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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## ***Kuchma says new Russian tax could result in "economic war"***

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma said on September 7 that Russia's decision to impose a value-added tax (VAT) on Ukrainian goods could result in "economic war," and called the levying of the tariff political in nature.

Beginning on October 1 the Russian Federation will impose a 20 percent tax on all goods entering the country from Ukraine. The decision was made by presidential decree back on August 18. Originally the tariff was to have begun on September 1, but Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk convinced the

Kremlin to hold off for 30 days.

Now President Kuchma has said that any VAT would halt the influx of Ukrainian goods into Russia, which is overwhelmingly Ukraine's largest trading partner.

At a press conference held on September 7, the president asserted that "unless the decision is canceled, this will in fact mean an economic war." He tempered the remark by explaining that "one should take into account at the same time that all wars end in peace."

It seems that the president has put up the "beware of dog" sign when no dog lives in the yard. The "economic war" that Mr. Kuchma has threatened could hardly be won by Ukraine; only 10 percent of Russia's trade is with its southern neighbor, while Ukraine sells 60 percent of its goods to Russia. Moscow also has stifling control over the Ukrainian economy because it fulfills much of Ukraine's energy needs.

Four days later the president's chief of staff, Dmytro Tabachnyk, softened the stance taken by President Kuchma. He said the term "economic war" should be used loosely. "I believe that such a term should be used in quotes," said the chief of staff. He gave no specifics as to what action Ukraine might take should Russia proceed with the VAT.

He did call Russia's decision "artificial price control" and said it was implemented in part to help fill Russian coffers and avoid a budget crisis.

Russia has said that, in effect, Ukraine is dumping goods on the Russian market because it is not a member of the CIS Customs Union and therefore does not adhere to the value-added taxes that the participating countries have imposed upon themselves. The Customs Union agreement signed in 1992 by most CIS members, but not Ukraine, stated that the VAT would be collected by the source country rather than the importing country, which is contrary to Western norms. For CIS member-states it is the only option because borders remain open and so it is not possible to track tariffs at customs checkpoints.

On September 2 Russia's Minister of the Economy Yevgeni Yasin said the "market situation and budgetary requirements" conditioned the decision, according to Interfax-Ukraine. He added that if Ukraine would accede to the customs union then the problem, which President Kuchma called the application of political pressure on Ukraine, would disappear.

A working group of Ukrainian and Russian government officials was formed to resolve the issue in August when Ukraine's Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko traveled to Moscow with Deputy Prime Minister Pynzenyk. Conventional wisdom holds that once all is said and done, certain goods will be excluded from the VAT, while others will be taxed.

## **Transition to hryvnia reported to be proceeding smoothly**

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Viktor Pynzenyk said on September 12 that monetary reform and the transition from the karbovanets to the hryvnia has gone smoothly thus far and has exceeded everyone's expectations.

If all continues to go well for the duration of the transition, Mr. Pynzenyk said he had confidence that the 1997 budget, which went to the Parliament the same day, is a realistic one that will lead to a long-awaited economic upswing.

The hryvnia, which was introduced on September 2 and for a two-week transition period was to be the currency of Ukraine alongside the old karbovanets, has quickly become the major vehicle of economic transactions. Mr. Pynzenyk said that in the first five days of monetary reform, 60 percent of the supply of the karbovanets in circulation was changed out. By September 12, 74.1 percent (232 trillion kbv) of the old money had been replaced.

"Our prognosis as to how the transition would occur was more pessimistic," said Mr. Pynzenyk. "The people have proved us wrong, and we are pleased."

Many had feared that the hryvnia would prove as unstable as the karbovanets had been and that the public would opt to buy dollars, a scenario that could have left the hryvnia worthless in the international markets it is trying to crack.



**Viktor Pynzenyk, Ukraine's deputy prime minister for economic affairs.**

Trust in the new Ukrainian currency is higher than thought, it turns out. Almost two-thirds of all karbovanets exchanged were for hryvni, explained Mr. Pynzenyk (about 150 trillion kbv). The hryvnia has remained steady against the dollar, trading at around 1.70 hryvni.

The deputy prime minister, who holds a Ph.D in economics, also expressed delight that deposits in savings banks have dra-

(Continued on page 3)

## **Crimean library seeks Ukrainian books**

by Marta Kolomayets  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Although more than 1 million Ukrainians live in the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea, there is not one Ukrainian-language library or reading room on the peninsula, according to a recent article in *Ukraina Moloda*, a popular national newspaper published in Kyiv.

Despite the fact that the Crimea's Ukrainian speakers appealed to the local Ministry of Culture in Symferopil on a number of occasions to help establish at least one Ukrainian library in the republic, these requests seem to have been ignored.

So, Ukrainian language speakers and Ukrainian literature enthusiasts have decided to take matters into their own hands and form a committee to create a Ukrainian language library in the Crimea.

To date, they have the space, they have the manpower — a number of people have said they would work free of charge at the library — but they have no Ukrainian-language books.

The organizing committee has issued an appeal for Ukrainian-language books. They are requesting that book donations be sent to:

First Ukrainian Public Library in the Crimea, vul. Kyivska 139a, Symferopil, 33050 Ukraine.

The organizers request that each book include an inscription or marker identifying the donor (individual or organization) so that future generations will know who helped the peninsula establish its first Ukrainian library.

## ***Public upbeat about new currency***

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A public opinion poll conducted in Kyiv on September 7 shows that Kyivans have become downright upbeat about the new hryvnia.

The survey, conducted by the Democratic Initiative, a sociological survey organization funded by Freedom House, asked 400 people whether "the introduction of the hryvnia will change the situation in Ukraine." Fifty-eight percent of those questioned responded in the affirmative, 29 percent said "no" and 13 percent stated that it is difficult to say.

This is a drastic change from how respondents answered in September 1995, when only 23 percent felt optimistic about a new Ukrainian currency and 42 percent replied that the hryvnia would not change matters in Ukraine.

The reason for the change of opinion also is striking. A large majority, 69 percent, feel the transformation from karbovanets to hryvnia has pro-

ceeded in "an open and honest" manner. Only 13 percent disagreed.

Kyivans said that another factor that makes the introduction of the hryvnia so promising is that it has proceeded in a non-confiscatory manner, that is, no limits or penalties were put on what amount or in what manner the old currency could be exchanged.

When asked if they had suffered financial loss as a result of the monetary reform, only 11 percent answered "yes," while 38 percent said "none." However, a full 40 percent said that price increases in the marketplace prior to the introduction of the hryvnia had cost them.

Finally, Kyivans believe the hryvnia will remain relatively stable. A mere 4 percent believed that the hryvnia would dramatically drop in value against the dollar within a year; 22 percent foresaw no change at all; while the majority, 46 percent, responded that the hryvnia would lose only a small amount of value vis-à-vis the dollar.

## Growing credit union movement holds second conclave in Ukraine

by Marta Dyczok

KYIV — Cooperation has become one of the new buzz words in the new democracies of Eastern Europe. Some have more claim on the word than others. One indisputable group is the World Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions, which held its second conference in Kyiv on August 20-21. Representatives of credit unions from various regions of Ukraine, Canada and the United States met on the eve of Ukraine's fifth anniversary celebrations to discuss future plans.

"We have crossed the mystical five-year barrier," Pavlo Movchan told the assembled delegates, "and now we need to focus on Ukraine's domestic economy. In this the emerging cooperative movement is playing an important role."

The cooperative spirit was very much in evidence at the conference. Delegates from various countries and their spouses milled around in the foyer, greeting each other and exchanging business cards. Even the formalities had a friendly feel to them. Dmytro Hryhorchuk from Chicago, president of the World Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions, who presided over the opening session, warmly welcomed speakers to the podium and, apologizing for his jet lag, asked whether he had forgotten anyone.

The emphasis of this renewed cooperative movement in Ukraine appears to be continuity. An elderly former corporal from the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, Mr. Kuk, gave a short speech explaining how during World War II the cooperative movement provided the economic base for Ukraine's freedom fighting movement.

"We were able to continue our military struggle for an independent Ukraine because we had backing from the cooperative movement. There is an important relationship between economic independence and national consciousness," he said. "The cooperative movement helps people develop a sense of control over their own destiny, which is much needed in Ukraine today."

Since Ukraine became independent five years ago, up to 200 credit unions have officially registered. Not all of them are operational yet since many face administrative start-up difficulties. Helping them overcome these problems are Ukrainians from Canada, the U.S. and Australia who have experience in the credit union business. Assistance is coming in the form of advice, training and technical support.

Last year USAID allocated a three-year \$1 million project aimed at creating 10 model credit unions across the country.

In March the Canadian foreign aid agency CIDA approved a five-year \$3.4 million Ukraine Credit Union Development Project.

Toronto-born Bohdan Kozy is the Kyiv-based project manager. Having spent, four years living and working in Ukraine he is familiar with both the work conditions and potential for development in the new country. He explained the strategy of the Canadian program as a grass-roots approach aimed at transferring skills. "We are trying to help credit unions in Ukraine create a network," he said just before the opening of the conference.

An important step in this networking is participation in the international credit union system. A Ukrainian National Association of Credit Unions has already been created and, with assistance from Ukrainians in the diaspora, contact has been made with the other national associations and the World Council of Credit Unions.

Although the first steps have been taken, according to Kenton Eggleston of the Canadian Cooperative Association, "Much work continues to be needed to ensure that Ukraine's credit unions flourish and grow as viable financial institutions."

Judging from the mood at the second conference of the World Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions, there appears to be no shortage of people willing to put in the necessary effort to revive the cooperative movement in Ukraine.

## PHOTO FOLLOW-UP: Kohl in



Efrem Lukatsky

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who visited the Ukrainian capital on September 2-3, lays a wreath at the grave of the unknown German soldier at the recently opened German Soldiers Cemetery, where some 4,481 German war dead are buried and with some 40,000 more to be reburied there. During his official visit to Kyiv, Chancellor Kohl reiterated German support for Ukraine as an integral part of Europe. (For full story, see Roman Woronowycz's report in The Weekly, September 8.)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Good news for beer lovers

KYIV — When Ukraine declared its independence in 1991, its beer brewing industry was not in good shape. Ancient equipment, an inefficient labor force, primitive distribution systems and no funds for improvement made the industry's survival questionable. The current production is about half of what it was then, but the industry is coming back to life — as evidenced by the first national beer show held in Kyiv. "There are at least 100 breweries in Ukraine. In recent times I would say at least 50 new micro-breweries have started operating," said Arkady Okolot, deputy chief executive of former beer monopoly AT Ukrpyvo. He said that though there were over 40 companies taking part in the show, more wanted to participate but could not be squeezed in. Brewers still need to create a market for beer in Ukraine, where the popular drinks are horilka or cheap red wine. Beer has a somewhat tarnished reputation from the Soviet days when it was sold from a barrel in the street and "was often cloudy and had unidentifiable things floating around in it," as Irene Marushko of Reuters put it. (Reuters)

### Ukraine to lift price freeze

KYIV — Because Ukraine's introduction of its new currency, the hryvnia, is going so smoothly, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko announced that Ukraine will lift the price freeze two weeks early, on September 16. He said the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions were already informed of the decision, Ukrainian news agencies reported on September 9. The karbovanets, in circulation for the past several years, is to be phased out by September 16. Coal miners, still owed wages for July, are to be paid by that date as well, due to raised excise taxes on spirits and tobacco products, and about 60 percent of pensioners will receive the pensions owed them by mid-September. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Lebed to handle fleet negotiations

