
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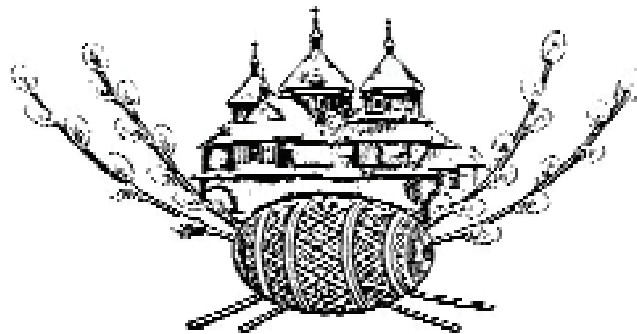
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Yushchenko's...

(Continued from page 2)

Oblast administration from 1999 to 2005 is a case of asset-stripping of an oblast by a Donetsk clan representative. His chairmanship in Sumy may have directly contributed to Mr. Yushchenko's landslide result in the oblast, where he obtained 79.45 percent of the vote in the 2004 presidential election, a result similar to those Mr. Yushchenko obtained in central Ukraine.

In spring 2005 Mr. Shcherban fled Ukraine for the United States, but he was extradited to Ukraine in autumn 2006. Criminal charges against him have been dropped with the assistance of the Yanukovich government.

In the 2006 parliamentary elections the PIEU was one of five parties that aligned within the pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine. The presence of the PIEU and the refusal of many national democrats who had aligned with Our Ukraine in 2002 to do so again in 2006 increased the prominence of business groups inside Our Ukraine.

Mr. Kinakh's defection from Our Ukraine back to the Yanukovich camp reflects three factors common to Ukraine and other post-Soviet states.

- First, a lack of any ideology within pro-business and centrist parties. Between 2002 and 2007 the PIEU moved from the Kuchma camp and back to the former Kuchma camp.

- Second, a reluctance of businessmen to be in opposition to the authorities, even in countries such as Ukraine where the separation of business and politics was a demand of the Orange Revolution.

- Third, the relative ease with which the authorities buy off businessmen through positions, money and state largesse or, in the Kuchma era, through threats and intimidation.

Thirty out of 79 Our Ukraine deputies voted for Mr. Yanukovich's nomination as

prime minister on August 4, 2006 (including Mr. Kinakh). This clearly showed a divide running through Our Ukraine that has now come out into the open.

The PIEU's defection is also a response to the February 24 unification of Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. Such a reunification of Orange forces was a demand raised by the national democratic wing of Our Ukraine that had supported the Orange Coalition after the 2006 elections. The PIEU and business groups in Our Ukraine have poor relations with Ms. Tymoshenko and preferred a grand coalition with the Party of the Regions.

The demand from within Our Ukraine that the 30 deputies who voted for Mr. Yanukovich's candidacy be expelled was never fulfilled. Instead, Our Ukraine has now expelled PIEU members from its faction.

This has placed the national deputies in an unclear legal position, as the "imperial mandate" in the election law does not permit deputies to change factions. The Constitution also forbids individual deputies from joining coalitions (as opposed to factions). President Yushchenko described the defection as a "revision of the political results of the 2006 elections."

The defection of the PIEU to the National Unity Coalition points to three conclusions. First, little has changed in regime-party-business relations in post-Orange Revolution Ukraine. Second, Ukraine has a vacuum on the center-right where a pro-reform and pro-Euro-Atlantic integration force would be traditionally based. Third, the National Unity Coalition's goal is to obtain a constitutional majority, abolish directly elected presidents and rule without recourse to the opposition.

Sources: *Ukrayinska Pravda*, February 20, 21, 23; razom.org.ua, February 21; byut.com.ua, February 20 and 21.

Ukrainian language...

(Continued from page 2)

do everything to make Russian a second official language. In the statement, the council accused western Ukraine, which strongly opposes granting any status to Russian, of collaborating with the Nazis during World War II. The statement urged the western regions of the country to respect Donetsk's "culture and traditions, and its native language."

Council Secretary Mykola Levchenko, who is a member of the PRU, expressed the most radical view. "The Russian language has to be a state language in Ukraine," Ukrayinski Novyny news agency quoted him as saying. "The Ukrainian language will continue to exist as a language of folklore, but it contributes nothing to the development of science or interethnic communication, because nobody knows it." Mr. Levchenko's party colleagues have hurried to explain that this opinion was a private view, rather than the party's position.

Quoting the nationalist Ukrainian People's Party Donetsk branch, several Ukrainian news outlets reported that the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) had launched a criminal case against the Donetsk City Council over the language statement. SBU Deputy Chief Henadii Moskal, however, denied those reports, speaking to Channel 5 on March 10.

President Yushchenko, addressing the Russian-speaking Crimea on February 22, said that Ukrainian legislation does not provide for the status of regional language. Meeting young Ukrainian scientists in Kyiv a day earlier, Mr.

Yushchenko said that those who do not want Ukraine to be free are the ones who do not accept the single national language. "There is no nation without a language," he said.

Addressing the local intelligentsia in Lviv on March 6, Mr. Yushchenko singled out the preservation of official status for only Ukrainian as a government priority, along with European integration and developing a competitive domestic market. Listing national priorities, Mr. Yushchenko placed the single state language at the top, speaking at a meeting with his supporters near the monument to the national poet Taras Shevchenko in Kyiv on March 9.

The current Constitution of Ukraine does not provide any special status for Russian. According to various surveys, about half of Ukrainians are in favor of raising the status of Russian. A public opinion poll conducted by the All-Ukrainian Sociological Service last fall showed that Russian is the native language for 39 percent of Ukrainians, and that 48-50 percent of them prefer Russian in everyday communication.

Sources: *For-ua.com*, October 18; *UNIAN*, February 6; *ITAR-TASS*, February 20; *ProUA.com*, *Ostro.org*, February 21; *Ukrayinski Novyny*, *Interfax-Ukraine*, February 22; *Ukrayinska Pravda*, February 28; *Glavred.info*, March 7; *Channel 5*, March 7, 10.

The article above is reprinted from *Eurasia Daily Monitor* with permission from its publisher, the *Jamestown Foundation*, www.jamestown.org.



With great sadness, we regret to inform you of the repose in our Lord on Saturday, March 24, 2007 of our beloved Mother, Grandmother, and Great-grandmother

Alexandra Belimenko

née Uhlanska

in the 10th decade of her life.

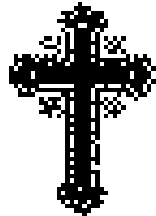
Daughter: Valentina Syzonenko with her husband Genadij

Grandsons: Walter Syzonenko with his wife Christine and children Nicholas, Katerina, and Alexander
Victor Syzonenko with his wife Christine and children Steven, Carolyn, and Andrew
Paul Syzonenko with his wife Brenda and children Peter and John

Family in Ukraine and in the U.S.

Pani Belimenko was laid to rest on Wednesday March 28 at the Cemetery of St. Andrew's Memorial Church, S. Bound Brook NJ.

