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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine's TV restructured; critics cry foul

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — In a restructuring of its broadcasting, Ukraine's two government-run television channels have opted to no longer carry private broadcasting except for the German-based "Studio 1+1." The move sounds the death knell for one of Ukraine's more popular news programs, "Vikna."

On December 31, 1996, the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Commission announced that because of its heavy broadcasting schedule, it will no longer carry independent news programs.

The two stations, UT-1 and UT-2, have long been accused of simply being propaganda arms of the government. According to the Kiev Post, even producers and reporters at the networks admit that their reports are regularly censored and that most news reflects the official position of the government.

Viktor Petrenko, chairman of the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Commission, had said on December 17, that many private companies would be cut out in the restructuring of national TV. He said companies propagating pornography and violence "would be punished." He also said the commission "would insist on broader introduction of the Ukrainian language in broadcasting."

"Vikna," a news program that broadcasts in Ukrainian, did not seem like a show that was ready for the chopping block. However, it may be a matter of censorship due to content. Yurii Aivazian, a director of the International Media Center (IMC), which finances "Vikna," said the networks had censored the news program in the past. "The day Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz condemned the beginning of the re-election campaign, we put his quote in the news, and the National Commission removed the program from the evening line-up and broadcast Strauss music instead," he said.

IMC President Mykola Kniazhytskyi said this was not the first instance of government disapproval of a piece that "Vikna" had run, according to Agence France Press. He recalled that in July the government had expressed its irritation with a story on the strike by the independent miners' union and its leader who was in prison awaiting trial.

He called the government's latest move "indirect censorship."

Meanwhile "Studio 1+1," which will be granted nine hours of broadcast time daily, said it was awarded the contract because it is the only broadcasting firm able to afford the licensing fee.

Ukraine's vice-consul ejected from Canada

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — Declared persona non grata together with his wife by Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ukraine's vice-consul in Toronto, Oleksander Yushko, boarded an afternoon KLM flight to Kyiv on December 24, 1996.

The Canadian Foreign Affairs Ministry issued the declaration on December 23, stipulating that the pair was to leave Canada by midnight of Christmas Day.

This marked the climax of a bizarre two-month series of events during which the Canadian government and various agencies alternately did, and did not, recognize the Ukrainian official's claim of diplomatic immunity. Ukraine's diplomatic corps steadfastly insisted that no matter how damning the circumstances, any arrest of an official of theirs was illegal.

Immediately prior to the December 19 Ontario Provincial Court hearing in the matter, the Ukrainian Consulate General's legal affairs officer, Anatoliy Alekseyenko, told The Weekly that the 32-year-old Mr. Yushko arrived in Toronto on October 17, 1996, carrying a Ukrainian diplomatic passport stamped with a Canadian diplomatic visa. Mr. Alekseyenko said Mr. Yushko sent his documents to Ottawa to further formalize his registration as a representative of the Ukrainian government, because he hadn't passed through the Canadian capital upon arriving in the country.

Nine days later, with the paperwork still not complete, Mr. Yushko was in hot water. On a Saturday night, he was charged with drunk driving, possession of stolen property, bribing a police officer, and accused of trying to lure two teenage girls into his car and of intending to administer a noxious substance, since he had a handkerchief soaked with xylene (an anesthetic solvent) in his possession.

According to depositions made by the prosecutor in the case, Crown Attorney Sarah Welch, Mr. Yushko lacked any identification attesting to his status at the time of his arrest, and did not identify himself as a consular official until after offering a bribe to the arresting officer, Const. Charlie Kozdas of the Metropolitan Toronto Police.

Mr. Alekseyenko told The Weekly that Mr. Yushko did not have his documents because they were still in Ottawa being processed.

According to court transcripts, Ms. Welch alleged that Mr. Yushko had failed a roadside alcohol blood-level test and then attempted to bribe the officer who administered it to him. Mr. Yushko was then handcuffed, the car he was driving was searched, and he was taken to Toronto's 14th Division Metro Police station house and detained overnight.

Released on October 27 when Mr. Alekseyenko posted a \$10,000 surety (accepted in lieu of cash), Mr. Yushko was instructed to appear in court on

October 29, and to surrender his passport. However, the vice consul did neither. In fact, he failed to appear at seven subsequent hearings prior to the expulsion order of December 23.

In the meantime, conflicting pressure on the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Prosecutor Welch seeking to try Mr. Yushko on the one hand, and from Ukraine's diplomatic missions and its lawyers on the other, produced contradictory positions on whether Mr. Yushko actually had diplomatic immunity at the time of his arrest.

In letters to Ms. Welch of October 29 and November 1, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Deputy Chief of Protocol W.R. Bowden stated that Mr. Yushko "does not have immunity from criminal jurisdiction" because he was not a full-fledged diplomat.

After the vice-consul missed another hearing on October 31, Ms. Welch began pressing for the execution of a discretionary bench warrant for his arrest, contending that the matter of his immunity from prosecution was for the courts, and not for Mr. Yushko, to decide.

The Ukrainian Consulate General retained Greg Hood, Todd Archibald and Lubomir Kozak of the Toronto law firm Borden & Elliott to press their case that Mr. Yushko was performing consular duties at the time of his arrest, and that

the arrest and search of his car, therefore, were illegal because they were not performed under a specially issued warrant as demanded by the Vienna Convention.

Their petitions and diplomatic pressure from the Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa resulted in a November 8 letter to Ms. Welch, in which R.J. Rochon, director general of the Canadian Foreign Affairs Ministry's Bureau of Legal Affairs, agreed with their position and indicated that his ministry "wishes to withdraw" the previous two items of correspondence in the matter. Mr. Rochon went on to certify Mr. Yushko as a consular officer was "entitled to the privileges and immunities afforded" to such officials.

Ms. Welch pressed on, however, attracting media attention to the case. On December 5, the Toronto Sun daily ran Christie Blatchford's column titled "Feds change tune on envoy immunity," followed by another on December 13, titled "Ukrainian thumbs nose at our laws."

In the latter piece, Ms. Blatchford revealed that Mr. Yushko is the son of a former KGB colonel who was stationed at Soviet Consulates in Toronto and Montreal in the 1950s and 1960s before returning to Kyiv to serve in a "senior operations position."

These press reports irked Ukrainian

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New documentary to focus on Ukraine in World War II

TORONTO — Prof. Norman Davies, a noted historian at the University of London and author of the new publication "Europe: A History" (Oxford University Press), in a recent interview analyzed World War II, stating that Germany and the Soviet Union were equally responsible for starting the war in 1939.

Prof. Davies noted in his interview: "from September 1939 to 1941 Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union weren't formal allies but they were clearly partners ... Germany, I think in those two years attacked eight European countries, the Soviet Union attacked and invaded five European countries."

The interview with Prof. Davies was conducted at Oxford University by Slavko Nowytski, the director of a film on Ukraine in World War II. This documentary film has been commissioned by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center and is scheduled for completion in late 1997.

The film will provide the first comprehensive, but concise, introduction to the Ukrainian experience in the second world war — in which an estimated 10 million Ukrainians perished and over

2.3 million Ukrainians were taken as Ostarbeiter slave laborers to Germany in 1942-1944.

The Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC) is continuing its search for materials that will best portray the fate of Ukraine during the war. The film will cover the struggle of Ukrainians to survive between the scorched earth policies of Stalin's Red Army on one side and Hitler's brown German Army on the other. Among the 10 million Ukrainians that Ukraine lost in the war were 600,000 Ukrainian Jews executed by the German Einsatzgruppen.

According to Andrew Gregorovich, executive director of the UCRDC, the film will include interviews with Ukrainian Ostarbeiter survivors and some of the Jews saved by Ukrainians in the war.

Prof. Davies said: "The post-war history of Ukraine starts with the phase of continuing resistance. Many people in the West don't realize that Ukrainians ... were fighting against both Hitler and Stalin and after ... 1945 there was a remnant of the wartime resistance continuing."

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ANALYSIS: Ukraine's security, political and economic prospects for the new year

by Taras Kuzio

In 1996 Ukraine continued its "two-vector" security policy vis-à-vis the CIS and the West. This is likely to continue into 1997 due to domestic factors that, at this stage, prevent Ukraine's full-scale integration into the West. At the same time, Ukraine will continue its drift westwards because of Russian policies that preclude Eurasian integration on terms that would not harm Ukraine's sovereignty. Belarus and Ukraine, therefore, will continue to drift in opposite directions, the former towards Eurasia and the latter towards Europe.

Throughout 1996 Ukraine's leadership and the Ukrainian media continually raised the question of Ukraine's integration with the West in terms of "Ukraine's return to Europe." There seems no question that Ukraine's strategic orientation is now firmly set on with the West. Ukraine's openly proclaimed strategic goals are membership in the European Union, the West European Union, the Central European Free Trade Area and GATT.

In 1997 NATO will announce candidates for the first echelon of its membership expansion that will take place by the end of the decade. At least two of these countries — Poland and Hungary — border Ukraine. Ukraine, unlike Russia and Belarus, will continue to support NATO's evolutionary enlargement, provided two factors are taken into account (both are likely to be implemented in 1997): first, the agreement to not deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of new member-states; second, the signing of a treaty (or charter) between Ukraine and NATO to deal with Ukraine's security fears.

Although Ukraine has ruled out applying for NATO membership at this stage, the policy of neutrality and non-bloc status cannot be assumed to be fixed. Kyiv will apply for NATO membership if the Yeltsin leadership supports the territorial claims advanced by its legislature, or if President Boris Yeltsin is replaced by someone of the Aleksandr Lebed or Gennadii Zyuganov mould.

Relations with Romania are likely to improve after the election victory of Emil Constantinescu in November 1996. Both Romania and Ukraine have vital interests in removing any territorial problem between themselves in order to be eligible for integration into Western structures, especially NATO. Relations with Ukraine's four key Western backers (the U.S., U.K., Germany and Canada) will continue to evolve into strategic partnerships — particularly with the U.S.

Ukraine's strategic importance to European security is no longer in doubt. For the second year running, Ukraine receives a larger amount of U.S. assistance than Russia. If Russia's relations with the U.S. continue to deteriorate, one can expect that Ukraine's strategic significance will grow even more.

Within the Commonwealth of Independent States, Ukraine will continue to limit integration to economic issues, although even here Kyiv will continue to run into three problems with Russia. First, Russia will continue to apply pressure upon Ukraine to join the CIS Customs and CIS Payments Unions, to both of which Kyiv is unlikely to

agree. Ukraine will also remain an associate member of the CIS Economic Union (just as it is likely to remain only an associate member of the CIS). Second, although Ukraine and Russia have normalized their energy relations, problems will remain. Ukraine and Russia will continue to search for alternative suppliers and alternative supply routes. In the case of Ukraine, this means developing Ukraine's strategic alliance with Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan (both oil and gas producers) and Georgia (as an energy route to the Black Sea and the Odesa oil terminal). In the Russian case, this means strengthening relations with Belarus (whose energy sector is already de facto under Russian control). Third, Russia will continue to utilize economic pressure in pursuit of its strategic agenda in Crimea (pressure such as the unilateral September 1996 imposition of import taxes solely on Ukrainian goods, and refusal to provide components for Ukrainian military exports that would allow Kyiv to become a major arms exporter and serious competitor to Russia).

Russian-Ukrainian relations actually worsened in many respects during 1996. It is unlikely that there will be a breakthrough during 1997 in Ukrainian-Russian relations over an inter-state treaty or the Black Sea Fleet. 1996 witnessed a convergence of policies in Russia between the executive and the legislature vis-à-vis Ukraine. This will continue in 1997, and Russian policy will harden over its attempts to assert sovereignty over Crimea and Sevastopol.

During 1996 Ukraine began a concerted effort to broaden its export markets with a view toward lessening its dependence upon Russia and the CIS. This policy will be speeded up and broadened. New target areas for Ukrainian exports will include Latin America, the Middle East (particularly arms exports) and Asia (arms exports, space technology and investment in Ukrainian high-tech industries).

Political and economic issues

1996 saw a breakthrough in unresolved domestic issues in Ukraine: the adoption of the country's first post-Soviet constitution (June), and introduction of the long-awaited new currency, the hryvnia (September). In addition, Ukraine finally decided to close the Chernobyl nuclear plant. Ukraine completed small-scale privatization in 1996. However, medium- and large-scale privatization will continue to be haphazard and slower, in view of the strategic enterprises removed from the list of those eligible for privatization.

A key priority for the Ukrainian government in 1997 will be to reduce the size of the shadow economy by lowering taxes and providing inducements for legalizing shadow businesses. The shadow economy in Ukraine accounts for up to 50 percent of its GDP. By December 1996 Ukraine had completed the process of transferring land from state ownership to collective forms of ownership. This is an important first stage on the road to land privatization, which the parliamentary left will attempt to block.