SEVASTOPIL — The head of Russia's Security Council, Alexander Lebed, is to handle further Black Sea Fleet negotiations because "Kyiv has shown a tendency to go back on its commitments." Russia interprets the Sochi agreement as giving it exclusive rights to Sevastopol, while Ukraine interprets the agreement as allowing Russia to use some bays for its ships without precluding Ukraine's use of the port, UNIAN reported on September 9. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Deputies boycott Crimean Parliament

SYMFEROPIL — A majority of the Crimean legislature boycotted the scheduled opening session of the regional parliament due to a demand by the Rossiya bloc of pro-Moscow deputies that the Parliament's leadership step down, Radio Ukraine reported on September 9. The pro-Russian deputies, who have been calling for a vote of no confidence in the leaders, accused supporters of the leadership of deliberately stalling the vote. They believe the speaker, Yevhen Supruniuk, who is still hospitalized after escaping from kidnappers, is ineffectual and overly pro-Kyiv. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Croatian Minister in Ukraine

KYIV — Croatian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mate Granic spent two days on an official visit in Kyiv. Minister Granic met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz. They confirmed an agreement on friendship and cooperation, which will be signed when Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma visits Croatia in the next year. Mr. Granic supported the Ukrainian peacekeepers in Bosnia and said international forces should remain there for two more years while Bosnia-Herzegovina stabilizes. The ministers also discussed increasing trade and economic cooperation. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Belarus sentences seven Ukrainians

MINSK — The seven Ukrainians on trial in Belarus for participating in a Chernobyl rally have been sentenced to one to two-and-a-half year prison terms, ITAR-TASS reported on September 6. Although the presiding judge said the nationality of the defendants was not an issue, they received much harsher sentences than the Belarusian defendants. The average sentence was under two weeks, and the two organizers who went on hunger strikes received suspended sentences. The Ukrainian consul in Minsk said the trial was unfair and that he would appeal in the Belarusian Supreme Court. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Kuchma names new ministers

KYIV — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on September 5 signed a decree appointing Yuriy Rusanov as coal minister, Susana Stanyk as minister of family and youth issues, and Andrii Svyrdnyk as health minister, Ukrainian Radio reported. (OMRI Daily Digest)

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## Parliament reconvenes, but 60 deputies still have not taken the oath of allegiance

by Marta Kolomayets  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The September 3 deadline for deputies to pledge allegiance to the new Constitution of Ukraine came and went, but by September 12, 60 lawmakers had still not taken the oath to protect the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine and to obey the Constitution and laws of their country.

Although many lawmakers assume that those deputies who have not yet taken the pledge are from the left-wing forces, their names have not been revealed, and the Parliament's Secretariat has refused to give out this information.

Members of the Secretariat insist they will give deputies a few more weeks to pledge allegiance to the Constitution, stating that at the beginning of the month the number of "unpledged" deputies had been 83 and has now fallen to 60.

### Kyiv Oblast deputies issue statement

But deputies from Kyiv Oblast issued a statement on September 10 criticizing this move, calling the action to keep secret the names of the deputies who did not swear to uphold the Constitution "amoral." In their six-paragraph statement the 15 deputies once again pledged to support the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, and distanced themselves from those who did not take the oath of allegiance.

They also urged deputies from other regions to follow suit, making public their intentions to loyally serve Ukraine.

The 15 Kyiv Oblast deputies also made it known that every deputy from the region — except for Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz — signed the September 10 appeal.

### Factions threaten protests

On the opening day of this sixth session of the Parliament on September 3 there were also threats by members of the Rukh and Derzhavnist (Statehood) factions to protest the presence of Communists who had refused to pledge allegiance to the Constitution. That move received little support, however.

Some left-wing forces in Parliament argue that it is illegal to force deputies to swear on a Constitution which was adopted after they were elected to the Parliament and that this oath can be

administered only to newly elected deputies.

"If we are to swear on the Constitution today, it means that we can serve an entire four-year term" (through the year 2000), argued Volodymyr Alekseyev, a deputy from the Inter-regional faction in Parliament.

Oleksander Lavrynovych of the Rukh faction called this move illogical and said that until a Constitutional Court is formed many issues outlined in the Constitution cannot be resolved.

Although the Communists like to point out that without 60 deputies taking the oath the Parliament may wind up ineffective and perhaps even without a quorum, Mr. Lavrynovych said he is not worried.

"Even without these 60 deputies we are not in a dangerous situation," he noted. "We'll be at about the same number we had when this Parliament convened in May 1994," he added.

There are now 417 deputies in Parliament (several gave up their mandates and decided to work in the government); without the 60 who have not taken the pledge, there will be 357 deputies.

### Chairman outlines priorities

Parliament Chairman Moroz has outlined the top priorities for the Parliament in the remaining months of 1996. Among them, he included: creating new state institutions as prescribed by the Constitution, such as the Constitutional Court; drafting laws as required by the new Constitution (at least 60 new laws are needed, according to Mr. Moroz); approving a resolution to expel deputies who are still otherwise employed; and nominating candidates for the post of deputy chairman vacated by Oleh Dyomin, who is now the president's representative in Kharkiv, and candidates for the Constitutional Court (as envisioned by the Constitution, the Parliament nominates six of the 18 judges).

The Parliament has voted to postpone until the winter the restructuring of its permanent committees, downsizing from 23 to between 12 and 15 standing committees. Another issue that has been put off is the adoption of new parliamentary rules of procedures.

## Konowal's regimental headquarters votes against trilingual memorial

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — The headquarters of Victoria Cross winner Filip Konowal's regiment in British Columbia has refused to erect a trilingual marker in his honor.

The senate of the Royal Westminster Regiment recently voted to cancel plans to unveil an English-, French- and Ukrainian-language plaque memorializing the only Ukrainian Canadian to obtain the military prize.

Instead, the regiment will install two English-only plaques in its New Westminster, British Columbia, armory next May. One will honor World War I veteran Mr. Konowal; the other will honor the regiment's other V.C. winner who served during World War II.

Col. William McKinney, honorary colonel of the Royal Westminster Regiment and chairman of the senate that voted against the trilingual memorial, told Canada's national daily newspaper, *The Globe and Mail*, that all public plaques in the Vancouver suburb are written in English only.

"We're not anti-Ukrainian, we're not anti-French," he said. "We're a proud Canadian regiment and have been since 1863. We're not a bigoted regiment. We are anything but ... It's just that we are 99.9 percent English in this city."

However, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, spokesperson for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) that organized similar commemorative projects in honor of Mr. Konowal in Toronto and Ottawa, called the West Coast's decision an example of "racism."

The former president of the Royal Westminster Regiment Association who proposed the New Westminster proposal also expressed disappointment in his colleagues' rejection of the trilingual Konowal memorial.

Jerry Gangur said that while members of his association supported the idea, the former commanding officers who comprise the regimental senate rejected it. In voting nay, Mr. Gangur acknowledged to *The Globe and Mail* that "a lot of the things said really hurt."

On August 21, the Royal Canadian Legion's Konowal Branch 360 in Toronto unveiled its own trilingual plaque honoring Mr. Konowal. Both Branch 360 and the UCCLA offered to cover the costs of erecting a similar plaque in New Westminster.



Cpl. Filip Konowal

Canadian Defense Minister David Collenette paid tribute to the Ukrainian Canadian war hero at the Toronto ceremony and at a similar memorial held in Ottawa on July 15.

There are plans to erect another historical marker in Mr. Konowal's home town, Kudkiv, Ukraine.

King George V personally conferred the Victoria Cross, the British Commonwealth's most prestigious medal of bravery, on Mr. Konowal in London on October 15, 1917. Mr. Konowal, then 29, became only one of 93 Canadians to ever receive the V.C. since it was established by Queen Victoria during the Crimean War in 1856.

Following his military career, Mr. Konowal worked as a janitor on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. He died in 1959 at the age of 72, and is buried in Ottawa's historic Notre Dame Cemetery, where a new upright marker, donated by Veterans Affairs Canada, adorns his grave.

## Transition to hryvnia...

(Continued from page 1)

matically increased. Since monetary reform began 13 days ago, deposits in commercial banks have increased from 42 trillion kbv (42 million hrv) to 73 trillion kbv (73 million hrv). He said that 35 percent of all karbovanets to hryvnia transactions were done through in-bank transactions. Deposits of one year's duration or longer have risen by 30 percent.

Much of the newfound trust in savings accounts can be credited to a relatively low inflation rate in the last several months. In June and July inflation rose merely 0.1 percent each month, although in August it climbed by 5.7 percent. Mr. Pynzenyk predicted that the September rate also would hover at around 5.7 percent.

Now Ukraine's economic challenge is to keep the inflationary spiral in check and for the Parliament to approve a realistic budget.

Mr. Pynzenyk said the budget that just went to Parliament foresees inflation reaching no higher than 25 percent.

The rate for 1996 was pegged at 48 percent. In 1995 inflation reached 182 percent.

The key to holding down inflation is to allow for no emission of money beyond that budgeted, a policy that Mr. Pynzenyk said the National Bank of Ukraine and the government will strictly maintain. With monetary reform and inflation under control, the deputy prime minister predicted that Ukraine's economy would expand for the first time in 1997, by 1.7 percent GDP over 1996.

The budget calls for a deficit of 4 percent (this year the goal was 6.2 percent and today it stands at 6 percent with three months left in the fiscal year), of which the International Monetary Fund is to subsidize slightly more than half.

A light, if only a dim one, seems to be shining at the other end of the tunnel of economic reform that President Leonid Kuchma began two years ago, and Mr. Pynzenyk was obviously delighted at how the latest stage in the transformation took place. "If I had to do this again, even 100 years from now, I would do it

## Konowal Prize is instituted

KINGSTON, Ontario — Canada's minister of national defense, David M. Collenette, announced the establishment of an annual Konowal Prize, named to honor World War I Victoria Cross recipient Filip Konowal.

The announcement was made on August 21 in Toronto, where Minister Collenette delivered an address at the unveiling of a trilingual plaque honoring Mr. Konowal at Branch 360 of The Royal Canadian Legion.

In August 1917, Mr. Konowal, a Ukrainian-born immigrant, distinguished himself during the Battle for Hill 70, near Lens, France. On August 21, the 69th anniversary of that date, members of Branch 360 of The Royal Canadian Legion, celebrating their own 50th anniversary, confirmed that \$25,000 will be made available annually to support Ukrainian officer cadets attending Canada's only military university, the Royal Military College of Canada, in Kingston, or to help finance graduate-

level research and writing at any Canadian university in the areas of Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian military history. It is anticipated that the first award will be made in the fall of 1997.

Speaking on the occasion of the unveiling of a second trilingual historical plaque honoring Mr. Konowal, the minister of national defense observed, "I am very pleased to announce that we soon hope to have in place the Konowal Prize. This will be an annual scholarship for one or two Ukrainian military college students to come to Canada for a year to study Canada, the Canadian system of government, and the relationship between the military and civilian authorities ... at a military college in Canada. We anticipate the program will start in the fall of 1997. This branch is very generously contributing towards the scholarship. This Konowal Prize will make sure that Mr. Konowal's legacy is well remembered and honored. You can take great pride in this initiative."

# Ukraine's ambassador to Canada visits University of Alberta

by Halyna Klid

EDMONTON – Volodymyr Furkalo, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, was recently a guest of the University of Alberta. Accompanied by the Embassy's first secretary for science and technology, Borys Poliachenko, Ambassador Furkalo visited the campus to acquaint himself with university units that cooperate or maintain academic ties with Ukraine.