Those wishing to honor her memory are invited to make a donation to the Museum Fund of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, PO Box 495, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880-0495



Ділимося сумною вісткою з родиною і приятелями, що з волі Всевишнього в четвер, 22 березня 2007 р. в Duncanville, Texas, по довгій недужі відійшов у вічність наш найдорожчий **БАТЬКО, ДІДУСЬ, БРАТ і СТРИЙКО**

СВ. П.

ЯРЕМА ШУГАН

нар. 1 січня 1937 р. у селі Покропивна, Тернопільська обл., Україна.

Колишній актор студії Олімпії Добровольської і Йосипа Гірняка в Нью-Йорку. Працював в Радіо Свободі в Мюнхені і техніком-відео продюсером у фірмі AAFES у Dallas, Texas.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися 25 березня 2007 р. і прах похований на DFW National Cemetery, Dallas, Texas.

У глибокому смутку залишилися:

дочки – ШЕННОН з чоловіком ТРЕЙС ГЕНРІ і дітьми БРАННОН і ДЕРІЄН
– НАДЯ
сестра – РОМА
братова – ОЛЬГА ШУГАН
братанок – МАРКО ШУГАН з дружиною МОТРЕЮ і дітьми ІГОРЕМ та ОМЕЛЯНОМ
кузини – МАРІЯ ТОМОРУГ з чоловіком ЯРОСЛАВОМ
– ЮРІЙ ШУГАН з дружиною ДЖЕНИС
племінники – АЛЕКСАНДЕР ШУГАН з родиною
– АНДРІЯ Г'ЕЛБЕР з родиною
– ХРИЗАНТА ВИЛИС з родиною
та ближча і дальша родина в Україні.

Вічна Йому Пам'ять!

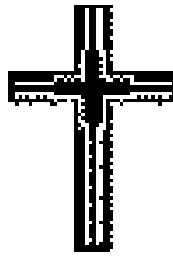
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

to be published in The Ukrainian Weekly – in the Ukrainian or English language – are accepted by mail, courier, fax, phone or e-mail.

Deadline: Tuesday noon before the newspaper's date of issue.
Rate: \$7.50 per column-inch.

Information should be addressed to the attention of the Advertising Department and sent to: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280 (NB: please do not include post office box if sending via courier), Parsippany, N.J. 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510; telephone, (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040; e-mail, adsukrpubl@att.net.

Please include the daytime phone number of a contact person.



LUBOMYR MYKYTA

Lubomyr Mykyta, 81, formerly of Harrisburg, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, March 8, 2007, at Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis, Maryland.

Born October 7, 1925 in the village of Pykulychi, a few miles from the city of Peremyshl, Ukraine (now in Poland), he was the son of the late Wasyl and Julia (Powch) Mykyta. He was predeceased by his brother, Roman, who was lost in the Second World War serving in the Ukrainian Division. Following World War II, his family left Ukraine and in 1950 immigrated to the United States, sailing aboard USAT General A.W. Greeley to Philadelphia. He was a devoted and loving son, who, along with his wife, Mary Ann, cared for both of his parents and uncle, Ivan Powch throughout their advanced years until their passing into eternity.

Upon his arrival in the United States he settled in Chester, Pa., where he was a member of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was active in Ukrainian cultural and social activities in the metropolitan Philadelphia area. He took an avid interest in soccer and volleyball and was a frequent visitor to Soyuzivka, the UNA resort in New York State.

He began his working career at Colorado Iron and Steel / Phoenix Steel Corporation in Claymont, DE, where he pioneered the company's entry into ultrasonic and radiographic testing, heading their mobile ultrasonic testing team. On June 20, 1959, he married the former Mary Ann Walls of Milford, DE. In 1966 he moved to Harrisburg, PA to head Astrotech, Inc., a division of Certified Testing Laboratories (CTL), until his retirement in 1994. Upon retirement, Lubomyr and his wife, Mary Ann, moved to Dagsboro, DE, where he lived for several years until ultimately moving to Crofton, MD.

Lubomyr was a member of St. Anne's Byzantine Catholic Church, Harrisburg. He will always be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Surviving is his beloved wife of over 47 years, Mary Ann (Walls) Mykyta; one son: John L. Mykyta (and his wife, Missy), Crofton, MD; 3 daughters: Maria L. Tershak (and her husband, Robert), Palmyra, Natalie V. Dekle (and her husband, Thomas), Chapel Hill, NC, and Laryssa A. Mykyta (and her husband, Daniel Chomsky), Philadelphia; and 7 grandchildren: Meagen Tershak, Maire Dekle, Catherine Tershak, Roman Mykyta, Anna Dekle, Rosa Chomsky and Emmanuel (Manny) Chomsky.

A viewing was held on March 13, 2007 at Zimmerman Auer Funeral Home, 4100 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, PA.

Funeral Services were conducted on March 14, 2007, at St. Ann's Byzantine Church, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA with Father John J. Zeyack officiating. Lubomyr was laid to rest at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, 6701 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, PA.

Donations in lieu of flowers should be made in memory of Lubomyr Mykyta to St Ann's Byzantine Catholic Church, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

President meets with Constitutional Court

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on March 27 met with judges of the Constitutional Court and informed them about the political and legal situation in Ukraine and relations among the president, the Cabinet of Ministers and the Verkhovna Rada. He urged the judges to speed up consideration of cases that are of great importance, including the law "On the Cabinet of Ministers." Mr. Yushchenko agreed to an offer by the chairman of the Constitutional Court, Ivan Dombrovskiy, to hold a meeting involving the president, the prime minister, the Rada chairman and judges of the Constitutional Court. (Ukrinform)

Yatseniuk vows reforms on way to EU

KYIV – Arsenii Yatseniuk, Ukraine's newly appointed foreign affairs minister, met with the European Union's External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner in Brussels on March 26 and vowed to work on broad-based reforms in his country, the dpa news service reported. Mr. Yatseniuk said in Brussels that a planned new agreement on closer ties with the European Union is a "big and complicated home test" for Ukraine. "We are well aware that the question of full-fledged [EU] membership for Ukraine is extremely long in terms of time," Mr. Yatseniuk told journalists after the meeting with Ms. Ferrero-Waldner. "But this way [to EU membership] has to be filled with integration, economical integration, educational integration, humanitarian integration," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM says president violates Constitution

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich told journalists in Kyiv on March 23 that President Viktor Yushchenko is violating the constitution of Ukraine by ignoring court rulings on some regional appointments, Interfax-Ukraine reported. In particular, Mr. Yanukovich said the president has failed to comply with a court ruling regarding Kharkiv Oblast Administration Chairman Arsen Avakov, in whom two-thirds of deputies of the Kharkiv Oblast Council passed a no-confidence motion. "The president's duty is to relieve him of his position. The president is failing to abide by the Constitution," Mr. Yanukovich added. The prime minister argued that, under the Constitution, a no-confidence vote supported by two-thirds of lawmakers is sufficient to oblige the president to sack the head of a raion or oblast administration. Mr. Yanukovich also said Mr. Yushchenko has so far failed to reinstate Kyiv Oblast Administration Chairman Yevhen Zhovtiak in accordance with a Supreme Court ruling. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Eleven opposition lawmakers defect