In October 1996 the Verkhovna Rada adopted a subsidy-heavy economic program for the period 1997-2000. It outlines plans to aid large producers in areas of Ukrainian industry that are considered important for reinvigorating its exports (aviation, automotive, telecommunications and agriculture). In addition, the goal of the program is to boost industrial

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NEWSBRIEFS

Kuchma increases arms exports controls

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma has issued a decree aimed at increasing control over defense-related exports, Ukrainian Radio reported on December 28, 1996. The decree transforms the State Export Commission into the State Commission for Export Control Policy. The Export Technical Committee will be renamed the State Export Control Service under the Cabinet of Ministers. The reorganization is meant to establish strict control over international transfers of arms and military technology, as well as raw materials and skills that may be used for the production of weapons and other military technology. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Ukrainians cite decline in living standards

KYIV — An opinion poll asking 1,200 Ukrainians about their living standards in 1996 showed the majority still feel their standards are declining, the newspaper Den reported on December 31, 1996. Of the respondents, 37 percent said their living standards declined significantly in 1996; 33 percent said they declined somewhat; and 23 percent said their standards did not change. Only 6 percent said their standards improved somewhat; and 1 percent said they improved significantly. The average wage in the first 11 months of 1996 was 144.76 hryvni (\$77), but real wages fell by 23 percent over the same period due to inflation. Official unemployment levels remained at a low 1.1 percent, but real unemployment is believed to be at least nine times higher. Prices rose by 38.5 percent over the first 11 months of the year. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Constitutional Court comes into being

KYIV — Ukraine's new Constitutional Court formally came into being on January 3, Ukrainian Radio reported. The head of the court, Vitalii Boiko, met with President Leonid Kuchma to mark the occasion. So far, 16 out of the court's 18 judges have been appointed. The remaining two are to be appointed by the Verkhovna Rada, which has the right to appoint one-third of the court's justices. The same day, President Kuchma submitted his first case to be examined by the court; the case involves the Parliament's accounting department. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Budget deficit twice as large as forecast

KYIV — Ukraine's budget deficit in 1996 totaled 8.6 billion hryvni (\$4.57 billion), Reuters reported on December 31, 1996. That is double the figure forecast when the budget was drawn up. Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko said that GDP fell for the fifth consecutive year and that,

according to the most optimistic forecasts, it is not expected to reach the 1990 level for another 11 years. Mr. Lazarenko said wage arrears have not been paid because of "other commitments." On a more positive note, he added that Ukraine has paid off all its accumulated gas debts to Russia and Turkmenistan. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Security Council approves military plan

KYIV — Quoting the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, Volodymyr Horbulin, UNIAN reported on December 28, 1996, that the council has approved a program for the development of Ukraine's armed forces through the year 2005. Mr. Horbulin said the program took all foreign policy factors into account and was based on the state's financial resources. Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk noted that three operational and command directorates would be established on the model of the Carpathian and Odesa military districts and the Northern Command. The program envisages a new structure made up of mobile rapid-reaction units. The ground forces, air force, air-defense force and navy will all remain part of the Ukrainian army. Minister Kuzmuk also said this was the first time that the state has specified that the task of the armed forces is to ensure the country's national security. (OMRI Daily Digest)

NBU reduces refinancing rate

KYIV — The National Bank of Ukraine reduced its key refinancing rate to 35 percent from 40 percent, effective January 10, a bank official said. NBU spokesman Dmytro Rikberg on January 4 told Reuters the new rate took into account the fall in inflation. Ukraine's Statistics Ministry reported that same day that monthly inflation fell in December 1996 to 0.9 percent from 1.2 percent in November. Annual inflation fell to 39.7 percent against 181.7 percent in 1995. The government said inflation for the coming year is expected to be 25 percent. (Reuters)

Russian is equal in Kharkiv region

KHARKIV — The eastern region of Kharkiv voted to give the Russian language equal status with Ukrainian as of the beginning of the year, ITAR-TASS reported on January 7. At the same time, the administration in the predominantly Russian-speaking eastern region of Donetsk took the opposite position, deciding that the sole official language in the region's administration and business would be Ukrainian. Under the Ukrainian Constitution, only Ukrainian has

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Ukraine's vice-consul...

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officialdom, and echoes were heard in Kyiv, where the Russian-language *Vseukrainskie Vedomosti* carried a report in mid-December by Elena Nesterenko, which accused the Canadian media of covering up police misdeeds and violations of international law.

Ms. Welch's tenacity in pursuing Mr. Yushko produced a surprising result. At the December 19 hearing, the prosecutor announced that Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa and its Embassy in Kyiv had just been informed that Ukraine was appointing Mr. Yushko's wife, Maria, as a diplomatic attaché in Canada. As part of her household, the vice-consul was thus afforded full diplomatic immunity, which included immunity from arrest on the warrant that Ms. Welch was seeking to have executed.

Ms. Welch expressed concern that "the appointment of Mrs. Yushko on the very morning that the [prosecution] was to pursue [Mr. Yushko's] appearance [before the court] has been done to circumvent the criminal charges before the court."

The prosecutor told the presiding judge, Justice Bruce Young, that she would formally request that the Ukrainian government waive Mr. Yushko's immunity in this matter, and asked for a continuance of the warrant until another hearing, set for January 8.

The December 19 hearing was also followed by a lively press scrum in the hallways of the Old City Hall courthouse involving Mr. Kozak, one of Mr. Yushko's lawyers, who continued to insist that the hapless Ukrainian's arrest, the search of his car, and his overnight detention were all illegal.

"The law does not apply to diplomats in the same fashion that it does to Canadians," Mr. Kozak asserted. "The officers in question were obliged to obtain a special warrant before they could proceed in this instance," he said. After shunning a number of opportunities and requests for comment, the consul general in Toronto, Serhiy Borovyk, issued a defiant declaration that appeared on the front page of the December 18-24 edition of the Toronto-based Ukrainian-language weekly *Ukraina i Svit*.

In his statement, Mr. Borovyk claimed that on the night in question, Mr. Yushko had lost his way back to the hotel where he was staying with his wife, and had stopped to ask for directions. He further noted that "the arrest, interrogation of O. Yushko, the search of a diplomatic vehicle, the application of handcuffs and his detention under guard are all serious violations of legal norms, which are particularly surprising and disturbing to me."

Mr. Borovyk asserted that neither the Consulate General in Toronto nor the Embassy in Ottawa were officially informed of the incident for several days.

While "not wishing to deal with the details of the accusations," the consul general also expressed "shock" at the level of bias demonstrated in the media's coverage of the matter, decrying Ms. Blatchford's comparison of Mr. Yushko to convicted rapist and murderer Paul Bernardo (in her December 5 article). In turn, the diplomat compared such coverage to the libels committed by the former Soviet Communist Party organ *Pravda*.

Mr. Borovyk concluded with the expectation that "in this matter, the generally accepted norms of international law and domestic Canadian legislation will prevail over the dubious search for artificially created sensation based on unsubstantiated accusations."

However, on December 23, it appeared that Ms. Welch had gained the upper hand. The Canadian government declared both Mr. and Mrs. Yushko "personae non-

gratae" and stipulated they had to leave by midnight, December 25.

In a statement carried by the Canadian Press (CP) on December 24, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Sanjeev Chowdhury said this decision was made after "it became clear the Ukrainian government would not consider waiving Mr. Yushko's diplomatic immunity."

Mr. Chowdhury said that "charges against Mr. Yushko have been held in abeyance. Should he ever return to Canada, he will be subject to prosecution on those charges." In an apparent return to a position held earlier, Canadian officials were quoted by CP to the effect that Mr. Yushko "did not have absolute immunity" because he was employed at a Consulate, not an Embassy, at the time the crimes were allegedly committed.

The announcement prompted a "Christmas Heave-Ho for Ukrainian Envoy" banner headline on the front page of the Toronto Sun tabloid on December 24. Sun reporter Scott Magnish elicited a riposte from Ukrainian Embassy Press Secretary Yevhen Polishchuk, who said the Toronto Consulate General would continue to pursue the quashing of charges against Mr. Yushko in the new year.

Mr. Polishchuk conceded that the former vice-consul "won't be coming back to Canada to work" but he that would be eligible for another foreign posting if the charges in Canada are dismissed.

In Kyiv, according to a Reuters report, Yurii Serheyev, a Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, held a press conference on December 26 at which he confirmed Mr. Yushko's return. Mr. Serheyev reiterated his government's contention that the vice-consul's arrest had been illegal and expressed the hope that the incident would not adversely affect relations between Ukraine and Canada.

* * *

Endnote: The official World Wide Web site of the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada includes a rubric titled "Spirit use," which targets potential visitors to Ukraine. "Please note Ukraine is a Zero Tolerance country with regards to alcohol misuse," it reads, "fines are substantial and your driver's license may be removed. Do not drink and drive. Take a cab."

Newsbriefs

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the status of state language, but regions with sizable minorities speaking other languages may grant official status to other languages. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Daewoo promises \$1B for car industry

KYIV — Korean giant Daewoo plans to invest more than \$1 billion (U.S.) in Ukrainian car production, reported UNIAN on December 26, 1996. According to the presidential press secretary, Dmytro Markov, President Leonid Kuchma has approved most of the projects proposed by Daewoo Chairman Kim U Jung at a recent meeting and has ordered the Cabinet and ministries to do their utmost to ensure their successful realization. Mr. Markov insisted that Daewoo is entering the Ukrainian market as a strategic investor and plans to reinvest its profits in the Ukrainian economy. During a meeting with Conversion Minister Valerii Malev and representatives of Zaporizhia car plant AvtoZaz, the Daewoo corporation agreed to participate in the restructuring of AvtoZaz and to start mass-production of cars solely from Ukrainian components. Specialists report that more than 160 Ukrainian enterprises will be involved in the manufacturing cycle. About 30,000 cars are to be made annually, half of which are to be exported. This is expected to yield annual profits of \$1.5 billion (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

NEWS AND VIEWS: U.S. steel mills try to stymie Ukrainian steel imports

by Alex Anderson

WASHINGTON — On November 5, 1996, United States steel producers filed a petition with the Department of Commerce and International Trade Commission alleging that Ukrainian steel producers were "dumping" steel plate on the U.S. market by selling large quantities at low prices. They asked for the imposition of crippling duties in order to close off the U.S. steel-plate market.

According to a well-placed source at the Commerce Department, the U.S. producers are using this petition as a test case in the hope of closing off all steel imports from Ukraine.

Ironically, the first meeting of the new Kuchma-Gore Commission was held in Washington on November 5-6, 1996, to discuss political, trade and investment, security and global issues. In a joint statement, the Committee on Foreign Policy noted that "the U.S. and Ukraine strategic partnership is based on common values and goals." In an earlier joint statement, the full commission noted that Ukraine's "market reforms have gone far toward stabilizing the economy and creating a foundation for growth. These steps have advanced Ukraine's integration with Europe and the West, and have positioned Ukraine to be a pivotal and stabilizing force in an evolving Europe."

Clearly, the issue of whether U.S. steel producers can monopolize the U.S. steel market while destabilizing Ukraine will be a major test of the commission because it involves policy considerations at the very heart of U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral relations.

Both the White House and Congress have made clear that the economic stability of Ukraine is a top U.S. priority. Without such stability, there can be no political stability. This is evident from the recent assassination attempt on Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko. Officials in Kyiv are convinced that the attempt was a direct result of Mr. Lazarenko's investigation of the failure to pay coal miners for several months.

The coal producers are largely dependent on the steel mills for currency, and much of that currency was not getting to the miners in time to pay salaries. One of the changes that Prime Minister Lazarenko instituted was to require the mills to pay the coal producers in advance rather than later through local officials. It follows that any disruption in U.S. steel sales, presently comprising 55 percent of Ukraine's exports to the U.S. (worth \$200 million per year), will have a profound destabilizing effect on the Ukrainian economic and political situation. Moreover, it will strain relations and foment distrust of U.S. intentions.

Ukraine is now the third largest recipient of U.S. aid — \$330 million in grants and \$675 million in bilateral credits for 1996 — much of which is earmarked for assisting Ukrainian industry in joining the world market economy. These, along with loans from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, have been predicated on an economy growing as a result of exports to countries with hard currency.

Ukraine has been granted most-favored-nation status and the U.S. government has set up working groups at the departments of State, Commerce and Energy to provide assistance and expertise with economic development. Why then, on November 25, 1996, did Robert LaRussa, acting assistant secretary of the Commerce Department, allow initiation of the anti-dumping petition against Ukraine by finding that the petition alleged "material injury or threat of material injury to domestic producers"?

A senior administration official stated that Mr. LaRussa's action was not well received by the White House. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, he said, "It is

amazing that a Commerce official would allow a highly profitable U.S. industry to undermine years of work by the administration and destabilize the economy of a strategic partner. The Ukrainians must think we're as bad as the Communists in the Russian Duma who recently imposed draconian duties on Ukrainian imports."

Jack Segal, director for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova at the State Department, put it more diplomatically but no less forcefully: "The administration is 100 percent in support of Ukraine's economic restructuring efforts, and we fully understand the importance of this export to Ukraine's well-being. But this allegation of dumping is in a legal process that is clearly delineated by law. Obviously, it is in everyone's interest to move this forward as rapidly as the law permits."

U.S. steel producers, according to their own petition, have at least a 79 percent share of the U.S. steel-plate market and are bringing on 10 percent additional production in the next six months. The U.S. demand for steel is high because of the growing economy, and the domestic mills cannot fill that demand because of production and weather-related problems. The marketing manager for the largest producer of U.S. steel plate, Bethlehem, recently testified that the company made "significant" profits from plate sales and that the problem "is not with demand, but with supply."

Despite the fact that U.S. producers cannot satisfy the demands of their own customers, they want to close off foreign competition in order to cause prices to rise. This protectionism would, of course, ultimately hurt the American manufacturing and consumer sectors, and cause a slowdown of economic growth.

The Ukrainian producers were obviously shocked and surprised by the dumping charge because, for several years, they have acted responsibly by setting prices higher for the U.S. market than for all other markets. Moreover, they have been at near full production capacity and are not interested in expanding exports to the U.S.

