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## Stable hryvnia greets introduction of monetary reform in Ukraine

by Marta Kolomayets  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The hryvnia, Ukraine's new national currency, debuted on the streets of Kyiv on Monday morning, September 2, but on this first day of the long-awaited monetary reform, many residents combed the city looking for open banks and currency exchanges to trade in their old karbovantsi for the new, multi-colored bills.

Although pensions and wages were paid out to senior citizens and state sector employees in crisp new hryvni and shiny kopyky (coins) on Monday morning, workers in the private sector, tourists and foreigners waited in long lines to change karbovantsi and dollars into the new currency.

There was no sense of panic on the streets, but long lines formed at the post office, where pensioners first lined up to collect their measly monthly allotment

(the average pension is a little over 4 million karbovantsi, or 40 hryvni, which amounts to less than \$25 per month) and then lined up at another window to trade in their karbovantsi (also known as coupons) for new hryvni.

"I've been here for three hours," said Olha Paziak, 65, a retired teacher of Ukrainian language at Kyiv State University, who strolled around the post office, waiting to collect her pension.

"Although the government has assured us that we won't be cheated with this monetary reform, why take a chance," she said as she waited for her husband to exchange their life's savings of 50 million karbovantsi to 500 hryvni, which is less than \$300.

"Oohh, they are nice," she exclaimed as her husband brought a stack of new bills for her to examine. "And they feel like real

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## Chancellor Kohl reiterates German support for Ukraine during Kyiv visit

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl delivered a singularly strong message here during his two-day visit on September 3-4: Ukraine was, is and will continue to be an integral part of Europe, and Germany will support the five-year-old country in strengthening the bond at every juncture.

Much of the discussions with Ukrainian leaders centered on expanding and strengthening relations between the two countries during this, his second visit to Ukraine. His first trip occurred two and a half years ago.

He met with most of Ukraine's political leaders, including President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz and Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udoenko.

Chancellor Kohl repeatedly stated Germany's commitment to continued Ukrainian independence and deepening ties with the European Union. At a press conference at the Presidential Palace on September 4, he stressed Germany's interest in a stable and independent Ukraine. "Europe needs Ukraine as much as Ukraine needs Europe," said the German leader.

The day before at the Kyiv State University of Taras Shevchenko, where almost 1,000 students and academics packed a hall meant to hold 500, and where he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Rector Viktor Skopenko, Mr. Kohl remarked, "Ukraine was and continues to be a part of the European culture. Today it can play an important role in building bridges to the south and east on our continent."

At another point he said, "Your large country is a part of the European family. Kyiv and Lviv are as much European cities as Warsaw, Berlin and Paris."

The chancellor came to Kyiv with more than mere rhetoric. At Kyiv University he announced that Germany will open a Student Exchange Bureau in Ukraine. He also affirmed that he was committed to opening a free trade zone between Ukraine and Europe by 1998.

On September 3, Mr. Kohl, President Kuchma and Prime Minister Lazarenko signed a series of documents at Mariyinsky Palace: an agreement on cooperation in matters related to ethnic Germans living in Ukraine; a communiqué on the acceleration of cooperation in continuing economic reform in Ukraine; an agreement on cooperation between Ukrtelekom and Deutsche Telekom; and a protocol on documents of ratification for the elimination of dual taxation.

The Ukrainian economy and investment were the focus of much of the discussions held between the Ukrainian leaders and Mr. Kohl. Today Germany is Ukraine's leading trade partner in Europe. In the last year German investment in Ukraine has risen by 70 percent and today is approxi-

mately \$174 million. There were 460 German-Ukrainian joint ventures operating in Ukraine at the beginning of 1996.

Chancellor Kohl's entourage included entrepreneurs and CEOs, in addition to the usual political and economic aides. Uriadovyi Kuriyer, the official newspaper of the Ukrainian government, announced on September 5 that several major investment agreements had been signed with German firms, including a 25 million DM contract for the building of a high-tech tobacco plant in Kyiv, and another for modernizing and expanding the Odessa Airport.

At a joint press conference with Mr. Kohl, President Kuchma said European security and how Ukraine could participate was another topic discussed. Referring to NATO, Mr. Kuchma said, "Ukraine again reasserts that it is not against expansion of

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## Ukrainianists hold third congress in Kharkiv

by Marta Dyczok

KHARKIV — On the morning of August 26, the place to be for scholars specializing in Ukrainian studies was Kharkiv's train station. Professors, researchers, students and librarians from all over the world and from all corners of Ukraine were arriving to attend the third Congress of the International Association of Ukrainianists (MAU). On the rainy platform figures such as Yuriy Shevelov, Orest Subtelny, George Grabowycz and Yaroslav Isaievych mingled with junior scholars and conference organizers before getting into cars and buses and heading for the registration site.

Since Ukraine became independent, interest in Ukrainian studies has increased tremendously. Over 600 delegates from 25 countries and all Ukrainian oblasts, including the Crimea, participated in the conference.

Kharkiv was deliberately selected as the location for the congress. Prof. Isaievych, president of the International Association of Ukrainianists, spoke of the need to counteract the effects of centralization policies of the former Soviet authorities, which have led to marginalization of academic

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Efrem Lukatsky

An elderly woman counts kopyky in the central post office in Kyiv.

## COMMENTARY

## Independent Ukraine: a personal perspective

by David R. Marples

## CONCLUSION

The number of panhandlers on the streets of Kyiv has risen sharply. Some are gypsies, but most are not. Some carry placards telling a personal story of misfortune. Many carry babies. The majority of them in the city eke out an existence in the vast complex of underground walkways below the Khreshchatyk. I noted several encampments along the shores of the Dnipro: the homeless leaving bottles and paper, discarded clothing. There are packs of dogs everywhere, and many newspapers were warning of the danger of rabies.

Prices are beyond the ability of many citizens to pay. Accessible gas stations are a new phenomenon, but the prices, at 60,000 karbovantsi per liter, are comparable with those in Alberta, Canada. Food prices are generally higher. It is often remarked that in 1996 one can buy any item in Kyiv. The only line-ups are of teenagers at the Western jean stores. The Bassarabsky Market is notable for its displays rather than sales. As far as I could see almost no one was buying. One can wander around with ample elbow room.

Hotels are prohibitively expensive and the two I visited (the revamped Dnipro and the Moskva) were practically empty. Most range in price from \$120 to \$180. One can "rough it" at the Bratislava on the Left Bank for about one-third of this price, but there is little need to subject oneself to such an indignity. Many Kyivans are happy to host foreigners.

The arrival of foreign cars has compounded an already critical pollution problem. The situation in the industrial district is particularly acute. I am not very squeamish or susceptible to smog, but at times, in the heat, it was almost impossible to breathe, particularly when squads of heavy trucks occupied the roads. I was often asked whether I felt that the Chernobyl problems remained acute in the city. Invariably I replied that in my view citizens had far more to fear from air pollution than the nuclear disaster.

While I was in Kyiv, copies of the new Constitution were available at press kiosks. Much has already been written about the protracted struggle over the Constitution, how the result is a triumph for the president over the parliamentary left. That is surely true. On its own, however, the Constitution amounts to something less grandiose. A clause at the very end of the document notes that the current laws of detention will remain in force for a further five years. That clause may pose the largest impediment to the consolidation of democracy in Ukraine, particularly when the political situation remains tense. One can look at two aspects of this question.

First, the militia are omnipresent in Ukraine. Observe, for example, the traffic police. They are a constant irritant. There is no avoiding them if one has a vehicle. Of course they have to make a living, to supplement inadequate salaries. Yet there is nothing more offputting than the sight of these "maleznyi-Stalins" (little Stalins) with their uniforms and whistle at the ready, as they pull over passive

*David R. Marples is professor of history at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and director of the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, which is based at that university.*

and uncomplaining (but bitter, surely foaming?) motorists.

After the attempted assassination of Prime Minister Lazarenko in mid-July, I expressed an interest in visiting the site of the explosion. A friend drove me there, voicing en route his disbelief at the road taken by the prime minister's driver to the airport, through a practically deserted industrial district. Certainly there are more direct routes to Boryspil. Why any driver would have selected that particular road is a mystery.

We parked the car and walked along the verge of the road. We soon had company. Three militiamen followed us. "Keep walking," my friend advised. "This is Ukraine. It is a democracy." I glanced quickly at his face searching for evidence of irony. There was none. We were soon overtaken. The first militiaman demanded to see our papers. I had none with me, and I had not bothered to register at the OVIR. But in one of those idiosyncratic, bureaucratic procedures, my friend was escorted back to his car leaving me free to take photographs of the bombed area. The militia, it also must be said, were courteous to the visitor from Canada.

Afterward I pondered why the militia would have established a watch at the bomb site. Would the potential assassin return to the scene of the crime? The assassin in any case would not have been here on the day of the attempt, since the device was detonated from a bridge opposite. The apparent discrepancies in the event would be ample to sustain a second-rate mystery thriller. All the same, the details reminded me of the successful assassination of the Belarusian party leader Pyotr Masherau in 1980, another event that has yet to receive a satisfactory explanation.

The second point to be made about the political situation in Ukraine is that while the country is relatively stable, it remains somewhat authoritarian. My biggest concern about living there would be the rights of the individual, particularly in the event of an arrest. The personalities in the leadership remain familiar from the Soviet period. I heard one explanation of this situation one evening.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, it was alleged, could not have won the 1991 presidential election, despite his sustained opposition to the Soviet-era leadership. He lacked national stature and was essentially perceived as a provincial politician. Leonid Kravchuk, albeit a native western Ukrainian, did possess such stature, but on the other hand never quite divorced himself from the past, particularly in his methods. He emerged as a kind of nationalist apparatchik in 1991-1992. The result, in the view of the speaker, was that Ukraine in the Kravchuk era was never fully committed to reform. In the Kuchma era also, the same applies.

One could append to this theory the statement that few Ukrainians appear remotely interested in the political process. I have witnessed contempt for parliamentary debates in Canada, but they pale beside the attitude of many Kyivans. In the past one could ride the metro in Kyiv and watch passengers immerse themselves in their newspaper. Presumably many must have had some interest in politics, particularly in the Gorbachev period. Today newspapers on public transit are an unusual sight, other than the *Vedomosti*, which is approaching the level of the National Enquirer.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

## Funds to close Chernobyl close at hand

KYIV — The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Ukraine are about to sign an agreement to pay for the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. EBRD representative Jaroslav Kinach said that G-7 countries have agreed to fund up to \$3 billion to close the plant by the year 2000. "The agreement will be signed imminently so that work can proceed on the orderly closure of Chernobyl ... to close it is a very complicated technical feat and a very expensive undertaking," he said. The money will pay for the construction of two new reactors in Khmelnytsky and Rivne to replace electricity currently provided by Chernobyl; the repair of the concrete sarcophagus around damaged reactor no. 4; and storage of nuclear fuel rods. Western agencies reported on September 2. (Reuters)

## Ukrainian foreign relations expand

KYIV — U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar discussed economic cooperation and international security with Parliamentary Speaker Oleksander Moroz and head of the National Security Council Volodymyr Horbulin on August 28, Ukrainian radio reported. The next day, NATO commander of European Forces Gen. George Joulwan met with President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk to discuss Ukraine's participation in the Balkan peacekeeping effort. On August 30, Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharshvili arrived to par-

ticipate in talks on Ukrainian-Georgian cooperation and economic ties. (OMRI Daily Digest)

## Stalin? Oh, he's a pop star

KYIV — A recent poll of Ukrainian children conducted in Khmelnytsky by Rukh's information service asked 200 children ages 9 to 14 who Joseph Stalin was. Now widely known as one of history's most sinister figures, Mr. Stalin ruled the USSR as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (among other titles) with a bloody hand from 1924 to his death in 1953. Ukrainian children were once taught to chant: "Thank you, Stalin, for our happy childhood." However, just under 100 children surveyed by Rukh identified him by his title. Thirty-one answered that he was "an executioner," 13 said they'd never heard of him and 11 said he was "a pop star." "The results were completely unexpected — it was not so many years ago that we found out about all this man's crimes," said Ihor Klyuv, head of Rukh's regional office in Khmelnytsky. In the late 1980s, even Soviet historians began releasing evidence that Stalin was responsible for the deaths of millions of his subjects, including 7-10 million who perished in Ukraine in the famine of 1932-1933. (International Herald Tribune)

## Ukrainian miners killed in crash

KYIV — After 76 Ukrainian miners and their families were killed in a Russian plane

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## Ukraine concerned by Iraqi action, urges restraint and dialogue

*Following is the text of a declaration on Iraq by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, released by the Embassy of Ukraine to the United States on September 4.*

Ukraine is deeply concerned with the developments in Iraq over the past few days. The situation was aggravated as a result of actions taken by Iraq, which in violation of the respective U.N. resolutions employed military force in the Kurdish conflict. This led the U.S. to launch a missile raid, aimed at military infrastructure targets in Iraq.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine proceeds from the necessity to refrain from further use of forceful means in settling the conflict in the region, to strictly adhere to the corresponding U.N. resolutions on Iraq, and to establish political dialogue between the government of

Iraq and the Kurdish factions.

Bearing in mind the situation in Iraq, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls on the secretary-general of the United Nations to continue to expend all appropriate efforts for the quickest possible implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 986 (1995).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine anticipates that the resolution of this situation will not lead to the further heightening of the conflict, which would be extremely dangerous in the context of solving problems in the Middle East as a whole. Ukraine is ready to join the efforts of the international community, aimed at normalization of the circumstances, as well as averting the threat to international peace and security, and avoiding casualties among civilians.

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Associate editor: Marta Kolomayets (Kyiv)  
Assistant editor: Khristina Lew  
Staff editors: Roman Woronowyc  
and Andrij Kudla Wynnycykj (Toronto)

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## INTERVIEW: Belarusian opposition leaders on the Lukashenka regime

*Zyanon Paznyak, chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front and former parliamentary deputy, and Syarhei Navumchyk, also a former deputy and now the BPF press secretary, are in what, presumably, is temporary, self-imposed exile. They have been denounced by their erratic president, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, for opposing Mr. Lukashenka's pro-Russian, and, in their opinion, anti-Belarusian and dictatorial policies, and claim to have been marked for "neutralization" by the Lukashenka regime. This interview (Part I of which was published last week) was conducted on July 16 by The Weekly Editorial Assistant Yarema A. Bachynsky and Svoboda editorial staffer Serhiy Myroniuk at the newspapers' offices in Jersey City.*

### CONCLUSION

#### Are there signs of civil disturbance in Belarus?

*Zyanon Paznyak:* Everything is leading towards just such an occurrence. The factories are still, wages are not being paid, prices are rising, because of the failed economic policies and financial crisis wrought by Lukashenka, cash reserves are dwindling, there is a total lack of real economic policy-making on the government's part. He even wanted to close the borders, which would have meant that people who survive by trading with Poland and our other neighbors would be totally impoverished. Given all this, what will the people do when the economy grinds to a total standstill? And here we may see the emergence of people onto the streets. This is a definite possibility. But, on the other hand, workers' strike actions may not happen, because the manufacturing plants are already empty, at a standstill. Not like in 1991, when hundreds of thousands came out into the streets. Trade union activity is banned, strikers are severely punished. So it is not certain that mass actions will occur. But a strong possibility exists. Meanwhile, opposition forces are mobilizing. The BPF has increased its activities, especially in terms of youth participation, and the spring has been very busy. What with the demonstrations against the regime, the impression that many may have that Belarus has been surrendered by its people is simply incorrect. This is Lukashenka propaganda for Western consumption, that the Belarusian nation wants to unite with Russia. It just isn't so.