Ambassador Furkalo met with Dr. Martha Piper, university vice-president (research and external affairs), and Dr. Allan Tupper, associate vice-president (government relations). (University President Dr. Roderick Fraser was out of town at the time.)

Also taking part in the meeting were Dr. Zenon Kohut, director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), and James D. Jacuta, executive director of the Canadian-Ukrainian Legislative Education Project at CIUS.

In conversation with the ambassador, Dr. Piper stressed that the University of Alberta's position of leadership in Ukrainian studies in North America was due in no small measure to cooperation with Ukraine's academic institutions since the attainment of Ukrainian independence. This has led to the development of official and unofficial academic relations, and to the initiation of exchanges of professors and students.

Dr. Piper maintained that such cooperation is vital to the development of Ukraine's academic infrastructure. She made particular mention of four university units: CIUS, which marked its 20th anniversary in July; the Osvita Medical Project, which assists in the education

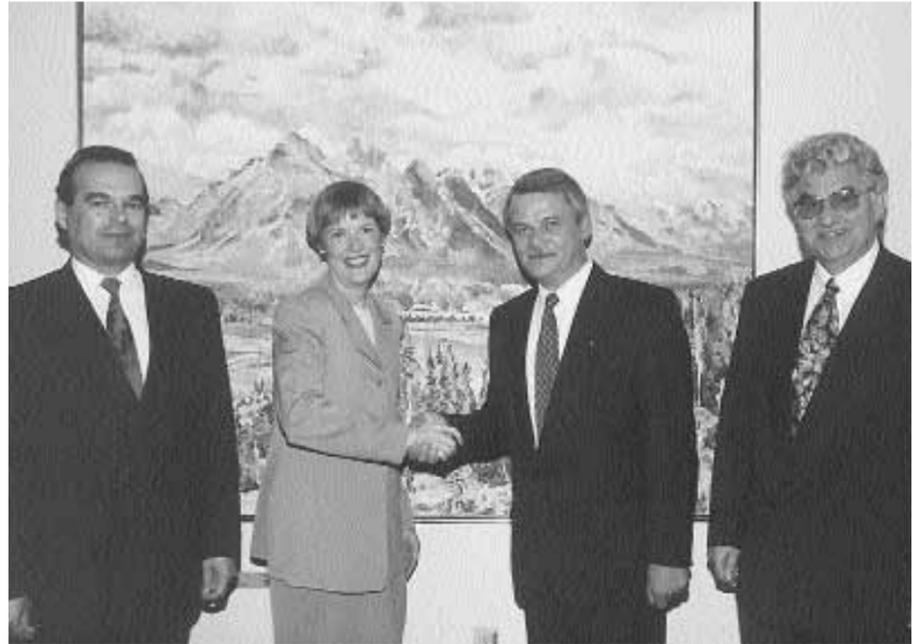
of Ukrainian doctors and thereby helps improve health care for mothers and children in Ukraine; the Legal Training Project, which seeks to modernize legal education in Ukraine; and the Canadian-Ukrainian Legislative Education Project, which was recently undertaken at CIUS.

Ambassador Furkalo expressed his appreciation of the opportunity to visit the University of Alberta and acquaint himself with its activities. He noted that an important goal of Ukrainian government policy is to ensure close cooperation with Canada's university system.

His visit to Alberta was one of the first steps toward the implementation of the Embassy's new strategy of establishing direct contacts at the provincial and oblast level, including cooperation among universities. Relations with the province of Saskatchewan have been established as a result of Premier Roy Romanow's visit to Ukraine, and Ambassador Furkalo said he expects that similar cooperation can be developed with other parts of Canada, most notably with the Western provinces, whose potential is only beginning to be appreciated in Ukraine.

The ambassador said he has great expectations of useful cooperation with Alberta, which, like Ukraine, has a large agricultural sector and well-developed oil, forest and high-technology industries. Since both Ukraine and Alberta have extensive networks of higher educational institutions, there are good grounds for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation.

As examples of such cooperation, Ambassador Furkalo noted the ties already established between the



Ambassador Volodymyr Furkalo (second from right) during his June 10 visit to the University of Alberta. Also in the photo (from left): Borys Poliachenko, Dr. Martha Piper and Dr. Zenon Kohut.

University of Alberta and the universities of Chernivtsi and Lviv, as well as the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and the work that CIUS is doing in Ukraine.

The ambassador said he expressed his appreciation of the institute's accomplishments, citing it as one of the centers that has developed Ukrainian studies as a discipline.

Moreover, the University of Alberta, a leader in the humanities and in the sciences, can greatly assist Ukraine in the development of its academic contacts and research programs. The ambassador presented Dr. Piper with letters from the

Ukrainian government proposing joint efforts in a number of areas that can serve as a basis for future cooperation.

After their meeting with Dr. Piper, who noted with satisfaction the new and active role of Ukraine's Embassy in Canada with regard to cooperation, Ambassador Furkalo and Mr. Poliachenko met with directors of university units that maintain academic contacts with Ukraine.

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, established in 1976, is the initiator and leader in the development of the University of Alberta's contacts with Ukraine.

The institute consists of a number of autonomous units, each with its own specific program or project: CIUS Press, the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine, the Ukrainian Church Studies Program, the Ukrainian Language Education Center, the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research, the Encyclopedia of Ukraine Project Office, the Journal of Ukrainian Studies and the Ukrainian Canadian Program.

CIUS carries on research in Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian studies, publishes academic monographs and a journal, develops educational materials for language instruction in bilingual schools, organizes seminars and conferences, and awards fellowships to students and established researchers.

The Osvita Medical Project, which began in 1992 as the Chernobyl's Children Project, was conceived as an educational program for pediatricians. In 1994, with additional funding of more than \$2 million from the Canadian government, it expanded its activity, providing courses for midwives, gynecologists and specialists in infant care. Project results will be assessed following its completion in 1997.

Canadian volunteers completed 150 educational missions in 12 major Ukrainian cities, from Lviv in the west to Donetsk in the east, as well as on the Crimean peninsula. Fifty-eight selected specialists from various regions of Ukraine participated in four-month training sessions in Canada.

More than 25 medical laboratory specialists and technicians learned to use and service diagnostic equipment installed in clinics participating in the Osvita project. More than 200 Ukrainian doctors learned English as a second language under the project's auspices, and thousands of kilograms of

## Lapica Awards recognize Ukraine's writers

by Marta Dyczok

KYIV — "We would like to find another Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko or Lesia Ukrainka," said Ray Lapica when asked why he set up the Helen Lapica Awards in Ukrainian Literature. "Writers are the only salvation for Ukraine."

The first award ceremony was held on June 11 at the University of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Six awards of \$1,000 were handed out to gifted Ukrainians. The poetry prize went to the Bu-Ba-Bu trio of Yuriy Andrukhovych, Oleksander Irvanets and Victor Neborak.

On accepting the award Mr. Neborak thanked the fund and noted that in addi-

tion to setting new trends in contemporary Ukrainian poetry, the trio has also broken with old social trends. He concluded his thank-you speech by informing the audience that the "three Ukrainians have been friends and colleagues for over 10 years and have never had a fight."

Other recipients were Oksana Zabushko for non-fiction, who has recently achieved notoriety for her frank exposé of sexual behavior in Ukraine from a woman's point of view in "Poliovi Doslidzhennia z Ukrainskoho Seksu" (Field Research on Ukrainian Sex), Mr. Andrukhovych for prose, Volodymyr Dibrova for translation, Anatoliy Makarov for literary criticism

and Dr. Natalia Yakovenko for her work on the history of literature.

The awards ceremony was hosted by Prof. George Grabowicz of Harvard University. He was also one of the members of the selection committee along with scholars from eight other universities and institutions.

Mr. Lapica explained that in order to ensure the contest's fairness, the executive of the fund asked for nominations from reputable literary experts both in Ukraine and abroad, including the Ukrainian Writers Union, universities of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Lviv, Kharkiv and Kyiv, Harvard University and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta.

The 80-year-old American-born Ukrainian has been actively following events in the homeland of his parents for many years. In the memory of his wife, Helen, he set up a small fund that has been distributing money to students for over one year. In an interview during his last visit to Kyiv, Mr. Lapica explained that the philosophy of the fund is to help keep Ukraine democratic. Over the past year, 80 scholarships were granted to students in Ukraine, Canada and the United States.

This year Mr. Lapica decided to expand the activities of the fund to support writers. Aware of the important role literature has played in Ukrainian history, he set up the Helen Lapica Literary Awards.

Following the success of this year's competition, Mr. Lapica plans not only to continue but to expand the awards. Before departing Kyiv he said, "When I return to the United States I will continue to fund-raise and in a few years raise the prestige of these awards to the level of the Pulitzer Prize."



Noted writer Lina Kostenko with Ray Lapica.

(Continued on page 10)

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## UNA Seniors Association holds 22nd conference at Soyuzivka

by Anna Chopek

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The 22nd conference of the UNA Seniors Association was held at Soyuzivka on June 9-14. It was a wonderful opportunity for senior members from various parts of the United States to renew old friendships. Activities were carried on in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Sessions were carried on in both Ukrainian and English languages.

A wine and cheese party on the Veselka deck began the week's activities. The orchestra playing old time favorites and dancing contributed to an enjoyable evening.

In all 108 seniors registered for the conference. Registration was handled by Olga Paproski, Dr. Stefania Baranowskyj and Mary Bobeczko. Members participated in a liturgy and panakhyda at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson in memory of deceased UNA seniors and the victims of Chornobyl.

The conference was opened by President Anna Chopek. The singing of the American and Ukrainian anthems was led by Eugene Moroz, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Honorary President Eugene Woloshyn read President Bill Clinton's message on the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster.

Olga Liteplo was elected English-language secretary and Jurij Swyschuk, Ukrainian secretary.

The minutes of the 21st conference were read by Alice Orlan in English and Helen Trenkler in Ukrainian. Reports were given by Ms. Chopek, president, Ms. Paproski, treasurer; and Sam Liteplo, vice-president.

The following regional representatives also reported: Ms. Paproski, Connecticut, Anne Remick, New England, Maria Mandzij, New Jersey, Ms. Liteplo, New York City and vicinity; Irene Russnak, Rochester, N.Y.; and Ms. Bobeczko, Ohio.

Danylo Slobodian, executive vice-presi-



Seniors form a "living wreath" to commemorate the victims of the Chornobyl nuclear accident.

dent, was not present because of illness, and Controller Bohdan Bezkorowajny could not attend because of illness in his family. Controllers John Pawlow and Joseph Lesawyer reported that the treasurer's books were in order, and a vote of confidence was passed.

The nominating committee – composed of Mrs. Remick, Mrs. Orlan and Mr. Woloshyn – submitted a slate of officers.

Unanimously elected for the 1996-1997 term were: Ms. Chopek, president; Ms. Orlan, executive vice-president; Mr. Liteplo, vice-president; Ms. Paproski, trea-

surer; Ms. Liteplo and Yuriy Swyschuk, respectively, English and Ukrainian secretaries. Regional representatives who had served the previous year were re-elected.

Many interesting talks were given during the conference. Dr. Roman Baranowskyj spoke in Ukrainian on the current problems in Ukraine, and Dr. Roman Procyk gave an English version of the high points. Dr. Procyk then spoke in English on the work of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard and exhibited its various publications.

Martha Lysko, secretary of the Ukrainian National Association, brought the seniors up to date on various insurance policies now available from the UNA.

Mr. Lesawyer, former supreme president of the Ukrainian National Association, spoke about the inauguration of the Chornobyl Memorial Forest in Florida and his participation in planting the first tree.