The current level of exports, however, is vital to the national interests of Ukraine and needs to continue unabated. Without it, the important processes of privatization and economic development in Ukraine will be interrupted and undermined. Clearly, the danger of the dumping petition is that steel exports to the U.S. will be wiped out and havoc will be wreaked on the Ukrainian economy.

As Volodymyr Khrebet of the Ukrainian Embassy's Trade Mission put it, "Our government is not pleased with this development." To be sure, it is contrary to the administration's policy considerations toward Ukraine and will have a negative effect on the good relations that have been so carefully nurtured in recent years.

The five commissioners of the International Trade Commission voted at a preliminary hearing on December 18, 1996, to allow the U.S. steel producers' petition against Ukraine to proceed. According to Washington attorney Marty Lewin, who represents the Ukrainian mills, "there is a strong case to be made that imports from Ukraine are not injuring the U.S. industry. Companies such as Bethlehem and U.S. Steel are doing very well. Unfortunately, at a preliminary determination, it is very rare that the ITC will vote to stop the petition. However, I believe that in the final analysis, the facts of this case should compel the ITC to terminate it."

The administration and those in Congress who are concerned about a consistent approach toward Ukraine, the survival of its economy and stability in the region should act immediately to stop this act of economic aggression.

Diabetes project in Ukraine provides hope: a translator's experience

by Maria Lewytzkij

PACIFICA, Calif. – Veselka (Rainbow) is the name of the camp on Ternopil's outskirts where I spent one week in July with diabetic children, as part of the team representing the Ukrainian Diabetes Project.

My interest in the project began when I met Andrea Skrypka, a neighbor Californian and director/founder of the UDP, at a Ukrainian National Women's League of America gathering. She showed a video of some diabetic children brought from Cherkasy to America last year. I was touched. Andrea listed Ternopil as one of the cities UDP planned as a camp site for the 1996 summer. Coincidentally, I planned on meeting family there at the same time.

Andrea told me that in Ukraine diabetic children are treated as invalids. Anticipating my observation that plenty of Americans with diabetes live normal lives, Andrea explained that education regarding diabetes in Ukraine is lacking. UDP's mission is to change Ukraine's approach to treating diabetes. I immediately volunteered as her translator.

As translator, I met my first challenge at the camp's opening ceremony when Andrea greeted the 92 children plus mothers and grandmothers. Would my Ukrainian be understood? I believed it would. I was there as a messenger, to communicate Andrea's vision – herself a diabetic – to fellow Ukrainians. I was understood and even mentioned in an article and on the radio as well versed in Ukrainian.

The first night, the parents, who have formed the Buratino Society, greeted us with overwhelming thanks at a dinner in our honor, where children and the restaurant's hired talent performed for us. Adorned in Ukrainian costumes and their prettiest outfits, a few children presented us with embroidery and autographed wooden boxes. Within their desperate fights to improve their children's lives, Buratino representatives were grateful for UDP's efforts.

This welcoming set an encouraging mood for the work the UDP and the children would perform during the week. The children learned about living well with diabetes, the importance of regular blood sugar analyses, how to maintain daily logs, and how to test their blood sugar independently – a concept many hesitant parents accepted. Following the last instructional session, we handed each child a year's worth of insulin and supplies.

At Veselka, circling a grassy field, the stage and its benches, 12 barracks housed children and the youngest campers' mothers or grandmothers. Since the age ranged from 4 to 19, we divided the camp into groups to best communicate age-specific issues. With the camp medical director, Liza Levok, and the camp director, Zinovii Dobenyko, we agreed on a class schedule for the youngest children accompanied by their parents, pre-teens and teens. Needless to say, the youngest ones found it a challenge to sit still. One 4-year-old's grandmother caught her breath when I relieved her and ran after her grandson as he exited the classroom for the fifth time.

For three classes a day, two local endocrinology students, Ira and Tanya, and I translated for Andrea and Shama Roderick, both dietitians specializing in dia-



A class in progress: teenagers learn how to perform their own blood testing.

betes. We were able to combine my understanding of Andrea's fast English with their medical knowledge and intimacy with contemporary Ukrainian. As a result of our collaborative efforts, the translations were precise.

Often the children would get a good laugh when they watched us struggle to find the best way to translate a concept. Imagine pre-teens' reactions to the procedure of using test strips to detect sugar in urine. Lucky for their giggles, the children didn't need to suppress them, since we came to teach blood testing as the most accurate method.

Olia is one girl who stole my heart – a part of which resides with her in her grandparent's home on Lva Tolstoho street. Olia is a fragile 8-year-old girl whose shyness rarely allowed her to honestly share whether she felt her blood sugar level to be low or high. Her pale face sweating, she'd secure herself at her grandmother's side or hold her sister Nadia's hand tighter when I asked her if she felt okay.

Over the few days, we grew attached. When I hugged her, I did so gently, and she'd smile when I approached. Her grandmother, too, often guessed how Olia felt – she'd measure Olia's sweating or sudden weakness as red flags.

Olia and Nadia are generally quiet, she told me. She believed it came from the tragedies they've faced at such young ages. Their mother drowned during the last year, and their father abandoned them. They live with their grandparents, who exist meekly on preposterous pensions. Complicated by diabetes, these facts of Olia's life seem to justify her timidity.

I bonded with her immediately and spent many good times with Olia, providing her with understanding and

hope. She and Nadia are going to send me their artwork.

The wealth of colorful personalities and genuineness the children offered surrounded me during a camp whose theme, in Ukraine, is viewed despairingly. The camp proved something very valuable to me and the children, the five core volunteers of the UDP team whose hard work and perseverance made the camp a reality, and the excellent camp staff.

Even though the issue of children living with diabetes is very serious and involves proper education and care, the means of doing so should provide hope and a good time. Thus, the children staged skits, recited poems and held competitions that we judged. The most hysterical competition was between six teenage boys donned in dresses and heels, answering dating riddles and quickly folding pyrohy.

Olia, her friends Yura and Natalka, and the rest of the kids and teens I met revealed they want to make our message a reality: control your diabetes and you can live a full life.



Maria Lewytzkij (left), author of this article, with Daria Ivasechko and her granddaughters Olia and Nadia.

Luhansk student wins Sopinka Award

TORONTO – The fourth John Sopinka Award for Excellence has been awarded to Roman Didenko, a fourth-year student of history at Luhansk Pedagogical Institute in Luhansk, Ukraine.

Established in 1988, the award is named for Justice John Sopinka of the Supreme Court of Canada. It was established by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation of Toronto.

The Poltava-born Mr. Didenko is the first student from a Ukrainian university to receive the Sopinka Award.

The scholarship has made it possible for Mr. Didenko to take up a full-year residency at the Center for Conflict Resolution of St. Paul University in Ottawa.

During his residency Mr. Didenko will be trained to become a teacher/instructor of conflict resolution. After his return to Ukraine in 1997, he will complete his degree at Luhansk Pedagogical Institute and then begin training Ukrainian students in conflict resolution.

Jodi Leforte of the United States Peace Corps wrote one of the letters of recommendation for the award recipient, noting in part: "As his professor, I am impressed by his inquisitiveness and well-developed opinions. I instruct him in English, and I am overjoyed by his eloquent usage of that language. Not many people are capable of making their opinions and

beliefs understood in a foreign language. Ukraine needs a leader like Roman, who leads not for his own self interest, but for the interests of the people."

Previous John Sopinka Scholarship recipients include Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk, formerly of Queen's University; Prof. Bohdan Kordan of the University of Saskatchewan; and Orest Babij, a graduate of Royal Military College, now at Oxford University.

Mr. Didenko's professors at Luhansk Pedagogical Institute and his American professors recommended him for the 1996 Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program for university students from Ukraine.

Program Director Ihor Bardyn, speaking about Mr. Didenko, said: "It is students and youth of Ukraine who can act as the catalyst to turn Ukraine into a democratic and civil society. Vaclav Havel, the Czech president, wrote that 'the key to former Communist countries' passage to democracy is the creation of a civil society in which the rule of law checks the human impulse to act out fantasies of hatred.' Democracy, Mr. Havel points out, is not enough."

The ability of Ukraine's students to study and retain what they have learned from Western democratic and civil societies is a key link in the transformation of former Communist countries into democratic and civil societies, Mr. Bardyn noted.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA'ers



Katarina Jovanovic, daughter of Shezana and Radf Jovanovic, is a new member of UNA Branch 888 in Etobicoke, Ontario. She was enrolled by Bianca Hrnjak.



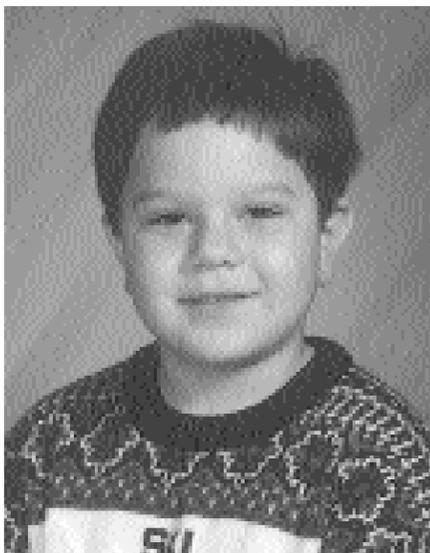
Lucas Edward C. Fedyk is a new member of UNA Branch 171 in Jersey City, N.J. He was enrolled by his parents, Roman and Larissa Fedyk.



Stefan Jovanovic, son of Shezana and Radf Jovanovic, is a new member of UNA Branch 888 in Etobicoke, Ontario. He was enrolled by Bianca Hrnjak.



Daniel Alexander Korduba, son of Elizabeth and Roman Korduba, is a new member of UNA Branch 234 in Elizabeth, N.J. He was enrolled by his uncle Marc G. Pogoda.



Nemanja Jovanovic, son of Shezana and Radf Jovanovic, is a new member of UNA Branch 888 in Etobicoke, Ontario. He was enrolled by Bianca Hrnjak.



Roman Yaroslav Sperkacz, son of Yaroslav and Lesia Sperkacz, is the youngest new member of UNA Branch 388 in Bay Harbor, Fla. He was enrolled by his parents.

Ukrainian National Foundation board holds its first meeting

by Martha Lysko

In the report about the November 6, 1996, meeting of the Executive Committee that was published in The Ukrainian Weekly, it was noted that the UNA had activated a foundation, called the Ukrainian National Foundation Inc., and received an exemption from federal income tax under section 501 (c) of the IRS Code. This foundation has been in the planning stages for some time. As early as January 1995 the UNA Executive Committee had authorized Stefan Kaczaraj, CPA, to file all necessary papers for the creation of a not-for-profit foundation.

The foundation was established exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, scientific and cultural purposes. The primary aim of the foundation is to grant scholarships to needy students from the U.S., Ukraine and other countries to study banking, business and journalism. The foundation will continue to sponsor the English Teachers for Ukraine program and the Summer Institute for Teachers in Ukraine. It will support

orphanages and the elderly, and aid in printing school texts on subjects of Ukrainian heritage and culture.

The board of directors of the UN Foundation met on November 10, after the close of the annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly.

The board of directors of the Ukrainian National Foundation comprises: President Ulana Diachuk, Vice-President Nestor Olesnycky, Secretary Martha Lysko, Treasurer Alexander Blahitka, Anya Dydik-Petrenko, Anatole Doroshenko, Roma Hadzewycz, Eugene Iwanciw and Walter Sochan.

The first order of business, after the opening of the November 10 meeting was to establish a financial basis for the foundation. Each member of the General Assembly of the Ukrainian National Association had donated \$25 to the foundation for a total of \$625 collected at the annual meeting. The foundation expects to receive at least \$10,000 from the sale of UNA Christmas cards.

(Continued on page 14)

The UNA and you

Good counsel: hire an attorney

by Stephan Welhasch

In some states, like Pennsylvania, California and New Jersey, the state supreme courts have changed requirements on real estate closings. They permit home buyers to go through closings without legal representation.

Attorneys, title companies, escrow companies and, in some cases, real estate companies are allowed to act as closing agents. One should not treat a closing lightly.

Attorneys should be involved with the buyer right from the time of signing the sales agreement because all home purchases involve some negotiations. Attorneys can show you legal loopholes and advise you on how to avoid legal problems.

In most cases sellers have an attorney representing his or her interests. Home buyers should do the same; at the very least they should have an attorney go over the contract to be ensured that their interests are fully protected. Since the sellers' attorneys usually draw up the sales contract, buyers who are trying to save themselves money by not having an attorney may be setting themselves up for all kinds of difficulties.

Closing attorneys perform various necessary and useful services to the home buyer, including "riding herd" on the title company and sellers' attorneys. "Any number of unforeseen problems can arise prior to and at a closing — so don't take a chance at not being represented by legal counsel," says Myroslaw Smorodsky, of the law firm Smorodsky & Stawnychy, based in Rutherford, N.J.

"Whatever the case may be," says Frank Wilson, a retired loan officer from the New York City area, "the handling of closings by counsel can save both the buyer and the seller much time and unnecessary aggravation." In New Jersey, for example, real estate attorneys have traditionally represented not only the buyers, but also the title company and the mortgage lender in most transactions. Therefore, attorneys always tried to do the job as quickly and efficiently as was possible.

Among the most common problems that have occurred with not having legal counsel is that more deals are being renegotiated after the traditional "home inspection" is completed. Quite often this results in delayed closings and sometimes financial loss for the buyer.

