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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Canada's new envoy to Ukraine signals a shift in strategy

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — A brief address delivered in the past week by Canada's newly appointed ambassador to Ukraine, Derek Fraser, has signaled an apparent shift in Ottawa's foreign relations strategy vis-à-vis Ukraine from a political to an economic focus.

On August 21, the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative and the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce hosted a luncheon with Canada's envoy to Kyiv at the Board of Trade in the provincial capital's downtown, in concert with its annual general meetings.

Mr. Fraser's predecessor, Christopher Westdal, had spoken at length about Ukraine's potential as a linchpin in a realigned European order, particularly with regard to cooperation with NATO and other international bodies. The new appointee asserted that his mission in Kyiv would function as an agency to further Canadian business interests.

Mr. Westdal and officials such as former International Trade Minister Art Eggleton, who recently visited Ukraine as minister of defense, had noted that Ukraine and Canada are not major trading partners and are not likely to become such in the near future, even as they expressed Ottawa's abiding interest in Kyiv's political security and sensitivity to the sentiments harbored by Ukrainian Canadians.

Mr. Fraser, on the other hand, drew on his experience as ambassador to Hungary in the recent post-Warsaw Pact transition period. He proudly recalled that during his tenure Canada became "Hungary's sixth largest trading partner, on par with Britain and the Netherlands, and ahead of Japan."

"Let's see what we can do in Ukraine," Mr. Fraser said.

The envoy, who was formally appointed on July 15 but did not arrive back in Canada from his previous posting in Athens until August 20, called himself "an activist," reiterating that he intends "to operate as [the Canadian business community's] lobbyist and agent in Kyiv."

Showing that he had a diplomat's knack for speaking to his audience, Mr. Fraser told his CUBI-CUCC hosts he is from "the Canadian equivalent of Transcarpathia" — British Columbia.

Asked after the luncheon whether Ukraine had achieved a stable presence on the geopolitical map and is entering a new phase of international relations that would enable it to concentrate on trade, Mr. Fraser said he wasn't ready to com-

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Ukraine marks seventh anniversary of independence



Roman Woronowycz

The dais at the Ukraina Palace of Culture during the commemorative government session marking seven years of independence.

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine celebrated its seventh anniversary of independence on August 22-24 with statements by leaders and images better suited to an earlier time marked by red banners and hammers and sickles.

At the official celebration of independence, held on Sunday, August 23, at the Ukraina Palace of Culture, the country's leaders gathered with thousands of invited guests for a special commemorative session of the government, followed by a

gala concert.

Ukraine's recently elected chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Oleksander Tkachenko, gave the single address at the commemorative session after being introduced by the presidential representative to the city of Kyiv, Oleksander Omelchenko. Mr. Tkachenko was invited to give the Independence Day speech by President Leonid Kuchma.

Although the rambling one-hour speech did mention the successes and failures that Ukraine has experienced since it declared independence in 1991, after a failed putsch

in Moscow brought down the already crumbling Soviet Union, Mr. Tkachenko's emphasis seemed to be on what he described as the seamless continuum of Ukrainian history since the Communist Revolution in 1917.

"I ask you not to be ashamed of the 70-plus Soviet years," said Mr. Tkachenko, who was the minister of agriculture of the Ukrainian SSR at the end of that era. "This is our history, our life. Without those years there would have been no sovereign

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Embassy in Washington hosts Independence Day reception

by Yaro Bihun
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — The Ukrainian Embassy in Washington marked Ukrainian Independence Day with an anniversary reception on August 24.

Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, who hosted the Embassy event, recounted Ukraine's accomplishments over the seven years of its independence and some of the problems that still have to be overcome, and stressed his government's determination to achieve its goals as Ukraine enters the 21st century.

Before a packed Embassy reception room that included U.S. officials, diplomats, businesspeople and members of the Ukrainian American community, Ambassador Shcherbak also honored a long-time executive officer of the

Ukrainian National Association, Wolodymyr Sochan, with the Ukrainian President's Award for Merit medal.

Among those present at the reception from the U.S. government were Ross Wilson, the principal deputy to the State Department's ambassador-at-large and special advisor to the secretary of state for the new independent states; Melanne Verveer, the first lady's chief of staff; and Ambassador William Courtney, until recently special assistant to the president and senior director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council.

Russia's ambassador to the United States, Yuli Vorontsov, led the list of foreign diplomatic guests including representatives from Kazakstan, Poland, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, France, the Czech Republic, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan; Kempton

Jenkins, executive director of the Ukraine-U.S. Business Council, headed the business community presence.

Addressing the guests, Ambassador Shcherbak underscored the historic importance of Ukraine's independence, which, he said, "radically changed the geopolitical map of Europe."

