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Deadline is near for immigrants to file for adjustment of status

PHILADELPHIA – Eligible, out-of-status immigrants have only until January 14 to apply for a green card and remain in the United States while awaiting processing, warned attorney Andre Michniak.

Due to a bill recently signed by President Bill Clinton, after January 14 anyone who is eligible to apply for a green card but has not continuously maintained legal status must return to his or her home country to obtain a green card. For some who are technically out of status, this could mean leaving behind their families and jobs for months. For others, due to last year's draconian immigration law, they could be barred from returning to the U.S. for three to 10 years.

"It's very easy for an immigrant to fall

out of status without even knowing it," Mr. Michniak commented. "We're talking about students who've dropped a course, workers who've been transferred by their employers to different cities in the U.S., tourists whose paperwork expired on someone's desk. But any immigrant who has ever fallen out of status – no matter how briefly and for whatever reason – will be affected by this change in the law."

"Having to leave the United States to obtain a green card will cause extreme hardship to immigrants' families and American businesses," said Mr. Michniak. "Sacrificing this income can send a family into poverty. And companies who have sponsored these workers

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Prime minister says government will act on reducing shadow economy

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko announced on January 3 that his government will focus in 1998 on drastically reducing the shadow economy in Ukraine, which he said is a major reason for shortfalls in budgetary revenues that have caused ongoing financial instability in the government.

Speaking at a closed session of the Cabinet of Ministers, he said the goal is to "break the existing negative processes in the economic sphere." The prime minister added, "The government must work to head off problems and not to simply ascertain the situation."

Prime Minister Pustovoitenko's call for a war against the shadow economy

steers clear of a new tax reform initiative. During the January 3 Cabinet of Ministers meeting the discussion emphasized tighter control over tax payments, including holding "chronic tax dodgers" criminally responsible, strengthening anti-smuggling measures, the use of indirect excise duties and development of more trust among corporations and individuals in Ukraine's banking-credit system.

The Ukrainian government collected only 76.1 percent of its total projected budget revenues for 1997. That figure includes a 36.4 percent shortfall in tax collections. Much of the revenue shortfall has been attributed to a large underground economy that does not pay taxes, does much business by barter and illegally moves goods into and out of the country.

Speaking at the same Cabinet meeting, Minister of the Economy Viktor Suslov said the shadow economy provides 43 percent of Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) and that nearly half of the country's total cash volume flows through it.

The root cause of the substantial

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BRANCH OFFICERS AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, THAT THE

34th REGULAR CONVENTION

of the

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

**will be held in TORONTO, CANADA,
at The TORONTO HILTON**

Beginning May 15, 1998

In accordance with the By-Laws of the UNA regarding election of delegates to the Convention, the qualifications for delegates, the number of delegates from each Branch and the credentials of delegates are as follows:

The election of delegates and their alternates must be held within 60 days of the announcement of the Convention. Since the Convention was announced on January 6, 1998, the 60-day term for election of delegates and their alternates ends on March 6, 1998.

Delegates and their alternates to which the Branch is entitled shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Branch by the members present. Nominations shall be made from the floor and all candidates presented to the membership for vote. The candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected delegates. Alternate delegates shall be elected by separate vote in similar manner. All tie votes involving alternates shall be immediately resolved by another ballot for the candidates involved. Each member shall be entitled to one vote for each delegate and each alternate authorized to the Branch. Delegates and their alternates must be elected at the same regular Branch meeting. In the event that a delegate fails or is unable to attend a Convention, an alternate shall be seated in his or her place, and remain seated for the balance of the Convention. If a Branch has more than one delegate, the seats of the absent delegates shall be occupied by alternates in the order of the highest number of votes received in the election.

Only UNA members in good standing may be present at the meeting and vote for delegates and their alternates. A member in good standing is one who has a certificate of insurance in the UNA on which dues are being paid. A member who has transferred to extended insurance, or paid-up insurance, or is suspended, may not be present at the meeting nor can he (or she) vote. Members in good standing may vote for delegates and their alternates only in that Branch where they pay dues to the Fraternal Fund. No vote by proxy shall be allowed.

Only those members may be elected as delegates or alternates who are in good standing and have all the qualifications for an officer of the Branch, i. e., have been members of the UNA not less than one year and of their Branch not less than six months, and in which they pay dues to the Fraternal Fund, are over 18 years of age, are of Ukrainian nationality or descent and are not officers or assembly officers, agents or salesmen of any other similar fraternal organization or life insurance company, and are fulfilling all obliga-

(Continued on page 5)

New ambassador to Ukraine addresses Ukrainian Americans

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Newly confirmed U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Stephen Pifer was the guest speaker on December 13, 1997, at the quarterly meeting of the National Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Inc. (UCCA).

In his comments to the assembled gathering of nearly 100 Ukrainian American community leaders and activists, Ambassador Pifer addressed many issues he would like to see tackled during his tenure at the American Embassy in Kyiv.

UCCA President Askold S. Lozynskyj introduced Ambassador Pifer and highlighted his background and knowledge of Ukraine through his work at the National Security Council (NSC) at the Russia, Ukraine and Moldova desk.

The new ambassador noted that foreign investment in Ukraine and trade are crucial for its continued progress toward economic reform. Acknowledging that security for Ukraine and trade are a sensitive topic, the new ambassador lauded Ukraine once

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NEWS ANALYSIS

GUAM: a new alignment in NIS

by Liz Fuller

RFE/RL Newswire

The newest acronym to add spice to the new world order's alphabet soup risks confusing cartographers and laymen alike. Meeting in Strasbourg in mid-October 1997 on the sidelines of the Council of Europe summit, the presidents of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova (GUAM) issued a joint communique registering their shared strategic interests. The four presidents further affirmed their intention to deepen political and economic ties and cooperation, both on a bilateral basis and within regional organizations, and their mutual interest in questions of regional security.

This quadrilateral statement marked the admittance of a fourth member to the "Union of Three" comprising Georgia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine. This alignment, the brainchild of Presidents Eduard Shevardnadze, Heidar Aliyev and Leonid Kuchma, had taken shape during the fall of 1996 on the basis of a shared pro-Western orientation, a mistrust of Russia, and the desire to profit jointly from the export of part of Azerbaijan's Caspian oil via Georgia and Ukraine. In the case of Azerbaijan and Georgia, dissatisfaction with Russia's track record as a mediator in the Karabakh and Abkhaz conflicts provided additional motivation.

Predictably, Moscow assumed — wrongly — that the impetus for this triple alignment had originated with the U.S. as part of a strategy to accelerate the erosion of Russia's influence in the Caucasus and Ukraine. Western powers, for their part, reacted with alarm and dismay, conveying the unequivocal message: "Don't

rock the boat, don't risk anything that could irritate Russia," especially during the anticipated difficult period of horse-trading over NATO's planned expansion eastwards. Consequently, in public statements during the spring and early summer of 1997, Presidents Aliyev and Shevardnadze both prudently denied the existence of any "axis," stressing that the accords concluded between their two countries and with Ukraine were exclusively economic in nature.

The unveiling during the summer of a new U.S. policy that identified both Central Asia and the Transcaucasus as spheres of national interest indirectly served to bestow Washington's approval on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kyiv alignment, and thereby to increase its attraction to other potential members.

Moldova's subsequent inclusion in the alignment served to formalize a convergence of interests that had emerged five months earlier. The so-called Flank Limitations Agreement modifying the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe specifically allowed Russia to deploy increased numbers of weapons in the Transcaucasus, Ukraine and Moldova. Of the 32 states bound by the CFE Treaty, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Moldova ratified this agreement only days before the deadline for doing so in mid-May, and expressed serious misgivings about its concessions to Russia.

At the Strasbourg meeting in October 1997, Azerbaijan's Foreign Affairs Minister Hasan Hasanov had underscored the economic potential of GUAM, specifically Ukraine's and Moldova's interest in the TRASECA project intended to create a coordinated transport corridor from Central Asia via the Transcaucasus to Europe, and the possibility of exporting part of Azerbaijan's Caspian oil via Ukraine or Romania.

At a subsequent gathering of deputy foreign ministers from all four countries held in Baku in late November 1997, however, the primary topic of discussion was regional security. On that occasion, Mr. Hasanov advocated coordinating security policy within the parameters of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, proceeding from the formula "16 + 4" (meaning NATO's present 16 members plus the four GUAM states). The strengthening of quadrilateral ties among GUAM members, Mr. Hasanov continued, should proceed parallel to those states' integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures, and would contribute to strengthening regional security and stability.

Both Minister Hasanov and President Aliyev explicitly denied that GUAM was directed either at Russia or at any other state and said that the new union was open to other would-be members. There has not been any official Russian reaction to the Baku meeting, but Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Arsen Gasparian played down its implications for his country. Gasparian noted that "Armenia enjoys normal relations with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and we are really convinced that this quadripartite cooperation is not aimed at any other country." (This reaction is in marked contrast to Minister Hasanov's and President Aliyev's repeated vehement condemnation of the Armenian-Russian Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance signed in late August which they perceived as directed against Azerbaijan.) Mr. Gasparian conceded,

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Black Sea site of biblical flood?

by Walter Derzko

TORONTO — Chornobyl was not the first catastrophe to hit Ukraine.

"Quirks & Quarks," a CBC radio program in Canada, in mid-December 1997 aired an interesting interview with Dr. Walter Pitman, a professor at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, about the Great Flood cited in the Bible.

He has evidence that the flood probably happened in the Black Sea about 7,000 years ago as water from melting icecaps broke through the Bosphorus Strait with a tremendous surge, estimated at 100 cubic kilometers of water per day.

Flood waters advanced up rivers in what is now Ukraine at a rate of one mile per day. The inhabitants fleeing from the surging waters probably moved all through Europe via what today are Italy, Germany, Poland and right through the Paris delta.

In the Black Sea, water levels are suspected to have risen six inches per day or the equivalent of one year of water going over Niagara Falls in a two-day span or 100 cubic kilometers per day. (See "Noah's Flood" in *New Scientist*, October 4, 1997, pp. 24-27.)

The CBC's webpage notes that Dr. Pitman said the evidence he has found of this ancient flood of the Black Sea might well explain the emergence of flood myths in the Bible and the Epic of Gilgamesh. His book "Noah's Journey" will be published by Simon and Schuster in the fall of 1998. (See the CBC's web page, at <http://www.radio.cbc.ca>, where an audio of the program is available for downloading.)

