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## Parliament turmoil stalls debate on new constitution of Ukraine

by Marta Kolomayets

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The inability of the Ukrainian Parliament to begin debate on the new draft constitution has led the country into political turmoil, causing chaos within the chambers of the legislature on May 28-29.

Many national-democratic deputies blame Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz for the current critical situation, accusing him of trying to thwart the constitutional process and demanding that he step down as head of the Supreme Council.

Serhiy Sobolyev, leader of the Reforms faction, has blamed Mr. Moroz for "incompetent guidance of Supreme Council deliberations."

Mr. Moroz defended himself in the Parliament on May 29, stating that he was trying to be "fair and impartial," but he did not gain the sympathy of any of the democratic factions in Parliament, who hold him responsible for not being able to secure a quorum for the long-awaited debate on the constitution.

"He has systematically violated constitutional norms and rules of procedure in the legislature and has not been able to organize effective work in the Parliament," said Mr. Sobolyev, after the legislature failed to register a quorum of 278 deputies to begin discussing the draft constitution on May 28.

Left-wing and centrist deputies also tried to "amend the rules of procedure," noted Vyacheslav Chornovil, the head of the Rukh faction in Parliament, explaining that these deputies tried to "dilute" the procedure and pass the constitution in both readings by a qualified majority instead of a constitutional majority, taking away from the meaning of such an important document.

Despite repeated tries on May 29, only 270 had registered for the session, and Mr. Moroz was forced to postpone the plenary session until June 4.

Ukraine, which celebrates five years as an independent state on August 24, is the only one of the former Soviet republics without a new constitution. Various draft projects were presented in 1992 and 1993, but not until the end of 1994 — under President Leonid Kuchma — was a Constitutional Committee, composed of all political forces in society, formed.

Once the Constitutional Committee developed a draft project, a working committee continued consolidating the document and fine-tuning the draft. It was finally presented to Parliament by President Kuchma and Chairman Moroz during a grand ceremony in March, with the idea that Parliament would review it and pass it as the fundamental law of the land.

But when it came time to review the document, left-wing forces demanded that the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR be considered as a draft project as well. As a

matter of compromise, the Parliament Presidium suggested that a new ad hoc parliamentary committee be formed, consisting of members of all the factions in the Supreme Council.

After six weeks of work, including resolving differences between the various factions (the Communist representatives walked out of ad hoc meetings, sometimes joined by the Socialist and Agrarian Party representatives), the final draft was presented for approval to President Kuchma last week. On May 28, Mykhailo Syrota (Center faction), the head of the ad hoc committee, presented an hourlong report on the final version to his colleagues in Parliament, outlining the changes and additional articles on human and civil rights, the justice system, the Crimea, self-government and the structure of the legislature.

But it was at this point that cooperation among the various forces in Parliament came to an end. Serhiy Hmyria, a representative of the Communist faction, presented an alternative draft authored by his party. During the evening session, leftist deputies demanded that the debate over the drafts be

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## Kuchma sacks prime minister, replacing him with political ally

by Marta Kolomayets

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma dismissed Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk on May 27, immediately replacing him with political ally and Dnipropetrovske crony Pavlo Lazarenko, who had served as Ukraine's first deputy prime minister.

Mr. Marchuk, who was appointed prime minister by President Kuchma in June 1995, "failed to ensure the effective and stable functioning of the government. And recently, instead of routine day-to-day work to guarantee its activities, he has concentrated his energies on building his own political image," read a statement released by the presidential administration's press service on May 28.

The lengthy statement faulted the prime minister for a number of problems in Ukraine's economy, including the lack of structural changes in the state sector, which has led to the current payments crisis, as well as the delay in adoption of emergency measures, inability to cooperate with the Parliament on priority laws and the slow pace of implementing market reforms.

It also pointed to "ineffectiveness of

the work of the Cabinet of Ministers," adding that the "government does not forecast economic developments in the country, but trails behind them, often making decisions due to their consequences" — a form of crisis management.

In response, Mr. Marchuk told reporters in Parliament, where he resumed his duties as deputy from the Poltava region on May 28, that he "cannot agree with the motives for his dismissal as outlined in the statement released by the president's press service."

"History and time will put everything in its place," said Mr. Marchuk, surrounded by journalists eager to get a reaction from the ousted government official, who avoided giving reasons for President Kuchma's decision but added that the "roots of the problem run much deeper."

He did say that it was the president's right to dismiss the prime minister (as outlined in the Constitutional Accord signed between the executive and legislative branches last June), but defended himself by saying, "All the blame for the problems in Ukraine's economy cannot be put

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## Roundtable focuses on Ukraine's relations with neighbors

by Khristina Lew

WASHINGTON — Ukraine's relationship with neighboring Germany and Poland, and its role in an expanded North Atlantic Treaty Organization were examined by the German, Polish and Ukrainian ambassadors during a roundtable discussion at the Center for Strategic and International Studies here on April 15.

NATO expansion dominated the discourse, and Russia, while not physically represented at the roundtable, was ever-present. German Ambassador Jurgen Chrobog flatly rejected any discussion of NATO enlargement "without taking care of the needs of Russia," but insisted that Russia be denied any veto power within the military alliance.

The roundtable was part of the American-Ukrainian Advisory Committee's ongoing program of meetings and working groups that focus on strengthening the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship. Established by the CSIS in 1993, the committee's nine American members, led by Zbigniew Brzezinski, CSIS counselor and national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, meet with their 13 Ukrainian counterparts yearly to discuss the state of the American-Ukrainian relationship and to make recommendations, based on the results of the working groups, to both governments.

The April 15 roundtable was organized by the advisory committee at the suggestion of Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak and moderated by Dr. Brzezinski. It was attended by over 50 U.S. policy-makers, scholars and members of the press.

Dr. Brzezinski outlined the role each of the three countries is playing in shaping an expanded Europe and warned that their inter-relationship "will influence the scope, the shape and the regional stability of the new Europe." He described Germany as "the good citizen of Europe," which, together with the United States, has promoted the concept of expanding NATO and the European Union eastward. His native Poland was characterized as the leader of social and economic transformations in Central Europe and a country that "aspires to be a participant in a larger Europe."

He described Ukraine as playing a pivotal role in transforming Europe. "The very fact that Ukraine is an independent state is one of the most important developments on the map of Europe in the last number of decades. It transforms the geopolitical character of Europe — it also transforms Russia. This is something very different for Russia than has been for the past 400 years, so the consolidation and success of Ukraine is also an important facet of shaping the new Europe," he said.

### Germany cautious on expansion

Ambassador Chrobog opened the discussion on the new European security architecture by emphasizing that Poland and Ukraine, due to their geographic and historical circumstances, will obviously have different functions within the Western military alliance. The German ambassador reiterated Chancellor Helmut Kohl's belief that Poland should join NATO and the European Union by 2000.

"As you know," he added, "Russia has always shown us issue regarding NATO enlargement. We seek partnership with Russia, but not veto power within NATO. Russia will realize that it stands to benefit, as Poland in NATO can contribute to stability and security."

Of all the EU member-states, the ambassador said, Germany is particularly supportive of Poland's policy objective of integration with European structures, pointing out that "the extension of the EU into the East is in Germany's interest as it brings security and stability to the Central and East European region and economy."

A close advisor to Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and an expert on European integration, Mr. Chrobog warned, however, that East European countries seeking membership in the EU must have patience. "None of the candidates for accession today could be in a position to join a single European market. Their membership would cause the whole structure

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## European Union issues statement supporting Ukraine's independence

ROME — The European Union issued a strong statement of support on May 21 for the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, calling its sovereignty fundamental for Europe's security, reported Reuters.

"The European Union reaffirms the fundamental importance of Ukraine's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty as key elements of security in Europe," the declaration said.

The political declaration by the 15-nation bloc also expressed backing for Ukraine's economic liberalization drive and welcomed progress on nuclear arms control and a pledge to shut down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by 2000.

It was issued in Rome after Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko met Italy's Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini and colleagues from Spain and Ireland who comprise the EU's "troika" of current, past and future presidencies.

Mr. Udovenko thanked the EU for its

statement of support on sovereignty, telling reporters it was the strongest element of the two-page declaration.

The EU statement said early approval of a new constitution in Ukraine would further legitimize the country's aspirations to play a full part in Europe and said it favored a renewed mandate for an OSCE mission in the country. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has been mediating between Kyiv and the Crimea since 1994.

Reuters quoted Foreign Minister Udovenko's deputy, Volodymyr Khandogy, as saying that Ukraine would seek an end to the mandate when it comes up for review because "the situation in the Crimea has stabilized."

President Leonid Kuchma has said his strategic aim is for Ukraine to become a full member of the EU and has urged European Union member-countries to ratify their 1994 partnership accord that would move towards creating a free trade area in 1998.

## EU declaration on Ukraine

Following is the text of the declaration on Ukraine by the presidency on behalf of the European Union, released on May 21.

As the fifth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence draws near and in the spirit of the Common Position of November 27, 1994, the European Union reaffirms the fundamental importance of Ukraine's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty as key elements of security in Europe in the wake of Ukraine's accession to the Council of Europe, testifying to the meaningful progress Ukraine has made in consolidating its democracy. The EU further expresses its appreciation for the active and constructive role played by Ukraine in favor of regional and European stability, and is confident of early approval of the new constitution, whose entry into force will further legitimize Ukraine's aspiration to integrate fully into the family of European nations.

The European Union supports equally the efforts of the Ukrainian people and its leadership aimed at establishing a market economy, as a prerequisite for economic and social development corresponding to Ukraine's huge human and natural potential. The European Union will continue to use the available instruments to encourage and assist further consolidation of the achievements in the field of economic stabilization and of liberalization. The European Union will also assist the process of integration of Ukraine into the world economic order, through support for its efforts to meet the requirements for WTO membership, and will further examine the possibility of recognizing Ukraine's status as an economy in transition.

More in particular, the European Union considers that implementation of the Interim Agreement and subsequently the PCA [Partnership and Cooperation Agreement] will be a priority for its relations with Ukraine in the coming years. This requires from Ukraine a far-reaching effort to adapt its legislative framework in various domains, economic as well as administrative, an effort which the EU is prepared fully to support. Clear measures of liberalization and privatization, as well as stable, non-discriminatory legislation, will represent the requisites for a satisfactory level of foreign investment.

The European Union expresses its utmost satisfaction and appreciation at the great progress made by Ukraine in the field of arms control and non-proliferation. We are particularly satisfied with the positive implementation by Kyiv of the Lisbon Protocol and associated documents, which has allowed the START I Treaty to enter into force.

The union also welcomes the process of deactivation of strategic forces, the removal and transfer of warheads and destruction of carriers. The union welcomes Ukraine's accession to the NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty] as a non-nuclear weapons member-state, which strengthened the treaty on the eve of its review and extension conference. We appreciate as well the positive attitude of Ukraine vis-à-vis the indefinite extension of the treaty, which will enhance the non-proliferation regime.

As far as nuclear safety is concerned, the union attaches the greatest importance, as was also stated in the declaration by the G-7 and Russia at the Nuclear Safety Summit in Moscow, to the implementation of President Kuchma's decision to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power station definitively by the year 2000.

For its part, the EU is, with the G-7, committed to assisting with the implementation of this decision, in accordance with the terms of the MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] signed in Ottawa last December.

The union regards with deep interest the ongoing intensification of Ukraine's dialogue with WEU, as a significant step in the process of bringing Ukraine closer to European security structures.

In the interests of European stability, the European Union will encourage and facilitate the establishment of good relations between Ukraine and its neighbors. In the same perspective, it is in favor of the renewal of the mandate of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Ukraine.

The meeting of Foreign Minister Udovenko with the Ministerial Troika of the European Union, held on May 21 in Rome, confirmed the excellent state of their relations and endorsed their further evolution in all fields, in parallel with future processes of European Union enlargement, and in full compliance with the terms of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Ukraine tells Belarus to release detainees

MIENSK — Ukrainian First Deputy Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko met with his Belarusian counterpart Valeryi Tsyapkala and later with Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko here on May 27 to discuss problems in Ukrainian-Belarusian relations, border demarcation, trade and economic cooperation, Belarusian Television reported the next day. Mr. Hryshchenko demanded that the seven Ukrainians being held in Belarus for their participation in the April 26 demonstrations against Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka be released, Reuters reported on May 28. He warned that their continued detention would have a negative effect on Ukrainian-Belarusian relations. Most of the seven are members of the radical nationalist Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense organization, which supports an end to Moscow's domination of the post-Soviet republics as well as Chechnya's independence movement. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Baltics to ask for joint NATO entry

VILNIUS — Estonian President Lennart Meri, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas issued a joint communiqué on May 28, asserting their countries will apply together for NATO and European Union membership, Western agencies reported. They noted that they share the same viewpoint toward all major current international issues, including the upcoming Russian

presidential elections. Estonian Social Affairs Minister Toomas Vilosius signed treaties on cooperation in social security guarantees with his Latvian and Lithuanian counterparts. These countries signed a similar agreement in 1993 that went into effect in January 1995. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Odessa wages war on Lenin

ODESSA — Ukraine's largest port city has become embroiled in controversy after its mayor, Eduard Gurvitz, ordered all remaining statues of Vladimir Lenin pulled down, save for one monument already designated as a historical landmark, a report on May 25 said. Streets honoring revolutionary heroes have been abruptly renamed and freshly painted signs and plaques put into place. "It is a sacred task to get rid of Lenin. It is simply incomprehensible that he was allowed to remain standing," Mr. Gurvits told media during festivities marking the 51st anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany. "Anyway, just who was this Vladimir Ulyanov, otherwise known as Lenin? He produced only suffering and victims. For Ukraine he did absolutely nothing at all," continued the mayor. The demontage campaign is part of a power struggle between Mr. Gurvits, a member of Odessa's 45,000-strong Jewish community, and Ruslan Bodelan, Communist leader chairman of the Odessa Oblast Council. The two men take turns, on television and in newspapers, throwing verbal punches over who

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## Ukraine serious player in armor market

LONDON — For years a premier center of Soviet armored vehicle manufacture, Kharkiv's Malyshev Plant may claim for Ukraine a major portion of the world export market in main battle tanks (MBTs), wrote Christopher Foss in the February 21 edition of Jane's Defence Weekly, the renowned British journal of military analysis.

The Malyshev Plant produces a variety of advanced armored vehicles. In Soviet days it built over 80 percent of a total 1,000 T-80 UD tanks. Today, reports Jane's, an upgraded version, known as the T-84, with an advanced 1,200-horsepower diesel engine, reactive defensive armor (which explodes upon contact with a projectile and disperses the oncoming round's penetrative force) and an accurate and powerful 125-mm gun, has the potential to capture a significant share of the export market in MBTs.

Significantly, the T-84 — nine prototypes of which have been built and showcased at arms exhibitions in Pakistan, Abu Dhabi and elsewhere — may be considered the first truly Ukrainian tank to make its debut on the world arms bazaar. Approximately 98 percent of its components are manufactured domestically and the Malyshev Plant serves as the final assembly site, according to Jane's.

In addition to the T-80 UD and the T-84, the Malyshev Plant offers "Banan" upgrade kits for T-72 tanks. The T-72 MBT is widely used by such ex-Soviet client states as Syria; other potential clients include Iran.

Since turning on its assembly lines, the Malyshev Plant has turned out over 102,000 tanks, including the T-55, T-64, T-80 and now the T-84. The plant is one of Kharkiv's largest employers and even has a subway station named after itself.

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## Kuchma sacks...

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on the prime minister. This would be the simplest solution."

Former President Leonid Kravchuk, now also a deputy in Parliament, agreed that President Kuchma exercised his right in dismissing the prime minister.

"When there is an economic crisis, and tensions are on the rise, you look for a way out, you look for a change in your cadres, in your government," said Mr. Kravchuk, who had three different prime ministers, including Mr. Kuchma, serve in his three years in office.

But many politicians see Mr. Marchuk as the scapegoat of a hyped-up reform policy gone sour in recent months, while others see him as a future political threat to President Kuchma, a potential contender for the presidency in two years.

"You can't blame all of the country's problems on one person. If the president had fired the entire Cabinet, then I could say that he was serious about reforms, but about 80 percent of the government is of a left-wing orientation," said Les Taniuk, a member of the Rukh faction in Parliament.

He added, "Now comes the critical period: does the president have the political will to move on with economic reforms?"