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz announced on March 23 that five lawmakers from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and six from Our Ukraine have recently changed sides and joined the ruling majority of the Party of the Regions, the Socialist Party and the Communist Party, Ukrainian media reported. Meanwhile, the ruling coalition, which was until recently known as the Anti-Crisis Coalition, announced that same day that it has renamed itself the National Unity Coalition. A total of 256 deputies in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada were registered for the session on March 23. The Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine have boycotted parliamentary sittings for the past two weeks, participating only in debates on some issues and in some votes. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada names new health minister

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on

March 23 dismissed Health Minister Yuriy Poliachenko and replaced him with his deputy, Yuriy Haidayev, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz told deputies that Mr. Poliachenko will assume the position of an "executive of a medical scientific center." Mr. Poliachenko was appointed health minister in August 2006 under a quota of Cabinet jobs assigned to Our Ukraine. When Our Ukraine switched to the opposition to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet in October 2006, Mr. Poliachenko refused to tender his resignation. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Concern over missile defense system

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 22 preliminarily approved a resolution expressing concerns over plans to deploy a proposed U.S. antimissile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic, Ukrainian media reported. The draft resolution states that the implementation of these plans poses a threat to Ukraine's national security and the lives of millions of Ukrainian citizens, adding that "in the event of the use of antimissile weapons...[there is a] possibility of damage, with serious consequences for the population [and] important national economic facilities, including nuclear power plants in the country." The final wording of the resolution is to be approved next week. The adoption of the draft resolution followed a debate in which Vice-Minister of Defense Leonid Poliakov argued that the U.S. missile-defense plans do not pose any threat to either Ukraine or Russia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko: Kinakh defection 'shameful'

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said on March 21 that the defection of Anatolii Kinakh from the Our Ukraine bloc and his acceptance of the post of economy minister in Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet is "morally shameful," Ukrainian media reported. "This recruitment is disliked by everybody. It is a dishonest act in politics," the president added. Mr. Kinakh, who backed Mr. Yushchenko in the 2004 Orange Revolution, served as economy minister in the post-Orange Revolution Cabinet of Yulia Tymoshenko and was subsequently appointed by President Yushchenko as head of the National Security and Defense Council. There are fears within the pro-presidential Our Ukraine bloc that the defection of Mr. Kinakh may signal the beginning of a mass exodus of lawmakers from the ranks of the opposition. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Our Ukraine expels Kinakh

KYIV – The Our Ukraine faction has decided to expel Anatolii Kinakh, it was reported on March 21 by the faction's leader, Viacheslav Kyrylenko. The Our Ukraine faction requested that representatives of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine (PIEU) determine their political stance. Those members of the PIEU who join the Anti-Crisis Coalition will be expelled from Our Ukraine. The Verkhovna Rada on March approved Mr. Kinakh, leader of the PIEU, as Ukraine's new minister of the economy. (Ukrinform)

PIEU may join ruling coalition

KYIV – The political council of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine (PIEU) might consider joining the Anti-Crisis Coalition, according to the party's leader, newly appointed Economy Minister Anatolii Kinakh. Speaking on March 21, he noted that the Verkhovna Rada should form a coalition of national unity. "Of course not by means of bargaining portfolios, but through consolidation around national economic and political interests," he stressed. According to parliamentary majority coordinator Raisa Bohatyriova, the Anti-

(Continued on page 27)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 26)

Crisis Coalition council will consider the applications of 12 national deputies from opposition factions to join the coalition. "We will tackle the application of 12 deputies, and we are negotiating with 10 more deputies," she added. (Ukrinform)

SBU investigates threats against Yulia

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SBU) is looking into information on threats to kill opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, said the acting chief of the SBU, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko. He also noted that the SBU, in accordance with law, guards the lives of the president, prime minister, Verkhovna Rada chairman and faction leaders. (Ukrinform)

SBU to interrogate Luzhkov

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) will soon interrogate Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov in view of his statements in February in Crimea. Ukrainian legislation requires such interrogation, said the acting chief of the SBU, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko. Russian legislation outlaws similar statements and urges in Russia. In late February Mr. Luzhkov publicly spoke against the territorial integrity of Ukraine and its Euro-Atlantic course. Mr. Nalyvaichenko also noted that the SBU will aim to close down radical pro-Russian organizations in Crimea whose activity violates Ukrainian laws. Thus, the Sevastopol Court has ceased the operations of the Proryv organization. The SBU will soon look into the operations of the Eurasian Union of Youth and the group Sevastopol-Crimea-Russia, he added. (Ukrinform)

PM says Ukraine not ready for NATO

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, while on a visit to Brussels, Belgium, confirmed Ukraine is not ready to join NATO, Ukrinform's Brussels-based correspondent reported on March 27. "Ukraine is not ready to join NATO. NATO is on a 20 percent level of approval," the prime minister stressed, noting that the decision on whether to join NATO will be made through an all-Ukrainian referendum. Commenting on the U.S. Congress' support of Ukraine's NATO membership, Mr. Yanukovich stressed that no terms are envisaged in any agreement between Ukraine and NATO. Ukraine sees a fruitful process of development of cooperation with NATO; however, it envisages no documents or specific data on joining the NATO, Mr. Yanukovich explained. (Ukrinform)

Court rules to close case against Lutsenko

KYIV – The Podil District Court of Kyiv ruled on March 27 in favor of ex-Minister of Internal Affairs Yuri Lutsenko and canceled the initiation of a criminal case against him on charges of abuse of power. One of Mr. Lutsenko's lawyers, Vitalii Kasko, commented, "the court has cancelled criminal proceedings against Lutsenko because it found no criminal actions on the part of Lutsenko." The Procurator General's Office (PGO) stated that it intends to appeal the ruling. The PGO instituted criminal proceedings against Mr. Lutsenko based on two articles of the Criminal Code regarding abuse of power by a law enforcement official and illegal issuance of weapons. On March 20 PGO officers conducted a search of Mr. Lutsenko's apartment and interrogated him. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko welcomes U.S. defense system

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in an interview with the Russian television channel Vesti 24 on March 13 that the U.S. missile defense system planned for deployment in Poland and the Czech

Republic will shield the whole of Europe and help create a multipolar world, Interfax reported. "It will be in the interests of peaceful coexistence if each state is protected, if we possess means of defense," Mr. Yushchenko noted, adding that "the development of multilateral models is always better than the development of a bipolar system of confrontation." Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Ukraine has demanded that the country's foreign affairs and defense ministries provide information regarding possible negotiations on the deployment of elements of the U.S. anti-missile defense system in Ukraine. General Henry Obering, director of the U.S. Defense Secretary's Missile Defense Agency, is currently in Kyiv to discuss the planned deployment of the U.S. missile defense system in Europe with Ukrainian officials, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia criticizes U.S. general's visit