Despite the many, primarily economic, problems that remain to be resolved in Ukraine, there is "much to celebrate," he said: Ukraine has been free of inter-ethnic and inter-regional conflicts; it transferred executive and legislative power through free elections, introduced economic reforms, adopted a new Constitution and election law, rid itself of nuclear weapons, joined a number of Western structures, established diplomatic relations with more than 150 countries, opened 70 embassies and other diplomatic missions,

(Continued on page 2)

U.S. to finance pipeline feasibility study

Eastern Economist

KYIV – The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA) has announced a \$750,000 grant to the government of Ukraine for a feasibility study on the proposed Pivdennyi-Brody Oil Pipeline Project.

The grant agreement was signed in Kyiv by U.S. Ambassador Steven K. Pifer and Valerii Shuliko, deputy chairman of the State Oil and Gas Committee. The \$1.5 million study will evaluate the construction of the pipeline, which would serve as a connector between a new oil terminal at the port of Pivdennyi, near Odesa, and the existing Druzhba pipeline system.

In addition to the TDA funding, the U.S. contractor for the feasibility study, Gulf Interstate Engineering of Houston, will contribute \$750,000. While improv-

ing Ukraine's energy self-sufficiency, the Pivdennyi-Brody Oil Pipeline also would reduce Bosphorus tanker traffic, provide another outlet for Caspian crude oil and provide alternate oil supplies of higher quality crude to the refineries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The pipeline, which would include two pumping stations along its route, would have an initial capacity of 14.5 million tons per year, increasing later to an annual capacity of 30 million tons.

Following the signing ceremony Mr. Shuliko and Ambassador Pifer met with the media. Mr. Shuliko said the Ukrainian pipeline was discussed during the recent meeting of the Kuchma-Gore commission during which U.S. Vice-President Al Gore was non-committal on support for a Caspian oil pipeline

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Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak (right) presents the President's Award for Merit to Wolodymyr Sochan, a longtime leader in the Ukrainian National Association.

Embassy in Washington...

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enjoys friendly relations with all of its neighboring countries, and has developed a strategic partnership with the United States.

Ambassador Shcherbak said that Ukraine considers the Ukraine-U.S. strategic partnership "one of the most important achievements in Ukrainian foreign policy," and he expressed Ukraine's appreciation for continued U.S. support of Ukraine's independence and development.

Looking ahead at the "long and hard road" Ukraine must travel into the 21st century, Dr. Shcherbak expressed his confidence that Ukraine will overcome its economic problems and will succeed in achieving its goal of becoming "a prosperous, democratic nation in the family of European countries."

"We are determined to achieve this goal," he stressed. "We can do it, and we will do it."

(The full text of the ambassador's address appears on page 6.)

Speaking on behalf of Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, Ross Wilson noted that the United States and Ukraine share many interests and objectives, and have worked hard on achieving them through the Kuchma-Gore Binational Commission and other means.

"You and your countrymen, Mr. Ambassador, and you in particular, can be proud of what you've achieved, even as you and we look forward to the many challenges we have lying ahead of us," he said.

Ukraine's key challenges are many, Mr. Wilson said, adding: "The United States remains committed to supporting your gov-

ernment's efforts to foster economic development and democracy. And we look forward to working with you in the coming millennium that you referred to in meeting those challenges."

Presenting the Ukrainian President's Award for Merit to Mr. Sochan, Ambassador Shcherbak noted that it was in recognition of his "personal contribution in promoting Ukrainian-U.S. cooperation and his activities in Ukrainian American institutions for many years."

Mr. Sochan, now an honorary member of the Ukrainian National Association General Assembly, retired from the fraternal organization's Executive Committee in 1994 after 45 years of service at the UNA, including 28 years as supreme secretary.

He is a member of the Secretariat of the Presidium of the World Congress of Ukrainians and was a member of the initiative group that laid the groundwork for the establishment of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians. Mr. Sochan also serves as vice-president of National Council of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and is a member of the board of directors of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine, which he helped found.

Mr. Sochan was the UNA representative at World Forums of Ukrainians held in Kyiv in 1992 and 1997, and, somewhat earlier, was the UNA's representative to Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

His long career also included journalism and sports: he was a correspondent for the Voice of America for 12 years in the 1960s-1970s, sports editor of Svoboda for 25 years, and a founding member of the Ukrainian Sports Association of the U.S.A. and Canada, in which he served on the executive board.