Vyacheslav Chornovil, the leader of Rukh, was not as kind to Mr. Marchuk, criticizing him for having a "command-administrative" approach to his work, and adding that during his year in power, Mr. Marchuk did little to find common ground with national-democratic forces.

Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko, a deputy representing Donetsk, agreed that nothing will change in Ukraine if the president's team remains the same and if the presidential administration continues to meddle in the affairs of the government, almost forming a parallel Cabinet of Ministers.

"The president made a political decision, but not one that will help resolve the current economic situation in Ukraine," said Mr. Symonenko, who proceeded to criticize the general course of market-oriented economic reforms.

### Kuchma pledges to stay the course

Despite Mr. Symonenko's criticism of his reform policy, President Kuchma made it clear that Ukraine will not stray from its commitments, which are strongly supported by both Western governments and international financial institutions.

And, given the threat of a possible Communist takeover in neighboring Russia, Ukraine's course – its democratic, social and economic transition – is watched closely by leaders concerned about stability in this part of the world.

"The reshuffle among the government leadership is not designed to change economic strategy. We shall proceed with reforms, since this is the only road for us," President Kuchma said on May 29, adding that the government must change its tactics – both in terms of speeding up the pace of reforms and toughening the country's finance and budgetary policies.

That same day, Prime Minister Lazarenko, in his first public act as President Kuchma's right-hand man, released a statement pledging to implement the president's economic policy.

"My fundamental stand consists of firm support for the policy of social and economic reforms and structural change in the economy, pursued by President Leonid Kuchma. This is the only justified way to overcome the crisis in Ukraine and turn it into a modern, civilized nation. For this reason, I deem it a matter of honor to implement the presidential economic policy," read the statement.

It also listed Mr. Lazarenko's priorities, which include speeding up structural transformations, invigorating the privatization

process, attracting foreign investment, overcoming the payments crisis and ensuring regularity in the payment of wages and pensions.

"Following the dismissal of Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, other changes are possible in the government," said Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of the National Security Council, on May 29 at a regular weekly press briefing in the presidential administration.

President Kuchma confirmed that a Cabinet reshuffle is sure to happen in the future, but did not specify how soon this would be.

Yulia Mostova, deputy editor of *Dzerkalo Nedeli*, a Russian-language weekly newspaper that published a lengthy, revealing interview with Mr. Marchuk just one week prior to his dismissal, said one major mistake made by the former prime minister is that he agreed to work with a Cabinet he did not choose. In that interview dated May 18, Mr. Marchuk admitted that, given the opportunity, he would keep only one-third of the players on the government's economic team.

So, observers say, if Mr. Lazarenko is not given the chance to choose his own people, history may repeat itself.

Unlike Mr. Marchuk, however, Mr. Lazarenko is one of Mr. Kuchma's people and it is possible his loyalty to the Ukrainian president may take priority over his own personal ambitions.

Although Mr. Horbulin continued to deny that there were personal problems between President Kuchma and Prime Minister Marchuk, it is clear that the two men were not cut of the same cloth and speculation about an ongoing power struggle was often the topic of conversation in the halls of power.

### PM's Dnipropetrovske roots

Although Mr. Horbulin has repeatedly denied the existence of a "Dnipropetrovske mafia" heading up the president's team, the facts speak for themselves. Among President Kuchma's top government officials are Valeriy Pustovoytenko, minister of the Cabinet of Ministers (and former mayor of Dnipropetrovske); Mr. Horbulin, secretary of the National Security Council and Mr. Kuchma's colleague from Pivdenmash, the world's largest missile factory, located in Dnipropetrovske; Mr. Lazarenko, the new prime minister and former chairman of the Dnipropetrovske Oblast Council; and Hryhoriy Vorsinov, Ukraine's procurator general and former Dnipropetrovske Oblast prosecutor.

Mr. Lazarenko, currently a people's deputy representing Dnipropetrovske Oblast, has served in the Ukrainian government since 1995 as first deputy prime minister. Born in 1953, he is an ethnic Ukrainian. An agronomist by profession, he worked his way up from being a driver at a collective farm in the Dnipropetrovske region to head of the agrarian-industrial union of the region and chairman of the oblast council.

Government insiders note that he is a very wealthy citizen who made his money on gas and oil, and most recently was in charge of handling Ukraine's gas and oil debts to Russia.

But many Parliament deputies, from Mr. Symonenko of the Communists to Levko Lukianenko, former Ukrainian political prisoner and currently the honorary chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party, view Mr. Lazarenko as a disciplinarian and a good organizer, someone who can deal with Ukraine's economic woes.

"He knows how to find solutions to existing problems, he speaks Ukrainian, and he is not against Ukrainian statehood," said Mr. Lukianenko.

"Of course you pick a team that is loyal to you, if you want it to work," said Oleksander Stoyan, a member of the Center faction in Parliament and the chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions. "Can you



Yevhen Marchuk at the piano in a 1995 photo.

imagine Dynamo Kyiv being a winner if they did not follow one team strategy?"

"What is clear to me is that the president wants to surround himself with his own people. He is using the criteria of loyalty to pick and choose government officials, instead of using such criteria as capability and competence," said Yuri Buzduhan, leader of the Social Democratic Party and chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Social Policy and Labor.

One of the reasons the president may want to surround himself with people who are loyal to him is the fact that he fears political contenders, such as Mr. Marchuk.

Although he has never publicly revealed that he has ambitions to become the next president of Ukraine, Mr. Marchuk was voted most popular politician of 1995 and his dismissal shocked Ukraine's citizens, who view him as an authoritative, professional leader, a charismatic figure in political circles.

But he has no visible power base, and that may be one reason he may even have positioned himself for dismissal. Some political observers, such as Konstantin Maleyev, director of the Kistiakivsky Socio-Political Research Institute in Kyiv, note that the economic situation in Ukraine is still on the decline, and citizens who have not been paid for months are becoming disgruntled.

"Mr. Marchuk may not want to be remembered for these things," said Mr. Maleyev, "so he had himself removed from office."

He may have planned to resign sometime soon, but Mr. Kuchma beat him to it, which according to Mr. Buzduhan may award Mr. Marchuk the added "sympathy" factor that appeals to most Ukrainian voters.

"Mr. Marchuk becomes the man who wanted to do good, but was ousted," added Mr. Maleyev.

### Theories abound

Other political observers note that perhaps President Kuchma considers Mr. Marchuk a threat as a potential candidate for president so he has to eliminate him from his circles of power.

"There can only be one leader in power," said Volodymyr Ryzhkov, a presidential adviser, after Mr. Marchuk's sacking.

Mr. Kuchma may suffer from the "Gorbachev syndrome," feeling the need "to remove anybody who stands in the way of his own rating."

According to political analyst Artur Bilous, the *Dzerkalo Nedeli* article was the last straw for Mr. Kuchma, because in the interview Mr. Marchuk publicly criticized Mr. Kuchma and accused him of keeping decisions from Mr. Marchuk.

For example, Mr. Marchuk said he found out about several government appointments from radio reports, and he found himself excluded from various Cabinet meetings.

Mr. Marchuk told his interviewer: "I know that in politics there is always some cynicism. But, recently I noticed that there was an overwhelming degree of it: a person consciously says one thing, does another and plans yet a third." He added, "I just wanted to take care of my direct responsibilities."

If indeed all of this is true, Mr. Kuchma may be the one who will suffer in the end. For it was not so long ago that he himself had resigned from the Ukrainian government in order to concentrate on his duties as a member of Parliament. He then took the opportunity to be elected the president of the Association of Ukrainian Businessmen and Entrepreneurs, which served as his power base during his election campaign for president in 1994.

Already there has been talk that Mr. Marchuk may start forming a strong coalition in the Ukrainian Parliament, perhaps even try to become the new chairman in the current legislature.

[Curiously, the dismissal decree reads that Mr. Marchuk was dismissed so that he could perform the duties of a Parliament deputy. This was stated despite the fact that more than 100 deputies hold other jobs as well as seats in the legislature, and close to half of Mr. Kuchma's government ministers simultaneously are elected people's deputies.]

But, in his last interview as prime minister, Mr. Marchuk denied that he has any such ambitions. However, he has begun talking to various faction leaders in Parliament – perhaps to get a sense of whom he could rely on for support.

The former KGB official, who was tapped to head Ukraine's security services and rose through the ranks under President Kuchma, from first deputy prime minister to acting prime minister (March 1995-June 1995) to prime minister, is known for playing his cards close to the vest. Only time will tell what his next move will be.

"It's only two years until the next presidential elections, and it's never too early to start a campaign," said Mr. Lukianenko, who ran for president in 1991.

Mr. Marchuk remained tight-lipped as he roamed the halls of the Parliament on May 28 and 29, but he did voice words of warning to the government: "If the government does not consolidate, and does not react to the great responsibility it has for today's situation, then it will take Ukraine a very long time to emerge from these impoverished and difficult times. But, I do believe that Ukraine can overcome the current crisis."

## Veterans dedicate memorial marker at national cemetery

WARREN, Mich. — Michigan's Ukrainian American Veterans Post 101 unveiled and dedicated a memorial marker on the grounds of Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek, Mich., on April 21.

On an enormous red stone boulder, a cast bronze plaque reads "Dedicated to the memory and honor of all men and women who served in the armed forces. We salute those who laid down their lives to protect the democratic ideals, traditions and integrity of our country."

The memorial monument is probably the only one of its kind in the 49-year history of UAV, and although the Ukrainian community might greatly diminish in the centuries ahead, the UAV "rock" will always be permanently preserved by federal authorities.

Fort Custer National Cemetery is the second largest in America, after Arlington National Cemetery. It is a 770-acre portion of the Fort Custer complex. Although it was dedicated only in 1984, the vast acreage always played a role in the mobilization of the military, especially during World War II. Many Ukrainian soldiers were inducted and discharged from this base.

### Executive board meets

A day earlier, on April 20, the National Executive Board of the Ukrainian American Veterans convened in Warren for a quarterly conference. Representatives from New York, Buffalo and New City, N.Y., Cleveland and Parma, Ohio, were in attendance. Among other military issues, a great deal of time was allocated to the forthcoming UAVets convention in Philadelphia, scheduled for September 20-22, and the 1997 50th anniversary already scheduled at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort.

After a hospitality dinner prepared and served by the Michigan's Ladies Auxiliary Division, all veterans were invited to participate in a Ukrainian community fundraiser rally for Rep. David E. Bonior. It was noted that Mr. Bonior is an active member of Post 101, and has often and publicly affirmed his Ukrainian ancestry.

Stephen Wichar, UAV state commander for Michigan, was introduced by Myron Woronowycz, chairman of the rally, as the master of ceremonies. Mr. Wichar, before an audience of more than



A close-up of the memorial marker dedicated to armed forces personnel who paid the supreme sacrifice.

150 people, underscored several major achievements by Rep. Bonior.

Among these was legislative assistance to earmark \$225 million for aid to Ukraine in 1996; obtaining a ruling with President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore to remove an imposed space launch quota and thus allow Ukraine to make 22 space launches ending in a joint venture with the aerospace giant Boeing Corp., and Mr. Bonior's expression of outrage, both orally and in writing to both CBS and the FCC for permitting "60 Minutes" to broadcast "The Ugly Face of Freedom" segment.

In his brief appearance the congressman talked about projects that can effectively nurture a new and budding democratic state such like Ukraine. He summarized, for example, the Commercial Law Project for Ukraine, a joint venture between the Ukrainian American Legal Community and the Legal Task Force of Ukraine.

Other speakers pointed out the effectiveness of Rep. Bonior's office in promoting a Lviv-based business administration program in America.

Before the congressman made his more intimate rounds with the guests, Mr. Wichar reviewed the Myroslav Medvid incident, when Mr. Bonior publicly chastised the administration for

bungling Mr. Medvid's effort to seek political asylum in America. He also noted Mr. Bonior's assistance in the Yavir Quartet debacle, when a "passport" impasse developed on the Canadian border, forcing the UNA, sponsor of the tour, to seek help from a government official. Mr. Bonior was contacted, who intervened directly with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, as a result of which corrective measures were taken.

### Dedication of marker

On April 21 the memorial marker was dedicated. It should be noted that veteran members of the Ukrainian Army (Dyviziya) shared in this experience. Under the leadership of Lt. Col. Miroslav Malaniak (Buffalo, N.Y.), all the veterans stood in a V-pattern converging on the memorial marker. Mr. Wichar acted as the master of ceremonies.

Bob Poe, director of Fort Custer National Cemetery, welcomed all veterans and guests. UAV National Commander Dmytro Bodnarczuk was called to the speaker's mound, where he proceeded to speak on the heroism and bravery of Ukrainian American veterans. He named Pvt. Nicholas Minue, namesake to Post 7 and Detroit's own Cpl. Wolodymyr

(Continued on page 16)

## OBITUARIES

### Eugene Skotzko, 88, economics editor, Ukrainian nationalist

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Eugene Skotzko Sr., 88, a retired economics editor of the U.S. Department of Labor's Monthly Labor Review and an early activist in the Ukrainian nationalist movement in North America, died of congestive heart failure on March 19 at the Allegis Rehabilitation Center in Silver Spring following a two-month hospitalization.

A resident of the Washington area since 1939, Mr. Skotzko was born in the village of Yarchivtsi in western Ukraine in 1907. He completed his secondary education in Poland before emigrating to New York City in 1929.

During the next decade he was involved full-time in promoting an international Ukrainian nationalist movement aimed at achieving Ukrainian independence. He was a member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and, in 1931, became a founding member and the first secretary of the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODVU). He helped establish several dozen ODVU chapters in the United States and Canada. In 1932 he was responsible for initiating publication of ODVU's first regular newsletter and in 1937 established that organization's Ukrainian Press Service in New York City.

In 1938 he returned to Europe for four months to build links between the Ukrainian diaspora and the newly indepen-

(Continued on page 16)

### George Belendiuk, 45, physician, researcher

POTOMAC, Md. — George W. Belendiuk, a founder and senior vice-president for research and development of Pharmavene Inc. pharmaceuticals in Rockville, Md., died of complications related to a rare lung infection in Shady Grove Adventist Hospital on April 20. He was 45.

Born in New York, Dr. Belendiuk graduated from McGill University in Montreal, and received a doctorate in pathology and a medical degree from the University of Chicago, where he also did his medical residency in neurology.

Dr. Belendiuk settled in the Washington area in 1991. At Pharmavene, he developed pharmaceutical products for treating epilepsy, cocaine dependence and other disorders, and conducted research to allow injectable drugs to be given by mouth. He was also an adjunct professor of neurology at Georgetown University.

Prior to his work at Pharmavene, Dr. Belendiuk worked in pharmaceutical product development at Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, Schering Plough and CIBA-Geigy Pharmaceuticals, all in New Jersey. His work included development of cyclosporine to prevent rejection of transplanted tissues and of pharmaceuticals to treat central nervous system disorders. He also served on the neurology faculty at Rutgers University.

Funeral services were held at Pumphrey's Bethesda-Chevy Chase Funeral Home on April 25. Interment followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Dr. Belendiuk is survived by his wife, Krystyna; two children, Katherine Anne and Andrew Peter; brother, Arthur, of Washington; and parents, Lydia and Michael, of Florida and Pennsylvania.



Members of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 101 gather around the memorial marker.

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## UNA to host annual celebration of Father's Day at Soyuzivka

by Andre J. Worobec

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Ukrainian National Association will celebrate its 12th annual Father's Day at the UNA estate Soyuzivka on June 16. Sunday divine liturgies for the intention of all fathers will be celebrated at the Ukrainian Catholic church and the Ukrainian Orthodox chapel.

In the afternoon there will be a program of song and dance, featuring the renowned Lyman Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble from Baltimore, directed by Orest Lasuk, and a concert by the famous tenor soloist from Lviv, Roman Tsymbala.

Lyman has been in existence since 1978. It is a 23-member troupe composed of high school and college students, who willingly sacrifice their weekends for practice, travel and performances, thereby actively contributing to the preservation of one of the richest parts of Ukraine's heritage, Ukrainian folk dance.

For the past 18 years Lyman has given performances all along the Eastern Seaboard, from North Carolina to New York, highlighting Ukrainian and international festivals, performing at educational and civic affairs, as well as holding their own dance recitals.

Mr. Tsymbala, a professional singer, completed Lviv National School of Music in 1979 and the Mykola Lysenko National Conservatory in 1985. Since 1988 he has been on concert tours spanning nine different countries on three continents. In 1992 Mr. Tsymbala made his debut in North America at the Opera at Florham, in Madison, N.J., where he sang the role of the Duke of Mantua in "Rigoletto."