Mary Bednarczyk and Rosalie Polche recorded the donations made by the members – a total of \$595. This sum has been sent to American Forests, and trees will be planted in Ocklawaha Prairie, Fla., and in the Kyiv, Poltava and Chernihiv regions of Ukraine.

One of the favorite activities of the con-

ference is the annual auction. Not only do the UNA seniors donate the Ukrainian articles for the auction, they also bid on them. The auction was very ably conducted by Messrs. Woloshyn and Moroz.

Marie Prucknicki and Cornelia Yavarow conducted a raffle and raised more money. The total raised by the auction and raffle was \$1300. The committee on donations, Irene Russnak, Estelle Woloshyn and former UNA Supreme President John O. Flis, recommended that 50 percent of the monies raised be sent to the Children of Chornobyl Foundation and 50 percent to the Ukrainian National Women's League of America project, The Babusia Fund, to aid poor grandmothers in Ukraine.

Social activities included: Dr. Baranowskyj arranged a cruise on the Hudson River; Nicholas and Mary Bobeczko, John and Helen Laba, and Sam Liteplo conducted an evening of Bingo; Michael and Stefania Babiak gave a demonstration of ballroom dancing; Ms. Liteplo and Mr. Moroz, led a Ukrainian folk song sing-along at the Veselka Bar; Ukrainian videos were shown by Yury Trenkler; and a new racing game intro-

(Continued on page 14)

## UNA sponsors hockey team in Kontakt Cup

by Stefko Kuropas

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian National Association sponsored the Chicago U-Hawks Hockey team in the Kontakt Cup Hockey Tournament held in Toronto.

The tournament, sponsored by the Kontakt Ukrainian T.V. Network, was held in the Northeastern suburbs of Toronto on April 19-20. Thirteen teams from all over North America including Edmonton, Montreal, Oshawa, Chicago, Toronto, New York and Detroit, compet-

ed in two divisions.

The UNA-sponsored Chicago U-Hawks defeated the Edmonton Ukes 4-2 in the final of the recreational division. Amazingly, the U-Hawks finished in last place in 1995. In the competitive division, the Toronto Husars edged the Oshawa Halendas 6-5.

After the games, all the teams got together for a dinner dance and awards presentation. Awards were presented by

(Continued on page 13)



UNA Advisor Stefko Kuropas (center) presents check to Chicago U-Hawks players Ed Owerko (left) and Walter Pohribnyj. The UNA sponsored the team in the Kontakt Cup tournament.

## Olympic movement thanks

JERSEY CITY, N.J. – The president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, Valeriy Borzov, on August 15 thanked the Ukrainian National Association for helping Ukraine's athletes who competed at the Summer Olympiad in Atlanta.

In a letter to the fraternal organization, Mr. Borzov wrote: "We are thankful to the leadership of the Ukrainian National Association and all its members for the constant support (both moral and financial) for the development of the Olympic movement in Ukraine."

"You, too, have played a role in Ukrainian athletes' successes," he underlined, noting that Ukraine's Olympians had won 23 medals, earning 10th place in the over-all team standings.

Back in February, the UNA had presented \$10,000 in donations to the Ukrainian Olympic effort. The funds had been collected from Ukrainian community members who responded to the UNA's appeal to support Ukraine's athletes at this time of economic crisis.

Since February, an additional \$5,000 was collected by the UNA for the Olympic fund.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Forbes' fallacies

By now many readers will have read or at least heard of an article about Ukraine published in Forbes magazine (September 9 issue) that is so slanted, so full of fallacies, that it not only does a grave disservice to its readers but tarnishes the reputation of the magazine that published it. Titled "Tinderbox" — and bearing an overhead that reads "The world hasn't seen the last of ethnic turmoil in Eastern Europe. Keep your eye on Ukraine." — the article was written by Paul Klebnikov, an associate editor at Forbes.

Right from the start, readers who have been to Ukraine recently have more than ample reason to question whether the writer has. In the lead paragraph Mr. Klebnikov states that Ukraine "is riven between those who want reunion with Russia and those who want to remain independent." He then paints a picture of "poor Ukraine," which is a "basket case economically" and "lags far behind Russia in abandoning socialism." His description of Kyiv is pure fantasy: "Ukraine's capital, Kiev [sic], has none of Russia's post-communist vitality: no traffic jams, few foreign cars, no new construction, no new wealth. ..."

Incredibly, the writer goes on to argue that "Reintegration with Russia would alleviate many of these [economic] problems, but the electorate is of two minds on the subject." He then cites the fact that over 70 percent in Ukraine voted in a referendum in March 1991 to remain part of the USSR; then in December of the same year, 92 percent voted to approve independence. "Now they seem to be changing their minds again," he notes, adding that 30 percent in a recent poll want to merge with Russia and another 50 percent want closer economic, political or military ties.

Well, what we have here, quite simply, is selective reporting of the facts. Yes, it's true that on March 17, 1991, there was a union-wide referendum in which 70.2 percent of Ukraine's voters opted for preservation of the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," but it was defined in the referendum question as "a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics." Even more pertinent, however, is the result of the national referendum held in Ukraine on the same day as the all-union plebiscite: 80.2 percent of the voters said yes to the question: "Do you agree that Ukraine should be part of a union of Soviet sovereign states based on the principles of the Declaration on the State Sovereignty of Ukraine?" Thus, the second question, clarified just what kind of "union" the citizens of Ukraine were interested in. Unequivocal evidence of the populace's intentions came in the aforementioned December referendum. As far as the recent poll cited is concerned, reporting the results of a poll cannot be serious reporting if, first of all, the question asked is not cited; and second, the sample is not defined. Otherwise you can find or juggle statistics to support any point of view, indeed, any fallacy.

Then there is the issue of characterization of Ukraine's population. "Ukraine has a long tradition of ethnic strife and borders that were fixed arbitrarily by communist leaders decades ago," writes Mr. Klebnikov. Ethnic strife? Come again? Arbitrarily fixed borders? Why pick on Ukraine? "Ukrainians are ethnically almost indistinguishable from Russians," continues Mr. Klebnikov. What does that mean? And there's more such blather.

As if the damage in the main article was not enough, Mr. Klebnikov also penned a companion piece that painted Ukraine as the home of fascists intent on pursuing the ideas of "racial and cultural purity." The subject of the article is a small fringe group, the Ukrainian National Self-Defense Organization (UNSO). But, one wouldn't know that UNSO is a tiny aberration in a nation of 52 million, since Mr. Klebnikov cleverly describes the group as "Ukraine's most powerful paramilitary nationalist organization," leading one to think, of course, that it is large and is one of many.

So, to Forbes magazine we say: Shame on you. Get your information straight, provide a relevant context and serve your readers properly.

Sept.  
15  
1991

### Turning the pages back...

On September 15, 1991, more than 50,000 citizens of newly independent Ukraine gathered at St. Sophia Square to celebrate the country's August 24, 1991, declaration of independence.

The all-national public meeting, which included a moleben celebrated by the hierarchs and priests of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox and Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Churches, began with people's deputy and presidential candidate Levko Lukianenko reading the act accepted by the Supreme Council of Ukraine on August 24.

Leading political activists, including Mykhailo Horyn, Vyacheslav Chornovil, Ivan Zayets, Oleksander Yemets, Larysa Skoryk, Stepan Khmara and Pavlo Movchan, spoke to the crowd. Representatives of the Crimean Tatars, coal miners of Ukraine, members of Soyuz Ukrainok (Ukrainian Women's Association) and other civic organizations also addressed the throngs that came to celebrate Ukraine's freedom.

During the meeting, the people approved resolutions calling for cancellation of a referendum scheduled for December 1 to confirm the proclamation of independence by the Ukrainian Parliament.

After the public meeting, the people formed columns and, led by ex-soldiers dressed in the uniforms of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Sich Riflemen, made their way from Volodymyr Street to the Khreshchatyk where they gathered at Independence Square (formerly October Revolution Square) to participate in a meeting organized by the Ukrainian Republican Party. Its chairman, Mr. Lukianenko, once again spoke to the people and stressed the need for democratic forces to consolidate in order to strengthen Ukraine's sovereignty. This meeting was addressed also by leaders of Rukh, as well as the Peasants' Democratic Party and the Prosvita Ukrainian Language Society.

Throughout the day, the sounds of Ukrainian national songs resounded through loudspeakers placed along the Khreshchatyk.

Source: *The Ukrainian Weekly*, "50,000 in Kyiv celebrate Ukraine's new independence," September 22, 1991 (Vol. LIX, No. 38).

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### A new Constitution for Ukraine

by Michael V. Kostiw

Nothing is so fundamental yet so important to the freedoms we enjoy as Americans as the United States Constitution, which guarantees our right to do and say as we please so long as it does others no harm. For the 52 million people of Ukraine, however, that guarantor of individual and political liberty only recently came into existence.

On June 28, Ukraine severed its final tie to the bear of Soviet communism when the nation's Parliament overwhelmingly approved Ukraine's first Constitution since gaining independence in 1991. It was an act that sent a signal to people around the world that Europe's second largest country is firmly established as a free and democratic nation.

Although not widely reported in the Western media, June 28 takes its place atop Ukraine's historical milestones; more important than its 1990 declaration of sovereignty; and more meaningful than even its first multi-party presidential election. Passage of Ukraine's fundamental law — one that guarantees property rights, the right to political expression and many other freedoms literally unimaginable only a few years ago — demonstrates political consensus on Ukraine's movement toward representative democracy.

Ukraine's plight since communism's failure caused the demise of the Soviet Union is truly remarkable. Naysayers in our government, the media and foreign affairs organizations prematurely predicted Ukraine's inability to govern itself. Despite its rich agricultural and natural resources, geostrategic location and industrial capacity, popular opinion ran against Ukraine's ability to operate independently of Russia or some federation of former Soviet states. Economic ruin, civil war and general political malaise were among the calamities the so-called experts predicted.

Yet, Ukraine proved the pessimists wrong. The streets of Kyiv and other cities have not witnessed violent demonstrations against the government; strife has not erupted among conflicting ethnic groups; the reigns of government have changed hands without coup attempts; and tanks have not pounded a recalcitrant parliament into submission. Thanks to the will and determination of its people, Ukraine has survived and even grown into a stabilizing force in a region long-known for volatility.

As someone with Ukrainian ancestry, I celebrate the fact that the country of my heritage has now fully joined the world of freedom-loving nations and that the people of Ukraine enjoy the right to self-determination. As an American, I am glad that the United States has a new, constitutionally legitimized partner in Eastern Europe that shares our democratic principles. Likewise, as someone intimately involved in promoting democra-

cy's growth around the world, I also take great pride in the contributions made by U.S. organizations that are supporting Ukraine's political transformation.

Organizations such as the International Republican Institute (IRI) and other U.S. groups have provided technical and political advice and training to those pro-democratic activists struggling to restructure Ukraine's former Communist system. Since 1993, IRI has worked at the grassroots level with Ukrainians who, because of their commitment to improving the lives of their families and fellow countrymen, desperately seek the experience we as Americans have gained through over 200 years of practicing democracy.

IRI works with people like Loubov Maiboroda, a wife, mother of two young daughters, and a political party leader in a small city in central Ukraine who credits IRI as her "only source of political growth." Ms. Maiboroda vividly remembers growing up with her family stigmatized as an "enemy of the state" after her grandfather was abducted and killed by the Communist regime for alleged crimes against the government.

Her memory of Communist repression is her source of political motivation for the betterment of Ukraine. She and other democratic activists have received from IRI, thanks to American taxpayers, practical information and training on the party development issues and campaign skills they need to reform their country.