If you decide to hire an attorney, look for one who specializes in real estate. They can guide you through inevitable obstacles and will give you invaluable tax and other advice. A successful closing requires a lot of preparation on your part. Be a wise consumer, take good counsel. Ask your lender to provide you with any literature they may have about closings, buying or selling a home, etc. Ask them to answer all of your questions about completing a closing successfully. They will be more than happy to oblige you. Ask your real estate agent all the same questions that you asked your lender and attorney. Between the three, you will have a pretty good picture of what home buying is all about.

We at the Ukrainian National Association realize buying your own home is probably one of the most important financial steps in your life. If you are thinking of purchasing a new home or are looking to refinance your existing mortgage loan, the UNA can help you.

The UNA offers its members special financing for owner-occupied, one-, two- and three-family homes nationwide. The UNA First Mortgage Loan Program is specially designed to meet the financial needs of its members and offers an interest rate that is competitive with prevailing rates in your area. We also provide Jumbo Loans to Ukrainian churches and organizations.

To find out more about the First Mortgage Loan Program or about becoming a member and sharing in the many benefits the UNA has to offer, telephone (800) 253-9862.

**Insure and be sure.
Join the UNA!**

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Christmas from Ukraine

On January 6, that is Christmas Eve by the Julian calendar, the air waves here were filled with Christmas broadcasts from Ukraine carried by Radio Ukraine International. There were homilies from spiritual leaders, greetings from government officials, reports on Christmas themes and highlights of divine liturgies.

As one loyal listener informed The Weekly, the Christmas Eve broadcast carried excerpts of a liturgy celebrated at St. Volodymyr Sobor by Patriarch Filaret and other hierarchs and clergy. It was a Ukrainian-language liturgy broadcast from that cathedral, which is the seat of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate.

Then the international service of Radio Ukraine opted to broadcast an even longer excerpt of another liturgy — this one celebrated by Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate from the Trapezna (Refectory) Church of the Pecherska Lavra, the famed Kyivan Cave Monastery. The liturgy was celebrated in the Russian language.

Now, we are not about to tell the people of Ukraine what language they should worship in. After all, the new Constitution of Ukraine guarantees language rights to all of Ukraine's citizens. What we do object to, however, is Radio Ukraine International's decision to broadcast a Russian-language liturgy — close to 45 minutes of it — to the world.

Why should Ukraine's official radio broadcast a Russian-language liturgy? Who does the radio station think its audience is: the Russian diaspora? Surely that is the audience for radio broadcasts emanating from Russia. The Ukrainian diaspora audience, meanwhile, has been treated with insensitivity, indeed with disrespect. They do not believe that "eto vsio ravno" (it's all equal) when it comes to language. What need does the Ukrainian diaspora audience have for a Russian-language liturgy?

Furthermore, if Ukrainian is the state language of Ukraine, does that not apply also to its international radio service? The voice of Ukraine should be delivered in Ukrainian. It's as simple as that.

* * *

Still on the topic of Radio Ukraine International, but on a brighter note, it should be noted that the day after the liturgies were aired, the radio broadcast the Christmas messages of three Orthodox hierarchs, the aforementioned Patriarch Filaret (who called for unity among all of Ukraine's Orthodox Churches) and Metropolitan Volodymyr, and Patriarch Dymytrii of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, as well as Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. All four messages — even Metropolitan Sabodan's — were delivered in Ukrainian.

Could it be that someone at the Radio Ukraine saw in hindsight that broadcasting Metropolitan Sabodan's Russian liturgy was a serious faux pas? We certainly hope so.

Rough draft

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv

Celebrating in Ukraine

Today in Ukraine people are free to attend the church of their choice, they can carol in the streets, they can praise God as they wish. But ask Kyivans if the celebration of Christmas and the New Year has changed in the five and a half years since communism collapsed and the answer for the most part is "no."

And that goes for life in the villages, where age-old traditions were maintained, albeit secretly, during Soviet rule and thrive today.

Although there has been a religious resurgence, for city dwellers the big holiday is still the New Year. Unlike in the United States, it is a family holiday, at least until after midnight. Family members gather around the dinner table, exchange gifts and toast the New Year with champagne, usually a Ukrainian brand (it's much cheaper).

Homes are decorated with garland and streamers, and everybody wants a Christmas tree, although with the financial hardships in the country not everybody can afford one. After midnight people part, some for a quiet evening at home, some to a neighbor's apartment or to the city center to join with others carousing on Independence Square.

This year, as in years past, the square was the center of official celebrations. On one side of the Khreschatyk, a stage was erected and above it the words "Christ is Born" and "Happy New Year" in Ukrainian. In the days preceding the New Year, colorful spectacles were staged by various theater groups. A giant fireworks display was presented on December 29, the day the official state Christmas tree was lit across the Khreschatyk at the other end of the large square. At the base of the tree, which stood about four stories high, five-foot tall drawings of Christmas scenes were displayed.

There "Did Moroz" (Ukraine's version of Santa Claus) or, more precisely, about a dozen of them, wandered the square practicing the still novel "art" of capitalism by convincing kids and their parents to have photographs taken with them for a small charge of 5 hryvni. Also present in no small numbers were vendors hawking balloons and various trinkets.

It was all very festive and pleasant except for a minor detail: suspended across the way leading to the Christmas tree the greeting wishing people a happy new year was written in Russian.

The Khreschatyk itself was decorated with garland and banners wishing people well during the holidays. Music played from speakers on street lights — remnants of the Soviet system when political music was played during national holidays.

Inside the TsUM, the main government store, music also played and Christmas displays prompted people to purchase items as they did last-minute gift shopping. It was a far cry from

Macy's during the holiday season, but Christmas was definitely in the air.

Another tradition continued through the years was the New Year's greeting, given immediately before the stroke of midnight on December 31. In the old days it was the head of the Communist Party speaking from Moscow; this year it was President Leonid Kuchma speaking from Kyiv. His short speech was followed by the playing of the national anthem exactly at midnight.

In the villages, age-old customs were continued, and this year the cold weather and snowfalls immediately before the holidays made for an especially joyful holiday. In western Ukraine, in the Ternopil and Lviv regions, knee-high snow brought out the sleighs and horses. On Christmas Eve, as people sat down to the traditional 12-course meal, including the traditional "kutia," sleigh bells and snow crunching beneath the trodding steps of horses could be heard outside.

Then came the "vertep," the traditional re-enactment of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, performed by high school students. The following day it was off to Christmas liturgy in a church bursting with the faithful, many of whom had to stand outside the building in near-zero weather. Then carolers visited homes as people sat down for the Christmas Day meal.

In the city and in the village, people told me that this is the first normal Christmas weather in several years, and in both places Chernobyl was blamed for the warm, snowless weather the country had experienced. But not this year. It was the Christmas your parents and grandparents had told you about.

In the village, people say that the big change is independence. They say that although life is still difficult, it has normalized somewhat. Villagers, generally, have not had a problem feeding themselves. Slaughter a cow, a pig, and there is food for the table.

One person told me that a different change had occurred, one that is difficult to pinpoint. "It is the spirit, the feeling that we now have, that we didn't have before," said Olha Ivantsiv, who has lived in the village of Verbiv, in the Ternopil Oblast, all her 68 years.

In the city, that feeling was more difficult to find because it is harder to ensure one's everyday needs. Food is expensive and workers' salaries are small — when they do receive them. A rather bitter, older lady walking down the Khreschatyk a day before Christmas Eve, who refused to give her name, told me that although people try to keep to traditions, no one can really afford to celebrate the holiday. "We do not celebrate our existence," she said, "We celebrate our survival."

But after what these people have lived through in the last decades, even that is worth celebrating.

Jan.
12
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Turning the pages back...

Three years ago, on January 12, 1994, President Bill Clinton became the first U.S. president to visit independent Ukraine. Following are excerpts of The Weekly's news reports, filed by

Roman Woronowycz, covering that historic first.

* * *

KYIV — The first United States president to visit an independent Ukraine stayed for less than three hours. It was a historic visit nonetheless, done with all the ceremony and aplomb this country could muster.

U.S. President Bill Clinton was on his way to a summit involving the leaders of Ukraine, Russia and the U.S. The leaders were scheduled to sign an accord in which Ukraine will give up its nuclear missiles.

George Bush was the last U.S. president to visit Kyiv, where on August 1, 1991, he gave his infamous "Chicken Kiev" speech cautioning Ukraine, which at that time was still under the Soviet regime, against "suicidal nationalism." Ukraine declared independence just over three weeks later on August 24, 1991.

Mr. Clinton was greeted at Boryspil Airport on the outskirts of Kyiv by Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, Prime Minister Yukhym Zviatkovsky, Deputy Prime Minister Valerii Shmarov and Foreign Minister Anatolii Zlenko.

President Clinton and his entourage, which included Secretary of State Warren Christopher, newly nominated Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, National Security Adviser Andrew Lake, Department of Defense Undersecretary for Foreign Policy Fran Wisner and 200 associated aides and specialists, separated into meetings with the Ukrainian delegation.

An hour and a half later, consultation completed, President Clinton emerged with his host. Mr. Clinton announced a three-part plan intended to give Ukraine economic relief and help the United States rid itself of the threat of nuclear warheads.

"On Friday we are ready to sign an agreement committing Ukraine to eliminate 176 intercontinental ballistic missiles and some 1,500 nuclear warheads targeted at the United States," said Mr. Clinton. He called Ukraine's decision "of utmost significance to this region and the world."

In return for Ukraine's denuclearization, President Clinton outlined a three-pronged proposal aimed at bolstering Ukraine's economy and enhancing the country's sense of security: a personal invitation to Ukraine to participate in the Partnership for Peace program; establishment of an enterprise fund that will stimulate small business investment and accelerate privatization; and development of closer economic ties between Ukraine, the United States and the West in general.

Source: *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 16, 1994 (Vol. LXII, No. 3).

Re: Mail delivery of The Weekly

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

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

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

COMMENTARY: Kuropas column only clouds the religious picture

by the Rev. John R. Nakonachny

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

It was with great sadness that in this season of love and joy, Myron Kuropas chose to write his article "Christmas in Ukraine, 1996," which was printed in the December 22, 1996, edition of The Ukrainian Weekly. Surely this topic could have been written at a later date and something more in tune with the season submitted in its place.

I realize that Dr. Kuropas is a dedicated and loyal member of the Catholic Church, and this is to be admired. However, his loyalty and disappointment in the knowledge that the pope may not visit Ukraine appears to have clouded, if not distorted, the true picture of the current religious situation in Ukraine, as well as the sad history of Church relations in the United States.

It is true that, in the past, there was great tension between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches, especially among the clergy; as Dr. Kuropas stated, "Ukrainian Catholic priests and Ukrainian Orthodox priests never sat at the head table together, not even at community-wide events." However, in all fairness, we must recognize that in almost all such cases, the fault was not with the Orthodox clergy. Most of the Orthodox priests were former Greek-Catholic priests from Halychyna and their return to Orthodoxy in the 1920s branded them as traitors. As a result, they were shunned by the Greek-Catholic clergy, as was everyone who belonged to their parishes.

I remember growing up in Taylor, Pa., and visiting local Catholic churches without hesitation, while my Catholic friends were told by their priests that it was a "sin" to enter an Orthodox church and if they did, they must go to confession. For this reason, my own relatives would not visit my Orthodox parish. Yet, when visiting them, we always attended liturgy at their church.

At the same time, it was not unusual to hear that Orthodox believers who planned to marry in the Catholic Church were forced to be re-baptized.

Dr. Kuropas wrote that "such foolishness finally ended in 1988." Thank God it ended, but in truth it ended much earlier than 1988 with the decisions of Vatican II and their acknowledgment of the fact that the Orthodox Church traces its beginning to the Pentecost and has apostolic succession, thus recognizing the true history of the Orthodox Church.

I write these words not with any joy, rather to honor, respect and defend the dedicated pioneer clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States who had to endure the many insults inflicted upon them for being Orthodox.

Regarding the main issues of Dr. Kuropas's article – Ukraine and the pope's visit – allow me to comment on two points that he brought up in the article.

1. Dr. Kuropas makes the statement that "Ukraine is hardly an Orthodox nation. Ukraine is a pluralistic state wherein most of the citizens are non-believers."

Statistics have been published in Ukraine showing that of its 52 million citizens, over 30 million consider themselves Orthodox, 3 to 5 million are Greek-Catholic, and the remaining numbers belong to other religions or no religion at all. Truly, Orthodoxy is the major religion in Ukraine.

When there is one united Orthodox Church in Ukraine, the Orthodox Church will no doubt play a great role in the country. This should not shock anyone, for the same is evident in Poland with the Roman Catholic Church's influence.

I have certainly never read any statistics that indicate that "most of the citizens (of Ukraine) are non-believers." Where does Dr. Kuropas' information come from? Is it based on church attendance? If that is the gauge by which Dr. Kuropas measures belief, then France, Italy, Brazil and similar countries, which are looked upon as "Roman Catholic" countries, must also be counted as countries of "non-believers," since only 10 percent of the men in these countries attend church.

Ukraine has been independent for only five years, and after more than 70 years of religious persecution, the Ukrainian people are only now coming to terms with religion. Let us not judge them as non-believers.

2. I find Dr. Kuropas' statement regarding Patriarch Filaret to be reprehensible. He writes that "given his one-time loyalty to the Moscow Patriarchate and his shady past – many believe he was once on the KGB payroll – his remarks are not surprising."

Further he writes that the pope will probably not visit Ukraine "because of remarks by such former Soviet shills as Filaret."