NEWSBRIEFS

Historic church burns in Tallinn

TALLINN — A Ukrainian church located here in the capital city of Estonia was heavily damaged by a fire that broke out at about 7 p.m. on December 31, 1997. The historic building's roof and its second floor, whose renovation was nearly completed, were destroyed by the blaze, and some portions of the ancient adornments on the first floor were damaged. The second floor was to house parish offices and the Ukrainian Sunday school. The church — built more than 400 years ago — was given to the Ukrainian community in 1993 on a long-term lease. During the Soviet era the building was used by the KGB as a warehouse. In 1997 the church was blessed and restoration work was begun. Authorities in Tallinn have begun an investigation into the fire. (Respublika)

Rada approves space program

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada on December 23, 1997, approved the final version of the law on the national space program for 1998-2001 by a vote of 242-3. According to National Space Agency Director Oleksander Nehoda, the aim of the program is to unify state operations in the space sector and "create a national network for space objects." He said that the next eight launches in the next five years. Mr. Nehoda said the program would include the launch of the Lybid satellite, which will provide satellite communications, navigation and satellite TV. Implementation of this program will allow digital satellite television to be introduced in 1998 and Ukraine's four national channels to be broadcast to European countries, Russia and Israel. The full cost of the program will be 1.42 billion hrv and \$250 million (U.S.). A sum of 1.3 billion hrv will come from the state budget, 106.3 million hrv from Central European Initiative countries and \$250 million (U.S.) as credit from international banks. Mr. Nehoda added that Ukraine had signed agreements on cooperation in space with 20 countries and its space enterprises are involved in 25 international projects and programs. Mr. Nehoda said, "Ukraine has integrated into the world market of commercial space services and technologies." (Eastern Economist)

Kuchma orders cuts in spending

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma has told the Cabinet that it must cut spending rather than seek new revenues in order to lower the budget deficit in 1998 and thus reduce the need for foreign borrowing. Interfax reported on January 5, quoting President Kuchma's adviser Anatolii Halchynskyi. In the past, Kyiv has stressed improving tax collection rather than cutting

expenditures as the best way to reduce the budget deficit. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Ukraine insists Britain yield building

KYIV — The Ukrainian government is insisting that the United Kingdom give up an Embassy building in Kyiv because of concerns that Embassy officials may overhear conversations of President Leonid Kuchma, who lives next door, reported the newspaper *Vseukrainskiye Viedomosti* on January 5. Questions of compensation have not yet been resolved, the newspaper said. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Lytvak and Miller discuss crime-busting

KYIV — Meeting with outgoing U.S. Ambassador William Miller on December 23, 1997, Acting Procurator General Oleh Lytvak noted that there had been a significant strengthening of links between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries in the last few years and that Ambassador Miller had made a significant contribution to this process. The two voiced a shared desire to develop cooperation in the crime-fighting sector, which they view as one of the most important directions in the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the U.S. They also stressed the necessity of finding a stable and constructive way of resolving the current problems impeding provision of legal aid and cooperation in other areas. (Eastern Economist)

Rock 'n roll McDonald's opens in Kyiv

KYIV — The seventh McDonald's opening took place on December 19, 1997, in the capital's biggest suburb, Troieschyna, one day earlier than planned. The new restaurant seats 130 and has a drive-thru and offers a rock 'n roll theme. Managing Director Karl Fritz said his company had invested about \$1 million (U.S.) in the new eatery. This brings total investment to \$11 million, and the number of local employees to 1,100. Some 4 million people have already visited McDonald's restaurants in Kyiv and Kharkiv. Plans for next year: 20 new restaurants in six cities, with the first one opening in February in Dnipropetrovsk. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian, Polish presidents visit battalion

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma and his Polish counterpart, Alexander Kwasniewski, visited the Ukrainian-Polish peacekeeping battalion at its Yavoriv training site on January 3, ITAR-TASS reported. Earlier, the two presidents opened a new border post at Krakowiec-Korczow to handle the increasing volume of traffic between the two countries and to serve as a link

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Rap music makes inroads into Ukraine with Kyiv concert

by Zenon Zawada

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — As the music of the late rapper Tupac Shakur blasted throughout the halls of the Kyiv Institute of Building and Engineering on a Thursday afternoon, high school and college-aged Ukrainians shuffled about dressed in baggy jeans, American sports jerseys and puffy ski parkas, past a stone-faced "babusia" (grandmother) manning her desk at the front of the auditorium.

As testament to Ukrainian youth's intrigue and near-obsession with American culture, the goateed youngsters were setting up on December 11, 1997, for what was Kyiv's first exclusive rap concert ever: "Funkie Kiev '97." The concert, which actually seemed more like a jam session, was organized on a strictly grassroots level by a Kyiv rehearsal studio and a group called U Chornykh Yest Chustvo Ritma Rekkadz (Blacks Have a Sense of Rhythm Rekkadz [Records]). Almost all the 15 participating groups finance themselves individually, and for many of them, this was their first opportunity to perform.

Ukrainian rap is in an infantile stage, which was obvious at the concert. Almost all of the 100 or so audience members were of high school or college-age, and most of them came because they knew someone performing. Throughout the show, performers and audience members mingled, listened and danced in a drunken haze, in what became less and less a concert, and more of a high school jam.

The hub of Ukrainian rap is currently in Kharkiv, directly influenced by Moscow and St. Petersburg, where rap has taken off. But the potential for somewhat serious rap in the rest of Ukraine was apparent at the show, which featured Ukraine's most popular and successful rap group Vkhid U Zminommu Vzutti (Entrance with Shoes Changed), as well as Kyiv-based upstarts Green Chestnut Clan and Cross-Tribe.

The performers all take their music very seriously, and have an intense appreciation of the Afro-American culture that inspired them. Many performers cited acclaimed groups like Public Enemy, Wu Tang Clan and Cypress Hill as significant influences on their music, and have a sharper knowledge of rap than your average American.

"I like West Coast beats and melodies, but East Coast lyrics," said Volodymyr Korbut, or West Side Dogg of Cross-Tribe, who is a student at Solomon International University in Kyiv.

Denver, 20, of Cross Tribe, said the history of African Americans is why he is particularly fond of their culture.

"Black Americans waged a strong battle for their freedom," said Denver, a student at the State Institute of Culture in Kyiv. "They hoped that everything would be OK and that came about. We live in Ukraine, and we also hope that everything will be okay."

The result of such cultural melding is that the music

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Prime minister says...

(Continued from page 1)

underground economy is a tax system that does business no favors. Ukraine has a corporate income tax rate that stands at about 57 percent. When that is added to the other taxes that have been imposed on entrepreneurs, some businesses say they end up turning over around 90 percent of their profits to the government. So many simply hide their profits, and at times the entire business, by not registering the company with the government.

Former Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Viktor Pynzenyk tried tax reform in early 1997, but his efforts failed and resulted in his resignation. The 1997 budget was held up for a year as the government and the Verkhovna Rada bickered over how reform should proceed. The government wanted a comprehensive restructuring of the tax system along Western European lines, while the Verkhovna Rada wanted incremental changes and retention of large social safety nets in the budget financed by a broad-based tax system.

In the end the Verkhovna Rada national deputies had it their way, and the budget was passed with no substantive tax reform.

Deadline is near...

(Continued from page 1)

have already discovered that they are irreplaceable. Losing them will hurt companies, other workers and the community at large. So it's imperative that eligible immigrants apply for their green cards before this deadline."

Before Thanksgiving, Congress voted to end Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, a program that allowed people applying for their green cards to file their paperwork in the U.S., even if they had somehow breached their immigrant status in the past. Such applicants were required to pay a \$1,000 fine as a penalty for their violation. With the recent change in the law, Section 245(i) will no longer be available to those who have not filed their preliminary paperwork with the INS by January 14.

In most cases, those who do not meet their deadline will now be required to return to their home countries to obtain their green card. But many of these people will face a Catch-22: if they leave the U.S. to obtain their green card, they may be barred from returning for three to 10 years, pursuant to a provision included in last year's immigration law.

Mr. Michniak, who handles many such "out-of-status" cases a month, described one client who came to this country on a tourist visa to visit her elderly mother, a U.S. citizen, whom she had not seen in 20 years. "When the client entered the United States, the INS gave her permission to stay for six months. After the first six months, the client was granted an additional six-month period of time to stay in the United States. At the end of that second six month period, the client's

U.S. citizen mother became very ill and had to be hospitalized. In order to pay the medical bills and support her mother, the client was forced to work without INS authorization. Obtaining permission to work was not an option since the INS does not permit tourists to work in the United States. Because she was working illegally, the client could not extend her visitor status for another six-month period. Under the new law, this client may be separated from her mother for three to 10 years," he explained.

"Now I can file a petition for her, and she can receive a green card in this country when she becomes eligible for one," said Mr. Michniak. "But next month, people like her will be between a rock and a hard place."

In general, to be eligible to apply for a green card, a person must have a qualifying relative or employer willing to sponsor him or her. The following categories of people can sponsor a relative for a green card:

- U.S. citizens can sponsor their spouses, children, parents, brothers and sisters.
- Legal permanent residents (i.e., green card holders) can sponsor their spouses and unmarried children.
- Employers can sponsor certain employees.

"I cannot stress enough how important it is that anyone who is eligible for a green card, but has not continuously maintained legal immigration status, files the proper paperwork immediately with the INS or the Department of Labor," concluded Mr. Michniak. "People who do not file their paperwork on or before January 14 may lose their chance to legalize their status. If you haven't already filed your paperwork, call an immigration attorney or local legal services provider."

About the new immigration law

Questions and answers on the revision of Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act prepared by Andre Michniak, a Philadelphia-based attorney.

What happened to adjustment of status provisions under the new immigration law?

On November 26, 1997, President Bill Clinton signed into law a revision of Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Section 245(i) is the provision that allows certain individuals who are eligible for an immigrant visa but are already in the U.S. to adjust their status in the U.S. rather than return to their home countries. These individuals now have until January 14, 1998, to file a visa petition or labor certification in order to be eligible to adjust in the U.S., unless they are deported before their immigrant visa number becomes current.

Who can submit applications to begin the process of obtaining an immigrant visa (a green card)?

Anyone with a close family relationship or an employer willing to sponsor them.

Who is eligible to use the revised Section 245(i)?

Anyone who files a visa petition with the INS as a family or employment-based immigrant, or anyone whose employer files a labor certification application with a local office of the Department of Labor by January 14. These petitions or labor certifications need to be approved before individuals can apply under Section 245(i) to adjust their status. Their visa number (based upon their order in the waiting line for visas) also needs to be current. We do not know what else will be required by the INS to establish eligibility for the revised 245(i).

Who is not eligible?

Individuals who do not have the close family relationship required to file a family petition or whose employer is not willing to sponsor them for labor certification are not eligible to file. Also ineligible are individuals who are in the U.S. and participating in the diversity visa lottery (known as the "green card" lottery).

If petitioners file before January 14, 1998, will they be protected from deportation until their priority date becomes current and they can adjust?

Section 245(i) has never protected an individual who is deportable. It merely enables these individuals

to adjust their status in this country if and when they are eligible to do so. Persons who are here illegally or who have overstayed their visas are subject to deportation, and the revised Section 245(i) will not prevent such a person from being deported. It also does not protect employers who employ aliens without work authorization from investigation and sanctions by the INS.

Does the new law affect petitions whose priority date is not current?

No. As long as the initial visa petition is filed before January 14, and the petitioner is eligible for a green card, he/she will be able to remain in the U.S. during the adjustment process, unless they are deported before their immigrant visa number becomes current.

Aren't aliens who are married to U.S. citizens automatically eligible for a green card?

No one is "automatically" eligible. If someone is here illegally, and is now married to a U.S. citizen, but has not gone to the INS to get a green card, he or she may need to use Section 245(i) and may need to file before January 14, 1998. Such individuals should seek competent assistance from attorneys or legal service providers.

If an immigrant files a petition before January 14 for a spouse, are his/her children under 18 automatically covered as well?

Generally, yes. Children are considered to be "derivative" beneficiaries in that situation. However, if children turn 18 before they can actually obtain a green card, they could lose their eligibility. These children should have separate immigrant petitions filed on their behalf before January 14, 1998.

What happens to immigrants who are here illegally, but file their petition after January 14? If they return to their home country, won't they risk being barred from returning?

These immigrants could be barred from returning for three to 10 years. Unless the law is changed in the meantime, when their application becomes current, they must return to their home country so their application can be processed through U.S. consular offices.

What happens to out-of-status immigrants who do nothing?

They remain illegal, and risk deportation and a bar on returning to the U.S. for three to 10 years.

Kuzio delivers 1997 Palij lecture

LAWRENCE, Kansas — The Palij Memorial Fund at the University of Kansas on November 17, 1997, held its annual lecture given by Taras Kuzio, research fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, at the University of Birmingham, England.

Renowned historian Dr. Michael Palij established the fund with monies collected from the local Ukrainian community. A librarian at the University of Kansas before he retired, Dr. Palij singlehandedly established a Ukrainian presence at the University of Kansas through library acquisitions.

Mr. Kuzio's lecture addressed the topic "State- and Nation-Building in Ukraine: Achievements, Problems and the Way Ahead." The talk was divided into six sections and in the first section, Mr. Kuzio discussed contemporary theories of nationalism and pointed out that scholars have difficulty in defining a nation or pinpointing when a nation comes about.