An accomplished singer, Mr.



Roman Tsymbala

Tsymbala has filled leading tenor roles in the popular major operas, such as Radames in "Aida," Alfredo in "La Traviata", Lenskyi in "Eugene Onegin" and other leading roles. He is a soloist at the Ivan Franko National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet in Lviv and is looking forward to performing at Soyuzivka.

As in previous years, UNA members and non-members, alike, are welcome to attend this Father's Day weekend. UNA branches and districts are encouraged to organize trips to Soyuzivka and participate in the UNA's celebration to honor all fathers. For further information and reservations, call Soyuzivka at 1-914-626-5641.



The Lyman Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble.

### Re: Mail delivery of The Weekly

It has come to our attention that The Ukrainian Weekly is often delivered late, or irregularly, or that our subscribers sometimes receive several issues at once.

We feel it is necessary to notify our subscribers that The Weekly is mailed out Friday mornings (before the Sunday date of issue) via second-class mail.

If you are not receiving regular delivery of The Weekly, we urge you to file a complaint at your local post office. This may be done by obtaining the U.S. Postal Service Consumer Card and filling out the appropriate sections.

### The UNA and you

## Tax deduction on home mortgage refinances

by Stephan Welhasch

Now is a good time to look at tax rules on refinancing, given the recent surge in refinances to get lower interest rates.

The rules differ somewhat from those involved when you purchase a home. For some, the rules affected 1995 returns this year; for others, the returns they will file for 1996.

Points (one point equals 1 percent of the loan) on refinanced loans are deducted over the term of the loan, not all in the year paid. For example, if you paid \$1,500 of deductible points for a 15-year refinancing loan, you deduct \$100 of the points each year as an itemized deduction in addition to deductible mortgage interest paid. The amount goes on line 12 of Schedule B. It does not appear on form 1098.

Unlike points when purchasing a home, refinancing points need not be paid from your funds or money credited to you. Nor does it matter that points are added to the new loan or exceed what others are charging at the time.

Here are three rules for points that may boost your deduction:

- On points paid for mortgage proceeds used for home improvements and paid via refinancing. They are fully deductible in the year you refinance if paid out of pocket. The points cannot be added to the loan or paid from proceeds.

- Even so, only a portion is then deductible, a percentage equal to the portion spent for improvements. This could be a relatively small sum.

- On points paid if refinancing for a second time. You can deduct the remaining balance of points from the prior refinancing, the points you have been deducting over time. This could provide you with a hefty deduction. In the previous example, \$1200 if you refinanced after only three years.

- On points for refinancing home construction loans – deduct 100 percent.

There may be a problem when refinancing with the same lender. In 1983, the IRS said it would not allow deductions for interest a borrower paid with the proceeds of a later loan from the same lender. The IRS was supported by several court cases and it won. Then IRS lawyers began to waffle on this and privately indicated that the remaining balance of points could be deducted, even if paid with a loan from the same lender, despite the stance adopted in 1983.

This leaves many taxpayers and their return preparers in the lurch after one of the largest refinance booms ever – many with the same lender.

If you are ready to refinance your existing mortgage loan, then start by calling the Ukrainian National Association. We offer our members low-cost financing anywhere throughout the United States and Canada.

To find out more about the UNA's First Mortgage Loan Program, refinancing your home or about becoming a member, please call 1-800-253-9862.

## Association of UNA Seniors to meet at 22nd conference

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Have you made your reservation for the 22nd UNA Seniors Conference to be held at Soyuzivka June 9-14. (If you are a golfer, come early and play in the golf tournament on June 8-9 sponsored by Soyuzivka.)

The program of the conference will be varied, and organizers promise something for everyone.

After registration on Sunday afternoon and dinner, participants will enjoy a welcoming wine and cheese party on the Veselka deck and dancing under the stars.

On Monday morning, the members will attend an annual divine liturgy for the deceased UNA seniors, followed by a panakhyda for the victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

After the religious services, the 22nd Conference will be officially opened by Anna Chopek, president of the Association of UNA Seniors. After the singing of the national anthems, there will be a reading of President Bill Clinton's memorial statement on Chernobyl.

Various committees will then be appointed. Business sessions will be held mornings between 10 a.m. and noon; at which time reports will be given, new officers elected and new business discussed. One session, led by Dr. Roman Baranowskyj, will be devoted to a discussion of current problems in Ukraine.

During the conference there will also be a meeting with UNA President Ulana Diachuk, at which seniors will learn first hand about the importance of the Ukrainian National Association to our Ukrainian communities. A question and answer period will follow.

For the remainder of the time, during the conference's afternoons and evenings, there will be a no-host cocktail party, at which there will be a demonstration and teaching of ballroom dancing by Michael and Stefania Babiak, a Ukrainian sing-along, a Bingo night, an auction of Ukrainian items (members are asked to donate items, and proceeds of the auction will be donated to Ukrainian charities), an evening devoted to card playing, Ukrainian videos, and a two-hour cruise on the Hudson River.

A cocktail party and banquet at Veselka, featuring a prominent speaker, and a candlelight commemoration of Chernobyl will bring the conference to a close. There will be dancing after the banquet. It is requested that women wear Ukrainian blouses, and men wear Ukrainian shirts or ties. Those dressed in Ukrainian garb will be eligible for a door prize.

UNA members or social members who have a UNA discount card from their branch secretaries will be entitled to a reduced price for their stay at Soyuzivka during the conference.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Ukraine needs answers now

When the founding fathers of the United States of America voted to ratify the Constitution, they believed in certain principles as outlined in the preamble of this document. These were leaders who had foresight and who wrote these words not just for themselves, but for this great country's future. And that fundamental law has been the guiding force for more than 200 years.

Today, one of Europe's oldest nations – and one of its youngest democracies – is attempting to adopt its own constitution, a law of the land that will transform Ukraine into a civil society based on rule of law.

But the past few weeks have pointed out so many problems that they have brought about a crisis in the Parliament, emphasizing the fact that Ukraine is a European nation in name only and that its democratic transition is still in its embryonic stage. They have demonstrated that the leaders of this potentially great European nation have not matured in their development to the point of understanding how important a constitution is for Ukraine.

One of the most glaring examples of this symptom is the fact that the left-wing forces in the Supreme Council have presented their own version of the draft constitution, a polished copy of the Constitution of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Are they ready for a sovereign, independent, democratic Ukrainian state? It appears the left-wingers are blocking the process of adopting a new constitution, refusing to reach any kind of compromise that would permit the establishment of a democratic society for this nation of 52 million.

Some political observers argue that perhaps a constitution is not necessary for Ukraine, citing as an example the United Kingdom, which flourishes as a democracy without a single document called a constitution. But Ukraine does not have a Magna Carta, or any other documents that would safeguard the rights of citizens. It relies on a mixed bag of legal documents, including the Constitutional Accord of June 1995, remnants of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, presidential decrees, parliamentary resolutions, ministerial guidelines and international documents.

How long can this impasse last? And how long can Ukraine be without a fundamental law if it wants to join the European community of nations? And, to whose advantage is it to continue to ignore the needs of today's society? Is this truly a political crisis, or is this just another strategy for the left-wing forces, led by the Communist faction, to stall Ukraine's development?

Who are the victims in this stalemated debate? They are Ukraine's citizens, who continue to live in a lawless society, whose rights and privileges are not protected, and whose country is put to shame by the antics of a chaotic Parliament that resembles a circus more than a legislative branch of government. The leftists' latest actions have not helped them garner votes. In fact, citizens groups in favor of adopting a new constitution are being formed throughout Ukraine.

Ukraine's citizens have been subjected to watching late night television, where they see something that resembles a Soviet-era soap opera: a motley bunch of Communists storming the podium in Parliament, walking out of sessions, engaging in fisticuffs, screaming Russian-language obscenities at their parliamentary colleagues. Do these deputies really represent their constituents?

Something has to happen. And it has to happen soon, because the Ukrainians – a patient people – are losing their patience.

But the question is: Who will make the first move? Will the Parliament realize that it has to move on the issue? Does the Parliament realize it has to move in order to save face among the voters? Or will President Kuchma have the political will to take responsibility for his people? Will he have the courage to call a referendum on the issue and work to gather the support he needs to be a strong leader? Or will there be a third choice: perhaps a Constitutional Assembly that will guide Ukraine on the path to becoming a lawful democracy?

June  
6  
1829

### Turning the pages back...

In 1817, the tsarist imperial army decided to save money by settling garrisons in eastern and southern Ukraine's Kherson, Katerynoslav and Slobidska Ukraine gubernias and designating

the local peasantry living there as "military settlers."

This designation visited the worst aspects of serfdom and the harshest conditions of military life on the local population. All aspects of their lives (including marriage and having children) were placed under strict regimentation and monitoring by martinets from the local units.

They were forced to wear uniforms and give over three days of their week's labor to farming and construction for the state, while boys were to be taken to military schools at age 7, and then kept in military service from 18 to 45.

It took a scant two years for the first rebellion to erupt, in the Chuhuyiv and Tahanrih regiments, and it was put down brutally amidst an orgy of whippings with the infamous "knout."

The most famous insurrection began on June 6, 1829, when about 3,000 peasants rose in a revolt against the military in the Shebelynka sloboda (approximately 50 miles south of Kharkiv), led by Stepan Diomin and Kiril Vedernikov.

The rebellion was brutally crushed five days later. Over 100 were killed and 143 were tried by a military tribunal. The two leaders were sentenced to hard labor for life, and 48 others were deported to other gubernias.

The harsh absurdities of the system persisted for another two decades, involving up to one-half of the Russian empire's military forces, but eventually its economic inefficiency led the hidebound imperialist army to abandon the practices of military settlement in 1857.

Sources: "Military settlements," "Shebelynka rebellion," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vols. 3, 4 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

## Central and East European Coalition testifies on foreign aid programs

WASHINGTON – The Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations on May 16 heard testimony on behalf of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) delivered by Eugene M. Iwanciw. The subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), has jurisdiction over all foreign assistance programs.

That day the subcommittee received testimony from Ambassador Richard Morningstar, State Department coordinator of assistance to the new independent states; Thomas Dine, deputy administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Constantine Menges of The George Washington University; and Mr. Iwanciw.

In his testimony Mr. Iwanciw focused on the importance of Central and Eastern Europe to U.S. national security interests. On behalf of the CEEC, he urged the United States to remain engaged in the region and warned about the danger of renewed Russian aggression against its neighbors. During his comments, Mr. Iwanciw quoted from an article by David Hoffman in *The Washington Post*, which noted that Russian presidential candidate Gennady Zyuganov "is less a traditional Communist and more a Russian great-power nationalist." He went on to state that "historically, Russia has always been an empire, justifying its policy under various guises, be it pan-Slavism, international Communist revolution or self-defense."

The CEEC spokesman outlined six recommendations to the subcommittee, including increased assistance for the nations of the region, earmarks of assistance to Ukraine and Armenia, assistance for the expansion of NATO, support for the Humanitarian Corridor Act, the use

of ethnic-American organizations in the design and delivery of assistance, and specific program direction to USAID.

Mr. Iwanciw stressed the need for the subcommittee to take an active role in the activities of USAID, noting that many USAID programs are marked by "ineffectiveness and counter-productivity." He went on to suggest four areas of emphasis for programs including nuclear safety, establishment of small businesses, development of a truly independent media and encouragement of private investment.

Upon the conclusion of his testimony Sen. McConnell asked whether assistance to Russia should be curtailed. Mr. Iwanciw noted that, unfortunately, USAID programs have not targeted assistance to the true democrats in Russia and that former Communists and Russian chauvinists have received the bulk of aid. He suggested that assistance be tied to Russian behavior both internationally and domestically.

The senator noted that two years ago, the subcommittee had instructed USAID to work with U.S. ethnic organizations in the development and implementation of programs throughout Central and Eastern Europe. He noted that in the State Department report on progress in this regard, the Ukrainian National Association was prominently listed as being consulted and asked for comment on the validity of that report.

Mr. Iwanciw stated that ethnic organizations have developed a close relationship with Ambassador Morningstar and his counterpart for Central Europe, James Holmes, but that USAID continues to ignore the organized ethnic community. He noted that USAID has created and funded organizations to actively compete with U.S. ethnic organizations in fund-raising for development programs in the region.

## Parliament turmoil...

(Continued from page 1)

postponed until June so that they could "consult with their constituencies."

Most democrats see this as a delay tactic by the left-wing forces who are counting on Communists coming to power in Russia during June's presidential elections.

Ukraine's citizens see this as a calamity. Ukrainian state television pre-empted regular programming to show the turmoil in the Parliament hall on May 28, as deputies charged the podium, threatened each other with nasty words, and Communists refused to register and walked out of the hall in order to disrupt the session.

If the stand-off continues, said Volodymyr Scherban, a deputy from Donetsk and leader of the Liberal Party, President Kuchma "may dissolve the Parliament."

Les Taniuk of the Rukh faction commented, "We've had to postpone discussion of the constitution once, twice, three times. If the left-wing forces continue these tactics three or four more times, the president will be forced to dissolve the Parliament. Now, we all know that they are not that stupid. They don't want to lose their cushy seats."

But not all deputies think this current crisis will lead to such drastic actions. Most, including Mr. Syrota, admit that there are difficulties in the Parliament, but agree that an understanding will be reached.

Oleksander Steshenko of the Communist faction cautioned that if the president takes such drastic action as dissolving the Parliament, he "would bury the state."

Some national democratic deputies see another way out of the current crisis. Deputies such as Yaroslav Kendzior (Rukh faction) are convinced that the draft constitution presented by the ad hoc committee can be passed by simple majority (209 votes) in the first reading and then it

can be brought to a national referendum, instead of having to go through a second reading in Parliament, which would require a two-thirds majority vote.

"This would also show that President Kuchma is a decisive leader," said Mr. Kendzior.

"Already there has been talk of a referendum on September 8," said Ihor Ostash of the Reforms faction, adding that democratic deputies have started collecting signatures to present to President Kuchma, urging him to call a referendum.

"We also have to consolidate our own democratic forces; we can gather 278 deputies to begin discussing the draft," explained Mr. Kendzior, adding that a whole group of deputies was traveling abroad instead of taking part in this constitutional debate. "We have to put a moratorium on these trips if we want to get the constitution passed," he said.

"They are not serious deputies when they decide to travel out of the country at such a responsible time," he added.

"When we come back to work on June 4, we will have two issues to tackle," explained Mykola Zhulynsky, a member of the Center faction. "We must not only pass the constitution in the first reading, but we must also vote for the resignation of Oleksander Moroz as Parliament chairman. He must be held personally responsible for the fact that Parliament is now undergoing a political crisis."

"I have always said that politics is the art of compromise between real politicians, and we are to show that we are real politicians we will find a compromise," he added.

"Unfortunately, it seems to me that the left-wing forces are just plain old Bolsheviks, the kind who were always guided by the slogan: the worst things are, the better they are," Mr. Zhulynsky noted.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Homemade designs of flag just don't work

Dear Editor:

I don't know what it is with us Ukrainians? Is it national fervor, plebian mentality or just plain ignorance that allows us to fly our national colors under the colors of another country.

This offending and degrading practice of ours has to stop. Isn't Ukraine an independent country, equal among equals? Why, then, this ugly practice?

What is disturbing, also, regarding the Ukrainian flag is the continuous attempt by "homemade designers" to add the oversized golden trident to its center – a "creation" that doesn't work graphically, since the lower half of the trident starves for contrast. Any attempts by the "designers" like double stitching, outlining, etc. do not help. This is especially evident when the flag is photographed. Everything against yellow disappears altogether.

Sadly enough these flags with half tridents are donated by our organizations to the prestigious centers of North America.

Lastly, it is the highest time to standardize our national colors, as it is practiced by all the nations in the world. This way, we would rid the assortments of tints including navy blue and faded yellow, forever.

John Jaciw  
Windsor, Ontario

### Don't forget about domestic policies

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the letter by Andrew Ripecky (May 19) titled "President Clinton Deserves Support." Surprisingly, Mr. Ripecky bases his appeal to Ukrainian Americans to support President Bill Clinton in his re-election on the premise that the president is pro-Ukrainian by supporting Ukraine's independence and acknowledging its role in the world and in history.

However, and unfortunately, in his lengthy comments requesting support for the president's re-election, not once was there mention of President Clinton's accomplishments on the American front during his three and one-half year tenure. I am fully in accord and empathize with Mr. Ripecky's concern for Ukraine as I, too, am an American Ukrainian. However, he is first and foremost an American citizen and should be greatly concerned with the policies and principles of his country.