Shame! Having observed Patriarch Filaret's work, over the past three years, for an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church, how much longer will our Ukrainian leaders continue to ignore the good that has been done by the patriarch? Why must they continue to bring up things that possibly took place before an independent Ukraine? Do we read such statements about past Communist leaders, i.e., former President Leonid Kravchuk, President Leonid Kuchma and the many diplomats in the United Nations and Washington who visit our communities across the country and are so warmly welcomed by Ukrainians in the United States? We applaud them for their conversion from communism, but when the same applies to a Church leader, in the person of Patriarch Filaret, we cannot accept his conversion and commitment to work for an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

I wonder where the Christian Church would be today if the early Christians had done the same to St. Paul on his conversion from persecutor of to a believer in Christ?

Yet, in spite of Dr. Kuropas' beliefs, of all the Orthodox hierarchs, Patriarch Filaret is the most aggressive in regard to improving relations with the Ukrainian Catholic Church. During the Orthodox Sobor that elected him patriarch in October 1995 – at which I was an observer – a representative of the Ukrainian Catholic Church greeted the delegates to the Sobor and spoke of mutual cooperation.

Following the enthronization divine liturgy at St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Kyiv, I was amazed to hear Patriarch Filaret speak to all the clergy and faithful that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church were the only two Churches that cared about an independent Ukraine. For Patriarch Filaret to make such a statement, at a time when the Russian Orthodox Church was trying to put fear into the masses by accusing him of being a secret Catholic, took courage and showed outstanding vision and leadership.

He further demonstrated that courage when, in visiting Lviv, he met with Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky and later, in Kyiv, attended the enthronization divine liturgy of the Kyiv exarch of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Bishop Lubomyr Husar. Surely these actions by Patriarch Filaret cannot be misconstrued as anything other than his desire to work cooperatively with the Greek-Catholics. Dr. Kuropas overlooks all the good that Patriarch Filaret has done for inter-Church relations.

(Continued on page 15)

CANADA COURIER

by Christopher Guly



Conservatives' Ukrainian-Canadian rainmaker

1997 may prove to be the most challenging year in David Tkachuk's life. As co-chairman of the Progressive Conservative Party's national campaign, the 51-year-old senator from Saskatchewan has been tagged to orchestrate his party's return from the wilderness in a federal election likely to be called by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

It's a heady task, considering the Tories hold only two of 295 seats in the House of Commons. Certainly, Canada's current political climate suggests the Conservatives' fortunes have changed for the better and could replace the regional Bloc Quebecois as the Official Opposition in the Commons. Forming the next federal government won't likely happen, given the Liberals' continuing popularity.

That would require a miracle – or backroom political acumen. That's where Sen. Tkachuk comes in. When he joined the Saskatchewan Tories in 1974, the party was virtually non-existent in the province. By the 1980s they held power under Premier Grant Devine, for whom the senator served as principal secretary.

Now, federal Conservative leader Jean Charest, a former Mulroney Cabinet minister, appears to want to tap into Sen. Tkachuk's political magic of transforming political obscurity into political power.

Fellow Tory, Ukrainian Canadian and Saskatchewan resident Raynell Andreychuk first met Mr. Tkachuk when they served on the student council at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in the early 1960s. Today, they serve together in the Canadian Senate. "David will be responsible for putting the nuts and bolts of the campaign together, and ensure the operation is in place," she said. "That's what he is known for."

In fact, professionally, that's what he seems to have lived for. A graduate in history and political science from the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Tkachuk spent the initial portion of his working life as a small businessman and teacher. But from 1974 on it's been politics, all the way: working for the Saskatchewan Conservatives and, for a year, for British Columbia's conservative Social Credit party.

His profile, however, was always behind the scenes.

"My appointment to the Senate was not very popular, even among Tories, because I was not what you would call a people person – more a political person," recalled Sen. Tkachuk.

When Prime Minister Brian Mulroney telephoned him on June 8, 1993, to notify him of his new job in the Senate, Mr. Tkachuk himself thought a friend was pulling a prank. "I was cooking breakfast for my son [Brad, now 20], when I got a call from the prime minister's office and I started to dismiss it until the person said, 'No, it's really the prime minister's office.' Then, Mr. Mulroney got on the phone and started talking about mutual acquaintances and I thought, 'Why is he asking me all these questions?' He then said, 'I'm appointing you to the Senate of Canada this afternoon.'"

In the game of politics, the job was pure patronage, with some irony. The man who has built a career on getting Conservatives elected to public office will never, unless the rules change, have

to face the electorate himself. Mr. Tkachuk will remain a senator until February 18, 2020.

It rankles him when the media, and the public, either criticize him and his fellow upper house appointees – in 1996 senators earned a \$64,400 (about \$47,000 U.S.) salary, a \$10,000 (about \$7,000 U.S.) tax-free expense allowance and free travel between Ottawa and their residences – for avoiding voter sentiment in elections, or simply ignore the Senate and its inhabitants.

"I think it's important that [senators] go about their business," he explained. "For me, I think my political experience has proven to be very valuable. Three years after my appointment, I became chairman of the Finance Committee."

That's a long way from the small multicultural town of Weirdale, Saskatchewan, where Sen. Tkachuk grew up and spoke Ukrainian in the local playground.

Long before he got to precede his name with a senatorial designation, Mr. Tkachuk had difficulty explaining to people how to pronounce his own family name. "When most people heard 'Kachook,' of course they spelled it without the 't,'" he says. "So, our family started to pronounce the 't' before the 'k.'"

Though the family name now is properly pronounced, Sen. Tkachuk admits that the linguistic side of his heritage has largely been lost. His boyhood Ukrainian is mostly a memory. But that could change.

Over the last three years, he and Sen. Andreychuk – the only two Ukrainian Canadian members of the chamber – are often invited to events in the community. Sen. Tkachuk hopes to also visit Ukraine for the first time over the next couple of years.

Given his new job as Tory campaign wonderworker, Mr. Tkachuk will likely emerge with a higher profile in 1997, both within and outside the Ukrainian Canadian community.

In the process, the unelected senator seeking positive returns from the Canadian electorate may close the loop in his political career as backroom strategist and glad-handing politician.



Sen. David Tkachuk

DATELINE NEW YORK: Kutia and Christmas carols

by Helen Smindak

Christmas Eve rituals

The traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve meal consists mostly of vegetarian food; there is fish but no meat. Why? Because, as an agrarian society, Ukrainians concentrated their attention on what nature gave them and on the produce that they themselves could grow, according to Lubov Wolynetz, curator of the folk art collection at The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

Ukrainian housewives prepared a variety of dishes for Christmas Eve (whether celebrated on December 24 or January 6), using harvest from the fields. An ancient pagan tradition of Koroten (winter solstice eve) included 12 dishes in the meal with one dish dedicated to each full moon. With the advent of Christianity, says Mrs. Wolynetz, the 12 dishes gained a new interpretation: they came to represent the 12 apostles.

Speaking to a group of tourists at the museum last month, Mrs. Wolynetz pointed out that Ukrainians have always paid special attention to the grains from which they made bread: "In pagan times, they made special breads to present as sacrifices to pagan gods. When Christianity came, they made the same special breads to create a centerpiece for the Christmas Eve table.

"The bread was usually in a round form, because it was made in the image of the sun; when you bake a round-shaped bread, you are helping the sun to be born again."

Three braided loaves were placed in the center of the table, one atop the other. Originally, they symbolized the three stages of life, or the three elements that we need in order to exist. Later, Christians interpreted the three loaves as symbolic of the Trinity, noted the speaker.

Hay and straw (there's your agrarian aspect again, Mrs. Wolynetz chuckled) were placed under the tablecloth. "That lent itself very well later to the Christian idea of the Christ Child being born in a stable and being placed in a manger of hay."

The table setting, she said, must include two tablecloths – one for the living and one for the dead. An extra place setting was always included for those who have departed from the family; it was left in place for the whole night.

To "shoo away" any evil spirits that might enter the home, a clove of garlic was placed under the tablecloths at each corner. If there were young children in the family, some hay and straw were placed under the table to form a hiding place for nuts and candies.

Two special foods are a "must" at Christmas Eve. One is kutia, which is boiled wheat mixed with honey and poppy seed; the other is uzvar, a stewed fruit compote, which should include 12 different dried fruits.

Also called "god's food," kutia was used in pagan times as a sacrifice to the gods. Mrs. Wolynetz stressed that everyone at the supper table must partake of this sweet concoction as a first course. Uzvar is eaten as the final course.

"In between, we have borshch, and we have dumplings with sauerkraut, with potatoes, with kasha; then we have stuffed cabbage rolls, and a mushroom sauce ... all together, there are 12 dishes," she said.

"Our Christmas Eve meal takes a long time, because usually we sit down and begin to eat when the first star appears in the evening sky – that's the sign of the Star of Bethlehem."

"What if it's a cloudy day?" one tourist inquired.

"Well, then we begin approximately between five and six o'clock, instead of sending the youngsters outside to watch for the first star, which is like a game for them – who can spot the first star and run back to announce that the Christmas Eve dinner should begin."

As she described the Christmas setting in the village homes of earlier times, Mrs. Wolynetz said the table and benches were set in a corner of the room beneath a row of icons decorated with an embroidered ritual cloth. Here, in what was considered the holy place, the oldest member of the family (grandfather or great-grandfather) would be seated; behind him stood a sheaf of wheat adorned with colored ribbons and tied with an embroidered cloth.

"That sheaf of wheat referred to the Ukrainian agrarian tradition; they tilled the land, and wheat and bread grains were very important to them," she said.

"They also believed that when a person died, that person returned to earth in the form of stalks of wheat or grain."

The first sheaf of wheat cut at harvest time was stored in the barn, then brought ceremoniously into the house and placed in the holy corner on Christmas Eve. Some spoons were tucked into the cloth tied around the sheaf.

"The sheaf of wheat is called a 'didukh' or old grandfather; it symbolized all the departed members of the family," Mrs. Wolynetz explained. "The spoons are left



"Christmas Is Here," reproduction of a glasspainting by Yaroslava Surmach Mills.

there in the belief that at night the spirits of the departed may want to come and participate in the meal."

In today's homes, she added, it is not always possible to adhere to all of these customs, so Ukrainian homemakers can be selective. Nowadays, for example, Ukrainians often cover the dinner table with one cloth, then lay a decorative runner over it instead of using two tablecloths.

Christmas in October

Wondrous to hear and a marvel to behold – the Kyiv Symphonic Choir and Orchestra, performing in the awesomely beautiful Riverside Church on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Although it was October, the dazzling setting and the selection of music made it seem like Christmas as the 110-voice choir, singing in Latin and English, opened with the majestic Christmas classic "O Come All Ye Faithful."

In a grand entrance, choir members in formal attire walked in procession down the center aisle and formed behind the orchestra in the altar section of the church. The soloists entered from the side aisles during the singing of the carol.

The combined ensemble was directed by Roger G. McMurrin, an American musical educator and composer who established the choir and orchestra in 1993.

The program included stirring performances of beloved classics – excerpts from Bach's "Magnificent" and Verdi's "Requiem," Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Vespers" and a powerful "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Backed by the chorus and orchestra, Anatoly Glavin offered the popular Mario Lanza trademark "Be My Love." The American classic George Gershwin's "Summertime" was faithfully interpreted by the choir and orchestra, with Mila Tretiak as soloist.

Ukrainian and Russian classics were featured in the second half, among them the sprightly "Shchedryk" (Carol of the Bells), Bortniansky's "Mnohaya Lita" (Blessing for a Long Life), Stetsenko's "Blahoslovy, Dushe Moya, Hospody" (Bless O Lord, My Soul) and the folk songs "Oy Susidko" and "Kyieve Miy." Here a dozen performers attired in Ukrainian folk costumes held center stage.

During the second portion, Mr. McMurrin surrendered the podium to youthful members of the choir, who directed the ensemble's performances or performed bandura, bayan, piano or organ solos.

Two prayers were offered in the finale – Mykola Lysenko's "Prayer for Ukraine" and Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" – which brought the concert to an

(Continued on page 14)



Kyiv Symphonic Choir and Orchestra.

Yara Arts Group's new production takes troupe to distant Buryatia

by Virlana Tkacz

CONCLUSION

"Sacred sea"

I felt it was very important that we rehearse our piece on Lake Baikal, where the mythic sections take place. We waited for the rest of our company, which included Cecilia Arana, Zabryna Guevara, Eleanor Lipat, Andrew Pang and Watoku Ueno. Once all the Yara actors arrived, we piled into a tiny bus and left for what the Buryats call the "sacred sea."

Lake Baikal is the deepest body of fresh water on earth; it contains one-fifth of the earth's freshwater supply. The water from its center is so pure that it becomes contaminated by the glass of the laboratory beakers. The lake is renowned for its sudden changes in weather. An American wrote: "It is only on Baikal in the autumn that a man learns to pray from his heart."

But the Buryats pray to the Baikal and to all of nature throughout the year. As we rode to the lake we often stopped on a hill, or in a spot where the steppe suddenly opened up, to sprinkle milk and vodka and to thank the masters of the landscape. The Buryats say, "People ask us where is your church architecture, and we say we pray in a church where the dome is the sky and the foundations are the earth." Nature is spectacular there, truly awesome.

We rehearsed our show on the shore. In one scene the actors say their own addresses starting with their present address and stepping back to say the previous one. They experience the place and themselves at each address. After reciting their place of birth, every actor stepped into the waters of the Baikal. Yes, we were all floating in water before birth, and life on earth began in the seas. We still feel its pull today.