NEWSBRIEFS

Value of ruble plunges

MOSCOW – The value of the ruble continues to fall against the dollar, falling 10 percent and closing at 7.86 to \$1 on August 25. It was the biggest drop since "Black Tuesday," October 11, 1994, when the ruble sank more than 25 percent. Acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told reporters that the fall of ruble is both an "economic and a political issue." He said that "our economy is too closely linked to politics." Andrei Illarionov, director of the Moscow-based Economic Analysis Institute said he can envision a 15 ruble/\$1 exchange rate if Russian financial policy is not overhauled and the leadership of the Central Bank replaced. Earlier Mr. Illarionov had declared a devaluation of the ruble inevitable. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukraine's hryvnia slides

KYIV – In the wake of the Russian ruble's plunge, the Ukrainian hryvnia slid to 2.249 to \$1 on August 25, only slightly below the upper limit of 2.250 to \$1 set by the government. National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yushenko had said last week's devaluation of the hryvnia to 2.243 to \$1 was a "sufficient reaction to the decline of the Russian ruble," Ukrainian News reported on August 22. He pledged to keep the official exchange rate of the hryvnia below the previously announced upper limit of 2.250 to \$1. He also stressed that Ukraine's banks are solvent, despite the fact that most banks curtailed financial operations last week. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko called for urgent talks with CIS government heads to work out a "common position" on the financial crisis in Russia, Interfax reported on August 21. (RFE/RL Newline)

IMF delays action on loan

KYIV – The IMF announced on August 25 that it may need more time to assess the effects on Ukraine of Russia's financial crisis and change of government before setting a date to approve a \$2.2 billion loan to Ukraine, the Associated Press reported. The IMF Executive Board was expected to meet by the end of August to approve the first installment of the loan, totaling between \$200 million and \$250 million. Ukrainian officials have said the loan will be used primarily to replenish the reserves of the National Bank of Ukraine. International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus had told President Leonid Kuchma in a

telephone conversation on August 22 that he expects the IMF to soon approve a loan to Ukraine. Mr. Camdessus assured the Ukrainian president that the fund supports Ukraine's economic reforms. The IMF loan is widely expected to stabilize Ukraine's financial market in the wake of Russia's financial crisis. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma for Chernomyrdin's approval

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma told Interfax on August 24 that he hopes the Russian State Duma will confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as Russia's prime minister. The president of Ukraine added that the latest developments in Russia emphasize the importance of a "strong and stable government." An official from the Ukrainian presidential administration told ITAR-TASS the same day that Mr. Kuchma believes Mr. Chernomyrdin "will manage to put the nation's financial issues in order." (RFE/RL Newline)

Protesting miners under investigation

LUHANSK – The Luhansk Oblast Procurator's Office has launched an investigation into a clash between riot police and 150 miners who were protesting wage arrears, Ukrainian Radio and Television reported on August 25. The clash took place in a Luhansk city park the previous day, Ukraine's Independence Day, when the miners gathered to burn a straw effigy. Police troops arrived at the

(Continued on page 4)

Havel comments on 1968 invasion

RFE/RL Newline

PRAGUE – President Vaclav Havel, in a Czech Radio address on August 20 marking the 30th anniversary of the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czecho-Slovakia by Warsaw Pact countries, said the invasion had revealed communism's "totalitarian character."

He said that for him the short-lived "Prague Spring" meant "a time when one could breathe and speak again after 20 years," and added that "nobody who lived in that era can forget it."

At its headquarters in Prague, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty organized a symposium attended by several key participants in the 1967-1968 reforms, including former officials and dissidents.

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Ukraine marks...

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Ukraine.”

The 59-year-old leader of the Agrarian Party of Ukraine called for a return to closer ties with Russia and for further integration into the Commonwealth of Independent States via its Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr. Tkachenko said that Ukrainians must not forget that Kyivan Rus' was actually a Slavic empire of Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians, and criticized the democratic forces that, in his words, forgot about the economy and the people in their pursuit of an idea.

“You remember under what slogans this crime against what is above all the Slavic family took place: ‘Away from Moscow!’ ‘We will maintain only ties convenient for us.’ ‘The West will help us!’ For whom was this convenient?” asked the Verkhovna Rada chairman.

He also called on the Ukrainian government not to depend on foreign borrowing to help ease Ukraine out of its economic morass. “Of course we need investments and credits, but not the kind that will leave as naked and barefoot,” he added.

He said that in 1919, faced with the economic crisis, Lenin answered with the New Economic Program (NEP), which saved the fledgling Soviet Union and did not rely on foreign borrowing.

Mr. Tkachenko, who included “comrades” among the people he greeted at the start of his speech, put Volodymyr Scherbytsky, first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine in the 1970s and 1980s, on the list of those who contributed to the development of Ukrainian statehood. Mr. Scherbytsky was known for his fierce loyalty to Moscow during the Soviet era and for the intensive Russification programs he instituted in Ukraine.

