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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Activists warn local elections won't meet international norms

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Violence, protests and accusations of criminal activity nationwide marred the final week of election campaigning before the October 31 local elections, casting doubt on whether they would meet international standards.

Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko said she would not recognize the results of the Kyiv Oblast, Lviv Oblast and Ternopil City Council elections, where the Batkivschyna local organizations were hijacked by clones, or fake parties created by members who became loyal to the Party of Regions.

Election commissions controlled by the Party of Regions recognized these clones, but refused to recognize the real Batkivschyna organizations, resulting in numerous conflicts and hunger strikes that left several Batkivshyna members hospitalized.

“Political and criminal responsibility lies personally with President [Viktor] Yanukovich for the falsification of elections, which are in full gear.” Ms. Tymoshenko said at an October 25 press conference.

Batkivschyna members reported scores of other election violations, including the

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Yulia Tymoshenko of the Batkivschyna party.



Olha Aivazovska, board chair of Opora.

Canada's PM brings strong message of support for freedoms in Ukraine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada paid his first visit to Ukraine on October 25-26, traveling to Kyiv and Lviv, and sending a strong message of support for democracy and freedom.

The Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper, reported: “The message to Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was unmistakable: Canada wants closer ties with Ukraine, but only if Ukraine is free.”

Indeed, during a joint press conference in Kyiv Prime Minister Harper stated: “Canada will continue to support Ukraine whenever it moves forward for freedom, democracy and justice.”

In Lviv, the prime minister visited the Ukrainian Catholic University and the National Memorial Museum Prison on Lontskiyi, further underscor-

ing the Canadian government's concern about recent developments in Ukraine that point to a deterioration of freedoms.

He told students at UCU: “Remember that in Canada you have friends, friends who respect and admire Ukraine's heart for freedom, its spirit of national self-determination and the courage of its people, a courage that has never deserted you, even in the darkest nights of your long history.”

During his one-on-one meeting in Kyiv with President Yanukovich, the Canadian prime minister noted that Ukraine is the homeland of more than 1 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent. “Canada has always been very proud of its relations with Ukraine, particularly after your country gained independence,” Mr. Harper said, recalling that Canada was the first Western country in 1991 to recognize the independence of Ukraine.

Later, during a joint press conference, Mr. Yanukovich echoed those sentiments, saying, “Ukraine and Canada are linked by humanitarian relations. Canada is home to over 1.2 million Ukrainians. So I would like to emphasize: this is what unites us even more. We are proud that Ukrainians living in Canada are making a positive contribution to this wonderful country.”

Mr. Harper stated that “Canada and the Canadians feel deep love for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people” and noted that the Ukrainian community in Canada is the third largest in the world after those in Ukraine and Russia.

He added, “This special relationship



President Viktor Yanukovich welcomes Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper during official ceremonies in the Ukrainian capital on October 25.

between our countries is carved in our history,” but “a lot of work remains to be done,” in particular to develop trade relations.

Also during the press conference, when asked by journalists which human rights issues he had discussed with the Ukrainian president, Canada's prime minister said Mr. Yanukovich had assured him that he is committed to democracy and freedom. However, he did not disclose any details about their discussion.

Mr. Harper also mentioned during the news conference that Canada has always supported Ukraine's plans to join the European Union, however, it's up to Ukraine and the European community to decide on Ukraine's integration into the EU. The topic was not on the agenda of his meeting with Mr. Yanukovich, he explained.

At a meeting with his Canadian counterpart, Ukraine's Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said, “We have a lot to offer to Canada. I think that Canada too has something to offer Ukraine.” Mr. Azarov underscored that the level of trade between the two countries does not correspond to the potential of economic and trade relations.

While in Kyiv, the Canadian prime minister also held meetings with Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the Batkivschyna party, and Volodymyr Lytvyn, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada.

Ms. Tymoshenko, a leader of the opposition in Ukraine, said to Mr. Harper: “Thank

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On the ground in Poltava: a pre-election interview

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

POLTAVA, Ukraine – Valerii Asadchev, 57, of the pro-Western Ukrainian People's Party is running for the chair of the Poltava City Council (mayor) against incumbent Andrii Matkovskiyi, a Ukrainophobe supported by the Batkivschyna party, and the Party of Regions candidate, Oleksander Mamai, among others.

Mr. Asadchev was appointed by former President Viktor Yushchenko in 2006 to serve as chair of the Poltava Oblast State Administration, the government organ that's responsible for promoting the president's policies.

Mr. Asadchev was involved in the Rukh independence movement before joining the Ukrainian People's Party when it splintered from Rukh in 1999 under the leadership of Yurii Kostenko. He's a Kyiv native but now is among the favorites to win the election in Poltava



Valerii Asadchev, candidate for City Council chair in Poltava.

because of his leadership there.

He granted an interview to The

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ANALYSIS

Yanukovich's new best friend: Hugo Chavez of Venezuela



Official Website of Ukraine's President

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez with President Viktor Yanukovich in Ukraine.

by Taras Kuzio

Jamestown Foundation Blog

Venezuela's eccentric President Hugo Chavez visited Ukraine on October 18 to cement an economic, political and security relationship. As the director of Kyiv's Institute of World Policy, Alyona Hetmanchuk, noted, the new alliance was given a name by Ariel Cohen of Washington's Heritage Foundation: VIRUS – which brings together Venezuela, India, Russia and Syria. Perhaps Ukraine, Ms. Hetmanchuk muses, is planned to be the “U” in the new strategic alliance of VIRUS?

Mr. Chavez travelled to Ukraine after visiting Russia and Belarus. From Kyiv, he visited Iran, Syria, Libya and Portugal. “I was very pleased to hear about your victory, about your return, which was secured by the Ukrainian public. That very day I said to myself that I cannot waste time anymore, I must go to Ukraine and shake Viktor Yanukovich's hand, I have to embrace [the president] and convey the warmest greetings to the Ukrainian people,” Mr. Chavez said.

Kyiv's relationship with Venezuela harms Ukraine's relationship with Georgia. During the same week that Mr. Chavez visited Ukraine, the procurator's office reopened the case of alleged “illegal” arms sales to Georgia during President Viktor Yushchenko's rule.

Venezuela and Nicaragua are two of the four entities that recognize the independence of Georgia's occupied provinces of South Ossetia and Abkhazia (the others being Nauru and Moldova's Trans-dnister). In September 2008, the Party of Regions

and Communist Party of Ukraine supported a resolution in the Ukrainian Parliament that recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia – but it failed to be adopted. A similar resolution in the Crimean Parliament succeeded after it was supported by the Yanukovich bloc, which unites the Party of Regions and Russian nationalists with the Communists.

Mr. Yanukovich has not acted upon this step since becoming Ukraine's president and now claims he supports the territorial integrity of states such as Moldova. Mr. Yanukovich claimed that “this was because we always stand for territorial integrity.”

However, it seems as though the Party of Regions has one rule when in the opposition position and another when in power.

Besides the inevitable arms exports to Venezuela, both sides discussed economic projects. These included Ukraine's development of oil and gas fields in Venezuela, the transportation of 10 million tons of Venezuelan oil through Ukraine to Belarus, the opening of embassies in both countries, and the purchase of AN-74 planes for transport and marine patrol operations. Venezuela currently uses 15 AN-140 and AN-74 Antonov planes.

Venezuela is interested in cooperation in the fields of energy, petrochemicals, agriculture, industry and education. The widely criticized minister of education, Dmytro Tabachnyk, could very well become a “senior adviser” to the Venezuelan Ministry of Education.

Both sides discussed the issues of democracy and freedom of speech, a discussion during which it would have been fascinating to have been a fly on the wall. One can only muse at the thought of Presidents Chavez and Yanukovich discussing their unique contributions to building democracies and upholding free media in Venezuela and Ukraine.

Both, after all, have similar habits of saying one thing and doing another. Mr. Yanukovich has promised to punish those who will undertake election fraud in the October 31 local elections, while at the same time his political force is preparing to undertake massive election fraud. Is Mr. Yanukovich really unaware that the party that he led for seven years, and which is now led by loyalist Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, controls a majority of officials in each election commission?

Mr. Yanukovich had strong words of advice for Western journalists, saying, “I think that you will have to undertake great

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NEWSBRIEFS

Yanukovich sees provocations as threat

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich considers provocations a major possible threat to the local elections. Speaking on October 26 at a meeting with ambassadors and heads of observer missions, he said, “If there are no specially trained teams of provocateurs, there will be no problems. But I believe that the real fraud, provocations will be seen by the observers.” At the same time, the president expressed confidence that both the central and regional authorities will do everything to ensure that these elections are fair, transparent and democratic, noting that he has already warned officials at all levels about their responsibility for any irregularities. Mr. Yanukovich stressed the importance of future elections for the country. “These elections are very important given that the budgetary year is ending, the Parliament is working on the Tax Code, which in fact, is a tax reform. We have set ourselves the task to conduct this reform this year and adopt the new budget based on the new Tax Code,” he said. The local elections are very important also in terms of strengthening the system of government in Ukraine, “because a presidential election was held this year, the majority was formed in the Parliament, the reforms have started in the country, and in the basis of all these actions is the program of President Yanukovich, which was supported by the Ukrainian people,” he emphasized. “It is important that politicians, who will be elected in the local elections, met the mood of the society,” the head of state said. Implementation of most reforms in the country, he underlined, will be held in the regions. “So it is important that there is no blockage or confrontation at the level of local authorities,” Mr. Yanukovich stressed. (Ukrinform)

CVU on legality of elections

KYIV – The Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU) rules out the possibility of declaring all local elections of October 31 illegal, CVU chairman Oleksander Chernenko told the press on October 26. “No one will declare the elections illegal throughout Ukraine. In some regions, of course, there will be appeals, attempts to declare the vote illegal at separate polling

stations. But, from my experience, I don't think these attempts will succeed,” he stressed. Mr. Chernenko added that the current law on local elections does not provide the possibility of declaring elections illegal. The CVU chief said that 15,000 local elections will be held in Ukraine on October 31. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn dismisses talk of election fraud

KYIV – All talk about possible fraud during the October 31 local elections in Ukraine and the use of administrative resources is merely election tactics, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn told visiting Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Mr. Lytvyn briefed the Canadian leader on October 25 about political developments in Ukraine. “The analysis of the current situation, the political landscape and my personal contacts with people show that there will be no deviation from a democratic platform,” the Rada chairman stressed. (Ukrinform)

80,000 police to maintain order

KYIV – More than 80,000 policemen will be engaged in maintaining public order on the day of local elections, October 31, Kostiantyn Stohnii, an adviser to the internal affairs minister, told Channel 5 on October 22. Another 4,500 policemen will be in reserve, he added. Moreover, at least two law enforcement officers will be on duty at each polling station. (Ukrinform)

Tymoshenko threatens mass protests

KYIV – The leader of the opposition party Batkivschyna, Yulia Tymoshenko, said she believes the objective of local elections is to stop the current policy of the team of President Viktor Yanukovich, according to news reports of October 22. “If these local elections do not stop the authorities and they do not start thinking that they have created for the people impossible conditions of life, after the elections these anti-social authorities will be simply swept away by a wave of the people,” Ms. Tymoshenko said at a meeting with representatives of student and community organizations in Sumy. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc leader has warned that a

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Leader of Our Ukraine party pays a visit to Washington

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, leader of the Our Ukraine political party and former chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), visited Washington on October 18-21 and met with various government and non-governmental officials.

After recently being elected chairman of the party's political committee, Mr. Nalyvaichenko's sought to convey the opposition's perspective on the current political dynamic in Ukraine. Of prime importance in the leader's discussions in Washington were the upcoming local elections to be held in Ukraine on October 31.

While in Washington, Mr. Nalyvaichenko's meetings were organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and its Washington bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS).

On Capitol Hill, Mr. Nalyvaichenko met with congressional staff members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee. Each committee is responsible for con-

gressional policy for international relations, including U.S. relations with Ukraine. Discussions were also held with government officials at the U.S. Department of State and the National Security Council.

Mr. Nalyvaichenko's schedule also consisted of discussions with various prominent non-governmental (think-tank) organizations, among them the International Republican Institute (IRI), the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the United States Institute of Peace, the Heritage Foundation, and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Other meetings included an interview on the Voice of America "Час – Time" TV program, a breakfast symposium on business dynamics in Ukraine hosted by the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, and a meeting with the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States.

As the Ukrainian American community is concerned with the current political situation in Ukraine, Mr. Nalyvaichenko met with representatives of Ukrainian American organizations. At a meeting organized by the UCCA, representatives from the Millennium Challenge



Valentyn Nalyvaichenko (standing third from right) with representatives of Ukrainian community organizations.

Corporation (MCC), the Ukrainian National Association, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, The Washington Group, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, the New Wave Ukrainian Organization, and Judge Bohdan Futey

related their concerns about the backsliding of democratic tendencies in Ukraine and how best to assist the Ukrainian nation assert their civil rights.

Mr. Nalyvaichenko was also a featured discussant at Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable XI conference in Washington.

Advocacy groups call for adoption of comprehensive anti-trafficking laws

KYIV – Marking European Anti-Trafficking Day, the international and non-governmental organizations supporting Ukrainian efforts to combat human trafficking on October 18 called for the adoption of a comprehensive anti-trafficking law and the State Program Against Human Trafficking for 2011-2015.

At the request of Ukraine's Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports, the project Coordinator of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) assisted the Ukrainian authorities in drafting the anti-trafficking law and the state program.

"This comprehensive legislation will help prevent human trafficking, protect the rights of the victims and support prosecution of these crimes. It is also a tool to provide solid background for various stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, to join efforts in combating human trafficking in accordance with the rule of law and human rights principles," said Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj, OSCE project coordinator in Ukraine.

"This legislation and program will help Ukraine implement a comprehensive approach in combating human trafficking and comply with commitments the country made when it adopted the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in 2003," said Mr. Kopaj.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Ukraine, most of the 827 victims identified in 2010 have been trafficked to the Russian Federation and Poland, and more than half are exploited as forced labor. There is an increase of people trafficked internally within Ukraine. Exploitation in the construction and agriculture sectors is also on the rise. Trafficking for forced prostitution is still seen as a predominant feature of modern day slavery.

"IOM hopes that fighting human trafficking will remain high on the agenda of the government of Ukraine. We welcome the fact that the draft new State Program Against Human Trafficking focuses also on rendering direct assistance to victims of trafficking," said Manfred Profazi, Chief of the IOM Mission in Ukraine.

"However it is vital to ensure sufficient budget allocations to social service providers so that help remains available to victims of this crime even after international donor funding subsides," he added.

Kateryna Levchenko, president of the International Women's Rights Center La Strada-Ukraine presented an open letter of the Ukrainian NGOs to the Ukrainian authorities regarding the development of new State Program Against Human

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Vinnytsia activist, Kharkiv journalist protest police searches in Ukraine

RFE/RL

KYIV/KHARKIV – A Ukrainian human rights activist and a journalist say they have been subjected to police searches of their apartments or offices designed to put pressure on them due to their activities, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on October 19.

The incidents involve activist Dmytro Groisman of Vinnytsia and journalist Petro Matviyenko of Kharkiv.

Mr. Groisman, the coordinator of Vinnytsia Human Rights Group, said he was in Kyiv on a business trip when his flat in Vinnytsia was searched by police on October 15. He said police were investigating him for allegedly spreading pornography.

He told RFE/RL on October 18 that the case was connected with his "Live Journal" blog, which included a link to a video, widely distributed on the Internet earlier this year, showing clips of three Russian opposition activists having sex. In a blog entry posted in May, Mr. Groisman commented that Russia's FSB security service was spying on the three.

Mr. Groisman said police also searched the office of the Vinnytsia Human Rights Group and removed documents and financial reports. He said police had a court order to search his apartment but not the office. "It was robbery, without a court order," Mr. Groisman told RFE/RL.

"Instead of viewing the office of the Vinnytsia Human Rights Group, they have started to take out all our equipment, all files. Their purpose was to get to our database of refugees and victims of torture." Vinnytsia police have not commented on the case.

A spokesman for the Procurator General's Office, Yuri Boichenko, told RFE/RL his office will check whether it acted legally, adding that the answer is likely to be ready within 10 days.

Ukraine's Helsinki Human Rights Union has described the case as a "gross violation" of Ukrainian laws. The group's

chairman, Yevhenii Zakharov, told RFE/RL the accusations of spreading pornography were only a pretext. Mr. Groisman is a former RFE/RL correspondent in Vinnytsia.

In a separate development, Kharkiv police on October 15 searched the apartment of Mr. Matviyenko, the deputy of missing editor Vasyl Klymentyev. Mr. Matviyenko, deputy editor of the Novyi Styl newspaper, said police took away computers, including a laptop belonging to his child.

"All my documentation is there, including my sources, my articles and my drafts, my private correspondence, thus my privacy is being infringed [upon]," he said.

Mr. Matviyenko told RFE/RL on that the police are punishing him for the fact that he is trying to publicize the case of his colleague, who went missing in Ukraine in August. Previously Mr. Matviyenko criticized the investigation into Mr. Klymentyev's disappearance as a "farce."

Investigator Valerii Lehenevskyi, who chaired the police group that searched Mr. Matviyenko's flat, declined to comment to RFE/RL about the case.

Vice Minister of Internal Affairs Leonid Zyma promised RFE/RL on October 18 that he would explain the situation within a few days, when the police commission overseeing the Klymentyev investigation arrives in Kharkiv from Kyiv. Earlier the police promised to check all versions of Mr. Klymentyev's disappearance.

Both Mr. Groisman and Mr. Matviyenko have asked for international assistance to protect their dignity.

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Biden and Yanukovich discuss elections, constitutional reform

WASHINGTON – Vice-President Joe Biden spoke with President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine on October 14 in advance of Ukraine's local elections on October 31.

According to the readout provided by the White House, Office of the Vice-President:

"The vice-president thanked President Yanukovich for the difficult economic reforms he has pushed through so far and for his support for our common nonproliferation agenda. The vice-president underscored the

importance of free and fair elections on October 31 and media freedom as signs of Ukraine's commitment to democracy and European integration, and emphasized the Obama administration's support for these goals.

"In addition, the vice-president reinforced to President Yanukovich that the process of constitutional reform emerging from the October 1 Constitutional Court decision should include checks and balances and generate a Constitution for all the people of Ukraine."

CANDIDACY DENIED: Kamianets-Podilskyi mayor denied right to run for re-election

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

This is the conclusion of a two-part article examining the arrest and incarceration of Kamianets-Podilskyi City Council Chair (Mayor) Anatolii Nesteruk amidst the campaign for the October 31 local elections. Arrested on September 20 and imprisoned three days later, Mr. Nesteruk was denied his constitutional right to run for re-election by government officials.