Our bus driver was very appropriately named Bayar Timur, which in Buryat means "warrior of steel." Not only did he know how to get us out of incredible jams on the road, he actually managed to lift the bus without a jack to fix a flat. As we all stood in the freezing night, Tom and Andrew suddenly started performing a section of Lysheha's "Swan" poem to the moon:

Moon, come here...
I come out from under the pines – you're hiding...
I go back under the pines – you shine...
I start running – you're at my back...
I stop – you're gone...
Only dark pines...
I hide behind a pine – and you come out...
I come out – you're not there...
Not there...
Not there...
There...
Not there...
There.. not there...
I can't move that fast...
Wait.. I want to
Stand in your light...¹

Lysheha must have been writing about this very moon, this very spot.

I learned about Lysheha's connection to Buryatia only on the day I was leaving for Siberia. Serhii Proskurnia, who had produced our shows in Kyiv, arrived that morning and we talked as I tried to pack. At one point I asked him if he thought I was crazy for going off to Ulan Ude. "No," he replied, "it makes perfect sense. After all, Lysheha had been there and was very influenced by the art and philosophy." I couldn't believe my ears. Lysheha had been to Buryatia? "Yes," Serhii answered, "Didn't you know that?"

No, I didn't know that. It was only due to a ton of research that I happened upon the Buryat material. At first Serhii



Watoku Ueno

Cecilia Arana and Tom Lee (as the Hunter) in "Virtual Souls" as performed at the Buryat National Theater in Ulan Ude.

thought I was kidding. Then he realized that I had indeed made this connection on my own. He told me what he knew.

In the 1970s Oleh Lysheha was involved with a college literary magazine called Skrynia (The Chest) that published translations of Western modernist poets such as Ezra Pound. During the purges of 1972 the police decided that this was a nationalist publication and Lysheha was expelled from Lviv State University. He was forced into the Soviet army and sent to Buryatia. I don't think the actors knew about Lysheha's stay in Buryatia, but obviously they, too, felt a deep connection in this poem as we stood there shivering in the Siberian night.

The return of the swan

The last section we developed for our piece in Buryatia had the actors play themselves in a rehearsal. In this scene the Buryat actors tell local variations on the swan story as they teach the Yara actors to play a traditional Buryat game with sheep bones. When Erzhenia told of how every dawn Buryat women still sprinkle milk into the sky, a white offering, a prayer for the return of the great white bird, Tom asked her if the swans ever appear at that moment. "Oh no," said Erzhenia, "there are no swans here."

We couldn't believe it. Swans are the symbol of Buryatia. Their pictures are on everything. Then Erzhenia told us there haven't been any living swans in Buryatia for hundreds of years. "These are dark times, but we believe that when the time is right, the swans will return to Buryatia."

We performed "Virtual Souls" at the Buryat National Theatre on September 7. Many of the actors from the troupe came, as did the present and the past artistic directors. There was also a large group of students from the Technical Institute who were studying English. Valentina Dambueva was there and afterwards told us how wonderful it was to hear our actors sing her songs in English.

Tsyden Zhimbiiev, people's writer of Buryatia, also saw our show that night. After the show Sayan told me Mr. Zhimbiiev wanted to see me the next day. I agreed and asked Sayan and Tom to come with me. The next morning we met the old writer in his office. He said he thought what we had done was very important. We had placed Buryat culture

in a modern context. He liked the show and told us we only had to change a few slides, since the ones we used were not of Buryat petroglyphs. He gave us the very book on Buryat petroglyphs we'd been looking for.

Then he turned to me and asked, "Why are you here?" I told him that we wanted to do a piece about swans, and the Buryat swan legends were so beautiful. He nodded and asked, "Why are you here?" I told him I worked at La Mama, an experimental theater that works with world theater. One day in Lviv Ellen Stewart, the founder of La Mama, had told me to go to this area. He nodded and asked, "But why are you here?" I took a deep breath and told him that the first piece I made with Yara was about a Ukrainian director... "Who?" he asked. "Les Kurbas." "Oh, that's why you're

here," said Mr. Zhimbiiev.

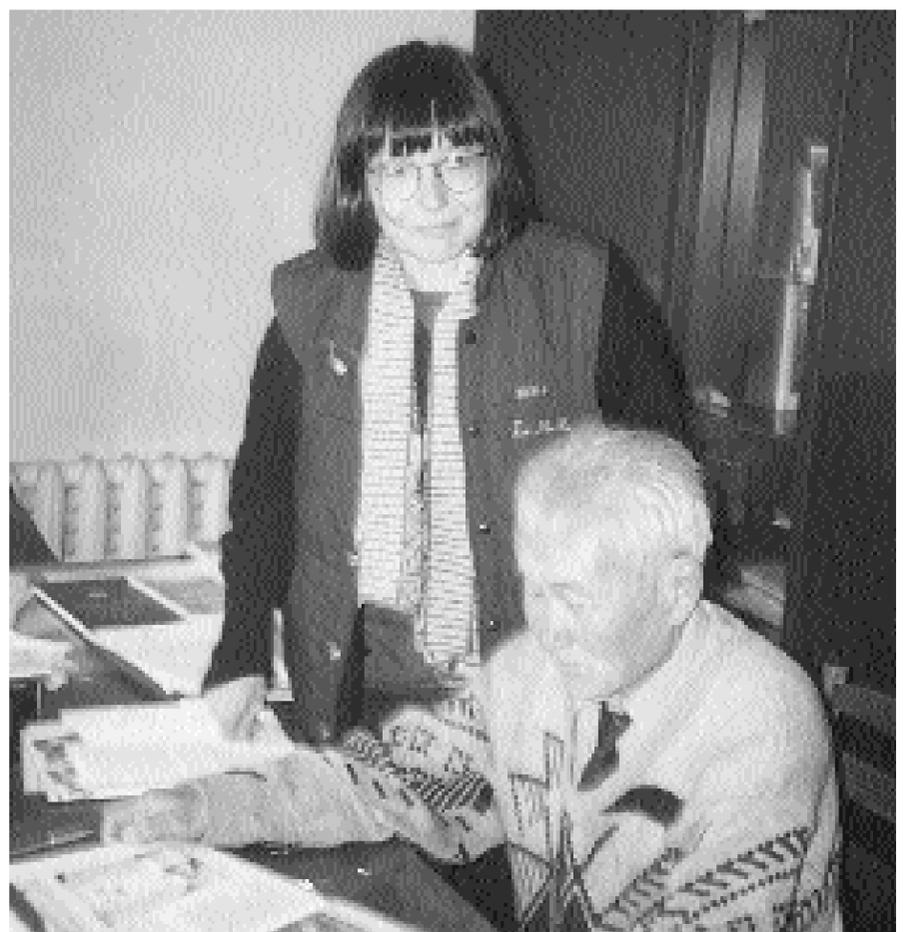
I sat there stunned. This man knew about Les Kurbas? "Oh, yes," he replied. He was working on a book about the great Buryat actor, Valerii Inkizhinov, who had worked with Kurbas in Kharkiv. "And it's about time we re-establish the great Buryat-Ukrainian theater tradition, don't you think?"

* * *

"Virtual Souls" will be playing at La Mama Experimental Theatre in New York on January 16-26, 1997. For tickets call (212) 475-7710.

The Yara Arts Group, may be reached at 306 East 11th St. No. 3B, New York, NY 10003; phone/fax; (212) 475-6474; e-mail; YCTG48A@prodigy.com

¹ "Swan" by Oleh Lysheha, translated by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps.



Tsyden-Zhap Zhimbiiev, people's writer of Buryatia, shows Virlana Tkacz his materials on Valerii Inkizhinov.

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Ukrainian violoncellist is moving force at San Marcos Chamber Music Society

LAKE SAN MARCOS, Calif. — An eminent musician of Ukrainian descent, violoncellist Gregory Bemko, and his wife, concert pianist Yoshiko Niyya, have enjoyed distinguished careers both as soloists and as a husband-and-wife team. Both are Juilliard alumni who, at the height of their careers toured the United States and Europe as a cello-piano duo.

Upon retirement in 1989, after a 40-year career span, Mr. Bemko, acting upon the couple's commitment to the promotion of fine music, founded the San Marcos Chamber Music Society. Since its inception, the society has had the support of California State University in the person of university president Dr. William Stacy.

Due to their efforts, the North San Diego County community and environs, as well as devotees from Los Angeles and San Diego, have been able to enjoy performances by world-class artists.

Among invited performers to the society's concert series have been leading Ukrainian musicians, among them; conductor and violinist Adrian Bryttan, violinist Oleh Krysa, pianist Mykola Suk, cellist Natalia Khoma. Engaged for the first concert of the 1997 season is pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky.

Mr. Bemko was born in New York City, son of Ukrainian immigrants from western Ukraine.

His father, Stefan Bemko, came to this country on his own in 1903 at the age of 17, went into business and did well. As an active member of the Ukrainian community, he served as church deacon of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in West Islip, Long Island, for more than five decades, and was a delegate to the Ukrainian National Association convention in Chicago. Along with his wife, he was a member in the early 1920s of the Ukrainian Dramatic Society of New York which was based in the Ukrainian National Home.

Mr. Bemko's mother, Tekla Ratushny, came to America with her family at age 12.

Mr. Bemko studied at the Juilliard School as a fellowship holder with Felix Salmond. He also held scholarships with eminent violoncellists Joseph Schuster, principal violoncellist of the New York Philharmonic, and Maurice Eisenberg, an independent concert violoncellist and later, professor at Juilliard. Mr. Bemko also studied with the legendary violoncellist Pablo Casals in France.

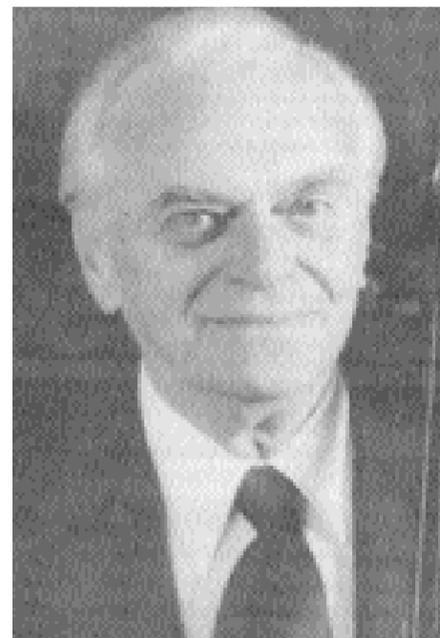
During World War II, he set his career aside to serve as an attack bomber pilot in the 9th Air Force. He was a member of the bombardment group that led the invasion of Europe on D-Day.

After the war, Mr. Bemko resumed his musical career, becoming principal violoncellist with the Denver Symphony in 1946, and subsequently with the San Diego Symphony. He also was instructor of violoncello at Denver University and at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

At the height of his career, Mr. Bemko appeared in recital and as soloist in North America and with the world's leading orchestras, conducted, among others, by Sir Thomas Beecham, Igor Stravinsky and Leopold Stokowski.

His performances were reviewed in the American and foreign press, among them, die Weltpresse of Vienna; Het Laatste Nieuws, Brussels; Tagesanzeiger, Zurich; Het Parool, Amsterdam; and, Der Abend, Berlin.

This past May, Mr. Bemko was honored on the occasion of his 80th birthday anniversary with a concert by the Lake San Marcos Chamber Music Society of which he is the founder and artistic director. Among the distinguished performers were Korean violinist E-Jung, Canadian violist Annemarie Moorcroft, Ukrainian violoncellist Natalia Khoma, and, in his fourth appearance, Ukrainian pianist Mykola Suk.



Gregory Bemko

New documentary...

(Continued from page 1)

In discussing the question of collaboration with Germany, Prof. Davies observed: "a large number of the volunteers for the Waffen SS came from Western Europe. The nation which supplied it the largest number of divisions was the Netherlands [four]. There were two Belgian divisions, there was a French Waffen SS. ... It's surprising that there were so few Ukrainians [in the German Army]. Many people don't know, for example, that there were far more Russians fighting alongside the Wehrmacht or in the various German armies than there were Ukrainians ... Thanks to Soviet propaganda, the Russian contribution to the Nazi war effort has been forgotten, whereas the Ukrainian contribution has been remembered, I think, too strongly."

The British professor noted that Western scholars usually think only in terms of collaborators with Nazi Germany and do not even consider those who collaborated with Soviet Russia simply because the USSR was an Allied

country in World War II.

Another point noted by Prof. Davies was that "many of the people who died during the war in the Soviet Union were not war dead in the ordinary understanding of the word. Robert Conquest, for example, has argued that Stalin killed 6 million of his own citizens during the war. Now are we to count among the war dead people killed by their own government? Are we to include the Soviet prisoners of war, more than a million of whom survived barbaric Nazi captivity to return to the Soviet Union only to be killed by their own authorities when they returned?"

"The Soviet Union was a dinosaur which died of natural causes," said Prof. Davies summing up his interview.

The UCRDC is interviewing other prominent historians and experts for the documentary film "Ukraine in World War II," which promises to be a major resource for better understanding the role and history of Ukraine in the context of world history in this century.

For further information contact the UCRDC at 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 2H4; telephone (416) 966-1819.