By all appearances, Mr. Tkachenko's speech did not go over very well with the government leaders gathered on the dais of the Ukraina Palace stage.

No one offered a handshake of congratulations after Mr. Tkachenko finished; applause from the audience was brief and polite. During the speech, Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine and a person who has done much to establish a Western monetary policy for Ukraine, very consciously and obviously turned his chair and his body away from the direction of the podium from which Mr. Tkachenko was speaking. Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasiuk was seen to shake his head a few times.

Even President Kuchma seemed to have had enough by the end of the 60-minute presentation, as he sat with his head in his hands. He also did not offer the Parliament leader a handshake as he returned to his seat.

The Rukh Party, which in its original form as a pro-democracy movement led Ukraine's move towards independence in the late 1980s and early 1990s, responded critically to Mr. Tkachenko's speech. In a statement released by RukhPress, party leader Vyacheslav Chornovil called Mr. Tkachenko's words “an act against the state.”

He said the presence of high government officials during the presentation could be construed as tacit approval of Mr. Tkachenko's words, and called on President Kuchma to make known his attitude towards the speech.

Also present at the commemorative session were members of the Ukrainian diaspora. Their reactions were predictable.

“This is simply a terrible and negative speech, a return to old Soviet traditions,” said Dr. Paul Dzul, who was in Ukraine for the convention of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations.

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Roman Woronowycz

Military vehicles carrying rockets lumber down the Khreschatyk during the parade on Ukrainian Independence Day.



Young Ukrainian athletes march on August 24.



Ukrainian national guardsmen passing the reviewing stand during the military portion of the parade.

OBITUARIES

Walter Klawsnik, past commander of Ukrainian American Veterans

by Johanna Klawsnik

BAYSIDE, N.Y. – Walter Klawsnik died of Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) on July 24. As a past national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans, and former president of Ukrainian National Association Branch 325, Mr. Klawsnik was a distinguished member of the Ukrainian American community.

Mr. Klawsnik was elected to the post of national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) on June 25, 1965. During his administration he advocated the establishment of new veterans' posts, the revival of old posts and cooperation with the Canadian Veterans Association.

He also worked vigorously for the UAV to receive national recognition from the U.S. Department of Defense. On behalf of the UAV, Mr. Klawsnik thanked Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower by telegram for unveiling the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington in 1964.

When John F. Kennedy ran for president of the United States, Mr. Klawsnik helped represent the Ukrainian Americans' advocacy of a free Ukraine at a meeting in Kennedy's private home in

Hyannis Port, Mass.

During World War II Mr. Klawsnik had served as a flight officer and bombardier in the United States Air Force. He was decorated with the American Campaign Medal and the Victory Medal of Honor. In civilian life Mr. Klawsnik became the president of a leading marking device manufacturing corporation in New York.

Mr. Klawsnik was known also as a dedicated husband and father to his family. His friends, family and community will always appreciate and remember his thoughtfulness.

Burial was at the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N.Y. At the funeral a veterans tribute was given by former UAV National Commander Ben Bezkorowajny. Other prominent Ukrainians who attended the service were: John O. Flis, former supreme president of the UNA; Andrew Keybida, former finance officer of the UAV and former UNA advisor; John A. Flis manager of Soyuzivka; and Daniel Slobodian, former manager of Soyuzivka.

Surviving are Mr. Klawsnik's wife, Stella; son, Robert; daughter, Johanna; and grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Walter Klawsnik (right) at a meeting with President John F. Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline.

Romana L. Pyndus, Newark activist

NEWARK, N.J. – Romana L. Pyndus, a respected member of the New Jersey Ukrainian community, died on May 24 in St. Barnabas Hospital. She was 79. Mrs. Pyndus was a member of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, and was active in the senior citizens' group and the Sodality at the parish here.

Born on March 11, 1919, in Lviv, Mrs. Pyndus was the daughter of Symen and Anna Skryprij. She had three sisters, Ola, Iwanka and Iryna, and two brothers, Yurij and Mykola, all of whom are deceased. Mykola Skryprij, was a renowned goalie for the Ukraina hockey team in Lviv. Yurij Skryprij was a participant in the ill-fated battle at Brody (1944), where the Galicia Division fought the advancing Red Army; he was subsequently captured by the Soviets and sent to Siberia.

Romana Skryprij immigrated to the United States in the early 1950s and married Yaroslav Pyndus in 1955; their son, Roman, was born on October 3, 1956. She worked as a lab scientist at Sandoz Pharmaceuticals for 18 years and was an active participant in Essex County politics.