#### So what will decide Lukashenka's political fate?

*Zyanon Paznyak:* There are two factors which will decide the fate of the Lukashenka regime. The first is whether or not mass demonstrations will break out, and the second, what Moscow's reaction to such outbreaks would be, because Lukashenka really is hanging on Moscow's thread, no question about that.

**If there were mass disturbances directed against the Lukashenka regime, bearing in mind the Russian interventions in Tajikistan, Chechnya, Transdnier, would you comment on the possible Russian reaction to such disturbances? Is a Russian military intervention possible or likely in that event?**

*Zyanon Paznyak:* None of these possibilities can be ruled out. Russia has the capability to intervene militarily in Belarus, and would do so if it felt its interests sufficiently threatened. For the present moment, Lukashenka is very useful to them. They managed to find a person who willingly, indeed zealously, pursues Russian strategic interests and carries out Russian dirty work in Eastern Europe, against Poland, the Baltic countries, Ukraine etc. At the same time they have found an individual who of his own volition surrenders to them the means for capturing Belarusian sovereignty and control over the country. He has given them the border, customs, transit rights for gas and petroleum, the petrochemical industry. He gives Russian capital absolute priority in the privatization of Belarusian industry. The Belarusian economy is being captured by Russian mafia capital. We have become beggars in our country, on our own land, still theoretically independent. Lukashenka uses the fact of his "democratic" election to sell his country down the river. Of course, Moscow is at times embarrassed by such abjectly supplicant behavior. It is worried that Lukashenka's days are numbered and that normal people will take his place and make things much more difficult for Russia. That is why Yeltsin and his imperialist-minded gang of so-called democrats support this fascistic regime, instead of supporting Belarusian democrats, although their support is not immediately obvious to the average person. It is interesting that in the recent Russian presidential elections, Lukashenka supported [Russian Communist] Gennadii Zyuganov rather than Yeltsin, because he knew that Zyuganov, who at the time looked to beat Yeltsin by a wide margin, would support him more directly in his work of attaching Belarus to Russia. We now know, of course,

how Yeltsin won the election, what the Americans did to influence the vote, etc. And now Lukashenka is in a bit of a spot with official Moscow and Yeltsin. Although officially, Belarusian-Russian relations are as warm as ever, I am nonetheless convinced that Moscow will soon start recruiting a replacement for Lukashenka. Belarusian Parliament Chairman Syamyon Sharetski's public calls for a parliamentary republic and against Lukashenka may well be trial balloons floated by Moscow in this vein. So it appears that most scenarios foresee the downfall of the Lukashenka regime in the near future.

**Will Lukashenka agree to new elections at the appointed time, or will he find some pretext to extend his term in office?**

*Zyanon Paznyak:* There is still some time before the next mandated elections, which are to be in 1999. Of course, it is possible for Lukashenka to try extending his hold on power in some way. What he will do is difficult to predict because of his specific character. But there is no doubt that he will hold onto power for as long as possible.

*Syarhei Navumchyk:* Today we received information from Radio Liberty sources, not confirmed officially, that Lukashenka will propose a new referendum, with questions touching on NATO expansion, a redrafting of the Constitution and an extension of his presidential mandate from five to seven years [this information was borne out subsequently by reports in OMRI Daily Digest and other news agencies that Mr. Lukashenka had, indeed, proposed such a referendum for the coming autumn.] We do not know if he will put the question of extending his mandate openly, e.g. as a separate referendum question, or whether he will operate by subterfuge and hide it in the new constitution. But the danger is real.

*Zyanon Paznyak:* Lukashenka has also proposed set-

***The Lukashenka regime is the primary threat to the stability of Eastern Europe. A regime which wants to close its borders ... supports the use of Belarus as a transit corridor for Russia and supports Russia's demand for a corridor through Poland to Kaliningrad Oblast ... threatens re-deployment of nuclear missiles, crushes human rights, how can one speak of a cohesive or stable foreign policy given such actions? Lukashenka lies constantly. He lies to the point of believing his own lies.***

— *Zyanon Paznyak*

ting up a bicameral Parliament, with the upper house's members appointed by himself. But, interestingly, Sharetski again openly opposed him on this question, and this opposition suggests that Sharetski has Moscow's support here. For that matter, the BPF supports Sharetski's statements, because we are working on forcing Sharetski to allow a motion on the president's impeachment by the Parliament. Even though many of them are pro-Communist, they too are against Lukashenka, and would like a greater measure of parliamentary independence. So there is growing conflict between the president and Parliament, and things may well come to a boil in the autumn, both in Miensk and in Moscow.

**In last year's referendum in Belarus, large majorities of those voting supported granting Russian equal official status with Belarus, supported the reintroduction of national symbols modeled on Soviet ones and gave Mr. Lukashenka the green light on close economic integration with Russia. How do you square these actions with your earlier statement that Mr. Lukashenka does not, in fact, enjoy the support of the majority and that most of the citizenry is supportive of Belarusian state independence?**

*Zyanon Paznyak:* This is very simple to explain. It has happened more than once in past days. In an authoritarian environment, where the regime controls virtually all mass media and quashes all kinds of dissent, the regime always wins, at least in the short term. One could have put almost any question to a referendum and, in the given atmosphere of lies, propaganda and repression, those questions would have been approved. There is nothing strange here, whatsoever.

**Lukashenka recently visited France, where he met with French President Jacques Chirac. Mr. Chirac declared that his and Mr. Lukashenka's views on European security are essentially identical. As well,**

**Reuters reported that this was Mr. Lukashenka's first official visit to a Western state. How does one explain the convergence of the two presidents' views?**

*Syarhei Navumchyk:* Lukashenka gave an interview yesterday in which he stated that he had expected to arrive in France and be chastised by the French president for his alleged violations of so-called human rights, for his policies vis-a-vis NATO etc., but that Mr. Chirac had actually supported him on every issue and expressed his understanding of Lukashenka's situation.

*Zyanon Paznyak:* I would ascribe such statements to Lukashenka's Bolshevik way of thinking. He is a typical Bolshevik. A Bolshevik lies in politics as a matter of course, without any conscience whatsoever. And more importantly, the Lukashenka regime does not conduct a Belarusian foreign policy; his carrying out Moscow's foreign policy directives is another story. The Lukashenka regime is the primary threat to the stability of Eastern Europe. A regime which wants to close its borders, deports Solidarity leader Krszaklewski, supports the use of Belarus as a transit corridor for Russia and supports Russia's demand for a corridor through Poland to Kaliningrad Oblast, threatens [Czech President Vaclav] Havel that, should his country join NATO, Lukashenka will take "adequate measures," threatens re-deployment of nuclear missiles, crushes human rights — how can one speak of a cohesive or stable foreign policy given such actions? Lukashenka lies constantly. He lies to the point of believing his own lies. And Moscow knows him well, for he served in our republican soviet for six years. Let me give you another example of Lukashenka's lies, of how his propagandists lied about his meeting U.S. President Bill Clinton during last year's 50th anniversary celebrations at the United Nations. Lukashenka-controlled media reported, in

bold headlines, of "Firm Handshakes by Two Presidents," and Lukashenka himself told of telling Clinton, "If I had your problems, Bill, I would solve them right away." But in truth, this never happened. Journalists who were present related to us that Lukashenka actually met Clinton in some corridor during a banquet, and, breaching all protocol, of course, started talking to him, all the while gripping his hand tightly. Clinton listened without saying anything, said thank you and left. So much for the meeting. And yet Lukashenka created some grand meeting out of this pathetic incident. We know this man and can't take him seriously, except to note that he is a Bolshevik. As far as the French President hosting the leader of a regime which represses its own people and behaves sycophantically, this is something new to us, and we are not sure what would motivate such an action, even though we know that no other leader in the West, nor, for that matter, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, would invite Lukashenka for an official visit. They avoid him. France's position seems odd to us.

**Perhaps this can be explained by the traditionally warm relations between France and Russia?**

*Zyanon Paznyak:* That is the first thing which comes to mind, because the pro-Russian orientation of France is well-known and historically proven.

**Tell us about your contacts with Ukrainian political parties and with official Kyiv.**

*Zyanon Paznyak:* We are very close with Rukh, frequently exchanging delegations, attending joint meetings, and cooperating in difficult times. Ukrainians have helped us in the past with logistics, and we have reciprocated, sending representatives and lending moral and political support on other occasions, for instance, after last year's incident at St. Sophia [the police beatings at the funeral of the late Volodymyr Romaniuk, patriarch of the Ukrainian

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# Canada's Partners Program forges links with Ukrainian health care professionals

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – Prior to Ukraine's declaration of independence five years ago, Ukrainian medical and health experts relied on getting their information from Moscow. When Ukraine broke free of the crumbling Soviet empire in 1991, suddenly, those charged with keeping Ukraine's 52 million people healthy were stranded.

Beyond the devastating effects of Chernobyl, newly independent Ukrainians found themselves faced with combatting high levels of industrial air and water pollution, as well as a growing number of epidemics affecting major urban centers.

One of the worst happened last June, when Kharkiv's water filtration system collapsed and sent raw sewage into the city's water system, threatening the city's more than 1.6 million residents.

"Whether it was emergency or routine health care issues, professionals relied on getting their information from friends in the United States, Canada or Europe, but it was very hard for them to survive without this information," said Olena Kurysko, health program coordinator for the Canada-Ukraine Partners Program (CUPP) office in Kyiv, recently during a visit to Ottawa.

"When Ukrainian experts started to engage in exchanges with their Canadian counterparts, Ukrainians realized they had real possibilities to stay on the leading edge of breakthroughs in medicine and health care," she added.

Credit for this relationship is largely due to Partners in Health (PIH), one of CUPP's three components (the others being Partners in Public Administration and Partners in Civil Society), which has spent the last four years working with Ukrainians to develop their health system. Ms. Kurysko serves as the Ukrainian liaison for the program.

Currently, PIH, which is managed by the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) and currently receives \$1.5

million (\$1.1 million U.S.) in funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, is focusing on eight projects – ranging from such community health issues as combatting AIDS and drug addiction to pharmacy and nursing.

But rather than exchanging individual professionals between countries as PIH did in the beginning, the Canadian-led project – which runs until March 1998 – now forges links between institutions in Canada and Ukraine.

"The emphasis is on creating relationships that are equal, rather than an expert-counterpart situation," says Paulette Schatz, program manager for PIH in Ottawa. Ms. Kurysko, who worked her way from a secretarial position to that of coordinator in the Ukrainian CUPP office, has seen the difference. "Now you have directors of cardiac or cancer institutes from both countries planning a project together because they speak the same language," she said.

The institute-partnership phase of CUPP has produced a number of recent results, including:

- major revisions to Ukraine's outdated national nursing educational curriculum through the collaboration of the Ukrainian Health Ministry, the University of Alberta, Grant MacEwan Community College and the Canadian Nurses Association;

- ongoing work with the President's National Anti-AIDS Committee in Ukraine and local anti-AIDS, anti-drugs clinics in Odessa and Donetsk, to share information on prevention techniques and rehabilitation – including a trip to Ukraine this fall involving two Canadian AIDS specialists;

- the development of a health education curriculum for children from kindergarten through high school, through a collaboration between the Ukrainian Ministries of Health and Education, Saskatchewan's Education ministry and the Saskatchewan



Canadian and Ukrainian partners meet in Ukraine: (from left) Paulette Schatz, Partners in Health program manager; Dr. Tatyana Chernyshenko, senior specialist at the Ukrainian Ministry of Health; Maury Miloff of the Canadian International Development Agency; and Yuri Soubbotin, World Health Organization liaison officer for Ukraine.

Teachers of Ukrainian; and

- the genesis of a health administration program for Ukrainian professionals, thanks to a linkage between the Department of Health Administration at the President's Academy of Public Administration in Ukraine and the University of Toronto Department of Health Administration.

On November 10, the CSIH will review its health reform projects in Ukraine in a special all-day forum in Ottawa.

Ms. Kurysko said PIH's approach is working because it affords both respect and recognition for the intellectual and professional talents of Ukrainians.

"Our people are very capable, but for a very long time, we lived in a society where we collected our salaries and never thought about rainy days, especially older people," she said. "That was just a difference in mentality. But now, we live in a new society where we have to survive. It's an

absolutely different approach now."

The new society has even affected Ms. Kurysko. Trained in foreign languages and literature, she plans to pursue a master's degree in health administration.

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Among some of the other ongoing Canadian-Ukrainian health reform projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency:

- a \$615,000 (\$442,000 U.S.) Health Canada immunization assistance project to support the creation of a national immunization authority in Ukraine which ends in September; and

- the University of Alberta's follow-up to the Chernobyl Children's project, which ended two years ago, to train Ukrainian physicians in mother-infant health care. Called Medical Project OSVITA, the \$2.6 million (\$1.8 million U.S.) project runs until April 1997.

## Ukrainian physicians tour Canadian health care institutions

by Maureen Johnson

OTTAWA — When there is inadequate information available, it is difficult to determine if a country's health system is delivering effective care at acceptable levels of quality and cost.

That's one of the problems facing Ukraine right now. In the midst of changing from a Communist to market-based system, Ukraine is having to find ways to cut costs and improve effectiveness and quality of care — and quickly.

For example, the death rate from lung disease in Ukraine is high. Tobacco is one cause; other causes are environmental or tuberculosis-related. If reliable statistics were available, Ukrainian authorities could decide where to concentrate their efforts — on anti-smoking campaigns, environmental clean-up or TB control. The focus could be moved from treatment to prevention.

"Information systems for monitoring patients' health status and the population's health status were launched in the years of the Soviet Union, and it was a very costly program," noted Dr. Anatoly Mischenko of Ukraine's Ministry of Health, who was in Canada recently. "They had to be abandoned. What is left in place is the examination of patients for certain diseases and those subjected to the radiation from the Chernobyl disaster."

Dr. Mischenko, director of Ukraine's Center of Medical Statistics in Kyiv, was one of eight Ukrainian physicians involved in health information who recently spent a month in Canada examining the Canadian system from top to bottom. The doctors represented six Ukrainian regions.

"This visit is remarkable in that not many Canadian health professionals would have had the chance to look at the health information system in Canada so comprehensively," said Myroslaw Kohut, who developed and led the study tour for the host agency, the Canadian Society for International Health, as part of its Partners in Health Canada-Ukraine linkage.

Mr. Kohut, an international health sector consultant

from British Columbia, is of Ukrainian parentage and grew up in Canada. He has worked in the health care field for 20 years, speaks Ukrainian and has visited Ukraine 14 times on health care issues since 1992, including heading a team contracted by the World Bank to assess the health sector and develop directions for reform.

He pointed out that all Ukrainian health care institutions have defined systems for reporting health statistics such as number of beds, physicians, nurses, cases handled, diagnostic categories and financial information. The quality of supply side information is reasonable, but information on the use of resources and costs is poor.

The databases are not set up for managing the health system, and there is significantly less computerization in Ukraine than in Canada. Although Ukraine is computerized to some extent and some cities are connected to the Internet, there is a lack of software to develop standard data collection. Records are still kept on paper and most data is tallied manually. Thus, Ukraine's systems cannot compare with the sophistication of Canada's computerized health information systems, Mr. Kohut observed.

Some regions are connected via telecommunication lines, but the Center of Medical Statistics does not have computer links with the regions.