KAMIANETS-PODILSKYI, Ukraine – Despite his incarceration, Kamianets-Podilskyi City Council Chair (Mayor) Anatolii Nesteruk still had the constitutional right to run for re-election. The new rules required that candidates find an endorsement from a party, but not necessarily be a member.

Mr. Nesteruk signed a letter on September 14 terminating his membership in the Batkivschyna party (led by Ms. Tymoshenko) after four years of involvement. He was arrested less than a week later, drawing suspicion that the two incidents were somehow related.

Mr. Nesteruk's position was that the city's mayor ought to be independent of any party. Yet he came to that realization three weeks into the election campaign.

Numerous relatives and advisors to Mr. Nesteruk, contacted by The Weekly, declined to mention any specific reasons for his decision to leave the party, other than vaguely hinting at certain conflicts. Indeed it's details of these conflicts that could offer insight into the real reason for his imprisonment.

Ihor Zemskov, chair of the Batkivschyna faction of the Kamianets-Podilskyi City Council, told The Weekly that Mr. Nesteruk in fact signed a cooperation agreement with the Party of Regions before his arrest. He hinted that Mr. Nesteruk was among the hundreds of politicians eager to jump onto the new bandwagon.

"We met with him and he explained that he wanted to be independent from political forces," he said. "Well now you see how 'independence' turns out. He went independently, the Party of Regions promised him support, and that's it. He was thrown into prison."

Both of Mr. Nesteruk's advocates – spokeswoman Veronika Vlasyuk and lawyer Viacheslav Zarechniuk – declined to confirm or deny to The Weekly the existence of such an agreement.

Given that Mr. Nesteruk was in conflict with his fellow party members, it's also possible the Batkivschyna party is smearing him, not having offered any evidence of such an agreement. Its leadership acted suspiciously even before Mr. Nesteruk's resignation, Ms. Vlasyuk said.

A month earlier, City Council Secretary Valentyna Voloshyna, a Batkivschyna party member, paid for more than 30 billboards to be posted throughout the city announcing her candidacy for the mayoralty, she said.

Yet Mr. Nesteruk was still a party member at the time. Ms. Voloshyna declined The Weekly's request for an interview, stating that she was too busy. She hosted numerous visitors during the next hour that The Weekly's correspondent spent in the vicinity of her office.

As he was no longer a Batkivschyna member, most any party in Kamianets-Podilskyi was willing to recruit Mr. Nesteruk as its surefire candidate. Polls conducted by local political scientists indicated the 84 percent margin of victory he enjoyed in local pre-term election of June 2008 would be repeated.

Moreover his supporters held out hope that a landslide re-election would lay the

bribery scandal to rest and ultimately absolve him of any criminal charges.

Yet the events that followed confirmed that powerful forces wanted the October 31 vote to put a decisive end to Mr. Nesteruk's tenure as City Council chair.

He chose the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine (PIEU) to help him, which was led by his city council vice-chair, Oleh Marunchak. (Mr. Marunchak quit his government post and vanished the same day Mr. Nesteruk was incarcerated, September 23.)

Not yet convicted of a crime, Mr. Nesteruk had the constitutional right as any citizen to run for office. Yet his struggle to become registered faced hurdles at every step – a trend widely reported in the run-up to this year's local elections. If the Yanukovych administration wants you out of the way, it will find a way, opposition leaders said.

"All branches of power in Ukraine today are working towards distorting the will of citizens in the local elections and cleaning the field for victory for the Party of Regions and its supporters on all levels," said an October 1 statement released by the Lviv organization of the Batkivschyna party.

A conference of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs was held on October 1 to officially nominate Mr. Nesteruk as its mayoral candidate, which was witnessed by three members of the territorial election commission (TEC), including its chair, Tetiana Ostafiichuk (Party of Regions), and deputy chair, Larysa Tkachuk.

Their purpose of their presence – to prevent Mr. Nesteruk's nomination – was immediately apparent when Ms. Ostafiichuk began claiming the conference was illegitimate because its participants didn't present their passports as identification, Ms. Vlasyuk said.

That didn't hold water as participants were registered party members and had passports in their possession.

Ms. Ostafiichuk left after 20 minutes, but Ms. Tkachuk remained, offering her own attempt to de-legitimize the conference by claiming the party leaders couldn't transport its participants by bus. Yet the election law doesn't forbid providing transportation for nominating conferences.

Only several days later did the election commission officially declare the party congress illegitimate, citing a new pretext it hadn't yet mentioned.

As it turns out, Ukraine's election law requires that a party inform its TEC one day in advance of a decision to move the venue of its congress. The PIEU offered only 20 minutes' notice, Ms. Ostafiichuk told The Weekly on October 18.

Mykhailo Stadnyk, the director of PIEU oblast organization, didn't answer calls placed by The Weekly seeking to understand why the party leadership decided to move the party conference location at the last minute.

In an interview with a local newspaper, he accused Ms. Ostafiichuk of cherry-picking election laws in order to prevent Mr. Nesteruk from competing by any means necessary as part of a greater conspiracy.

"Their reason was the conference didn't occur at the address mentioned in our announcement," Mr. Stadnyk said. "But if the commission believes the conference didn't occur, then why did the three election commissioners appear at the new address? These three saw the party members personally registering and voting with their mandates, which we recorded on video. I believe the commissioners' actions are illegal and prejudiced, denying our right to elect and be elected. We view the commission's



Kamianets-Podilskyi City Council Chair Anatolii Nesteruk, who has been denied the opportunity to run for re-election.



Ihor Zemskov, chair of the Tymoshenko Bloc parliamentary faction in the Kamianets-Podilskyi City Council.



Viacheslav Zarechniuk, Anatolii Nesteruk's lawyer, said government officials denied the Kamianets-Podilskyi City Council chair his constitutional right to run in the October 31 elections.



Kamianets-Podilskyi Territorial Election Commission Chair Tetiana Ostafiichuk is accused of preventing imprisoned Kamianets-Podilskyi Mayor Anatolii Nesteruk from running for re-election. She said she's just following the law.

actions as a conspiracy."

Ms. Ostafiichuk told The Weekly her commissioners didn't single out PIEU for scrutiny, claiming she dispatched commissioners to all 24 party conferences that occurred in the city. She said no one ordered her to forbid Mr. Nesteruk's candidacy.

The TEC was merely following the law when reaching its decision, which states the party must inform the commission of a change in venue "in written form, not later than a day before the congress is held," she said.

The day that the TEC invalidated the conference is significant because PIEU members were unaware of any decision on the nominating conference until after the six-day window to register had closed, Ms. Vlasyuk said. Commissioners intentionally withheld that information until it was too late to appeal.

During that time, Mr. Nesteruk's wife, Zoya, who has power of attorney, made several attempts to submit documents on his behalf, which Ms. Ostafiichuk refused to accept. In this case, she was correct when insisting the election law stipulated that Mr. Nesteruk had to submit the documents personally.

A final attempt to register Mr. Nesteruk's candidacy was made on October 6. Ms. Ostafiichuk decided to wait until the last eligible day to send two commissioners, chosen by Mr. Nesteruk, to travel to the prison in Khmelnytskyi's downtown.

Trouble was immediately apparent when the TEC waited until the afternoon to reach its official ruling. By the time the commissioners reached the prison, they

learned the director had mysteriously vanished. And so did his assistant. And then they were made to wait.

"We sat there for an hour and a half," said Mr. Zarechniuk, who accompanied the two commissioners. He still was shocked by their insolence, "This happened before my very eyes!"

At about 5:15 p.m., they were greeted by Investigation Unit Deputy Director Mykola Shnyra, who reviewed their written requests.

Prison officials aren't usually sticklers for grammar, yet Mr. Shnyra saw the need to correct misspelled words and spot missing punctuation marks far more urgent than Mr. Nesteruk's re-election hopes. He demanded that they rewrite their letters.

"While they're rewriting, I'm not allowed in," Mr. Zarechniuk said. "By the time we found paper, by the time all was rewritten, it's 5:55 p.m. We approach Shnyra, I call the Procurator General's Office, they give the order to allow the registration. But no! How? Time's up."

That was the last hope Mr. Nesteruk had of becoming a candidate. It remains unclear what day the TEC issued its ruling de-legitimizing the PIEU congress.

Ms. Vlasyuk alleged the ruling was made the evening of October 6, only after the commissioners were denied access to Mr. Nesteruk, for the purpose of gaining extra insurance that his registration would be prevented.

Ms. Ostafiichuk said she didn't remember the day of the decision, but it was certainly earlier than October 6. The

(Continued on page 11)

Ex-U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine says democratic 'space may be shrinking'

A recent public opinion poll by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) found that a majority of Ukrainians are either concerned or alarmed about reversals of democratic rights and freedoms under President Viktor Yanukovich. RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service director, Irena Chalupa, spoke to Steven Pifer, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in 1998-2000, about the state of Ukrainian democracy.

The last time we spoke was February – just after the inauguration of President [Viktor] Yanukovich. We talked about the legacy that former President [Viktor] Yushchenko was leaving behind. You made the observation that Yushchenko “helped embed democracy in Ukraine” and that he “helped create a democratic space for all politicians to participate in, even his political opponents.” Do you think that democratic space still exists?

I think if you look at the last six months there are grounds for concern that that space may be shrinking with the reports about pressure on the media, the activities of the SBU – which appear to be in some ways relatively unconstrained – and I think there's a lot of concern in the West about the decision by the Constitutional Court [on October 1].

Ukraine's Constitutional Court recently reversed constitutional changes enacted after the Orange Revolution that curbed presidential powers and expanded the powers of Parliament. It looks somewhat like a power grab and it raises the question: Why bother to go through the trouble of enacting these changes only to get rid of them a few years later? Is this a power grab in your view?

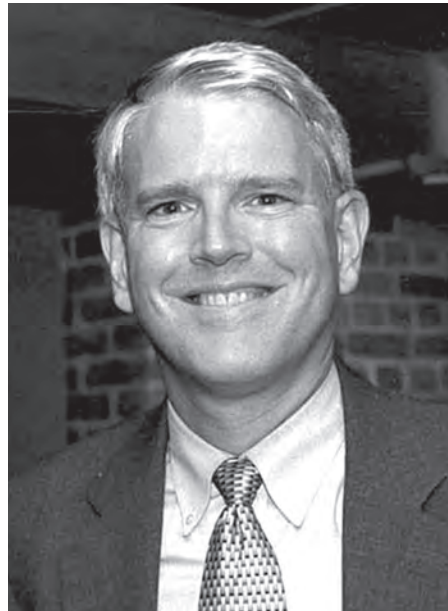
I'm not a constitutional lawyer, so I really can't debate the particulars of the court's decision. But when you stand back, the perception in the West is, in 2004, with the support of over 400 members of the Rada,

Ukraine adopted these constitutional changes and they've been implementing them for five years. And all of a sudden the Constitutional Court comes out and says, “Oops, we made a mistake?” The appearance, I think, is not good for Ukrainian democracy. It does look like Ukraine is moving backwards.

And I think from the perspective of many in the West, while the reform situation produced in some ways gridlock – and you saw it in terms of the battles between the executive branch and the Rada over several years during the Yushchenko presidency – it had a greater balance of power between the Rada and the president, and it provided for some checks and balances. And it seems that the government now, or the president now, wishes to move away from that system. And I think that will cause concern in the West, both in the United States and Europe, about where democracy in Ukraine is going.

When you were U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, [Leonid] Kuchma was president, and he had all the powers to appoint and fire ministers – he was the ultimate authority. Now we're back to that kind of arrangement. Looking back on the kinds of things that were happening in the Kuchma years when you worked in Ukraine, would you say that was an effective form of government? As opposed to the Yushchenko years, even though the system was flawed, and not pretty and loud, was it a good way to practice democracy?

I'll bring an American perspective to that, and it goes back to the American system of government where we've always preferred a system where there are checks and balances, where different branches of the government have the ability to balance one another. And I think that was one of the problems of the model in the 1990s, the president in some ways had too much authority and it was difficult for the Rada, in many ways, to have an effective way of checking him or balancing him.



Ambassador Steven Pifer

That's where the 2004 reforms, with all their flaws, were seen as an advance because [they] did create a better balance of power both between the executive branch in Ukraine and the Rada, but also between the president and the prime minister. And of course it didn't work as well as people had hoped in the Yushchenko years, but that wasn't so much a flaw of the system as it was just a reflection of the different personalities.

But [looking at] what happened last week, just to suddenly say ‘oops’ and turn back the clock like that by six years – if Ukraine was going to make that kind of decision, it would have been better if it had been done in an inclusive political process that took [into] account [the] views of all parties, including the opposition.

I think people have to ask, this goes now to a system which gives a lot of authority to the president, and that may be of interest to the Party of Regions when their person has the presidency, but I think that if they're taking a longer term perspective they ought to be asking the question, what happens down the road when they're in the opposition? Is this going to the type of system that will serve them well politically, and that will serve Ukraine well politically?

How does all of this look to a Western scholar like you?

I wanted to give the Yanukovich presidency the benefit of the doubt because I think it was very important that they won a free and fair election [and] that they played by the rules to get there. It is of concern though, that they seem to be trying to change the rules now in ways that look like they're trying to turn the clock back and over the last couple of days I've talked to both American government officials and EU officials and there's a lot of concern about what's going on there.

I think it's important that the West stay engaged in Ukraine, but to the extent that Ukraine is seen as going backward on democracy, it will be harder to keep people in the West interested in where Ukraine is going.

How so?

Let me take the case of the European Union. The European Union now has a lot of issues that require an inward focus. The European Union is still trying to deal with the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis. They're just putting in place new foreign policy mechanisms, and I think there's still a little bit of a hangover from the last wave of enlargement. Looking at new states, looking at the periphery [of Europe] is not high on the EU's list. And if Ukraine is now seen as regressing on democracy it's going to be even harder to sustain that interest.

If you take the American agenda, first and foremost the United States is going to

be focused on Iraq and Afghanistan, understandably so. But sustaining interest in Ukraine is going to be harder if Ukraine is seen as moving backwards on democracy.

What can the West do to keep Ukraine on the path toward democracy?

I think it's very important, to the extent that Western governments have these concerns – and again, my perception is that they do – I think they need to make it very clear to President Yanukovich that this is causing a change in how Ukraine is viewed. I do believe that President Yanukovich is concerned about his image in the West, and that strikes me as giving the West some leverage.

In our last conversation, you said the most important thing for a newly elected leader is to enact badly needed but painful reforms early in his tenure. Mr. Yanukovich has been president for a little more than six months; have you seen him implement any reforms?

I will give him and the Ukrainian government credit for their decision – and it's a hard decision, politically – to raise prices for gas, which they did over the summer. And that's certainly hard and it will create some hardships for some, but it seems to be that that is a necessary step if Ukraine is ever going to put its gas sector into position where it's economically sustainable, where it doesn't have to soak up billions of dollars of subsidies each year. So it's a painful step, I think it's the right one, as politically unpopular as it may be, but it's necessary if Ukraine is going to put its energy house in order.

Ukraine is getting ready to hold local elections at the end of October. The new elections law, which was enacted some months ago, is very crafty in that it doesn't allow small parties that aren't in Parliament to have access to the district election committees. It's written in such a way that it gives the ruling party – the party with a parliamentary majority – almost complete control over the electoral process. In eastern Ukraine and central Ukraine we're seeing incidents where people aren't allowed to register their candidacy. This isn't a good beginning for an election that I would assume Ukraine would like to have the West judge as free and fair.

It's not going to be good for Ukraine's image, or for the image of the current government, if the first national election held after the presidential election in February is seen as dramatically worse in terms of democratic standards. That's not going to be good. My worry about it is that it then becomes harder to keep Western interest in Ukraine alive.

How do you view some of the steps that the Yanukovich government has taken that involve reversing steps Yushchenko had taken, in terms of reinstating national memory, all of the attention devoted to the dark periods of Ukrainian history – the Famine-Genocide, the repressions that took place during the Stalinist era? Yanukovich has sort of put this all on the back burner, changing history books, returning to what really is a Soviet mold. Do you think that the Ukrainian people are going to tolerate this?

The Ukrainian population is going to decide how they react to that. It does seem to me that some of those steps are risky in political terms because they provoke controversy, which the new government might not need.

The Ukrainian population is sometimes accused of being passive and long-

(Continued on page 22)

Survey shows every fifth Ukrainian ready to sell vote

RFE/RL

KYIV – A fresh survey suggests that around one in five Ukrainians is willing to sell his or her vote in the upcoming local elections, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on October 22.

The findings emerged from a survey of 2,000 people conducted earlier this month by two Ukrainian non-governmental organizations, the Democratic Initiatives Fund and Opora.

Less than one in 10 (8.5 percent) of those surveyed said they think the local elections to be held on October 31 will be fair. The vast majority of respondents said they expect there to be violations in the elections, but they are divided over whether the irregularities will significantly alter the results of the vote.

Many said they are ready to take part in falsifications themselves – more than one out of every five respondents said they would be willing to sell their vote to the highest bidder.

“A number of voters are ready to sell their vote for a certain sum,” said Opora civic network head Olha Ajvazovska. “Unfortunately, this category [of people] is large – it is more than 21 percent. Thus, this number of voters is sufficient for a candidate,

using bribing schemes, to create certain advantages for himself and even to actually win an election.”

The majority of those who are ready to sell their vote said an acceptable price is some 500 hrv (\$60). The main reasons for selling their votes were given as difficult financial circumstances and an indifference to all candidates.

The average monthly salary in Ukraine is less than \$300.

Despite the skepticism of the respondents about the elections, a majority said they are likely to vote in the upcoming elections: 47 percent said they will definitely go to the polls and 29 percent said they are “highly likely” to.

The most popular Ukrainian political forces are the ruling Party of Regions, the Batkivchyna party headed by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, the Communist Party and Strong Ukraine.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Canada's message to Ukraine

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's official visit to Ukraine was, from our perspective, an unqualified success. His message to Ukraine, its people and its leaders was simple and direct: "Canada will continue to support Ukraine whenever it moves forward for freedom, democracy and justice."

It was a message that needed to be articulated.

Canada has taken a principled stand, setting itself apart from the United States, which of late is so focused on a "reset" with Russia that it can't see the forest for the trees, and most European states, which value "stability" above all else, with rights and freedoms relegated to a secondary position. Prime Minister Harper must be commended for his position.

Even before he left Canada for Ukraine, the prime minister emphasized in an exclusive interview with the Edmonton-based Ukrainian News (published in the issue dated October 14-28) that "the promotion of democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law is the cornerstone of Canada's foreign policy" and said that Canada shares "concerns that have been expressed" regarding the new Ukrainian government's record on freedoms and rights.