Austrian rule proved rather benevolent and allowed the Rusyn (Ruthenian) ethnos to evolve into a nation by 1914. In contrast, in eastern Ukraine the tsarist authorities prevented the spread of the national idea from elites to masses. This was followed by policies of Russification and Little Russianization under the Soviets.

Mr. Kuzio noted that the collapse of empires always leads to national identity crises with many people falling back upon regional identities. Little Russianism, like the Anglo-Irish in Eire (Ireland), were a product of colonial policies that created peoples with mixed and divided loyalties.

The second section of the presentation dealt with elites. Mr. Kuzio pointed out that it was not unusual for old and new elites to co-exist during the early transition phase. The defection of the national communists to the independence cause, and the pacts created with them, were commonplace in transitions (as seen in Latin America and South Africa).

The political and cultural elites are joined by economic entrepreneurs who also have a stake in the new regime. These economic entrepreneurs are threatened by Russian capital and feel the need to culturally legitimize their rule by cementing alliances with the cultural-political elites. The best example of this is Pavlo Lazarenko, whose Hromada political party has drawn up a shadow Cabinet that includes former President Leonid Kravchuk's minister of education, Petro Talanchuk, and Rukh radical Larysa Skoryk as minister of culture.

The third theme of the presentation dealt with forging a new political community or civic nation. Mr. Kuzio pointed out that transition in the former Soviet republic's was fourfold, involving the economic, political, state- and nation-building spheres, which makes the transition process more complicated and drawn out.

The next area the speaker discussed was the myth of separatism and the struggle to have borders legally recognized. Mr. Kuzio argued that separatism was a threat in the Crimea only during 1992-1995, but has since collapsed and is unlikely to recover. Separatism in eastern Ukraine never existed because communists and interfront-type

groups backed the union of all of Ukraine into a revived USSR or pan-Slavic group, not just separate regions of Ukraine. It was therefore wrong to extrapolate the Donbas as representative of all of Ukraine, just as it was wrong to assume that Halychyna was typical for all of western Ukraine.

Borders, like citizenship, define the community or nation and separate the "we" from foreign "others". Borders are as important to states as other national symbols. Their recognition by Ukraine's neighbors, which was completed only in June of this year, was always a central strategic goal of Ukrainian foreign policy. Support for these inherited borders was always high; Donetsk and Lviv differed little over this, Mr. Kuzio emphasized.

Language is undoubtedly important to national identity for without a unified language, it is more difficult to create national unity. Nevertheless, Mr. Kuzio cautioned that language should not be regarded as a sign of a person's patriotism. Quoting the historian Ivan Lysiak-Rudnytsky, he argued that Little Russianization was far more damaging than Russification. Language is important as one of the few markers identifying Ukrainians as being different from Russians.

The speaker criticized Western scholars, such as Dominique Arel and Andrew Wilson, who championed the idea of two state languages, a view backed by only one democratic party in Ukraine (the Inter-Regional Bloc for Reforms). Two state languages would be an artificial equality as Ukrainian could not hope to compete. Mr. Kuzio argued that attempting to remove legacies of colonial discrimination against Ukrainian language and culture is perfectly compatible with Western liberal policies of affirmative action. Those who support two state languages also tend to link language to ethnicity, arguing that Ukraine is in effect a "binational" state with two titular groups (Russians and Ukrainians), resembling a kind of Belgium or Canada.

Finally, the speaker discussed the issue of historiography and its role in creating new myths for nation-state building. Myths help to diversify new communities and legitimize their statehood, countering old prejudices, such as those in which Ukrainians were depicted as being unable to establish their own state.

Here the speaker pointed to the central importance of the historian and statesman Mykhailo Hrushevsky, whose views now are central to Ukraine's emerging new historiography. In President Kuchma's view, Hrushevsky was "devoted to national revival," "revived its (Ukraine's) genetic memory" and "developed a concept of the historical development of the Ukrainian people, proved that our people has its own core origins."

In conclusion, the speaker pointed to the positive developments in state- and nation-building that had occurred in the 1990s — the creation of a legal-political community, common institutions, the decline of Crimean separatism and definition of a historic and bordered territory. Problems remain, however, such as overcoming Little Russianism and creating a new civic culture and ideology.

Astronaut Bondar to advise health minister

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — Canada's first female astronaut, Roberta Bondar, who claims Ukrainian heritage in part, was named to head a board of 20 prominent scientists on November 20, 1997, that will advise Health Minister Allan Rock on food, drug and animal-based research.

Dr. Bondar, 51, holds degrees in zoology, agriculture, experimental pathology, medicine and neurobiology. Five years ago, she made Canadian history when she became the country's first and only woman in space when she flew a six-day mission on the U.S. space shuttle Discovery. Dr. Bondar has taught at Toronto-based Ryerson Polytechnic University and the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, where she is now based and is involved in research on cranial blood flow.

Her new duties with the federal government, which will be conducted on a full-time basis, call for her and her yet-to-be-named colleagues to keep an eye on a federal department that has been

recently plagued by budgetary cuts and criticism from some quarters as a result.

This fall, Mr. Rock, Canada's former attorney general, announced a six-month moratorium on cuts at Health Canada's health protection branch following a groundswell of protest over plans to decimate the department's food-research labs. For now, they remain active, along with projects in nutrition, food additives and food toxins, which have also been spared.

Around the same time, the Health minister promised to establish a panel of experts that would examine the future of the branch and the role of the labs. Now, it's up to Dr. Bondar and her fellow panel members (both Canadians and foreigners) to keep Mr. Rock a step ahead of similar potboilers over funding and government policy.

One of the first issues will be the future of a 788-member monkey breeding colony. In June, Health Canada commissioned the Royal Society of Canada

(Continued on page 10)

Rap music makes...

(Continued from page 3)

presented by the rappers has a Ukrainian flavor, with clear Afro-American influences. Most of the rappers chose English-derived performing names, like Krey Zee, Ned K or Hamma Killa Man; some groups performing called themselves LSD and Big Swell. But the groups sang in Russian and Ukrainian, and several groups included Ukrainian influences in their music. One group, called Sertifikat Vidpovidnosti (Certificate of Conformity), used a traditional Ukrainian flute melody throughout one of its songs.

"Because we are Ukrainians, we feel we don't have to imitate Americans," said Anatolii Sokol, or Falcon, a student at Bohomolets Medical University in Kyiv. "We should have something of our own. We try to use some of our traditional instruments, whether it's a flute or a bandura — some Ukrainian melody."

Many of the rappers have a solid command of English and even its black slang, using words like "sell out" or "indo-chronic." Rap slang terms in Ukrainian have even sprung up among the rap culture in Kyiv. "Chyaty" is to rap, and a "tusovka" is a rap posse. Some might wonder why these post-Soviet youngsters have chosen rap and Afro-American culture to admire and adopt, but for many of them, it's more than just the typical Ukrainian infatuation with anything American.

"We're tired of typical Ukrainian songs about love, lost love and nothing else," said West Side Dogg. "This music is an opportunity to communicate meaning."

Victoria Tutchenko, or Vika of Cross-Tribe, 23, was among the few female rappers performing and said she is particularly fond of black music for its

uniqueness.

"When I listen to black music, I get goose bumps," Vika said. "Their music is honest and straightforward."

The rappers all said that being part of the rap culture of Kyiv is not easy, whether its hearing criticism from parents or peers, about the way they sing to the way they dress.

"Our music is very aggressive, and some Ukrainians don't like that," said West Side Dogg. Another rapper, who performs as Danny Gunn of Green Chestnut Clan, said about wearing rap culture clothing, "When you walk down the street ... you get people's glances and stares all the time."

But the biggest challenge Ukraine's young rappers cited is finding financial support, to record and produce songs. To work in a studio, the rappers pay to use it by the hour, which can range from \$10 to \$30. Samplers and computers are hard to come by when you are a student without any source of serious income.

The concert itself had no financial sponsors, which was apparent as technical difficulties abounded, even interrupting and limiting several performances. "There aren't any people interested in investing in rap," said West Side Dogg.

So what did the stone-faced babusia think of that music blasting out of the auditorium?

"There's no melody, only words, and it's very loud!" said Tamara Fedorivna. "But every generation has its own music."

While some wouldn't mind if rap in Ukraine died a quick death, Kyiv's posse of rappers is working to make it a part of the Ukrainian culture.

"If people begin to think, then [rap] will have a future (in Ukraine)," said West Side Dogg. "We're trying to make people think — think about what they're doing."



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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Announcement...

(Continued from page 1)

tions toward the UNA, in particular, have shown active participation in organizational and promotional work for the UNA. No person shall be eligible for delegate or alternate who at any time unjustifiably or maliciously instituted or caused to be instituted any suit, action or proceeding against the UNA either on his own behalf or on behalf of any other member.

Every duly established Branch in good standing in the Association, having 75 or more members who pay in such Branch dues in the Fraternal Fund of the UNA, shall be entitled to representation and vote on all matters to be acted upon at the Convention as follows: Branches having 75 to 149 members inclusive, one delegate; those having 150 to 225 members inclusive, two delegates; those having 226-301 members inclusive, three delegates; those having 301 or more members, four delegates. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. No Branch shall be entitled to more than four votes.

A Branch having less than 75 members, for the purpose of representation at the Convention, may unite with another Branch also having less than 75 members and if, when combined, the aggregate of the two Branches shall be no less than 75 members who pay dues in these Branches to the Fraternal Fund, they shall have the right to elect one delegate. Unless otherwise agreed by the mutual consent of both Branches, the Branch having the greater number of members shall be entitled to elect the delegate, and the Branch having the lesser number of members, the alternate.

A Branch that has not paid all dues and arrears to the UNA shall not be entitled to elect a delegate or delegates.

Credentials of delegates and their alternates must be sent to the Home Office of the UNA within 10 days of the election, but no later than 60 days prior to the Convention.

Parsippany, NJ, January 6, 1998

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION:

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NESTOR L. OLESNYCKY
Vice-President

PETER SAVARYN
Director for Canada

ANYA DYDYK-PETRENKO
Vice-Presidentess

MARTHA LYSKO
Secretary

STEPAN KACZARAJ
Acting Treasurer

Branch 172 elects officers

WHIPPANY, N.J. — Ukrainian National Association Branch 172, the Ivan Franko Society, held elections of branch officers in November 1997.

Sixty-three members participated in the elections. The following were elected: Dr. Ivan Pelech, president; Vasyl Osadchuk, vice-president; Stephan Kosonocky, secretary; Longin Staruch, assistant secretary; Dr. Walter Baziuk, auditing committee.

The branch also elected its delegate to the 34th UNA Convention to be held in May in Toronto. Mr. Staruch was elected to serve as delegate, while Mr. Kosonocky was voted as the alternate delegate.

Members of Branch 172 may call Mr. Kosonocky, (973) 887-7730, or Mr. Staruch, (800) 673-5150, in regard to UNA matters.



Alexa Gabrielle Ben, daughter of Christina and Volodymyr Ben, is a new member of UNA Branch 220 in Chicago. She was enrolled by her grandparents Olha and Ivan Kosar.



Tomas Kevin Mazzeo, 3, and his younger sister, **Cortney Mary**, are the children of Tom Mazzeo and Luise Kulka. They were enrolled into UNA Branch 163 in Philadelphia by their grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Dmytro Kulka.



Stefania Cora Zauner, daughter of Lesia Zauner, is a new member of UNA Branch 292 in Detroit. She was enrolled by her grandparents Stefan and Stefania Maryliw.

**Insure
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Young UNA'ers



Alexander Andreas Zharovsky, son of Andrea Porytko and Vadim Zharovsky, is a new member of UNA Branch 216 in Philadelphia. He was enrolled by his great-grandmother Anasztazia Sabata.



Markian Plawiuk, son of Roman and Lesia Plawiuk, is a new member of UNA Branch 434 in Montreal. He was enrolled by his grandfather Myron Plawiuk.



Alexander Luka Mostovych, son of Marko and Rhonda Mostovych, is a new member of UNA Branch 417 in Jeffersonville, Ind. He was enrolled by his grandparents Leonid and Oksana Mostovych.