The Ukrainian delegation spent the first two weeks in British Columbia visiting hospitals, the province's Cancer Control Agency, the Vancouver and Simon Fraser Region Health Boards, the provincial Ministry of Health, the University of Victoria Health Information Sciences Program and the Greater Victoria Hospital Society.

The visit gave the group an overview of a provincial health system in Canada and the methods used for data collection.

The second week was spent in Alberta, looking at data collection in the Crossroads Regional Health Authority based in Wetaskiwin and visiting the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, the University of Calgary's Faculty of Medicine, the Calgary Region Health Authority and the Alberta Shock Trauma Air Rescue program.

The third week was spent in Ottawa, visiting Health

Canada, Statistics Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and SHL Systemhouse International.

The four-week visit ended in Toronto with meetings at MediaLinx, a new provider of health information on the Internet, and the Health Information Research Unit at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Dr. Mischenko said at the end of the visit that, having learned about the Canadian experience, Ukraine would not "translate the pattern blindly." He added, however, "Having seen your health care system we already have formed an idea of how we are going to reorganize the health care system in Ukraine. We realize the funds that are available are not being managed or used in the best possible way at present."

Ukraine first has to reorganize inpatient, acute health care, reducing the number of beds and the period of stay, as that is the most costly. After that, the polyclinics will be reformed and the Canadian family doctor concept may be introduced. "In order to resolve these issues, we shall have to change the information systems in the hospitals and polyclinics," Dr. Mischenko added.

Where patient information is required, the Canadian system may be used as a basis, said Dr. Mischenko. "Once we get back from Canada, we shall get our experts together to see what has been done so far and how we can incorporate the Canadian experience into the system. We can't really replicate the Canadian 'average stay' model or approach automatically because there are different circumstances, such as transportation, for example."

Study tour coordinator Mr. Kohut said: "The people visiting Canada are in the position to influence change in Ukraine and the direction of reform. They wanted to know more about what we do and how we do it. This was their chance to find out. We made sure the doors were open for them to see a broad spectrum of health information methods and technologies."

Mr. Kohut added that the Ukrainians themselves will decide how best to capitalize on the knowledge that exists in Canada and noted that he expects institutional partnerships to result.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

# A progress report on Ukrainian children treated at St. Louis Eye Institute

by William Selezinka, M.D.

SAN DIEGO – Having returned from my fifth humanitarian medical mission to Ukraine (the fourth to Ivano-Frankivske) on June 6, I thought I should relate a follow-up on the children we have treated at the St. Louis University Eye Institute. We were fortunate to be able to see and examine three of these four children during this mission.

Some of these children were brought to the United States as a result of private donations, the work of the Orphans Aid Society of New York (Maria Jowyk), and the support of many local Ukrainian American communities, which paid for air fares and other incidental expenses. The St. Louis hospitals and doctors did the work gratis.

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You will remember little Slavko, who had only light perception in one eye and blindness in the other. He made the NBC "Today" program in 1993. Today, he sees 20/40, which is a miracle in itself, as he should have had deep amblyopia (lazy eye). This would have required special schooling for the handicapped.

However, he not only takes care of himself but now, at age 6, goes to regular kindergarten, rides his tricycle, is an avid singer and writes poems. He also has a new baby sister, for whom he chose the name Olesya. The family celebrates two birthdays each year for Slavko April 28 (birthday) and July 2 (surgery day and birth of vision).

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Natalia came from Ternopil in October 1993. She had a severe ptosis (droopy eyelid) and thus had very lazy left eye. This was a serious congenital anomaly, and after surgery we patched her good right eye to force her to return some vision in the left eye. This vision came up from 20/400 to 20/40. However, we had to surgically correct a vertical strabismus of the left eye this June, which should make her results even better.

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Yaroslav from Kyiv – the 13-year-old composer, poet and writer – was seen in St. Louis in 1994. His vision was only 20/200 at 5 inches with a magnifier. Our Low Vision Department fitted him with telescopic lenses, and his vision was 20/50 and 20/40. He saw his mother for the first time with his new lenses.

Now his mother doesn't have to write his music for him from his dictation, as she had in the past. Yaroslav is now editor of a poetry section in a Ukrainian paper. He also has accepted to a special classical music school in Kyiv this year.

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Misha had a severe plexiform neurofibroma of the right upper lid. This covered his entire eye in addition to a tumor that occupied the right orbit. A two-stage operation was done in June and September 1995. One can now see his right eye, and he is doing well so far.

### The beginnings of change

I would like to make a general observation about our trip to Ivano-Frankivske June. There were 11 of us – six physicians, three operating room nurses, an orthopedist, and a physician's wife who acted as coordinator. The physicians paid their own way, while the community's donations paid the air fare of our two senior eye residents and O.R. crew. We took about \$125,000 worth of supplies, medications and equipment (including a \$31,000 YAG laser).

For the first time in four visits over the past four and a half years, we could detect the beginnings of change. The eye department moved to the ninth floor of a new building that was started by the East Germans several years ago. We were not interfered with by some of the faculty, which had previously decided who would be seen.

The Ukrainian resident physicians could now talk to us and our American residents, and ask questions. They were no longer afraid and, hopefully, will no longer be punished verbally or otherwise for interacting. The city is opening a new, remodeled eye clinic – an entire fifth floor of the old building. Eventually, the residents will be transferred there.

We are currently looking for another new ophthalmic operating microscope, preferably with a camera and monitor for teaching. So, while we are truly grateful for the community's financial help in the past, we sincerely hope it can continue its support. Our entire team wants to return twice a year, but definitely by May 1997. In the meantime, the mayor of Ivano-Frankivske is coming to visit us in San Diego at the end of August.

Donations may be made to: UMANA Ukrainian Eye Project, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622, and are tax-deductible under UMANA IRS #13-6162818. For further information, write or call: Dr. William Selezinka, 12176 Sand Trap Row, San Diego, CA 92128, telephone, (619) 676-1104.



The children, before and after their surgeries: (from top to bottom) Slavko, Natalia, Yaroslav and Misha.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### A mature Mr. Kuchma and the national idea

Recently, Rossiyskaya Gazeta, a Russian government newspaper published in Moscow, announced a contest for the best concept of a national idea for the Russian Federation among its 150 million citizens.

The concept is to be outlined in seven typed pages or less, and the winner will receive 10 million rubles, approximately \$2,000.

Some may say that this is a democratic approach to building a national idea, but it is also a sad comment on the state of affairs in Russia. Can a price tag be put on a national idea?

When elected in 1994, President Leonid Kuchma was viewed as a leader who would drive a wedge between Ukrainian citizens in the east and west of this vast country of 52 million. Some said he did not have a concept of a national idea, nor did he feel one was necessary. During his presidential campaign, many analysts predicted that Mr. Kuchma would pull Ukraine toward Russia, and the regions apart, causing rifts on such issues as language, symbolism, religion and culture.

Today, Mr. Kuchma has matured into a committed statesman. Speaking at the Ukraina Palace on the fifth anniversary of independence, the Ukrainian president concentrated his attention on the importance of a national idea for Ukraine, not as an ideology to live by, but as a unifying force among the citizens of Ukraine.

"It is most important that this national idea live in the consciousness of our society, that it be a laurel for the entire nation and not just flowery words on paper," said the Ukrainian leader.

"I understand the national idea to be one grounded in deep, historic traditions, which date back to the days of Kyivan Rus, the Halysko-Volynsky kindgom, the Kozak state.

"This is the idea of a strong and flourishing Ukraine, an idea built upon the principles of statehood, patriotism and solidarity ..." noted President Kuchma, explaining that in order for citizens of one state to grow, they must not allow the divisive past to influence the future.

A national ideal is beginning to take root in Ukraine. With the adoption of the new Constitution in late June, with the upbeat celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence on August 23-26, and with the introduction of a new national currency, the hryvnia – which revives the traditions of Kyivan Rus – citizens in every corner of Ukraine are beginning to show signs of understanding who they are and where they come from. There is an awareness growing among Ukraine's citizens that they are indeed one of Europe's oldest states.

Why even in the Crimea, the most restive of Ukraine's regions, the blue-and-yellow flag was proudly flown in Simferopol on Independence Day. The Ukrainian language, once rarely heard on the streets of Kyiv, and even less frequently in eastern regions, is coming into its own, as more and more citizens are practicing their native tongue, abandoned by most during Soviet times.

Unlike in Russia, there are no contests on the national idea in Ukraine, but there is a growing awareness in the populace that they have one homeland, and that homeland is Ukraine. Perhaps these are the people who are the real winners.

Sept.  
9  
1991

### Turning the pages back...

"Ukraine seeks diplomatic ties with U.S., 22 other states" was the headline in The Ukrainian Weekly in mid-September 1991. Dated Jersey City, N.J., the story went on to note

how Ukraine's independent statehood was beginning to effect its diplomatic relations. Following is an excerpt of that report.

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Ukraine's representative to the United Nations, Gennadi Udovenko, announced on September 9 Ukraine's intention of seeking direct diplomatic relations with the U.S. and 22 other states. On September 10 Mr. Udovenko announced that Ukraine plans to open an embassy in Washington.

Diplomatic recognition is expected to be discussed during Chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Leonid Kravchuk's visit to the United States and Canada beginning on September 23, reported RFE/RL Daily Report.

The Washington Post reported that Mr. Kravchuk, in a letter to President George Bush, had asked that the U.S. grant diplomatic recognition to Ukraine. The letter stressed the sovereignty of Ukraine, and the primacy of its Constitution and laws in that republic, and sought an exchange of missions with the U.S. once voters approve independence in the referendum scheduled for December 1.

Meanwhile, in Kiev, Canada's External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall reiterated the Canadian government's policy of recognizing an independent Ukrainian state after the December 1 referendum. Minister McDougall had officially opened her government's Kiev Consulate on September 9 while defending accusations from Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, that Canada was "being too slow" in recognizing Ukraine's independence.

Referring to a statement read by Chairman Kravchuk announcing Poland's intent to open full diplomatic relations with Ukraine in tacit recognition of its independence, Mr. Pavlychko stated that "Canada must decide whom to support, Mikhail Gorbachev or Ukraine. For our neighbors like Poland, it's no longer a problem because the Soviet Union doesn't exist." The Toronto Star quoted Mr. Pavlychko as saying.

Minister McDougall responded by stating: "I believe Canada is moving quite appropriately. Indeed, we're moving in advance of other Group of Seven countries. We have absolutely nothing to apologize for as Canadians."

Source: The Ukrainian Weekly, September 15, 1991; Vol. LIX, No. 37.

## COMMENTARY

### Syndicated columnist George Will, Holocaust revisionism and Ukrainians

by Bohdan Vitvitsky

George Will is a major media personality. He is a regular commentator every Sunday on David Brinkley's "This Week in Washington" on ABC, and he is a syndicated columnist for the Washington Post, from which his columns are reprinted throughout the country. George Will is, unfortunately, also a revisionist on the subject of the Nazi Holocaust.

Earlier this year Mr. Will wrote a column for the Washington Post titled "The Holocaust Mentality: Just a German Sickness?" that discussed the book authored by Daniel Goldhagen named "Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust." In his column, which appeared in the Star-Ledger (New Jersey's statewide newspaper) on Sunday, April 14, Mr. Will wrote that "many Croatians, Ukrainians and others collaborated with Germans in administering the Holocaust."

That remarkable statement prompted me to write to Mr. Will in order to find out whether he really intended to write what ended up in print. After all, even someone with all of the research and editorial resources of a Mr. Will can sometimes write something that, upon reflection, he did not really mean. So on April 15 I wrote to George Will at the Washington Post and asked him briefly to explain: (1) what he meant, in the context of the statement referred to above, by "many Ukrainians"; (2) what he meant by "administering the Holocaust"; and (3) I asked him to identify the source or sources for his beliefs regarding the above. He did not respond.

On May 6, I sent him a second letter, this time by registered mail, to which I attached a copy of my first letter and in which I once again requested the courtesy of a brief response. Some months have passed, and he has not responded, which makes plain that he intended to say exactly what he did. For reasons explained below, Mr. Will's statement is not merely wrong. It constitutes something much worse: it is an example of historical revisionism.

During World War II, Ukraine and

*Bohdan Vitvitsky, an attorney, has written and lectured on the plight of the Slavs during the Nazi Holocaust.*

Ukrainians were savaged by the Germans. Approximately 6 million Ukrainians were killed. Of this 6 million, 3 million were non-Jewish Ukrainian civilians and 900,000 were Ukrainian Jews.

Another 2.4 million Ukrainian men and women were pirated away by the Germans for slave labor in Germany. More than 2 million Ukrainians died in combat against the Germans or died in German captivity as Soviet prisoners of war.

According to Nazi German racist ideology, Jews, Gypsies and Slavs were "untermenschen," or subhumans. Ukraine was to be resettled by Germans as part of the "lebensraum" (living space) campaign: one segment of the Ukrainian population was to be killed, a second deported to Asia and a third subjugated as slaves.

Nazi officials referred to Ukrainians as helots and half-monkeys. The Nazi commissioner of occupied Ukraine, Erich Koch, referred to Ukrainians as Negroes, and the marquee at the Kyiv Ballet Theater had a sign that read "No Ukrainians or Dogs Admitted."

And yet, George Will writes that "many Ukrainians...collaborated with Germans in administering the Holocaust."

What planet does George Will come from? A tiny number of persons who happened to be Ukrainian were among those pressed into service as guards in concentration camps. What do I mean by "tiny number"? I mean perhaps as many as 10,000 Ukrainian guards, in comparison to a total pre-war estimated population of 40 million, and in comparison to 3 million Ukrainian civilians murdered by the Germans, and in comparison to another 2.4 million Ukrainians taken off to Germany for slave labor, etc.

George Will's statement becomes even more grotesque when you realize that most or all of the persons who were Ukrainian and who became guards were former Soviet prisoners of war who had been captured by the Germans and whose choice was death by starvation in a prisoner of war camp or agreement to serve as a perimeter guard at a concentration camp. To collaborate with someone means to do something voluntarily, and in order to do

(Continued on page 15)

### Lawyers to hold congress in Yalta

by Alex A. Ilchenko

TORONTO – The third World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers (WCUL) will be held on October 3-7 in Yalta, Ukraine.

The first World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers was held in Kyiv in October 1992, and the second World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers was held in Kyiv in October 1994. Over 300 lawyers attended each of these congresses.

The congresses were organized to provide a forum where lawyers and judges of Ukrainian origin throughout the world could meet and exchange ideas and information about law, the development of the legal profession in Ukraine and other topics of interest.

Over 200 delegates from Ukraine, Canada, the U.S., Australia, the United Kingdom, Western and Eastern Europe and South America will be attending the third WCUL. The congress in Yalta will be followed by a ceremony for the opening of the legal year in Kyiv, during the week of October 7.

The current president of WCUL is Volodymyr Stretovych, who is a member of the Ukrainian Parliament and its Legal Reform Committee. The immediate past president of WCUL is Serhiy Holovaty, Ukraine's minister of justice.

The program of WCUL has in the past dealt with issues of the development of a self-regulating legal profession in Ukraine, the development of a Ukrainian judiciary independent of state control, constitutional reform in Ukraine and the building of a legal infrastructure for the economic development of Ukraine.

Lawyers, law students and members of the judiciary are encouraged to call the national organizers. Prospective Canadian delegates should contact Alex A. Ilchenko, president of the Association of Ukrainian Canadian Jurist, at (416) 307-4166; fax, 416-365-1789 for more information.