In Kyiv, Mr. Harper reminded Ukraine's leaders of the importance of freedoms and human rights, even while he and President Viktor Yanukovich discussed a free-trade agreement and witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on youth exchange programs. Asked by journalists during a news conference about human rights issues he had raised with Mr. Yanukovich, Mr. Harper did not disclose details of their one-on-one discussion, but did say that the Ukrainian president had assured him he is committed to democracy and freedom.

While in Kyiv the prime minister also met with Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, and the focus of their discussion was reported to be the upcoming local elections in Ukraine, whose fairness and credibility are being questioned. Likewise he made it a point to meet with opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, who thanked him, and Canada as a whole, "for supporting democracy from the time our country gained independence." (Canada was the first Western country to recognize Ukraine's independence in 1991.)

And in Lviv – which, according to media reports, Mr. Harper visited due to his concerns about pressures brought to bear by Ukraine's authorities on those who do not share their viewpoints – the prime minister visited the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), meeting with its rector, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, and addressing students. Father Gudziak, readers will recall, was visited by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and advised that students of his university would suffer consequences if they participated in protests against the Yanukovich administration. Mr. Harper told UCU students: "As Canadians, we believe that a government must work in the interests of its people, not the other way around. We believe that countries which respect the rights of their own people are more likely to respect the rights of other nations and to be good world citizens."

Mr. Harper also visited the National Memorial Museum of Victims of Occupation Regimes, Prison on Lontsky, whose director, Ruslan Zabilnyi, was recently detained by the SBU. The SBU began an investigation against Mr. Zabilnyi for allegedly planning to divulge state secrets, but observers say the real reason for the SBU's actions is the young historian's research into Ukraine's liberation struggle of the 20th century – a topic that was taboo under the Soviet regime and appears to be taboo under the Yanukovich regime as well.

Canada's message was delivered loud and clear in Lviv, both in word and in deed.

It is also worth underscoring that Prime Minister Harper paid his respects to the millions of victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, even though his host, President Yanukovich, refuses to recognize that genocide. In Kyiv the Canadian leader referred to the Holodomor as "one of the great crimes of history," and in Lviv he reminded his listeners that the Canadian government had recognized the Holodomor as genocide in 2008. Again, message conveyed.

As one Ukrainian Canadian put it, the Harper visit to Ukraine was hardly a "business-as-usual" trip – "The itinerary was extremely well thought out," Lisa Shymko of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Center commented to *The Globe and Mail*. Prof. Frank Sysyn of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (who happens to be on sabbatical in Lviv) explained to the newspaper that "The regime pushes constantly, everywhere, to see if there is a reaction. If there is no reaction, they push harder," and he praised the Canadian prime minister, saying, "Harper has struck exactly the right tone."

Prime Minister Harper stressed to UCU students: "...remember that in Canada you have friends. Friends who respect and admire Ukraine's heart for freedom, its spirit of national self-determination and the courage of its people, a courage that has never deserted you, even in the darkest nights of your long history." His trip to Ukraine demonstrated at every point that these were not mere words.

WINDOW ON EURASIA

Moscow is alienating more than Minsk, analysts say

by Paul Goble

The war of words between Dmitry Medvedev and Alyaksandr Lukashenka is more than just the product of tensions between Moscow and Minsk, Russian analysts say. Instead, it is part of a broader and growing alienation between the Russian Federation and the former Soviet republics, one that has its roots in clashing visions of the future.

But both because of the West's hostility to Mr. Lukashenka and his regime, one usually labeled "the last dictatorship in Europe," and because of the West's desire to curry favor with Moscow in pursuit of one or another goal, this general trend, widely noted by commentators in the region, has been largely ignored, let alone exploited, by Europe or the United States.

The clearest expression of this argument can be found in a commentary on Grani.ru published October 4. In it, Dmitry Shusharin, a regular writer for that portal, points out that the exchange of angry words between Messrs. Medvedev and Lukashenka is part of Moscow's current propensity to be angry with all leaders of the post-Soviet states.

Russia's "tandemocracy," he says, had placed "great hopes" on new Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, but exactly what these would in fact look like is something that President Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, along with the rest of the Russian powers that be, clearly "did not themselves know" at least in any specific detail.

"In an ideal outcome," the Russian leaders "see relations with Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia and the other nearby neighbors if not as they were before in the USSR then as those which the Soviet Union had with the countries of the Warsaw Pact" – a vision that they and others should have understood was not going to be realized.

For Messrs. Medvedev and Putin, the orientation of the leaders of these states "toward Western values and norms of politics" is completely "unacceptable," Mr. Shusharin says. That is why they placed such hopes on Mr. Lukashenka,

Paul Goble is a long-time specialist on ethnic and religious questions in Eurasia who has served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the International Broadcasting Bureau, as well as at the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Mr. Goble writes a blog called "Window on Eurasia" (<http://windowoneurasia.blogspot.com/>). This article above is reprinted with permission.

whose ideology is a Russophile form of Belarusian identity, and on Mr. Yanukovich who "does not have any ideology" at all.

But now the Moscow leaders have been rejected by the first, and soon they are likely to be rejected by the second as well, the commentator continues, an outcome Messrs. Medvedev and Putin would have anticipated if they had remembered the real basis of the Warsaw Pact rather than the idealized version of it in which they apparently believe.

That military organization, led by Moscow, "was tank socialism" – that is, Mr. Shusharin continues, "the single source, reserve and guarantee of the Communist regimes in these countries was the Soviet Union and its military presence." When that disappeared, so too did the Warsaw Pact.

But even before the events of the late 1980s, Mr. Shusharin points out, those leaders who had alternative sources of power like Yugoslavia's Tito and China's Mao Zedong could act independently. The only difference was that the first broke with Moscow early on, while the second "for a long time led the Soviet Union by the nose and used its assistance."

Those experiences, Mr. Shusharin suggests, should serve as a lesson to Moscow, but Russian leaders have not assimilated them. Moscow doesn't understand that "for the politicians in the former Soviet republics – even if they are oriented toward Moscow and make use of its support – relations with Russia are not as critical as relations with their own populations," "the source of their power within [their] countries."

Just as Western Europe and the United States dealt with the problems of the former Warsaw Pact countries and post-Tito Yugoslavia "without the particularly active participation of Russia," Mr. Shusharin says, so now "the authoritarian regimes in Ukraine and Belarus" will eventually ask for help from "Western Europe and the U.S., not Russia."

The reason that is so, he argues, is that Russia "does not guarantee [their] national sovereignty." Instead, its leaders act as if the former Soviet republics are not full-fledged independent countries but rather something less than that, places where Russia must enjoy greater deference and influence than any of them want to offer.

The current leaders of these countries "do not intend to divide power with Moscow," and they are very much aware that is what the Russian powers that be want. Consequently, sooner than many may expect, they will turn to Western countries, something that "again will be something completely unexpected" for the latter.

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Turning the pages back...

Three years ago, on November 1, 2007, the General Conference of UNESCO adopted a resolution on "Remembrance of Victims of the Great Famine (Holodomor) in Ukraine."

A working group composed of Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Kazakhstan, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Ukraine, Tajikistan and the United States was established to draft the resolution. The draft resolution, submitted by Ukraine, was co-sponsored by 44 countries.

The resolution noted that the Holodomor "took innocent lives of millions of Ukrainians in 1932-1933," and equally commemorated "the memory of millions of

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MAY WE HELP YOU?

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NEWS AND VIEWS

A bad joke in Ukraine?

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

Ukraine is about to take another major step backward. On Sunday, October 31, the citizens of Ukraine will go to the polls to elect their local officials. Unless all men are inherently good with no political or personal ulterior motives, the elections may be marred by pervasive fraud, resulting in an overwhelming consolidation of power unknown to democracies. More disconcerting is that this fraud may be perpetrated with international complicity.

The height of political irresponsibility regarding democracy in Ukraine by the international community came on February 8, following the previous day's presidential election. A press conference was held by representatives of various institutions from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Election Observation Mission, which included in addition the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and European Parliament. Their consensus was that the elections had been conducted in accord with democratic norms.

What was unsaid at the press conference was that this conclusion was reached and enunciated despite the fact that the various international observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe visited a scant 7.7 percent of the polling places and that the majority of their observers spoke neither Ukrainian nor Russian, relying instead on translators.

So President Viktor Yanukovich took office and proceeded to consolidate his power in several ways, one of which was calling for local elections on October 31, and securing victory simply by stuffing initially the various commissions monitoring the elections with his people which would lead to stuffing the ballot box with votes for his people.

The electoral monitoring structure in Ukraine has three levels: the Central Election Commission (CEC), territorial commissions and local commissions. The first consists of 15 members, nine of whom are affiliated with the ruling Party of Regions. This commission has the duty to appoint the second in accordance with the new law of Ukraine on the election of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the local councils and village, township and city mayors. The local contingents of the three parties within the Verkhovna Rada who formed the majority coalition may

Askold S. Lozynskyj is an attorney based in New York City. He is a former president of the Ukrainian World Congress.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ukraine 2020:
Where is the truth?

Dear Editor:

The story "Ukraine 2020 chairs meet with Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. (October 17) by Oksana Yakovenko, of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, states Ambassador Motsyk "also stressed that the Ukrainian government is firmly committed to straightening democracy in

each constitute up to three members of a 15-member territorial commission with the remaining six members chosen from the remaining political parties.

The second (the territorial commissions) choose the local commissions. There is no provision in the law for an equitable distribution of executive positions between the ruling parties and the opposition parties. Thus, the chair and secretary of both the territorial and local commission may both come from the majority coalition parties.

Finally, the law does not prescribe a quorum for commission meetings. As a result, commissions can rule and even count ballots by a simple majority of those present, irrespective of any quorum.

What followed from this election law and subsequent rulings by the CEC, according to statistics made public by the opposition, is that the current composition of all territorial commissions consists of the following: 2,009 representatives from the Party of Regions (Mr. Yanukovich), 1,954 representatives from the People's Party (Volodymyr Lytvyn), 1,943 representatives from the Communist Party (Petro Symonenko) and only 1,380 from Batkivshchyna (Yulia Tymoshenko) and 1,708 from all the rest. Thus, the majority coalition totals 66 percent and the opposition has 34 percent.

As to executives in the territorial commissions the majority coalition controls 1,028 positions (68 percent) and the opposition controls only 476 positions (32 percent), an even greater disparity.

An interesting component of this newest attempt to consolidate power by Mr. Viktor Yanukovich and his people is that during the last parliamentary elections on September 30, 2007, the three election factions making up today's majority coalition totaled 43.72 percent of the total vote while those constituting today's opposition totaled 44.86 percent with the remaining percentages distributed among election factions which failed to break the required 3 percent barrier.

The percentages reflected in today's election commission are not even close to those results. Mr. Yanukovich managed to secure new numbers by "inspiring" members of Ukraine's Parliament to switch sides and persuading the courts to rubber stamp their approval, despite the fact that all members of Ukraine's Parliament were elected pursuant to electoral fraction lists. No one was elected individually.

Mr. Yanukovich has been derided by many as being intellectually too weak to serve as president. Suddenly, the object of both home and international lampooning is becoming quite dangerous, still ill-suited to be president but de facto becoming very much a dictator. The international community has played a major role in his rise. Hopefully, it's not too late.

Ukraine and building a truly democratic European state."

This was stated by the Ambassador on September 29 at a gathering at the office of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in Washington.

However, when one reads the same in The Ukrainian Weekly or any other international free press on what is going on in Ukraine, one sees a different scenario.

Who is telling the truth?

Jerry Zinycz
Venice, Fla.

COMMENTARY

Monsieur Ianoukovitch goes to Paris

by Alexander J. Motyl

Viktor Yanukovich's recent trip to Paris, coming on the heels of his junket to the U.N. General Assembly, demonstrated once again that Ukraine's all-powerful president still has no foreign policy.

On September 24 Mr. Yanukovich told the Atlantic Council in New York that Ukraine was committed to "non-alignment," while repeating stock phrases about his country's "strategic partnership" with the United States, eventual membership in the European Union, and improved relations with Russia.

On October 8 Mr. Ianoukovitch (as his name would be transliterated in French) delivered a rambling speech at the French Institute of International Relations in which he noted that, "for the first time," the interests of the United States, the EU, and Russia were in alignment, that "past lines of division" could finally be overcome, that a "new ideology of European unity and a new ideology of European security" could be created, and that "Ukraine strives for and is ready actively to participate in this process."

All very nice, but where's the policy?

Non-alignment seems a tad out of date 20 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Strategic partnerships with the United States are great, but only if you're ready to be an American strategic asset. Eventual EU membership is also swell, especially if no one knows just when it'll come about.

The bottom line is that Mr. Yanukovich's only genuine foreign policy initiative is Ukraine's seismic shift toward Russia — as manifested by the April 21 Kharkiv accords, in which he extended the Russian Black Sea Fleet's basing rights in the Crimea for 25 years, in exchange for a ridiculously low rent and a gas price reduction that Ukraine should've gotten anyway.

Mr. Yanukovich's "reset" with Russia is a geopolitical blunder of historic proportions, testifying to his shocking inexperience or gross incompetence or both. It goes without saying that normal relations with Russia are both good and necessary for Ukraine, if only because it has no choice but to live in the shadow of its huge neighbor.

Every Ukrainian president since independence in 1991 has pursued that goal by means of a "multi-vector" policy of balancing between East and West. The first, Leonid Kravchuk, split the difference. The second, Leonid Kuchma, balanced "toward" Russia. The third, Viktor Yushchenko, balanced "toward" the West (and that tiny shift led to an apoplectic reaction in the Kremlin).

But because all three were committed to Ukraine's eventual membership in NATO (as was Yanukovich, in an earlier incarnation as prime minister), balancing worked

Non-alignment seems a tad out of date 20 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

and they were able to pursue a more or less independent foreign policy premised on Ukraine's security interests.

Enter President Yanukovich. Having formally rejected NATO membership and bent over backward to accommodate Vladimir Putin's Russia, Mr. Yanukovich has no cards to play in his dealings with Moscow, Paris, Berlin and Washington. Each of them is unabashedly promoting its geopolitical interests, while openly treating "soft power" as window dressing.

Russia wants a zone of influence in its backyard and will engage in military intervention to get it; France wants to balance the Americans and will sell weapons to Russia to prove that point; Germany wants Russian gas and will disregard Poland's interests to procure it; and the United States wants friends at a time of strategic over-extension and will overlook their authoritarian peccadillos as a result.

Mr. Yanukovich, by contrast, hopes to substitute handshakes for policy.

Sooner or later, Moscow will up the ante. Unable to say no to the Kremlin, Mr. Yanukovich will turn to the West and underscore his desire to be a pal. He may even remind Le Figaro that he said "j'aime beaucoup la France" in an October 7 interview.

At that point, however, his lack of a strategic vision will assert itself with a vengeance. Yanukovich's new friend Nicolas Sarkozy (who inducted him into the Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur — a privilege he now shares with Mr. Putin) will probably sell him down the Volga, while Berlin will shed crocodile tears. Ironically, only that champion of NATO — Washington — may appreciate that "losing Ukraine" would be a strategic disaster for the West.

The article above appeared on the World Affairs journal's "Ukraine's Orange Blues" blog by Alexander J. Motyl on October 22. (<http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/new/blogs/motyl>). It is reprinted here with the author's permission.

IN THE PRESS: Ukraine's future

"Ukraine seeks a European economic future," by Aleksander Kwasniewski (president of Poland, 1995-2005), *The Financial Times*, October 24:

"...the approach of Ukraine's new government is more pragmatic and reform-minded than most people expected. Provided the West can frame the right policies, the scope for encouraging change through engagement is still considerable. ...

"For a range of economic and political reasons, [President Viktor] Yanukovich [sic] and his backers remain committed to Ukraine's independence as much as the rest of the country.

"The decision to seek warmer relations with Russia by cancelling plans to join NATO and extending the lease of the Black

Sea fleet should not therefore be seen as part of a return to Moscow's orbit. It reflects a pragmatic judgment that Ukraine, situated between the European Union and Russia, needs friendly relations with both neighbors. ...

"The removal of Ukraine as a potential theatre of geopolitical competition is something the EU should welcome. If the hoped for EU-Ukraine free trade zone is established, it will exert more influence over Russia if it is carried out by a Ukrainian government deemed not to be hostile to Russian interests. ...

"The message from the EU should be that Ukraine's efforts to modernize its econ-

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On the ground...

(Continued from page 1)

Weekly on October 25 at his Poltava campaign headquarters.

How is the election campaign in Poltava under President Viktor Yanukovich? Is there order in the sense that one can campaign freely? Are there violations to the election law?

Well, firstly, I will say that I served as oblast state administrator, or governor, for four years, during which two elections were held. I didn't participate in these elections as a director, or from a campaign. That was my position even during the parliamentary elections. I was offered to lead a campaign staff because before the governorship I led [Viktor] Yushchenko's staff, still under the pLeonid] Kuchma presidency. I said then that I will either leave my position as governor to work as a campaign staff director, or I will remain as governor and will engage in managerial affairs, without getting involved in politics. I worked here for four years.

In elections, the single thing we ensured was material-technical items. We received not a single complaint. We hosted many observers. We were always open, honest, and evidence of that is the opposition won, which says that the elections were democratic and honest.

Regarding the present moment, first of all, I can say that the very election law is a serious step backwards in terms of democracy. I would refer to a very piquant bill, which was drafted by the Justice Ministry for a single party [Editor's Note: Party of Regions of Ukraine], which is supposed to be first on all the ballots, using some administrative mechanisms. That's simply laughable. Determine the order in a democratic way, whoever is first or fifth. That's how it always was. Here they invented a registration in which the first to register, both here and other oblasts, is the first on the ballot. The ruling party [Party of Regions] didn't allow people into buildings simply because it wanted to be registered first.

They invented this type of gimmick in which they're supposed to be No. 1 on all of Ukraine's billboards. We had a problem in the Kremenchuk District where they didn't register first, and their members almost had a heart attack for failing to do so. That fact alone tells us that it's very hard to speak of some democratic norms.

As for the system of forming election commissions, then there's no system at all. In the commission where I'm running for the post of City Council chair, there's not a single representative from my party [Editor's Note: Ukrainian People's Party], even though we nominated a person who was a commission chair more than once. In terms of expertise, the person was supposed to be at least a commission member.

Today the commission chair is a person who never worked on elections at all, and he's performing very poorly when there are other commission members who know what to do. So the commissions were formed in an absolutely undemocratic way, which tells us that they're preparing for some grand falsifications.