MOSCOW – Andrei Kokoshin, chairman of the State Duma's Committee for the CIS, said on March 14 that the recent visit to Ukraine by U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry Obering, who heads the Missile Defense Agency, "is a serious attempt to disturb the established system of strategic stability at regional and global levels," Interfax reported. Mr. Kokoshin added that the visit "is dangerous, given growing political and military uncertainties in political relations in the world." He believes that such moves "negatively influence opportunities to broaden cooperation" between Russia and the United States on several important security issues. Mr. Kokoshin stressed that Russia has an "extremely negative" view of the projected U.S. missile-defense system, which Lt. Gen. Obering came to discuss, especially "on the territories of former Soviet republics," as well as in Poland and the Czech Republic. Mr. Kokoshin said that he is "surprised, to put it mildly," that Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko expressed support for the project during the U.S. general's visit. Mr. Kokoshin added that President Yushchenko's statement "runs counter to sentiments among the overwhelming majority of Ukrainian society." On March 15, Lt. Gen. Obering repeated in Berlin the long-standing U.S. position that missile defense is not directed against Russia but against Iran and other rogue states, news agencies reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Justice Ministry notes frequent vetoes

KYIV – The Ministry of Justice expressed its dismay over the frequent use of the presidential veto, it was reported on March 2 by the ministry's press service, which cited the words of Minister Oleksander Lavrynovych at a Kyiv press conference. Mr. Lavrynovych voiced his opinion that there is a tendency to use the presidential veto as an instrument to halt the government's policies. He said that from August 2006 through February of this year, 26 of the 140 laws adopted by the Verkhovna Rada were vetoed by the president; in January and February alone the president vetoed 13 laws. Mr. Lavrynovych called this an anomaly in the context of European traditions. "In France last year the head of state did not use the power of the veto; in the last 30 years in France the presidential veto was used against four laws. In Slovakia last year there was not a single veto; in Lithuania there were four vetoes," Mr. Lavrynovych said. He underscored that the current situation in Ukraine demonstrates that European political culture has not become a part of Ukrainian political life. On March 7 the Presidential Secretariat provided statistics showing the frequency of presidential vetoes. During the administration of President Leonid Kuchma the veto was applied to 73 laws out of 382 passed by the Rada (14 vetoes were overridden), for a

frequency of 19.1 percent. During the Verkhovna Rada's fourth convocation President Yushchenko vetoed 154 laws out of 521 passed, or 29.5 percent (13 vetoes overridden). During the Rada's fifth convocation, President Yushchenko used the veto on 26 laws out of 179 passed, for a frequency of 14.5 percent (three vetoes overridden). (Ukrayinski Novyny)

Belarusian civic activist in Kyiv

KYIV – United Civic Party leader Anatol Lyabedzka told journalists in Kyiv on March 13 that he would like Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko to discuss the problem of political prisoners in Belarus with his Belarusian counterpart Alyaksandr Lukashenka during an upcoming meeting of both politicians in Kyiv, Belapan reported. "It is impossible to meet today with the man whose opponent [Alyaksandr Kazulin] was sentenced to five and a half years in prison only for being his challenger in the [presidential] election," Mr. Lyabedzka said. "We cannot welcome any political contacts [with Lukashenka] as long as we in Belarus continue to have simulated elections. Ukraine has real elections, while in Belarus Lukashenka at a news conference with Ukrainian journalists can say, 'Yes, we falsified the presidential-election results,'" Mr. Lyabedzka added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Regions support Russian state language

KYIV – The Party of the Regions is contemplating the granting of the status of state language to Russian, it was disclosed on TV by the vice-chairman of the Party of the Regions faction, Borys Kolesnykov. He noted that state status for a language is regulated by Article 10 of the Constitution, which can be amended with the support of 300 national deputies. "When we increase our composition up to 300 representatives, we will take up this issue," he said on March 27. (Ukrinform)

President signs charter against cancer

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on March 26 signed the Charter of Paris Against Cancer to "confirm Ukraine's desire and political will to achieve its goals, and our country's intention to fulfill it." The Charter of Paris is aimed at improving cancer treatment and developing cancer research. "By joining the Charter of Paris, which has been signed by 32 countries, Ukraine demonstrates its aspiration to reinforce its efforts to fight cancer and help cancer patients," he said. Mr. Yushchenko said 90,000 Ukrainians die of cancer every year. He said the country could reduce this number by promoting cancer awareness and popularizing healthy lifestyles. He added that it is vital to prevent and diagnose cancer more efficiently. Mr. Yushchenko said a cancer institute would soon be established in Ukraine; it will unite scientific, professional and administrative resources in order to formulate a national agenda to fight cancer, unify treatment standards and adopt state-of-the-art medical techniques. He said the government is now preparing a national program to fight cancer for 2007-2016. (Press Office of Ukraine's President)

New subway line for Kyiv

KYIV – Construction has been launched in Kyiv of a new subway line, via which it will take about one hour to cross the city from the south to the west. The press service of Kyiv's Municipal State Administration reported that the construction project for the Kurenivka-Chervonoarmiyska subway line from the Lybidska station to the Vystavkovyi Center station has been approved by Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi. Kyiv's subway currently includes three lines and 45 stations. About 1.5 million passengers use the subway everyday. (Ukrinform)

National-democratic forces unite

KYIV – Right-wing political forces on March 26 signed a memorandum on creating a Bloc of National-Democratic and Patriotic Forces. The bloc was joined by the Ukrainian People's Party, the National Movement of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Republican Party Sobor and the Party of Village Revival. According to the chairman of the National Movement of Ukraine (Rukh), Borys Tarasyuk, the bloc's key task is unification in preparation for future elections, conducting joint actions and creating a Coordination Council. "The bloc is open to other national-democratic and patriotic forces," Mr. Tarasyuk noted. (Ukrinform)

Bill proposed on Holodomor denial

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has submitted a bill on amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine, paving the way to establishing criminal liability for denying the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine and the Holocaust, it was reported on March 23. In November 2006 the Verkhovna Rada recognized the Famine as the genocide against the Ukrainian people. The Famine has been officially recognized by the parliaments of Austria, Hungary, the Vatican, Lithuania, Estonia, Italy, Argentina, Canada, Georgia, Poland and the U.S. Congress. (Ukrinform)

National Salvation Committee restored

KYIV – Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko at a March 23 press conference announced the resumption of the activities of the National Salvation Committee. She said the decision had been arranged with the Our Ukraine Political Council. In connection with the growing majority in the Verkhovna Rada, which was recently joined by some members of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), Ms. Tymoshenko said that deputies were "bribed." Bribing deputies is a direct violation of the Constitution of Ukraine, she said, adding that the majority is no longer legitimate, nor are its decisions legitimate. According to YTB leader, the National Salvation Committee "will gather society to remove the government and to hold early elections to the Parliament." Ms. Tymoshenko said she is confident that the coalition is illegitimate, which gives the president grounds to disband the Parliament. (Ukrinform)

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EXPLORATION DAY CAMP AGES 7-10

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Session 1: June 25–June 29, 2007
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ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY UKRAINIAN DANCE WORKSHOP AGES 16 & UP

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Formerly known as Cherny Camp, this day camp exposes kids to their Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games. Price includes tee-shirt & daily lunch.

Session 1: July 15–July 20, 2007
Session 2: July 22–July 27, 2007
\$150 Per Camper
\$190 if not an overnight guest

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Session 1: July 22–July 28, 2007
Session 2: July 29–August 4, 2007
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Session 1: July 22–August 4, 2007
Session 2: August 5–18, 2007
\$910- UNA Members
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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Aerosvit manager retires, is honored

NEW YORK – Mykola Kravets, U.S.A. general manager for Aerosvit airlines, retired late last year after 33 years of service as a representative abroad of several airlines and as a top official in Ukrainian Civil Aviation Management.