Let us take a look at some of the facts and the situation that has come about during the majority reign of liberals (Democrats) in Congress and House of Representative for nearly 30 years.

The government is trillions in debt due to big and frivolous spending; illegal aliens are reaping the benefits of welfare and food stamps derived from hard-working citizens' taxes; the Medicare and Medicaid funds are fast depleting due to government's inability to control fraud and proper distributions; drugs and crime are on the rampage; illegitimacy rose to unprecedented heights because of social acceptance; and legal immigrant participation in welfare programs is overwhelmingly disturbing to citizens who are forced to part with their big share of earnings through taxes. Ukrainian Americans are honorable and hard-working people and disdain this method of support by the government.

Let us now look at Bob Dole's proposals and his agenda in his bid for president. Briefly, they are as follows:

- To abolish the departments of

Education, Housing and Urban Development, Energy and Commerce whose missions are either duplicated elsewhere, obsolete or should not have been in federal hands. The existence of these unnecessary departments cost \$70 billion each year and employ 74,000 bureaucrats.

- To reform the structure of the federal government by sticking to the basics of defense, foreign affairs and fighting crime, leaving other functions to the states and the private sector.

- To lower taxes by implementing a social policy that honors work, personal responsibility and family commitment.

- To reform the welfare system and many other non-essential government-sponsored programs.

Mr. Dole has been in government since 1960 (36 years) and is well aware of the inequities and abuse engendered by the politicians of too liberal a viewpoint. It is not conducive to the health and happiness of human consciousness. He can make a difference.

Let us Ukrainian Americans put our votes in November where they count, to benefit our own and our children's needs first and not the government's.

Mary E. Pressey  
Forest Hills, N.Y.

### American Forests: some additional facts

Dear Editor:

The April 28 issue had a very comprehensive report by Natalia Warren about the 314-acre site in Florida dedicated as the Chernobyl Memorial Forest. Ms. Warren wrote an excellent report, but a few minor corrections are in order.

American Forests was founded in 1875 not 1825. The sister-city involved was Kent, Wash., not Kent, Ohio. (Incidentally the Sister Cities Association of Kent-Kherson in the state of Washington planted a tree in their Peace Park at 3:23 p.m. on the day of the anniversary in honor of the liquidators from Kherson.)

Importantly, I would like to note that the project is ongoing and we are grateful for the support of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda for reporting prominently about the campaign. To date we have received contributions from 215 individuals and a few Ukrainian American organizations. The sister-cities cited in the article have also pledged their support. Our goal is to help the National Ecological Center of Ukraine plant 10,000 trees involving the Chernobyl survivors.

We are still far from meeting this challenge, but with the increasing appreciation and understanding of the value of this endeavor we hope to realize this goal by the end of this year. A \$20 contribution is rewarded by a personalized certificate. A \$10 contribution for the "Seeds of Hope" notecards by the late Jacques Hnizdovsky plants two trees and supports the "Album of Memories" currently worked on by students of Kyiv State University.

Contributions may be sent to: American Forest-Chernobyl, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013.

Chrystia Sonevitsky  
Washington

*The writer is international coordinator for Global ReLeaf/American Forests.*

**The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies.**

**The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.**

## CANADA COURIER

by Christopher Guly



### Remembering the once-forgotten soldier

A black mausoleum resting in Ottawa's Notre Dame Cemetery is hard to miss. Inside lie the remains of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's seventh prime minister, who died of a stroke in Ottawa at the age of 77.

Today, promoters of Canadian unity often herald the life and times of Sir Wilfrid and the art of his political compromise in seeking to maintain a relationship between the country's French- and English-speaking people.

Not far from the tomb of Canada's first Francophone prime minister lie the remains of Canada's first and only Ukrainian Canadian recipient of the Victoria Cross, Filip Konowal.

This year, Canada's Ukrainian community is going all out to remember Mr. Konowal, who died in Hull, Quebec – across the river from Ottawa – on June 3, 1959. He was 72.

On July 15, a memorial service will be held at Mr. Konowal's gravesite where a new, upright Victoria Cross grave marker will be dedicated in his honor. That day, a trilingual historical marker in Mr. Konowal's name will be installed in the drill hall of the Governor General's Foot Guards.

In Toronto, another trilingual historical marker will be placed at the Royal Canadian Legion's Konowal Branch 360 on August 21.

Meanwhile, a memorial cairn is planned to be installed next to the granite Tomb of the Unknown Ukrainian Soldier at the annual Ukrainian festival in Dauphin, Manitoba.

On November 23, another marker will be placed at the Royal Westminster Regiment's armory in the Vancouver suburb of New Westminster, and a Konowal Prize will be announced to be presented to extraordinary Ukrainian Canadians who have shown consistent and meritorious service to the country and the community.

Plans are also under way to erect a commemorative monument in Kudkiv, Mr. Konowal's Ukrainian birthplace.

The memorials actually began last summer, when the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa presented its Filip Konowal Memorial Achievement Award to two-time association president, Irena Bell. A memorial was held at Mr. Konowal's gravesite on Ukrainian Armed Forces Day on December 6.

But no doubt some of the explanation behind this year's memorials to the celebrated Ukrainian Canadian veteran is the result of a better understanding about who Filip Konowal was.

One of the event organizers, Ron Sorobey, recently completed a 34-page biography of Mr. Konowal, in which he sought to uncover, if not dispel, some of the controversy surrounding his life.

Born in Kudkiv in 1888, Mr. Konowal emigrated to Ottawa in 1913. Two years later, he joined the 47th Canadian Infantry Battalion. While serving overseas in 1917, Cpl. Konowal singlehandedly fought the Germans to lead the capture of Hill 70 for the Allies near the German-held French town of Lens. To recognize his bravery, King George V personally presented him with the Victoria Cross, and he was promoted to sergeant.

But shortly after receiving the citation and promotion, Sgt. Konowal suffered a gunshot wound to his head, which, Mr.

Sorobey said, left a hairline skull fracture.

That injury worsened following a 1919 scuffle outside a bootlegging operation in Hull. After coming to the rescue of a friend, Mr. Konowal started to mix it up with William (Vasyl) Artich, who was armed with a knife. Mr. Konowal suffered a severe blow to his already fractured skull and Mr. Artich was stabbed during the melee, and later died.

Mr. Konowal was charged with manslaughter and went to trial two years later. After it was discovered his fracture had created intense pressure on his brain, Mr. Konowal had a defense – insanity – and was institutionalized in Montreal until he recovered.

"I have a copy of the lieutenant governor's warrant committing Konowal," explained Mr. Sorobey proudly over the phone from his Revenue Canada office.

Working with Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk, a political geographer at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, Mr. Sorobey dug into Mr. Konowal's past to come to grips with a man who, until now, has been recalled as both leg- end and hooligan.

Though the Victoria Cross (V.C.) sergeant never held the profile of Sir Wilfrid, he did capture the imagination of one of Sir Wilfrid's predecessors, Mackenzie King.

One day, the former Liberal prime minister spotted Mr. Konowal, who was working as a caretaker in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill. What caught Mr. King's attention was the V.C. medal gleaming on Mr. Konowal's lapel.

At the time, Mr. Konowal was working as a special custodian in the prime minister's office.

Although he allegedly sold his V.C. medal to pay for his mortgage, Sgt. Konowal was only one of 96 Canadians to ever receive the highest military valor decoration, which has since been replaced by a Canadian version.

He got it "for the most conspicuous bravery, a daring or pre-eminent act of valor of self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty, in the presence of the enemy."

Seventy-nine years later, the Ukrainian Canadian community is remembering one of its bravest of soldiers, in style.



**Cpl. Filip Konowal in a sketch depicting him in London in October 1917 when he received the Victoria Cross from King George V. (Reproduced from the book "100 Brave Canadians by F. J. Blatherwick.)**

## COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIONS OF THE CHORNOBYL ANNIVERSARY

# Toronto University symposium discusses accident's legacy

by Andrij Wynnyckyj  
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — "Chornobyl: The Legacy," a one-day symposium held at the University of Toronto on April 27, was a microcosm of concerns raised by the world's most infamous industrial accident, thanks to the sense of balance and drawing power of its principal organizer, Dr. Luba Komar, an assistant professor of pediatrics.

Held as an extension of the Chornobyl Project run by the host institution's medical faculty, the symposium featured four panels, on geopolitical consequences, international aid, energy and technology, and health consequences of the disaster of April 26, 1986.

Dr. Arnold Aberman, dean of the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine and Dr. Jay Keystone, director of the faculty's Office of International Health Programs, offered words of greeting.

Dr. Wolodymyr Medwidsky, the OIHP's coordinator for Ukraine, thanked the co-sponsors of the symposium, including the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, the Children of Chornobyl Canadian Fund, the Prometheus Foundation, the Shevchenko Scientific Society (Canada), the Toronto branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Dr. Maria Fischer Slysh.

Prof. Peter Solomon, acting director of the host university's Center for Russian and East European Studies and moderator of the geopolitical consequences panel, said the disaster at the Chornobyl Atomic Energy Station was the first event in the chain that brought about the eventual delegitimization of Soviet authority, which eventually resulted in the USSR's dissolution.

### Rise and decline of anti-nuclear movements

Prof. Jane Dawson of Wellesley College and Harvard University focused on the role of anti-nuclear activism in this process up until 1991, and the ensuing pendulum swing back to grudging acceptance of nuclear energy in the post-Soviet period.

The political scientist described the shift from broad public acceptance of nuclear power prior to the Chornobyl disaster to the outright hostility and the mobilization of movements around virtually every nuclear station in the USSR by early 1988.

Prof. Dawson's central thesis was that the former USSR's anti-nuclear movements had a dual nature, being closely tied with a resurgence of nationalism. Prof. Dawson maintained that in Lithuania there was little interest in the specifics of the issue other than to focus enmity on Moscow's invasive presence.

In Ukraine, the site of the disaster and of the best organized of all anti-nuclear movements in the former USSR, she said, the situation was much more complex. Based on her visits to the former Soviet Union, Prof. Dawson said the lesser level of ethnic identification in Ukraine enabled the two movements — nationalist and

anti-nuclear — to work symbiotically.

For Prof. Dawson, this background made the post-1991 shift understandable, when the symbolism associated with nuclear plants changed completely. She said they were no longer associated with Moscow's malignant influence, but were seen as a source of energy self-sufficiency and autonomy.

By 1993, she recounted, the moratoria on construction of new plants had been reversed, and the inactive reactors at the Chornobyl plant brought back on line.

Essentially, the indigenous environmental movement simply died, Prof. Dawson said, with deputies elected to Parliament on anti-nuclear platforms (particularly the nationalistic ones) openly changing their positions, and former leaders of the movement (such as Zelenyi Svit leader Yuri Shcherbak) being given government appointments or diplomatic postings abroad, effectively decapitating it.

Prof. Dawson said the anti-nuclear movement in Ukraine and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union now exists on the "artificial life-support" of foreign funding from organizations such as Greenpeace. She concluded that its members have also come to accept their role as watchdogs of the industry, rather than advocates of the closure of all reactors.

### Ukraine's missed opportunities

Prof. Roman Serbyn, a historian from the University of Quebec at Montreal, began with an examination of the development of nationalist sentiment in Ukraine's environmental movement and ended by focusing on the missed opportunities of President Leonid Kravchuk's administration in the area of nuclear disarmament

"Ukraine mishandled the renunciation of nuclear weapons completely, and squandered the country's potential for taking the moral high ground by making a gesture of sanity in an insane world," Prof. Serbyn said. He faulted Ukraine's former president, Leonid Kravchuk, and the Parliament of the day for sending contradictory signals on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and fumbling the hand-over of its missiles.

Prof. Serbyn said these errors led to Ukraine's credibility problem, which continues through today when it presents petitions for assistance in dealing with the consequences of the Chornobyl disaster, closure of the plant and refurbishing of the sarcophagus.

### Media misunderstood, jaded and wary

The final member of the panel was Victor Malarek, a co-host of CBC TV's investigative newsmagazine "The Fifth Estate," who presented an analysis of the media's coverage of Chornobyl. The Toronto-based journalist said that, initially, the Soviet regime's initial cover-up tactics and the U.S. media's combination of morbid exaggerations and "it can't happen here" attitudes resulted in distorted coverage, later compounded by the tug-of-war between environmentalists and the nuclear energy lobby.

Mr. Malarek, who covered the August 1986 post-Chornobyl International Atomic Energy Agency conference for the Globe and Mail, asserted that disinformation spread by both the pro- and anti-nuclear sides has made many reporters jaded and wary.

Ukrainians also are at fault, he said. During a 1990 visit to a pediatric hospital in Kyiv, he was told a certain girl was "a Chornobyl victim," but later discovered her cancer had been diagnosed in February 1986. "It only takes one incident like that to seriously jade a reporter," Mr. Malarek said.

And yet, it appears he managed to resist. The veteran journalist said his experience as an occupational health and safety reporter covering Canada's uranium mines for the Globe in the 1970s taught him basic concepts such as latency periods in the development of ailments after radiation exposure, while many others are duped by experts who claim, for instance, that chronic low-level radiation does not affect health.

Mr. Malarek said basic ignorance about how the press works has led to "overrationalization of the media," which, he claimed, is an inherently irrational and undisciplined forum for the rapid transfer of information.

The CBC co-host pointed out that perceptions of unfairness and lack of balance also abound, since matters of constant import are pushed out of attention by the latest breaking news. "Editors have to make daily judgements as to what's news, and often what is 'news' is not always newsworthy, but that's the nature of the beast," he added.

In closing, Mr. Malarek identified what, to him, should be the five most important areas of concern for



Dr. Luba Komar, conference organizer, delivers opening remarks.

the international news media: 1. the "ticking time bomb" of the sarcophagus and the un-neutralized atomic fuel buried beneath; 2. the serious operational problems that exist with the Chornobyl reactors currently on line and the design flaws that persist despite modifications; 3. the "time bomb ticking inside people" exposed to the explosion's as-yet-unquantified ill effects; 4. the legitimate fear, stress and anxiety suffered by the millions who live near the contaminated zone — an effect on the human psyche that cannot be dismissed; 5. the serious environmental degradation in Ukraine that Chornobyl has compounded.

### International aid panel

The first speaker of the panel on international aid, chaired by University of Toronto faculty of management member Prof. Bohdan Kalyon, was the International Monetary Fund's alternate executive director Dr. Oleh Hawrylyshyn.

He led off by saying that, given the magnitude of the Chornobyl tragedy, discussions of economic aid for reforms have "a surreal philistine character," which seem to disregard the suffering endured.

In hard-nosed fashion, Dr. Hawrylyshyn pointed out that after an initial reformist spurt from the fall of 1994 to the spring of 1995, Ukraine has been backsliding into inflationary policies, continuing drops in production and signs of contraction rather than growth in its economy — all markers that tend to make the IMF nervous.

The IMF official suggested that the international community has been generous in providing aid to Ukraine (behind only Mexico and Russia in terms of the IMF's GNP quota system) despite the perception that its requests for assistance are not being met.

The Washington-based economist then addressed specifics of Chornobyl's aftermath. He said Ukraine has committed a strategic error in allowing the international agenda to shift from safety concerns and the rebuilding of the sarcophagus sealing the damaged No. 4 reactor, to a focus on closure of the plant, replacement of energy supply and national energy efficiency.

Dr. Hawrylyshyn echoed Prof. Serbyn's sentiments about lost opportunities, saying that if the need for economic recovery had been stressed in 1994, and a level of 4 percent growth maintained (as in Russia, Poland and other Central European countries), the GNP earnings might have gone a long way in paying for repairs to the sarcophagus.

Another drastic strategic error, according to Dr. Hawrylyshyn, was the decision not to pursue Chornobyl reparations in negotiations over the former Soviet Union's assets. Now that Russia has been allowed to claim all of the USSR's liabilities and assets without filing some sort of lien for damages incurred, the opportu-

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Psychiatrist Dr. Klaus Kuch discusses the psychological effects of Chornobyl.

## Toronto University...

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nity is irrevocably lost.

Dr. Hawrylyshyn concluded by saying that Ukraine's best bet is European public opinion, to which it increasingly has access by way of the European Union and other institutions.

He said that treatment of Ukraine has been unfair in some sense, because demands have come for Chernobyl's closure, and yet equally if not more dangerous reactors, such as the plant near St Petersburg and in Armenia, do not attract as much international concern.