We see the Party of Regions ratings falling in relation to ineffective policies. Re-introducing the "mazhorytarna" (single-winner) system is correct on the one hand, in my view, so that the voter at least knew the name of his deputy. On the other hand, all the oblast's main players were pressured to join the Party of Regions. Otherwise, the entrepreneurs were threatened with serious sanctions and reviews. If there were civil servants, they would've been dismissed.

This truly happened here?

Undoubtedly. This was throughout Ukraine, including Poltava. I don't want to mention people by names, because they will suffer repercussions, but there are more than enough of these facts. We even had well-

known farmers who were in our party at first because we supported their ecological and clean farming practices. But they were forced to leave the party. At first they said they wouldn't be involved at all, and afterwards they were forced to campaign for the Party of Regions. I don't know how this will all turn out.

Can you discuss specific violations against your election campaign?

My competitors are writing all kinds of nonsense about me. Regarding commissions, we haven't given the pretext for them to review us. Election day is ahead of us, and it's hard to say what the situation will be.

You said one of your commissioners was denied?

We don't have a single representative of our party on the commission of our oblast council, where our party is campaigning, and the city's territorial election commission (TEC).

Have you noticed indifference among the people towards the elections?

Yes, there is significant indifference, very significant disenchantment, and, honestly, it's quite difficult to work. On one hand, this disenchantment comes from the Orange team being blamed for many problems, which is true, because [former Prime Minister Yulia] Tymoshenko's management in the last year, especially during the crisis, was extremely unsuccessful. Her natural gas agreement with Moscow saddled Ukraine with debt. On the other hand, the Yanukovich team came after also promising a whole lot, criticizing Tymoshenko a great deal, but after a half-year has driven Ukraine into a greater abyss. This includes the Kharkiv agreement, the government's unsuccessful policies, particularly ineffective policies towards small- and middle-sized businesses.

People are lost and don't know where to find some relief – a political force they can join or support. The disenchantment is enormous. They say that everyone lies, no one tells the truth and they fool everyone.

People also think that politicians forget about them after they come to power. How are you different from such politicians?

I have enormous experience, because not only did I serve as governor, I also led a large district in Kyiv for seven years. I was a national deputy for eight years. I didn't plan to campaign for City Council chair. This position wouldn't be the highest I held. But the leading candidate here has a criminal background [Editor's Note: Oleksander Mamai of the Party of Regions], who is supported by the current government. I would not want this person to come to power in Poltava. That's the main reason I came and I've only been working since October 1.

If I began this campaign three months ago at least, I think I would have won. Now it's hard to say because there's very little time, although the situation is not bad, in my view. But it's hard to say whether I'll succeed in such a short time. But if a good manager ran for office, then I simply wouldn't have run. I would campaigned for the oblast council, or not run at all.

Name your two most significant accomplishments when you served as the oblast state administration chair.

They were recognized by the present government, when Poltava was recognized for the most investment which we brought to the oblast – foreign and domestic. We attracted excellent investment from Germany for recycling plants and electro-energetic generation. They'll soon begin construction of the recycling plant. But the greatest success was, of course, in the agro-industrial complex. We built 15 of the strongest grain elevators in the last four years – one of which is the biggest in Europe at

340,000 tons. We built two elevators along the Dnipro, so that grain doesn't have to be hauled to ports in Odesa and Illichivsk anymore. We immediately haul them on special grain barges and can transport them abroad. The oblast harvested under my leadership more than 4.5 million tons of grain. Poltavschyna has unique "chornozem," which is why the agro-industrial complex developed there most dynamically.

A lot was done in other spheres. I practically completed gasification of the oblast, which also brought good investment. Green tourism has begun to develop, which simply didn't exist earlier. We began to clean rivers and create recreation zones. We built a gigantic, 129,000-square-foot oblast hospital, which offers among the best maternity wards in the country.

I changed the system of management as much as I could. I would have dissolved this administration long ago because it's a Soviet system, which still has this type of Soviet rudiment. But it's not so simple to dissolve because it's tied to the Presidential Administration head, but also the chain of command in the ministries and local organs.

Regardless, I introduced a system which I call "investment management," in which a person was appointed to chase away all those who interfered with an investor and worked directly with the top manager who led an investment project. They kept track of all deadlines to approve documents. If someone attempted to deny approval or delayed the matter, I was immediately informed and we immediately eliminated this. That enabled the construction of the Metro supermarket chain and the Epitsentr hardware supermarket under my leadership, as well as large shopping malls. That commercial infrastructure was built practically in four years. That's not only Poltava, but Kremenchuk and Myrhorod. A good investment climate was created.

We didn't have politicization in the oblast. We were able to find agreement with all the political forces, and I don't remember a single strike under my leadership. Drivers went on strike, but they were striking more because of [Poltava City Council Chair Andrii] Matkovskiyi than me. There wasn't even an incident of dissatisfaction during those four years. The government was very open.

Which of the city's economic sectors demand the most attention?

Public works. We had a paradox here in Poltava, because its leadership has done very little for investment. When we brought this German investor for the recycling plant, I brought him to Poltava because there's a catastrophic situation here with garbage. This mayor [Andrii Matkovskiyi] showed him around for a year and then demanded something, after which the Germans said they're leaving. Then I took them to Kremenchuk, which had a more sensible mayor [Mykola Glukhov]. We resolved the problem there and gave them the recycling plants. We fulfilled this project there – the first of its kind in Ukraine. It was fulfilled not with loans, but with grants given by the German government. I personally traveled to Germany and negotiated with the environmental minister.

Yet the public services here are in very neglected shape. Roads and buildings, everything that falls under Mr. Matkovskiyi's functions, are in bad shape. He neglected all this very seriously, and that's why he has problems with his poll numbers and he'll lose this election.

What's the situation with the Ivan Mazepa and Symon Petliura statues?

Nothing with Petliura. It was made note of, but nothing was done.

What about the Petliura plaque?

Well, we established the plaque [at the site of the planned statue], after which the city said that it can't allow it to be estab-

lished there. We backed off the issue because it didn't go anywhere. The situation is entirely different with the Mazepa monument. There was a presidential decree honoring the 300th anniversary of the Poltava battle, for the fulfillment of which the city made all the decisions to establish the Mazepa monument. They designated the place, conducted a topographical survey, held a contest and announced its winner. Finally the monument was prepared. The crisis came when it was made, and I didn't remove the \$185,000 (1.5 million hrv) that was earmarked in the budget. I found investors instead. When it was supposed to be erected, the city government didn't allow it, not executing its own decision.

This monument stands today in Kyiv in the yard of this business, awaiting its fate. It's very beautiful. Campaigning here, I said that if I'm elected I will conduct a poll of the population. I am convinced people will agree and we'll bring it here. Although many have suggested that I take it to another city, because it's such a beautiful monument. Well, since I looked for the investment it's practically my private ownership since no one else is claiming it. That's the situation with Mazepa.

But you won't raise the issue of Petliura? Is it too controversial?

No it's not controversial. I'll put it this way – you can't begin with politics. As an old Rukh member, I have a lot of experience because I stood at the beginnings of the Ukrainian state, and I've learned the mentality of Ukrainians. Although I think it's the mentality of other people too. People want someone to do something at first. There are urgent social problems which need to be addressed first. If you resolve them, then people will view other things, particularly political issues, either with indifference, or not disagreeing. But if you've done nothing and begin immediately with monuments, then it's perceived as very negative and you have a poor position against the opposition.

So, I think if we're able to do in the first year or two at least half of what we did in the oblast, then believe me, I am convinced that people won't disagree in any case. The opposition forces will keep silent, while the patriotic forces will support it. I think we're supposed to be wiser in this sense.

That was probably President Yushchenko's mistake.

Unfortunately Yushchenko made many mistakes, and that wasn't the biggest.

His biggest mistake was that he didn't cancel the reforms, which he was told to do on the second day, after his inauguration. It's unclear what his advisors advised him. Yet Yanukovich canceled them after five years, although he did it illegally. And most interestingly Yushchenko did swear an oath on this 1996 Constitution.

Now Yanukovich also has the problem that he's illegitimate himself because he didn't swear an oath on the 1996 Constitution. Yet power is granted by the people. You can't come with one form of power, and afterwards expand it. You're supposed to return to the people, so that they grant you legitimacy.

Do you believe authoritarianism has returned to Ukraine?

Undoubtedly. Ukraine is copying Russia. Of course, it's a more muted form because Russians, by their mentality, are more authoritarian. They have the tsar in their heads. But Ukrainians are freedom-loving Kozaks. Our will is a natural phenomenon that's inherited.

When authoritarianism is formed here, it always ends up badly. And it can end up badly for Ukraine because Ukraine is going down its traditional path – gaining independence, rebirth and resurgence, then everyone argues with one another, followed by ruin and the disintegration of the state. We truly are living through very difficult times. That's the truth.

Symposium focuses on Ukrainian Modernism in international context

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – “Modernism in Kyiv,” a just-published monumental work, contains articles by twenty scholars whose aim is to examine the cultural development in Ukraine (specifically in Kyiv) in the significant years 1905-1926, when the political situation was defined by the existence of two powerful revolutionary movements – socialism and nationalism – with competing social visions.

To help launch this work, the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada organized a symposium in Toronto titled “Ukrainian Modernism in an International Setting,” inviting both editors of the book, Prof. Irena Makaryk from Ottawa and theater director Virlana Tkacz from New York as well as four other contributors to the book to offer modernism for discussion and provide a taste of the book’s contents.

The October 16 symposium highlighted the wide-ranging aim of the publication was highlighted at the symposium – to learn about the historical, intellectual and artistic complexity of Kyiv in the early years of the 20th century and to examine the variety of cultural activities of its multicultural population.

The central figure in this examination of Kyiv modernism is theater director Les Kurbas. Ms. Tkacz analyzed Kurbas’s new vision of the theater by examining his early work at the Young Theater (Molodyi Teatr).

Kurbas, the son of two actors, had arrived in Kyiv in March 1916 from western Ukraine and started playing romantic leads in existing theaters. In less than ten years, he would reshape the vision of Ukrainian theater. Along with other young theater artists, he became dissatisfied with the theater productions of the time, which were created around the star performers.

In September 1917 Kurbas and his actors organized themselves formally as the Young Theater. The group agreed that style was primary in art, so in their first productions each one experimented with different style. Their approach encompassed ensemble acting and psychological exploration, and the task of the theater shifted: the actors and director now served the text by creating another reality on stage.

They jettisoned the idea that the purpose of theater was to illustrate the text or mimic reality. Instead, theater was to be a series of stage images created by the director. Although the Young Theater existed for only two seasons – it was dissolved by the Bolsheviks – it redefined Ukrainian theater.

In the book, Ms. Tkacz goes to the next stage of Kurbas’ exploration of the theater, his founding in March 1922 of the Berezil Artistic Theater Association, which was intended to be a theater center that would produce plays, develop theater research and conduct experiments.

Prof. Myroslav Shkandrij spoke about painter, avant-garde Cubist and Constructivist artist, book illustrator, architect and theatrical designer Vadym Meller, who worked on theater design in Kurbas’ most successful productions based on the works of Mykola Kulish “Myna Mazailo” and the “People’s Malakhy.” Meller was born in St. Petersburg, studied at Kyiv University, acquired an artistic education in the Munich Academy of Fine Arts and exhibited in Paris before returning to Kyiv.

Berezil established itself as the most innovative theater in Kyiv and took part, along with other Soviet theaters, in the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels (better known by its shortened name Art Deco) in Paris – the topic of Prof. Irena Makaryk’s presentation at the symposium.

Over 20 drawings and photos from Berezil productions formed part of the Soviet Theater Arts display. Soviet art presented the USSR as a modern, dynamic, industrial state.

“The wide-reaching influence of the Paris exhibition is hard to overestimate,” said Prof. Mudrak. Over 15 million people visited the site in its six months, and it brought the attention of the world to the new aesthetic. But as the USSR was still a new political entity, in the catalogue it was listed under “Russie” and commentators did not distinguish between the theaters of the various republics. Although many people from Moscow came, no one from Ukraine had been permitted to travel to Paris. Meller received the gold medal for his model of the Berezil production of “The Secretary of the Labour Union” so Kurbas’s long-standing desire



Oksana Zakydalsky

At the Toronto symposium on “Modernism in Ukraine” (from left) are: Marko Horbatsch, Dagmar Turchyn-Duvirak, Marko Stech, Irena Makaryk, Myroslava Mudrak and Virlana Tkacz

“to astonish the world” had been fulfilled, but at the price of near anonymity.

The Soviet theater exhibit was then taken to New York and it “completely stunned American viewers,” Prof. Makaryk continued. A special edition of the influential journal *The Little Review* devoted one issue to the exposition, and eight images from the Berezil productions were reproduced, including Meller’s gold-winning set model. Again there was consistent identification of Berezil artists with Russian theater and the designation of Kyiv as “Kiew, Russia.”

Musicologist Dagmara Turchyn-Duvirak spoke about “Modernism in Music.” Between January 1921 and April 1922, three of the most notable Ukrainian composers died under tragic circumstances – Mykola Leontovych was shot by the Cheka; Yakiv Stepovy and Kyrylo Stetsenko both died of typhus. Thus, the music created in Ukraine in the 1920s was represented by a new young generation, although Ukrainian music had already become involved with the modernist movements and currents in the previous decades.

Music was further stimulated by the opening of music conservatories in Kyiv and Odesa (in 1913) and Kharkiv (in

1917). Although the Bolshevik period in Kyiv began in 1921, the Ukrainian music intelligentsia continued to pursue agendas formulated in previous years, especially during those of Ukrainian independence.

“The alliance of national ideas with modernist aesthetics became one of the most characteristic traits of Ukrainian musical modernism in the 1920s,” said Dr. Turchyn-Duvirak.

Some additional topics were considered at the symposium. As the Bolsheviks established their power in 1919, at first in Kharkiv, before the formation of the Soviet Union Kharkiv was made the capital of Soviet Ukraine, in opposition to the Ukrainian National Republic’s capital of Kyiv.

Prof. Myroslava Mudrak, in her presentation, examined the consequences of the establishment of this new capital.

Prof. Taras Koznarsky examined the poetry of Ukrainian modernists through their portrayal of the city of Kyiv.

It was impossible to introduce all the topics covered in the book “Modernism in Kyiv” at the symposium or to present them in the detail provided therein. But the symposium was a helpful introduction to the creative richness of Ukrainian history in a period of relative autonomy.

Book on “Modernism in Ukraine” is launched in Toronto

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – The book “Modernism in Kyiv: Jubilant Experimentation” was launched its publisher, the University of Toronto Press with both editors – Irena R. Makaryk, professor of English at the University of Ottawa, and Virlana Tkacz, artistic director of the Yara Arts Group in New York – present.

The 660-page book includes 20 articles by current specialists in the cultural history of Ukraine from Canada, USA and Ukraine, and over 300 photos and illustrations. It is a ground-breaking examination and study of the historical, intellectual and artistic complexity of Kyiv in the years of modernism – a term that encompasses the activities and output of those who felt that, at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, the traditional forms of the arts, literature, social organization and even daily life had become outdated in the emerging industrialized world.

Unlike Western European countries or Russia, it was neither World War I nor the Russian Revolution that were the significant events in Kyiv’s turn to modernism. Ukraine’s watershed occurred after the



1905 Revolution, which brought a relaxation of censorship and a lifting of the ban on publication and performance in the Ukrainian language. The declaration of independence of Ukraine in 1917-1918 enabled the country to pull away from the cultural dominance of imperial Russia

and to create a distinctive Ukrainian voice. The book examines Kyiv’s creative life from 1905 to the late 1920s, when Soviet reality intruded.

Prof. Makaryk, in her introduction, writes that the book accomplishes three clear goals. It adds Kyiv to the list of such major centres of modernism as Paris, Vienna, London and New York. Secondly, it argues that the modernist impulse is most prominently displayed in the experimental works of Les Kurbas. Thirdly, the book confirms Kyiv, at the beginning of the 20th century, as a city of multiple identities and examines the wide variety of cultural activities of Ukrainians, Russians, Jews and Poles.

The subtitle of the book – “Jubilant Experimentation” – is emphasized throughout with the frequent use of expressions such as excitement, exuberance, passion, dynamism, euphoria and optimism in the portrayal of creative

activities of the time.

“Although many of the artists of modernism were not primarily focused on ethnic identification or creating national art – Volodymyr Tatlin, Alexandra Exter, Sonia Delaunay, Alexander Archipenko felt equally at home in Paris, Moscow or Kyiv – they drew inspiration from Ukrainian cultural roots: the babas of the steppes, Byzantine-inspired Kyivan Rus’, medieval performers, richly painted icons, baroque ornamentation, the vertep and a literature rich in allegory and the grotesque,” she writes.

The book’s overarching aim, in Prof. Makaryk’s words, is “the reconfiguration of modernism as a Western phenomenon. The Ukrainian radical and far-reaching influence on modernist art is just beginning to be explored. The historical role of Ukraine is not only a crossroads between various cultures, and a borderland, but also a rich source of creative power.”

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Kobzarska Sich camp keeps Ukrainian music tradition alive

by Sara Cholyway

EMLENTON, Pa. – “Millions play the piano. Hundreds play the bandura. That’s how unique you are. So remember: ‘Ya Bandurist!’ (I am a bandurist.)

With these solemn words from Anatoli W. Murha, administrator and director of Kobzarska Sich (KS), the final evening rehearsal of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus-sponsored summer camp had ended.

Since 1979 Kobzarska Sich has been a summer home to those who wish to learn more about the soul of Ukraine. From August 7 through August 21, the hills of All Saints Camp in Emlenton, Pa., were alive with the sound of Ukrainian music. During those two concentrated weeks, over 70 participants learned about the bandura and its quintessential role in the Ukrainian music tradition through hours of instrumental and vocal rehearsal.

This summer, KS offered two bandura programs and two vocal programs. The two-week Bandura Course immersed participants age 12 and older in over seven hours of bandura instruction daily, focusing on proper technique as well as ensemble playing and singing.

For younger, aspiring bandurists age 9-11, the one-week Junior Bandura Workshop taught the basics and provided an excellent introduction to ensemble playing and singing.

Participants age 15 and older seeking a vocal-focused experience had two distinct programs available to explore various facets of Ukrainian choral tradition.

The four-day Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop gave singers the opportunity to delve into church singing through lectures, advice for church cantors and conductors, and singing works by Ukrainian master composers.

The weeklong Ukrainian Choral Workshop concentrated on the singing and performance of Ukrainian folk music through ensemble work and individual instruction. Each of these programs culminated with a final concert that displayed participants’ progress and pieces they studied.