Prospective United States delegates should contact Orest Jejna, president of the Ukrainian American Bar Association, at (602) 254-3872; fax, 602-254-1918, for more information.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Brazil radio offers 'obrigado' for music

Dear Editor:

I have been asked by the Ukrainian-language radio program in Prudentópolis, Brazil, to write this letter of thanks (in English) for the numerous donations of Ukrainian music that have been sent to the station "Copas Verdes." A big "muito obrigado" (thank you very much) is extended to all those who have sent records, cassette tapes and compact discs over the last several months. Each and every donation has been greatly appreciated and has augmented considerably the program's inventory of Ukrainian recorded music.

During my recent stay in Brazil I had the opportunity to listen first-hand as many of the newly acquired recordings were played and enjoyed by the city's Ukrainian community.

Anyone still interested in making a donation of records, cassette tapes or compact discs should send them directly to the program's director at the following address: Elvira Lozovei, Secretaria de Educação e Cultura, Ruo Conselheiro Rui Barbosa, 201, Prudentópolis, Paraná, Brasil, CEP 84400.000.

For further information please contact this writer by telephone at (204) 889-2534 or fax at (204) 895-3430.

**Jeff Picknicki Morski**  
Winnipeg

### What would Ukraine do with Krawtschouk?

Dear Editor:

I agree with Orysia Tracz's letter (August 4) on transliterating Ukrainian surnames into English and want to add a cautionary twist that makes me despair of ever hearing my Ukrainian surname "Мицько" pronounced correctly, even in Ukraine.

You see, when foreign names must be transliterated into Ukrainian for official purposes, the name transliterated is the one in that individual's passport. Thus, instead of using the original Ukrainian spelling of my surname on my press credentials, for example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs transliterated the American name invented by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and stamped in my U.S. passport.

As a result, my legal surname in Ukraine is spelled "Mico" with an "s" instead of a "ts," and pronounced "meeso." This is much like the favorite American mispronunciation, but bears a small resemblance to the original. I can only imagine what a garble would come of a Canadian Krawtschouk.

**Mary Mycio**  
Kyiv

### Searching for Detroit's Ukrainian Bandurists

Dear Editor:

Does anyone know what happened to the Ukrainian Bandurists of Detroit?

As usual, back in June I dutifully sent my check for the annual (or is it semi-annual raffle organized by Friends of the Ukrainian Bandurists Chorus that would give me a chance to win a calculator, a juicer, an electric tooth brush, or that perennial microscope that every winner seems to forego like a Christmas fruitcake (it inevitably makes the next raffle list of prizes). The bandura first prize

always tempted me. I visualized myself trying to play it on the front lawn of our suburban home to add to the multi-ethnic exotica of Metropolitan Washington.

Year after year my check would be cashed, gratefully acknowledged in a densely typed list of the bandurists' supporters in the organization's bulletin, and I was never notified as a winner – not even of the microscope. But I had the satisfaction of giving to a worthy cause.

You can imagine my surprise when my latest contribution, sent in a pre-printed envelope, came back the other day with a yellow U.S. Postal Service label and this terse note: "Return to Sender. Friends of the Ukrainian Chorus box closed. Return to Sender."

What?! Are there no more Ukrainian bandurists, or is it that they've lost their "Friends"? Could you send an investigative team of reporters to Detroit – or actually to some place called Mt. Clemens, Mich. – and let your readers know about the fate of the bandurists?

While you're at it, could you find out whether the perennial raffle prizes like the alarm clock, the juicer and the typewriter (yes, the typewriter!) will be offered at some garage sale in Michigan?

**R.L. Chomiak**  
McLean, Va.

### Ukrainians should get involved in elections

Dear Editor:

I am a Ukrainian American beginning my sophomore year at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, studying political science and serving my first term as vice-president of the University of Michigan College Republicans.

I am writing in regard to Myron Kuropas' column, "Now's the time to organize passionately" (August 18). Mr. Kuropas calls for Ukrainian Americans to "organize our forces and become visibly and passionately involved in this election, both at the national and the local levels." Not only do I strongly agree with Mr. Kuropas, I would take his charge even further.

Ukrainians have long believed in a model of democracy that subsumes hard work, responsibility and vigorous self-action. Today's GOP platform is unique in that it coincides in many respects with the core beliefs characterizing the Ukrainian psyche. These are the moral principles that have survived the insidious social policies of bankrupt demagogues who succeeded in denigrating entire nations.

As a significant component of this nation's ethnic diversity, we Ukrainians have not only espoused such values as hard work, family and self-action, but have staked our lives and our livelihoods on their validity. Our proven, unwavering commitment to the principles of family, community, property, hard work and self-reliance – the values advocated by the GOP platform – are the same ones that helped to effectuate the long-awaited independence of Ukraine. Moreover, they constitute the very catalyst that will continue to vindicate our relentless faith in a morally strong and democratic future for the Ukrainian nation.

At a time when Ukraine looks to the unprecedented idealism of America's forefathers to bolster her own state-building efforts, let us wisely utilize our unique vision as Ukrainian Americans to ensure that America remains a model for nation builders for centuries to come.

**Elias T. Xenos**  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

## CANADA COURIER

by Christopher Guly



### Canada's La Femme Nikita on the Internet

On a cool, drizzly Thursday night in May, Libid Zyla does at a Globe Bistro and Wine Bar reception what every aspiring actor is likely to do. She networks.

Smoking a cigarette, in holder, and wearing a leopard-skin scarf around her neck, the 20-year-old, raven-haired Ukrainian Canadian works the room.

The event is a preview of a new interactive social drama on the Internet. Its developers – software titans Corel Corp. and Ottawa-based Animatics Multimedia Corp. – are promoting it as the world's first soap opera/murder mystery on the World Wide Web. Ms. Zyla, daughter of businesswoman Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, is promoting herself as the first Ukrainian Canadian to win a Best Actress Academy Award by the year 2011.

Cross purposes? Not really, considering the two ideas boast confidence. The Corel-Animatics venture, called "Club Mode" – and located at <http://www.clubmode.com> – is a weekly, episodic drama in which Internet users can help create the story line with one of about 10 characters. Ms. Zyla, who plays Anna, "the young Ukrainian revolutionary who heads up an inflammatory theatre company," is one.

Every week, the story changes and visitors to the web site can use an online "Mood Bar" to respond to anything the character says – transmitted by both written text and audio – depending on how they feel. For instance, if Anna invites you to see her company's upcoming production, you can either press green for "yes" or red for "no." In either case, Anna – a woman who also smuggles arms to rebel Ukrainian armies – will respond.

Ms. Zyla has already videotaped nine episodes – including the May 9 pilot – which earn her \$400 (just under \$300 U.S.) a piece. The video is digitized for

use on the Internet – which can be downloaded in QuickTime clips.

"Club Mode" story editor Kirk Finken says Ms. Zyla was selected as an online actress partly because she "looked like an angel" – a handy juxtaposition to Anna's femme fatale persona. But the casting fit is a lot more autobiographical than that.

Last year, Ms. Zyla formed her own theatrical company in Ottawa called Cozen F/X which plans to take its show, "Revolution," on the road this summer to fringe festivals in Montreal, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Edmonton.

She says the show looks at events in every decade of the 20th century. With the 1990s, "Revolution" begins its glimpse at the current decade by going back to the roots of current job dissatisfaction and the growing influence of technology in the late 1980s.

Perhaps not inflammatory – and not very Ukrainian, apart from her presence – but the Cozen F/X "Club Mode" combination could be Ms. Zyla's launching pad to stardom.

Modelling herself after back-to-back Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks, Ms. Zyla – who is married to Ottawa theatrical technical director John Alexander – wants to be in the movies. Certainly, her regular appearances on the World Wide Web can only help increase her profile. Maybe Hollywood will notice Ms. Zyla's star potential?

Warren Hik, meanwhile, hopes the Internet will take him to the stars.

The Vancouver-born Ukrainian Canadian owner of the Polar Design Group in Ottawa, also has big dreams in riding the information highway. In many ways, they are out of this world.

(Continued on page 16)

## OBITUARY

### Semen Kalba, lawyer and community activist

TORONTO — Semen Jaroslaw Kalba, well known for his work within the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (now Ukrainian Canadian Congress, UCC) and the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (WCFU, now the Ukrainian World Congress), died on August 25. He was 84.

Dr. Kalba was born on October 22, 1911, in Mozolivka, Pidhatsi region, and studied law at Lviv University, the Institut des Recherches Economiques in Louvain, Belgium, and the Ukrainian Free University in Prague (doctor of law, 1943).

After the war, Dr. Kalba practiced law in the French occupation zone of Germany and represented the United Ukrainian Relief Committee (ZUADK) and the Ukrainian Canadian Relief Fund before French and German authorities.

Dr. Kalba emigrated to the U.S. in 1950, but returned to Europe two years later, where he served as ZUADK's European director until 1954. Back in the U.S. in 1955, Dr. Kalba worked for the Singer Sewing Co., eventually moving to Canada (and briefly back to Europe) to work as general manager of its branches.

In the mid-1960s, Dr. Kalba settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he became active in the Ukrainian Canadian Committee. He served as the UCC's executive director in 1966-1981, secretary of the

UCC's Shevchenko Foundation and editor of the umbrella organization's Bulletin. In these capacities, Dr. Kalba contributed to many briefs submitted by the UCC on the subject of multiculturalism, working in concert with the late Prof. Walter Tamopolsky and others, in an effort that led to the passing of the Multiculturalism Act (1971) and the enshrinement of multiculturalism in Canada's Constitution (1981).

Upon his retirement from the UCC, Dr. Kalba moved to Toronto, where he was instrumental in the establishment of the International Commission of Inquiry into the 1932-1933 Famine (in 1984), and (together with current Canadian Supreme Court Justice John Sopinka and others) in formulating the briefs presented by WCFU counsel before the International Tribunal in the Hague. He also served as secretary and executive director of the WCFU's Commission on the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine until 1988.

Funeral services were held on August 28 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto, with interment following at St. Volodymyr Cemetery in Oakville, Ontario.

Dr. Kalba is survived by his wife, Sophia; his son, Konrad Kasian; grandchildren Simon Michael and Sontine; and his brothers and sisters Bohdan, Myroslaw, Anna Bojko and Sophia Fedyshyn.

## MARKING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE

### Newark City Council passes resolution commending community on fifth anniversary

by Walter Bodnar

NEWARK, N.J. – The independence of Ukraine was commemorated by a resolution of the Newark City Council at its last meeting in August. It commends the Ukrainian American community on the fifth anniversary of the independence of Ukraine, signed by all nine members of the City Council.

The resolution, sponsored by Councilman Ronald L. Rice, was presented to community members Daria Bekesewycz from Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU); Walter Bodnar from UNCHAIN, Ukrainian National Center: History and Transformation Network; Wasyl Yurkivo, St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church; and Roman Samulak, a student from Ukraine who is in the United States to work on his doctoral degree at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Having endured centuries of tyranny and oppression by outside forces, Ukraine continued to suffer 70 years of Soviet-imposed famine, gulags, mismanagement and ecological disasters. With the adoption of a new Constitution on June 28, Ukraine is continuing to make strides in democrati-

zation, privatization and market reforms.

Ukrainian American organizations and individuals in the Newark area have helped to sustain a modicum of hope for their kinsmen in Ukraine by sending humanitarian and related aid in order to lift their morale and improve the quality of life. In addition, numerous area visitors have traveled to Ukraine and have accepted relatives and friends into their homes in America to show "how the other half lives."

Mr. Rice also sponsored a resolution in April to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986. In addition, local residents also attended a White House Chernobyl commemoration conducted by Vice-President Al Gore and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Citizens in Ukraine are still paying for the disaster through radiation-related health problems and lowered immune systems to young mothers and the newborn.

The independence of Ukraine resolution expresses America's solidarity with the Ukrainian people and helps Ukraine to become a full-fledged member of the family of free and independent nations of the world.

### Washingtonians bless maple tree during celebration at monument

by R.L. Chomiak

WASHINGTON – A new maple tree grows in the American capital that, if a wish comes true, will be there for Ukraine's 100th anniversary of independence.

The tree was planted on May 25 on the grounds near the Taras Shevchenko monument here. The wish by the Ukrainian community of Metropolitan Washington for its long life was offered by Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Yuri Shcherbak.

On a Sunday in August the capital is nearly deserted, but on August 25 more than a 100 people turned up for yet another observance of Ukraine's fifth birthday – this one near the 32-year-old monument that, as Ihor Gawdiak, the master of ceremonies for the event, noted, has served all these years as the gathering place for Ukrainians. "Most of these years," he said, "we came here and dreamed," about Ukraine's independence, while this time it is a five-year reality.

Seven priests from the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox churches sang a moleben of thanksgiving. The Rev. Taras Lonchyna, pastor of Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Md., was the chief celebrant. The priests also blessed the "Ukrainian independence" tree planted at the southwest corner of the park.

In his remarks, the ambassador brought greetings from President Leonid

Kuchma, which included praise for Ukrainians in America for their work on behalf of Ukraine's place in the world. Ambassador Shcherbak also reviewed the expanding pace of Ukrainian-American relations, and as an example of it mentioned that two Ukrainian Navy ships were crossing the Atlantic to Norfolk, Va., for joint exercises. (Earlier, the Ukrainian Embassy's defense attaché announced that the two vessels, the Hetman Sahaidachny and the Kostyantyn Olshansky, will be open to the public on September 14 and 15 at the U.S. naval base in Norfolk).

Taras Bazyluk, who as a boy growing up in the Ukrainian community of Washington had stood in the audience at numerous events held near the Shevchenko statue, this time spoke from the lectern as a representative of the White House to read President Bill Clinton's message on Ukraine's independence anniversary.

Mr. Bazyluk also told the audience, "I am honored and moved to stand with you before this statue of the great prophet, after whom I was named, to mark ... the great day he insisted would come."

And the poet's prophetic words, his "Testament," were read in Ukrainian and in English by a young girl, Daryna Yakusha, who was born in Ukraine and who is now a pupil at Washington's Ukrainian Saturday School, because her father is an International Monetary Fund official here.



Councilman Ronald L. Rice presents the Newark City Council resolution to (from left) Walter Bodnar, Wasyl Yurkivo, Daria Bekesewycz and Roman Samulak.

### Twin Cities observe independence with program of poetry and music

by Dr. Michael J. Kozak

MINNEAPOLIS — The Ukrainian American community in the Twin Cities solemnly celebrated the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence on August 25.

In the morning, holy liturgies were celebrated in all Ukrainian churches.

In the evening, at the school auditorium of St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic

Church, a special program was held. Luba Mensheha presented the opening remarks, and the keynote address was delivered by the Rev. Roman Tarnawsky, a Ukrainian Orthodox priest visiting from Ukraine.

Selections of verse written for the special occasion were recited by Petro Merits, Volodymyr Nowosad and Olha Chorolec.

Iryna Gretchko, a member of the unique Ukrainian folk group Veseli Halychany, imbued the concert with an atmosphere of beauty and nostalgia.

Dressed in an impressive costume of the Ternopil region, she sang a variety of traditional Ukrainian folk songs. Ms. Gretchko was in town for a short stay, while her four-year-old daughter Marichka underwent a series of plastic surgeries under this writer's guidance.