However, Dr. Hawrylyshyn claimed that Chernobyl's hold on the European imagination should make the continent's citizenry far more amenable to special levies to secure the crippled plant. Given the experience with Mikhail Gorbachev, he suggested, public opinion could be mobilized to spur hidebound political representatives into appropriate action.

### Red Cross programs

Mary Murphy, the Canadian Red Cross's learning, development and special projects advisor, followed with an outline of her agency's "Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation" and "Solidarity Assistance" programs.

Under the CHAR program, the Red Cross has been deploying six mobile diagnostic labs since 1992, measuring radiation contamination in the air, soil and agricultural produce. "In 1995, despite the length of time since the accident," Ms. Murphy reported, "32 percent of the food tested in the [Rivne] region registered higher than the normal limits" of radiation. She said one medical official told her he would not feed his children local produce, but "at \$8 American for imported broccoli, you can understand that this is not an option for most of the population."

Thus, the Red Cross official said, while many registered ailments are not attributable to radioactivity from Chernobyl, poor nutrition surfaces in part due to avoidance of produce.

Screenings of adults and children have also been conducted since 1992, including an examination of 53,617 people for thyroid ailments in 1995, registering measurable increases in tumors among children. A whopping 50 percent of the people being screened were diagnosed as ill, and 18 percent were referred for further examination and treatment.

Ms. Murphy described a Red Cross program conducted in September and October 1995 to assist pregnant women. She noted that a drastic decline in Ukraine's health care system has resulted in a skyrocketing infant mortality rate (14.3 per 1,000, or three times the European average). According to her statistics, only 30 to 40 percent of deliveries are described as normal.

The Red Cross official also noted that international medical aid has gone through several crises in credibility, as local medical officials complained of having to throw away up to 75 percent of supplies because expiry dates have long passed. This feeds the black market and demoralizes the population, Ms. Murphy asserted.

She also proudly reported that Canada and Japan are the only countries against whose agencies no such complaints have been registered.

### Bleak portrait of Ukrainian health

Paulette Schatz, a program officer of the Partners in Health Program of the Canadian Society for International Health's, provided a sobering profile of Ukrainian health in a comparative analysis with Canada.

Accidents and traumas are the principal cause of death in Ukraine, preventable communicable diseases like cholera and tuberculosis are up, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases are rising, the number of drug addicts is exploding because of the country's new status as a transit point for narcotics, a trend of 153 abortions per 100 live births has taken root — a bleak portrait.

Ms. Schatz then outlined the PIH's ambitious eight-project program to reorient Ukraine's health infrastructure from its exclusive focus on treatment and cure to health promotion and preventive measures, and establish a measure of pharmaceutical and educational self-sufficiency.

Réal Lalande, an official of the PIH's sponsoring Canadian Industrial Development Agency, and only recently appointed to his responsibilities vis-à-vis Ukraine, rounded out the panel by providing a general sketch of the government's assistance programs, saying that "about 20 percent of the \$180 million Ottawa sends to Kyiv can be Chernobyl related."

### Reactor design faults revisited

For the energy and technology panel, three representatives of Canada's nuclear energy industry, two of whom were senior officers of the Crown (government-owned) cor-

poration Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL), addressed questions concerning the design of nuclear power stations, spill management and waste management respectively.

The first speaker was Dr. Jerry Cuttler, president of the Canadian Nuclear Society and the manager of engineering integration for the country's current reactor program. Dr. Cuttler began by saying that humans have lived in a radioactive environment for 2 million years, that "we are used to radiation, and we have adapted to radiation," and complaining about persistent ignorance on the subject.

In dealing with the differences between the CANDU (Canadian) and RBMK (Soviet) power plants, he said simply that Canada benefitted from good design codes, many defenses in depth and a superior safety culture that precludes it from allowing its "[nuclear power] plants to enter into unfamiliar regions of operations."

Dr. Cuttler also asserted that Canadian technicians were the first to point out the design flaw in the Chernobyl reactor's control rods. This flaw, he said, had made the reactor "unforgiving of a reasonable variance in operator performance."

The Canadian engineer contended that the Chernobyl station's operators had been unfairly scapegoated. "These people performed heroically," Dr. Cuttler said, adding that "there was nothing that told the operators they couldn't operate [the way they did]."

Straying from his topic, the CNS president then offered comments on the medical consequences of the accident. He berated "political activists" for claims of a 125,000 death toll, reiterating the official figure of 31, claimed by Soviet authorities and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and asserted that all other plant workers treated within the first few weeks for radiation syndrome "recovered."

Drawing on his reading of a National Geographic issue

devoted to the subject, Dr. Cuttler offered his own set of statistics to claim that of an estimated 7,000 children who inhaled airborne radioactivity and drank contaminated milk, 680 developed thyroid cancer and three have died.

The nuclear engineer also stated that "the dose rates in fallout areas have declined by large factors to the point where they are comparable to the natural background in places in the U.S., India and China."

"The medical consequences do not seem so terrible until we consider the fear," Dr. Cuttler continued. He asserted that terror and outrage against the nuclear industry in the aftermath of the accident prompted many women to seek abortions, for livestock to be destroyed and produce to be dumped, implying that these were, in large measure, over-reactions.

In conclusion, Dr. Cuttler blamed the media for spreading misinformation. "How long will it take to change people's attitude about nuclear radiation and nuclear power? I wish I knew what to tell you," he said.

### An accident index

Next up was Dr. Keith Dinnie, from the Reactor Safety and Operational Department of Ontario Hydro, the provincial government-owned energy utility, who outlined Canadian practices in nuclear spill management and provided a brief history of nuclear accidents.

Dr. Dinnie mentioned that Canada has the dubious distinction of being the site of the world's first civilian nuclear accident, at a time when power plants were still relatively small but had no containment structures. The incident occurred at the Chalk River, Ontario, plant in 1952.

Dr. Dinnie also presented the International Events Scale devised by the IAEA and the Organization for

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## St. Barnabas solidifies contacts with Ukraine

by Serhiy Myroniuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

LIVINGSTON, N.J. — An official delegation from Ukraine went on a fact-finding mission at St. Barnabas Medical Center on April 11 as it considered the prospect of creating an alliance between the center and the Ukrainian medical system.

The five-person delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Kuras, toured the neonatal, pediatric and burn intensive care units. The delegation also included People's Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivsky, co-chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's Committee on Human Rights; Dr. Vladislav Torbin of the Research Division, Medical Department, Ministry of Chernobyl; Dr. Olesya Hulchiy, professor at the Ukrainian Medical University; and Dr. Ivan Vyshevsky, director of the Nuclear Studies Institute, Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences.

"We acknowledged that there is a need for alliance," Mr. Kuras said at a press conference after the tour. "Burn and rehabilitation units in Ukraine especially need methodical assistance and cooperation in the scientific area. If we could establish such ties that would result in the kind of modern medical equipment we saw

today — which cannot but impress us — it would be very, very useful and very advantageous for us."

The delegation was in the United States to attend events commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl explosion in Ukraine. As part of their program, they met with representatives of non-governmental organizations, international organizations and the medical community.

The delegation was invited to the United States by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, a humanitarian relief organization based in Short Hills, N.J. The CCRF has delivered more than 966 tons of medical aid since 1989, valued at more than \$36 million, to young victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

St. Barnabas Medical Center was selected as the site for the tour because of its highly skilled professional staff, its wide scope of services and state-of-the-art technology offered in the areas of greatest interest to the delegation. The center is New Jersey's only certified burn treatment facility, and it offers extensive services for the intensive care of children and newborns.

Zenon Matkiwsky, president of the CCRF, said he

(Continued on page 14)



Serhiy Myroniuk

The Ukrainian delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Kuras (left), tours St. Barnabas Medical Center.

# DATELINE NEW YORK: Antiquity and artistry

by Helen Smindak

## Ancient Kyiv relics

Kyiv-born Ludmyla Pekarska is a woman with a mission. She would like to recover the first well-known find of valuable material treasures of Kyiv's princely era. Discovered in 1824, the cache of jewelry, articles of princely apparel and religious artifacts, decorated with polychrome enamel, niello work, filigree, pearls and precious stones, disappeared in the summer of 1825, mysteriously and completely.

The mystery, however, does not deter the petite blonde historian and archaeologist from the project at hand. She is at work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, providing documentation for hundreds of antique Ukrainian items previously identified as Russian.

Before coming to New York two months ago, she was engaged in similar activity for several months at the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities of the British Museum in London.

As the result of her work, some 400 Ukrainian relics will be shown next year in the Metropolitan Museum's "Glory of Byzantium" exhibit, in which 25 countries will participate.

Ms. Pekarska recently gave a talk at the Mayana Gallery on "Women in Staro-Kyivska Rus'," in which she described the lives of Princess Olha, the Byzantine Princess Anna and Prince Yaroslav Mudry's four daughters, each of whom married European monarchs.

On June 8, Ms. Pekarska will deliver an address on "Ancient Kyiv and Relics of the Kyivan State" at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave. in Manhattan. Her talk, scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., will include some discussion of archeological digs in Kyiv and the relics unearthed there.

Ms. Pekarska is the head of the Department of Ancient and Medieval Kyiv at the National Museum of Ukraine. Her special field is the decorative arts of the 10th-13th centuries. She is the author of several publications on the treasures of Ukraine, and co-author (with Dafydd Kidd) of "Der Silberschatz von Martynovka (Ukraine) um dem 6. und 7. Jahrhundert," detailing an archeological find in the village of Martynivka near Kaniv.

## Visual artistry

Severyn Barabakh, a young artist who came to New York from Lviv three years ago and is now studying at the elite

LaGuardia High School of Music and Performing Arts, gave his first solo art exhibit in New York in May. The exhibit was held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, Fifth Avenue and 79th Street.

The artist showed a group of 25 pen-and-ink drawings, all finely detailed, depicting exotic marine life and land animals such as an anteater and an imaginary "anolkoon." There were also highly stylized drawings of bushes and an unusual abstract work titled "Window," which (to this viewer) resembled a network of brain cells and arteries.

Mr. Barabakh, who comes from a family of artists, participated in children's art exhibits in Ukraine. Here in New York, his work has been shown on several occasions at the LaGuardia High School gallery. In 1994, at age 15, he took part in a group exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art.

In addition to pen-and-ink work, his artistic talents include painting in various techniques and sculpture. Interested in both modern and classical music, he has recently been drawn to cinematography and hopes to produce a film. Rounding out this portrait of an all-round student, he is also a member of his school's football team and is a member of the Ukrainian scouting association Plast.

Last month, the Ukrainian Institute of America also exhibited the work of two contemporary artists from Kyiv, painter Alexander Dubovyk and sculptor Evhen Prokopov. Currently on view is a group of paintings of Ukraine's princes and hetmans by Basil Diadnyuk, to mark the 50th anniversary of the artist's death. Opening this weekend, the Diadnyuk exhibit may be seen June 1 and 2, 2-6 p.m., and from June 3-9 by appointment (call the institute at 212-288-8660).

At The Ukrainian Museum, 203 Second Ave., the work of eight art students will be on display through the summer months. Organized by the museum and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 113, the exhibit includes paintings, sculptures, photographs and architectural projects. The work on display was chosen by a jury consisting of museum director Maria Shust, artist Ilona Sochynsky and Prof. Yaroslav Leshko. The students, now completing art studies, are represented in the exhibit by four or more works. Adriana O. Farmiga, Petro Lopata, Yuri Masnyj, Yarema Ronish, Nick Sawicki, Dorian Yurchuk and Tamara Zahaykewich are U.S. residents,

while Andrey Poteryaylo lives in Ukraine. Exhibit hours are 1-5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

## "Wayward Wind"

In recent months, we have witnessed the drama and excitement of experimental theater companies from Ukraine – the Les Kurbas Young Theater of Lviv, the Suziria Theater of Kyiv, and a foursome of barefoot student actors from Kharkiv, Natalia Tsymbal, Vadym Korobka, Dmytro Turkevych and Mykhailo Ozerov. The Kharkiv actors presented "Arabesques," a dialogue about the past, present and future, based on works of Mykola Khvylioviy, Vasyl Symonenko and Hryhoriy Skovoroda.

The New York-based Yara Arts Group took its turn on the boards in May with a stint at the La Mama Experimental Theater, and proved to be as spellbinding as its counterparts from Ukraine.

The beginnings of a new Yara Arts production, "Wayward Wind," took shape at the La Mama workshop on East First Street, where Yara members employed Buryat Mongolian myths and music to illuminate Oleh Lysheha's poem "Swan," written in Kyiv in 1994.

Interweaving texts of Buryat, Japanese, Ukrainian and American poetry, "Wayward Wind" examined the myths of nomads in the past and wanderers who sit at computers today.

Yara members intermingled movement, dance, chant, music and songs in a highly stylized form to create a production that audience members called "mesmerizing." Said one theater-goer: "I felt I was swept up into the action, absolutely drawn into the maelstrom of movement."

Conceived and directed by Virlana Tkacz, who founded the Yara company, the piece is the group's sixth original work based on Ukrainian material.

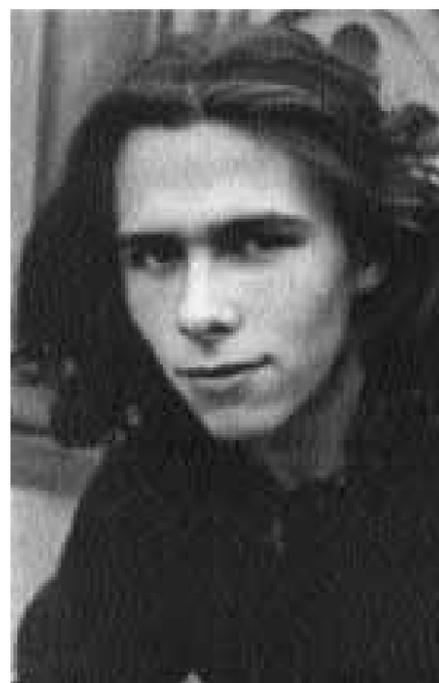
Buryat composer Vladilen Pantae, who worked with the company through the spring preparing the multilingual piece, took questions from the audience after the performance on May 18. His daughter, Irina, a New York fashion model, served as translator.

Designed by Watoku Ueno, with music by Mr. Pantae and Obie Award-winning composer Genji Ito, "Wayward Wind" was produced with the assistance of Alex Kytasty (sound) and Roman Baratiak (projectionist), the only Ukrainians involved in this production besides Ms. Tkacz. Yara artists are of Asian, African, Eastern and Western European ethnic origins.

Ms. Tkacz, whose career is devoted to restoring the theatrical legacy of the famous Ukrainian director Les Kurbas, led the Yara group on a tour of Ukraine in 1990 with its first production, "A Light from the East." In 1994, the company collaborated with the Kurbas Young Theater of Lviv in creating a bilingual work called "Yara's Forest Song." Last season, the group developed "Waterfall/Reflections" in Kyiv in collaboration with the popular Ukrainian singer Nina Matvienko. Presented later at La Mama, the work was praised by The New York Times as a "theatrical enchantment."

## Notes on music

• Bass Paul Plishka was in excellent voice when he appeared on New York's PBS station in a live presentation of a gala concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Metropolitan Opera's orchestra director, James Levine. He made a solo appearance in a vigorous aria from Donizetti's "Don Pasquale," appeared again later in the program with a quintet of soloists and the Met chorus,



Severyn Barabakh

and came on stage with the entire ensemble for the finale, a powerful selection from "Les Contes d'Hoffman." The concert was held at the end of the opera season, during which Mr. Plishka sang principal roles in "Falstaff," "Aida," "Romeo et Juliette" and "La Forza del Destino."

• In May, bass Stefan Szkarafowsky was heard on WQXR-FM radio. He performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago in Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra," singing the role of Pietro, courtier to the Doge of Genoa.

• Soprano Elena Heimur was featured with a group of opera singers in a recent Merkin Concert Hall evening that paid tribute to the memory of the great Met tenor, Guilio Gari. Guest performers included opera greats Licia Albanese, Lucine Amara and Jerome Hines.