Mrs. Pyndus is survived by her son, Roman Jaroslaw; daughter-in-law, Iryna; grandson, Orest; and nephew, Vladimir

Melnik, and his wife, Helen.

A panakhyda (requiem service) was held on May 26 at the Lytwyn and Lytwyn Funeral Home in Union, N.J. The funeral liturgy was held on May 27 at St. John the Baptist Church and burial followed at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.



Romana L. Pyndus

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

scene after receiving an anonymous telephone call saying that the effigy contained an explosive device. The miners refused to let policemen examine the effigy and fought back. Twelve policemen and eight miners were hospitalized after the skirmish. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Odesa elects Bodelan mayor

ODESA – Ruslan Bodelan, former chairman of the Odesa Oblast, was elected mayor of Odesa on August 23, Ukrainian Television reported. Mr. Bodelan, who was supported by the government in his mayoral bid, received some 100,000 votes (36 percent) in the ballot. More than 30 candidates ran in the election, and turnout was 36 percent. The city's previous mayoral elections held in March were declared invalid when the victor, former Odesa Mayor Eduard Hurvits, was found guilty of breaking the law. Mr. Hurvits was banned from running for re-election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma confers with Sen. Lugar

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma met with U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar in Kyiv on August 23 to discuss U.S. assistance to Ukraine's nuclear disarmament program. Mr. Kuchma noted that U.S. funds to assist Ukraine in destroying missile silos are being transferred "on time," but he complained that the money allocated for recultivating the land around the former silos is not, the Associated Press reported. Sen. Lugar, who along with Sen. Sam Nunn initiated a U.S. aid program to former Soviet republics to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, pledged continued economic aid to Ukraine and praised Kyiv for its support of the recent U.S. attacks in Sudan and Afghanistan. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moroz receives Order of Yaroslav the Wise

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma presented the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise to Oleksander Moroz, former chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and today chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Agrarian Policy and Land. He received the award "for personal contributions to the Ukrainian state in the realm of state-building and a significant contribution to the development of legislative authority in the country." The award was presented on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence proclamation. (Respublika)

Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact protested

CHISINAU – Some 200 people on August 23 participated in a rally in Chisinau, capital of Moldova, marking the 59th anniversary of the signing of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, which led to Bessarabia's annexation by Stalinist Russia in 1940. The participants demanded the "elimination of the historic injustice," the annulment of "all consequences of the pact" and the restoration of the "Romanian unitary state within its historic borders," Infotag reported. The protesters also shouted anti-Russian slogans in front of the Russian Embassy and demanded the release of Ilie Ilascu, who has been jailed for six years in the Transdnier region. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Gorbachev denounces Russian president

MOSCOW – Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told Reuters on August 19 that President Boris Yeltsin would perform "his last good deed for his people" if he called early elections. But he suggested that Mr. Yeltsin is unlikely to do that because "I don't think he realizes what the situation is." Mr. Gorbachev said he is especially worried about the social

and political impact of price increases certain to be triggered by the devaluation of the ruble. In a related development, Mr. Gorbachev told Interfax that he has turned down an invitation to meet with the Duma's Impeachment Commission personally because some of its members were supporters of the so-called Emergency Committee that launched the August 1991 coup against him. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Coup anniversary passes almost unnoticed

MOSCOW – Approximately 50 people gathered near the Russian White House on August 19 to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the 1991 coup and Russian resistance to it, the Associated Press reported. The demonstrators, who carried Russian flags and portraits of President Boris Yeltsin, were heckled by Communists and coal miners protesting the Yeltsin administration for failing to pay workers on time. Neither President Yeltsin nor former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made any public statements about the events of 1991. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pustovoitenko continues tax collection

KYIV – Following two unorthodox measures to collect tax debts – civil defense exercises for directors of debtor companies and the seizure of cars from tax delinquents – Ukrainian Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko announced a third stage of tax collection on August 19. The government is to immediately establish "tax collection posts" at all debtor companies. "The tax collection posts will exercise control over the production and sale of all output and the payment of taxes, including barter and goods exchange operations," Ukrainian Television quoted Mr. Pustovoitenko as saying. But Mr. Pustovoitenko's unorthodox measures to collect outstanding taxes have not proved very effective to date. Tax arrears totaling 8.3 billion hrv (\$3.7 billion U.S.) on August 1 were reduced by only 5.6 percent by August 17. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lego exhibit arrives in Kyiv