Maya Mileca Luciw, daughter of Andrew and Teri Luciw, is a new member of UNA Branch 385 in Minneapolis. She was enrolled by her grandparents Maria and Slawomyr Luciw.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Convention countdown

The front page of this week's issue carries the official announcement of the 34th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association, which is scheduled to begin on May 15 in Toronto. The announcement is published in accordance with the UNA By-Laws, which state that due notice of the convention must be given at least four months before its starting date. The announcement also notes that branches have 60 days from the date of the announcement (in this case, January 6, for that is when the announcement appeared in the Ukrainian-language daily newspaper Svoboda) to elect their delegates, and their alternates, to that quadrennial conclave.

And therein lies the purpose of this editorial — basically a "get the vote out" piece.

First of all, we urge all UNA members in good standing to attend the meetings of their branches at which delegates are to be elected. You see, the UNA functions as a true democracy: members elect delegates from their branches who then attend the convention to represent their interests before the highest decision-making body of the Ukrainian National Association. At the convention delegates will elect a new UNA General Assembly, that is, executive officers, advisors and auditors, as well as honorary members; approve changes to the UNA By-Laws; act on reports of General Assembly members; and adopt resolutions and recommendations for the well-being of this oldest and largest Ukrainian fraternal organization.

The 1998 convention, in particular, is sure to be a turning point in the history of the UNA — indeed of the entire Ukrainian community. Among the matters to be acted upon by the delegates will be two mergers with similar Ukrainian fraternal societies: the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America. Related to the first merger also is the issue of a new name for the merged entity, as the UFA insists that it be called the Ukrainian National Fraternal Association.

Other topics of historic importance include a decision on the fate of the Ukrainian-language newspaper Svoboda and a determination on whether that paper remains a daily — the only Ukrainian-language daily newspaper outside of Ukraine. (Readers may recall that the very same question faced delegates to the previous UNA convention in 1994; they decided, after a lengthy and heated discussion, that the Svoboda daily is one of the major fraternal benefits provided by the UNA and that Svoboda's role in maintaining our community life is paramount.)

There is also the matter of a proposed change in the By-Laws that would alter the framework of the UNA to a corporate structure beginning in the year 2002, whereby the convention would elect an 11-member board of directors, which would then hire executives to run the day-to-day affairs of the association. The board would meet quarterly and would elect a chairman of the board from among the directors.

All of the aforementioned issues and others that will come up at the 34th Convention are sure to be related to one and the same question: how can the UNA best serve its membership and the Ukrainian community now and in the future? And that, dear UNA'ers, is where we all come in. It is important that we attend our branches' pre-convention meetings, and that we familiarize ourselves with the issues at hand and the principles at stake. Above all, it is imperative that we care about our Ukrainian National Association and its *raison d'être* (restated in its recently adopted Mission Statement): "to promote the principles of fraternalism; to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and to provide quality financial services and products to its members." The UNA, as we have said for many years now, is more — much more — than an insurance company.

So, as the 1998 convention approaches, we advise all UNA members — and especially the delegates they elect — that they are the ones who will chart the course for the UNA into the 21st century.

Jan.
5
1983

Turning the pages back...

Ukrainian American actor Pat Bilon, who has touched the hearts of millions as America's favorite extraterrestrial in Steven Spielberg's box office smash "E.T." visited The

Ukrainian Weekly on January 5, 1983. The 2-foot-10-inch, 35-year-old dwarf who wore a cumbersome 50-pound costume, which exceeded his weight by five pounds, visited the Ukrainian National Association's headquarters to thank Roma Hadzewycz for an article that she wrote after it was revealed that what was believed to be a mechanized E.T. was in fact a human.

Mr. Bilon, who was called "Petrush" by his family, was a third-generation Ukrainian American who spoke Ukrainian and was a member of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, a UNA member, as well as a member of St. Anne's Ukrainian Catholic Church from Youngstown, Ohio. He founded and hosted the "Ukrainian Radio Hour" on WKTL-FM in Youngstown. Mr. Bilon also established Petrush's Ukrainian Arts, a Ukrainian gift shop in his parents' house that sold Ukrainian crafts. As a gift of gratitude and appreciation, he presented The Weekly's editor with two ceramic figurines of Ukrainian dancers created of by his father.

Mr. Bilon had been performing since childhood — he donned his first pair of tap shoes at the early age of 7. Before landing his star role in "E.T.," he played what he described as a "sub-major role" in the film "Under the Rainbow" with Chevy Chase and Carrie Fisher.

Mr. Bilon, a member of Little People of America, was considered to be one of the smallest adult male dwarfs in the U.S.

During his visit at The Weekly, Mr. Bilon revealed his plans to act in Spielberg's sequel to "E.T.," which was to have begun taping in 1984. However, Pat Bilon died three weeks later, on January 27, 1983, of a blood disorder.

Sources: "The real E.T." by Roma Hadzewycz, July, 11, 1982, Vol. L, No. 28; "E.T. visits The Weekly," January 16, 1983, Vol. LI, No. 3; and "Pat Bilon, 'E.T.' star, dies," January 30, 1983, Vol. LI, No. 5, The Ukrainian Weekly.

FOR THE RECORD: Romanow speaks on "nation-building"

Following are excerpts of remarks by Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow to the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Club Premier's Dinner held on November 24 in Regina.

... When I think of the many people in our history and the world's history who have been called "nation builders," I am deeply honored — and, quite frankly, more than a little bit humbled.

However, I pledge to you that I will always do my best to continue to merit inclusion in such illustrious company. ...

Well, since I have been honored tonight as a "nation builder," perhaps I should take some time to briefly give you an idea of my vision for the nation we are rebuilding.

After all — you don't pay the architect unless you get to see the plans!

Well, friends, when I think of this great country, blessed as it is with almost unparalleled natural bounty, I still think that our greatest resource isn't to be found in the earth beneath our feet, nor in our great rivers and lakes, nor in the great oceans of our coasts. Canada's greatest resource is our people: Canadians.

You know, as premier of a great trading province, with partnerships all over the world, I have had the opportunity to look outwards at how nations everywhere work — or sometimes don't work.

And when I look at our great Canada in the reflection of those others, I realize that we are not joined in nationhood by common culture, or common backgrounds, or common language, or common religion, or even common geography, as so many nations are.

No, what joins us together is our diversity of cultures and backgrounds, united as Canadians in a common idea, a set of common values: the values of hard work, decency, tolerance, compassion and cooperation, and community.

It is that shared set of values and that cultural diversity that weaves together the "rich quilt" of peoples that makes up our nation — and makes it a model of tolerance and dignity for the world.

The Ukrainian experience

The Ukrainian experience in Canada is a particularly excellent example of the strength that diversity offers this country.

As a people, we have come from serfdom to freedom in less than a century, from humble beginnings as small farmers and laborers to positions of influence and renown.

And sometimes in only one generation.

My own father came here in 1928 from a homestead near Lviv. He was a farmer's son, and he wanted to be a farmer himself.

He got here just as the Dirty '30s were starting — Dad's timing wasn't the best, I guess — so, like many others, he got a laborer's job, like so many others, working for the CN railway.

It was hard, hard work, but he did it because he was determined to make a better life for his son and his daughter — the life we enjoy today. To put it another way, we succeeded because he succeeded.

I think that if there's a common thread to the experience of Canada's immigrants — not just Ukrainian, but all immigrants, it is this: our success as second, or third, or fourth-generation Canadians is an enduring testimony to the courage and determination of those hardy men and women who ventured far from their home to search for something better.

Our eloquence is tribute to people who practiced their few words of English on slow boats and slower trains.

Our material rewards and comforts are the dividends paid on the investment of time, work and optimism by people who

stepped off those trains to find an untamed wilderness, a land that our Saskatchewan singer Connie Kaldor calls "harsh and unforgiving."

Our rewards are paid on the investment those people made by working hard to build their communities, their families, their churches and their newfound homeland. Our success is their success.

Sure, the country has been good to us, but we have been good to our country! Think of all the many Ukrainian immigrants and Ukrainian Canadians who have contributed so much to building this great land.

As a lawyer and former attorney-general, my thoughts today, especially, turn first to Mr. Justice John Sopinka of the Supreme Court of Canada, who sadly passed away just yesterday.

John Sopinka — who was born in Broderick, Sask., just east of Outlook — was a renowned scholar and a most distinguished jurist, a member of the Supreme Court of Canada since 1988.

And unlike most justices, he did not work his way up through the courts, but was appointed directly from the bar, which is a most eloquent expression of his remarkable abilities.

Besides his learned writings on matters of freedom of speech and many other important legal issues, he also lent his name and reputation to an Award for Excellence, established by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation of Toronto.

That award this year was given for the first time to a student from a Ukrainian university.

And as a former attorney-general of Saskatchewan, I also remember two Lysyks: Ken and Ed.

Ed, who is Ed, Jr.'s father, enjoyed a long career with the RCMP, including time here in Saskatchewan as head of criminal investigations. He was a fine officer in the service of the law.

His brother Ken was my deputy attorney-general for five years. He argued the key reference case in 1981 and now serves as a Court of Queen's Bench justice in British Columbia.

And having been involved in politics and government for many years, I also think of such Ukrainian Canadian figures as Ray Hnatyshyn, who served as Canada's first governor-general of Ukrainian descent. And I think of his father the senator, John Hnatyshyn. I also think of Sylvia Fedoruk and Steven Worobetz, who served as lieutenant-governors of Saskatchewan.

I think of pioneers like William Berezowsky and Mary Batten, who was the first woman to sit as a Direct Court judge in Saskatchewan and the second woman to sit on the Federal Court of Canada.

She was also a Liberal MLA in our legislature, but we won't hold that against her!

I think of all the MLAs with whom it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve: John Kowalchuk, Myron Kowalsky, Norm Lusney, Clay Serhy, John Solomon, Vi Stanger, Joanne Crofford, Doreen Hamilton — I'm sure there are more — but all of these people have Ukrainian backgrounds.

And at many local levels of government people like Morris Cherneskey of Saskatoon, who served for over 20 years to help get the University of Saskatchewan twinning agreement with Chernivtsi University, played significant roles, too.

Yes, Canada has been good to us. And we, including all of you and your organization, have been good to Canada.

Our common duty

Friends, that brings me to our duty today, to do everything we can to promote the

(Continued on page 15)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congrats on reply to Estocin letter

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank Alla Lehka Heretz for her well-structured reply to Andrew F. Estocin's letter of October 26 and must provide some clarification to Ms. Heretz assertion that Mr. Estocin is promoting his own agenda.

Mr. Estocin is the son of the Rev. Frank Estocin, who is the consistory secretary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. in South Bound Brook, N.J. The Rev. Estocin is at the center of a growing controversy as to the direction the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. should take in relation to recent pronouncements in Odesa by Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

There is a definite movement by a large number of clergy within the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. to remove "Ukrainian" from "Ukrainian Orthodox Church." There is a definite movement to create a "non-ethnic" and "non-nationalistic" pan-American Orthodox Church. And as the Rev. Estocin stated in a recent correspondence, "Putting it bluntly, the ship sails with the ecumenical patriarch (Bartholomew). If that seems not to fit the agenda of some, then those who feel bound in conscience should extricate themselves from Constantinople and seek spiritual and administrative solace (elsewhere)."

From this it should be obvious whose agenda young Andrew is promoting and why his columns appear in the Ukrainian Orthodox Word.

Victor Babanskyj
Watchung, N.J.

About Ukrainians' "preoccupation"

Dear Editor:

Prof. Roman Koropecykj (October 26) must be living in a vacuum of academic isolation, seclusion and new campus politics at UCLA. Not only is he accusing Dr. Myron Kuropas unjustly; he is publicly acknowledging that Ukrainians are indeed "genetically anti-Semitic" as charged by some Jewish Americans.