He was recognized for his contributions – which include initiating trans-Atlantic flights from Ukraine to the United States – by President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, who decreed on November 28, 2006, that he be presented the Ukrainian state award “For Merit” (second class).

Over the course of more than three decades, Mr. Kravets succeeded in opening many new air routes from Ukraine to Europe. He was a representative for Aeroflot, Air Ukraine and, most recently, Aerosvit airlines.

Speaking in December 2006 with Svoboda Editor Lev Khmelkovsky, Mr. Kravets recalled how in the 1980s flights to the West were allowed to leave

only from Moscow; the only flights from Ukraine were to countries of the “socialist camp.” Then, in 1984, permission was obtained for flights from Ukraine to the West, and the first flights were to Paris, Vienna, Athens and other cities.

In 1990, Mr. Kravets had the idea of opening a route from Kyiv to New York, and an agreement allowing that route was signed between the United States and the USSR. The first Kyiv-to-New York flight was on June 11, 1991. Although the crew was Moscow-based, the body of the plane bore the words “Air Ukraine.”

This, Mr. Kravets underscored, was an important event in Ukraine’s aviation history. He proudly recalled that New York City Mayor David Dinkins said at the time that this will promote the development of relations between New York and Ukraine, adding that the mayor said “Ukraine,” not “the Ukrainian SSR.”

This also was a step toward Ukraine’s independence, which came just over two months later, on August 24, 1991, Mr. Kravets stated.

Huculak appointed to Order of Canada

PICKERING, Ontario – Erast Huculak has been appointed as a member of the Order of Canada – the highest honor that any Canadian may achieve. The announcement was made on February 20 by Governor General of Canada Jean Michaëlle.

Mr. Huculak has distinguished himself as a worldwide community builder through his many humanitarian and philanthropic activities. He is the founder and president of Medical Pharmacies Group, which currently employs over 600 staff in Ontario and is the largest supplier of pharmaceuticals to long-term care facilities in Canada.

He supported the establishment of democratic traditions in Ukraine as the USSR was collapsing in 1989, presiding over the Canadian Friends of Rukh during the critical first four years. Mr. Huculak was also one of the founders of the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund.

In 1989 he established the Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography, the first and only endowed chair at that time at the University of Alberta. He bought and donated the building for the first Embassy of Ukraine in Ottawa, and was selected to serve as an advisor to the prime minister of Ukraine.

In 1995 he was awarded the Taras Shevchenko Medal by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress for an exemplary record of achievement and commitment. This is the highest recognition an individual can attain in the Ukrainian Canadian community.

In 1996 Erast Huculak was awarded Ukraine’s Presidential Medal of Merit (third class) for his political, medical, cultural and educational contributions.

In 2001 he received the Presidential Medal of Merit of the (second class). Only two Canadians have been recipients of this award.

Also in 2001 an honorary Doctor of Laws degree was bestowed on him by the University of Alberta for his many humanitarian and philanthropic activities.

In 2003 Mr. Huculak was appointed to serve as honorary consul of Ukraine in Canada by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and accorded a definitive recog-



Erast Huculak

nitiation by the governor general of Canada.

Recently Mr. Huculak donated 550 acres in the Durham Region to the Conservation Authority. This land will be transformed into a park and a recreational area for many generations to come. Mr. Huculak explained that this is his “thank you” to Canada.

Mr. Huculak resides in Toronto with his wife, Yarmila, five children and four grandchildren.



Lev Khmelkovsky

Congratulating Mykola Kravets (right) on his Ukrainian state award “For Merit” are (from left): Henk Guitjens, chief marketing officer for JFK International Airport’s International Air Terminal; Janice Holden, vice-president of marketing and business development for the terminal; Viktor Kryzaniivsky, acting ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations; and Alain Maca, president of the International Air Terminal.

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State Department's...

(Continued from page 3)

limited protection from refoulement.

The State Border Service in June 2006 announced the opening of a modern refugee center in Chop, which can accommodate 46 people. It is the first mixed-gender detention center built to European standards in the country. Two more facilities were opened in October 2006 – one in Chernihiv and the other in Lviv, which can accommodate 24 and 32 migrants, respectively.

Although the parliamentary elections were hailed as the most free and fair since independence, there were reports of isolated cases of pressure from local enterprise directors and employers to vote for a designated candidate. Local elections, also held in March, were marred by accusations that authorities manipulated the vote count in some elections. The mayoral race in Cherkasy was particularly controversial, as authorities prohibited a series of popular candidates from running based on corruption charges that observers said were politically motivated, and the election results were cancelled. A new vote was held on November 5, 2006.

Corruption remained a serious problem in all three branches of the government, including the armed services. The Yushchenko administration made little progress in prosecuting former officials suspected of corruption. Parliamentary immunity continued to perpetuate the corruption by shielding members of the Verkhovna Rada suspected of committing crimes. Progress was made in the local governments with the abolition of this immunity on April 4, 2006, which resulted in 12 criminal cases being filed in one region alone.

The Procurator General's Office initiated a criminal investigation in August 2006 against a senior official of the Ministry of Defense who was accused of accepting \$580,000 in bribes. The Cabinet of Ministers also reviewed state-run oil and gas company NaftoHaz's financial plan and found that mismanagement of funds contributed to the company's difficulties. Two investigative commissions established by the Verkhovna Rada found that certain irregular financial and business activities appeared to constitute criminal offenses. One instance cited by the report shows that NaftoHaz paid a gas supplier twice for the same gas, resulting in significant financial damage to the state.

The report pointed out that domestic and international human rights groups generally operated without government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings, but the NGO community complained that its suggested policy changes fell on deaf ears. During 2006 the government set up public advisory councils to reinforce public oversight and cooperation between government and civil society. One council was set up in the Ministry of Justice to monitor prison facilities, another works with the SBU to increase its transparency, and a similar council works with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to increase cooperation between law enforcement and NGOs.

The office of the ombudsman complained of limited funding that continued to hamper its effectiveness. Major priorities for the ombudsman included combating the trafficking of persons and improving the conditions at pretrial centers, with the last report on human rights by Ombudsman Nina Karpachova submitted to Parliament in July 2005.

Treatment of women

Violence against women remains a serious problem and is common. One NGO estimated that approximately 50 percent of women have been subjected to physical or psychological abuse. Authorities often pressured women not to press charges against their husbands. Legiteam, an NGO that educates judges on human rights

issues, said that most judges were unaware of the law adopted in 2006 stipulating gender equality. During the first 11 months of 2006 a total of 70,888 domestic violence complaints were made to law enforcement; of these, 67,639 cases were issued rulings, which included 8,973 persons jailed, 277 serving community service, 52,739 people fined and 5,412 people issued warnings.

Despite being illegal, prostitution remained widespread and largely ignored by the government, while laws criminalizing organized prostitution had little effect. Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation remained a serious problem in Ukraine. Women's groups also reported widespread sexual harassment in the workplace, including coerced sex. Human rights observers also noted that women often faced discrimination in the workplace, with many employers denying employment to women who were likely to become pregnant.