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A 70th birthday appreciation of composer Ihor Sonevytsky



Ihor Sonevytsky

This tribute to composer Ihor Sonevytsky was delivered on the occasion of a composer's evening held recently at the Ukrainian Institute of America to mark Mr. Sonevytsky's 70th birthday.

by Oleksander Kuzyszyn

In his book "What to Listen for in Music," Aaron Copland, the greatest American composer, states: "Melody is only second in importance to rhythm in the musical firmament. As one commentator has pointed out, if the idea of rhythm is connected in our imagination with physical motion, the idea of melody is associated with mental emotion. The effect upon us of both these primary elements is equally mysterious." Later Copland adds: "In writing music, a composer is forever accepting or rejecting melodies that come to him spontaneously. In no other department of composition is he forced to rely to the same extent on his musical instinct for guidance."

In paying tribute to the creative legacy of Dr. Ihor Sonevytsky, Aaron Copland's words seem especially poignant. For it is in the genre of vocal music that Dr. Sonevytsky has made and continues to make his most important contributions as a composer – a genre in which melodic inspiration and craftsmanship are everything. In his many art songs, choral works, as well as in his opera, "The Star," the individuality of this composer's gift for melody is strikingly evident. The seemingly inexhaustible well of Dr. Sonevytsky's melodic imagination is impressive enough. After all, a good number of composers have achieved considerable success with far less emphasis on melody. Of these, several have enjoyed long, productive careers without ever writing a single memorable tune. In fact, true melodicism is an elusive and rare gift.

But the gift itself is not the entire story. What is most admirable about Dr. Sonevytsky's music is the seamless integration of a truly inspired "melos" with an aesthetic clarity, an economy of means and an emotional directness. The deceptive simplicity that results is the very quality which is often lacking in contemporary music. All too often, technical pyrotechnics and self-serving intellectualism obscure, or worse, entirely obliterate the visceral impact of a piece of music. The best works, however, move us emotionally, spiritually, despite the sophistication of their construction. Guided by this principle in all his creative endeavors, Dr. Sonevytsky has never lost sight of this basic artistic truth. The result has been a consistent and convincing writing style that gains momentum with every listening.

It is a style especially well suited to sacred music – a primary focus of Dr.

Sonevytsky's compositional activity. The sacred song "Thy Loving Kindness" from the cycle "Canti Spirituali" serves as a vivid example of the composer's highly refined melodic craft. The opening melodic statement descends gently in stepwise motion, mirroring the act of supplication expressed in the liturgical text. The next melodic phrase, through ascending arpeggiation, heightens the tension ever so slightly, only to close with another stepwise descent. In the second half, as the text describes the act of prayer, the melody first wavers in a short sequence, then stabilizes in a descending pattern of thirds leading to a gentle cadence. As is typical of Dr. Sonevytsky's vocal music, not a note is wasted. Every phrase and gesture are pregnant with restrained emotion, or as Copland described it, "mental emotion," so appropriate for this sublimely pious text.

In recent years, the works of the Eastern European "mystics," including the Estonian Arvo Part, Poland's Henryk Gorecki and the Russian Georgi Sviridov have become the rage here in the U.S., the so-called latest trend in contemporary composition. At least in part, the profound effect of this music on the American listener is due to the stark contrast it provides to the typical American lifestyle – boisterous, materialistic and often shallow in its scope and vision. How ironic that those very qualities in the music of the Eastern European mystics that so intrigue American audiences have been integral to Dr. Sonevytsky's music since his "Ave Maria" written way back in 1947. Ironic, but not surprising.

Creatively, Dr. Sonevytsky is a descendant of the musical legacy of the 18th century Ukrainian masters of sacred choral music: Dmytro Bortniansky and Artem Vedel. His volume "Artem Vedel and His Musical Legacy," published in 1966 in New York, is the seminal musicological work about this composer. For Dr. Sonevytsky, spirituality was a way of life from the very beginning. His grandfather was the Rev. Klyment Sonevytsky, a spiritual leader in his native village of Hadynkivtsi in western Ukraine. Mykhailo Sonevytsky, the composer's father, was a long-time seminary teacher and later a professor at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome. In the 1970s, Dr. Sonevytsky followed in his father's footsteps and, although living in New York, flew to Rome regularly to lecture at this same university.

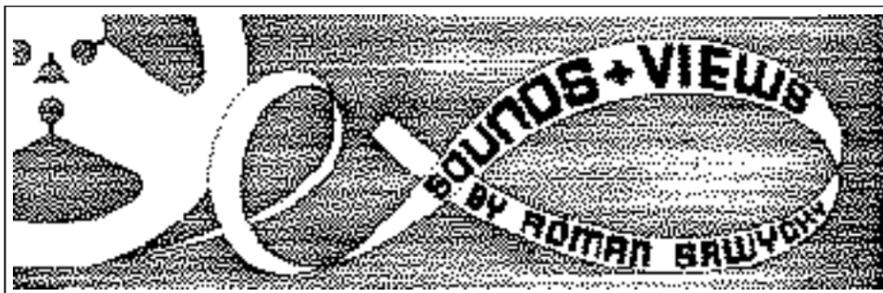
Thus, the purity and asceticism of Dr. Sonevytsky's music, the unadulterated nature of his melodic writing and the transparency of his musical textures, are simply an extension of his psyche and his being. There is nothing adopted in Dr. Sonevytsky's style – as an artist he is true to himself.

Dr. Sonevytsky embarked on his lifelong journey as a professional musician in 1944, when at 18, as a result of the recommendation of the renowned Ukrainian composer Vasyl Barvinsky, he was accepted into the composition class of Josef Marx at the Vienna Musical Academy.

At the end of World War II, however, Vienna was occupied by the Russian Communists, and as a result the Sonevytsky family ended up in a displaced persons camp in Munich. Here, in 1950, Dr. Sonevytsky completed his musical studies with a diploma in composition, conducting and piano performance from the State Musical Academy. Concurrently, he conducted the Ukrainian Opera Ensemble of B. Piurko, and was active as a piano accompanist.

His musical activities were then once again interrupted, when he and his family emigrated to the United States that same

(Continued on page 15)



Premieres to remember: an addendum

It seems that the data in the concluding part (i.e., Part V) of my recent series "Premieres to Remember" is incomplete, for pianist Roman Rudnytsky (born 1942) also participated in noted first performances. He did the British, Latin American and Australian premieres of the recently discovered Liszt Concerto No. 3 in E Flat (British premiere on November 4, 1990, with the Worthing Symphony only six months after the world premiere by pianist Janina Fialkowska).

The Latin American premiere of the Liszt score followed in 1992 and the Australian a year later, namely August 20, 1993, with the SBS Youth Orchestra in the Sydney Town Hall. The Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), one of Australia's main TV channels, broadcast this performance in December 1993 as part of documentary titled "Discovering Liszt."

Concerto No. 3 is not as impressive as Nos. 1 and 2, for the score comes from a very young Liszt, still not fully mature and masterful. But it is genuine Liszt, who at that approximate time wrote an entire opera, now also being produced and re-evaluated.

Besides the Liszt, Mr. Rudnytsky attained a number of firsts connected with music of Ukraine. On March 26, 1974, he played the hauntingly beautiful "Slavonic Concerto" by Borys Liatoshynsky with the Edmonton Symphony in Canada. This was not only the first such performance in North America, but more importantly, it was the "de facto" unveiling of the work outside Ukraine.

A first of another kind occurred in the summer of 1966, when Mr. Rudnytsky

became the first of any Ukrainian pianists of the West to perform in Ukraine after World War II. His recitals stirred Kyiv as well as Lviv (where the patriarch of composers Stanislav Liudkevych praised the young pianist). At that time Mr. Rudnytsky was the first to appear on TV in Zaporizhia in the role of keyboard artist from the West.

Roman, of course, always placed a high priority on piano works by his father, Antin Rudnytsky, himself an able pianist and accompanist, whose Piano Sonata on Themes of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen won first prize in Warsaw (1936). Roman was the first to perform most of such piano works by his late father.

Roman Rudnytsky, the recording artist, may be heard in works by Samuel Barber, Vasyl Barvinsky and Franz Liszt (among many other composers). He was first among our pianists to capture on vinyl all of the "Transcendental etudes" by Liszt, including the grandiose "Mazeppa." This major work had been performed in Ukrainian circles by Volodymyra Bozheyko, Taras Mykyscha and (much later) by Marta Shlemkevych, but Mr. Rudnytsky was first to record it commercially.

This, then, for the benefit of "completeness" – although little in the continuous process of creatively can ever be definitely completed. Composers will go on perfecting their art, while performers will follow in re-creating such achievements. Conductor Leopold Stokowski went on record claiming that singers, pianists or orchestras are never concerned merely with reproduction; they really have to create all over again, so that composers can live again in the time and space of concert halls.

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SPORTSLINE

SOCCER

Both Ukraine's play and other teams' match results suggest that it has a very good chance to qualify for the 1998 World Cup out of the very tough Group 9.

The Kyiv side's defeat of Northern Ireland in August shocked nobody, as the teams were evenly matched, but on October 5, 1996, the yellow-and-blues scored a stunning upset of Portugal at home in the Ukrainian capital.

The partisan crowd of 50,000 went into a delirium at only four minutes into the contest when Serhii Popov headed in the opening marker after a weak clearance by the opposing keeper. The Ukrainians showed complete mastery in the match, narrowly missing a golden opportunity to go ahead by two at the 61st minute.

Then Luis Figo countered for the Portuguese 83 minutes into the match, only seven from the end. This did not deflate the Ukrainian side as it has in the past, and they didn't settle for a single point. They kept pressing and, five minutes later, Yuri Maksymov (a Kyiv Dynamo midfielder) sealed his side's 2-1.

On November 9, 1996, Portugal reasserted itself with a 1-0 victory over Ukraine in Porto. That day, however, was not all bad news, as the Northern Irish held Germany to a 1-1 tie in a game in Nuremberg hosted by the Teutons.

The Ukrainian position got even better on December 14, 1996, when Portugal and Germany played to a 0-0 draw in Lisbon. Portugal has taken the lead in the group, but Ukraine has a game in hand,

and the national team's next encounter will be on March 29, an away match in Tirana against a weak Albanian side.

As of December 26, 1996, the Group 9 standings are:

Team	GP	W	T	L	Goals	Pts
Portugal	5	2	2	1	5-2	8
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	3-2	6
Germany	3	1	2	0	6-2	5
N.Ireland	4	1	2	1	4-3	4
Armenia	4	0	3	1	3-7	3
Albania	3	0	1	2	1-6	1

Ukraine's 1997 schedule looks like this: April 30 in Germany; May 7 in Kyiv, vs. Armenia; June 7 at home vs. Germany; August 20 at home vs. Albania; October 11 in Yerevan vs. Armenia.

Websites

Pavel Karimov maintains a very well organized and nicely illustrated site, at <http://muddcs.cs.hmc.edu/~pkarimov/index.html>, which is billed as a Kyiv Dynamo "unofficial site" but is much more.

For comprehensive although less visually appealing listings visit the "Ukrainian Football (Soccer)" website (<http://pantheon.cis.yale.edu/~mychola/f-ua.html>). It includes spirited commentary by traveling "ubolivalnyky" (fans, in Ukrainian) such as Taras Ciurak (e-mail address: tnmc@soliton.com), a history of Ukrainian football (an edited version of which appeared in The Ukrainian Weekly during

(Continued on page 13)

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Sportsline

(Continued from page 12)

the 1994 World Cup) and more.

The <http://www.litech.lviv.ua/~jareky/jsoccer.html> site contains a wealth of information, particularly on past national team, league and club stats, but is rather slow and cumbersome. On the other hand, reports about recent games in international play are more clearly presented and attributed.

Indoor

From November 24 to December 8, 1996, FIFA (soccer's international governing body) held the World Indoor Soccer Championship, known as FUTSAL (a contraction for Futbol Sala) in Spain. Ukraine made it to the semifinals after two stages of round-robin play, and Oleksander Moskaliuk was second in goal scoring (with 10), alone among a raft of high-powered Brazilians dominating the top five.

On December 6, 1996, Ukraine lost the semifinal to Spain 4-1. Two days later Ukraine lost 3-2 to Russia in the third-place game, thus finished off the podium.

Given that contests are held in hockey-rink-like arena, many games were won by a hockeyish, if not handballish score. The championship game was no exception, won 6-4 by Brazil over Spain. Happily, no fights broke out.

FIGURE SKATING

The winter season brought back the world's bladders to a wide variety of rinks around the world, and while some of the hype surrounding figure skating appears to be cooling off, Ukraine's amateurs remain competitive.

At the NHK Trophy competition held

at Kadoma, Japan, on December 5-8, Dmytro Dmytrenko took third place behind Canada's Elvis Stojko (the winner) and Russian Illia Kulik. Also at the NHK, Ukrainian pair Irina Romanova and Ihor Yaroshenko took the bronze in ice dance behind two French tandems.

Oksana's tribulations

On the professional circuit, Oksana Baiul's three-inch growth spurt and ongoing back problems seem to have seriously impaired her ability to land a jump. In the early going at the Auburn Hills, Mich., Ladies' Professional Figure Skating Championship in November 1996, Ms. Baiul's dramatic "Colors of the Night" routine even garnered a perfect 6.0 for artistic impression from one judge.

However, the technical program, for which Ms. Baiul performed her "Arabian" routine (easily as artistic and even more visually compelling) proved her undoing. She attempted a triple loop, triple salchow and a double axel, but unfortunately had problems with all of them, falling on the first. Her technical and artistic marks ranged from 5.4s to 5.8s and were not high enough to qualify her into the final. As the marks were read out, coach Halyna Zmiyevska grimly sat beside Ms. Baiul, while her charge tossed her shock of shoulder-length blonde hair and made goofy faces at the camera.