I don't think the good professor knows what he is talking about; and neither do Michael Slotnick and Leonard Grossman (September 21).

How do they and he accuse any Ukrainian American of "preoccupation" with Jews; especially now. Had my father been less preoccupied with them during World War II fewer of them would be alive today. Yet - not once have I ever heard a word of thanks from any of them; only a constant diatribe of accusations. The truth is, it is extremely difficult to placate or accommodate the American Jewish community, so why bother?

The AJC's "letter of displeasure" is meant to divide our community and to silence Dr. Kuropas. If they eventually get their way, who will the AJC target next?

Finally, after publishing Prof.

Koropecykj's letter you are qualifying that he is assistant professor of Slavic languages at UCLA. So, what? Is this supposed to add to his credibility somehow? Especially in slandering Dr. Kuropas' name and reputation?

Shame on you, Ukrainian Weekly!

If it is your editorial policy to leave titles and degrees out of "letters to the editor" columns, please do stick to protocol.

I have noted, however, that you very frequently appear to qualify certain writers - as if they required a special introduction. This does, indeed, seem quite discriminatory and contradictory. You published my letter also in defense of Dr. Kuropas in an earlier Weekly - but did not even bother to add my title (D.D.S.).

If an assistant professor (degrading Dr. Kuropas unjustly) merits extra privileges of clarification - so do I. I am, after all, not an assistant janitor nor an illiterate country bumpkin. I am not arguing your right to publish dissenting viewpoints, but rather your discriminatory personal credibility ascribed to some writers.

I am most disappointed and appalled by such policy on your part.

Andrew Senkowsky, D.D.S.
Van Etten, N.Y.

Editor's note: Letter writers are identified if their credentials have bearing on a topic or if they specifically ask to be identified for readers. We have noted and heeded Dr. Senkowsky's request.

A thank you from Poland

Dear Editor:

I want to extend my deep appreciation to St. Jude Medical S.C. Inc. in St. Paul and to Lauren Huebner-Hartel of Berwyn, Pa., for donating a St. Jude Mitral Valve No. 29 M to replace the diseased valve of my sister-in-law, Hanna Vasylivna Boberski, a 53-year-old woman from the village of Mykulychyn, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Ukraine.

This valve's list price is \$4,565 (U.S.). It will be placed inside Mrs. Boberski's heart, replacing her diseased mitral valve, by Dr. Dmytro E. Babliak, chief of the Cardiosurgical Center at the Medical University in Lviv.

St. Jude Medical S.C. Inc. produced the first bileaflet heart valve, and it is the best such valve in the world. It was originally designed by Dr. C. Walton Lillehei of Minneapolis, and was the first to replace a patient's diseased heart valve in 1977.

This is not the first time that St. Jude Medical has helped by donating such a valve to patients in Ukraine. Through the efforts of Renata M. Sharan-Olearchyk, they have already donated four cardiac valves. The Ukrainian community and physicians in the U.S. - especially cardiologists and cardiac surgeons - should be appreciative of this humanitarian life-saving gift and should support this exceptionally generous and merciful company.

Bohdan Boberski
Warsaw

Note from the editor:

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

CANADA COURIER

by Christopher Guly



The scam that created a dent in Winnipeg's community

For many years, Joanne Lewandosky was known in Winnipeg's Ukrainian Canadian community as a go-getter who got things done. She was an active organizer of the "Kiev" pavilion in the city's annual summer multicultural festival, Folklorama, and became the point person for virtually every Ukrainian-related event or activity taking place in her community.

Today, Ms. Lewandosky might be lucky to get into events, let alone coordinate them.

In August 1997, the 51-year-old Winnipeg woman was found guilty of 18 counts of violations of the Securities Act and was sentenced to six months in jail for leading a nearly decade-long scamming exercise that cost her friends and acquaintances more than \$900,000 (or about \$650,000 U.S.). Ms. Lewandosky was supposed to invest these people's money, some of it obtained from homes being mortgaged. Instead, Winnipeg Judge Richard Chartier said that Ms. Lewandosky was "borrowing from Peter to Paul" - with the idea that one day she would repay her unwitting creditors.

That day never happened. Faced with overcoming her own mounting debt, Ms. Lewandosky was borrowing from people to pay back monies received from others.

"She then began borrowing from others to pay the initial investors," said Judge Chartier. "At some date, she knew that she could no longer expect to repay these individuals ... and she became more aggressive and more evasive."

Ms. Lewandosky cried during the judge's description of her actions and when she was escorted from the court room.

Ms. Lewandosky's friend Diana Grabinski told The Winnipeg Free Press that Ms. Lewandosky's actions "were unintentional," and that "she has done good service to the community. It just got out of control."

I know Joanne Lewandosky and heard rumors of her alleged financial improprieties some time ago. In fact, I called her, on behalf of this newspaper,

to get her response.

In her fast-talking way, she denied any wrongdoing as vicious gossip leveled against her. Her husband, Henry Kuzia, pleaded with me to leave Joanne, who is in remission from Hodgkin's disease, alone. I respected the request and left well enough alone.

But now a court has set the record straight.

It's true that Ms. Lewandosky has done good work for the Ukrainian Canadian community in Winnipeg and continues to do so as a volunteer for the Holy Family Nursing Home run by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in the city. However, good deeds in one area don't erase bad ones elsewhere. What's left is a bad taste all around, which is what seems to have happened in Winnipeg's Ukrainian community.

A once active and very visible member of the local scene has become anathema. One-time close associates of Ms. Lewandosky, such as Martha Baniias, who purchased Bon Voyage Travel in Winnipeg from Ms. Lewandosky and her husband almost three years ago, are reluctant to speak about her. That's sad, because few people I recall when I lived in Winnipeg seemed to be as committed as Ms. Lewandosky was to Ukrainian Canadiana. Sadder still when one considers that Ms. Lewandosky is also burdened with a difficult medical condition.

Ms. Grabinski said her friend did not deserve her fate. Unfortunately, Ms. Lewandosky was its master. Certainly, her victims did not deserve their fate of lies and broken promises.

Only Ms. Lewandosky will be able to explain whether the tears she shed in that Winnipeg courtroom were for these people or for herself. It's too bad she didn't cry out earlier for the help she obviously needed. Rather than asking people for money, she could have asked them for something that never has to be re-paid: human kindness.

Everyone in Winnipeg's Ukrainian community would have been richer for it.

UVAN building marks centennial

NEW YORK — The building of the Ukrainian Academy of the Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN), which was declared an architectural landmark by the City of New York Landmarks Preservations Commission in 1989, is celebrating its centennial this year.

The century-old building, built by renowned New York architect James Brown Lord, was originally a part of the New York Free Public Library. In order to preserve the historic edifice's distinguished status, the commission calls for a

variety of renovations in compliance with various building codes and regulations. The UVAN building must replace its window frames and new floors are needed, as well as a new heating system.

The UVAN leadership is anticipating help and support from friends and members. In addition to financial aid, consultations with architectural engineers, as well as with skilled and qualified workers, would be appreciated. All interested parties are invited to contact the UVAN office, 206 W. 100th St., New York, NY, 10025.

UUARC appeals for Christmas donations

PHILADELPHIA — The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc. has appealed to the community to support its traditional Christmas campaign.

Charitable donations are targeted for Ukraine to provide shoes for orphans and disabled children in state institutions, financial aid for the elderly because of an inadequate social safety net, and assistance for the unemployed who receive no benefits from the state.

The UUARC must also devote resources to impoverished Ukrainian families in

Romania and in parts of the Russian Federation where millions of former exiles still live.

Thanks to the public's generosity, the first stages of the Eye Glass Project, intended to provide eye examinations and prescription glasses for orphans and neglected children in Ukraine, is proceeding according to plan.

For information on making donations, please contact UUARC, Inc., 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111. Phone: (215) 728-1630, fax: (215) 728-1631.

Canadian dance troupe performs at folklore festival in Brazil

ETOBICOKE, Ontario – Thirty-six members of the Arkan Dance Company represented Canada and Ukraine in Brazil; the invitation was courtesy of Folklore Canada and the Community Folk Arts Council of Metropolitan Toronto. The Arkan Dance Company is the senior performing ensemble of The Ukrainian Academy of Dance, and this is their third international tour (1995 – Epcot Center, Orlando, and St. Petersburg, Fla.; 1996 – Lotung, I-Lan, Taiwan).

Arkan participated in two international festivals in Brazil during August 1997: the second International Folk Festival of the State of Mato Grosso, and the 36th Annual Parana Folk Festival, where they were honored guests of the festival and graciously hosted by local Ukrainian cultural ensembles.

The Mato Grosso Festival was held for the first week in the city of Caceres (population 200,000), about three hours from the state capital, Cuiaba. Here dancers lived on an army base, in communal barracks, with dancers from the other countries participating in the festival: Brazil, Russia, Yugoslavia, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Argentina. The dancers became accustomed to waking up at 6 a.m. to the sounds of a 40-soldier marching band in rehearsal, who would regularly escort them to the mess hall, along with an amorous llama and a very friendly ostrich (residents of the army base's petting zoo).

During their stay in Caceres, the dancers performed for over 25,000 people on the outdoor festival stage in the town square, in addition to daily afternoon performances and receptions in local elementary schools, universities, town halls and parades. In total, over 70,000 people came to watch "Ucrania" perform during their stay in Caceres. Arkan was clearly the most popular group, receiving standing ovations every night and inspiring crowds to scream "Ah! Eh to maluco!" for their spirited and vivacious Hopak and Samba finale.

Next it was on to Cuiaba, the capital of the state of Mato Grosso, and a big, bustling city comparable to Toronto. Here the dancers followed a similar schedule, performing at schools and universities during the day, with regular performances at the festival, which took place at a soccer stadium in the neighboring city of Varzea Grande. Over 6,000 spectators attended each evening performance, and Arkan was once again the most popular troupe to perform. Each dancer was regularly mobbed by fans, eager for Canadian souvenirs and autographs, and the group was followed everywhere by photographers and admiring locals.