During Ukraine's recent constitutional process, IRI traveled to several cities to provide up-to-date and credible information to political activists, elected officials and concerned citizens who had little or no access to material on what would become their nation's fundamental law.

After the Constitution was adopted, U.S. Ambassador William Green Miller wrote that... "knowing the International Republican Institute is here offering its support expertly and enthusiastically makes my job easier and is greatly appreciated by our Ukrainian colleagues."

IRI and other U.S. institutions can take great pride in what they have helped their Ukrainian counterparts accomplish. These Ukrainian-American partnerships have and will continue to pay huge dividends to people such as Ms. Maiboroda and thousands like her.

Make no mistake. A new constitution is no panacea for a country still striving to dismantle a totalitarian system that prohibited independent political expression and a centralized economy that discouraged productivity. Efforts to privatize large state enterprises must be rejuvenated; Ukrainians must be fully empowered with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in civil society; a new election law is needed; and inflation must be controlled through introduction of a permanent currency.

These are only a few of the many obstacles remaining in Ukraine's path, but the determination and ability of the Ukrainian people, who, after all, are the only ones who can claim credit for their country's successful push for stable democracy, should not again be underes-

Michael V. Kostiw is vice-chairman of the board of directors of the International Republican Institute.

### SEND THE WEEKLY TO UKRAINE

To order an air mail subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly

for addressees in Ukraine, send \$160

for subscription fee and postage costs to: Subscription Department,

The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thanks for Weekly's Olympic coverage

Dear Editor:

Thank you, The Weekly, and a special thanks to Roman Woronowycz, for the excellent detailed reporting on the Ukrainian Olympians.

I cannot help but feel there was media bias in the reporting of the events in which Ukrainian Olympians took part. Example: The bland narration by John Tesh, who only showed some feeling when relating background information with photos about the Russian gymnasts. Could he be of Russian extraction? Another example: Bronze medalist Oleksander Bahach, omitted from the footage showing the American gold and silver winners on the platform.

Frankly, the American news media's publicity of this great event was upsetting.

Mary Andreyko  
South Pasadena, Fla.

### Many thanks due to Woronowycz

Dear Editor:

Please convey our congratulations and expressions of gratitude to Roman Woronowycz for his comprehensive and thoroughly enjoyable coverage of the Ukrainian participation in the XXVI Olympic Games.

Without his excellent reporting, we would know very little on this subject, in spite of the many hours spent in front of our TV set watching the Summer Games in Atlanta.

Many thanks, Mr. Woronowycz!  
Many thanks, The Ukrainian Weekly!

Alexander Voronin  
Oksana W. Voronin  
Silver Spring, Md.

### More on transfers of Ukraine's assets

Dear Editor:

In his illuminating discussion of independent Ukraine's economic development at the recent Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute's meeting (The Ukrainian Weekly, August 25), Prof. Jeffrey Sachs states that whether Ukraine was exploited by Russia or not is of secondary importance to the fact that both republics were inefficiently managed under the Soviet regime, hence the difficulties in starting reconstruction. Furthermore, he bases his notion of exploitation on a moot issue: which country exported its products at below equilibrium prices in interpublic trade. This statement requires some comments.

As Prof. Sachs mentions, this problem has been analyzed extensively. Several scholars in the West as well as in Ukraine, while using various methodologies and various data bases, have been unanimous in their conclusions that a significant share of national income was transferred without compensation from Ukraine to other regions of tsarist Russia and, subsequently, the USSR during various periods of time. This unrequited transfer amounted sometimes to as much as 20 percent of national income (net material product).

Clear evidence of such transfers was, for example, Ukraine's persistently low share in the total investment of the USSR relative to its population share. Since it was quite difficult to capture the effect of administered price structure in these calculations, they were in most cases based pri-

marily on transfers of national income through the state budget. It was not a zero sum game, as Prof. Sachs suggests, rather, an unquestionably minus sum game for the Ukrainian people.

Instead of, say, using these transferred funds for modernizing the economic structure and capital stock or for introducing new technology in Ukraine, where they were generated, they were used for the development of the Asiatic regions of the Russian Federation or for satisfying the great power ambitions of the USSR. This policy was obviously possible as a consequence of Ukraine's political status, whose interests had to be subordinated to those of Moscow. Were one able to add the effect of these foregone opportunities of Ukraine's economy to the more evident effect of national income transfers, the game for the Ukrainian people was indeed minus sum in the past and an additional reason why the reconstruction of their economy is so difficult at the present.

If Ukraine's economic conditions within the Tsarist Empire and the USSR were simply of intellectual interest, perhaps only students searching for dissertation topics in economic history would have reasons to rejoice. However, Ukraine's colonial experience in the past is acutely pertinent to the current political relations between the two countries.

As presented incisively, for instance, by Dr. Fiona Hill, another participant in the mentioned HURI forum, Russia has by no means given up its intention to reincorporate Ukraine into its empire, if only under a different guise, for example, the Commonwealth of Independent States. One can add that in this effort Russia is enthusiastically supported by the various so-called left wing parties in Ukraine.

To ward off such attempts, it is incumbent on those who are responsible for defending Ukrainian independence – and, yes, on their advisors as well – always to remind the citizens of Ukraine of their country's colonial exploitation by Moscow under both the tsarist and Soviet regimes. I apologize for ending this letter, for want of a better expression, with the oft repeated warning by George Santayana: "Those who forget history are condemned to repeat it."

I.S. Koropecyjk  
Moorestown, N.J.

*Editor's note: This problem is discussed in greater detail by the author in his book, "Development in the Shadow." (Edmonton, 1990), Chapter 3.*

### St. John's students have fond memories

Dear Editor:

The students of St. John The Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J., had many wonderful experiences to reminisce about during the leisurely summer months.

On May 5, 26 second graders (13 from St. John's) with eager anticipation walked into church, each holding a candle, while parents, relatives and friends watched with joy and pride. This indeed was a special liturgy and a day that no one would forget, as the children recited their prayers and sang the liturgical responses, finally receiving their first holy communion.

On Sunday, June 16, the eighth grade commencement program took place, with 10 students graduating. Doriana Alexis Gorsky, Oksana Jablonsky, Alexa Jaroslava Milanytch, Dmytro Smyk, Andrew Scott Wyncarzuk, Marco Adam Hordynsky,

(Continued on page 14)

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Welcome to the club, Mr. Klebnykov

It never fails. Just about the time I think Ukraine is home-free, along comes a kick in the shins.

Such was the case with Paul Klebnykov who, in an article in the September 9 issue of Forbes magazine, penned one of the most phantasmagoric articles about Ukraine I've read in months.

"Even with fighting in the former Yugoslavia stopped, at least for now," begins Mr. Klebnykov, "the world may not have seen the end of turmoil in Eastern Europe. Watch Ukraine. This former member country of the Soviet Union, the size of France, with 52 million people, is riven between those who want reunion with Russia and those who want to remain independent. It is not a dispute likely to be settled amicably."

Ukraine is a tinderbox, folks, and Russia has just about had it. "Russia is now a democracy, and the Russian president cannot ignore the pleas of the Russian-speakers in Ukraine if they ask for his help," writes Mr. Klebnykov.

Russia a democracy? Is that why Communists, nationalists, authoritarians, anti-Westerners and Socialists won far more seats in the Russian Duma last December than democrats, free marketeers, and pro-Westerners? The Communist Party alone won about 22 percent of the seats. If Russia is a democracy, why has Boris Yeltsin sacked so many economic reformers and why did Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman recently write that "70 percent of all businesses there [in Russia] say they pay protection money to crime cartels"?

I'm sure Boris Yeltsin is just aching to come to the assistance of Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine. After his glorious victories in Chechnya, Ukraine should be a piece of cake.

Russian speakers in Eastern Ukraine are forced to watch "turgid, Ukrainian-language programming" because the "relatively entertaining fare" of Moscow TV "has been banished to a weak third channel, hardly visible in most places," continues Mr. Klebnykov. How about that for a reason to secede?

There are other reasons. For Russian speakers, Mr. Klebnykov opines, "economic injury is being added to political insult" because "the vast majority of the country's export earnings and tax revenues" emanates from eastern Ukraine. "Where does the money go? To subsidize the poorer, Ukrainian-speaking regions of the west."

What nonsense. Eastern Ukraine is a rust belt of inefficient, dying industries that would collapse tomorrow if they weren't subsidized by the government. Russia has enough dead industry of its own without having to fish for more useless property.

Mr. Klebnykov admits that "Russia has a stranglehold on Ukraine's economy." But later he writes: "Russian President Boris Yeltsin's government has refrained from either squeezing Ukraine economically or fanning the ethnic flames in the eastern part of the country." Which is it? When is a stranglehold not a squeeze? Ask any Ukrainians in Ukraine and they'll tell you all about Russia's expertise in fanning ethnic flames.

"Ukrainians are ethnically almost indistinguishable from Russians," Mr. Klebnykov informs us, something like Spaniards and Portuguese. Bad comparison. The people of Spain and Portugal are very distinguishable ethnically and, like Ukrainians and Russians, they have competed and fought with each other for centuries.

"Reintegration with Russia would alleviate many of these [Ukraine's] problems, Mr.

Klebnykov writes, "but the electorate is of two minds on the subject. In March 1991 over 70 percent of Ukrainians voted in a referendum, to stay in the Soviet Union. Eight months later, after the Soviet Union was dissolved anyway, 92 percent of Ukrainians voted to approve their new independence."

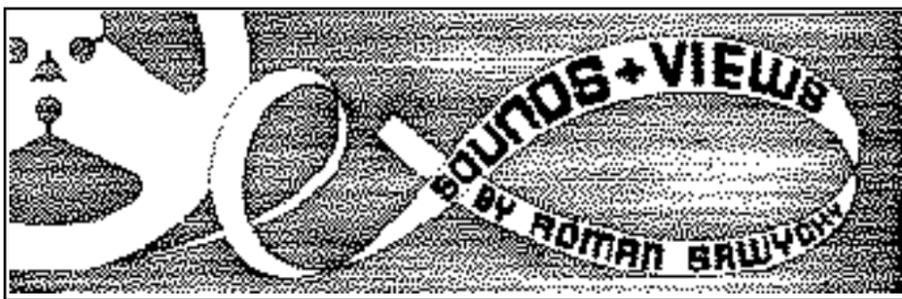
Not quite the whole story, Mr. Klebnykov. On July 16, 1990, before the collapse of the USSR, the people of Ukraine proclaimed their sovereign status. In March of 1991 70.2 percent of the people of Ukraine voted to preserve a Union of Soviet, Socialist Republics as "a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics." On August 24, 1991, the Ukrainian Parliament declared Ukraine's independence. On December 1, 1991, 92 percent of the people of Ukraine sanctioned the declaration in a referendum: As David Pryce Jones points out in "The Strange Death of the Soviet Empire," Ukraine's action was the coup de grace.

I hasten to point out that not everything Mr. Klebnykov wrote is fantasy. "Because of opposition from both the old communists and many nationalists, privatization in Ukraine is proceeding at a snail's pace," he writes. "Some of the country's most attractive assets are still government-owned...the investment law has been changed four times since 1992, and taxes sometimes take up 93 percent of companies' profits...While Kuchma says he wants foreign investment, local politics makes it unwelcome." No argument there.