• Ukrainian folk songs, ancient ballads and original compositions that resounded with patriotic sentiments, with love for "our Ukrainian language" and for Ukraine's freedom, were sung by bandurist Mykola Litwin of Kyiv during a concert at the Literary-Art Club on Second Avenue. Narration was provided by Kateryna Nemyra, a member of the Kyiv Art Association who now hosts the "Svitlytsia" radio hour in Parma, Ohio. The bandurist was introduced by a New Yorker who is widely known for his ardent support of bandurists and bandura schools, Nick Czorny-Dosinchuk, the editor of the quarterly magazine Bandura published by the New York School of Bandura. Mr. Litwin, the author of several books on bandurists, has published collections of bandura music and is preparing an encyclopedia on the art of the bandura. His book, "Zoloti Struny," about the origin of Ukrainian bandura playing, was named best book of 1995 in Kyiv and won the Olena Pchilka literary award. During a tour of U.S. cities to gather materials and funds for the encyclopedia, Mr. Litwin performed at the tree-planting ceremony that was part of the Chernobyl commemoration in Orlando, Fla.

• Musical accompaniment for folk dances, bandura music, band music and voices raised in song vied with traffic noises and street-fair clamor in Little Ukraine during the weekend of May 17-19. It was the 20th annual Ukrainian Festival, held on East Seventh Street between Second and Third avenues, with fair-goers and passers-by giving high marks to the entertainment and food. Stage performers included sopranos Laryssa Magun Huryn and Olena Hrabova, bandurist Olya Stechyshyn, tenors Roman Tsymbala and

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Ludmyla Pekarska of Kyiv on the job at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

## ON THE ROAD TO ATLANTA: Sergey Bubka speaks of what it takes to be the best

*Sergey Bubka, 32, was born in Luhanske, and trained to be a pole-vaulter in Donetsk, which today he considers his hometown, although he spends part of the year in Monaco. He, generally, is acknowledged as the greatest pole-vaulter of all time. Some consider him the greatest athlete of the modern age because of his combination of speed, upper body strength and grace going over the bar.*

*Mr. Bubka has won numerous championships, including the Olympic gold in 1988 and most recently the 1995 world championship. He holds the indoor and outdoor world records and is the only person to have cleared 20 feet. He has set 35, world marks (18 indoor, 17 outdoor), a feat unmatched by any person in any other sport. He will compete for Ukraine in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta.*

*The Ukrainian Weekly Staff Editor Roman Woronowycz conducted the interview, done in English, two days after Mr. Bubka took gold at the Atlanta Grand Prix international track and field meet that opened the Olympic Stadium on May 18. Mr. Bubka won there with a vault of 19 feet 9 inches, the best mark in the United States this year.*

**To what do you ascribe your overwhelming success in the pole vault? Do you think it's your athletic talents, or your training technique, a special diet?**

Today, talent alone is not enough. You need to work very hard, you have to spend a lot of time practicing your sport — six to seven hours daily. That is only for training. I think that, generally, you need to live with your sport 24 hours a day. You must think and concentrate and forget many things. Your life must be completely different. You must say no, no, it's not possible, maybe next time [to outside distractions]. It has to be sports, sports and sports.

And, of course, method is very important as is a high-quality specialist (trainer) working with you to keep you going in the right direction for your improvement and to help create results.

**Some say a lot of your success has to do with the way you grip the pole, you hold your hands further up, which gives you better leverage. Do you agree with that?**

No. It is very difficult for people who do not know the pole vault to understand. You must have the ability, if I may say so, to use such a high grip. You must have perfect technique. Then you can move to a higher grip. But it is very difficult, it is not enough. At its most basic [success] is due to the right movement and technically perfect jumps. This is basic. The grip automatically grows from that, but it does not make such a big difference.

**How about another thing that people mention, that you are a master psychologist during a meet? That you place importance on when and at what height you start, that you will stroll around, look disinterested. Then suddenly you're there and many times it's almost over at that point. Is this part of your competitive strategy?**

The pole vault is a very complicated event, there are many things involved. Of course, the psychological part, the tactics, is very important. You spend many hours

thinking about what the approximate winning height will be.

It is not enough to be strong, you must work with your mind and be a clever person who can calculate. It's like having a small computer in your head.

When [unexpected things] happen, or somebody is jumping well, pressure increases, but you must continue with your own strategy. Often you need to take some risk, but it must be a realistic risk, you can't take a crazy risk. You can't pass at a certain height [in a strategy to go for a win] like, let's say me trying to reach 20 feet on a day when it is not realistic.

**I'd like to talk a little bit about Donetsk, a place people say is dear to you. You have a sports club there. Please tell us a little about it: when did you decide to organize it, what is it doing nowadays?**

I decided to create a sports club during the Soviet times. It was my dream. Why did I decide this? I wanted to create something for my city, where I grew up. The city helped me, the sports societies gave help. I wanted to give something back.

We are growing in this city and this region. Before, everything was in the capital, which was then Moscow. It was my idea to change this a little bit. My main idea was to create a sports facility for the basics. This is why I established the club.

**Does it encompass only track and field, or soccer, or all sports?**

It is more track and field. I began with track and field because this is what I know. You must be a specialist to do this properly.

So I was focusing on athletics, and more and more [political] changes came. The former Soviet federation and the sports committee didn't like what I did. I started the club and said that now I want to continue with the club, I do not want any support, any money, from the government side, from Moscow. I became a big enemy to them.

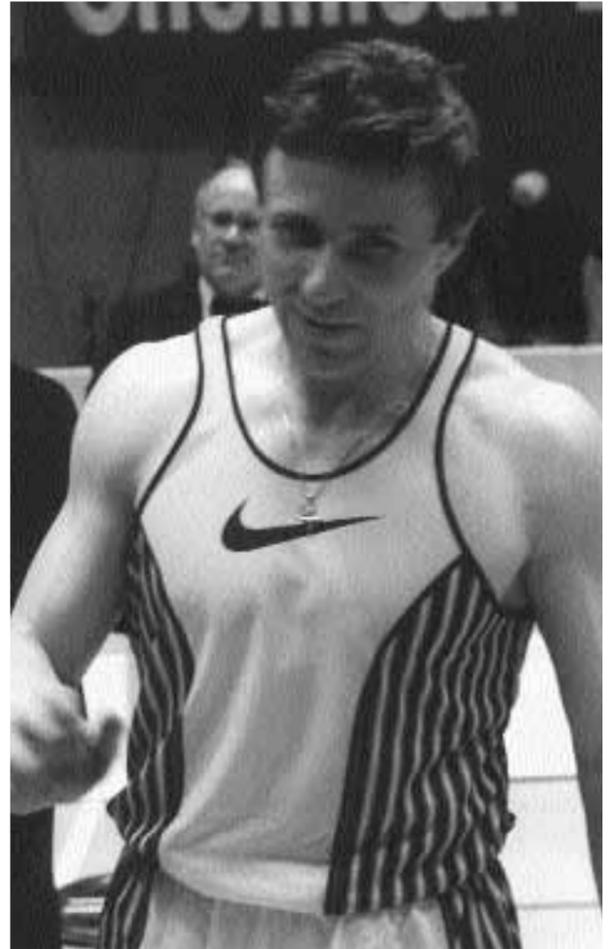
They became angry with me and started to put incorrect stories about me in the newspapers. They tried to kill me.

**You mean they tried to kill your club, kill you financially?**

You know, by my way [of thinking], it was an example for others. During that time there was [Gary] Kasparov, the chess player, hockey players and tennis players, who started to think and make changes in sport. I was the person in athletics.

They did not want to have many examples of thinking athletes. It is better to have stupid sportsmen, young ones who do not know what is going on. Sports life is very short. They [the Soviet regime] discarded [older athletes] and took new ones, and they used them for the system. My policy was just to give good things for sports in my region (Donetsk).

A second thing was that I tried to help athletes who [were not allowed] to travel to international competitions. We had a lot of invitations, but the federation never let us go. It was my policy to create a club and to manage the athletes, let them have the freedom to compete and show



Sergey Bubka

results. Of course, for this they also didn't like me.

We started with that, basically to help kids, and then we created a pole vault school, which is part of the club and exists to this day. The club and school exist.

Today I have 35 people who work in the club and associated businesses. We sponsor kids' competitions, and we provide equipment for kids. I have bought pole vault equipment, the landing areas, posts, which costs a lot of money. We pay for coaches.

We have a nice pole vault competition. The best athletes from around the world attend.

**And you finance all of this yourself?**

Basically, everything comes from me. It's me and the help that I received at the beginning to establish the club, which was from the Nike company. And still now they help me with this program.

**A little bit about your childhood. Were you born in the Donetsk area?**

I was born in Luhanske, 100 kilometers from Donetsk. I moved to Donetsk in 1979. There were better facilities so my coach changed clubs and we moved with him.

(Continued on page 17)



Roman Woronowycz

Pole vaulter Sergey Bubka going up and over the bar at the Millrose Games held February 2 in New York. He set a new Millrose Games record of 19 feet 2 inches.

## NFL stars' tourney will benefit Chornobyl relief

SHORT HILLS, N.J. — Top stars of the National Football League will tee off at the UPS/NFL 1996 Charity Classic Golf Tournament to raise funds for the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund and the United Way of Lackawanna County, Pa. The Elmhurst Country Club in Scranton, Pa., will host the charity golf tournament on June 17, and sponsors of the event are the United Postal Service and the National Football League.

The line-up includes NFL stars such as Neil O'Donnell, New York Jets; Bruce Smith, Buffalo Bills; Derrick Thomas, Kansas City Chiefs; Cornelius Bennett, Atlanta Falcons; Greg Skrepenek, Carolina Panthers; Tony Siragusa, Indianapolis Colts and former Penn State standout; Kyle Brady, New York Jets; and numerous other players to be announced in coming weeks.

The day of activities will include the golf tournament, as well as dinner at the Genetti Manor in Dickson City, Pa., and a silent auction of more than 25 autographed items from a number of NFL players.

A telephone hotline has been established by United Parcel Service and the National Football League Properties Inc. to handle the response to the UPS/NFL Charity Classic. Through a bidding process, golfers will have the opportunity to "draft" an NFL player of their choice to play in their foursome.

Official registration packets may be obtained by contacting The Charity Classic Hotline: (717) 343-1267, ext. 260. Reservations will be accepted only upon receipt of the official registration form, and the deadline is June 10.

This year, two charities will receive proceeds from the fund-raiser: the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), based in Short Hills, N.J., and the United Way of Lackawanna County, Pa.

The United Way of Lackawanna County provides over 100 programs and services to the people of Lackawanna County administered by 27 local human service organizations.

The CCRF identifies specific hospitals and programs that aid children affected by the Chornobyl nuclear plant explosion in Ukraine and works with them to procure, deliver and dispense high-quality pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

In a recent commemorative ceremony at the White House hosted by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore, Volodymyr Malofienko, a young leukemia patient from Ukraine whose treatment was arranged by the CCRF, stated, "Mrs. Clinton has written a book that says it takes a village to raise a child. However, it also takes a village to heal a child. We should not forget the many children who will not be healthy without the help of our global village."

Paul Speaker of NFL Properties commented, "The NFL and the United Way have a long partnership of helping people across the nation, and the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund is providing such vital care in Ukraine that the NFL is honored to play a role in providing support to two outstanding organizations."

According to Gary Drapek, spokesperson for the United Way, "The initial response to the announcement of the charity classic has been overwhelming, and the 144 slots for the golf tournament are filling up quickly. We encourage those who are interested in participating to call the hotline as soon as possible in order to receive the registration packet."

## Roundtable...

(Continued from page 1)

to collapse." He advocated the gradual integration of East European countries into the EU.

In turning his attention to Ukraine, the German ambassador spoke more cautiously. "There are four aspects that will decide Ukraine's position in Europe: internal political development, progress in economic reforms, foreign relations and support by the West." He emphasized that while the German government wholeheartedly supports Ukraine's efforts at democratization and economic reform, endorsed President Leonid Kuchma's reform policy of 1994, and leads all donor countries in assistance to Ukraine with \$2 billion, "we need to feel that the economic situation is improving. Based on our experience with East Germany, we know that the economy cannot begin to grow until the government has followed through on economic reform."

Mr. Chrobog said Ukraine can demonstrate its readiness to "head toward" the new European security architecture by continuing to participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace program and by maintaining a good relationship with neighboring Russia. "The crucial process of NATO expansion should not exclude Ukraine," he said.

### Poland supports inclusion of Ukraine

While Germany is an advocate of an enlarged NATO working with the Russian bear, neighboring Poland is a proponent of the military alliance establishing a separate relationship with Ukraine similar to the 16+1 (i.e. Russia) scenario. "The independence and stability of Ukraine is crucial to European security," emphasized Polish Ambassador Jerzy Kozminski. "Poland is interested most in strengthening Ukraine's international and internal position."

Mr. Kozminski, a former secretary of state at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pointed out that when Poland triggered the chain reaction that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, it had only three neighbors: the USSR, the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia. "Seven years later, none of those three states exist, and today we have the emergence of a united Germany and an independent Ukraine, between which is Poland."

The Polish ambassador declared his country's intent to become a full-fledged member of all major Western institutions and advocated the speedy integration of East European states into NATO and the EU as opposed to Germany's more cautious, evolutionary approach.

Poland, said the ambassador, considers NATO enlargement as part of a broader vision of a new European security architecture and advocates the expanded alliance establishing relations with countries outside of its sphere. According to Mr. Kozminski, a special NATO-Ukraine relationship will allow Ukraine to be "better placed geopolitically to implement a better independent security policy."

The Polish ambassador repeatedly emphasized the positive role a stable Ukraine could play in a secure Europe. Because of this belief, he said, Poland supported Ukraine's inclusion in the Council of Europe and the Central European Initiative, and has expanded trade with its neighbor to the volume of \$1 billion. Mr. Kozminski proposed that his country could serve as the moderator for Ukraine and Western countries in a trilateral form of technical assistance initiatives, and announced that the United States, Canada and Denmark had expressed interest in a trilateral relationship.

### Ukraine seeks best model

A neutral state since liquidating the nuclear arsenal it inherited from the Soviet Union, Ukraine is currently looking for the best model of European security, explained Ambassador Shcherbak. He reiterated the Ukrainian government's main policy objective announced by President Kuchma during his February visit to the United States: to integrate into European economic and political structures. The ambassador also said Ukraine wants to strengthen ties with NATO through the PFP program and to establish a special relationship with the military alliance.

In order to enhance cooperation with European structures, Dr. Shcherbak proposed that Ukraine, Poland and Germany establish a "security corridor," which "in a practical sense can emerge as a political, economic, trade, cultural and societal route on the map of Europe." The security corridor could facilitate cooperation in transportation, communications, and the energy, environmental and banking sectors.

Ukraine already has strong relations with Poland and Germany, he said, and pointed out that Poland has the most joint ventures with Ukraine, with Germany in second place. Militarily, Ukraine and Poland are conducting joint battalion exercises, and Ukraine and Germany held over 20 military working meetings in 1994-1995. In January of last year, Germany helped Ukraine build housing for Ukrainian military personnel.

Germany has assisted Ukraine in its relations with the EU, NATO, the Council of Europe and the international financial community, the ambassador elaborated, and plans for a Berlin-Kyiv highway at a cost of 1.4 billion ecu have been discussed. A similar "transportation corridor" linking Gdansk and Odessa (2.2 billion ecu) has also been proposed.

Dr. Shcherbak said the "security corridor" would serve as a "stability belt of regional cooperation in the larger scheme of continental integration of the 165 million peoples of our countries," and proposed that preliminary talks take place in Kyiv, Warsaw or Bonn.

In summing up the three ambassadors' statements, Dr. Brzezinski noted that for Poland, Germany is the gateway to Europe, while for Ukraine that role is fulfilled by Poland.

Central to the discussion period that followed was Russian participation in the European security architecture. Ambassador Shcherbak insisted that without the participation of Russia,

there could be no European security architecture. Ambassador Chrobog maintained that expanding NATO must be done without hurting Russia and that the military alliance must be "transparent" in dealing with Russia. "We can offer Russia a role that secures their right to get involved in the decision-making of the alliance without a veto. We must include Russia," he insisted. "If we offer them participation, it will reach a point that Russia will say 'we tolerate NATO expansion into Central and Eastern Europe.'"

When pressed by Dr. Brzezinski on Ukraine's role in NATO, the German ambassador said, "For us, Russia is more important. Russia is a superpower, a nuclear power, a huge neighbor. When we talk about NATO extension, we neglect Ukraine a little bit. We speak of special links between Russia and NATO, but nobody says anything about NATO and Ukraine." Mr. Chrobog said Ukraine should continue to make use of the PFP program and focus on reforming its economy. "The more Ukraine reforms its economy, it might cooperate one day with NATO."