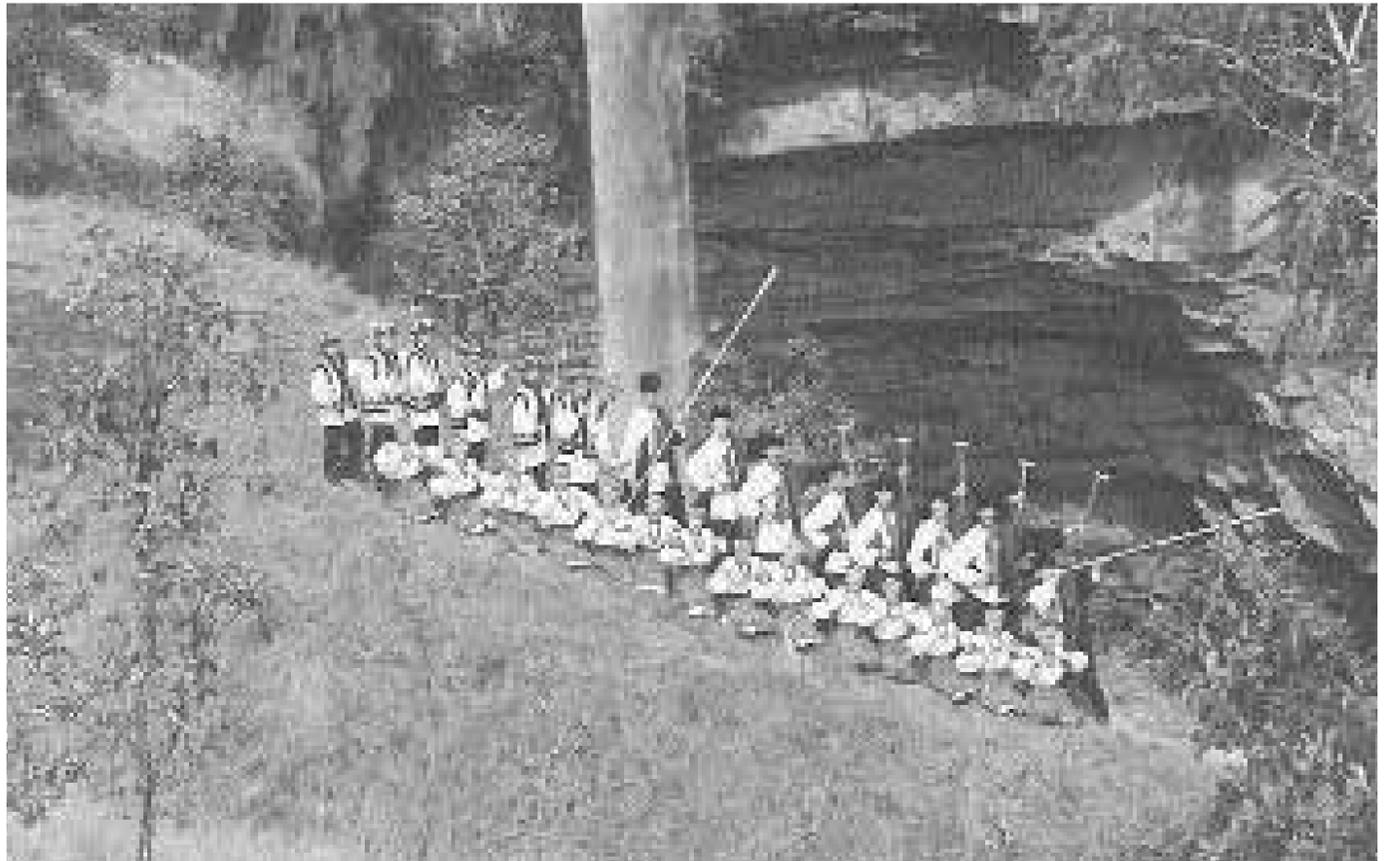
Curitiba was the next stop on Arkan's Brazil Tour 1997. A large city on the southeast coast, Curitiba is recognized as being the "ethnic" capital of Brazil. There are strong Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, German and Portuguese communities in this city of 2 million, and the Ukrainian community is noted as one of the largest and most prominent.

Arkan was hosted by the Ukrainian cultural ensembles Barvinok and Poltava, whose members graciously accommodated the dancers with city tours, lunches, dinners and receptions, and welcomed the dancers into their homes, where they had the chance to experience the day-to-day life of a Brazilian family. The Barvinok and Poltava ensembles were also the coordinators and sponsors of Arkan's independent concert for the Ukrainian community of Curitiba.

The Arkan Dance Company was founded in 1995 as the performing company associated with the 10-year-old Ukrainian Academy of Dance. Its goals are to perform dances of and authentic nature not only of the Ukrainian culture, but of other cultures, and to train in a variety of dance styles.



The Arkan Dance Company on stage during the International Folk Festival in Mato Grosso, Brazil.



Attired in Hutsul costumes, Arkan members pose in Chapada dos Guimares, a wilderness area similar to the Grand Canyon.

Arkan dancers host Taiwanese Opera Company



ETOBICOKE, Ontario – The Arkan Dance Company hosted the visiting Lan-Yang Taiwanese Opera Company, with a joint concert and reception in September 1997 at Stefura Dance Studios. The Taiwanese company was accompanied by I-Lan County Gov. Yu Shyi-Kun (right), who presented the directors of Arkan, Danovia Stechishin and Scott Stefura, with a commemorative plaque and press clippings from Arkan's participation in the first annual International Children's Folklore Festival in I-Lan, Taiwan. Arkan represented Canada and Ukraine at that festival, performing Ukrainian and Canadian dances daily for festival crowds of 300,000 during the month of July 1996. The Lan-Yang Taiwanese Opera Company arrived in Toronto, after having received rave reviews in Vancouver, where it performed at the University of Toronto, MacMillan Theater. Gov. Yu Shyi-Kun was a key organizer and supporter in the commencement and sponsorship of the I-Lan International Festivals in Taiwan, which are now an annual event. For further information about the Arkan Dance Company, contact Ms. Stechishin at: telephone, (416) 255-8577; or fax, (416) 255-3100.

Duquesne University's Tamburitzans announce auditions for 1998-1999

PITTSBURGH – The Duquesne University Tamburitzans, America's premier folk ensemble, will hold general auditions for the 1998-1999 performing season on February 11 and 12, at the Tamburitzan Cultural Center in Pittsburgh.

For over 60 years, Duquesne University has awarded millions of dollars of Tamburitzan grants-in-aid to talented student dancers, singers and musicians who wish to continue performing while pursuing a college degree. Tamburitzan students receive sizable annual grant awards, and may enroll in any field of study offered by the university. Traveling from coast to coast, the ensemble presents up to 80 shows per season, which runs from mid-August through May, with a four-week pre-season production camp.

Prior experience in an ethnic performing group is helpful, although not required; experience in musical theater, ballet, chorus, band, orchestra, or any of the performing arts may also qualify the candidate for consideration. The auditionee should, however, be an enthusiastic, passionate, talented entertainer with the desire to use that talent to defray the cost of earning a degree at one of the finest universities in the United States.

Open to graduating high school seniors and college undergraduates who wish to transfer to Duquesne, auditions will be held at the Tamburitzan Cultural Center, 1801 Boulevard of the Allies, several blocks east of Duquesne's campus. If it is not possible to come to Pittsburgh, applicants may arrange to audition at a performance site, or submit a video audition prior to February 11.

For more information, or to schedule



Tamburitzans Andrij Cybyk, Teodore Husij, Molly Gamble and Shea Hoffman perform the Hopak during the troupe's 57th season.

an audition, contact the Tamburitzans at the following: telephone, (412) 396-5185, Monday through Friday during business hours, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; fax, (412) 396-5585; e-mail, pudlak@duq2.cc.duq.edu. It is highly recommended that auditionees apply to Duquesne University as soon as possible to increase the prospect of receiving additional funding. For applications to the university, call 1 (800) 456-0590. The

Tamburitzans' official website, maintained by Duquesne University, is located at <http://www.duq.edu/Tamburitzans>.

There are seven Ukrainian students currently gracing the Tamburitzans' stage. Larysa Halaway, Andreja and Mark Kalyta, Lydia Kurylas, Taras Posewa, Victor Kutovy and Peter Osyf all perfected their "Hopak," in addition to dozens of other dances whose steps, costumes and

music were influenced by cultural traditions in various areas native to the dance as well as to historic events that occurred in these places, with Roma Pryma Bohachevska in her acclaimed dance group Syzokryli. Ms. Halaway, the Kalytas and Ms. Kurylas have also danced with the Philadelphia ensemble Voloshky. Mr. Osyf danced with a Ukrainian dance group in Connecticut.

"Nutcracker" features Ukrainian dancers

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — Every Christmas season, somewhere in Canada, a local theater presents "The Nutcracker." This year, three cities got to see the production in the tradition of the man whose music accompanies the ballet. Edmonton-based Sulyma Productions Inc. has assembled dancers from the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers to join the Kyiv Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine to stage the fantasy ballet set to the sounds of 19th century Ukrainian-Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

The production opened on December 3, 1997, for a four-day run at the National Arts Center in Ottawa and moved on to the Living Arts Center in the Toronto-area city of Mississauga, on December 9-17, and the River Run Center in the southwestern Ontario city of Guelph, from December 19 to 21.

Choreographer John Pichlyk, who also serves as artistic director of Shumka, has created a Ukrainian-influenced version of "The Nutcracker" relying on the century-old tradition of the Kyiv Ballet, which premiered Tchaikovsky's tragic opera, "The Oprichnik," in 1874. Though steeped in the classical Russian ballet technique, the Kyiv Ballet began staging works by Ukrainian composers as early as the 1920s such as "Lileia" (The Lily) by Kostiantyn Dankevych.

The Ukrainian Canadian influence on the production comes through Shumka (which means "whirlwind" in Ukrainian), the 38-year-old dance company based in Edmonton, the members of which collaborated with the Kyiv Ballet's decade-long artistic director, Victor Litvinov, during their 1995 "Absolutely Shumka" Canadian tour.

The Ukrainian "Nutcracker" also features costume and set designs by Maria Levitskaya, who studied at the Art Institute in Kyiv and has served as director of stage design at the National Opera since 1989. One of her most recent productions was

Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty." Michael Sulyma, who previously assembled three variety specials on Shumka for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's television network, serves as the show's producer.

"The Nutcracker" premiered at the Mariyinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg on December 18, 1892. Marius Petipa, who collaborated with Tchaikovsky the previous year on "Sleeping Beauty," was commissioned to choreograph the new work.

Written by German orchestral conductor E.T.A. Hoffman, original "The Nutcracker" tale tells the story of Maria Stahlbaum who receives a Nutcracker doll from her godfather, the mysterious Dr. Drosselmeier, who tells the little girl the story about the prince transformed into a nutcracker by the evil mouse queen. The spell, Maria is told, can only be broken by the love of young girl.

When Maria falls asleep that Christmas Eve she dreams about a prince until she is awakened by the booming tones of the midnight clock. Suddenly, the room is transformed into a fantasy world of mice, and the Nutcracker, who having become a dashing young prince, whisks Maria off to his palace. When she awakes from her reverie, Maria is lying on the parlor sofa, clutching the magical nutcracker.

While being presented in Canada as a truly Ukrainian production, "The Nutcracker" has received various interpretations over the years, including a Freudian staging of the ballet by Rudolf Nureyev for the Royal Swedish Ballet in 1966, another psychological take on the story by Mikhail Baryshnikov in 1976 and the replacement of the tale's German household by a Russian village by the National Ballet of Canada's Slavic-descended artistic director, James Kudelka, two years ago. The most famous use of Tchaikovsky's score appeared in Walt Disney's 1941 full-length feature cartoon "Fantasia."

ON THE ARTS: Yara Arts Group marks 10 years

by Ksenia Kyzk

NEW YORK – The Yara Arts Group celebrated the publication of "Ten Years of Poetry from Yara Theatre Workshops at Harvard" at the Ukrainian Institute of America last November.

The program featured bilingual poetry readings, music and the sale of the commemorative anthology of contemporary Ukrainian poetry translated by the group's director, Virlana Tkacz, and Wanda Phipps.

Among the works read were: Taras Shevchenko's "The Sky's Unwashed" (1989), Pavlo Tychyna's "Rhythm" (1990), Oksana Zabuzhko's "Despite It All It Was You I Loved" (1992), Ludmyla Taran's "India Ink" (1996), Victor Neborak's "Flying Head" (1993), and Victoria Stakh's "Ode To The Brain" (1993).

The readings presented an intertwining of two cultures through the use of two languages – Ukrainian and English. Yet this duality was unified by well-crafted translations and performance techniques resulting in an almost simultaneous blending of the languages phonetically. In addition, music composed by Roman Hurko, Genji Ito and Julian Kytasty, and the use of the traditional medium of the Ukrainian bandura performed by Mr. Kytasty, offered a fresh perspective on the poetry and allowed for various interpretations by the audience.

While tapping into the musical tradition of the kobzars, the instrumental and vocal compositions were often avant-garde in nature, encouraging improvisation on the part of the performers. The actors delivered strong, yet subtle and moving performances, expressing their inner selves, as well as the poets' intentions through the use of word and song.

Among performers at the poetry evening were: Cecilia Arana, Melasia Bonacorsa, Marc Gwinn,

(Continued on page 10)

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New ambassador...

(Continued from page 1)

again for its attempts to promote reform of the United Nations, seek a peaceful resolution to the Bosnian conflict, and enhance other aspects of European security.

Once in Kyiv, Ambassador Pifer will focus on expanding relations between the U.S. and Ukraine. After he arrives in Kyiv on January 8, the ambassador will witness the second free and democratic elections to the Ukrainian Parliament. Acting in the capacity of a political observer to the elections, Ambassador Pifer stated that his prime mission will be to "figure out what the elections will mean for Ukraine, and what the elections will mean for the U.S."