The guitarists George and Roman Lucyks accompanied Ms. Gretchko's beautiful alto voice. The "Vesela Halychanka" ended her performance with a moving rendition of a piece titled "The Song about Ukraine." She was greeted with loud and prolonged applause.

A well known local choir, the Dnipro ensemble, rounded out the program by performing a selection of Ukrainian patriotic songs.

Recognition is due to the Ukrainian community of the Twin Cities, which in large numbers participated in this historical celebration.

### Bob Dole salutes Ukrainians on Independence Day

Following is the text of a statement on Ukrainian Independence Day by Bob Dole, Republican presidential candidate, released on August 22.

I would like to congratulate and salute the people of Ukraine and their democratically elected leaders on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence. I would also like to send my best wishes to the many Ukrainian Americans who will be celebrating this historic occasion.

On August 24, 1991, Ukraine's Parliament declared the independence of Ukraine, and a few months later this decision was overwhelmingly ratified by 91 percent of Ukrainians. This courageous vote for freedom followed decades of Soviet communism, tyranny and domination, and attests to the strength of Ukraine's national spirit, as well as its commitment to indepen-

dence and Western values.

The significance of Ukraine's sovereignty must be fully appreciated. As a country of 52 million people, located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Ukraine is destined to play a pivotal geostrategic role. Therefore, we must ensure that Ukrainian independence remains undiminished and is fully respected by its neighbors, including Russia.

I applaud the significant strides which Ukraine has already made in democracy-building, adoption of rule of law, civilian control of the military, and creation of market-based economic mechanisms and institutions. Ukraine is also steadily proceeding to take its rightful place in the Western economic, political and military community.

Let me underscore, that is where Ukraine belongs by virtue of its history, culture and traditions. That is why the

NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996 – which I introduced before leaving the Senate and which has now been passed by the Congress – registers American support for consideration of Ukraine's prospective NATO membership.

I would like to emphasize that my strong support for Ukraine's independence will continue. Over many years, I have been proud to work closely with Ukrainian Americans and their leaders on issues of importance to the United States and Ukraine. I believe that the support and dedication of the Ukrainian American community has greatly contributed to the national rebirth and historic democratic transformation in Ukraine. I look forward to our continued cooperation toward advancing close bilateral ties between Ukraine and the United States, a peaceful, stable Europe and a secure, independent Ukraine.

Bob Dole

## MARKING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE

### Lviv celebrates independence with concerts, speeches and carnival

by Andrij Wynnyckyj

LVIV — As a summer monsoon drowned the capital of western Ukraine and most of western Ukraine besides, the jubilee concert kicking off this city's celebrations of the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence began on time at the stately Lviv Opera Theater on August 22.

On time? Indeed, and doubly surprising it was, considering that this pomp and circumstance had been moved back from August 24 to August 23, and then to the evening it actually took place.

To open proceedings, Lviv Oblast Council and Administration Chairman Mykola Horyn addressed the audience that included an ecumenical collection of the region's major religious and political hierarchs. In his speech, Mr. Horyn stressed the pivotal role Halychyna and Volhynia have played throughout history in defining Ukrainian identity and statehood, and particularly in Ukraine's orientation toward Europe.

Mr. Horyn paid tribute to those who laid down their lives in distant and more recent years on the path to Ukrainian independence, and to those whose protests and steadfastness in the late 1980s and up until 1991 made the transition from enslavement to freedom seem inevitable. He also singled out "our countrymen from the diaspora" who "developed and raised to a higher plane the Ukrainian ideal, and who tempered the Ukrainian character."

Then, as people winced into the glare of television lights flooding the hall, the concert began with a performance of Yevhen Sadovsky's "Voskresla Moya Ukraina" (My Ukraine Has Resurrected) by a combined choir that brought together the singers of the Homin, Boyan, Antei, Yevshan and Blahovist ensembles.

Both the size of the choir and the sound of these voices threatened to overwhelm the humid hall, particularly because of the loud stirring repertoire chosen for the occasion. Thus, the interludes provided by the Virtuozly Lvova (Virtuosos of Lviv) chamber orchestra were welcome, and the pieces by Antonio Vivaldi and Myroslav Skoryk they played were like breaths of fresh air.

The concert also included some excellently performed selections of Ukrainian liturgical choral music, such as Andrij Hnatyshyn's "Viruyu" (Credo) and "Bohorodytse Divo" (Blessed Virgin Mother of God), Maksym Berezovsky's "Raduytesia Pravedni" (Rejoice, Ye Righteous) and Ihor Sonevsky's "Pid Tvoyu Mylist" (To You, O Protectress).

On a sour note, the tickets to the concert were printed on Soviet-style gossamer semi-gauze, and the top left corner of each read: "Ministerstvo Kultury Ukr. SRSR" (Ministry of Culture of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic). Also, the concert was punctuated by overdone recitations of hyper-patriotic verse, which, one hopes, will someday no longer be necessary.

The public singing of Ivan Franko's cheerfully chauvinistic "Ne Pora" (It's No Longer That Time) can always bring anxious moments, but the version sung on this occasion was sanitized in the interests of ethnic harmony, so several people who stayed in their seats for the first stanza got up to join the patriotic denizens who'd leapt from their seats at the first note.

Perhaps it was the atmosphere of celebration, or maybe Ukrainians have more national anthems than this writer was aware of, but it seemed that the audience was on its feet for every second or third selection the choir sang.

In accordance with tradition, the final piece was Mykola Lysenko's "Molytva za Ukrainu" (Prayer for Ukraine, a.k.a.



People's Deputy Mykhailo Kosiv delivering his Independence Day address on Lviv's Prospekt Svobody.

"Bozhe Velykyi Yedynyi") for which it was no surprise to stand.

#### August 24 celebrations

The official program on Independence Day itself began at noon, under a sun the city hadn't seen for at least five days, on Prospekt Svobody (Freedom Prospect).

A crowd of about 50,000 gathered to hear an Akafist (Prayer of Thanks) to the Mother of God, and a brief oration by Mykhailo Kosiv, a people's deputy and member of the Parliament's Presidium, and milled about constantly throughout the surprisingly brief official proceedings.

The program also included the formal unveiling of the "rest of" the Shevchenko monument. Lviv's city fathers and citizenry apparently found the theretofore extant variant to be insufficiently grandiose, and so a massive polished black granite pediment was constructed for the likeness of the great bard to rest on, and behind him a 40-foot, 26-ton bronze wave (which looks more like a pierced bronze tongue) now rises, as if summoned by Taras's fixed hand.

According to the Lviv daily Vysoky Zamok, the sculptors who designed the addition were Andrij and Volodymyr

Sukhorsky, with the no. 584 Lviv Specialized Administration unit (led by Yosyp Bandyrsky and Stepan Pelenychka) overseeing the final construction of the wave and pediment.

The edifice, topped with an Oranta "Mother of Ukraine" figure, was happily, completed in time for the fifth anniversary celebrations, unlike the roadwork on the Shevchenko Prospekt. Even as of this writing, the historic boulevard, now minus the trees that once lined it, is ripped up to the point that it has become the object of urban humor.

Most jokes suggested that the cobblestones lying in piles could be used to pelt inadequate performers at the jubilee concert held on August 25. In that light, Yosyp Kobzon, the singer who was roundly razzed on August 24 in Kyiv for singing that the border between Russia and Ukraine has torn a rift into his heart, escaped with a somewhat lighter form of disapproval.

Be that as it may, on August 24 in Lviv, the short official program was followed by an open-air concert of various choirs from the Lviv region singing patriotic favorites, and folk dance groups performing well-worn routines and parading their costumes.

The proceedings described above had an oddly familiar flavor to them for many visitors from the West, who could be heard muttering about it. In fact, if it wasn't for the historic architecture surrounding the square, one could easily be forgiven for mistaking the plaza in Lviv for a similar venue in New York or Toronto on an independence day celebration.

The habitual names of the choirs (Prometei), the age of the assembled audience (mostly over 50) and the perfervid patriotism in the air are all of one piece, whether in the West or in western Ukraine.

In a surreal touch, in the courtyard directly in front of the Opera Theater, the front lines of the most recently joined ideological battle were drawn: Coca Cola faced off against Pepsi with oversize banners, umbrellas and kiosks as children whizzed by on battery-operated plastic cars brought there to form a miniature mobile amusement park.

Also part of the day's events was the jam-packed opening of the Lviv Palace of the Arts building on Kopernyka Street, which had finally been completed after

(Continued on page 15)

### Ukrainian Canadian Congress greets brethren on anniversary

Following is the text of a statement on Ukrainian Independence Day released by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on August 15.

August 24, 1996, marks the fifth year since the proclamation by the Ukrainian Parliament of Ukraine's independence. This historic event represents the fruit of the lifelong struggle and aspirations of the Ukrainian people for freedom, self-determination and sovereignty. After centuries of foreign domination, Ukraine has come to assert its independent presence in the world community.

Ukraine has entered on the path of economic, social and cultural transformation with a heavy legacy of previous regimes and their destructive effect on the whole fabric of the Ukrainian nation. The process of democratic change has been by no means easy for

the Ukrainian people. There have been and still remain many economic, social and cultural issues which need to be resolved to affect the emergence of a strong democratic Ukrainian state.

The work, however, that has been done is enormous. Although still haunted by the consequences of economic crisis, Ukraine has begun to slowly take control of its finances, production, energy resources and economic reform. There is clear evidence of resolute political will and commitment on the part of Ukraine's government to continue and precipitate economic transformation in order to stimulate a free-market economy and, at the same time, develop a comprehensive system of social protection of its population. Many important steps have been taken to ensure political stability and promote Ukraine's image on the international arena.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) headquarters is very pleased to extend greetings on this festive occasion to all our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Ukrainian Canadians and Ukrainians in other parts of the world. The Ukrainian community in Canada has been and remains extremely supportive of Ukraine's effort to become a strong democratic nation. Ukraine carries for us a deep emotional significance as the homeland of our parents and grandparents who taught us to love and treasure our heritage. We strive now to make Ukraine an integral part of Canadian international policies and promote the special partnership between these countries.

It is the wish and hope of all Ukrainians that the next anniversary of Ukraine will bring it yet closer to its aims and make it stronger and prosperous.

## Soyuzivka closes season with athletics, concerts and fireworks

by Serhiy Myroniuk

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*



Players compete in the third annual Koolzak/Suzi-Q Volleyball Tournament.



Soyuzivka revelers frolic in the resort's Olympic-size pool.



UNA President Ulana Diachuk (right) greets Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil and his wife, poet Atena Pashko.

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association's Catskill resort, made its farewells to the summer season with a three-day festival that concluded on Labor Day, September 2.

Dedicated to the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence and the successful debut of the Ukrainian Olympic Team in Atlanta, the celebration included speeches, sports, music, songs and dancing.

The mood for the festivities was set by Vyacheslav Chornovil, a people's deputy and chairman of the Rukh political party, as he delivered a speech to a 130-strong audience in the Veselka Auditorium on Saturday morning, August 31.

"After five years of independence, no one has any doubts about independent Ukraine," said Mr. Chornovil, who used to be a political prisoner during the Soviet era. "Ukraine will always be. This is the first consequence of this anniversary, and I congratulate you on this."

The audience was generous in giving applause during his 50-minute, fast-paced and emotional speech on Ukraine's achievements of the past five years. Described by UNA President Ulana Diachuk as one of the brightest personalities in the revival of the Ukrainian state, Mr. Chornovil also spoke about the new Constitution.

His wife, Atena Pashko, a poet and the chairwoman of the Ukrainian Women's Union in Ukraine, was greeted with no less an ovation as she read her poem dedicated to the Ukrainian woman in Soviet labor camps.

Meanwhile, a swimming competition went on in the pool outside the Veselka Auditorium. Next to it volleyball teams played surrounded by Bacardi rum posters. In the afternoon, a tennis tournament was officially opened with the raising of the U.S., Canadian and Ukrainian flags.

"This year competition is unusual because this is the Olympic year," said Olena Halkowycz, a swimming referee from the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM-A). "Ukraine competed in the Olympics, and this keeps our Ukrainian American spirit up."

During the opening ceremony of the tennis tournament Myron Stebelsky, U.S. chairman of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the USA and Canada, said Ukraine surprised all Ukrainian Americans by winning 23 medals and joining the top 10 nations.

The majority of Soyuzivka guests, however, preferred to stay on the Veselka Terrace where Darka and Slavko of New York performed Ukrainian rock, blues and jazz songs.

That evening the dance ensemble Rozmay of Winnipeg entertained an audience in the Veselka Auditorium, and Oleksa Kereksha of Fata Morgana gave a solo performance of Ukrainian ballads.

The next day Rozmay dancers once again entertained Soyuzivka guests on the Veselka Terrace under the hot sun. The resort house band, Lvivyany, was also a big attraction.

Singing for Soyuzivka guests for the past three years, Lvivyany has developed a special bond with them. As part of their program they played a "kolomyjka" and three young men from the audience danced to it, which stirred applause and cheering on the terrace.

"We want to dance all the time. It's Labor Day. We have fun together," said the three dancers afterwards. Peter Fil, 22; Andrij Dobriansky, 19; and Danylo Dobriansky, 18, are members of the Syzokryli dance ensemble, and they never miss a chance to show their skills.

The last performer of the day (and the whole season) was Tamara Gorsky, an actress and singer. In the evening, she performed Ukrainian songs in the Veselka Auditorium in her improvised blues and jazz style and recited poems by Ukrainian national bard Taras Shevchenko.

Dancing parties that usually ended in the early morning were probably the biggest attraction for all guests, but especially for the young ones. And there was a choice: Tempo, Fata Morgana, Luna and Lvivyany played alternately on the terrace and in the auditorium.

After the tennis winners received their trophies, the flags were lowered, and the celebration was officially over.

But the guests took the memories with them. They also left something behind.

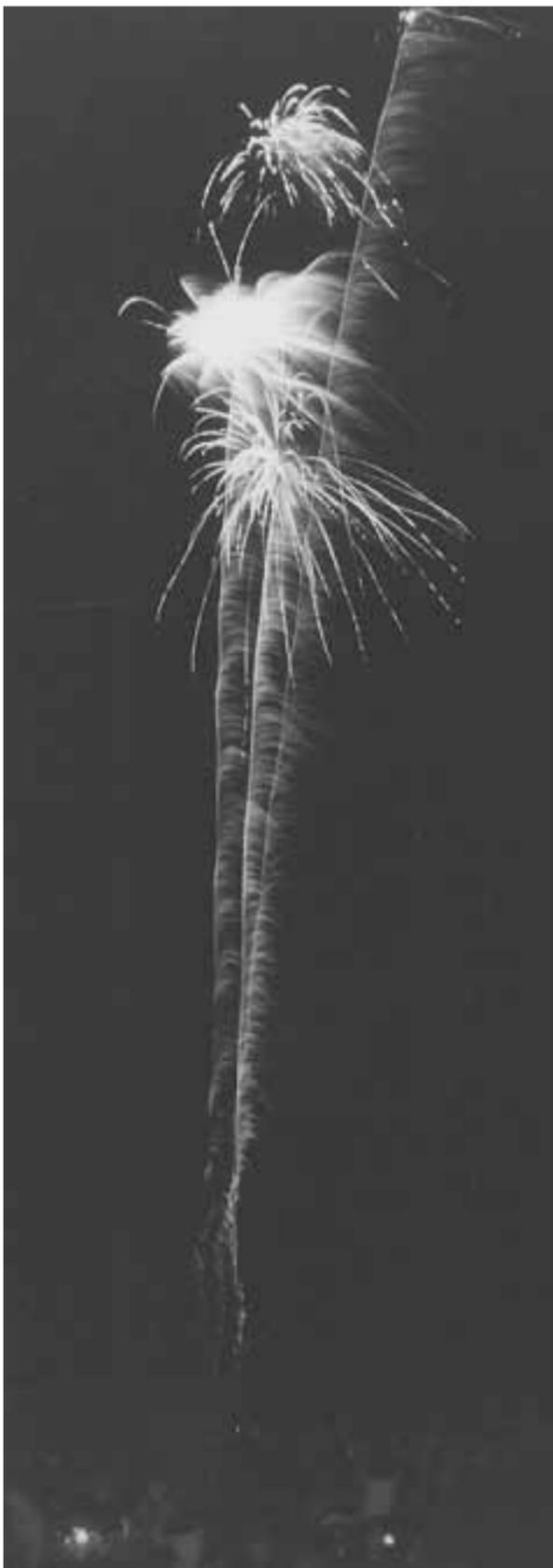
"Every season we leave a part of our heart here at Soyuzivka," said soloist and director of Lvivyany, Volodymyr Tsimura.