Equal pay for equal work for men and women was generally observed, but industries that were dominated by women faced lower wages and were more likely to face wage arrears. After the March 2006 elections, the number of women in Parliament increased from 25 to 38. Also, the first female governors [chairs of oblast administrations] of Ukraine took office in Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy and Kyiv regions. The 18-member Constitutional Court had three female judges.

Budgetary considerations severely limited the government's ability to ensure children's rights. Most of the work regarding the protection of children's rights was accomplished by NGOs. Legislation was passed in 2006 to increase awareness and combat child homelessness, but the legislation lacked adequate funding.

Funding issues also affected the public education system, which caused poorer children to drop out. This contributed to a lack of schooling among the rural populations, and it was noted that illiteracy, previously very rare, remained a problem.

Although healthcare was available to all children, the overall quality remained poor. Children continued to be victims of widespread violence and abuse, with over 1.5 million warnings being issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Many of the reports of abuse were related to child prostitution, pornographic video sales, child molestation and illegal child labor. NGOs reported that police often ignored legal requirements and did not investigate parents who allegedly abused their children.

Trafficking issues

Ukraine remained a point of origin for internationally trafficked men, women and children. Ukraine served as a transit route to the East and West, but was not reported as a destination country. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that 76 percent of victims were women who were forced into prostitution and used as housekeepers, seamstresses, dishwashers and as labor in small and large manufacturing facilities.

Children who were trafficked abroad or within the country were forced to beg, provide sexual services and engage in unpaid work. The IOM reported that the targeted groups of women for sexual exploitation were up to 30 years of age, while older women, men of all ages and children were exploited primarily for labor. Children who had to leave orphanages at age 18 were at high risk since there were no family support structures in place, they had difficulty finding work and often had no place to live.

In the first six months of 2006, over half the convicted traffickers received prison sentences rather than probation. Experts recommended that a specialized trafficking trial prosecutors unit be established and the extension of a witness protection program be instituted. However,

the prosecutor general dismissed the proposal, due to lack of funding.

Efforts to combat trafficking included the regular review of licenses of domestic employment agencies, but labor officers were often corrupt and ignored many violations. The Ukrainian government's efforts to cooperate with investigations by foreign governments were often met by insufficient resources, the reluctance of witnesses to come forward and a lack of timely cooperation by law enforcement in most destination countries. Corruption in the courts and in law enforcement impeded the government's ability to combat trafficking, which fostered a lack of trust of the law enforcement agencies and the courts.

People with disabilities

Persons with disabilities received little assistance from the government. Advocacy groups maintained that there was societal discrimination against the disabled and the government did little to increase opportunities for those persons.

Harassment of racial and ethnic minorities remained a problem and Amnesty International reported that incidents of racial hatred and xenophobia were increasing. Opinion polls indicated that social intolerance is greater toward Roma than any other ethnic group. Other ethnic minority groups that reportedly faced discrimination included Crimean Tatars and Rusyns.

Human rights groups also criticized widespread discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS and lack of access to treatment.

Acts of discriminations increased with several government publications portraying Roma as criminals and reports that the Crimean government permitted textbooks to be used the contained inflammatory and historically inaccurate material about Tatar Muslims.

Worker's right's of association were generally respected, but large companies and some local government officials continued to resist the formation of unions. Registration procedures were often extremely burdensome, entailing visiting up to 10 different offices, submitting extensive documentation and paying a number of fees, it was reported.

Both "official" and "independent" trade unions existed, but the independent unions continued to be denied a share of the former Soviet trade unions' huge property and financial holdings. Independent union leaders complained that government rep-

resentatives, often identified as political allies of the political opposition, sought to influence union votes and pressured members to report on union activities. Collective bargaining rights were not always respected in practice, with overlapping spheres of responsibility that frequently impeded the process.

Reports of forced or compulsory labor occurred with military conscripts being used in the construction and refurbishing of private houses for military and government officials. There were also reports of violations to the law regarding child labor and minimum age requirements. Working conditions suffered as well, regardless that the minimum monthly wage increased to \$80 (400 hrv) by year's end; the minimum wage did not provide a decent standard of living for a worker and a family.

The State Labor Inspectorate is responsible for enforcing the minimum wage, but was unable to thoroughly monitor all employees, especially in the informal sector. The Federation of Employers of Ukraine (FEU) estimated that 430,000 employees, about half of whom worked in state-owned enterprises, did not receive wages on time. The FEU filed a complaint with the International Labor Organization in an effort to oblige the government to pay outstanding wages.

Other workplace issues included the fact that regulations concerning rest periods, maximum hours and overtime were not always effectively enforced. Occupational safety and health standards were frequently ignored in practice. During the first six months of 2006 there were 9,050 injuries, including 437 job-related fatalities. Coal mining injuries during the same period included 3,383, including 78 fatalities.

On April 15, 2006, the Yanukovich government restored the State Committee on Industrial Safety, Occupational Health and Mining Supervision, which was incorporated into the Ministry for Emergency Situations. The committee serves as the watchdog for coal-mine safety. The law provides workers the right to remove themselves from dangerous work situations without jeopardizing their continued employment, but independent trade unions reported that, in practice, asserting the right would result in retaliation or perhaps dismissal by management.

The U.S. State Department's 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices were released in March (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78846.htm>).

— compiled by Matthew Dubas

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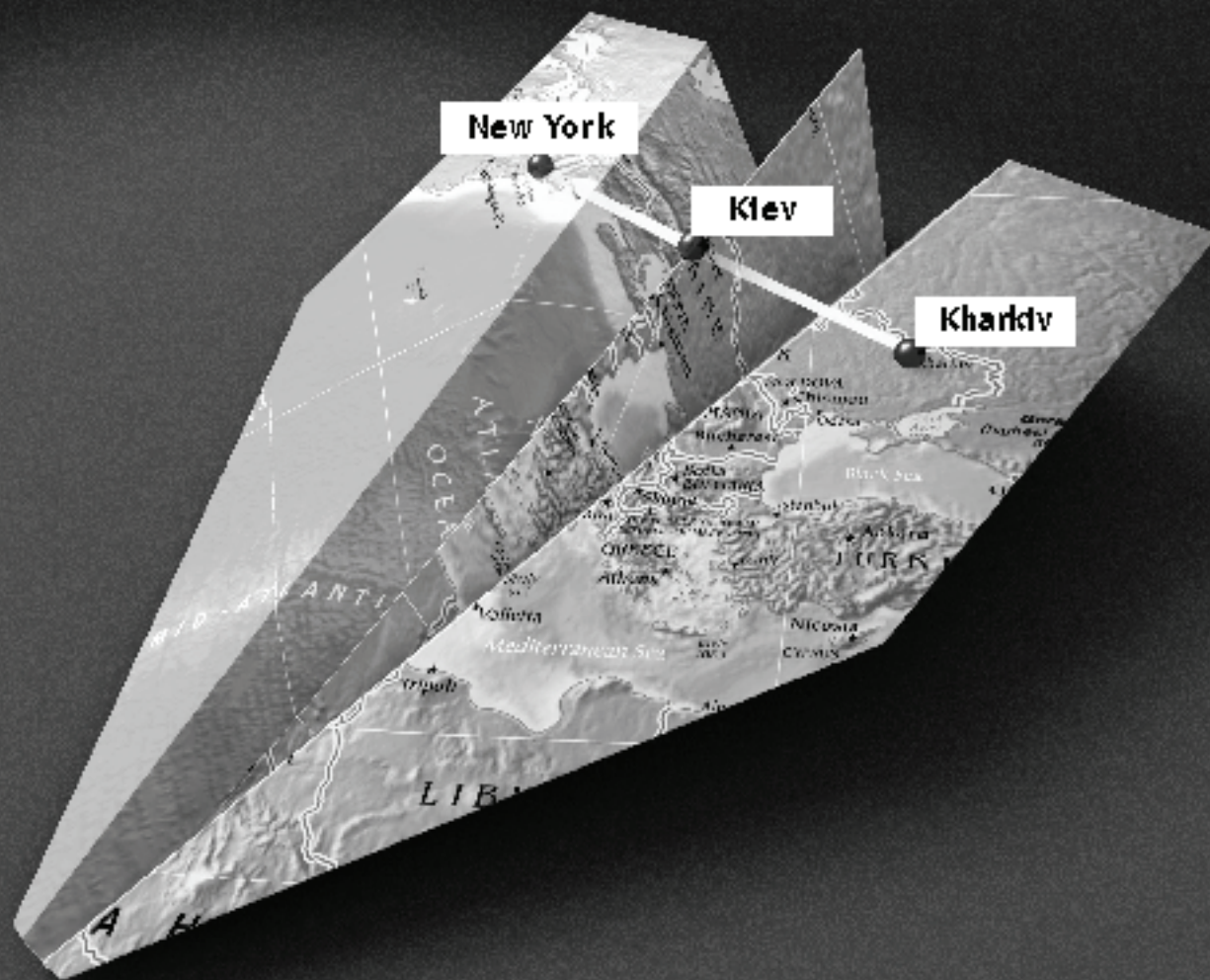
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Party list voting...