The new ambassador sees market reform in Ukraine as a high priority. "We have seen some frustration that it [economic reform] hasn't gone further, or hasn't gone quickly enough," he noted. The ambassador's job will be to target the assistance programs that the United States provides to Ukraine to focus on the needs of market-oriented reform. In addition, the ambassador said, "the foreign business climate should be considerably more than what it is today." The fight against organized crime and corruption will be examined and explored by both the U.S. and the Ukrainian governments, he added.

Enhanced political relations between the U.S. and Ukraine will always remain at the top of the U.S. Embassy's agenda in Kyiv, the ambassador explained, adding that the U.S. government recognizes Ukraine's importance in European security structures.

Ambassador Pifer said he sees the downsizing of Ukraine's military as a key to stabilizing and upgrading its army to Western standards. Experience can be gained from many of the NATO countries that have downsized their militaries since the end of the Cold War.

The topic of Chernobyl also was raised as an area of focus for the newly confirmed ambassador. Since 1995 when the G-7 and Ukraine signed the Memorandum of Understanding, Ambassador Pifer said the closure of Chernobyl has been a topic of global concern, but one in which the United States, via the G-7, can take the lead. He pointed to the success of the recent Chernobyl Pledging Conference in New York, which raised funds for the sarcophagus surrounding Chernobyl's No. 4 reactor.

Following a complete overview of the situation in Ukraine and an analysis of the U.S.-Ukrainian strategic partnership, Ambassador Pifer took questions from the audience. Topics of discussion included the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, security issues for Ukraine, the brain drain from Ukraine, and overall economic issues.

In particular, a question about the nomination and confirmation of Ambassador Stephen Sestanovich as ambassador-at-large to the new independent states (NIS) focused on his views on NATO expansion

and his ideas about a Russian sphere of influence following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Ambassador Pifer defended the president's nomination of Mr. Sestanovich and explained that at the time of the ambassador's writings, many people had concerns about the costs associated with the expansion of NATO. Now, Ambassador Pifer underlined, Ambassador Sestanovich is fully on board with the president's program on NATO expansion and views Ukraine as the keystone of stability in the European security structure.

At the conclusion of the session, UCCA President Lozynskyj presented the ambassador with several issues of The Ukrainian Quarterly; a copy of the film "Assassination: An Autumn Murder in Munich," co-produced by the UCCA and Oles Film Studios in Ukraine; and a copy of "The Ukrainian Heritage in America." The Ukrainian National Women's League of America also invited Ambassador Pifer to visit The Ukrainian Museum.

Astronaut Bondar...

(Continued from page 4)

to devise a plan on what to do with the department's simian residents used for research. Faced with an annual \$900,000 bill to maintain the monkey colony, the federal government considered sending the primates to their heavenly reward.

No way, said a six-member, panel of experts from the Royal Society of Canada. While Health Canada should quit the monkey-breeding business, the panel advised Mr. Rock's department to reduce the number of those used for research by half and place the rest in a permanent sanctuary.

GUAM...

(Continued from page 2)

however, that in light of the unresolved Karabakh conflict it is unlikely that Armenia will join GUAM.

Thus far GUAM remains a purely informal alignment, in contrast, say, to the CIS and the Russia-Belarus Union. But it is potentially more viable than either of those. Its chances of long-term survival will depend on two factors.

The first is whether Russia reacts with paranoia or equanimity to the construction of new political, economic and security alignments in Europe from which it is excluded.

The second is whether the choice of routes for the main export pipeline for Azerbaijan's and Kazakhstan's Caspian oil could drive a wedge between GUAM members, with Azerbaijan (under pressure from the U.S.) opting for the southern route to the Turkish terminal at Ceyhan, and the remaining three favoring the Western variant to Supsa on Georgia's Black Sea coast, and then via tanker to Odesa and westward through Ukraine.

Yara Arts Group...

(Continued from page 9)

Natalka Honcharenko, Vera Kaminskyj, Stefka Nazarkewicz, Xenia Piaseckyj, Jeffrey Ricketts, Boris Shnayder, Olena Siyanko, Katie Takahashi and Shona Tucker; with Carmen Pujols, design.

Through her translations and direction, Ms. Tkacz has successfully challenged traditional views and performance techniques of Ukrainian poetry by incorporating a modern multicultural approach to their interpretation and presentation. Over the last 10 years the Yara Arts Group has united two worlds into one through the universal language of poetry.

"Every presentation of Yara's theater workshop ... has been a revelation - a revelation of the creative spirit of Ukrainian literature, a revelation of how theater

artists, professional and student, through voice, gesture, set and costumes, expand and enhance one's understanding of the written word, a revelation of how in the interplay between the original Ukrainian and exquisite English translation and in the interpretation of artists of every nationality and cultural background, Ukrainian poetry is universalized," wrote Lubomyr Hajda, director of the Harvard Ukrainian Summer School (1994-1995), in "Ten Years of Poetry From The Yara Theater Workshops At Harvard."

Individuals interested in getting involved with the Yara Arts Group should contact: Yara Arts Group, 306 East 11th St. No. 3B, New York, NY 10003; tel/fax; (212) 475-6474; e-mail, yctg48a@prodigy.com

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Plast sorority holds debutante ball



CLEVELAND – The Plast sorority “Buryverkhy” held its annual ball with the presentation of debutantes on May 3, 1997, in the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel, Tower City Center. Nove Pokolinnia of Toronto played at the ball. This year’s debutantes and their escorts were: (from left) Natalia Kostryk and Yarema Hrynewycz; Anya Palazij and Marko Skubiak; Luba Korduba and Petro Demchuk; Adrian Chraplyvy and Tatiana Zadony; Lubko Rakowsky and Orysia Kulick; Taras Toporowych and Halyna Mykhailyshyn.

Edmonton museum hosts Lopata exhibit



EDMONTON – On November 28-30, 1997, Edmonton audiences viewed an exhibition of work by the well-known graphic artist Vasyl Lopata of Ukraine. The show and sale were held in the gallery of the Ukrainian Canadian Museum and Archives. Mr. Lopata, whose work depicts the history of Ukraine from the pre-Christian times of the Scythians to the present day, is an “Honored Artist of Ukraine,” laureate of the Taras Shevchenko Prize and holder of awards from international graphic arts shows in London, Kyiv and Moscow. He has illustrated some 60 published books and completed over 100 ex libris bookplates. To his credit are historical portraits of all the metropolitans of the Kyiv and Halych sees, as well as a series of Ukrainian saints and other large-scale projects. His most recent undertaking has been a monumental series of works on the subject of Mykola Hohol’s (N. Gogol) “Taras Bulba.” Mr. Lopata’s greatest claim to fame to date has been his design of the national currency of Ukraine – the hryvnia. Seen above are the artist and his wife with Bishop Lavrentiy and the Rev. M. Kovalchyk.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Korduba family holds reunion at Soyuzivka

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — Korduba family descendants met at the UNA resort Soyuzivka on August 8-10 in a reunion organized by Christina Stasiuk-Farion (second great-granddaughter of Ivan Korduba) and Ariana Korduba-Masiuk (a great-granddaughter).

A total of 88 family members joined together to renew relations or to meet relatives for the first time. Family members came from as far away as Ukraine and Canada. Those in the U.S. came from Georgia, South Carolina, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. The eldest attending family member was Damian Korduba, 82, and the youngest was Brandon Everts, 5 weeks old.

The family tree was traced back to Ivan Korduba, born in Ukraine in 1837. He and Anna Chubata were married in Ternopil in about 1867. They had seven daughters and one son. Ms. Korduba-Masiuk researched the family tree from 160 years ago until this July 4, when the 268th known descendent was born. Five generations of the Ivan Korduba family were chronicled in a journal especially produced for this event.



The Korduba family gathered at Soyuzivka for a reunion.



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Sloviks celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

MCADOO, Pa. — Mr. & Mrs. Adolph J. Slovik of McAdoo, Pa., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 15, 1997. A divine liturgy of thanksgiving was offered in St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in McAdoo — the same church where they were wed 50 years ago.

They received a papal blessing from Pope John Paul II, and citations from Sen. James Rhoades and Rep. Dave Argall.

The Sloviks are the parents of four children: Daniel, Robert, William and Christine Harasymczuk; they have 12 grandchildren.

The jubilarians were honored at a reception in Stefaniako's in Hazleton, Pa., hosted by their children and grandchildren.

Both Adolph and Helen Slovik are officers of Branch 7 of the Ukrainian National Association and also of the Anthracite District Committee of the UNA.



Helen and Adolph Slovik

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Basilians present humanitarian awards



FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa. – The Sisters of St. Basil the Great presented eight distinguished people with the Basilian Humanitarian Award during the Basilian Spirituality Center Honors Banquet held at Celebrations on September 26, 1997. Honored that evening were: Melanne Starinshak Verveer, assistant to President Bill Clinton and chief of staff to First Lady Hilary Clinton; Walter Chyzowych (posthumously), one of America's most prominent coaches and collegiate soccer legend; Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky, professor of Germanic and Slavic literatures at La Salle University; Joseph Garvey, cable company executive; Josyp Terelya, religious leader who was declared a "living martyr" by his Church; Marie Hanusey, director of the Ukrainian Hour, one of America's longest-running Ukrainian American radio programs; Anna Palczuk Harris, active member of the Basilian Spirituality Center Capital Campaign Committee until her death this year; and Dr. Richard D. Hanusey, chairman of the Basilian Spirituality Center Capital Campaign Committee. More than 150 people attended the banquet. Accepting the award for Mr. Chyzowych was his brother, Ihor Chyzowych; for Mrs. Harris, her son Nicholas Harris of Virginia; and for Ms. Verveer, Carolyne Golab, Dean of Chestnut Hill College and Ms. Verveer's friend and college roommate at Georgetown University. Above (from left) are: Dr. Rudnytzky, Adela Hanusey with her husband Dr. Hanusey, and Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, provincial superior.


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Marianna Tretiak, Philadelphia, Pa



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Natalka Beth Dobrowolski - Churchville, Pa



Tamara Harasewych - Flourtown, Pa



Ukrainian National Association

Monthly reports

RECORDING DEPARTMENT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	JUV.	ADULTS	ADD	TOTALS
TOTAL AS OF AUGUST 1997	15,958	36,818	4,610	57,386
GAINS IN SEPTEMBER 1997				
Total new members	29	33	0	62
New members UL	8	6	0	14
Canadian NP	1	20	0	21
Reinstated	1	2	1	4
Transferred in	81	109	60	250
Change class in	2	0	0	2
Transferred from Juvenile Dept.	0	0	0	0
TOTAL GAINS:	122	170	61	353
LOSSES IN SEPTEMBER 1997				
Suspended	5	18	9	32
Transferred out	81	109	60	250
Change of class out	2	0	0	2
Transferred to adult	0	0	0	0
Died	1	54	0	55
Cash surrender	26	56	0	82
Endowment matured	14	25	0	39
Fully paid-up	22	40	0	62
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Certificate terminated	0	5	10	15
TOTAL LOSSES	151	307	79	537
INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP				
GAINS IN SEPTEMBER 1997				
Paid-up	22	40	0	62
Extended insurance	2	17	0	19
TOTAL GAINS	24	57	0	81
LOSSES IN SEPTEMBER 1997				
Died	1	25	0	26
Cash surrender	11	37	0	48
Reinstated	1	2	0	3
Lapsed	0	0	0	0
TOTAL LOSSES	13	64	0	77
TOTAL UNA MEMBERSHIP AS OF SEPTEMBER 1997	15,940	36,674	4,592	57,206