Actress/singer Tamara Gorsky.



The Rozmay dance ensemble of Winnipeg.



A fireworks display lights up Soyuzivka.



Darka and Slavko, with Soyuzivka manager John A. Flis on the harmonica (left), perform "Chemny's Blues," written by the duo in honor of the estate's collie.



Michael Bojko gets a lesson from Fata Morgana drummer Serhiy Kolomiets.

All photos by Roman Iwasiwka.

## Yara Arts Group holds ninth theater workshop at Harvard Summer School

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Yara Arts Group from La Mama Experimental Theatre in New York conducted its ninth annual theater workshop with students of the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute.

As an introduction on July 8, Virlana Tkacz showed slides from Yara's productions in Ukraine and at La Mama Experimental Theater in New York, where Yara is a resident company. The first workshop session followed immediately. The workshops continued through Saturday, and culminated in a performance of modern Ukrainian poetry written by women, titled "Spinning Spells: Poetry by Ukrainian Women" on July 13 at Harvard University's Lowell Hall.

This year's workshop included poetry by such contemporary young poets such as Oksana Batiuk, Victoria Stakh, Ludmyla Taran and Oksana Zabuzhko, as well as an original piece titled "Gazing at Lesia: A Meditation with Two Poems and Footnotes." This piece included a poem by Lesia Ukrainka and Ms. Zabuzhko's poem "Through the Looking Glass: Mrs. Merzhinska."

As in all the previous years, the workshop was conducted by Ms. Tkacz, designed by Watoku Ueno, featuring translations by Ms. Tkacz and Wanda Phipps, who has also served as dramaturg for the events.

This year the workshop included music by Genji Ito, who has written music for the past two workshops, and featured actor Shona Tucker, who worked on a number of productions with Yara and in 1991 was the first American actress to work on a co-production in Kyiv with Ukrainian actors. There was a special guest artist from Ukraine: Nina Lapchik, costume designer from the Franko Theatre in Kyiv.

The Harvard theater workshops were initiated in 1988 by Ms. Tkacz, a New York theater director.

The first year's workshop examined the work of Les Kurbas, a Ukrainian experimental theater director from the 1920s. The presentation, "Voices and Images: Les Kurbas's Jimmie Higgins," included a lecture by Ms. Tkacz on Kurbas's work in terms of world theater, a slide presentation and a performance of scenes from his 1923 play "Mr. Higgins" directed by Ms. Tkacz with the members of Toronto's Avant-Garde Ukrainian Theatre and the students of the summer session.

Watoku Ueno designed the sets; Carol Ann Pelletier created the costumes; and Andry Pereklita set the lights.

Next summer Ms. Tkacz invited Kurbas scholar Nelli Kornienko from Moscow and theater director Les Taniuk from Kyiv to conduct the theater workshop with her. The presentation in 1989, was called "Les Kurbas: Fragments in Performance" and featured scenes from three Kurbas productions, including Shevchenko's "The Sky's Unwashed," Mr. Kurbas's "Jimmie Higgins" and Mykola Kulish's 1933 play "Maklena Grasa."

In the following years, the theater workshops focused on the performance of Ukrainian poetry on stage.

In 1990, "On Word, Thru Word, Forward!" presented the Ukrainian poetry of the 1920s, including the such poets as Mykhail Semenko, Valerian Polishchuk, Mykola Bazhan and Pavlo Tychyna. Composer Roman Hurko from Toronto joined the workshops that year as a special guest.

In 1991, "Radio Eternity" presented Ukrainian poetry from the 1920s and 1990s, including poetry by Mr. Tychyna, Volodymyr Svidzinsky, Oleh Lysheha, Mykola Riabchuk, and Ihor Rymaruk, and featured music by Slavko Halatyn of "Darka and Slavko."

In 1992 "Heart Pic(k)s" presented 19th and 20th century Ukrainian love poetry, including works by Vasyl Stefanyk, Edvard Strikha (Kost Bureviy), Oleh Lysheha, Vasyl Holoborodko, Ms. Zabuzhko, Yuri Andrukhovych, Yurko Pozaiak and Attila Mohylny. Special guests were Ukrainian rock star Vika (Vradyi) and her composer Volodymyr Bebeszko from Lviv.

In 1993 "Body Parts" presented avant-garde poetry from the 1990s, including works by Yurko Hudz, Ms. Stakh, Mr. Mohylny, Mr. Neborak, Ms. Zabuzhko and Ivan Andrusiak, as well as a hymn to the ancestors that included works by Geo Shkurupi and Mikhail Semenko. Vika and Mr. Bebeszko again joined the workshop, as did Canadian designer Nadia Maryniak, who created unique costumes that year.

In 1994 "Language of Space: Attics, Kitchens and Poems," featured mostly contemporary poetry, including works by Mykola Miroshnychenko, Andry Derkach, Nazar Honchar, Ms. Stakh, Ms. Zabuzhko, Vasyl Osadchy and Mr. Andrukhovych, as well as poetry by Bohdan Ihor Antonych and Mr. Semenko. Actors Karen-Angela Bishop of Yara and Andrei Vodichev of the Kurbas Theatre in Lviv were special guests, as were



Students perform to Ludmyla Taran's "How Much Garbage."



Puppeteers stage an adaptation of Oksana Zabuzhko's "Despite It All."

Kateryna Slipchenko, a dramaturg from Lviv, and Moira Shaughnessy, a costume designer from New York. The workshop featured music by Genji Ito of New York.

In 1995 "Oceanic Consciousness: Growing Fangs, Tails and Wings," featured poetry by Mr. Svidzinsky, Mr. Neborak, Anka Sereda, Oleh Lysheha, and Antonych as well as a dramatic etude by Oleksander Oles. Oleh Drach, of the Kurbas Young Theatre in Lviv was a special guest actor,

while Genji Ito wrote the music and Kyoko Yamagami created the costumes.

For more information about the Ukrainian Theatre Workshop at Harvard Summer School please call Halyna Hryn at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, (617) 495-4053.

The Yara Arts Group may be reached throughout the year at 306 E. 11th St. #3B, New York, NY 10003; phone/fax, (212) 475-6474; e-mail, YCTG48A@prodigy.com.

## Kyrylo Kozhumiaka fable updated as puppet show and satire in Toronto

by Yuriy Diakunchak

TORONTO — "I am he, the one called Zmeej, I eat children with my tea," sings Zmeej, the whiny, obnoxious dragon who is terrorizing a peaceful kingdom. "Zmeej" is one of the central figures in a new, English-language adaptation of the folk tale about Kyrylo Kozhumiaka produced by puppet-maker Mirosława Betlej. The Lalka Puppet Theatre production was staged on March 26 at Toronto's Ontario College of Art and on the weekends of May 4-5 and 11-12 at the St. Vladimir Institute.

Titled "The Green Goofy Being and the Tanner," the play is a modern version of an old Ukrainian favorite about a tanner, Kyrylo, who slays a child-devouring dragon.

Ms. Betlej said she reworked the fairy tale so that a princess became the principal hero. "I feel there are many examples in our literature where the woman has a lot to say, but rarely is she the central character," she added.

The director said she also made Zmeej, who doesn't get rubbed out in this version, a positive character in order to provide children with role models that are easier to emulate.

"In general, we try to show children role models that are too idealized. They are difficult for children to

attain. I wanted to show through the dragon that you can have weaknesses, that you can be a whiner, but you can still be a positive character," she says.

The play, a mixture of live characters, masked actors and puppets, offers children the opportunity to participate in sing-a-longs with the Princess, played by Motria Onyschuk, and Zmeej, played by Andriy Kudla dressed up in a freaky-eyed, green foam covered costume. Though the dragon did look a bit scary, 4-year-old audience member Conrad Chow offered an emphatic "No!" when asked if he was frightened.

Other characters in the play included Kyrylo, played by Franko Diakowsky, and a rather redundantly named Doradnyk the Wiseman, played by Danylo Darewych. Nestor Gula played the Guitarist and, appropriately enough, provided the accompanying music throughout the play.

Although the play was directed at children, there is a lot of subtext in it to entertain the parents as well, Ms. Betlej explained. "When puppet theatres developed, they doubled as entertainment for children and political satire for adults."

One of this play's apparent messages to adults is that we often create our own problems through greed. In this version of the tale, the King imported Zmeej in the first

place as a tourist attraction to boost the economy, basing his decision on a banker's advice that giving the dragon one child per year is "an acceptable risk." At one point, the King, who is played by Hryhorij Dyczok, wonders if he can collect insurance if his daughter is eaten.

The play also takes on the matter of immigration and integration into the host society — Kyrylo is depicted as a second-generation immigrant while the Zmeej is a recent arrival.

The dragon represents the way people sometimes look at immigrants as different, sometimes distasteful and perhaps even evil beings. On the other hand, the Zmeej exhibits the stereotypical immigrant desire to succeed in the new world.

"Zmeej wants people to understand him and be sympathetic to him, but his child-eating habits stand in the way," Ms. Betlej said. "He isn't afraid in a strange environment to say he is different, but at the same time, he's willing to change."

"That's why he leaps at the chance to become friends with the Princess instead of eating her — she can teach him the customs of his new environment," the director said.

Ms. Betlej, who came to Canada from Poland in

(Continued on page 14)

## Chancellor Kohl...

(Continued from page 1)

the alliance but that the interests of all sides concerned must be duly regarded and properly secured."

Mr. Kohl agreed that discussions must appease all the parties involved. "The point is not to dig trenches but to satisfy everybody. Each country must decide in which way to proceed," he said. He added that the current heated debate on NATO's future is a product of election seasons in Russia and the U.S. and that any further discussions on NATO expansion should take place after the U.S. elections.

A final and equally important issue resolved here was the return of national treasures to the respected countries. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Kuras and German Ambassador to Ukraine

Eberhardt Heiken signed a protocol to that effect on September 3. The two officials announced that thus far Germany had returned to Ukraine 173 rare books and icons of the 18th century, as well as a Scythian bronze mirror, while Ukraine returned to Germany 211 etchings of the collections of the Dresden Gallery.

In addition to his visit to Kyiv State University, Chancellor Kohl visited a recently opened cemetery for World War II German war dead and Ukraine's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Currently, 4,481 soldiers are buried in the German cemetery with 40,000 more to be reburied.

On Wednesday afternoon the German leader and Prime Minister Lazarenko traveled to Odessa to meet with the head of the Odessa Regional Administration, Ruslan Bodelan, and Odessa Mayor Eduard Hurvitz, after which Mr. Kohl returned to Bonn.

## Stable hryvnia...

(Continued from page 1)

money, not just plain paper," she said.

The new currency, in effect, slashes five zeroes off the karbovanets and brings to an end an era when every Ukrainian could call himself a millionaire.

It seems that the new currency is already having a psychological effect on Ukrainian citizens. Many stood in line examining the portraits of historical leaders - Prince Volodymyr the Great and Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky, who appear on the 1 hryvnia and 5 hryvni notes, respectively - and holding the bills up to the light to see the watermark and other symbols that should eliminate easy counterfeiting.

"I'd like to see Shevchenko, but my pension is too low," joked one elderly gentleman, reviewing the hryvni he received. (Ukraine's national bard Taras Shevchenko appears on the 100 hryvni note, which is worth about \$59.)

"I've traded in some of my hryvnia bills for kopiyyky," said Ina Zhukova, a retired State Television employee, who still works to support her family.

"This is by special request from my grandson, who doesn't remember coins," she said. Ukraine has not had coins in circulation since 1991.

Several banks and most currency exchanges were closed on September 2. Some were awaiting the delivery of the new hryvni, while others had been closed down by the National Bank of Ukraine for speculating on the karbovanets and sharply inflating the dollar rate of exchange in the last days before the reform was introduced. (Fourteen currency exchange offices were closed down and four banks had their licenses revoked in Kyiv alone, reported Interfax-Ukraine.)

Many stores also remained closed on Monday - claiming either "inventory day" or "closed for technical reasons" - as merchants spent working hours posting the new hryvnia prices alongside the old karbovanets signs.

But business was brisk at Mekos, a joint-venture mini-market, which is open almost 24 hours a day.

"People are paying in both karbovanets and hryvni," said Natasha, a sales clerk, opening up her cash register to show both currencies.

"But, I'm having trouble with the hryvni; they are too wide for the money slots in the register," she explained.

Although there seemed to be a shortage of hryvni available to all who wanted to exchange karbovanets and dollars, Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said that in a few days, practically all regions in the country would receive sufficient amounts of hryvnia notes and store customers would soon be getting their change in hryvni, not karbovanets.

"We've printed enough hryvni, and any shortage of the new currency is out of the

question," he said on Ukrainian Television.

The Ukrainian government, which launched a wide-reaching public relations campaign aimed at its citizens after announcing the introduction of the hryvnia, seemed to keep to its promises that prices would be frozen for one month after the new currency was introduced.

Close to 380 trillion karbovantsi (about \$2 billion) are estimated to be circulating in the shadow economy, and government leaders hope that they will be traded in for hryvni within the next two weeks.

By mid-week, the situation had stabilized, and Ukrainian government leaders said they were satisfied with the progress of monetary reform.

"The exchange of the karbovanets for the hryvnia has so far produced no unexpected problems in any part of the country," said Mr. Pynzenyk, appearing on television on Monday evening, September 2.

"There was even less agitation than we expected," he said.

According to government leaders, the hryvnia should remain stable until the end of the month. It can currently be exchanged for 100,000 karbovantsi to 1 hryvnia, and both residents of Ukraine and non-residents can exchange their karbovantsi for hryvni until September 16, the last day both currencies will circulate in Ukraine. However, if the government sees that the transition is difficult, in special circumstances, that deadline may be extended.

The National Bank of Ukraine has also set its exchange at 1.76 to the U.S. dollar, 1.18 to the DM and about 3,000 Russian rubles to the hryvnia. At the Interbank Currency Exchange, it debuted at 1.76 hryvni to the dollar.

Mr. Pynzenyk said the hryvnia's rate against the U.S. dollar had remained stable during its first two days in circulation.

In downtown Kyiv, the exchange rate at currency exchanges was anywhere from 1.76 hryvni to the dollar to 1.68 hryvni to the dollar, with 1.7 being the average.

According to the National Bank of Ukraine, these rates are still within the limits of 10 percent higher or lower than 1.76 to the dollar. NBU Governor Viktor Yushchenko said he expects the hryvnia circulation to exceed that of the karbovanets by September 8-9.