Although his article does little to promote Ukraine, Mr. Klebnykov could be ignored if it weren't for one thing. His motives in writing his article become clear towards the end when he inserts a little side bar called "Messianic Mission." Borrowing a page from Morley Safer of CBS infamy, Mr. Klebnykov writes about Dmytro Korchynsky, described as "the head of Ukraine's most powerful paramilitary nationalist organization: Ukrainian National Self-Defense UNSO." To read the piece is to conclude the UNSO, which holds only three seats out of 420 in the Ukrainian Parliament, is an organization of thousands of young Ukrainian nationalists committed to a kind of Jacobinistic purification of the Ukrainian nation. "The Ukrainians are the only barbarian nation in all of Europe," Mr. Korchynsky is alleged to have told Mr. Klebnykov. "Irrational?" concludes Mr. Klebnykov. "Rationality doesn't always win. Think Iran. Think Bosnia. Think Chechnya. Think..."

I welcome Mr. Klebnykov, who speaks Russian but not Ukrainian, to the Thrash Ukraine Club which includes such malefactors as Stephen Budiansky (who demonized Bohdan Khmelnytsky in U.S. News and World Report), Abraham Brumberg (who condemned "creeping Ukrainization" in eastern Ukraine in the New York Review of Books), Thomas M. Nichols (who compared Ukrainian behavior to that of Libya, North Korea, and Iraq in the Christian Science Monitor), Michael Ignatieff (who moaned on PBS TV that the children of Russians in eastern Ukraine were being "tyrannized" into learning Ukrainian in school), and, of course, that old miscreant Morley Safer, the 1994 winner of the Walter Duranty Award for Journalist Dissimilitude.

Why is Ukrainian independence so threatening? Why is union with Russia, which has never brought anything but the most horrendous of agonies, good for Ukraine? And, finally, when will serious American journals stop publishing such drivel?



## Premieres to remember

Written on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the birth of tenor Modest Menzinsky, whose firsts should never be forgotten.

Roman Sawycky has submitted this series to mark the 20th anniversary of the column "Sounds & Views" which first appeared in *The Weekly* in July 1976.

### PART I

Although the world of music still echoes with such great masters as Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, the 20th century can be called the age of the superstar performer rather than the composer.

The classical music of Ukraine experienced a similar development. Such creative entities as Berezovsky, Bortniansky or Barvinsky, seldom to be encountered in later times, were gradually replaced by re-creative forces the likes of which just did not perform before on the Ukrainian scene. After all, household names such as Paul Plishka, Lydia Artymiw, Oleh Krysa or the late Mykola Malko speak for themselves.

In short, the renaissance of the Ukrainian performing artist, which started some 100 years ago, ought to be logged before this century is out.

### Festive occasions

World premieres or first public performances are often grand and festive occasions of the musical and social season. The composers themselves usually take an

active part in the preparations for such a significant event, choosing the best performers and monitoring their work. The more important a composer and his creation the more significant and accomplished the performer he/she is likely to engage.

Let us, then, survey numerous (and largely unknown) instances when Ukrainian artists were called upon to perform in world premieres. I do not intend to log first performances of Ukrainian music but, rather, will focus on premieres of works by non-Ukrainian composers, great and not-so-great but, for the most part, of international stature.

### Gala bassos

One of the foremost dramatic basses in the history of music was none other than the Ukrainian-born Osyp Petrov (1806-1878). This stupendous singer impressed Taras Shevchenko with his remarkable acting technique and an incredible vocal range of nearly three octaves (from the low B-Flat up to G-Sharp).<sup>1</sup>

Due, however, to socio-political circumstances, Petrov, like many others, was unable to realize his potential in Ukraine. In the years 1830-1878 he worked at the St. Petersburg Opera, single-handedly creating leading roles for that theater.

Petrov premiered a series of principal parts (usually written for him) in the following Russian operas: Mikhail Glinka's "Ruslan and Liudmila" and "Ivan Susanin," Alexander Dargomyzhsky's

"Rusalka" and "The Stone Guest," Artur Rubinstein's "Demon," Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's "Maid of Pskov." He was the first to sing the leading part of Mayor in Peter Tchaikovsky's Ukrainian opera "Vakula the Smith" (based on Gogol's story), which premiered November 24, 1876 at the St. Petersburg opera house (then known as the Mariinsky Theater). That very performance also included another bass of Ukrainian parentage, Fedir Stravinsky, but more about him later.

Petrov sang the part of Varlaam at the world premiere of Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov." In fact, Mussorgsky was in the process of writing his Ukrainian comic opera "Sorochyntsi Fair" (based on Gogol's work), with the intention of casting Petrov in a leading role, when suddenly the great bass died. Mussorgsky stopped working and left the opera unfinished, to be completed ultimately by others long after his passing.

The main Russian biographical studies on Petrov include works by Ye. Lostochkina (1950) and Vladimir Stasov (1952). There is some material in Ukrainian but surprisingly little in English.

Fedir Stravinsky (1843-1902) was yet another singer with a distinguished career in St. Petersburg. He was a "basso cantante"<sup>2</sup> of Ukrainian descent and the father of Igor Stravinsky, whose role in modern music has been compared to that of Albert Einstein in modern science. Engaged at first by the Kyiv Opera, the basso then joined the principals of the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, where he held star quality until his death.

Within the scope of his considerable contributions to Russian opera, Stravinsky gave notable performances in roles of Ukrainian characters. These included the Mayor (Holova) in Rimsky-Korsakov's "May Night," which premiered January 21, 1880, and Panas in "Christmas Eve," first presented November 28, 1895 (both operas based on works by Gogol). Tchaikovsky,

an admirer of the singer, asked him to sing in the world premiere (November 24, 1876) of "Vakula the Smith" (based on the same Gogol story that inspired Rimsky-Korsakov's "Christmas Eve").

We have here an interesting situation — two Ukrainian stories by Gogol (Hohol) serve as inspiration for two prominent composers (one of them, part-Ukrainian), who ask a bass of Ukrainian parentage to portray their successful concepts in a high-profile Russian theater...

Like Petrov before him, Stravinsky excelled as both a musical and dramatic talent. In all he appeared in 64 roles to considerable adulation of the public and the critics. There is only one Russian biography on Stravinsky, published in 1951 and there seems to be nothing recent, let alone in English.

Also displaying a wide range<sup>3</sup> in his vocal equipment was the impressive bass of Ukrainian stock, Adamo Didur (1874-1946). On March 19, 1913, the Metropolitan Opera staged the American premiere of Mussorgsky's epic "Boris Godunov" under Arturo Toscanini's direction. Didur was not only there; he was the first American Boris.

Didur's career at the Met was bright and very long (1908-1932). The basso's repertoire included Ukrainian folksongs, performed in the original language. A few survive in historical recordings to be admired also for the flawless Ukrainian.

(Continued on page 12)

<sup>1</sup> "Concise Oxford Dictionary of Opera" by Harold Rosenthal and John Warrack (London 1964). Much of the data on the Russian operas has been culled from "Slovar oper" (Dictionary of Operas, Moscow, 1962).

<sup>2</sup> Paul Plishka is a good example of a contemporary "basso cantante," i.e., a fully "singing bass" rather than a very deep one.

<sup>3</sup> It seems that bass voices reaching into baritone scope is a Ukrainian trait. Hulak-Artemovsky, Petrov, Didur as well as Plishka all have this wide range in common.



Metropolitan Opera Archives

The American premiere of Modest Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov" on stage at the Metropolitan Opera on March 19, 1913. Bass Adamo Didur is seen in the foreground on the right in the title role. The conductor was Arturo Toscanini.

# DATELINE ZDYNIA: Poland's Lemkos hold 14th annual Vatra

by Helen Smindak

ZDYNIA, Poland – The Lemko people are a hardy lot. They are accustomed to eking out a living in the rather stringent farming conditions of southeastern Poland, and to walking long distances on hilly terrain in any weather.

When the 14th annual Lemko Vatra blossomed here for three days in July in a natural amphitheater site, they did not flinch during two days of cloudbursts and pouring rain. Sheltered by umbrellas or huddled inside pup-tents on the hillside facing the covered stage, they applauded festival performances by entertainers from Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The third day – Sunday – brought welcome sunshine and a stream of cars and buses to fill acres of meadowland on the periphery of the Vatra (literally, bonfire, figuratively, festival). Local residents, both Polish and Lemko, came on foot, swelling the crowds into the thousands.

Delores Sheptak, who hails from the Canadian province of Manitoba, made a spur-of-the-moment visit from Ukraine with relatives who live in Lviv. The occasion brought a family reunion as Ms. Sheptak and a cousin from Mississauga, Ontario, gathered with their Ukrainian kinfolk at the Lemko home of the Fil family, to whom she is also related.

A 40-something Lemko from Ivano-Frankivske, Ukraine, brought his Ukrainian wife and teenage son to see the land where his parents had lived all their lives.

Among festival attendees were many visitors from Ukraine, some from the United States, and at least one family from Australia.

Festival organizers estimated the overall attendance at 5,000 to 6,000.

As the warm sun dried muddy roads on Sunday, people gathered around small campfires or sat in the shade of two huge parachute-like canopies, catching up on family and clan news. Good-humored banter and group singing held sway in the daytime, while revelry and dancing took over in the evening.

Though the over-all tenor of the festival was merry, there were recollections in many minds of the bitter post-war years, when the Lemkos experienced imprisonment in concentration camps and resettlement to Ukraine and other parts of Poland.

The Polish government's attempt to wipe out this minority group culminated in the infamous Akcja Wisla of 1947, when all remaining Lemkos were forcibly resettled, with only minutes to pack before being hustled aboard freight cars headed for western Poland or Ukraine.

Until 1945, this picturesque northern fringe of the Carpathian mountain chain had been 99 percent Lemko, with Poles, Jews and Gypsies making up the remaining 1 percent of the population.

With the festival now in its sixth year at Zdynia, the grounds include permanent office quarters for the festival organizers, the Association of Ukrainian Lemkos of Poland; an exchange center (for currency exchanging); refreshment and vendors' booths; the covered stage; and concrete flooring for the nylon-roofed outdoor dining pavilions. Still to be completed is a Lemko-style log cabin, with dressing rooms and other facilities for performers and production assistants.

Vendors offering handicrafts, art work and foods set up shop in makeshift stalls along the fair's central road, while ordinary citizens from Ukraine hawked glassware, vodka and second-hand items from blankets spread on the grass outside the main entrance.

Andriy Khomyk, a 1986 graduate of the Lviv State Institute of Applied and Decorative Arts, displayed his unique reverse paintings on glass at a stand not far from the stage. The framed art depicted rites and customs that comprise a traditional Ukrainian wedding.

## Folk ensembles abound

There was plenty to buy, and much to see, especially on stage, as one performing group followed another. With folk dress differing from village to village, a variety of colorful costumes appeared before the spectators.

Sports events, competitions such as log-sawing, and contests for best housewife, best mayor and Miss Vatra XIV added variety and humor to the non-stop stage program. Youngsters were included in festival events with competitions in art work, recitation and singing.

From Ukraine came such Lemko folk ensembles as Yavorina of Chortkiv, Studenka of Kalush, the children's group Kalynonka of Drohobych, Lemkivska Studenka of Boryslav, and Lemkovyna of Lviv/Rudno, as well as the Vertep ensemble of Ternopil.

Local ensembles included the Oslavlany group from Mokre, Potochok from Potoky, Lemkovyna from Bilianka

(Continued on page 15)



The blessing of the grave of Orthodox priest and Lemko patriot the Rev. Maksym Sandovycz.



The Kurivchany ensemble with Dr. Mykola Mushynka (center) waits to go on stage.



A view of Sunday's festival crowd as seen from the stage.



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## Ukraine's ambassador...

(Continued from page 4)

medical textbooks, journals, computers and other equipment were donated to the Ukrainian National Medical Library. (The Canadian government provided more than \$3 million for both these projects, and substantial private donations were received as well.)