KYIV – The 1998 Danish children's show, Legoland on Wheels, arrived for the first time in Kyiv on August 22-24. This free event, which celebrated Ukraine's Independence Day, included an assortment of games for children at Kontraktova Ploscha in the historic Podil section of the capital. With the guidance of Lego designers from Lithuania and Denmark, kids could also help construct a huge Lego Sphinx or a two-by-three meter Ukrainian flag. Lego's 1998 tour of European cities has already made stops in Austria, Germany, Norway and Switzerland. The models to be displayed are made up of 280,000 Lego pieces and cover 50 square meters. (Eastern Economist)

EBRD gives preliminary OK for credit

KYIV – The Ministry of Environmental Safety reported that the board of directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has agreed to provide \$190 million (U.S.) in credits toward the completion of units at the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi atomic energy stations. The main condition for EBRD financing is the opening of power units at both plants. According to the EBRD, starting up the new units – which are being counted on to replace power lost from Chernobyl's shutdown – would ease the doubts that nag EBRD experts about EnergoAtom's ability to repay the credits. Environmental Safety Ministry experts, however, think that the financing will make it possible to begin operations by 2000; this target date is the main condition for an early shutdown of Chernobyl. Sources estimate the total necessary for the completion of the two power units at between \$900 million and \$1.6 billion (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA'ers



Ian Ross Melnyk, son of Ihor and Lisa Melnyk, is a new member of UNA Branch 166 in Cincinnati. He was enrolled by his grandparents, Zinowij and Oksana Melnyk. Mrs. Melnyk is secretary of Branch 166.



Roxanna Lee Thornton, daughter of Larissa and James Thornton, is a new member of UNA Branch 338 in Monessen, Pa. She was enrolled by her grandmother, Olga B. Pishko.



Teya Rosalia Lucyshyn, the daughter of Tamara and Nick Lucyshyn of Floral Park, N.Y., is a new member of UNA Branch 360. She was enrolled by her grandmother, Ludmila Korytko.

UNA launches new insurance program featuring discount card

by Martha Lysko
UNA National Secretary

The UNA has introduced an innovative insurance program offering three benefits for one low price. The package provides basic life insurance coverage for those who may not need comprehensive coverage or those who claim they have enough insurance but want to become involved in a Ukrainian fraternal society. It also provides accidental death and dismemberment coverage for those who feel they need this type of insurance. In addition, the program offers a discount membership card – a fraternal benefit being offered for the first time by the Ukrainian National Association.

Called the UNA Heritage Program, it is being promoted on a trial basis to gauge interest in pre-packaged benefits among community members. It is meant to be bought and sold by anyone who gets one of the UNA's promotional brochures. Every secretary, every member and every prospective member can buy and sell this package. The UNA hopes to attract those people who are reluctant to spend hours talking to anyone about insurance. The UNA also hopes to reach out to those who want to play a part in the Ukrainian community without investing too much effort, money or time.

Life insurance coverage

At the heart of this program is a UNA 20-Payment Life insurance policy. This policy is offered in face amounts of \$3,000 and \$10,000, called, respectively, the Blue and the Gold Benefit Plans. The insured pays premiums for 20 years

and is insured for life. Anyone from age 18 to 60 is eligible to participate. Persons age 61 to 70 can purchase a Whole-Life policy or a Whole-Life Single-Premium policy for the minimum \$2,000 face amount. This is the UNA's standard-issue policy that offers full membership privileges to the insured.

No medical examination is required on these policies. Policyholders can become members of any branch they choose; if no branch is selected, a branch will be assigned based on the residency of the individual.

Plus ADD contract

The next component of this new package is a \$10,000 accidental death and dismemberment contract (ADD), which is available to anyone age 18 and up. It is part of a group policy that the UNA will hold for all insured. The member will receive an individual contract with the standard ADD provisions.

And, a discount card

The third part of the UNA Heritage Plan is a discount card offered by a national carrier for services such as car rentals, hotel accommodations and certain limited dental, medical and eye care services. Each person who signs up for the program will receive a discount card. A booklet listing all travel benefits throughout the United States and Canada, and some benefits available worldwide will also be provided to each discount card member. As well, there is a toll-free telephone number that cardholders may call for any additional information.

* * *

To take advantage of this offer, all

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This three-part program is meant to be sold as a package; no part of this offer is available separately. However, the Ukrainian National Association offers a wide variety of insurance products that are not a part of this special trial offer. Our staff of insurance professionals can provide all the details and answer any questions you might have.

All secretaries of UNA branches, all UNA organizers and all those interested in supporting UNA – as well as its two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and the Soyuzivka resort – are asked to participate in this new campaign. The UNA Home Office will be glad to answer any questions regarding this special program.

Please call the UNA at 1-800-253-9862 and ask for information regarding the UNA Heritage Program.