Ukraine has about \$2 billion in gold and hard currency reserves, according to NBU officials. The government expects to receive a \$1.5 billion stabilization fund for the new currency from the International Monetary Fund.

President Leonid Kuchma said he hoped the introduction of a national currency will encourage foreign investment. Western analysts agree. In order for this to happen, they say that the Ukrainian government must accelerate the sale of inefficient state-owned enterprises. The government also must work on a tighter fiscal policy, analysts said, pointing out that the state owes almost \$2 billion in back wages to its employees.

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## Ukrainianists...

(Continued from page 1)

institutions outside capital cities.

Adding substance and continuity to this effort was the presence of Prof. Shevelov, the most prominent Ukrainian linguist, who worked at Kharkiv University before fleeing from persecution and setting up residence in New York as a professor at Columbia University. He is one of the living examples of the numerous Ukrainian intellectuals produced by the region.

Ivan Drach stirred memories and captured the imagination of assembled delegates during his welcoming address at the opening ceremony. "As I rode the train from Kyiv to Kharkiv, during the night, images of the famous sons of Slobozhanshchyna kept appearing around me," said the president of the Congress of Ukrainian Intelligentsia. "At one point I thought I saw the figure of Skovoroda walking alongside the train, later I imagined Khvylioviy sitting in the corner of my compartment," continued Mr. Drach, before wishing the Ukrainianists a successful conference.

The Ukrainian government acknowledged the importance of this congress, as evidenced by the presence of Vice-Premier Ivan Kuras, who delivered official greetings from President Leonid Kuchma. Echoing the sentiments expressed in his speech on the eve of Independence Day in Kyiv, President Kuchma's greeting repeated his commitment to the development of academia in Ukraine as a key component of democratic development of the new state. "The International Association of Ukrainianists is making a great and important contribution," the statement read.

Other dignitaries gracing the opening ceremony, held in the modern opera house, included the head of the State Committee on Nationalities and Migration, Volodymyr Levtukh; Vice President of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Petro Tolochko; the head of the Kharkiv Oblast Administration, Oleh Diomin; Prof. Grabowycz of Harvard University; and heads of National Associations of Ukrainianists from around the world.

Perhaps the greatest impact was the presentation delivered by Kazuo Nakai from Japan. In fluent Ukrainian, he spoke about the role of independent Ukraine in the new international order, causing even the most talkative members of the audience to listen in awe to his linguistic abilities and academic analysis.

Japan is one of the new countries in which National Associations of Ukrainianists have been formed, and now has 20 members. Pioneers of this movement were scholars in Czecho-Slovakia, Canada and the United States.

The first International Congress of Ukrainianists was planned for 1968 but was never held because of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Two decades later a meeting was held in Naples on the initiative of academics from the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute led by Profs.

Omeljan Pritsak and Grabowycz, and their colleagues in other countries. A nucleus committee was formed of Eastern and Western scholars that organized the First International Congress of Ukrainianists in Kyiv in 1991.

It was then that the International Association of Ukrainianists was formed ("Mizhnarodna Assotsiatsia Ukrainiistiv" - MAU). National branches of the association began proliferating, and the Second International Congress was held in Lviv in 1993. Currently there are 23 such national associations, the largest ones being in the United States, Germany, Poland, Australia, Italy and Israel. New ones are in the process of being established in Sweden, Spain and Brazil.

At the Kharkiv congress the principal language was Ukrainian, but certain presentations were made in English and German. In 91 panels held over two days, topics ranging from "Social Changes in Contemporary Ukrainian Society: Problems and Tendencies" (Victor Horodianenko, Ukraine) to "The Image of Ukraine in the German Press" (Katrin Bertram, Germany) and "The Inner Language Form in the Theories of Humboldt, Steintal and Potebnja" (Thomas Graig Christy, U.S.) were among those discussed.

The size and scope of the conference was indeed impressive. However, in some ways it seemed to have overwhelmed the organizers, and many logistical matters were poorly handled.

Delegates who had flown in from North America and spent the night on a train were kept waiting for hours before being able to check into hotel rooms. Some participants were unable to present their papers, since upon arrival they were informed about last minute changes to the program that had been made after they had made their return travel arrangements. Other complaints included inadequate advertising before the conference that precluded full and open participation by all interested scholars.

Two other major issues that the International Association of Ukrainianists must address in the future are maintenance of academic objectivity and institutional relations with the Ukrainian government. Representatives of the Ministry of Education were conspicuously absent from the congress, and some speakers made references to the patriotic nature of Ukrainian studies.

Prof. Subtelny from Canada commented, "As a scholar you have to have commitment to an idea, but in the West emotion is not considered part of academia, whereas in Ukraine it does sometimes enter the language of scholarly debates."

Debates and discussions, emotional and otherwise, are an important part of any conference. They were very much part of the atmosphere at the Congress of Ukrainianists in Kharkiv, thereby making it a useful forum for scholars to meet and continue the process of building links, and expand the dialogue in the emerging field of Ukrainian studies.

## Kyrylo Kozhumiaka...

(Continued from page 12)

1988, is finishing an arts program that includes photography, holography and film at Ontario College of Art this year. Puppets became part of her life while she attended the Theatrical Puppet School in Poland. She hopes to present more Ukrainian fairy tales in English in the future, furthering her dual goal of exposing society at large to Ukrainian culture and giving Ukrainian children something to share with their friends.

"Our kids need the self-confidence of

being able to take their English-speaking friends to see the plays and say, 'look, we have this.' Our literature is definitely beautiful," Ms. Betlej said. Her aim is to have these plays presented to a wide audience at one of the Harbourfront Center's venues or other professional theatres.

The current production is an English version of a Ukrainian-language adaptation of the folk tale staged in 1990-1991, and presented in the Toronto, Detroit and Cleveland areas. Ms. Betlej hopes to stage an updated Ukrainian version again this fall.

## Lviv celebrates...

(Continued from page 9)

being under construction for over seven years. Situated next to the former Potocki Palace, the new gallery served as the venue for a three-floor showcase of works by the region's painters and sculptors, including the brilliant "master of color" (as he was billed in the official catalogue) Volodymyr Patyk.

### The real party, August 25

As they were in Kyiv, the official celebrations were somewhat stilted and officious, but the dancing in the streets on the following day was akin to the carnival atmosphere in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans or (in the experience of this writer) in Toronto the day after Italy won the World Cup of football (soccer to North Americans) in 1982.

The focus for the real party was a pop concert, for which a stage began going up on August 23, at the intersection of the Shevchenko Prospekt and Ivan Franko Street, under the watchful gaze of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's statue.

Thanks to a decision by the City Council to close the streets in the old "Center" to vehicular traffic, a happy crowd had already been sauntering along all day. But when the sky grew darker and the lights came on stage, the avenues were packed with mostly kids having a great time.

On the slope of the monument to Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz, a klezmer band played, and a living pyramid of people grooved and danced all the way down into the street below.

On stage, Alla Kudlai, Mertvyi Piven and a host of other bands and solo performers backed up with a Western-style lightshow kept the crowds in good spirits, and when nobody was on stage, the people sang themselves.

Further up the street, a disc jockey set

up shop near the Hotel George (the newly renovated former Intourist on the corner of Shevchenko and Svobody), and it seemed to matter little that his music drowned out the sound coming from the stage. The mood was festive and that seemed to be enough.

For just one night, the grim day-to-day realities of life in 5-year-old independent Ukraine were left behind. Equally heartening was that no headless plunges into drunkenness were in evidence, just joy.

In the words of local poet/cultural impresario Viktor Neborak, "Lviv is a city waiting for a carnival." On August 24-25, the fifth anniversary of independence provided the excuse.

## Syndicated columnist...

(Continued from page 6)

something voluntarily you must have an opportunity to choose freely.

What kind of choice did these Ukrainians and other Soviet POWs have when they were being starved to death by the millions?

And what does it mean to help "administer" the Nazi Holocaust? How could people whom the Nazis designated as "subhumans" help the Germans "administer" anything?

Those who deny that the Nazis killed 6 million Jews are rightfully condemned as revisionists. Happily, they constitute only a lunatic fringe, and there is no mainstream newspaper or magazine that would give them the time of day.

Those, however, who characterize the situation of Ukrainians during World War II as mainly on the side of the victimizers rather than on the side of the victims also engage in Holocaust revisionism. In contrast to the other type of revisionists, however, this kind gets to write for the Washington Post and gets to be syndicated throughout the entire country.



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## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

crash on August 29, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma declared August 30 a national day of mourning, with a moment of silence at 4 p.m. The Moscow-based Tupolev Tu-154 chartered by Russia's Arktikugol mining company crashed on the Norwegian Arctic island of Spitzbergen, killing all 141 people on board. Trade unionists and coal industry officials said the crash would not deter any Ukrainians from continuing to fly to work for the Russian firm, where they earn more than three times as much as in Ukraine. "Crashes or accidents will not stop them until they are able to earn enough to keep their families in Ukraine," said Yuri Berdnyk, leader of the Independent Miners' Union. About 200,000 Ukrainian miners went on strike this summer to protest pay delays. Ukraine's government has pledged to settle \$600 million in wage arrears by next month. (Reuters)

### Russia, Ukraine sign accords on research

MOSCOW — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko signed agreements that included accords on technological and space research. They also discussed refining Russian oil and manufacturing military products in Ukraine. Minister Chernomyrdin said

Russia wants to establish a strategic partnership with Ukraine and that a general treaty on friendship and cooperation will probably be signed at the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission in Kyiv in the fall, ITAR-TASS reported on August 27. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Trial of seven Ukrainians in Belarus starts

MIENSK — The trial of seven Ukrainians charged with public disorderliness and insulting police during the April 26 Chernobyl anniversary demonstrations in Belarus began on August 29. One has admitted to disturbing the peace and obstructing traffic, while six are pleading innocent. They face three-year prison sentences if convicted and have been in prison since their arrest. ITAR-TASS reported that the defendants have denied belonging to the ultra-nationalist organization UNA-UNSO. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Minsk-Moscow ties tighten

MIENSK — The Russian-Belarusian Agreement on Formation of a Community went into force on August 29. The agreement, signed on April 2, was overwhelmingly ratified by Parliament but caused mass protests in Belarus. Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov exchanged the instruments of ratification with Belarusian Ambassador to Russia Viktor Danilenka. (OMRI Daily Digest)

## Canada's La Femme...

(Continued from page 7)

Mr. Hik is intent on establishing a permanent lunar colony by the end of the century. By networking on the Internet, he hopes to attract 1,000 participants, who will spend six months on the Moon in groups of 100.

The problem is that Mr. Hik is already a year behind his starting date and has yet to meet with any NASA types. "It would be unrealistic for me to think there wasn't a lot more work to do," he explains.

While he pursues his aerospace goal, Mr. Hik is also developing another idea which is more down-to-earth — and more directly exploits the Internet.

In early June, he hopes to launch "Ottawa Live" — located at <http://www.pvg.net>.

Essentially, it will be an electronic tour guide of the sights and sounds of Ottawa, featuring an innovative section devoted to 22 local dance clubs.

"You will be able to dial up the web site and receive a live feed from any one of the clubs included or see what happened at last week's party at 11, 12 or 1 o'clock," explains Mr. Hik. But, he adds, "Ottawa Live" still needs a bit more work.

While Mr. Hik appears to have many more cyber-miles to go before he hits electronic pay dirt, Ms. Zyla seems to have found herself an Internet cadillac in which to further her acting career. In the end, networking at the Globe party might not have been as important a self-promotional vehicle after all.

On May 16, "Club Mode" was officially launched in Los Angeles. (Maybe Tom Hanks will visit the site.)

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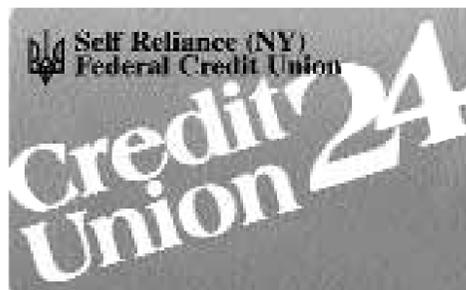
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### Belarusian opposition...

(Continued from page 3)

Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate, in July 1995]. Recently, the Rivne Oblast organization of Rukh offered us office space and logistic support, in the event of the BPF's banning in Belarus. The Chernihiv and Zhytomyr Rukh organizations work with us; there have even been some intermarriages resulting from this close cooperation... Rukh and other organizations give media exposure to events in Belarus. [Rukh leader Vyacheslav] Chornovil has suggested the formation of a Ukrainian-Baltic Fund for the Support of Democracy in Belarus. All in all, Rukh and others do much to help our cause. We have even touched the question of close coordination of economic and political policies between Ukraine, Belarus and Poland. These three countries can, together, serve as a counterweight to the Russian threat to all three countries. As far as Kuchma is concerned, I did not meet with him when we were in Kyiv. I did meet with [Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy] Udovenko and a number of parliamentary deputies. The meetings went well, and I felt that the Ukrainian president is inclined to support our efforts. I say this because I know our reception in Ukraine was warm and we did not face official obstacles to our activities. Had the government wanted to take a different tack, it could easily have done so, whether by not admitting us to Ukraine, or by deporting us to Belarus. Realize that when the Ukrainian communists raised hell in Parliament over my stay in Kyiv, calling me a fascist and similar nonsense, Ukrainian Television, which is state-run, ran a ten-minute commentary which totally debunked the Communist position. This can be seen as a sign of official Ukrainian support.

#### What role did or does the Chernobyl disaster play in shaping Belarusian national consciousness?

Zyanon Paznyak: It played an important role, because prior to 1989 all information concerning the disaster and its consequences was highly secret. Only through the efforts of the BPF was a commission formed in 1990 to investigate the disaster, which rendered 20 percent of our agricultural land unusable and contaminated, to varying degrees, 70 percent of our territory. Eventually it was disclosed that, when several days after the disaster, the winds carried fallout in the direction of Moscow, the Russians seeded clouds over Mahilou (Mogilev) Oblast, resulting in a large accumulation of radioactive fallout brought down by rain on Belarusian territory. This is all proven and officially recorded. Chernobyl has had an enormous impact on our national consciousness. It has been a heavy psychological blow to the nation. People feel as though they have been sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. The state has thrown the people to the wolves. Aid for Chernobyl victims is stolen, official organizations confiscate this aid. The Lukashenka regime openly steals Chernobyl aid and the people see this. I've met with victims of Chernobyl relocated to Miensk from contaminated zones. These people have no hope. Alcoholism, other addictions, are out of control. So all in all, on the one hand Chernobyl raised national consciousness, but on the other hand, it has greatly increased apathy among its direct victims, who have grown hopeless with the years.

#### What role does the Belarusian language play in fostering national consciousness? It has been said that even if Belarus becomes totally Russified in terms of language, it will still be organized along the lines of an independent state.