The Legal Training Project, conducted by the University of Alberta Law Faculty, began its activities in August 1995. Under the auspices of this project, which is to last three years and four months, 18 law instructors from Ukraine will take eight-month courses in Western legal theory and practice, teaching methods and materials at the University of Alberta (Edmonton), McGill University (Montreal) and Osgoode Hall Law School at York University (Toronto).

It is expected that 18 new law courses adapted to Ukraine's needs will be developed as a result of the project, which has received \$2.45 million in funding, half of which was provided by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Canadian-Ukrainian Legislative Education Project, which began operations in April 1996 under the auspices of CIUS, will bring 120 Ukrainian legislators, civil servants and assistants, experts and local government officials to Canada. During the project's three-and-a-half-year term, educational programs will be organized in six of Ukraine's priority areas, resulting in the preparation of legislative reform packages. This project, supported by the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, has \$4 million in funding, of which \$2.2 million is being provided by

the Canadian government.

The Division of Slavic and East European Studies at the University of Alberta is western Canada's leading center for the study of the Ukrainian, Russian and Polish languages and literatures, and is the academic home of the unique Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography. Besides Canada and the U.S., students come from Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Belarus, Bulgaria, England, Germany, Korea, Ghana and the former Yugoslavia.

Two externally funded Slavic studies journals are published by the division, and a computerized language-instruction program is being developed. The division is the first humanities unit at the University of Alberta to initiate video distance instruction and examination.

At his meeting with the directors of these units, Ambassador Furkalo recalled President Leonid Kuchma's statement that financial and intellectual investments in Ukraine, as well as political and moral support for the country, are investments in the stability of Europe and the world as a whole. Thus, all assistance rendered to Ukraine in this difficult transitional period is extraordinarily valuable.

He underlined that the University of Alberta, which has initiated so many important aid projects to Ukraine, and whose strong ties with Ukraine are helping to improve the country's educational level, as well as to revive its cultural and scientific traditions, deserves the highest praise. On behalf of the government of Ukraine, Ambassador Furkalo thanked all present and promised the support of his Embassy in all university activity related to Ukraine.

## Important Information

regarding advertisements in "Svoboda" and "The Ukrainian Weekly."

Some businesses, organizations and private individuals have been sending their ads to an incorrect (incomplete) address. This causes delays in publication of text, which in turn results in customer complaints.

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Advertising Dept.

# Maday completes iconostasis for Calgary's St. Vladimir Church

CALGARY, Alberta – Icons for a monumental three-tier floor to ceiling iconostasis recently were completed by artist Andrij Maday of Maday Studios in Cleveland.

The iconostasis, commissioned by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Calgary, comprises 42 hand-written icons and took two and one-half years to complete.

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All of the icons were executed in the ancient traditional approach and style. The inscriptions on each icon are in both Ukrainian and English, thus facilitating their access to all segments of the parish community.

The woodwork and carving of the structure itself was done by Gene Stefaniv of

Magna Woodcraft Ltd. in Alberta, and the whole project was coordinated by the parish's Iconostasis Committee, chaired by E. Shirley Din.

Mr. Maday, a freelance artist for the last 25 years, is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, where he was a scholarship recipient and majored in graphics.

Mr. Maday has received numerous awards, among them the Lewis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant for his woodcuts. Over the years he has completed a number of independent icon study tours throughout Italy, Jerusalem/the Holy Land, Ukraine as well as here in the United States.

Today he lives in the Cleveland area, where he continues to work in the art field, specializing in woodcuts, painting and traditional iconography, as well as lecturing extensively.

He may be contacted at: Maday Studios, P.O. Box 33315, Cleveland, OH 44133-3315; telephone, (216) 885-2842.



The newly completed iconostasis is at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Calgary, the work of artist Andrij Maday.



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## Premieres...

(Continued from page 8)

Didur trained many successful singers, among whom are such members of the Ukrainian cultural elite as the late Yevhenia Zarytska, Myroslav Starytsky, Ivanna Shmerykovska (Pryima), as well as the contemporary Lidia Krushelnyska, Ira Malaniuk and Theodore Teren-Juskiw.

### At the Met

"Why sure, I always knew that Didur was Ukrainian," replied Paul Plishka (b. 1941) at our first meeting focusing on nationalities and national repertory. Like Didur Plishka has enjoyed a long and very prominent career at the Met filled with popular adulation and critical acclaim. Unlike Didur, however, Plishka has produced over the years a series of unusually successful recordings in several languages including Ukrainian (flawless too).

His opera recordings include world premiere pressings on LP stereo discs of "Le Cid" by Massenet, in which Plishka sang the part of Don Diego opposite Placido Domingo (Columbia 1976). The following year he portrayed Guido in the first recording of "Gemma di Vergy" by Donizetti (Columbia 1977). Since the producers were quite pleased with both issues, perhaps re-releases on CD are already in the wings.

In 1995 bass-baritone Andrij Dobriansky (b. 1930) started his 26th season at the Met, where he is a contemporary of Plishka. Through the years he appeared in over 1400 Met productions. When aptly costumed his figure took on some resemblance to the late Tyrone Power. This, combined with Dobriansky's solid vocal values, made good theater as well as good gate at the Met.

In 1991 the singer took part in the successful world premiere of the opera "Ghosts of Versailles" by John Corigliano (b. 1938). Dobriansky also lent his services to a special program celebrating the 25th anniversary of Lincoln Center in New York. Video cassettes of this gala have circulated throughout the world - certainly a first for Lincoln Center and its latest achievement.



Basso Fedir Stravinsky as Golova (or the mayor) in Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's opera "May Night."



Legendary basso Osyp (Ossip) Petrov in a rare photo.

### ATTENTION

#### ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 101

Please be advised that Branch 101 will merge with Branch 387 as of October 1, 1996.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to  
Mrs. Irene Oliynyk, Branch Secretary:

Mrs. Irene Oliynyk  
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### TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 134

In Rutherford, NJ

As of September 15, 1996 the secretary's duties of Branch 134 in Rutherford, NJ will be assumed by Mr. Iouri Lazirko.

We ask all members of Branch 134 to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below:

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# Olexander Koshetz Choir to hold 50th anniversary reunion in October

WINNIPEG – The Olexander Koshetz Choir of Winnipeg is celebrating a milestone: its 50th anniversary. The Koshetz Choir, founded in 1946 by Ukrainian Canadian youth inspired by their music teacher Dr. Olexander Koshetz, is one of the largest and oldest community-based Ukrainian choirs in Canada.

Special 50th anniversary celebrations are planned for the weekend of October 11-13 in Winnipeg. Linda Hunter, president of the Koshetz Choir, explained, "The choir has touched many peoples' lives over the last 50 years. We have hundreds of alumni all over the world and would love to have them participate in these special anniversary events. This is also an opportunity to reunite alumni of the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Courses which attracted hundreds of Ukrainian youth from across North America from 1941 to 1963."

Dr. Walter Klymkiw, conductor of the

choir for the past 45 years, said he was excited about the weekend. "We are thrilled to have Anatoly Avdievsky of Ukraine and Larry Ewashko of Ottawa as guest conductors for the commemorative concert. Our choir has always had a strong connection with Ukraine. On our third and fourth world tours we delighted Ukrainian audiences with music which had been previously restricted under Soviet rule. We have played a significant role in retaining the cultural, religious and choral history of Ukraine."

Other highlights of the 50th anniversary weekend include a wine and cheese reception, a gala 50th anniversary banquet and commemorative concert featuring the Koshetz Choir, the Rusalka and Orlan dance ensembles, and soloists past and present.

For more information contact Ms. Hunter, (204) 255-7975.

## UNA sponsors...

(Continued from page 5)

tournament organizer Yuriy Pawluk to both division finalists and to the MVP of every team.

The use of the hall was donated by the sports commission of the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian National Federation. The chairman of this committee is Slawko Kowal.

The Ukrainian National Association sponsorship of the U-Hawks is just one of many fraternal benefits for members of the UNA. Other benefits include reduced subscription rates for The

Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, discounts at the UNA resort, Soyuzivka, scholarships for Ukrainian students, and sponsorship of sports, cultural and educational activities.

To join the UNA call 1-800-253-9862 or contact your local UNA branch secretary.

## Correction

In the story headlined "State Department officer briefs Ukrainian American representatives" (August 25) the first name of Jack Segal, the new office director for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, was given on first reference as Frank.



## Ukrainian Ski Club KLK, New York

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3. General (official) KLK meeting with elections.

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Featuring **Strobe Talbott**, Deputy Secretary of State (invited); **Yuri Kostenko**, Ukraine's Minister of the Environment and Nuclear safety (invited); **Viktor Yushchenko**, Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine (invited); **Yuri Shcherbak**, Ukraine's Ambassador to The United States; **Roman Popadiuk**, First U.S. ambassador to Ukraine; **Sherman Garnett**, Carnegie Endowment for Peace; **Ilya Prizel**, Professor at Johns Hopkins University; **Valeriy Kuchinsky**, Minister Counsellor at Embassy of Ukraine; **Andrew Bihun**, Commercial attache at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv; **Yuri Yakusha**, Alternate Director of the IMF; **Orest Deychakiwsky**, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe; **Bohdan Futey**, judge, U.S. Court of Federal Claims; **Steve Nix**, Kyiv Office of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems; and **Rostyk Chomiak**, Grant Administrator for the International Media Center in Kyiv.

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

### Friday, October 11

7:30 - 9:30 Reception at the Embassy of Ukraine

### Saturday, October 12

8:00 - 9:00 Registration  
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  
9:00-10:00 Ukraine's Road to Independence - Oral History  
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

**Note: All times are tentative**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Profession \_\_\_\_\_  
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Brunch and Yara Arts Group performance	_____ x \$30 _____

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**By Phone:** Lida Bihun @ US-Ukraine  
202-347-4264 (daytime) or  
George Masiuk @TWG  
703-960-0043 (evening)  
**By Fax:** 703-960-7459  
**By E-mail:** gmasiuk@aol.com  
**By Mail:** TWG Leadership  
Conference, P.O. Box 11248,  
Washington, DC 20008.

### Hotel Registration:

Call 1-800 327-9789 and ask for special \$105/night TWG rate (guaranteed through September 20).

## St. John's...

(Continued from page 7)

Sergey Konstantin Lyaschenko, Adrian Peter Padkowsky, Oleh Paul Wolansky and Tanya Alexis Wyncarz said farewell to the students and faculty as they prepared to embark on a new and exciting phase of their life at such high schools as Mount St. Dominic, Oak Knoll, Mount St. Mary's, Oratory Prep, Union Catholic and New Providence High. Of these graduates, Alexa Milanytch, Marco Hordynsky, Adrian Padkowsky and Oleh Wolansky received the Presidential Award, which signifies outstanding national academic achievement.

Mr. Wolansky, graduating with honors, gave the salutatory address. He spoke

with wit and humor about his various experiences with the teachers and the impact they had on his eight years at St. John's.

Mr. Padkowsky and Miss Milanytch, both graduating with high honors, gave the valedictory addresses in English and Ukrainian, reflecting on their own experiences with students and teachers and expressing their gratitude to Sister Maria, the principal, and to the teachers and parents for their commitment and dedication to the students and school.