(Continued from page 1)

opposed.

"Those who said closed lists limited the rights of citizens were hissed at and told to let the parties do what belongs to them and not interfere," Ms. Kononchuk said. "An atmosphere was created in which the voice of civic organizations was not heard."

In the view of Ukrainian People's Party Chair Yuri Kostenko, the closed party list system was devised to limit voters' choices to those parties that had the most financing from Ukraine's businessmen, who don't have any political program to offer other than their own enrichment.

"Intellect, programs and ideas will compete when electoral systems will be open, and not money," Mr. Kostenko said. "Only in this is the prospect that Ukraine will move toward democracy, and not toward a closed, neo-totalitarian clan regime, which is present in Ukraine."

The Verkhovna Rada voted on March 25, 2004, to change Ukraine's electoral system to closed party lists, with 255 deputies voting in favor, many of whom were aligned with Mr. Kuchma.

The Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc factions didn't support the bill.

Consequently, political parties adapted to and effectively manipulated the new electoral system during the 2006 election campaign.

While voters were able to see the first five party or bloc candidates on their voting ballots, more than half weren't aware of who else was further down the list, said Iryna Bekeshkina, research director with the Kyiv-based Democratic Initiatives Foundation.

Parties resorted to including celebrities in the top five of their lists, including Ruslana Lyzhychko (Our Ukraine), Sofia Rotaru (Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Bloc) and Vitalii Klitschko (Pora/Reforms and Order) in order to attract votes.

Millionaires who financed the parties by buying their parliamentary seats were tucked further down the lists, political experts said, but high enough to be assured their investments would pay off.

For example, Mr. Abdullin had 74th place on the Tymoshenko Bloc list, Mr. Khmelnytskyi had 60th place and Mr. Feldman had 43rd place.

The Party of the Regions, meanwhile, did not shy away from the many wealthy businessmen who are contributors and high-ranking members.

In fact, Motor Sich Chairman Viacheslav Bohuslav earned fifth place on the Party of the Regions election list, intentionally placed for voters to view the businessman's name on their ballots.

The parliament's political diversity was sharply reduced after the March 2006 parliamentary elections, which produced five parliamentary factions compared to the more than 10 factions that emerged from the 2002 elections.

A year later, the shortcomings of the closed party list system are apparent.

More than a dozen businessmen have demonstrated they are not committed to the ideas and principles of the opposition blocs they ran under, recently abandoning them for the security of the coalition government, which is leading a campaign to secure a 300-vote constitutional majority.

Among them were Anatolii Kinakh, who was ranked fifth on Our Ukraine's electoral list, and Oleksander Yedin, the 68th politician on the Tymoshenko Bloc's list. Both politicians belonged to factions that supported Mr. Kuchma in the prior parliamentary convocation.

President Viktor Yushchenko was particularly disturbed with Mr. Kinakh's recent defection from Our Ukraine, referring to it as "morally shameful."

Entire factions have also abandoned their constituents.

Although the Socialist Party of Ukraine campaigned on a European integration platform, even employing the slogan "Building Europe in Ukraine," its decision to form the coalition govern-

ment with the Party of the Regions and the Communists to a large extent betrays that position.

If pre-term elections were to be held, polls show the Socialists aren't likely to return to Parliament, following their double-cross.

Another problem is that proposed legislation isn't debated at all in the current Parliament, pointed out Volodymyr Yavorskyi, chair of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

The current coalition government rubber-stamps legislative initiatives without having to take the opposition view into account.

"If earlier every deputy defended his separate position, then today all voting takes place without conflict, practically – unanimously like in Communist times," Mr. Yavorskyi said. "Issues important to society aren't discussed in Parliament."

As a result of the lack of voter accountability through constituent districts, as well as the firm lock on the parliamentary majority, national deputies grow increasingly detached from average Ukrainians with every passing day, political observers said.

Under the closed list system, they are not accountable to the citizens, who can't regulate an individual deputy's behavior by voting to re-elect or reject them.

"The given electoral system is a road to corruption, it's a road for government to become alienated from us, it's a road to create a closed caste for those who make decisions," Ms. Kononchuk said.

Under Mr. Kostenko's leadership, the Ukrainian People's Party is pursuing a campaign to institute a proportional, open-list electoral system based on single-mandate constituent districts.

However, the avid mountain climber faces a steep, seemingly insurmountable trek, since no bloc or party in the Verkhovna Rada is interested in helping its competition. Changing the electoral law would require deputies to put the national interest above their own or those of their bloc, party. Nothing indicates that Ukrainian politics have matured to that level, observers said.

"The battle against opening such an electoral system will be very serious, because it's much easier to pay for a place on lists than to fight for a seat in Parliament," Ms. Kononchuk said.



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'Receive the forgiveness...'

(Continued from page 6)

(Confession), and comes to us fully alive in the Holy Eucharist.

It is the prayerful hope of the hierarchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America that all our clergy, religious and faithful will hear God's angels calling each of us by name to receive the forgiveness offered by the Risen Christ, and to receive the Risen Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

The disciples on the road to Emmaus came to recognize the Risen Christ amidst them "in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24: 31, 35). Let us all gather in our parish communities and joyously celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Risen Christ is amidst us and wants to transform us like He transformed Peter and the early Christians. The Risen Christ wants us to meet Him amidst our parish community like He desired the disciples to gather. The Risen Christ is amidst us when we gather together in prayer as a spiritual family, a Church. Our faith in Jesus Christ becomes life giving and is nourished and stays alive when we gather together in

community for prayer. We thank you for your prayerful participation within your parish family, in your spiritual family. We need one another in our journey of faith, and something is lost when some do not participate as regularly as needed.