Under the musical direction of Oleh Mahlay, former conductor of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, participants had the privilege of working with a dedicated, talented and passionate music staff. Bandura instructors this year included Andrij Birko, Irene Kytasty-Kuzma, Yuriy Petlura, Irene Zawadiwsky, Oleksander Petlura and Sara Cholyway.

Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay served as an instructor and lecturer for the Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop. Bohdan Heryavenko, current conductor of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, led the choral workshop, while his wife, opera singer Halyna Heryavenko, provided private lessons to workshop participants. Natalia B. Mahlay led the women’s ensemble comprising of participants from both bandura and choral workshops.

This year’s concert repertoire paid tribute to Ukrainian folk singing with a number of arrangements by Anatoli Avdievsky, conductor of the famous Hryhory Veriovka



The full ensemble at the Kobzarska Sich 2010.

National Folkloric Ensemble. Mr. Avdievsky was slated to be a special guest instructor at KS this year, but due to unforeseen circumstances was not able to attend. In addition, the program also featured KS classics “Nasha Batkivshchyna” and “Vzyav by Ya banduru.”

Often, KS participants have performance opportunities beyond the summer programs. In 2006, KS participants under the direction of Julian Kytasty performed for Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur at a celebration for the 15th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence.

On Sunday, October 17, over 20 KS participants and alumni, under the direction of Yuriy Petlura, performed at a banquet for the 60th parish feast day of St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in

Southfield, Mich.

Musicians of all ages and levels of musical ability gather from around the world for a short time for one reason: they all share an unwavering love for the bandura and Ukrainian music. It is in this environment that long-lasting friendships are forged and passion for music grows. The result is nothing less than magical.

The lingering echo in the rehearsal hall continues reverberating in the hearts of participants long after the final chords of the concert. Kobzarska Sich is more than just a summer music camp: it is a unique and unforgettable experience.

For more information regarding Kobzarska Sich and its bandura and vocal programs, readers may contact Anatoli W. Murha at ks@bandura.org or 734-658-6452.

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Kamianets-Podilskyi...

(Continued from page 4)

TEC's lawyer, Vitalii Belynskyi, then violated the election law and denied The Weekly's request to view documents that would confirm the basis for the refusal, and the day it was decided.

The suspects

Yevhen Geselev, the local businessman and alleged victim of bribery on the part of Mr. Nesteruk, has drawn suspicion for cooperating with the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) only after President Viktor Yanukovich and the Party of Regions were elected to power, and only after he had paid most of the alleged bribe.

He claimed in an October 5 interview that he approached the SBU himself after being fed up with paying the alleged bribes. (Mr. Zarechniuk claims these were not bribes, but voluntary contributions to a charity fund that the City Council had approved publicly.)

Mr. Nesteruk's supporters suspect that he may have been pressured into laying the trap at the behest of far larger interests that sought to remove the popular mayor from the city's political scene. As a former convict with three convictions, he may have been pressured by authorities using "kompromat" (compromising evidence).

A common tactic by the SBU is to get cooperation from ex-convicts with kompromat, lest they find themselves being targeted for arrest again.

The imprisoned mayor served the interests of the people at the expense of oligarchs and high-ranking authorities, his supporters believe. That makes for very powerful enemies in the vicious game of Ukrainian politics.

Mr. Nesteruk wasn't only shaking the hands of veterans and kissing babies.

Perhaps his most significant achievement involved reclaiming the city government's control of the local heating company, TeploVodEnerhiya, which had been rented out to Kyiv oligarchs who allegedly began driving up rates, raking in profits and re-investing little into the city.

In 2008, TeploVodEnerhiya proposed to hike heating prices to 7 hrv (88 cents) per 1,000 cubic meters from 5 hrv (63 cents), at a time when the residents of Khmelnytskyi were paying 3 hrv (38 cents) per cubic meter, said Ms. Vlasyuk, a former spokeswoman for the company.

The city's two-year legal battle against UkrHaz – the state enterprise that rented the city's heat distribution infrastructure – concluded in February this year after numerous appeals.

With the rise of President Yanukovich, however, Ukraine's energy oligarchs are eager to expand their holdings, as well as

reclaim whatever assets they may have lost, and then some. Among the biggest financiers of Mr. Yanukovich's campaign, and the Party of Regions, is Dmyto Firtash, Ukraine's natural gas baron.

His status as partner in RosUkrEnergo – the opaque natural gas intermediary against which Ms. Tymoshenko waged war – enabled Mr. Firtash to amass a wealth of about \$354 million, according to the Kyiv-based Dragon Capital investment bank.

Yet he's not satisfied. With Mr. Yanukovich's support, Mr. Firtash, 45, is now aiming to expand his gas distribution empire into Ukraine's localities, energy expert Oleksander Todiichuk told The Weekly.

"Firtash wants to strengthen his position on the Ukrainian market," he said. "He wants control of oblast gas distribution pipelines, including UkrHaz's system."

Local distribution networks, such as the one in Kamianets-Podilskyi, are prime targets. Although TeploVodEnerhiya's function is to provide hot water to the city, it relies heavily on gas to heat that water.

On paper, UkrHaz is a state enterprise and daughter firm of Naftohaz Ukrainy, the state distribution monopoly. Yet it also has opaque private stakeholders, a common feature of state enterprises.

In the case of UkrHaz, its opaque partners could have links to Mr. Firtash considering the main players in the Ukrainian gas industry are a relatively small, interlinked group of barons, several sources told The Weekly.

The Weekly approached various representatives of TeploVodEnerhiya at the Kamianets-Podilskyi City Hall to inquire about the conflict between Mr. Nesteruk and UkrHaz.

The city's TeploVodEnerhiya Director Viktor Tverdokhlibov, Deputy Director on Economic Issues Svitlana Len and Legal Department Chair Yulia Vus declined to speak with The Weekly.

Establishing a link between Mr. Firtash and UkrHaz could be critical in understanding why the SBU targeted Mr. Nesteruk, who retook state control of gas distribution in the city. It's well-known that Mr. Firtash enjoys very comfortable relations with Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, the SBU head.

Mr. Zemskov of the Batkivshchyna party said the city took on a large burden when returning TeploVodEnerhiya under its control, including \$2 million in debt. He revealed his inclination for letting UkrHaz take TeploVodEnerhiya back.

"The city has a large headache in administering the enterprise, and the work in his company isn't at the highest level now," he told The Weekly. He then hinted that the city's heating wars weren't behind Mr. Nesteruk's incarceration.

"It seems to me it's more like a kind of

political order," Mr. Zemskov said. "These things were mentioned by those political forces that are trying to shift responsibility onto others, onto business battles."

Yet when The Weekly asked about the role of the Party of Regions in the scandal, numerous authorities stressed the party wasn't even fielding a candidate for the Kamianets-Podilskyi City Council chair and had a minimal presence in the City Council and in local politics overall.

"The Party of Regions didn't nominate any candidate, which means it wasn't interested," Ms. Ostafiichuk said.

But Ukrainian politics aren't so cut and dried. The Party of Regions has held campaign events, such as soccer matches, together with Strong Ukraine, the party founded by Sergey Tigipko, the current vice prime minister for economic issues.

Moreover, the Khmelnytskyi State Oblast Administration Chair Vasyl Yadukha, representing the Yanukovich administration, endorsed Mykhailo Simashkevych, Strong Ukraine's candidate for the City Council chair.

The 2010 local elections featured the emergence in Kyiv and Lviv of Batkivshchyna clones, or hostile takeovers of party organizations by insiders that became loyal to the Party of Regions following Mr. Yanukovich's election.

Mr. Zemskov said his local organization is no such clone.

"There were no such attempts in Kamianets-Podilskyi, although I think that the desire was great," he said. "But that's very difficult considering that we are represented effectively on the City Council and people know how we work. Kamianets is the type of city where everyone knows each other. It's simpler to do that in Kyiv or Lviv, but those opportunities weren't in Kamianets."

Another theory behind Mr. Nesteruk's arrest involves local businessmen, who may have had enough of the mayor's insistence that they pay their fair share, whether through transparent land auctions, purchases of real estate at appraised market prices or contributions to the city's charity fund.

Mr. Geselev stated in the interview to the Ye website (<http://ye.ua>) that he was tired of Mr. Nesteruk taking credit for the money that he gave him. (Mr. Geselev claimed this money was bribes, while Mr. Nesteruk's supporters said it was a voluntary contribution to the charity fund.)

Meantime the city was waging court battles with another local entrepreneur, Serhii Abrosimov of the Party of Regions, over the rental and purchase prices of a local movie theater he sought to acquire.

And then there's the SBU. The City Council, under Mr. Nesteruk's leadership, thrice voted down a construction proposal by the SBU to build new housing for its local employees. Sources said the land

was to be purchased at below market rates, which was unacceptable to Mr. Nesteruk.

Those familiar with the situation now remark that the city leadership was either incredibly brave, or just plain stupid, to deny the SBU.

Quest for justice

Protests erupted the day after Mr. Nesteruk's arrest and were led by the city's labor and military veterans. They immediately sent letters to Kyiv, including the Presidential Administration and Procurator General's Office, demanding that other authorities investigate the scandal, ensure justice for Mr. Nesteruk and release him.

More than 2,000 residents took to the streets on September 21, the day after Mr. Nesteruk's arrest, and blocked the city's main highway that runs from Kyiv to Chernivtsi.

The crowds swelled to nearly 3,000 on September 24, the day after Mr. Nesteruk's incarceration. Demonstrators marched for a mile along the city's central Hrushevsky Boulevard, holding placards and proclaiming the mayor's innocence.

Representing all walks of life, young and old, residents and university students, the protesters took turns voicing their outrage at a raucous gathering at City Hall through a megaphone, frantically passing it to each other to release their anger and voice their opposition to the SBU's activities.

Almost 8,000 local residents, out of a city population of 100,000, signed a petition in support of Mr. Nesteruk's defense with more likely to sign.

Soon enough, the crowds began to dwindle as emotions simmered. An October 12 protest drew 500, while an October 14 demonstration dwindled to about 200. Mr. Nesteruk's supporters are now playing a wait-and-see game to see how the SBU investigation plays out and what evidence will be presented.

In the meantime, Mr. Zarechniuk is trying to collect whatever documents and evidence he can from City Hall.

"It's like we're in a dark room, pressing all its buttons, none of which are responding," said Volodymyr Gusev, the head of the local Chornobyl Union of Ukraine organization. "We wrote to every institution – [Human Rights Ombudsman] Nina Karpachova, the Presidential Administration, the Verkhovna Rada, its national deputies ..."

Though these letters were sent the week of Mr. Nesteruk's arrest, Mr. Rohal began receiving responses only on October 18. Regardless of where they came from, they bore the same message: your submission will be reviewed, after

(Continued on page 21)

To commemorate the

77th Anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933

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The now annual national observance to commemorate Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933 will take place at St. Patrick's Cathedral (51 Street and 5th Avenue) in New York City on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 2PM. This year marks the 77th anniversary of one of the worst cases of man's inhumanity towards man, and perhaps the most extreme example of the use of food as a weapon, and we urge the Ukrainian American community to attend the ecumenical service and honor the millions of innocent victims who perished as a result of the Soviet policy of forced collectivization.

For more information, please contact the UCCA National Office either by email at ucca@ucca.org or by phone at (212) 228-6840.

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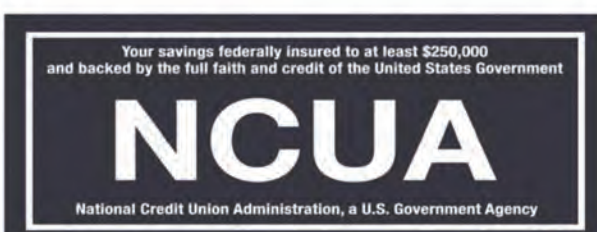
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Canada's PM...

(Continued from page 1)

you and your country for supporting democracy in Ukraine from the time our country gained independence. I would also like to thank the Ukrainian diaspora, which does a lot for our country's democratic development. For us it's very important that after five years of having democratic values and freedom of speech Ukraine doesn't fall off this path."

During his meeting with Mr. Harper, Mr. Lytvyn called for strengthening the interparliamentary part of bilateral relations on all levels and said he appreciated the visit to Ukraine last year of Peter Milliken, speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. Lytvyn also cited the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program for providing an opportunity for the young generation to work in the offices of parliamentarians and participate in the work of democratic institutions.

Bilateral issues discussed

Delegations from Ukraine and Canada met during the prime minister's visit to discuss trade and economic relations, humanitarian issues and cooperation in international organizations.

Mr. Yanukovich noted that both countries are interested in a free trade agreement (FTA), negotiations on which had begun in May. "We believe that both Ukraine and Canada will benefit from the agreement. Liberalization of trade relations will significantly expand foreign markets: in the North American space for Ukraine, and in the Eurasian space for Canada," he said.

Mr. Harper added: "We expect positive results from negotiations on the FTA. And we agree that this agreement will not only help improve commercial relations, but also enable our countries to gain access to additional, new markets and strengthen our position in these markets."

The next round of negotiations on the free trade agreement will be held in Ottawa in mid-December.

Speaking with Interfax-Ukraine on the eve of Prime Minister Harper's visit, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, Ihor Ostash, said, "We hope that next year Ukraine and Canada would sign an agreement on a free trade zone. This would be a serious breakthrough for Ukraine, which would allow Ukrainian and Canadian businessmen to considerably expand commodity turnover between the two states."

Youth exchange programs

In the presence of President Yanukovich and Prime Minister Harper, a memorandum of understanding on youth exchange programs was signed on October 25 by Minister of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports Ravil Safiullin and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to Ukraine Daniel Caron.

"Today's agreement will create exciting work and travel opportunities for our youth, forging new bonds between our countries for generations to come," Mr. Harper commented.

The main purpose of the memorandum is to provide young people of the two countries between the ages of 18 and 35 with additional opportunities to travel, live and work in Ukraine and Canada.

Mr. Yanukovich noted that the signing of the memorandum is the first step toward liberalizing the visa regime between the two countries. "In the future we need to greatly intensify that work and achieve a visa-free regime between our countries," he said.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) hailed the agreement.

"The Ukrainian Canadian Congress welcomes today's signing on a new agreement to promote the ability of young Canadians and Ukrainians aged 18-35 to visit and work in each other's country for a year, said UCC

National President Paul Grod. "The UCC has actively advocated for this type of program for a long time to encourage and enhance the people to people ties between our two countries."

Remembering the Holodomor

The Canadian leader also paid a visit to Ukraine's memorial to the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in which millions were killed by Joseph Stalin and his henchmen.

Mr. Harper, who was prime minister when Canada declared that the Holodomor was an act of genocide, referred to the Famine as "one of the great crimes of history," and said, "I hope always that it will remind the Ukrainian people of the importance of their freedom, their democracy and their independence, and of the necessity of always defending those things."

"Up to 10 million people – we'll never know the numbers for sure – killed through the deliberate plans of their own government," Mr. Harper observed.

President Yanukovich, who has said he does not consider the Holodomor to be genocide, said at the joint press conference: "This is a terrible event in the history of the Ukrainian people, in the history of Ukraine's neighboring peoples – Belarusians, Russians and Kazakhs. It was really a targeted crime against own people."

The Canadian prime minister also visited a World War II memorial and Babyn Yar, the site of a series of mass killings of Jews and others by the Nazis.

Visit to Lviv institutions

UCC National President Grod, who was among the Ukrainian Canadians traveling with the prime minister, reported from Lviv on October 26 that Mr. Harper addressed 200 students at the Ukrainian Catholic University with words of inspiration that the future of Ukraine is in their hands and that Canada will always be there to provide the necessary support.

Mr. Grod wrote:

"The visit to UCU was for Mr. Harper and his delegation the first stop in Lviv and was a gesture of solidarity with Father Borys Gudziak, faculty and students of the university who earlier in the year faced intimidation by Ukraine's Security Service for demonstrations in opposition to the Yanukovich government's actions.

"In his plea for democracy in Ukraine, the PM commented about states that do not respect their own people cannot respect the rights of their neighbors.

"Prime Minister Harper emphasized the genocidal nature of the Holodomor and commented that more people were killed during that horror than were alive in Canada at that time."

Mr. Grod also reported that Prime Minister Harper then proceeded to the National Memorial Museum Prison on Lontsky, formerly a jail used by the Polish, Soviet and Nazi occupation regimes and today a museum dedicated to the victims of those regimes.

The tour was guided by the director of the museum, Ruslan Zabilyi, who was recently detained by Ukrainian authorities who confiscated documents from him. Mr. Zabilyi is currently under criminal investigation in relation to the disclosure of archival materials.

During the Lviv visit, Mr. Harper also announced \$36 million in aid for projects to improve Ukraine's customs service, job training, municipal economic development, regional governance and juvenile justice reform.

According to the Canadian government, the following Canadian organizations will partner with Ukraine in delivering this additional assistance: the Canada Border Services Agency, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Conference Board of



Office of the Prime Minister of Canada

The Canadian prime minister pays his respects at the Holodomor memorial before the statue "Sad Memory of Childhood."



Official Website of Ukraine's President

In the presence of President Viktor Yanukovich and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the intergovernmental memorandum of understanding on youth exchange programs is signed by Minister of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports Ravil Safiullin and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to Ukraine Daniel Caron.

Canada, the Canadian Urban Institute and Calgary's Agriteam Canada.

A release from the Prime Minister's Office noted that "Ukraine has been identified as a priority country for Canada in the provision of development assistance."

Ukrainian Canadians pleased

The Globe and Mail reported that Ukrainian Canadian community reaction to the prime minister's visit was positive. "The itinerary was extremely well thought out," Lisa Shymko, director of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Center, told the newspaper. "It sends a message that the prime minister is not doing a business-as-usual trip to Ukraine."

Postmedia News reported that Dr. Frank Sysyn of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies said the visit is crucial because President Yanukovich is attempting to see how far he can go in controlling the media, the judiciary, the political opposition and the academic world. "This is a country where Canada has a major voice," said Dr.



Official Website of Ukraine's President

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada and President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine during their joint press conference in Kyiv.

Sysyn, who attended the prime minister's speech at the Ukrainian Catholic University, "and I think Harper hit exactly the right tone."