MARTHA LYSKO
Secretary

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

INCOME FOR SEPTEMBER 1997

Dues From Members	\$	179,692.28
Annuity Premiums From Members		111,466.24
Reinsurance Allowance-Canada		10,696.66
Income From "Svoboda" Operation		88,535.45
Investment Income:		
Banks	\$	337.34
Bonds		316,619.77
Certificate Loans		2,947.58
Mortgage Loans		34,267.12
Real Estate		80,786.64
Short Term Investments		40,829.06
Stocks		4,424.78
Total	\$	870,602.9
Refunds:		
Advertising	\$	318.95
Employee Benefit Plan		1,071.40
Postage		13.00
Rent		214.33
Taxes Federal, State & City On Employee Wages		97,808.60
Telephone		17.64
Total	\$	99,443.9
Miscellaneous:		
Annuity Surrender Fees	\$	1,775.72
Exchange Account-UNURC		61,478.07
Profit On Bonds and Stocks Sold or Bonds Matured		28,740.92
Sale Of "Ukrainian Encyclopaedia"		260.00
Transfer Account		4,522,318.49
Total	\$	4,614,573.2
Investments:		
Bonds Matured Or Sold	\$	4,677.47
Certificate Loans Repaid		2,328.69
Mortgages Repaid		25,068.26
Real Estate		79,482.01
Short Term Investments Sold		50,447,384.37
Stock		270,846.57
Total	\$	50,829,787.3
Income For September, 1997	\$	56,414,407.4

DISBURSEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 1997

Paid To Or For Members:		
Annuity Benefits And Partial Withdrawals	\$	217,846.94
Cash Surrenders		50,178.05
Death Benefits		80,423.00

Dividend Accumulations		4,112.68
Endowments Matured		76,550.98
Indigent Benefits Disbursed		750.00
Interest On Death Benefits		74.46
Payor Death Benefits		17.77
Reinsurance Premiums Paid		12,383.34
Scholarships		5,600.00
Total	\$	447,937.2
Operating Expenses:		
Real Estate	\$	242,294.31
Svoboda Operation		118,360.85
Organizing Expenses:		
Advertising	\$	3,483.73
Commissions And Overrides On Universal Life		2,435.22
Field Conferences		668.48
Medical Inspections		1,590.76
Refund of Branch Secretaries Expenses		277.86
Reward To Organizers		4,270.24
Reward To Special Organizers		14,386.51
Medical Examiner's Fee		1,500.00
Traveling Expenses-Special Organizers		4,974.07
Total	\$	394,242.0
Payroll, Insurance And Taxes:		
Canadian Corporation Premium Tax	\$	
Employee Benefit Plan		241,838.33
Salaries Of Executive Officers		18,563.80
Salaries Of Office Employees		78,941.70
Taxes-Federal, State And City On Employee Wages		110,739.90
Total	\$	450,083.7
General Expenses:		
Actuarial And Statistical Expenses	\$	2,177.00
Bank Charges		7,020.04
Books And Periodicals		82.00
Dues To Fraternal Congresses		143.00
Furniture & Equipment		8,534.82
General Office Maintenance		3,562.50
Insurance Department Fees		17,284.65
Legal Expenses-General		165.00
Postage		4,113.35
Printing and Stationery		2,785.22
Rental Of Equipment And Services		6,183.95
Telephone, Telegraph		10,895.53
Traveling Expenses-General		134.30
Total	\$	63,081.3
Miscellaneous:		
Accrued Interest On Bonds	\$	6,818.49
Donation From Fund For The Rebirth Of Ukraine		3,607.31
Disbursements From Ukrainian National Heritage Defense		372.18
Exchange Account-UNURC		461,882.58
Expenses Of Annual Sessions		296.42
Fraternal Activities		425.44
Investment Expense-Mortgages		2,500.00
Loss On Bonds, Stocks and Foreclosed Properties		8,566.87
Moving Expense		14,848.00
Professional Fees		14,321.15
Rent		65,963.44
Reserve For Unpresented Checks		1,290.14
Transfer Account		4,523,118.49
Youth Sports Activities		724.00
Total	\$	5,104,734.5
Investments:		
Bonds	\$	2,535,500.00
Certificate Loans		12,747.58
E.D.P. Equipment		1,370.00
Real Estate		2,134.88
Short Term Investments		48,460,371.67
Stock		100,000.00
Total	\$	51,112,124.1
Disbursements For September, 1997	\$	57,572,202.5

BALANCE

ASSETS	LIABILITIES
Cash	\$ -591,032.23
Short Term	
Investments	13,591,230.11
Bonds	43,640,716.11
Mortgage Loans	7,074,464.30
Certificate Loan	761,633.73
Real Estate	3,077,658.53
Printing Plant & E.D.P.	
Equipment	492,143.16
Stocks	3,306,834.91
Loan to D.H.-U.N.A	
Housing Corp.	0.00
Total	\$ 71,353,648.62
	Life Insurance
	\$ 68,727,063.83
	Accidental D.D.
	2,249,374.50
	Fraternal
	0.00
	Orphans
	434,239.25
	Old Age Home
	0.00
	Emergency
	47,522.08
Total	\$ 71,458,199.6

ALEXANDER BLAHITKA
Treasurer

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

between the Baltic and Black Sea regions. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Science center approves new projects

KYIV — The governing board of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine concluded its meeting in Kyiv on December 16, 1997. The STCU is a multi-lateral non-proliferation and scientific cooperation program that provides employment opportunities to scientists and engineers in Ukraine who previously worked in the weapons or missile technology sector. The board approved 33 scientific and technical projects valued at \$3.6 million (U.S.), supporting 475 Ukrainian scientists and engineers. Projects will take place at institutes, universities and scientific organizations in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv and Donetsk. These latest awards bring the total amount funded to date to about \$18 million, helping to support 2,675 highly qualified scientists and engineers. (Eastern Economist)

10 M hrv allocated to battle AIDS

KYIV — Scientists working for the United Nations AIDS program forecast that the number of HIV-infected people in Ukraine will reach 900,000 by 2001. At present, the official figure is 20,000, although unofficial figures suggest it is much higher, at 190,000. The chair of the State Anti-AIDS and Narcotics Committee, Volodymyr Ivasiuk, confirmed that 10 million hrv were allocated in 1997 for prevention of AIDS and drug use in Ukraine. International organizations supplied \$1.1 million (U.S.) to Ukraine for such purposes. (Eastern Economist)

NATO-Ukraine Commission meets

WASHINGTON — A two-day forum of the foreign ministers of 44 member-states of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council ended on December 18, 1997, in Brussels. The meeting was attended by Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Anton Buteiko and Minister of Emergencies Valerii Kalchenko. Addressing journalists, the Ukrainian foreign affairs minister stressed the importance of the Brussels forum, particularly the first meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Commission, held concurrently with the forum. He said the commission's meeting resulted in the signing of a Memorandum on Mutual Understanding by Ministers Udovenko and Kalchenko and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana. The document provides for implementation of several joint programs on assisting civilian populations during natural disasters and fires. The memorandum also provides for Ukraine-NATO cooperation in eliminating the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. (Embassy of Ukraine)

Ukraine, Germany agree on cooperation

WASHINGTON — Ukraine and Germany seek enhancement of cooperation in the military sphere, with a special emphasis to be placed not only on military/political collaboration but on military/technical matters as well. Defense Minister of Ukraine Oleksander Kuzmuk met with his German counterpart, Volker Ruyte, in Bonn. An agreement was signed on December 16, 1997, in Bonn by Ukrainian Minister of Industrial Policies Vasyl Hureiev and State Secretary of the German Foreign Ministry Hans-Friedrich von Pletz. The design of a new European military transport aircraft based on the AN-70 was cited as a major project. The German defense minister said 18 joint Ukrainian-German projects are planned to be implemented in 1998. (Embassy of Ukraine)

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Romanow...

(Continued from page 6)

inclusion of all Canadians in the fabric of our nation.

We have in common a shared experience, not just with other Ukrainian Canadians but with all the others who were on those boats and trains many years ago, the many immigrants of all cultures and ethnic backgrounds in Canada's broad history.

And I suggest to you that we also share that experience with today's new immigrants who arrive here by airplane, who possess the yearning to live their dream as free Canadians.

We have to practice the philosophy of inclusion, or we will surely lose the contributions that will be made by our newest immigrants.

That's why it is incumbent upon all of us to do everything in our power to build a Canada where inclusion, not exclusion, is our creed.

Friends, I quote for you the Charter of the United Nations: "We are determined ... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person ... (We pledge) to practice tolerance and to live in peace together as good neighbors."

To many citizens of the world, those words must sound like an impossible dream. To those of us in Canada, they are words to live by. We are a model for the world, a shining light to guide human destiny.

Let us work, together, to keep that light of tolerance and inclusion burning brightly!

National unity

But, as we know, there are those who would extinguish that light.

As Canadians, we must battle those forces in Quebec that seek to destroy our nation, our national dream.

I have already given you the "reasons of the heart" to keep working for a strong and united Canada - the vision we share as a legacy from our parents and grandparents, who grew this country out of dirt and rocks.

There are also economic reasons for us to work to keep that dream alive. Hard-headed reasons.

If Quebec leaves, there will be years or decades of chaotic uncertainty. We will have to deal with tumultuous problems: our dollar, the national debt, trade relations, military and defense questions, passports.

I could go on - and at this point, some of you are looking a little scared that I might go on!

So let me just say that there are powerful, important economic reasons for us to work for Canada.

To speak to this threat, the other premiers and I have come up with a framework for discussion we call "The Calgary Declaration," and I'd like to mention its key points, which I call "The 80-20 Solution."

Eighty percent of what needs to be done to build unity is making sure that Canadians get effective government that meets their real day-to-day needs and concerns.

It's about getting governments to act together, to make existing programs work better, and to create new national initiatives like the Child Benefit, or infrastructure or fair taxation.

So 80 percent of what needs to be done for unity does not involve the Constitution, not one comma, word, phrase or section. We shall remain focused on this as the

main part of our job.

However, 20 percent of the solution does involve the Constitution.

We have to show the people of Quebec, especially the majority that still does believe in Canada, that they can protect the unique character of their culture in a tolerant Canada where all provinces and all people are equal.

That's what Calgary says.

So, we are consulting you. What do you think? Take time to fill out the questionnaires, attend the public consultation meetings.

We have had heartening support thus far, and I hope we can count on all of you to step up and be counted on this vitally important issue by speaking to your MLA before the consultation process wraps up this Saturday.

Conclusion

And finally, friends, I urge all of you to keep building bridges - not just to the other people of Canada but to our ancestral home and all around the world.

We in Saskatchewan have been working to maintain healthy relationships with our counterparts in Ukraine.

In 1977 the University of Saskatchewan began its exchange program with the State University of Chernivtsi.

In 1990 we signed a formal agreement between our education departments.

And in 1995 I was privileged to be part of a trade mission that led to a comprehensive Saskatchewan-Ukraine cooperation agreement that encompassed: public administration; health; development of oil and gas and power resources; cultural industries; agriculture; and entrepreneurial development.

I know we will build more such bridges, not only to export our goods and services, but to export the democratic values that not only Ukrainians but all the people of the world cherish, and to which all the people of the world aspire.

So, friends, we are builders. It is our nature to build and to grow.

There is no greater expression of optimism and faith than to build and to raise families. We are doing both here in Canada, and in that I see a great faith in our future as Canadians.

I thank you for that faith, and I ask you to keep that faith alive.

You are invited to the

Chekvona Kalyna

Debutante ball

Saturday, 21 Feb. 1998

Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel
East Rutherford, NJ (Rt. 3)

Evening attire

Cocktails at 6:00 pm.
Presentation of debutantes at 7:00
Dinner at 8:00
Dance at 9:00

Dear Members:

This is to inform you that as of January 18, 1998, Mr. Bohdan Doboszczak will take on the responsibilities and duties of the financial secretary of the 59th Branch of the Ukrainian National Association in Bridgeport, CT, replacing Mr. Taras Slevinsky who is retiring.

Please, contact him in case of dues payments, and in any other matter which may arise. It is our hope and desire that we may work together in harmony for the good of our organization and its members.

Taras Slevinsky
Vice Secretary

Bohdan Doboszczak
Financial Secretary
203 Morris St.
Naugatuck, CT 06770
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