Correction

In the organizing report for the first half year of 1998, there were several errors. The Branch 200 organizer should have been listed as Dawn Pryhoda and the Branch 7 organizer as Helen Slovik. In addition, Julia Cresina should have been listed as being from Branch 382.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

On the importance of membership

It's that time of year again: the end of summer vacations and the beginning of the school year, which also signals the start of our community activities after a three-month hiatus. Thus, it is time for us once again to ruminate on the significance of our community life, to take a look at where we stand.

This year we take as our point of departure something close to home: that is, the recent mass mailing sent out by the Ukrainian National Association which drew attention to the fact that many UNA members had expressed concern about the recent cutbacks of UNA fraternal benefits: the curtailment of the Soyuzivka season and the transformation of the Svoboda daily into a weekly. (As well, there have been staffing cutbacks at The Ukrainian Weekly, which has functioned since late January minus one editor.) These fraternal activities and others are threatened by further reductions; in fact, many observers expect the next round of cuts to fraternal activities to come in November, when the General Assembly elected at the UNA's 34th Convention this past May meets during a special session.

Writing in her July letter to "Members, Future Members and UNA Supporters," the UNA president noted: "The cutbacks in our fraternal benefits are all sad reminders that we must act quickly to save the fraternal activities of the Ukrainian National Association, our oldest and largest fraternal association. For more than four generations, UNA has served the Ukrainian community well and faithfully because we had a large base and community-wide support."

To make it plain: the reason the UNA was able to serve that community was because community members supported the UNA by joining the ranks of its members. The activity of the Ukrainian National Association affected all aspects of our community life, whether this involved sponsorship of a local sports team and scholarship grants to university students, donations to worthy causes like the erection of the Taras Shevchenko monument or financial support of efforts countering the defamation of Ukrainians by CBS's "60 Minutes."

Though we may not think the approach selected by the UNA execs to promote the UNA was the best ("We received many faxes and letters criticizing us for making tough choices and unpopular decisions. Instead of faxes send us your membership applications ..."), we do agree with its intent, which was to inform the public that it is through its insurance business that the UNA is able to provide fraternal activities. Whereas commercial companies use their profits to enrich stockholders, fraternal organizations like the UNA put their profits back into the community. Without the profits from its business, however, the UNA would simply not have any fraternal activities.

So, the choice is the community's. You can belong to the Ukrainian National Association and invest in the future of our community, or you can stand on the sidelines and watch as our community institutions continue to be eroded. (The new UNA Heritage Program provides a perfect, hassle-free way for community members to join the UNA and thus support fraternal benefits, like its publications and its resort.)

And remember, there is an additional benefit of UNA membership: once you have joined the UNA you will have a voice as to the future of this powerful diaspora institution. Members have a say about how the organization is run, about what fraternal benefits are offered, about what causes and organizations are supported, etc.

And that, dear readers, is the reason the UNA refers to those who enroll as its members, rather than its policyholders. Real members have a say – and a stake – in the organization to which they belong.

Sept.
4
1914

Turning the pages back...

In August 1914, soon after the outbreak of the first world war, the early success of a Russian offensive against Austro-Hungarian forces, as well as incendiary proclamations by the

Russophile Committee for the Liberation of Carpathian Ruthenia, caused panic and paranoia in the Habsburg Empire. Angry mobs and soldiers not at the front exploded in violence against Russophiles living in Galicia and Bukovyna. Many were murdered, many were court-martialed for treason and summarily executed.

Thousands of others were arrested and sent to a number of internment camps in Austria or Hungary. In Galicia, further arrests were encouraged by the Polish-dominated provincial administration, which had scores to settle with the western Ukrainian populist intelligentsia. Thus, not only Russophiles, but also nationally conscious Ukrainians (many actually loyal to Austria-Hungary) were interned.

The largest and most notorious camp was located on the outskirts of Thalerhof, a village near Graz, Austria. The first 2,000 prisoners arrived in Thalerhof on September 4, 1914. By December of that year the number had climbed to 8,000, and over 70 percent were Ukrainians.

Between 1914 and 1916, anywhere from 14,000 to 30,000 internees passed through the camp, suffering brutality, starvation rations, filth and epidemics of typhus and other contagious diseases, which contributed to a very high mortality rate among the prisoners. While 1,747 deaths were registered by the Austrian authorities who ran the camp, this is almost certainly too low a figure to be considered accurate.

Late in the war, some members of Austria's Parliament in Vienna grew solicitous about this scandalous treatment of the empire's citizens, and an order was issued in May 1917 to close the Thalerhof camp and others.

Thus, ironically, while Ukrainian Canadians were being interned for alleged sympathies for the Austro-Hungarian enemy of the British Empire and its ally, Russia, Ukrainians in their homeland were being persecuted for purportedly harboring the opposite sentiment.