During the last week of school, on June 18, 16 kindergarteners dazzled parents and the school community with their own graduation ceremony and program. It was a wonder to listen to their performance of

songs and various recitations as they stood proudly in their white caps and gowns. Alexandra Burns, Matthew Diliberti, Larysa Filewicz, Danyla Frazier, Chrystyna Lazirko, Michael Kavka, Adam Klapko, Roman Kovbasniuk, Danylo Lesko, David Markowski, Stephanie McNally, Alexander Mycio, Andrea Pitio, Bohdania Potter, Olenka Strutynsky and Danylo Szpyhulsky received their kindergarten diplomas and are now going into first grade.

On Wednesday, June 19, 115 students and St. John's parishioners bid farewell to the school principal, Sister Maria Rozmarynowycz, OSBM, after 10 years of service to the community and school children. Her dedication and hard work

came through in many ways, and her accomplishments are too numerous to list.

St. John's excellent academic and religious program, wonderful school spirit, and caring environment underlying good morals and high standards, as students are nurtured and learn to feel proud of their Ukrainian heritage, can all be attributed to Sister Maria's commitment and dedication, along with that of the excellent teaching staff and clergy of St. John's Parish.

Indeed, the Ukrainian community is very lucky to have such a fine school, and we wish our former principal, Sister Maria, all the best in her future endeavors.

**Terenia Rakoczy**  
Whippany, N.J.



Students and faculty of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School gathered for a photo during the farewell program for Sister Maria Rozmarynowycz OSBM.

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## UNA Seniors...

(Continued from page 5)

duced at this conference by Ms. Senchy was a great deal of fun.

Emilian Jurchynsky had an exhibit and sale of his photographs and proceeds were donated to The Ukrainian Museum in New York, Soyuzivka and the UNA senior conference.

The highlight of the week was the elegant banquet and the cocktail party. Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, gave a moving address on the many problems that still confront Ukraine as a result of the Chernobyl disaster.

A Chernobyl vigil for the accident's victims followed. Women dressed in Ukrainian blouses and carrying candles formed a living wreath. Honorary President Woloshyn lighted the first candle and, as the lights were dimmed, the candles were lit one by one. Then Dr. Baranowskyj recited a poem on Chernobyl with great emotion. A prayer was said by the Rev. Volodymyr Zaiats and a moment of silence followed. The choir of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Boston, directed by Mr. Moroz, gave a beautiful rendition of "Otche Nash." (Our Father). It was a moving experience and a fitting end to the 22nd Conference of the UNA Seniors Association.

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## Poland's Lemkos...

(Continued from page 9)

and Mriya from Horlytsia. Performances by the popular Kuchera song-and-dance ensemble from Legnica in western Poland were enthusiastically received.

Slovakia contributed the Reviliak family of Bardiyev and the Kurivchany folk ensemble led by Dr. Mykola Mushynka of Presov. Dr. Mushynka, a native of the village of Kuriv, where the ensemble is based, selects a different cycle of the years and a specific family event for each performance; this year, a traditional welcome to spring and a christening were re-enacted.

A folklorist and a member of Safarik University's Chair of Ukrainian Studies faculty, Dr. Mushynka donned a heavy "chuha" (long, embroidery-trimmed wool cloak) and carried a shepherd's staff as he appeared with the Kuriv ensemble. (His long, drooping Shevchenko-style whiskers brought him the festival's "longest whiskers" award.)

Other contest winners included Dorata Klopach of Horlytsia - Miss Vatra XIV; Maria Gudzowska, Ternopil, Ukraine - best housewife; and Jan Swiatkowski of Yahoda, Poland - best mayor.

Sunday's program was preceded by early morning liturgies. Greek-Catholic Lemkos congregated at a temporary outdoor chapel set on a hillside near the Vatra, while Lemkos of the Orthodox faith gathered in Zdynia's 18th-century wooden church.

The Orthodox services included a procession of priests and worshippers to the cemetery for special ceremonies at the grave of the Rev. Maksym Sandovycz, an Orthodox priest executed by the Austrians in 1915.

The final day of the festival also included the laying of memorial wreaths at the village of Novytsia, in memory of the Lemko patriot Bohdan Ihor Antonych; at

Losye, for Yakiw Dudra; at Ustia Ruske, for Lemkos who died in the struggle for freedom; and at Bortne, for victims of the Talerhoff concentration camp.

Commemorative events honoring two famous Lemkos scheduled for the Thursday before the festival did not take place. One was the 140th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Nikifor Leshchysyak, a folklore enthusiast who collected Lemko folk songs, tales, legends and proverbs.

The other was the 100th anniversary of the birth of the primitive painter, Nikifor Epiphany Dvorniak. A memorial plaque intended for the Nikifor Museum in the resort town of Krynica could not be installed because the Ukrainian inscription had been placed above the Polish, instead of vice-versa, as Polish law dictates.

Lemkos know about the two Nikifors, but few if any may know another celebrated name that belongs to Lemko ranks: Plishka. The paternal grandparents of New York's Metropolitan Opera star Paul Plishka lived in the village of Vyzhny Yablinsky, in the Lisko district of southeastern Poland.

Most Lemkos acknowledge that they are part of the Ukrainian ethnic grouping, although some insist that the Lemko people are a separate "nation" with no ties to any Eastern European state.

The name Lemko drives from the term "lem" (meaning just or only), frequently used in Lemko conversation.

Vasyl Shlanta, president of the Association of Ukrainian Lemkos in Poland, which publishes the quarterly bulletin Vatra, said the festival was organized by a committee that included himself, Alexander Maslij, Petro Shafran, Stefan Hladyk and Petro Chukhta. Sponsors included the regional office of the Polish Ministry of Culture and Events, the Organization in Defense of Lemkivshchyna, and a number of private firms and individuals from Horlytsia, where many Lemkos now reside.

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Tuesday, September 17

**NEW YORK:** The work of Ukrainian Canadian painter and installation artist Taras Polataiko, who was written up in ARTnews in 1995 as one of the "Ten Artists to Watch Worldwide," will be exhibited at Caelum Gallery. The gallery will show a selection from the artist's "Glare" series, conceived as an homage to Kyivan-born painter and theorist Kazimir Malevich, a key figure in the development of abstract art and founder of the suprematism art movement in 1913. Caelum Gallery is located at 580 Broadway, Suite 902, between Houston and Prince streets. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday; and 1-6 p.m., Sundays.

### Saturday, September 21

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society is holding a lecture by Hanna Rudavska, professor at the Kyiv State University of Commerce and Economics, who will speak on "Chornobyl, Nutrition and Problems in Safeguarding the Ukrainian Genepool." The lecture will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 5 p.m.

### Wednesday, September 25

**JENKINTOWN, Pa.:** Manor Junior College will hold its second annual golf outing to benefit the college's endowment fund. The outing will take place at the Bucks County Country Club, Jamison, Pa. Registration is at noon, with the tee-off set for 1 p.m. A dinner and awards presentation will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center, at the intersection of Lower State and County Line roads. Hole sponsorships are available at \$100. The fee for an afternoon of golf and the dinner/awards ceremony is \$75; dinner/awards ceremony only is \$25.

**YARDVILLE, N.J.:** St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church is holding an autumn dance at the church hall, 839 Yardville-Allentown Road, starting at 9 p.m. Music will be by Fata Morgana. Tickets, available at the door, are: \$20, adults; \$10, students. Price includes buffet. For additional information call Natalia Poseva, (609) 259-2763.

### Saturday, September 28

**HARTFORD, Conn.:** The Zoloty Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble is holding its first annual zabava to be held at the Ukrainian

National Home, 961 Wethersfield Ave., at 8 p.m. Music will be by The Wave. Donation (includes buffet): \$10, adults. For additional information call Irene Tomaszewsky, (860) 872-8687.

**BUFFALO, N.Y.:** The Ukrainian Students' Club at the University of Buffalo is sponsoring its third annual volleyball tournament, with a dinner and a zabava to follow at the Dnipro Ukrainian Home. Music will be by the Burlaky. To register teams and for more information call Lida Paszkowsky, (716) 835-6288, or send e-mail to LNP4@acsu.buffalo.edu.

### Sunday, September 29

**SASKATOON:** The Ukrainian Canadian Congress invites all members and supporters of the Ukrainian community to the second annual Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Saskatchewan Provincial Council Community Appreciation Banquet to be held in the Battleford Room of the Delta Bessborough Hotel. The banquet, which will honor 11 Ukrainian community activists, begins at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and available from the UCC-SPC office, 203-611 University Drive, or by calling (306) 652-5850.

### ONGOING

**NEW YORK:** An art exhibit, held on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence, featuring works by artists from the Or Gallery in Kyiv, is currently on view at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations. Among the artists represented are Oleksandr Borodai, Mykhailo Demtsiu, Dmytro Dobrovolsky, Anatoliy Furleta, Serhiy Hai, Ivan Ivko, Volodymyr Kabachenko, Olha Volha and Mykola Volha, the gallery's director. The exhibit, which opened September 5, runs through October 4. The mission is located at 220 E. 51 St. Exhibition hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission.

**POTTSTOWN, Pa.:** The photography exhibit "An American Portrait of Ukraine," by award-winning artist Wilton Tiffit, is on view at The Hill School Center for the Arts. The exhibit, back from its recent United States Embassy tour, opened September 8 and will run through October 18. The center is located at Beech and Sheridan streets. Gallery hours: 3-5 p.m. For additional information call (610) 326-1000, ext. 7351.

## Ukrainian Festival USA slated for September 21

HOLMDEL, N.J. — The 22nd annual Ukrainian Festival USA will be held at the PNC Bank Arts Center (formerly the Garden State Arts Center, exit 116 off of the Garden State Parkway) on Saturday, September 21.

The festival kicks off at 9 a.m. with a soccer tournament. At 10 a.m. the Ukrainian Marketplace opens with hundreds of tables of Ukrainian artifacts, folk art, woodcuts, clay and ceramic pottery, records and tapes, t-shirts and other items. The Food Court will be available to satisfy everyone's hunger with traditional Ukrainian foods.

The 11:30 a.m. mall program will showcase the talents of the tri-state area's younger musical and folk dancing ensembles. There will be many activities also in the children's corner.

The stage program, held in the Arts Center Amphitheater, starts at 3:30 p.m. This year's stage chairpersons, Alex and Lillianna Chudolij, have put together an upbeat and fast-paced program filled with traditional Ukrainian folk songs and dancing performed by some of the finest performers in North America.

This year's show will be hosted by the ever popular star of stage and screen, Edward Evanko of Los Angeles. Mr. Evanko will enchant the audience with his warm personality and singing style.

The 30-member Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Winnipeg will electrify the audience with a variety of folk

dances from various regions of Ukraine.

Providing a mix of traditional and contemporary songs will be the Luba & Mykola Ensemble, originally from Lviv.

Dyvocvit, a vocal ensemble comprising six youngsters from Ukraine, is back by popular demand for an encore performance.

Ostap Stahiv, a virtuoso bandura player, will provide both vocal and instrumental selections on Ukraine's national instrument, the bandura.

Completing the array of performers will be the Cheres Folk Ensemble, a five-piece group of musicians who have mastered the art of performing traditional folk music from the Carpathian Mountains.

Following the afternoon stage program, those who wish to continue celebrating can dine at the Starlight Festival Dinner to be held at the Ramada Hotel, Route 10 West in East Hanover, N.J. The dinner will feature a hot buffet and provides the opportunity to meet and mingle with the stars of the program. Tickets for the dinner, at \$35 per person, include admission to the festival dance featuring the Burlaky from Canada and the Lvivian. For reservations contact Daria Twardowsky, (908) 5118-0448. Admission to the dance alone is \$15.

This year's festival has a lower ticket price that includes all day events as well as the stage program for only \$10 at the door. Advance-purchase discounts are available by contacting Jaroslaw Iwachiw, (908) 369-5164.