Sources: Ukrainian Canadian Committee, The Globe and Mail, The Canadian Press, Postmedia News, Ukrinform, Interfax-Ukraine, UNIAN, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, Official Website of Ukraine's President.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

wave of protests against the actions of the current government may cover all regions of Ukraine. "Today both in the east and the west people think alike: entrepreneurs in Donetsk, Luhansk and Lviv are rebelling against the immoral government policy," she stated. "The situation in Ukraine is that today people may rise up. If the Ukrainians do not change anything, at least at these local elections, and they are rigged, it would be impossible to keep people from protesting against the authorities." (Ukrinform)

CEC registers another 100 observers

KYIV – The Central Election Commission (CEC) has registered another 100 international observers for the local elections, it was reported on October 22. The CEC registered 32 observers from Poland, 29 from Russia, 23 from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, five from France, four observers each from Canada and the European Parliament, as well as three from the Netherlands. In total, the CEC registered 232 observers from international organizations and the foreign states. (Ukrinform)

European Parliament to send monitors

KYIV – The European Parliament has decided to send a delegation to Ukraine to monitor the local elections that will be held on October 31, a source with the European Parliament in Brussels told Ukrinform on October 20. "Not to observe, but to monitor – we are not sending official observers to the local elections. They will ensure the

political presence of the European Parliament," the sources said. The delegation will consist of members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who are on the delegation for relations with Ukraine, and will be headed by its co-chairman, Polish MEP Pawel Kowal. The final number of MEPs is not yet known as the "list is open," according to the source, who added, "They were supposed to leave for Ukraine on October 30 to attend a regular meeting of the interparliamentary delegation, and now it was decided to extend their stay in Ukraine." (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich on human rights

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich addressed the nation on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The president called a meeting of the Ukrainian Parliament on October 22 that was dedicated to this anniversary "rather symbolic" due to the fact that reforms are being carried out in Ukraine. "I am sure that Ukraine has every opportunity to improve the situation regarding observance of the standards foreseen in the [Convention for the] Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in a year or two," Mr. Yanukovich said. According to him, the anniversary of the signing of the convention is not a reason for celebration, but an opportunity to think about the level of protection, or rather the vulnerability of fundamental human rights in Ukraine. At the same time Yanukovich asked: "Why is Ukraine forced to fight for the implementation of its fundamental principles on the 60th year of the existence of the Convention for the

Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms? Why has a national procedure to prevent torture not been elaborated in Ukraine? Why are there many cases of deaths of innocent people at law enforcement agencies every year?" He said these questions were rhetorical and went on to state that the Ukrainian Parliament and the government are to bring national legislation into line with European standards as soon as possible. (Ukrinform)

European Parliament postpones resolution

KYIV – The European Parliament has postponed adoption of a resolution on the situation in Ukraine. The decision was made at a session of the European Parliament on October 21. Deputies of the European Parliament supported the relevant initiative by Hannes Swoboda, a representative of the socialists and democrats group. The European Parliament debated relations between Ukraine and the European Union as well as the situation in Ukraine on October 20. During the debate, several deputies called for postponement of adoption of a resolution on Ukraine. Pawel Kowal, the head of the European Parliament's delegation on cooperation with Ukraine, proposed postponing adoption of the resolution until after the Ukraine-European Union summit that is planned for November 22. Mr. Kowal said that the resolution should be adopted after the summit, when the European Parliament will be able to draft a single resolution without numerous obstructions. His proposal was backed by Rebecca Harms of Germany and Kristian Vigenin of Bulgaria. Four draft resolutions on the situation in Ukraine were prepared by various political forces, and one joint resolution was approved by representatives of all the political forces in the European Parliament. In that resolution, deputies of the European Parliament proposed that the Parliament express concern about the threats to demo-

cratic freedoms in Ukraine, such as freedom of speech, press freedom and freedom of assembly, as well as complaints by journalists and representatives of civil society about pressure from the authorities. The draft resolution also stressed the importance of participation by all political forces in drafting constitutional reforms in Ukraine and the need to improve the country's election legislation. In addition, the draft resolution called on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to complete the work on a plan to abolish visas for Ukrainian citizens. Earlier, on October 5, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution on the state of democratic institutions in Ukraine, in which it called for a halt to monopolization of power and restriction of democratic freedoms. (Ukrainian News Agency)

Blasts not connected to Yanukovich visit

KYIV – The three blasts in Kirovohrad on October 22 at 2:50 a.m. were not connected with President Viktor Yanukovich's visit later that day, a senior law enforcement official told the Kyiv Post. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on the situation, said the blasts outside the prosecutor's office, a police building and the courthouse were the work of regional gangs and were a local affair. Mr. Yanukovich said an investigation had been initiated. Fragments of an artillery missile, parts of a clock and a cylindrical battery were found at the scene. No injuries were reported. On October 26 it was reported that Ukraine's Vice Minister for Internal Affairs Vasyl Farrynik said police have revealed that the explosive devices set off were identical, that is, they were made by the same person or group. Police are currently checking several possible explanations of the blasts, one of which is the struggle among local criminal

(Continued on page 15)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

circles due to the upcoming elections. (Kyiv Post, Ukrinform)

Police probe alleged phone-tapping

KHARKIV, Ukraine – The Procurator General's Office in the city of Kharkiv has launched an investigation into the alleged tapping of an opposition politician's telephone, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on October 21. Vadym Zhylin, a senior investigator in the prosecutor's office in Kharkiv, said the telephone of Arsen Avakov, chairman of the Batkivschyna party's branch in Kharkiv, is believed to have been tapped. Mr. Zhylin said an investigation was launched in accordance with a violation of "privacy of phone conversations," which is punishable by up to three years in jail. Mr. Avakov first filed a complaint with the Procurator General's Office in

September, when he claimed he was being followed by agents of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). SBU officials denied the accusation. (RFE/RL)

Opposition activist is beaten

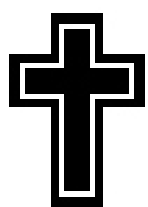
KHARKIV, Ukraine – The Ukrainian opposition party Batkivschyna says an elderly woman campaigning for them was beaten by two masked men in Kharkiv on October 19. A Batkivschyna spokesperson in Kharkiv told RFE/RL the incident took place near a tent pitched by the party to support the Batkivschyna candidate for the mayoral election scheduled for October 31. It said two men started assaulting a young female campaign worker. When the older woman tried to intervene, one of the men hit her in the face. The elderly woman, 68, lost consciousness and was hospitalized with a broken jaw and high blood pressure. The Kharkiv Oblast's Internal Affairs Ministry told RFE/RL an investigation into the beat-

ing has been opened. It was the second attack on a Batkivschyna campaigner in Kharkiv in the last 10 days. On October 11 a party supporter was beaten by unknown persons. Local police did not investigate. Batkivschyna is led by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. (RFE/RL)

Presidents of Ukraine, Lithuania meet

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich traveled to Lithuania on an official visit on October 14, meeting with Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, Sejm Chair Irene Dyagutene and Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius. In addition, the fourth meeting of the Council of Presidents of Ukraine and Lithuania was held. Presidents Yanukovich and Grybauskaitė signed a roadmap for the development of the strategic partnership between their two countries in 2011-2012. During a joint press conference, Ms. Grybauskaitė stressed the importance of cooperation between Ukraine and Lithuania

in the sphere of European integration and promised to provide practical assistance to Ukraine in rapprochement with Europe. "Ukraine is very important to the EU," Ms. Grybauskaitė said, adding that Ukraine's membership in the European Union is a strategic goal for both sides. "Lithuania is ready to continue assisting Ukraine in getting closer to Europe," she said. She also noted Ukraine's importance for her country in the context of cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and in the sphere of ensuring international security. The Ukrainian president, in turn, noted that "Lithuania's current experience is very useful for Ukraine." Speaking about cooperation with Lithuania in this direction, Mr. Yanukovich said: "We have agreed that Lithuania will not only support Ukraine, but also provide practical assistance to our agencies and officials dealing with these issues – recommendations and effective mechanisms promoting the European integration of Ukraine." (Ukrinform)



Wasyl Romancio

passed away on Sept. 22, 2010, at his home in Queens at the age of 89, courageously fighting his last battle and joining his family in heaven.



He was born in Terka, Lemkivshchyna, to Pelahia and Mikhaylo, also born in Terka. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 63 years, Maria, also born and raised in Terka. He is predeceased by his cherished son George. Surviving him are his daughters Mary Romancio, Anastazia with Quenton Spencer, and Anna with Dr. Walter Szczupak. He leaves behind seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; his sister, Kateryna and his in-laws George with Marie, Anna and Myron; tens of loving nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends. Also predeceased are siblings Mykola, Mikhaylo, Anna, Rosalia, Maria, Tatiana and Eva.

Wasyl was a much-loved family man, parishioner, and neighbor. Although he lived through tremendous tragedies he remained extraordinarily hardworking, optimistic and passionate, never a single complaint, living life to its fullest with a certain eloquence. He loved the church, reading, home improvement, technology and talking to people (in four languages). He often recalled a blissful youth enriched with church pilgrimages to nearby towns that could be reached by foot, a vibrant cultural center, singing and hard work on the hilly family farm. During the cruelties of World War II, he was conscripted at gunpoint by the Communist Russian army front. He escaped after a few days, within inches of his life. Bullets aimed at Wasyl tragically struck his neighbor as the two nonswimmers were chin-deep crossing the frozen December river waters bordering Slovakia. He then walked alone for days, freezing, starving, wet and exhausted back to Terka.

The genocidal Operation Wisla, in the mid- to late 1940s, resulted in the torching of the entire region of Lemkivshchyna and his beloved ancestral Ukrainian village of Terka with the fatal burning of his mother, sister Maria, and neighbors by the Communist army. Wasyl endured this horrific murdering of Ukrainians, the suffering of his innocent father, randomly chosen to endure torture in Auschwitz-Jaworzno, which was a Communist gulag until the 1950s, and the violent dispersal of the population throughout Poland. In 1962, he and his family came to New York to join his American-born (but raised and married in Terka) father-in-law, giving them all opportunities for a better life. They embraced their new country but never forgot where they came from. The 1972 murder of his only son, George, again brought immense pain and suffering to him and the whole family.

Despite these tragic years, Wasyl Romancio persevered in his efforts to provide the best life he could for his immigrant family and always generously offered assistance to everyone he met. He prided himself on the wonderful achievements of his grandchildren Halya with Dan, Roman, Alex with Elizabeth, Daniel with Jennine, Larissa, Wolodymyr and Mikhaylo. He lived to see the joy of great-grandchildren Dan, Nick, Susannah and Katie. He loved America but pined for his pastoral life in Terka each and every day. He will be immensely missed by all whom he touched.

The funeral liturgy was held in St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ozone Park, where he was a member for 40 years. He was laid to rest at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Campbell Hall, next to his only son, George Romancio.

Eternal Memory — Вічна Память
Believe, Hope and Pray — Вірити, Мати Надію і Молитись

A fund for development of the church has been set up to honor his life. Donations in his name may be sent to St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 141 Sarah Wells Trail, Campbell Hall, NY 10916; 845-496-4156; www.holyspirit-saintandrew.org.



Halyna Kuschtsch Hawras

of Philadelphia, PA.
Recently of Binghamton, N.Y.
Born in Poltava Ukraine,
October 18, 1929.



God greeted Halyna with open arms
on October 20, 2010.

As a young girl, Halyna Kuschtsch enjoyed a wonderful childhood in Ukraine with her Father, Mother, and three brothers. The Soviet Union invasion of Ukraine changed everything. They fled their beloved country to escape persecution after Halyna's Father was taken by Soviet officers, never to be heard from again. The remaining brave family members fled West into the Allies hands, eventually settling in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In Brazil, Halyna Kuschtsch met and married Ivan Hawras, also from Ukraine. Urged to come to the United States by friends, the young couple made the long trip, and settled in Philadelphia with their newborn son, Yuri (George). Working hard, they prospered in America, soon adding a daughter, Switlana (Susan) to the family.

Halyna became a seamstress, and opened her own dress shop in Philadelphia specializing in bridal & formal dresses. She continued to sew and became a bridal expert, later working on only the most intricate and exquisite gowns. She worked at her craft for over fifty years, not retiring until age seventy-nine.

During her life in Philadelphia, Halyna was closely involved with her church, St. Mary's Protectress Ukrainian Church. Deeply committed to her Ukrainian Orthodox religion, like her parents and prior generations, she devoted herself to the church, serving as President for four terms. Halyna was also involved in every way with St. Mary's Ukrainian School, helping to keep the rich and colorful Ukrainian culture alive in the children.

Halyna also loved to travel. She visited dozens of countries, and could speak five languages. She had a passion for the finer things, and collected beautiful treasures from all over the world. She always drove nice new cars, and wore stunning jewelry and clothing.

Halyna recently moved to Binghamton, NY, to be with her son George Hawras, his wife Barbara, and her two grand-daughters, Briana and Alyssa.

It's with great sorrow that we say good-bye to Halyna, a business-woman ahead of her time; a loving Mother; a special Grandmother (Nana); a proud and noble person with a great sense of style.

A Prayer Service and Calling Hours were held Monday, October 25, in Binghamton, NY.

Mass and Funeral Services will be held Saturday, October 30, 10:30am at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

NHL Ukrainians on the move during off-season

The first crowds have filtered into arenas on opening night... unsuspecting opponents have been body checked into the boards... the season's first goals have been duly celebrated... With the start of the 2010-2011 hockey season, we review the summer's transaction wire as pertaining to our Ukrainian hockey stars. We look at free agent signings, trades, re-signings, returns from Russia, releases and retirements in an effort to match Ukrainian players with their new clubs.

The highlights of the past several months' wheeling and dealing include a "Poni" sighting in southern California, a "Blue" retirement ceremony in St. Louis, a major re-up in Boston and two notable Ukrainian stars returning from self-imposed exile in Russia's KHL. The details follow in our annual feature of all Ukrainian comings and goings to get you set for the 2010-2011 NHL campaign. This year the annual chronicling of player movement comes with a bit of a personal critique – we give our opinion on the move from both the team's and player's perspective.

In Part I, we begin with Ukrainian hockey players who changed teams, either voluntarily (opting for greener pastures) or involuntarily (swapped for another skater), plus those who chose not to play the relocation game.

Ponikarovsky King for a year

After pursuing free agent sniper Ilya Kovalchuk, only to see him eventually sign with New Jersey, and losing their own free agent, Alexander Frolov, to the New York Rangers, the Los Angeles Kings turned to veteran Alexei Ponikarovsky to shore up their power forward ranks.

The 30-year-old Ukrainian winger struggled after being acquired by Pittsburgh at the 2009-2010 trading deadline, netting only two goals and nine points in 16 games,

before scoring five points in 11 playoff matches. His disappointing production led him to be scratched several times in the post-season. He ended last season with 21 goals and 50 points, down from a career-best 23 goals and 61 points with Toronto in 2008-2009. Last season was the fourth time in the last five years Ponikarovsky hit the 20-goal plateau and his second 50-point season.

His minus-6 play in Pittsburgh resulted in an overall minus-1 rating for the year, a stark about-face from his solid plus-51 over the prior five seasons with the Leafs.

In his new digs, a stalwart two-way winger like Ponikarovsky is a natural fit with another towering forward, Michal Handzus. Both guys show strength in the corners and play both ends of the rink. They could comprise two-thirds of any of the club's top three forward lines.

The Kings were a patient organization this past summer, securing Ponikarovsky's services for one year and a slight raise over the \$2.5 million he earned last season. He doesn't have the offensive skills of either the departing Frolov or the desired Kovalchuk. He does have grit and a presence in front of the net – when he's playing well, he brings a physical game along with defensive responsibility.

Bottom line: the short-term deal minimizes the level of risk for the Kings, making it worth a higher payout.

His struggles after joining the Penguins precluded his staying on in Pittsburgh. He projects as a 20+ goal scorer with 50+ points in Los Angeles.

STELMACH SAYS: A one year stay with an up-and-coming Kings franchise will allow Ponikarovsky a fresh start to re-establish his value as a proven power forward before potentially hitting the free agent market again next season. This should be a win-win for both the team and the player.

Halischuk a Predator

In a matter of a few hours on a Saturday in mid-June, the Nashville Predators reshaped their roster and altered their locker room dynamic with a pair of trades. Brought on board were Matt Halischuk and Ryan Parent in separate deals involving team captain Jason Arnott and longest-tenured defenseman Dan Hamhuis. The trades open the door for some of the team's emerging stars to step more into the limelight, while also making the 2010-2011 roster even younger.

The focus here is on the first trade, when Nashville sent Arnott back to the New Jersey Devils in exchange for Ukrainian forward Halischuk and the Devils' second-round pick in the 2011 Entry Draft. Halischuk is only 22 years old with 21 games of NHL experience already under his belt in an organization, much like the Predators, which prides itself with its youngsters coming up from the AHL.

In this year's The Hockey News Future's Watch, Halischuk was a top-10 rated Devils prospect. He plays as all-out physical style which should earn him high marks with Predators coach Barry Trotz and his staff. There is talk of pairing him with fellow Ukrainian Canadian Jordin Tootoo on a high-energy, banging-type of checking line.

Halischuk split 2009-2010 between New Jersey (1-1-2 points in 20 games) and Albany (11-11-22 in 32 AHL games). In his first pro season of 2008-2009, the Toronto native notched 29 points in 47 games with AHL Lowell, also getting an assist in his NHL debut with the Devils.

The 5-11, 175-pound right wing scored the game-winning goal at 3:36 of overtime in the finals of the 2008 World Junior Championships, sending Canada past Sweden, 3-2. He is a former OHL champion and played in the Memorial Cup – he led the OHL in post-season goal scoring in 2008, ranking fourth in points (20-16-16-

32), playing on a forward line with now-Predator teammate, Nick Spaling.

STELMACH SAYS: The Devils regain the services of a crafty leader in Arnott while Nashville gets a solid two-way prospect with much potential upside in the Ukrainian Halischuk. He'll get his chance to earn a full-time job much sooner with the Predators.

Avalanche acquire and sign Winnik

On June 28, the Colorado Avalanche acquired forward Daniel Winnik from the Phoenix Coyotes in exchange for a fourth-round selection in the 2012 NHL Entry Draft. Winnik, 25, saw action in 74 games for the Coyotes last season, scoring 19 points (4G, 15A) with a final +1 rating. The defense-minded left winger blocked 54 shots (first among forwards) and ranked second on the club in takeaways (30). The 6-foot-2, 210-pounder was among the team leaders in penalty killing time on ice and dressed in all seven playoff games for Phoenix.

"Daniel is a younger player with size, speed and has the ability to kill penalties," said Avalanche General Manager Greg Sherman in an official teal press release. "He has three years of NHL experience and will fill an important role with our team next season."

Originally selected by Phoenix in the ninth round of the 2004 Entry Draft, the Toronto native of Ukrainian descent has appeared in 202 career NHL games, scoring 52 total points (18G, 34A). Before turning pro, Winnik played three seasons at the University of New Hampshire, where he was a Hockey East Second Team All-Star in 2005-2006.