Ambassador Shcherbak countered the German ambassador's harsh words with the Ukrainian government's official position on NATO expansion: NATO is the most important factor in ensuring the stability of Europe, and the Ukrainian government has no objection to NATO extension. The ambassador noted that Ukraine and NATO have agreed on a joint document on the implementation and expanded, deepening relations between NATO and Ukraine, and explained that the proposed "security corridor is not linked directly with the issue of NATO enlargement."

Ambassador Kozminski insisted that an enlarged NATO and EU would only strengthen Ukraine. Dr. Brzezinski pointed out that "Russians, by and large, are resigned and accept the reality of Polish independence and the probable inevitability of eventual EU and NATO membership. They are much less resigned to the inevitability of Ukraine's independence and, therefore, are bound to resist ties between Ukraine, the EU and NATO."

Dr. Brzezinski warned that more than a generation would pass before Russians would accept the notion of a Russia without Ukraine's "inclusion." In the meantime, he said, Ukraine will have to have closer, operational ties with NATO and Europe, rather than Russia, in order to survive as a European state.

## Antiquity....

(Continued from page 10)

Andriy Cherniak, and folk dance groups from New York (Astoria) and New Jersey (Newark), with Roma Pryma Bohachevsky's Syzokryli Dance Ensemble standing out as a beautifully rehearsed and brightly costumed group. The stage shows, produced and directed by Ulana Kekish and Anna Baczynska, were emceed by Ms. Kekish, Ms. Baczynska, Ivanna Mazur and Andriy Solodenko. The Surma shop, as always, was a favorite stop for many; vendors at booths and tables offered art work, Easter eggs, beadwork necklaces, books and tape cassettes of Ukrainian music. Although the fair may not have reached the heights envisioned by the 1976 Ukrainian Bicentennial Committee, which planned the first fair, the festival continues to take place each year, without fail. Since 1977, it has been held under the auspices of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church.

• Eighteenth century sacred music by Dmytro Bortniansky was performed

by the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Manhattan on May 19. Program notes identified Bortniansky as a Ukrainian who is considered to be "one of the creators of the Russian baroque style." The first half of the concert (which I missed due to a transportation problem) featured the Early Russian Music Ensemble in a program that included anonymous "znamenny" chants, which use natural registers in an "open" folk vocal manner. These chants resembled or may have been the same as those used in Robert Shaw's presentation of Rachmaninoff's "Vespers" at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on May 2. For his 80th birthday, Mr. Shaw was encircled by 80 singers as he directed the a cappella choral work, sections of which are traditional Kyiv chants. Writing in The New York Times on April 28 about the religious resurgence in Russia since the fall of the Communist regime, James R. Oestreich refers to "Bortniansky, a Ukrainian," and to "the early development of chant, centered in Kyiv."

## Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union focuses on revitalizing activity

MONTREAL – The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) recently held its annual congress in Montreal. This congress was attended by 36 delegates representing nine Ukrainian student organizations from Edmonton, Saskatoon, Windsor, Waterloo, Brock and Hamilton, Ontario.

SUSK currently boasts 12 member-organizations with a combined membership of over 600 students at post-secondary institutions across Canada.

The focus of the 43rd congress was the election of a new executive for the 1996-1997 term of office, and approval of constitutional amendments and resolutions that would serve as a mandate for this term. The headquarters of the 1996-1997 SUSK executive have moved from Montreal to Edmonton.

The 1996-1997 SUSK executive is as follows: Volodymyr Boychuk (Edmonton), president; Jon Tomas (Montreal), vice-president internal and immediate past president; Tanya Haluk (Edmonton), VP Mountain region; Marianne Uhryn (Saskatoon), VP Prairie region; Volodymyr Stecko (Toronto), VP Great Lakes region; Natalka Nowiski (Montreal), VP Laurentian region; Gena Slawuta (Edmonton), secretary; Mark Prystajek (Edmonton), treasurer; Larysa Chalupa (Hamilton), project director; Pavlo Oleskevych (Toronto), director of communications and publications; Pavlo Grod (Windsor), director of external relations, Ukrainian organizations; Peter Szyk (Montreal), director of external relations; Lisa McDonald (Edmonton), alumni coordinator.

According to an amendment passed at the congress, Ukrainian student organization (USO) presidents have been included in the executive with an advisory vote. These include: Brock University Ukrainian Students Club Taras Zajac; Concordia Ukrainian Students Union – Taras Mazepa; McGill Ukrainian Students Association – Ms. Nowiski; McMaster University Ukrainian Student Club – Anna Marzotto; Queen's University Ukrainian Students Club – Kimberly Plaseski; University of Alberta – Ms. Slawuta; University of Saskatchewan USC – Kevin Lysak; University of Toronto USC – Walter Stecko and Taras Hetmanczuk; University of Waterloo USC – Natalie Worobec; University of Western Ontario USC – Andrij Wiwczaruk; University of Windsor USC – Orysia Dmytruk; and York University USC – Danya Motyliwsky.

Among the topics and issues discussed at the February 23-25 congress



Delegates at the congress of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union.

were: volunteerism in the Ukrainian community; student apathy and the role of Ukrainian student organizations; is there a place for youth in the Ukrainian organized community?; defining a Ukrainian ethnicity within a Canadian framework as we head to the 21st century; taking the career mentorship program nationwide; Ukraine and the Canada-Ukraine Monitor.

Unlike last year's congress, which focused a great deal of energy on Ukraine, this year the conclave concentrated on the needs of its members and how SUSK can coordinate projects and activities of Ukrainian students throughout Canada. Much discussion centered on a national career mentorship program. With this mentorship program the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association, in partnership with Ukrainian student organizations, would engage in a mentoring program designed to assist Ukrainian Canadian students in attaining career-related counseling and mentoring.

Ukrainian American students also were represented at the congress. Among the issues discussed was the rejuvenation of the long-dormant Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA). SUSK has pledged

its support in this process.

Among the accomplishments of the outgoing SUSK executive were: 1. hosting two regional conferences (Hamilton, Ontario and Edmonton); 2. completing the SUSK guidebook (a reference manual on how to organize Ukrainian student organizations); 3. introducing a Canada-Ukrainian Student Partnership Program (composed of three projects – Student Self-Government in Ukraine, Student Internships in Ukraine, and the Educational Exchange Project); 4. fostering the development of the World Conference of Ukrainian Students (CeSUS) and attending its second world Congress in Kyiv; 5. publishing six issues of the SUSK national newsletter *Mayzhe Student*; developing a SUSK homepage on the World Wide Web, maintaining a national Ukrainian student electronic communication network, and electronic publication of *Mayzhe Student*.

SUSK has encouraged all Ukrainian Canadian students to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster at their respective universities at some point this year. Among the proposed project ideas: screening of documentaries, an information campaign and a blood-donor drive.

SUSK also is encouraging its member-organizations to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

SUSK reaffirmed its commitment to:

- foster cooperation and understanding among Ukrainian Canadian students' organizations;
- educate and inform Ukrainian Canadian students about issues and events relevant to them as students of Ukrainian origin;
- participate and encourage the development of a dynamic Ukrainian Canadian community that adheres to democratic and humanitarian principles;
- encourage the development of a Ukrainian Canadian student movement; and
- foster an understanding among non-Ukrainian ethnic groups as to Ukrainian affairs and issues.

All correspondence for SUSK should be forwarded to: Volodymyr Boychuk, Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK), 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 2H4; phone/fax: (403) 432-7752; e-mail: vboychuk(agpu.srv.ualberta.ca)

The SUSK Home Page may be found at <http://www.internauts.ca/susk/>, while the *Mayzhe Student* Home Page may be found at <http://www.internauts.ca/susk/ms/>

## University of Maine and Ukraine proceed with international exchanges

ORONO, Maine – The University of Maine has a well-established international program. An existing exchange program between the university and Kharkiv State University has been in operation since 1988. Nevertheless, while students from Kharkiv State pursued various disciplines, University of Maine students who went to Kharkiv were primarily language majors wanting to learn Russian.

Since Kharkiv State does not have disciplines such as agriculture, engineering, arts, etc., Dr. Bohdan M. Slabyj, in the College of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agriculture, requested permission to travel to Kharkiv to establish contact with other institutions of higher learning. In the spring of 1993 he visited Kharkiv, and Rector Alexander Cherevko, of the Academy of Food Technology and Management, visited the University of Maine in the fall of 1993. An exchange

agreement was signed by the president of the University of Maine, Dr. Frederick Hutchinson, and Rector Cherevko, representing a consortium of four institutions of higher learning in Kharkiv.

In 1994 Dr. Slabyj submitted a proposal to the USIA/Samantha Smith Memorial Exchange to fund an exchange for one academic year for four American and four Ukrainian undergraduate students starting in the fall of 1995. The proposal stipulated that the Ukrainian students meet TOEFL requirements, while American students were scheduled to take intensive Ukrainian in Kharkiv during their first semester, which would prepare them to take courses for credit during the second semester. The program was approved and funded, but no American students could be identified

(Continued on page 15)



University of Maine exchange students: (from left, front row) Maksym Tishchenko, Jacob Bogar, (back row) Anton Voloshyn, Michael Stevens, Vasyl Goncharenko and Andrea Perley.

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Please call (201) 386-1115 to make such appointments in advance)

Nestor L. Olesnycky Robert S. Field

**St. Barnabas solidifies...**

(Continued from page 9)

had spoken to the directors of St. Barnabas Medical Center about the possibility of creating an alliance between the center and the Ukrainian medical system. But, he said, everything was in the process of negotiation and no decision had yet been made.

Dr. Matkiwsky said another purpose of the delegation's visit to the center was to initiate a doctor exchange program. Ukrainian physicians would come to the center and work with its modern medical technology, especially in the area of burn treatment. St. Barnabas Medical Center physicians would visit Ukraine and share their expertise with Ukrainian counterparts.

CCRF Director of Development Alexander Kuzma said some steps have been taken toward the alliance and exchange program initiated by Dr. Matkiwsky and Dr. Marko Olesnycky.

Dr. Natalia Fendrikova of the Kyiv Pediatric, Obstetrical and Gynecological Institute has begun a training program at St. Barnabas Medical Center. Her coach, Shyan Sun, chief of neonatology, expressed an interest in conducting research on the condition of Ukrainian infants. He is planning to work in the area of reducing infant mortality in Ukraine, Mr. Kuzma added.

It is expected that three St. Barnabas physicians will go to Ukraine this July, Mr. Kuzma said.

It was the hospital's medical equipment that made the strongest impression on the delegation.

"I would take the equipment with myself to Ukraine," said Dr. Hulchiy smiling. She explained that good modern technology is what the Ukrainian physicians need most. She said she is in favor of expanding ties with American medical professionals because this would improve the quality of Ukrainian medical services and make Ukrainian physicians more professional.

But she emphasized, "We have good

physicians in Ukraine, some of them are no worse than any physician in the West. What we need is good medical equipment."

The health of the Ukrainian population is deteriorating as a result of Chernobyl, Dr. Torbin said, adding that 3.2 million were affected by the disaster. Recent studies have found an increase in the number of thyroid cancer cases, especially among children and teenagers. In 1995 there were 542 cases of thyroid cancer among persons who at the moment of the plant explosion were children or adolescents, said Dr. Torbin, citing official statistics. This year the number is up to 669 cases, he said.

Thus far, there are no increases in the incidence of other oncological illnesses, with the exception of leukemia, Dr. Torbin continued. According to official statistics, there are 350,000 liquidators or clean-up workers, in Ukraine, who mitigated the consequences of the catastrophe. Some 230,000 of them worked at the Chernobyl power plant in 1986-1987 when the most radiation was emitted. It is among that population in particular that oncological illnesses are expected to increase.

Mr. Yavorivsky spoke about the political significance of the visit. He described the visit as a presentation of Ukraine, and noted that one of its results is that Chernobyl problems have been raised to a new level.

During a conference held at Yale and Columbia universities, and a dinner at the latter's Low Library, Mr. Yavorivsky noted, Ukraine "received special recognition and support when scientists, diplomats, Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian - all were speaking of Ukraine and Chernobyl."

Mr. Yavorivsky said the delegation also met with Boutros Boutros-Ghali and other U.N. representatives at the United Nations. The secretary-general expressed his intention to serve as a broker between the U.N. and Ukraine, the deputy said.

"Some steps have been taken, and I wouldn't exaggerate them, but we are talking about raising Ukraine's esteem and our self-awareness as a nation," he added.

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## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

runs local affairs better. The fight is also over property, with Mr. Gurvits trying, for several years now, to build a huge port terminal to process Middle Eastern oil, and Mr. Bodelan claiming such a move would destroy the city's environment. "Gurvits has concentrated all power in his own hands," Mr. Bodelan told local newspapers recently. "Everywhere there is a hunt for ideological enemies. Nothing is getting done. Basic problems remain unsolved. Houses go unrepaired, cultural monuments are being pulled down." (Reuters)

### Oil refineries drastically underutilized

KYIV — Ukraine's six largest oil refineries stand idle for weeks at a time, and industry officials lay the blame squarely on the government. "Our biggest

problems are reconstructing and improving the quality of our product," Stepan Yaloveha, a spokesman for the State Oil and Gas committee, said on May 24. The refineries routinely processed up to 60 million tons of crude oil a year in the Soviet era. But last year they refined only 16.8 million tons, reflecting sharp declines in Russian crude oil supplies — 13.3 million tons in 1995 compared with 15.5 million in 1994. "Russia isn't selling crude oil to us," said Mr. Yaloveha. "Ukraine has debts. No one gives anything away for free." He said the government is to blame for the problems, especially a confiscative taxation policy, which has left at least three of the refineries idle for long stretches since the beginning of the year. Kherson, in the south, was the worst hit, with 50 days of inactivity. So far this year, Ukraine has refined 4.02 million tons of Ukrainian and imported oil, more than half at Kremenchuk, the country's largest refinery. (Reuters)

## Universities...

(Continued from page 13)

who wanted to participate.

Subsequently, the program was modified by having American students go to Kharkiv for eight weeks, while Ukrainian students would come to the University of Maine for one semester. The USIA budget was fixed but the rearranged program required additional funds. If it were not for the generosity of two vice-presidents and two deans the program would have died. All this was taking place during the budget crises between the Congress and the White House, and it took the assistance of Sen. William Cohen's office to assure the arrival of the Ukrainian students for the beginning of the semester.

The week of registration and then the second week, the add/drop period, were bewildering, but eventually all difficulties were overcome. Maksym Tishchenko, from the Agrotechnical University, is studying mechanical engineering; Vasy

Goncharenko from the Construction and Architectural Institute is taking business courses; Olena Nekhis from the Academy of Food Technology and Management is studying economics and English; and Anton Voloshyn from the Industrial Art Institute is taking arts and computer courses.

The American students will be leaving in mid-May and returning mid-July. They do not speak Ukrainian or Russian. These students are registered for three credit hours at the University of Maine and will work on a project in the institution of their interest.

Andrea Perley, an environmental engineering major, will work on water quality; Jacob Bogar, a mechanical engineering major, will work on hydraulics; and Michael Stevens, an art major, will study restoration of paintings. All three students are on the dean's list. While the program is primarily academic, there is also a social and cultural facet, involving some travel and sightseeing.



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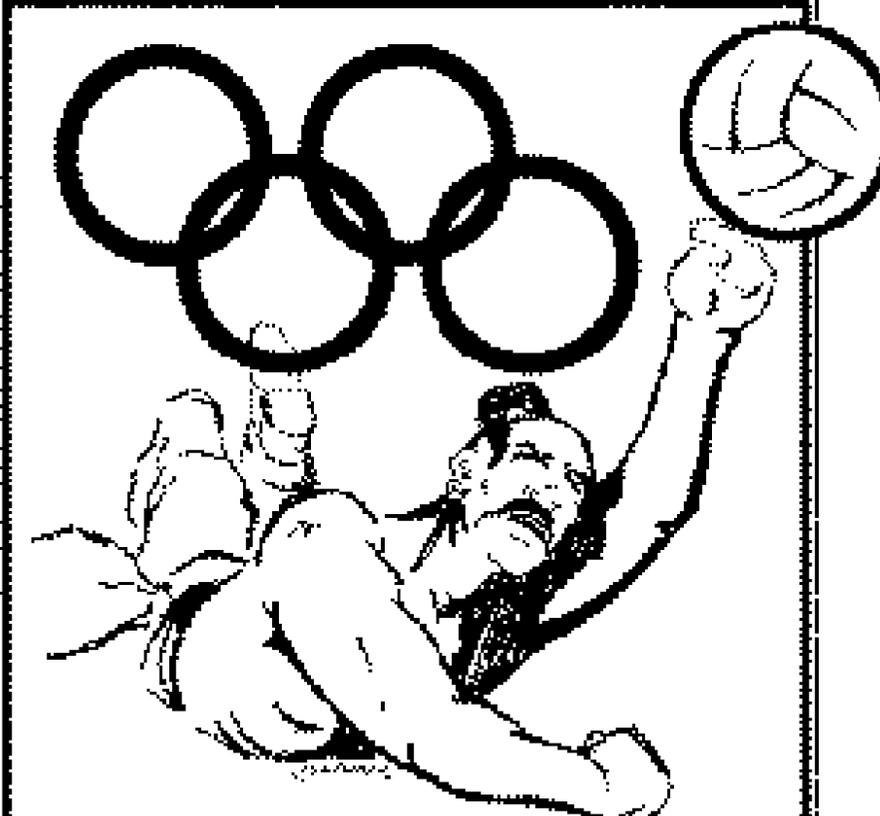
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## Veterans...