Our Easter Blessings upon all of our brother bishops, clergy, religious, seminarians and faithful.

Most Rev. Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S.A.
Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians

Most Rev. Robert M. Moskal
Bishop of the St. Josaphat Eparchy in Parma

Most Rev. Richard Seminack
Bishop of the St. Nicholas Eparchy in Chicago

Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford

Most Reverend John Bura
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia

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OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| April 7
Chicago | Film screening, "Orange Revolution," directed by Steven York, Portage Theater, 773-486-9612 | April 15
Hillside, NJ | Easter ritual songs and dances - hahilky, featuring instruction and performance, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-299-9381 |
| April 8
Mississauga, ON | Easter and spring ritual songs and dances, the Levada Choir Ukrainian Youth Ensembles, Holy Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church, 905-212-9708 | | |
| April 9
Lehighton, PA | Easter bazaar, Ukrainian Homestead, 215-235-3709 or 610-377-4621 | | |
| April 9
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Tarik Amar, "Underground Upturned: Manipulation of Memory and the Soviet Quest for Legitimacy in Western Ukraine," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 | | |
| April 9
Washington | Lecture by Keith Darden, "Resisting Occupation: Lessons from a Natural Experiment in Carpathian Ukraine," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 202-691-4140 | | |
| April 10
Toronto | Lecture by Tanya Richardson, "Identities in Odesa," Petro Jacyk Program, University of Toronto, 416-946-8113 | | |
| April 10
New York | Lecture with Roman Kupchinsky, "Energy and Nation-Building in Ukraine," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 | | |
| April 13
Washington | Spring social, The Washington Group, Leopold's Café, 703-548-8534 or 240-381-0993 | | |
| April 14
Baltimore, MD | Spring fling pub night, featuring live music, Ukrainian National Home/Sports Club Dnipro, 410-529-5375 or 410-967-0501 | | |
| April 14-15
Tyler, TX | Battle re-enactment, "Ukrainian War of Liberation," Four Winds Renaissance Faire, www.fourwindsfaire.com or maks_zobi@msn.com or 501-655-2161 | | |
| April 15
Oshawa, ON | Lecture with Lubomyr Luciuk at art exhibit featuring "Vera Jacyk: Chysto, Chysto, Chysto," Robert McLaughlin Gallery, 905-576-3000 | | |



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

April 8, 2007

Traditional Blessed Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 13-15, 2007

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekends offered at SUNY New Paltz

April 20-22, 2007

BUG (Brooklyn Ukrainian Group) Spring Cleaning/Volunteer Weekend

April 21, 2007

Alpha Kappa Sorority Semi-Formal Dinner Banquet Wedding

April 27-29, 2007

Plast Sorority "Shostokryli" Rada

April 28, 2007

TAP New York Beer Festival at Hunter Mountain - 10th Anniversary! Round-trip bus from Soyuzivka, special room rate \$60/night Alpha Phi Delta Fraternity Semi-Formal Dinner Banquet

May 4-6, 2007

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekends offered at SUNY New Paltz

May 13, 2007

Mother's Day Luncheon

May 19, 2007

Tri Valley High School Prom

May 25-27, 2007

Memorial Day Weekend BBQ, Orchidia Patrons' Reunion, Summer kick-off and zabava

June 1-3, 2007

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekends offered at SUNY New Paltz

June 4-8, 2007

Stamford Clergy Days - Spring Seminar

June 9, 2007

Wedding

June 10-15, 2007

UNA Seniors Week

June 17, 2007

Father's Day Luncheon and Program

June 21-24, 2007

UMANA Convention

June 24-July 6, 2007

Tennis Camp

June 24-July 1, 2007

Plast Camp - Tabir Ptashat, Session #1

June 25-29, 2007

Exploration Day Camp Session #1, ages 7-10



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, April 9

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture by Tarik Amar, Eugene and Daymel Shklar Research Fellow, Ukrainian Research Institute. His lecture, "Underground Upturned: Manipulation of Memory and the Soviet Quest for Legitimacy in Western Ukraine," will be held at 4-6 p.m. in Room S-050 (Concourse level) of the South Building of the Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS), located at 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information contact HURI at 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Friday, April 13

NEW YORK: The "Art at the Institute" program presents an exhibition of recent and past works by Vasyl Bazhaj, a contemporary artist from Lviv. The public is invited to the opening reception for the exhibition on Friday, April 13, at 6 p.m. The exhibition will continue through May 6. Venue: Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. For additional information and to RSVP for the opening reception call 212-288-8660 or e-mail programs@ukrainian-institute.org.

Saturday, April 14

NEW YORK: The "Music at the Institute" chamber music series presents the exceptionally gifted violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv in sonatas for violin and piano by Mozart (G Major, KV 301 (293a), Ravel (1927), and Liatoshynsky (Op. 19, 1926). For Schumann's Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 63, Miss Ivakhiv will be joined by pianist Angelina Gadeliya and cellist Michael Haas. The program begins at 8 p.m.; a reception will follow. Venue: Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Donation: \$30; UIA members and sen-

iors, \$25; students, \$20. For additional information and reservations call 212-288-8660 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

Wednesday, April 18

NEW YORK, NY: The April event of the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University will feature a screening and a personal meeting with the filmmakers of "The Unnamed Zone," a 2006 full-length documentary film about the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. Three children and their families, living close to the exclusion zone around the destroyed station, recount their fears, dreams and hopes for the future. The film (80 min.) will be shown in its original Ukrainian version with English subtitles, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 717 Hamilton Hall, 1130 Amsterdam Ave., Columbia University. It will be introduced by Yuri Shevchuk, director of the Ukrainian Film Club, and followed by discussion with the film's director, Carlos Rodriguez, and producer, Asun Lasarte. The screening is free and open to the public. For more information call 212-854-4697 or see <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc/>.

Wednesday, April 25

WHIPPANY, N.J.: A Wine, Spirits and Beer Tasting, sponsored by the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), Whippany Branch, the Morris County Volleyball Club (MCVC) and Liquor Outlet Wine Cellars of Boonton, N.J. will take place at 6-9 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ), 60 N. Jefferson Road. Tickets are \$40 per person (over 21, please); includes hors d'oeuvres, food stations and prizes. For ticket information call 973-479-8715 or 973-713-6956; or e-mail CeEyeBee@optonline.net. Information is available also on the website www.uaccnj.org. Proceeds will benefit UAYA, MCVC and UACCNJ.

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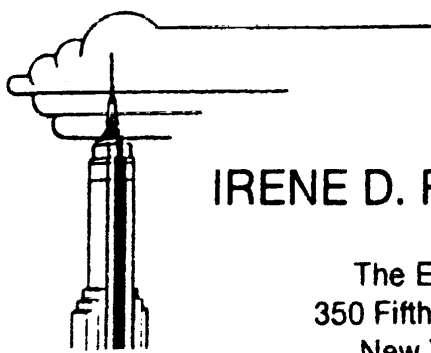
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