Zyanon Paznyak: As in every traditional national state, language is the central element in national consciousness. It is true

that one can build a state without immediately reviving the national language. But Belarusians are well aware of the importance of their language, of teaching their children. For two years (1992-94) we had a normal language and education policy, which stressed opening Belarusian as opposed to Russian-language schools and classrooms and the like. But the current regime purposefully halts and even reverses this process. Perhaps one can compare the situation to the difference between [heavily Ukrainian-speaking] western Ukraine and [predominately Russian-speaking] eastern Ukraine. Remember that as the Belarusian people realize that their language was an important literary and government language in the past, in the Middle Ages, during the times of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, they will respect and eventually use that language more frequently. Our language and culture are sufficiently deep to survive Russification. But the new generation understands the problem. Belarus will not turn out as Ireland did, an independent nation-state with a foreign language as the primary medium of communi-

cation. The modern revival of Hebrew can serve as our model; essentially disused for 2000 years, it was reintroduced in Israel and has become the chief language there among Jews. Incidentally, the question of how to revive Belarusian culture touches the question of Russian culture. Russian national (ethnic) culture has been destroyed by an imperialist culture, which submerges the Russian ethnos in an amorphous mass, and may lead to the destruction of the Russian empire in its present configuration. Just look at Chechnya, Sevastopol etc. Where is that leading to?

#### Where do you see Belarus in five years? Will it be an independent state, a part of Russia or what?

Zyanon Paznyak: In five years I see an independent state moving towards democracy, economic transformation and a return to Europe. Even though we now have a Communist parliament, this will still occur. Once the current regime is removed from the scene, once the fifth column is gotten rid of, things will change for the better. Interestingly, although one may think that

the western regions of Belarus would be most averse to following Moscow, it is in fact eastern Belarus which is most opposed to integration with Russia, because the people there see what integration means. Whether it is the giving away of oil refineries, or the fact that well-paved roads turn into gravel tracks once one crosses the [now transparent] Russian-Belarusian border, or just the appearance of the Russian people right across the border. The easterners see how people from western Russia come in and buy everything up, they know they can do much better by themselves. Independent polling conducted in the spring, prior to the recent crackdown by Lukashenka, indicated approximately 47 percent support for a union with Russia among the Belarusian citizenry. Now the figure is undoubtedly much lower. And this tendency will grow. Belarus will not die, because there are people, especially young people, who will fight for its existence by any means necessary. So even though things may not get much better in five years, they will go in that direction. In ten years I see marked progress towards normalcy.

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## Independent Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

One part of society is in too much of a hurry to peruse the latest debates in Parliament. The other, morose and frustrated, is engaged in the daily struggle for subsistence. I concluded that Western observers and reporters probably know and care far more about Ukrainian politics than do residents of Ukraine.

The changes in Ukraine have occurred so rapidly that citizens can only be bewildered by events. I found it an interesting task to compare the political changes to new historical assessments by Ukrainian scholars. After all, 1996 should be an ideal time from which to view the past, particularly the Soviet period. To some extent this has happened externally. There is a small but effective monument to the famine of 1932-1933, located close to the statue of Olha and the other founders of Ukraine.

By contrast, the propagandistic war museum on the hill adjacent to the Pecherska Lavra (Monastery of the Caves) has been closed. Rumors abound that a museum devoted to the Chernobyl disaster is to replace it, whether founded or not, I could not say. Old buildings have been tastefully refurbished. Workers were busy at the monastery itself, in fact. Despite acute financial shortages, historical preservation is at least on the official agenda.

However, the academic climate, including the publication of new historical works, is in disarray. I found only two sizable bookstores in Kyiv: the Naukova Dumka and a technical bookstore of inferior quality (unless one happens to be a devotee of IBM catalogues). The search for historical works proved to be futile. There are school textbooks. Otherwise the major published scholars of Ukrainian history today appear to be Westerners, such as Orest Subtelny and Arkady Zhukovsky. One wonders whether the apparent lack of domestic output is a question of the short lapse of time since the Soviet period — a reflection time? research time? — or the inability of academics to combine an academic career with alternative modes of economic existence.

On the other hand, one can find out all one needs to know about the OUN-UPA, courtesy of new and often expensive republications of works previously available in the Western diaspora. These are available on street corners and in Independence Square. I suspect also that more books are sold at weekend book fairs than in any bookstore. There are more books on social science topics in English than I had seen hitherto. All the same, a historian can only emerge from a visit to the major Kyiv bookstore feeling depressed at the apparent lack of dissemination of new research.

I was anxious to sample one of the new restaurants in the city, but my budget limited the number of outings to one. I decided on the Slavuta on Gorky Street, since this outlet had been recommended in my guidebook. The Slavuta organization appears to be thriving. The building also comprises a store that sells English newspapers and magazines.

The restaurant combines adequate food with truly appalling service in a cosy, dimly-lit setting and red-squared tablecloths. I went with my friends. Our waitress was prim and proper, in black outfit, blonde hair. When one of the friends was hesitant over some dish, she tapped her foot impatiently and promptly withdrew to the next table, where a loud-mouthed businessman hosted a table for eight that was loaded down with wine and vodka. Not a trace of a smile passed her lips. "Pozhaluysta?," she yawned

upon her return.

A security guard watched the proceedings disinterestedly from an adjoining table. The bill was about \$90 for the three of us, including a bottle of wine, but it had not exactly been a sumptuous feast. The Slavuta describes itself as a Finnish-Ukrainian joint venture. I assume that it originated in the Soviet period. In that way one could explain that situation simply: Soviet service, Finnish prices. I didn't leave a tip.

In 1992, I had been surprised at the prevalence of the Russian language in Kyiv. In 1996, usage of the Ukrainian language has increased, but given its apparent advantages as a state language, not dramatically. Ukrainian is spoken in academic circles, in Parliament, and at the government level. Elsewhere the ear becomes accustomed to Russian. On Andriyivsky Uzviz, the most picturesque street in the Ukrainian capital, I saw in a pleasant restaurant adorned with Western company advertisements (Rothman's and Coca Cola led the field), drank German beer, ate Italian food, and was served by Russian-speaking waiters. For good measure, the Winnipeg band Crash Test Dummies droned away in the background.

Crossing the road I came to Bulgakov's house. There, less surprisingly, I was escorted around — along with a group of teenagers — by a fat, officious, truly Soviet woman, who pontificated in reverential and literary Russian about the great man. Is the language question in the city, then, a generational affair? I am not qualified to answer such a question.

I accompanied a group of 16-17 year olds one day for a pleasant walk along the shores of the Kyiv Reservoir and all of them spoke Russian. On the other hand, I made a private little study of school textbooks, and all were in Ukrainian. In 1996, in contrast to 1992, it would appear that in Kyiv one needs to understand Ukrainian, but not necessarily to speak it. I asked a Canadian graduate student who has spent several months in the city how he deals with the problem. His answer was as follows: "Unless I am specifically addressed in Ukrainian, then I speak Russian". Incidentally, the student was a native Ukrainian speaker (in contrast to this writer, who learned Russian first); such a situation was not ideal for him.

Kyiv has always been a sort of dividing point in Ukraine for the two languages. In contrast to some of my peers, I do not view language as the decisive factor in determining one's nationality or voting habits. A combination of events: the development of national consciousness in Ukraine; the truculence of Russia as manifested particularly in the December 1994 invasion of Chechnya and ramifications thereof; the relative isolation of Ukraine from the CIS; and others, have rendered residents of Ukraine generally convinced of their Ukrainian citizenship and commitment to the current state. This statement applies equally to Ukrainian and Russian speakers in the capital (it may apply less strongly to residents of Donetsk or Luhanske).

One can appreciate that every traveler encounters different experiences. Conceivably an academic could attend official functions, associate with colleagues at Kyiv State University and the University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and hear nothing but Ukrainian (or English, a thriving language in Kyiv today). Outside the elite, however, in the vast apartment complexes, the overwhelming memory is of the melancholic Russian speech, of an ancient crone sitting outside one entrance admonishing a group of teenagers for their insolence.

(Continued on page 19)



## Congratulations Ukraine



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# Independent Ukraine...

(Continued from page 18)

They were sitting in her seat, it appeared. (Conceivably she had a previous career as a guide in Bulgakov's house.) In that respect, 1996 could be 1986, or 1935 for that matter.

And what of the future? The progress over five years has been remarkable. One can make several sweeping assertions without much fear of contradiction: aside from the Baltic republics, Ukraine has made more advances toward democracy than any other former Soviet republic; politically Ukraine is relatively stable; fundamental and irreversible material changes have taken place; Ukraine as a business center in 1996 is closer to Europe than to Russia and, moreover, has drifted away from the CIS.

On the other hand, any progress report has to be qualified by basic realities. Economically, the predicament remains acute. If unpaid workers are ever to receive their wages, then rampant inflation will surely follow. The differences with Russia remain, and no solution is in sight to the persistent energy shortages. The political leadership is essentially a combination of reformers and intransigent state-controllers. Bureaucracy is omnipresent.

However, when economic transformation occurs in Ukraine - and it will occur - it will not emanate from the political bureaucracy of from the office of the president. It will take place from below, from the new economic entrepreneurs. Whether that change is swift or sluggish is dependent partly on the restrictions imposed upon them. They are not well liked. How could these young patronizers of casinos and high-priced night clubs be appreciated by, let us say, veter-

ans of the second world war, currently surviving on \$50 per month? Incidentally, among the panhandlers, the placards declaring the owner to be a victim of the Great Patriotic War are very prevalent. One could complete the pathos of the situation by handing them a few Deutschmarks.

I am convinced also that the new Ukraine will be completely unrecognizable from the Soviet state or even the immediate post-1991 creation. Tax and property laws will mean more to the new business community than famine memories or Chernobyl. The plight of the pensioner and the former state employees, moreover, will be ignored amid the general stampede to accumulate capital. That is the future, and it will come no matter how hard Mr. Moroz tries to delay it, or whether the current president espouses a form of "capitalism with a human face."

At Boryspil, I sauntered through customs once again, picked up my free copy of the Kiev Post, and seated myself at an appropriate table in the only place open for refreshment: the Irish Pub. I ignored the overpriced items in the various fashion outlets. At the music store, copies of the CD by the late Russian nationalist folk hero Igor Talkov were available for \$11.99.

When I leave Minsk after my visits there, the sense of relief, of returning liberty, of escaping from Lukashenka's giant collective farm, can be overwhelming. But with Kyiv one's feelings are more complex, ill-defined, both positive and negative. It remains a wonderful city to visit. But there are at least three levels of citizenry: the official bureaucracy, the new elite and the increasingly impoverished masses. I remain unconvinced that they have a mutual goal.

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Friday Reception at the Ukrainian Embassy • Saturday Evening Dance to the music of TEMPO • Sunday Performance by the Yara Arts Group

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- Saturday, October 12**  
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 9:00 - 9:30 Welcome and Introductory remarks  
 9:30 - 10:15 Keynote address  
 10:30 - 12:00 Panel 1: *Ukraine's Geostrategic Position*  
 12:00 - 2:00 Lunch and major address  
 2:00 - 3:30 Panel 2: *Ukraine's Progress in Implementing Economic Reform*  
 3:45 - 5:00 Panel 3: *Ukraine's Progress in Building Democracy and Rule of Law*
- 7:00 - 8:00 Cocktail hour  
 8:00 - 10:00 Awards Banquet; Friend of Ukraine Award presentation to Hobart Earle  
 10:00 - 1:30 Dance: to the music of TEMPO
- Sunday, October 13**  
 8:30 - 10:00 Federation of Ukr.-Am. Business & Professional Associations Meeting  
 10:00 - 11:30 Ukraine's Progress in Health Care Reform  
 11:30 - 2:00 Brunch and Yara Arts Group performance  
 2:15 - 3:30 Ukraine's Progress in Energy Sector Reform

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Note: All times are tentative

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Tuesday, September 10

**IRVINGTON, N.J.:** The first session of Pre-School Music will take place on September 10. The program features morning classes for pre-schoolers and an after-school segment for older children. All classes are held at the Ukrainian Community Center, 140 Prospect Ave. For more information call Marta Sawycky, (908) 276-3134 or (201) 374-8079.

### Friday, September 13

**WASHINGTON:** The Meridian International Center and The Washington Group will present "A Report from Bosnia - Reflections on Ethnic Conflict on the Eve of the Elections" by Yuriy Holowsky, U.S. Army Peacekeeping Mission, at the Meridian House, 1630 Crescent Place, NW, at 7 p.m. For more information call George Masiuk, (202) 651-2302.

### Saturday, September 14

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Museum Circle is sponsoring a garden party in the spirit of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" to benefit The Ukrainian Museum. It will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 79th Street and Fifth Avenue, at 9 p.m.-1 a.m., and includes cocktails, buffet and dancing to the Tempo orchestra. Ticket prices are \$100, \$120 at the door. For information and ticket sales call The Ukrainian Museum, (212) 228-0110.

**WATERVLIET, N.Y.:** The Ukrainian Saturday School here is accepting student registrations for the 1996-1997 school year. A moleben on September 14 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Nicholas Church will be followed, in the church hall, by registration of children for Religious Education, Kindergarten, Pre-school and the Saturday Ukrainian School. Classes start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 21. Children who speak little Ukrainian are especially

welcome to register. School registration forms are available from the school director, Dr. George Gela, (413) 445-7378, or the Parents' Committee president, Jerry Tysiak, (518) 286-0795. For Pre-School registration contact Nataka Verzole, (518) 371-0996. For religion classes registration contact Dan and Patricia Kopchick, (518) 478-9722.

### Saturday, September 15

**EAST HANOVER, N.J.:** Branch 86 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America will hold a fashion show at the Ramada Hotel at 1:30 p.m. The show will feature modern attire with elements of Ukrainian embroidery designed by Tamara Huryn. Admission is \$25, including luncheon. All proceeds will benefit the Ukrainian Museum in New York City.

### Sunday, September 22

**NEW YORK:** A presentation of the building plans for The Ukrainian Museum's new facility and informative public meeting with architect George Sawicky will be held at 2 p.m. in the main hall of the Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Ave. The gathering will include refreshments. For further information call The Ukrainian Museum, (212) 228-0110.

**COATSVILLE, Pa.:** Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church is sponsoring the Tamburitzans of Duquesne University at 2 p.m. at Coatesville area Senior High School. A pageant of Eastern European folk music, songs and dances, the 36 young entertainers take the audience into pleasant valleys to see the spinning village dances or into rugged mountain country to witness the high leaps and acrobatics of the mountain folk. For ticket information call Irene Pashesnik, (610) 384-7285.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Preview items will be published only once (please indicate desired date of publication). All items are published at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space.

**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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AUTHORIZED AGENTS

## Ukrainian Museum announces crafts courses

**NEW YORK** — The Ukrainian Museum is offering two crafts courses this fall.

An eight-session embroidery course will be taught on Saturdays at 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. beginning September 21 and continuing to November 16. The fee is \$60 for adults, \$50 for seniors and students, and \$30 for children age 10-16.

A gerdan bead-stringing course will be held for three sessions on Saturdays at 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. on October 5, 12 and 19. The cost is \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children age 12-16. All materials are covered in the registration fee. For further information or to register, call the museum, (212) 228-0110.

## Ukrainian language classes offered at SUNY

**NEW PALTZ, N.Y.** — The Language Immersion Institute at the State University of New York at New Paltz will be conducting immersion classes in Ukrainian this fall. The classes are held for 15 hours over one weekend, during which beginning students learn basic communication skills such as

ordering dinner or bargaining in a marketplace. There are five levels of difficulty to choose from. The institute offers classes in Manhattan and Westchester County as well as resort weekends at its Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz. For further information call (914) 257-3500.

## Addendum

In the review of the book *The Land They Left Behind: Canada's Ukrainians in the Homeland* (September 1), information

on ordering the book was provided only for Canadians. U.S. residents can order the book from Albert Britnell Bookshop, 765 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G6, Canada; telephone, (800) 387-1417.

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