(Continued from page 4)

Holynskij, namesake to Buffalo's Post 23, as two of the Ukrainian immigrants who died as American heroes.

The second speaker, Mr. Wichar, underlined the month of April as a time to remember the "Bataan Death March." During World War II Col. Kalakuka, the first Ukrainian American to graduate from the West Point Academy, went to serve with Gen. Jonathan Wainwright in the Philippines. During the Bataan tragedy and the fall of Corregidor, Col. Kalakuka was responsible for saving 5,000 American lives.

The concluding speaker, Commander Oleh Cieply, Michigan Post 101, highlighted the many hurdles that were crossed to make the memorial marker dedication such an outstanding success. He also underscored the importance of unity among Ukrainian American veterans.

The Very Rev. Bernard Panczuk OSBM, pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic

Church in Warren, primary chaplain of Michigan Post 101 and retired commander, U.S. Marine Corps, provided the ceremonial prayers. The Rev. Panczuk paid tribute not only the men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, but especially those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

The marker monument was then unveiled as a veteran placed a wreath before the "Memorial Path Rock."

At this moment, a signal was relayed to two units of honor guards, volunteers from Fort Custer, to fire a 42-gun salute. Taps were played by the Cemetery Carillon, a gift of Michigan and National Amvets.

As the Ukrainian entourage headed homeward, there was an euphoric consensus that Michigan Post 101 has, indeed, experienced a historic interlude, and that Ukrainian American veterans will have lasting dignity and respect among Americans in a national military cemetery.

As Maj. Michael O'Donnell, killed in action in Vietnam, had said: "take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind."

## Eugene Skotzko...

(Continued from page 4)

dent state of Carpatho-Ukraine. On returning to the U.S. in 1939, he was sent by ODVU to Washington to open a Ukrainian Information Bureau there.

Mr. Skotzko held both a bachelor of science and a master of arts degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He began his career in the federal government in 1941 and served 35 years before retiring as economics editor of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Monthly Labor Review in 1976.

Mr. Skotzko was a member of the Federal Editors' Association, the first president of the Association of Ukrainians in

Washington, and was a member of both the Ukrainian Institute of America and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council. He and his wife, Mary, were involved in establishing St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Washington in 1949.

He published his political autobiography, "In the Service of the Homeland" (1986), and was contributor to "The Zboriv Lands" (1985), a history of the nationalist movement in western Ukraine.

He was also a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 15.

Mr. Skotzko is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Kissel Skotzko of Silver Spring; two sons, Waldimir and Eugene Jr., both of northern Virginia; and four grandsons.



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# Sergey Bubka...

(Continued from page 11)

## Your family still lives in Luhanske?

My father and mother live in Luhanske.

## And your brother, Vasiliy, who also is a vaulter?

Yes, me, Vasiliy and one other guy, Tserkadish Klera, who works in my club today, we moved together to Donetsk.

## What made you become a pole vaulter, it is a rather unusual type of sport?

I wouldn't say that it was my decision. It happened because of an older friend who lived on the same street as us. He began earlier on to pole vault. He saw that I was good at sports, that I played soccer and was very quick.

He invited me to pole vault. Through him I discovered the sport, I had never seen it before.

## At what point when you were in the special sports schools did coaches realize that you had a very special talent?

In Donetsk, the pole vault school was very good, but it was not enough. The strategy of my coach and me was that we looked at pictures of all the best pole vaulters from around the world, and we took the best parts from them, and we created a person that had never existed. We then started to work toward being such a person. Through this we improved techniques and in the end had good results.

## Do you consider what you developed with your coach something new and different from what had been done before?

I think that the technical part we developed more and did it better than others. It was the technique.

I do want to add that what I got I got from amateur sports and I like that. Today it is a little bit different. It is more a job, a business. Even now I want to keep my amateur spirit, to spend my time, to be in the sport with all my heart. I think that focusing on the money, on the business, is not enough.

## Have you given any thought to retirement?

I think about retiring from the sport. If everything remains all right, then I will continue a minimum of two years. After two years I will decide what to do. It depends on my results and on my physical condition.

## So even if you win gold in Atlanta this year, you will continue?

I think I will, I like it. What is nice about this sport is that I am responsible for most everything. I am alone, some people help me, but, basically, I can do what I want. Beyond sports, many people are involved and it then becomes difficult to see the results. It's very tough. When it comes to business, many people are involved.

I have spoken with many former athletes, and they tell me the best time they had was in sports. I listen to them and use their experience in my career.

## Who do you think is your main competition going into the Atlanta Games?

I think its (Okkert) Brits, the South African guy, and the Russian pole vaulters, (Rodion) Gataulin, (Maksim) Tarasov, and maybe the Frenchman (Jean) Galfione.

## Give us a prediction as to who is going to win.

That is difficult. It is in Atlanta, it depends on the weather. The Olympics are always a special competition, it is very difficult to predict what will happen.

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## Toronto University...

(Continued from page 9)

Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1990 as "a means for promptly communicating to the public in consistent terms the safety significance of events reported at nuclear power plants."

In a range from 1 to 7, the levels serve as indicators of the degree of damage to the reactor core and breaches of "defense-in-depth," the exposure of plant workers, and the exposure of the outside environment and population, and the level of emergency plan implemented. Level 1 events are described as "anomalies"; Level 2 and 3 as "incidents"; and Levels 4 to 7 as accidents of increasing severity.

The Windscale/Sellafield accident at a military installation in England (1957) and the Three Mile Island station in Harrisburg, Pa., (1979) both rated a 5 because of damage to the station, although they varied widely in the extent of radiation released.

The Chernobyl accident was a 7 because it involved catastrophic damage to the reactor, a major release of radiation with acute health effects to both plant workers and local population, and a large-scale and long-term implementation of emergency plans.

The Ontario Hydro technician also outlined procedures for plant and environment decontamination. "There's no way around it, if you have contamination of the environment, it's expensive, it takes a long time, it's highly disruptive and ... you have a very large amount of waste to deal with," Dr. Dinnie said.

The Canadian spill management engineer also said that at Chernobyl "they [Ukrainian authorities] still haven't come to grips with the question of the long-term destination of the waste and contaminated material."

"Awareness around the world about the importance of a safety culture that includes a questioning attitude and a conservative approach by plant technicians... arose from Chernobyl," Dr. Dinnie said, "and has been applied to improve the safety of operations of all nuclear power plants."

The final member of the energy and technology panel was Dr. Ken Dormuth, director of the AECL nuclear fuel waste management program, who presented a proposed concept for disposal deep under the stable bedrock of the Canadian Shield, which was technically interesting and offered additional assurance of his country's safe approach to the problem. However, by Dr. Dormuth's admission, this held little relevance to problems faced by Ukraine.

### Radiation's impact

Dr. Komar, also a staff emergency physician at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, led off the health panel she moderated essentially by providing a presentation of her own.

Dr. Komar provided a basic explanation of the different kinds of ionizing radiation (as opposed to the non-ionizing radiation found in the background from radon gas, the sun, etc.) that affects human health and attempted to allay the confusion engendered by the many terms, from rems to Sieverts, that "tend to make the literature more complicated than it needs to be."

Dr. Komar also surveyed the known health effects of radiation exposure, underscoring the thesis that no dose is a safe dose. She said Chernobyl was unique because it involved the highest recorded release of radionuclides into the environment, that the widely scattered fallout will predispose people to effects over the long and short term. "We have no experience with toxins that hang

around for as long as, for example, radioactive cesium does — 40 years."

In conclusion, Dr. Komar said study of the disaster's effects have been complicated by every possible variable that distorts epidemiological data — doses received were not measured but calculated; screening procedures were changed after the incident, as the clean-up was conducted, and revised since; Soviet policies in widely recruiting and then dispersing clean-up workers, evacuation policies and the mass migration of the affected population following the break-up of the Soviet Union make follow-up very difficult.

### Industry official on health effects

In Dr. Norman Gentner, the nuclear industry had its second spokesman to offer a perspective on the Chernobyl accident's effect on human health, but from a position of somewhat greater medical authority. Dr. Gentner is the AECL's senior science advisor in its Health and Environmental Sciences Branch and a member of the United Nations' Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).

Dr. Gentner said UNSCEAR's determinations on the doses people received and the accident's health effects would be ready for publication in 1999 or 2000, adding that his presentation was based on data from eight consensus documents sponsored by the European Commission, the IAEA, the World Health Organization, a host of other international agencies and representatives of the three most affected countries (Belarus, Ukraine and Russia).

He identified those to be studied as the up to 800,000 workers involved in the clean-up and the 134,000 evacuees from the 30-kilometer exclusion zone.

As Dr. Komar pointed out, the overlapping terms of rems, rads, Sieverts and Grays often makes assessment of doses and effects of radiation confusing. Dr. Gentner's presentation did little to allay this confusion. In fact, he persisted in "providing the context" of doses of background radiation (non-ionizing) and radiation released by nuclear accidents, tests and bombs explosions (ionizing).

On one hand, Dr. Gentner spoke of a lack of leukemias emerging in the expected period following the accident, and on the other attributed the recorded rise in cancers to a sharpening of the screening process. He asserted that the only observed health effect that could be ascribed to the accident was the rise in thyroid cancers among children.

### Liquidators "didn't become immortal"

Worrying at the Chernobyl accident's official death toll of 31, Dr. Gentner said that 26 of 28 of those who died while under observation at Moscow Clinic No. 6 had "severe burns over three-quarters of their bodies which compromised their ability to survive." He also asserted that no additional deaths "have been correlated with the severity of acute radiation sickness."

"Time and time again over the last three or four years we have read reports of 6,000 to 8,000 deaths having occurred among the liquidators, due to their participation in the accident clean-up," Dr. Gentner said, and with a deft statistical stroke demonstrated that given the "lesser longevity" observed in Ukraine, about 18,000 of the clean-up workers could have been expected to die.

The AECL official blamed Ukrainian law for ascribing all deaths among clean-up workers to the Chernobyl accident although "credible studies indicate that it's nothing more or less than the normal rate of death."

"They didn't become immortal because

(Continued on page 19)



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Raspberries	2.0 LB																																																																					
Coffee	2.0 LB																																																																					
Tea	2.0 LB																																																																					
Chocolate Syrup	2.0 LB																																																																					
Biscuits	1.0 LB																																																																					
Weight	29 LB																																																																					
<b>\$ 88.00</b>																																																																						
Sugar	25 LB																																																																					
Flour	25 LB																																																																					
Rice	20 LB																																																																					
Vegetable Oil	20 LB																																																																					
Corn	20 LB																																																																					
Canned Ham	5.0 LB																																																																					
European Nuts	5.0 LB																																																																					
Macaroni	5.0 LB																																																																					
Instant Coffee	2.0 LB																																																																					
Tea	2.0 LB																																																																					
Weight	205 LB																																																																					
<b>\$189.00</b>																																																																						
Mayonnaise	8.0 LB																																																																					
Vegetable Oil	8.0 LB																																																																					
European Nuts	5.0 LB																																																																					
Canned Beef	5.0 LB																																																																					
Canned Ham	5.0 LB																																																																					
Best Sugar	5.0 LB																																																																					
Canned Sardines	5.0 LB																																																																					
Weight	47 LB																																																																					
<b>\$125.00</b>																																																																						



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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Saturday, June 8

**JENKINTOWN, Pa.:** The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center will hold a special pre-summer concert of operettas, featuring, for the first time in the United States, the State Operetta Theater of Kyiv, performing such beautiful music as "The Gypsy Baron," "My Fair Lady" and "Silva," as well as popular songs by Ukrainian composers, among them Bilash, Revutsky and Miasowsky. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the center, located at 700 Cedar Road. Admission: adults, \$12; seniors, \$10; children up to 12, \$5. For reservations call (215) 663-1166.

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society is hosting a lecture by Liudmyla Pekarska, historian-archeologist from Kyiv, who will speak on "Ancient Kyiv and Relics of the Kyivan State." The lecture will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 5 p.m.

### Sunday, June 9

**HARTFORD, Conn.:** The Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Group is sponsoring a spring concert at 3 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Home (upper hall), 961 Wethersfield Ave. Tickets: adults, \$5; students 12-18, \$2; children under 12, free. For more information call Christine Kolinsky, (860) 667-2931.

### Sunday, June 16

**SILVER SPRING, Md.:** The Slavic Music Society of Washington presents a special Father's Day program at St. Andrew's

Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. At 2 p.m., a spectacular program begins, featuring The Slavic Male Chorus of Washington, the Duni Vetre orchestra and the Lyman Ukrainian Dancers. The Washington Slavic Mixed Chorus, the Russian Youth Dancers of Washington and the Washington Slavic Music Society Instrumental Ensemble will also perform. The cathedral is located at 15100 New Hampshire Ave. Homemade Slavic food will be available for lunch, and there will be a cash bar. General admission: \$10; children under 12 and great-grandfathers free! Tickets will be available at the door or contact, (202) 342-9417.

### Monday, July 1 - Friday, July 5

**LEHIGHTON, Pa.:** The Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation of the Lower Anthracite Region proudly hosts its seventh annual Ukrainian Folk Dance Workshop and Camp, at the Ukrainian Homestead. The camp runs daily, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and includes dance instruction, traditional Ukrainian crafts and music, sports, swimming and lunch. David Woznak, noted Ukrainian folk dance choreographer, will be the guest instructor. Dance instruction for beginners as well as advanced students (age 4 and up) will be available. A finale performance of workshop participants will be given on Saturday, July 6, at 7 p.m. The performance is open to the public, free of charge. All registrations must be postmarked by Wednesday, June 26. For information or registration forms, call Paula Duda, (610) 432-0734; Sandra Duda (610) 377-7750; or Joseph Zucovski, (717) 622-8056.

**PREVIEW OF EVENTS, a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public, is a service provided free of charge by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. To have an event listed in this column, please send information (type of event, date, time, place, admission, sponsor, etc.) — typed and in the English language — along with the phone number of a person who may be reached during daytime hours for additional information, to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.**



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### First Annual Soyuzivka Spring Golf Tournament June 8, 1996



#### Stay at Soyuzivka

\$67.50 single-standard, \$87.50 single deluxe

\$105.00 double standard, \$125.00 double deluxe

children to 7 free, 8-12 \$25.00, 13-16 \$30.00 (meal surcharge)

this includes room, post-tournament cocktail party and banquet, plus breakfast the next day. Additional costs: tournament fee of \$85.00 per golfer, lunch (if applicable), taxes and gratuities.

GOLF AT THE NEVELE — 18 HOLE PAR 70 COURSE

INCLUDED IN THE TOURNAMENT FEE: GREENS AND CART FEES,

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FOLLOWED BY TEE OFF AT 1:00 PM

TROPHIES AND PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED DURING THE BANQUET AT SOYUZIVKA

**WOMEN** — (or **MEN**) if you're not participating in the tournament, we have made arrangements for you to **ENJOY** the Mountain Fitness & Spa at the Granit Hotel. If you would like to arrange for a massage or baby sitter services, please contact us ahead of time.

Preference is given to guests of Soyuzivka.

All others will be on waiting list, maximum for tournament is 52 golfers  
**PLEASE** call **A.S.A.P.** to make your reservations and sign up.

PREPAYMENT OF TOURNAMENT FEES IS REQUIRED BY JUNE 1, 1996

If not staying at Soyuzivka the following fees apply

\$100.00 per person for tournament, cocktail and banquet \$30.00 per person.

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