All the while, Ms. Baiul remains a marquee name on the circuit, and always draws sympathetic murmurs from television commentators. The December 22, 1996, CBS broadcasts of the event included Christmas and New Year's bilingual greetings from a besweated former world and Olympic champion — in English and, distressingly, in Russian.

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Kutia and Christmas...

(Continued from page 8)

emotional conclusion.

The evening's vocal soloists, whose work was outstanding, included sopranos Lydia Bychkova and Ms. Tretiak, mezzo-soprano Lubov Kanuka and tenor Femi Mustafaev. Among the instrumental soloists were Sophia Pavlenko, Natalia Kudritskaya and Simone Trenko, all of whom displayed great talent.

Mr. McMurrin provided excellent leadership and proved to be a charming and knowledgeable commentator as well. Throughout the evening, he preceded his introduction of program numbers with information about Ukraine ("Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe," it is "a wonderful country" with "intelligent people and incredible resources").

In his final remarks he said, "I ask that you continue to pray for Ukraine; pray for our people, they are very poor. Our people on this stage earn about \$60 a month."

Mr. McMurrin and his wife, Dianne, moved to Kyiv in 1992 with their teenage son Matthew to devote 10 years to presenting sacred classical music to the Ukrainian community. In addition to establishing the Kyiv Symphonic Choir and Orchestra, they began to hold weekly worship services, which were officially registered in 1994 as the interdenominational Church of the Holy Trinity. Mr. McMurrin is the American pastor and Sasha Sikorsky is the Ukrainian pastor.

Christmas treats

• The Dumka Ukrainian Chorus of New York, which recently gave a concert of Ukrainian sacred music at Rutgers University (Kirkpatrick Chapel), is well into this season's caroling songfests. The chorus sang at St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., on December 28, 1996, and at St. Nicholas Church in Passaic, N.J., on January 5. New Yorkers will be able to hear the group on January 12 at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church (1 p.m.) and at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue and 50th Street (4:45 p.m.). A program of carols is scheduled for St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church on January 19 at noon.

• The Promin vocal ensemble performed with other ethnic groups at Deer Lodge Mansion in Tenafly, N.J., on December 8, 1996. Directed by Bohdanna Wolansky, the ensemble appeared before an elite audience that included several U.N. ambassadors. Their program: Ukrainian carols, with "Shchedryk" included. The concert was given under the auspices of pianist Florence Bocarius Sahaidachny, a Ukrainian patriot and the widow journalist Petro Sahaidachny.

• The glowing face of Olympic ice-skating champion Oksana Baiul graces the cover of the December 1996 issue of Connecticut Magazine, currently in Barnes & Nobel bookstores and other shops in the Big Apple. The 19-year-old blonde, who trains at the International Skating Center in Simsbury, Conn., is the subject of a long feature story "Oh Oksana" by Michelle Bodak, who found Ms. Baiul to be "eminently touchable,

Ukraine's security...

(Continued from page 2)

output and GDP by 1.7 percent in 1997, as is also forecast within the draft 1997 budget. It is hoped that this, in turn, will raise average wages by 29 percent.

Over all, this government plan is probably unrealistic. Although the rate of decline of industrial output will undoubtedly continue to slow, it is still not certain whether 1997 will witness Ukraine's first year of growth.

On the inflation side, Ukraine's prospects look far better for 1997. The ideological underpinning of the government's economic program reflects the Kuchma-Lazarenko approach to reform by supporting domestic producers through state (nomenklatura) capitalism.

The adoption of the Constitution marks Ukraine as following the Central European/Baltic - not Eurasian - path of political reform. In contrast to CIS member-states, Ukraine's Constitution has not divested Parliament of power or created an authoritarian executive. President Leonid Kuchma, therefore, will have to continue to take heed of the Verkhovna Rada as a policy-making and policy-commenting institution. President Kuchma will continue to rely upon both the center-left (his constituency) and the center-right in the Rada to ensure legislative majorities in favor of reform.

Key areas of conflict with the left in Parliament are likely to be cuts in social

welfare, monetary restraint to maintain low inflation, land privatization and reduction of the number of strategic enterprises from the list of firms ineligible for privatization (this includes over 5,000 firms). The Ukrainian Parliament is also likely to follow the path of other post-Communist countries by introducing a new election law that would provide for 50 percent of the seats elected by majority and 50 percent elected according to political party lists. During 1997 there will be much jockeying on the eve of parliamentary elections scheduled for March 1998. Ruhk has already launched its election campaign; discussions undoubtedly will be heated about the need for mergers and the formation of election blocs.

Crimea will continue to remain pacified after the collapse of support for separatism in 1994-1995. Kyiv has continued to consolidate its grip over Crimean affairs, which largely precludes a resumption of large-scale separatist agitation. A new Crimea Constitution is likely to be adopted in 1997 that will confirm Ukrainian sovereignty over the peninsula for the first time. Nevertheless, Russian rejection of Ukrainian sovereignty over Sevastopol, which is likely to grow into claims towards the entire Crimean peninsula, may revive some local separatist sentiment. This, though, is unlikely to become a serious security threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity, unless 1997 witnesses a change in the



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Ukrainian National...

(Continued from page 5)

There will also be a fund-raising drive to collect donations from the UNA membership in support of the UNA's foundation. Letters will be sent to all UNA branch secretaries and its 60,000 members requesting donations; an appeal for donations will be published in both official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. The foundation will have various projects in progress, and anyone may opt to donate to the project

of his choice.

At its first meeting, the UN Foundation decided to allocate \$19,000 for the printing in Ukraine of the popular children's tale "Ivayk Telesyk." The foundation will sponsor the UNA projects English Teachers for Ukraine and the Summer Institute on Current Methods and Practices of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages).

The Ukrainian National Foundation will soon be mailing a booklet describing in greater detail its projects, aims and activities.

A 70th birthday...

(Continued from page 11)

year. Life as an emigré in the United States forced Dr. Sonevytsky to branch out his musical activities. He helped organize the Ukrainian Music Institute, and served as its director from 1959 to 1961. In the next two decades he conducted five different Ukrainian choirs, organized and directed a Ukrainian string orchestra and opera ensemble, taught private students, wrote over 500 music-related articles for various newspapers and periodicals, wrote several books, edited many others, and accompanied a variety of singers, recording several LPs of vocal music with them.

In 1983, he organized and became president of The Music and Art Center of Greene County, where every summer world-class artists perform in an idyllic set-

ting in the Catskills. In between, he wrote music, albeit much less than he would have preferred. As a leading musical citizen of the Ukrainian community in the United States, Dr. Sonevytsky has had to wear many hats, and the composer's hat often had to wait its turn. He did, however, manage to write incidental music to no less than 29 productions of the acclaimed Theatre Studio of Lydia Krushelnytsky, an opera, a ballet, some chamber music, a series of piano works and an impressive catalogue of choral and vocal music.

When Ukraine became independent in August of 1991, almost immediately leading Ukrainian musicians began to seek out and champion Dr. Sonevytsky's works. In recent years, several of his compositions received their world premieres at the Grazhda in Hunter, N.Y., performed by world-class artists from Kyiv, Lviv and

other Ukrainian cities. Simultaneously, they were performed in Ukraine by leading choirs, instrumental ensembles and soloists to the great acclaim of Ukrainian audiences, the press and critics.

With the publication of a collection of his solo songs in 1993 by the Ukrainian State Publishing House Muzychna Ukraina, Dr. Sonevytsky became the first Ukrainian emigré composer to be published in his homeland. Two years later, his one-act opera "The Star" was published by this same firm. Also in 1995, the Lviv Composers, Union published a 100-page monograph on Dr. Sonevytsky's life and works, written by musicologist Stefania Pavlyshyn. Other publications are scheduled as well. It appears that after 46 long years Ihor Sonevytsky the composer has once again found his home.

Here in the West, those of us who have

known Dr. Sonevytsky and his music are not at all surprised by his most recent successes. If anything, we feel somewhat guilty for taking 40 years to realize what our counterparts in Ukraine discovered after just five. As we finally examine and appreciate his life's work, we can at least take solace in the fact that, by all indications, this energetic, optimistic and good-natured 70-year-old has no intention of slowing down. There is still much more beautiful music in his soul, most of which, we trust, will find its way onto the printed page and compact disc, into the concert hall and into our hearts.

Dr. Sonevytsky, as you continue along your musical journey, we ask that for the duration of your trip, you dust off and don that last hat – the hat of the composer. We, in turn, will eagerly listen, because the music speaks for itself.

Kuropas column...

(Continued from page 7)

I personally believe that if the pope does visit Ukraine, Patriarch Filaret and the bishops of the Kyiv Patriarchate will be the only Orthodox bishops present at any of the pope's appearances.

I find absolutely nothing wrong with Patriarch Filaret's statement that the "time has not yet arrived for him (the pope) to come here (Ukraine)." As a concerned Church leader, does Patriarch Filaret not have the right to express his opinion? He did not malign the pope or the Catholic Church. He simply stated that he felt this was not the best time for the pope's visit.

The same situation existed in the United States 35 years ago. I remember the Protestants opposing John F. Kennedy because he was Catholic. On a parish organization bus tour of Amish country, the guide informed us that the Amish do not vote in elections, with one exception. They came out to vote against Kennedy, for fear that the pope would gain control of American politics.

As ridiculous as it sounds, at that time it was a very great concern for many people.

Could you imagine a papal visit to America following Kennedy's election?

Ukraine, in its spiritual rebirth, has not yet reached the stage to which we in America are accustomed. In Ukraine, the pope is not looked upon in the same light as he is in the West. For many Ukrainians, the word "pope," especially in eastern Ukraine, conjures up the same visions that the Amish held in the States in the 60s.

Unfortunately, a similar situation exists between the Vatican and Moscow. I was present when a nun from the Ukrainian Catholic Church visited the Kyiv Patriarchate with a greeting on the enthronization of Patriarch Volodymyr in October of 1993. No Catholic clergy attended the enthronization because the Ukrainian Catholic Church did not want to harm its relations with the Vatican, fearing that Moscow would protest any participation.

Perhaps, Dr. Kuropas, "the time has not yet arrived," but let us fully understand the present situation in Ukraine. As we approach the third millennium, let us pray that both the Vatican and Constantinople will cease their fear of Moscow and take the bold steps of recognizing an Autocephalous Orthodox Church and recognize the title of patriarch for the leader of the Greek-Catholic Church in a free and independent Ukraine.

Such recognition will have a far greater effect on the faithful of Ukraine than will a three-day papal visit.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday-Sunday, January 16-26

NEW YORK: La Mama Experimental Theater presents the Yara Arts Group in "Virtual Souls," inspired by Oleh Lysheha's poem "Swan" and featuring the music and myth of the Buryat people who live in Siberia near Lake Baikal. Also included is Japanese, Ukrainian and American poetry. "Virtual Souls" will be presented at La Mama's Annex Theater, 74A E. Fourth St., Thursdays through Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; matinees on Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at La Mama Annex. The box office number is (212) 475-7710.

Saturday-Monday, January 18-20

LEHIGHTON, Pa.: The Zaporozhian Brotherhood of Upper Lehigh will sponsor its first Pocono Holiday Ski Weekend at the Ukrainian Homestead. The package, at \$65 per person, includes lift tickets to Blue Mountain or Montage Ski areas, motel accommodations (double occupancy), and full breakfast and dinner. For additional information and reservations call Eugene A. Luciw, (610) 262-0807.

Sunday, January 19

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The local branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association — SUM-A invites the public to its annual "yalynka" at St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, Route 10 and Jefferson Road, at 3 p.m. The evening includes a traditional Christmas Eve dinner and a performance by the young members of SUM-A. For more information call Michael Koziupa, (201) 984-9132.

Saturday, January 25

ASHLAND, Ore.: The Leontovych String Quartet — Yuri Mazurkevich, first violin; Yuri Kharenko, second violin; Boris Deviatov, viola; Volodymyr Panteleyev, cello — will appear in concert at the Southern Oregon State College Musical Building Recital Hall in a program of works by Schubert, Svoboda and Shostakovich. Performance time: 8 p.m. Ticket prices: \$19 and \$21.

YARDVILLE, N.J.: St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church invites the public to its traditional New Year's Eve "malanka," to be held in the church hall, 839 Yardville-Allentown Road, starting at 9 p.m. Music will be by Fata Morgana. Admission, which includes buffet: \$20, adults; \$10, students. For more information call Natalka Posewa, (609) 259-2763.

Sunday, January 26

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian American Professionals and Business Persons Association of New York and New Jersey in association with the Ukrainian Student Association in the United States of America (USA/USA) present an address by Yuri Gleba, director, International Institute of Cell Biology, Kyiv, and plant manager, bio-technology research group at American Cyanamid, Princeton, N.J., who will speak on the topic "What is the Future of Science and Scientific Research in Ukraine?" Mr. Gleba, the youngest member of the presidium of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, has actively promoted both international peer review of all Ukrainian research teams, as well as reform of the Academy of Sciences, which runs Ukraine's 160 research institutes. The presentation will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 3 p.m. There will be an open discussion and a wine reception will follow. Admission: members, \$8; non-members, \$10; students, free. For additional information call Walt Chudowsky, (212) 580-2804.

Monday, January 27

EDMONTON: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta is holding a lecture, as part of its spring seminar series, by Dr. Andriy Hornjatkevyc, University of Alberta, who will speak on the topic "'Pobut' of the 'Kobzari' and 'Lirnyky' as Reflected in their Secret Language." The lecture will be held in the CIUS Library, 352 Athabasca Hall, at 3:30 p.m.

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

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