On July 3 the Avalanche announced the team had agreed to terms with Winnik on a two-year contract. Terms were not announced for the restricted free agent who is expected to be a key member of the Coyotes' checking line in 2010-11.

STELMACH SAYS: Always nice to be wanted by another club – Avalanche targeted Winnik as another piece of a rebuilt franchise. His is a lateral move – he slips into the same role he fulfilled in Phoenix, but with a bit of financial security.

Lukowich returns to Dallas

The Dallas Stars agreed to terms with Ukrainian defenseman Brad Lukowich on a one-year, two-way contract, bringing the veteran blueliner back home. Terms of the deal reportedly were for \$1 million at the NHL level and a \$275,000 at the AHL level.

Lukowich has a long history with the Dallas hockey club – he was a member of the 1999 Stanley Cup team and spent his first six professional hockey seasons in the Stars organization. Last season he was loaned to the Texas Stars (Dallas' new AHL affiliate) by Vancouver and proved instrumental in assisting the AHL expansion team to a quick start in its inaugural campaign.

Lukowich was brought back as a veteran presence to offset the loss of veteran defenders Dan Jancevski, Andrew Hutchinson and Garrett Stafford for the Texas Stars, and also be available as an emergency call-up to the parent Dallas squad.

STELMACH SAYS: A no-brainer for both sides. Dallas has a favorite son back in the fold as an ultimate insurance policy on defense and a great mentor for developing young defensemen on the farm. Lukowich gets to play out his remaining time back home where he's won a Stanley Cup and is

(Continued on page 22)

Fedotenko earns spot with Rangers

In mid-September, two-time Stanley Cup winner Ruslan Fedotenko found himself on the ice at an informal group workout, preparing for a training camp tryout with the New York Rangers. A few teams inquired about his services, but the 31-year-old opted to seek a job with the Blueshirts.

"Free agent – there is not that much going on right now, but I got an invitation to attend training camp with the Rangers and I think it's a great opportunity," said Fedotenko in a September 14 chat with New York Rangers.com. "Bottom line is if I deserve to be on this club, I will be here. If not, it will make their decision easier. It's up to me to prove what I can bring."

Apparently Fedotenko brought it well in pre-season workouts, scrimmages and exhibition games. New York signed the Ukrainian to a one-year contract worth \$1 million at the end of training camp. In five pre-season contests, Fedotenko scored a goal and added six assists with two penalty minutes and a +5 rating. He led the team in assists, points and plus/minus, tying for second with 11 shots on goal.

Rangers coach John Tortorella knows Fedotenko and his post-season success rather well, having been his coach in Tampa Bay for four years, including their Stanley Cup-winning season in 2003-2004. Fedotenko understood, no matter

their past relationship, he would only make the team if he was one of the top 12 forwards.

"We had a good time winning the cup, but playing for him I know what type of man and what kind of coach he is, I know what to expect," Fedotenko said of Tortorella. "I think if you are playing well, you will play. If you're not playing well, you're not going to play. It doesn't matter who you are."

Fedotenko is attempting to rebound from a disappointing 2009-2010 season in Pittsburgh (11G, 19A, 30 PTS in 80 games), and is eager to prove he can still be an offensive contributor in 2010-2011.

"I feel like last year was my downside, but I know I can be a 25-goal scorer and bring physical play to the team," said Fedotenko. "I want to win another cup and want to continue to play in the NHL."

No. 19 in your New York Rangers program, he gets his chance to perform on the big stage at Madison Square Garden, initially playing on a line centered by rookie Derek Stepan. There is no doubt old coach Tortorella is pleased to have Fedotenko's winning pedigree present in his locker room. Could there be a third Stanley Cup in Ruslan's immediate future?

Hordichuk back with Panthers

One day before the opening of the

2010-2011 National Hockey League season, the Florida Panthers reacquired tough guy Darcy Hordichuk in a trade with the Vancouver Canucks for left wing Andrew Peters.

"Darcy is a veteran player who adds a physical presence in our line-up," said General Manager Dale Tallon in an official team press release. "He is a high-character, hard-working individual who will play an important role on our club both on and off the ice. We look forward to welcoming him back to South Florida."

Now 30, Hordichuk returns to the Panthers after parts of two seasons (2002-2004) with the team, appearing in 60 games, scoring three goals and an assist with 173 penalty minutes. The bulk of his "sin bin" minutes – 158 – came in the 2003-2004 season.

In his NHL career he has played in 431 regular season games for five different clubs (Atlanta, Phoenix, Florida, Nashville and Vancouver), totaling 18 goals, 15 assists and 998 PIMs. The 6-foot-1, 212-pound left wing has topped two other teams in penalty minutes (Nashville in 2005-2006 with 163 and Vancouver in 2009-2010 with 142).

The Kamsack, Saskatchewan, native of Ukrainian descent was originally selected by the Atlanta Thrashers in the sixth round (180th overall) in the 2000 NHL Entry Draft.

John Fedynsky celebrates his first book with Michigan's Ukrainian community



John Fedynsky speaks about his new book, "Michigan's County Courthouses," during a book signing in Detroit.

DETROIT – Pride of authorship is often individual. But sometimes it is a community thing too. John Fedynsky knows, and at his book signing and release party on September 26, he credited his community for establishing parochial schools that taught him to read and write. Without that foundation, he could have never authored his first book – "Michigan's County Courthouses," which the University of Michigan Press published this summer.

The Ukrainian-American Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Michigan co-sponsored the event with Fedynsky, an officer and founding member of the Chamber, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

"My book began with a digital camera and a full tank of gas," Mr. Fedynsky said. He explained how the idea of a book evolved from dabbling with his camera in northern Michigan while on break from law school. Each county seat he visited had a unique and photogenic courthouse that made its way into his photo album.

Then he asked if anyone had ever visited all 83 counties in Michigan and wrote a book about the courthouses. Not since the 1970s, he learned, so he embarked on a multi-year project in his spare time. He did the field work in 2004-2008. Finding a publisher and completing the production work took the next two years.

Justice Stephen Markman of the Michigan Supreme Court wrote the foreword. "This book will certainly become the definitive work on an overlooked part of Michigan history," he wrote. "It is both a reference and a book to be read." Judge Markman has twice travelled to Ukraine with the State Department and the American Bar Association to assist in the development of its post-Soviet Constitution.

Petro Lisowsky, assistant professor of accountancy at the University of Illinois, introduced Mr. Fedynsky, a childhood friend. Mr. Lisowsky noted that, having just published his own dissertation, he knows how it can be both a difficult and a fulfilling process.

Mr. Fedynsky's remarks focused upon the genesis of the book, the broad conclusions he drew, and the entertaining anecdotes and historical remembrances he collected. He shared a few of the latter and then opened the floor for an informal question and answer session.

The audience was supportive and engaging. They wanted to hear more details, more stories.

Those stories, along with Mr. Fedynsky's other field work and extensive library research, formed the basis of his view of the importance of the county courthouse to the history of Michigan. The author's introduction to the book perhaps best captures its central theme:

"Courthouses are symbols. Physically they stand, but figuratively they speak. They embody the purposes for which they were

created: law, order, justice, the American way, and the promise of a better tomorrow. Whatever their shape, station, or locale, the ideals are the same. Each is, in its own unique way, a gem of the people."

In like measure, Fedynsky expressed the hope that, in its own unique way, his book would strike a similar chord for all Ukrainian-Americans in Michigan. The book is available in Michigan bookstores and on-line. (Visit www.press.umich.edu and search for "Fedynsky.")

Mr. Fedynsky is a native of metropolitan Detroit. He attended Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Schools in Warren, Mich.

He is a member of the Chornomortsi fraternity of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

He graduated with honors from Georgetown University and the University of Michigan Law School. He practices civil law as an assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan. He is a former research attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals. He also served as a federal law clerk to the Robert H. Cleland, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit.

Mr. Fedynsky is a lifelong member

(Continued on page 18)



John Fedynsky cheerfully signs a copy of his book for Vera Andrushkiw. She was his professor at the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute in 1998.



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DNC chairman meets with ethnic leaders

WASHINGTON — In recent weeks, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairman Tim Kaine held a series of meetings with Democratic ethnic leaders discussing November's election. During those meetings, Chairman Kaine met with community ethnic leaders in Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

These three states are culturally rich, with large populations of Americans of European and Mediterranean heritage who will be crucially important to Democrats in this election and the next.

Meeting participants included National Ethnic Council leader Dr. James Zogby, who founded the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC) and currently serves as its secretary, as well as representatives of dozens of ethnic groups, including Americans of Arab, Armenian, Assyrian, Croatian, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian, Slovenian, Sikh, and Ukrainian descent.

Chairman Kaine said, "Ethnic voters could be the margin of victory in competitive races across the nation, and the DNC is investing resources to reach out to constituencies that will yield



At the meeting in Philadelphia with former governor of Virginia and current Chairman of the Democratic National Committee Tom Kaine (center) are Ara Chalian (left) and Ulana Mazurkevich.

Democratic wins in 2010 and for years to come."

Several Ukrainian American leaders serving on the DNC's National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC), or Ethnic Council,

participated in the meetings, including Andy Fedynsky, who attended the Cleveland meeting; Julian Kulas, who attended the Chicago meeting; and Ulana Mazurkevich, who attended the Philadelphia meeting.

Activists warn...

(Continued from page 1)

October 20 decision of the Kremenchuk territorial election commission (TEC) to disqualify its candidate for the City Council chair, Oleh Babayev.

"He is the single orderer of falsifications and the main controller. He's a person who is pathologically incapable of honest elections," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

The Single Center party, controlled by Zakarpattia oligarch Viktor Baloha, sent an October 26 statement to international organizations and embassies warning of the current government's "total abuse of rights norms and numerous violations of legislation and democratic procedures."

The statement reported "wide use of 'adminresurs' [government resources], pressure and force against the election contenders," as well as "numerous abuses and restraints."

The 2010 local election law violates international standards, Olha Aivazovska, board chair of Opora, told an October 28 press conference. They were poorly organized by a Yanukovich administration more interested in its own political interests rather than ensuring the right to vote.

The elections didn't allow fair competition, she underscored.

John Fedynsky...

(Continued from page 17)

of Ukrainian National Association Branch 20 in Detroit.

Regaling the crowd with amusing anecdotes, John Fedynsky highlights some of the more captivating parts of his book, "Michigan's County Courthouses."

The book's publisher, (the University of Michigan Press), says of the book: "John Fedynsky documents in narrative and photos every county courthouse of Michigan's eighty-three counties, as well as the Michigan Hall of Justice. ...

"In Fedynsky's descriptions, verifiable facts and local lore weave together in dramatic tales of outrageous crime, courtroom intrigue, backroom dealing, jury determination and judicial prerogative. Released jail inmates assist with evacuating and extinguishing a courthouse fire, residents during a natural disaster seek and find physical refuge behind the sure walls of the courthouse, and vigilant legions of homebound defenders are stationed in wartime throughout the courthouse towers scanning the skies for signs of foreign aircraft.

"Then there are the homey touches that emphasize the 'house' half of Michigan's courthouses: local folks dropping off plants in the courthouse atrium to use it as a winter greenhouse, cows grazing on the public square, county fairs in or near the courthouse, and locally made artwork hanging in public hallways. The courthouses bear within their walls a richness of soul endowed by the good people who make each one special."

Advocacy groups...

(Continued from page 3)

Trafficking.

"The program should have clearly formulated and objectively verifiable tasks aimed at improvement of the situation in Ukraine and provision of assistance to people. It should be developed in a constructive partnership with non-governmental organizations having extensive experience in the field," said Ms. Levchenko.

The office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, the IOM Mission in Ukraine and the International Women's Rights Center La Strada-Ukraine coordinate their efforts in supporting anti-trafficking activities in the country.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Colonel promoted to brigadier general

FORT KNOX, Ky. – Col. Victor Petrenko was promoted to brigadier general on August 6 during a ceremony held at Fort Knox, Ky.

He currently serves as the deputy commander and chief of staff for the U.S. Army Accessions Command at Fort Knox.

Col. Victor Petrenko, a distinguished mil-



Brig. Gen. Victor Petrenko

itary graduate of Arizona State University, was commissioned in field artillery in 1983. He graduated from the Infantry Officer's Advance Course in 1987 and then attended Ranger School and began his first tour at Fort Bragg, N.C.

He also attended Command and General Staff College and received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. In 2003 he attended the Naval War College in Rhode Island, earning a master's degree in national and strategic studies.

During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he performed the duties of a liaison officer. He was deployed also to Operation Enduring Freedom and Katrina/Rita.

Brig. Gen. Petrenko's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

The French government awarded him the rank of chevalier in the Ordre National du Merite and the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star. In addition, the Polish government awarded him the Defense Bronze Medal. He has also earned the Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Brig. Gen. Petrenko is married to the former Amy Shea of Brookville, Ind. They have a son, Mykola, and daughter, Larysa.

Earns blue ribbon for sunflower



EBENSBURG Pa. – Irene Nestor entered one of her sunflowers in the horticulture competition at the Cambria County Fair here on Labor Day, September 6, and won a blue ribbon for the largest sunflower. Mrs. Nestor also won blue ribbons for her peanut brittle and green beans. It was the first time she had entered a sunflower at the fair. Mrs. Nestor, who is seen above with her prize-winning sunflower, resides with her husband, George in Nanty Glo, Pa.

College student performs concert

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Nicholas M. Hrynyk, a piano student at the renowned Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., recently performed a solo concert at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, N.Y.

The September 29 concert by the young pianist was part of Civic Morning Musicals, The Wednesday Recital Series, held in the museum's Hosmer Auditorium. The program featured works by Prokofiev and Schumann.

Mr. Hrynyk, who is studying to become a concert pianist, has performed numerous concerts featuring the works of Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Chopin and other composers. He has appeared with orchestras and as a soloist throughout the Central New York region.

This past summer he performed in France during the International Music Festival at the Mouline D'Ande.

The 19-year-old hails from Auburn,



Nicholas M. Hrynyk

N.Y., and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in music under the tutelage of Natalya Antonova.

Mr. Hrynyk is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 283.

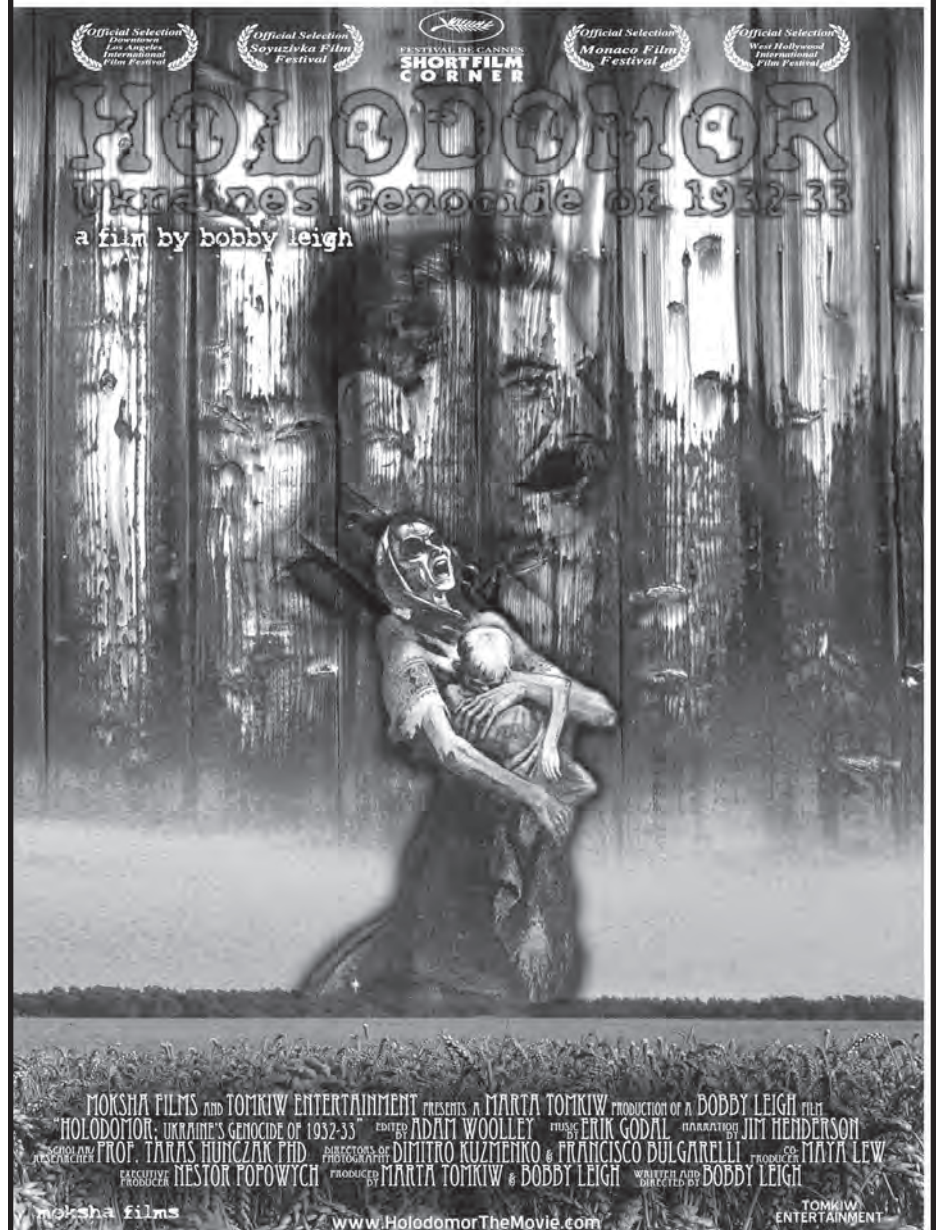
The 11th Annual Meeting of the Orphans' Aid Society

will be held on
Saturday, November 6, 2010
from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey
60 N. Jefferson Rd., Whippany, NJ 07981

Attendees will have a chance to familiarize themselves with the work and future plans of the organization. Presented at the meeting will be the reports of the President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors.
Question and answer session to follow.

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Kamianets-Podilskyi...

(Continued from page 11)

which you will be informed of the results.

"It's as though we're beating our heads against a wall," Mr. Gusev said.

Many of those convinced of Mr. Nesteruk's innocence wonder how he could have been so careless in allowing a close associate to accept a cash payment for the charity fund. Mr. Zarechniuk, on the other hand, said Executive Committee Affairs Director Mykola Nechai never accepted the bills.

Other defenders of Mr. Nesteruk said they took the cash because they were convinced they were doing nothing wrong. After all, the City Council voted to approve Mr. Geselev's \$37,500 contribution to the charity fund during two public, transparent sessions in May 2009.

"Someone who truly takes bribes sets up the mechanisms to prevent himself from ever getting caught," Ms. Vlasyuk said. "Anatolii [Nesteruk] never bothered doing that because he had nothing to hide."

Dr. Oleh Soskin, a veteran political scientist in Kyiv who specializes in local politics, said Mr. Nesteruk was playing with fire when requiring contributions to a voluntary charity fund that isn't a legal entity. These ideas emerge because local governments in Ukraine find themselves in a difficult bind.

They're unable to change the laws in which they raise and spend budget revenues, which can only be done by

Parliament. At the same time, they don't want to allow businessmen to acquire properties without contributing money to the city. Therefore all types of charity funds and slush funds are employed in local municipalities throughout Ukraine – some with good intentions, some not, but all in violation of the law, Dr. Soskin said.

"All the money is supposed to be accounted for in the city budget," he said. "The problem is a lack of reform in local governance. They're controlled by the central government and can't legalize these sources of financing."

It was only on October 15, three weeks after his incarceration, that Mr. Nesteruk's wife and two children were able to visit him in jail. They spoke through a thick glass window, unable to touch each other, let alone offer a hug or kiss.

Mrs. Nesteruk told The Weekly that her husband didn't complain about his conditions, in which he shared a cell with five other accused citizens.

She said she allowed him to work his 12-hour days because he was so motivated to improve conditions in city. He wanted to help those who had no one helping them and couldn't get anyone to listen.

If convicted, Mr. Nesteruk will be incarcerated for a minimum of three years, but as many as 10 years.

"When he started his political career, I would have never imagined that he would conclude it in prison," Mrs. Nesteruk said, tears falling from her eyes.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Russians, Kazakhs and representatives of other nationalities who died of starvation in 1932-1933 in the Volga River region, Northern Caucasus, Kazakhstan and in other parts of the Soviet Union."

Five years prior, in a joint statement on the 70th anniversary of the Holodomor, the United Nations General Assembly officially recognized the Great Famine as the national tragedy of the Ukrainian people.

The resolution stated that the tragedy of the Holodomor, caused by the "actions and policies of the totalitarian Stalinist regime should be a warning to the present and future generations to cherish the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law."

Member-states, the resolution noted,

were called upon "to consider promoting awareness of the Great Famine (Holodomor) remembrance by means of incorporating this knowledge into the educational and research programs to inculcate forthcoming generations with the lessons of this tragic page."

President Viktor Yushchenko signed a bill on November 7, 2007, on the criminal responsibility for denying the Holodomor and Holocaust in Ukraine. Mr. Yushchenko stressed that the bill would not be directed against Russia, but against the totalitarian regime responsible for the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. He hoped that the Holodomor would be recognized by the world community as genocide against the Ukrainian nation.

Source: "UNESCO resolution on the Holodomor," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 11, 2007.

In the press...

(Continued from page 7)

omy and integrate more closely with the rest of Europe must go hand in hand with a commitment to democracy and human rights. The Ukrainian business elite that helped to put the new government in power understands that Ukraine's future lies in being part of a wider European market. That gives the EU an opportunity to help Ukraine make the changes it needs. It is influence we must use with renewed focus."

"Is Ukraine moving back into Russia's embrace?" by James Marson, www.time.com, October 26:

"Six years after the Orange Revolution, the object of all that public rage, Viktor Yanukovich, is in power, using heavy-handed tactics that he insists are crucial to getting the country's government and economy under control. But critics fear he is reversing Ukraine's path to democracy and turning the nation back toward Russia. ...

"...opponents claim he is also undermining the democratic gains of recent years,

monopolizing power, clamping down on the opposition and curbing press freedoms. They accuse him of getting too cozy with Moscow and attempting to follow the pattern of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who crushed his opponents and muzzled the media during his two terms as the country's President. '[Yanukovich's] political culture is to grab more and more power,' Hryhoriy Nemyria, a top aide to Tymoshenko, tells TIME. 'He is mimicking Russia.'

"... others suggest things aren't so clear-cut, pointing out that the president these days cannot ignore Ukraine's newly active civil society. 'It's not a steamroller; he's responsive to criticism,' says Adrian Karatnycky, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. 'He's aware of the potential of society, which was the lesson of the Orange Revolution.'

"The West ...has been more subdued in its reaction to criticisms against Yanukovich. Senior U.S. officials ...have only gently nudged him on press freedoms, leaving some opposition leaders and civic activists to worry that the U.S. is trying to preserve friendly relations with Russia by treading lightly in Ukraine. ..."



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Leading authorities on Ukraine to address UCC's conclave

WINNIPEG, Manitoba -- The Ukrainian Canadian Congress announced that former Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada Yuri Shcherbak will address the 23rd Congress of Ukrainian Canadians in Edmonton on November 6. The session will also include former Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Derek Fraser, current Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Daniel Caron, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Ihor Ostash and former chief archivist for the Security Service of Ukraine Volodymyr Viatrovych.

Dr. Shcherbak will also be participating in a four-city speaking tour addressing current events in Ukraine.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Shcherbak address our congress on such an important issue," stated UCC vice-president Daria Luciwi, who is also chair of the triennial congress. "It would be difficult to find a greater Ukrainian authority on geopolitical issues facing Ukraine than Dr. Shcherbak, and we are pleased that he will be addressing our delegates."

Dr. Shcherbak will be on an official tour speaking to the Ukrainian Canadian community and the academic community. The tour is being sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Dr. Scherbak is former ambassador of Ukraine to Canada (March 2000 — May 2003). His diplomatic postings have also included United States, Mexico and Israel. He has been an active environmentalist since the Chernobyl disaster and was the first leader of the Green Party of Ukraine.

A full schedule of Dr. Shcherbak's public itinerary while in Canada follows.

- Toronto: October 23, 4 p.m., community meeting at Huculak Plast Building, 516 The Kingsway (Kipling & Kingsway).

- Ottawa: October 29, 7 p.m., community meeting at the University of Ottawa, Room Lounge 140.

- Winnipeg: October 31, 2 p.m., Oseredok – Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 184 Alexander Ave., "Ukraine Today Dreams and Reality" (in Ukrainian); and November 1, 6 p.m., CanadInn Polo Park, 1405 St. Matthews Ave., Meeting Room M, (Cost \$20. RSVP required by e-mail to Nellie Drozd, nellie_drozd@umanitoba.ca), "Challenges for Contemporary Ukraine."

- Edmonton: November 6, 1:30 p.m., triennial congress of the UCC, Westin Hotel Ballroom, 10135 100th St. (open to congress delegates and media).

Yanukovich's new...

(Continued from page 2)

effort to obtain truthful information about what is taking place in Latin America and Venezuela, especially, because there has been such a massive campaign of falsification and lies that it has become difficult to understand where is the real truth."

No doubt President Chavez will repay the compliment to President Yanukovich when the West condemns the election fraud committed on October 31 in Ukraine and declares the elections to have not been free or fair.

Following the creation of a Ukrainian-Venezuelan working group — the first meeting of which will take place next month and the second in December in Caracas — Mr. Yanukovich is expected to visit Venezuela in the early part of 2011.

President Chavez told his Ukrainian counterpart that his country's foreign policy was one of "friendship with all peoples" and that "we do not want anybody to rule over us." Perhaps President Yanukovich did not

understand the significance of this comment in the light of Ukraine's reduced sovereignty to Russia since his election (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 18).

Ms. Hetmanchuk concludes her blog by ridiculing the claim that Ukraine has a multi-faceted foreign policy that balances different strategic partners, a claim made by Mr. Yanukovich during an official visit to Lithuania this month, as Mr. Chavez's visit to Ukraine will only serve to undermine Ukraine's strategic partnerships with the West. "In other words, it leaves us with only the option of greeting ourselves with the fact that Ukraine's multivectorism is transforming itself in a banal way into diplomatic chaos," Ms. Hetmanchuk wrote.

In the meantime, Ukraine's new alliance with Venezuela could very well end up with Ukraine losing a lot more than it would gain economically, energy expert Bohdan Sokolovsky told Hazeta po-Ukrainskiy.

The article above is reprinted from the Jamestown Foundation Blog published by the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

Ex-U.S. ambassador...

(Continued from page 5)

suffering. There hasn't been a general outcry against some of this shrinking of democracy that you talked about earlier. Why do you think there's this lethargy or apathy on the part of the Ukrainian public about what is almost a return to the past?

One of the things that does make me optimistic about Ukraine in the longer run is that I do think there is a well-established civil society and that it is resilient. Why aren't Ukrainians more actively protesting about changes in policy? I think part of this goes back to what happened after the Orange Revolution, which I still think was a hugely dramatic and a hugely positive event. But unfortunately — and a lot of the blame has to go to President Yushchenko on this — in 2005, 2006, 2007, when there were huge opportunities to build on the Orange Revolution,

the president, the government, missed a lot of those opportunities.

And so I think what's happened is that people feel let down by that and so that probably explains part of the passivity that you're seeing now. And the apathy is simply because the opportunities created by the Orange Revolution were really not built on.

But I also think that in the longer term, Ukrainians do care about where their country's going and that there are civil society mechanisms that can act to express concern if it reaches a point where things go back too far, too fast.

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NHL Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 16)

well respected.

Boychuk back on Bruins blueline

Recently re-signed Bruins defenseman Johnny Boychuk dispensed with his usual happy-go-lucky attitude when last season's meltdown was mentioned. The usually fun-loving 26-year-old Ukrainian turned ghastly serious when last year's playoff loss to Philadelphia was brought up by the hockey media at a September practice in Wilmington, Mass.

When questioned if anyone teased him about it over the summer, Boychuk had this to say in a conversation with BostonBruins.com: "Maybe once in a while, but you thought about it all the time, so it wasn't really a joke, and I made sure to let them know that. They kind of knew it was a sore spot. I still haven't forgotten about it, that's for sure."

An Eddie Shore Award winner for top AHL defenseman, Boychuk goes all out all the time in practice and in games. He worked extremely hard to become a Bruins' blueline asset and wants to prove he's more than just a No. 5 or No. 6 guy. In practices and training camp this September his approach was to earn a spot on the team in spite of the security he gained with his contract extension.

"I just take the same approach every year," he said. "I just come to camp and vie for a job. There's always going to be someone trying to take your spot, so you have to

make sure not to let that happen."

"It's a little different (this season), but I try to take the same approach so you can't really think about anything else but trying to make the team again," he added.

Make the team again he will thanks to the two-year deal he inked early this summer. Last year was Boychuk's first full-time NHL season and he tallied five goals, 10 assists for 15 points and 43 PIM's in 51 games. He added 2-4-6 and six minutes in 13 playoff games. Before 2009-2010, Boychuk skated in only five regular season NHL games.

Coming out of the disappointing last campaign, Boychuk and the Bruins are using their frustration as extra motivation toward a longer Stanley Cup run this season.

"I was excited to come back and get things going again," he said. "Everybody left on a sour note, but we're excited to be back."

STELMACH SAYS: Couldn't have happened to a more deserving young man. For years we've been hoping Johnny "B" would get a real opportunity to earn a spot on an NHL defense corps. A second-round pick by Colorado in 2002, it was a long time coming.

Coming up in Part II of "NHL Ukrainians on the move this off-season": some unfinished business in Phoenix... a couple of Kyiv natives return from KHL exile... a pair of retirements in St. Louis... and a veteran enforcer is bought out in Tampa Bay...

OUT AND ABOUT

November 4 Edmonton, AB	Fund-raising dinner to support St. Michael's Health Group, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, www.smhg.ca or 780-473-5621	November 7 New York	Benefit luncheon, Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, Ukrainian National Home, 773-235-8462
November 5 Washington	Presentation by Taras Kuzio, "The Crimea: Europe's Next Flashpoint?" The Jamestown Foundation, parsells@jamestown.org	November 9 Toronto	Lecture by Oleh Wolowyna, "Demographic Assessment of the Holodomor Within the Context of the 1932-1933 Famine in the USSR," University of Toronto, 416-946-8113
November 5-7 Edmonton, AB	23rd Congress of Ukrainian Canadians, Westin Hotel, www.ucc.ca	November 10 Washington	Book presentation, "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin" by Timothy Snyder, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, 202-691-4016
November 6 Montreal	Dance, Trembita Marching Band, Montreal Branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association, Ukrainian Youth Home, 514-292-7565	November 11 North Port, FL	Veteran's Day commemoration, Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40, Veterans Memorial Park, 941-492-4860
November 6 Ottawa	Ukrainian Night dinner and dance, Knights of Columbus, Ukrainian Catholic Shrine hall, 613-830-7787 or 613-599-4791	November 12 Chicago	Presentation by Sofiya Opatska, "Business Education in Ukraine," Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-235-8462
November 6 Lehighton, PA	Bead-weaving workshop, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 or www.ukrhomestead.com	November 12 Ottawa	Cocktail reception, 20th anniversary of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program, Foundation Restaurant, 613-745-2760 or 613-523-7952
November 6 Cleveland	Exhibit, "60th Anniversary of the Ukrainian American Youth Association in Cleveland," Ukrainian Museum-Archives, 216-781-4329	November 12 Whippany, NJ	Film screening, "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933," Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-585-7175
November 6 Short Hills, NJ	Fund-raising reception, Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, home of Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, 773-235-8492	November 13 North Port, FL	Dinner and dance, with installation of new officers, Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40, Oseredok Center, 941-426-8077 or 941-539-1490
November 7 New York	Folk art workshop, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110		
November 7 Lehighton, PA	Beadwork (gerdany) workshop and lecture by Paula Holoviak, "Ukrainian Immigration to the Anthracite Coal Regions," Ukrainian Homestead, ulana@earthlionk.net or 610-377-4621		
November 7 Alexandria, VA	Recital by pianist Mykola Suk, The Washington Group Music Series, The Lyceum, 301-229-2615 or 202-364-3888		

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Nov 6-7	USCAK Convention	Nov 25	Thanksgiving
Nov 12-14	Plast Orlykiada	Nov 27	High school reunion
Nov 19-21	Scrapbook Weekend		

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- Persons who submit any materials must provide a complete mailing address and daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 6

SHORT HILLS, N.J.: The Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF) will hold a special fund-raising reception at the home of Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, 272 Old Short Hills Road. Special guest: the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv. Admission: \$200 per person (\$400 per couple). Capacity is limited. Reservations must be made in advance. Kindly RSVP to Sonia Hrynevych, 773-235-8462. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. Evening attire is requested. The event is sponsored by Micros Retail Systems Inc.; all proceeds to benefit UCEF.

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Olena Haleta (Ivan Franko Lviv National University) titled "Almost the Same: About the Drama of Lesia Ukrainka, the Problem of the Elites and the Birth of a Society." Ms. Haleta is a 2010-2011 Fulbright Fellow. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Sunday, November 7

NEW YORK: The New York City Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invite you to a benefit luncheon for UCU. The guest speaker will be the rector of UCU, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak. The event will take place at the Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Ave., at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each. For more information contact Marta Kolomayets, 773-235-8462 or marta@ucef.org.

Tuesday, November 9

TORONTO: Dr. Oleh Wolowyna will present "Demographic Assessment of the Holodomor Within the Context of the 1932-1933 Famine in the USSR" at 7-9 p.m. in the Combination Room, Trinity College (6 Hoskin Ave.) This is the annual Ukrainian Famine Lecture presented by the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. For many years research on the demography of the Holodomor has been hampered by lack of adequate data to address key issues like the number of losses due to the Holodomor, and the relative impact of the 1932-1933 Famine in different areas of the former Soviet Union. Using the most comprehensive set of data available to date and original documents not included in previous research, as well as sophisticated demographic methodologies, a team of demographers at the Institute of Demography and Social Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (including Omelian Rudnytsky, Pavlo Shevchuk, Natalia Levchuk, and the speaker, who will be talking on behalf of the entire group) has been working for the last year to provide more definite answers to these questions. The lecture is sponsored by the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, the Toronto branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine. For information call 416-946-8113.

Friday November 12

CHICAGO: The Chicago Business and Professional Group and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation present "Business Education in Ukraine." The main speaker will be Sofiya Opatska, CEO of the Lviv Business School at the Ukrainian

Catholic University. She will be introduced by the rector of UCU, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak. The event will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$10. For more information contact Marta Kolomayets, 773-235-8462 or marta@ucef.org.

Sunday, November 14

CHICAGO: The Chicago Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invite you to a benefit banquet for UCU. The guest speakers will be the rector of UCU, the Rev. Dr. Fr. Borys Gudziak, and Sofiya Opatska, CEO of the Lviv Business School at UCU. The event will take place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave. at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each; \$25 for students with ID. For more information contact Marta Kolomayets at 773-235-8462 or marta@ucef.org.

Wednesday, November 17

NEW YORK: Olga Kharlan of Ukraine, Olympic gold medal winner in saber fencing, who was elected Ukraine's "Best Sportswoman of the Year" in 2008, will be one of the stars at the Fencing Masters NYC Expo/Tournament at the Hammerstein Ballroom. Ms. Kharlan was a member of the team that won the gold medal in Beijing. Fencing Masters NYC brings world champion fencers to New York City to compete in the largest spectator-fencing competition in modern U.S. history, outside of the Olympics. The tournament will be televised on SportsNet NY (SNY). The Fencing Masters NYC kicks off at 3 p.m. at the Hammerstein Ballroom, 311 W. 34th St. (at Eighth Avenue) with a Fencing Expo for kids, adults, fencers, and non-fencers alike. At 6:30 p.m., VIPs will be treated to a meet and greet with additional celebrity athletes, along with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Doors open for the main event at 7 p.m. to general-admission ticketholders. Ticket prices are \$65 to \$150; general admission, \$25. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.fencingmastersnyc.com, e-mail info@fencingmastersnyc.com, or call 917-846-4881.

Saturday, November 20

WASHINGTON: The Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invites you to a roast to celebrate the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak's 50th birthday. The event will take place at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, 3900 Harewood Road NE, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information contact Marta Kolomayets, 773-235-8462 or marta@ucef.org.

PALATINE, Ill.: The Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35, ACT for America and Veteran Defenders of America invite patriots and veterans to a presentation "Threats to National Security." Topics will include the type of books assigned to high school students, the gradual introduction of sharia law in the United States, the impact of illegal immigration on security and the need for leadership to protect our national sovereignty. Teri Paulson will present the book issue, Cmdr. Chuck Dobra (ret.) will discuss sharia law, and Lt. Col. Pete Pedersen (ret.) will analyze the structure and function of leadership in today's complex world. Col. Roman Golash (ret.) will moderate the session. The meeting will take place at the Palatine Library at 1-4:30 pm; there is no admission charge. For information call 847-910-3532 or e-mail romangolash@sbcglobal.net.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com or Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**