Sources: "Russophiles," "Thalerhof," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vols. 4, 5 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); Orest Subtelny, "Ukraine: A History" (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988); Paul Robert Magocsi, "A History of Ukraine" (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996).

FOR THE RECORD

Ukraine's ambassador to U.S. speaks on independence anniversary

Following is the full text of the address by Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, delivered at a reception on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence held at the Embassy of Ukraine on August 24.

Your Excellencies!
Esteemed Guests!
Ladies and Gentlemen!

On August 24 the people of Ukraine celebrate a great national holiday – the Ukraine's Independence Day. Seven years have passed since the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine declared Ukraine an independent nation. It became an event of historic importance that radically changed the geopolitical map of Europe.

Despite all the past and present difficulties in our development, today we have much to celebrate. In the past seven years since it became an independent nation:

- Ukraine has been free of inter-ethnic, inter-regional and civil conflicts.

- Ukraine has had a peaceful and democratic transition of both executive and legislative powers via free elections. This testifies that, by all European standards, Ukraine is a democratic country.

- Ukraine has given up its strategic and tactical nuclear weapons of its own free will, thus having made a major contribution to global peace and security.

- Ukraine has been accepted as a member of the Council of Europe and NATO's Partnership for Peace Program, and signed the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership with NATO.

- Ukraine has introduced many major economic reforms, despite extreme hardship for its citizens.

- Ukraine has adopted a new Constitution, which incorporated the best features of European democratic constitutions; adopted a new Law on Elections and established all necessary state institutions.

Today Ukraine is heading in the direction of radical reforms with the goal of resolving its current financial crisis, curing social problems, providing the basis for stable socio-economic growth, and reducing the time needed for successful transition to a market economy.

Regardless of the obvious difficulties, the intentions and efforts of President Leonid Kuchma and the Cabinet of Ministers to continue the course of reforming Ukrainian economy remains unchanged and steadfast. All this allowed Ukraine to achieve certain positive results. Signs of recovery in production can be observed in most sectors of the national economy, as economic growth trends intensify.

The president of Ukraine has issued several decrees that provide for urgent measures designed to speed up reform and lift Ukraine's economy from its crisis situation.

Within the short period of seven years, in the historical sense, Ukraine has established diplomatic relations with more than 150 countries of the world, opened 70 embassies and other foreign missions on all the continents, established friendly relations with all neighboring countries, resolved difficult issues, historically and technically, of territorial division and borders, and concluded almost 1,900 bilateral and multilateral international treaties and agreements that constitute the political-legal basis of its foreign policy.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We consider the establishment of a strategic partnership with the U.S. one of our most important achievements in Ukrainian foreign policy. There is a continuous political dialogue at the highest level, the subjects of which are both issues of bilateral cooperation in an ever-growing number of fields and the most crucial issues of domestic and international life that are of mutual interest. The second plenary meeting of the Ukraine-U.S. Binational Kuchma-Gore Commission was successfully held in Kyiv last July. The visit of U.S. Vice-President Al Gore to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant contributed to a better understanding of our needs in the mobilization of finances to realize the shelter project and the decommissioning of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the nearest future.

We believe that we will succeed in attaining our goal of making Ukraine a prosperous, democratic nation in the family of European countries.

We are determined to achieve this goal. We can do it, and we will do it.

We also hope that Ukraine will receive important support from the IMF and the World Bank, that we will be able to join the EFF [Extended Fund Facility] program and implement numerous World Bank projects.

Ukraine has to solve many problems in all spheres. However, the democratic choice of the state remains unchanged. Ukraine, having embarked on a massive program of reforms and building a democratic European state, will carry on, solving all issues in a civilized manner and honoring all its commitments to its partners. Independence is the most important guarantee of that.

Let me express our deep appreciation to the American people, the U.S. administration and Congress for supporting Ukraine.

Dear Friends:

It is a long and hard road that we must travel.

Let us remember that in two years we will meet the 21st century, and in three years we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

We believe that we will succeed in attaining our goal of making Ukraine a prosperous, democratic nation in the family of European countries.

We are determined to achieve this goal. We can do it, and we will do it.

Now I would like to perform my pleasant duty on behalf of the Ukrainian government and present an award of the president of Ukraine – the medal "For Merit" – to the U.S. citizen Mr. Wolodymyr Sochan, a public activist, an honorary member of the General Assembly of the Ukrainian National Association, in recognition of his personal contribution to promoting Ukrainian-U.S. cooperation and his activities in Ukrainian American institutions for many years.

INDEPENDENT UKRAINE: THE 7th ANNIVERSARY

The vote for Ukraine's independence: a personal reflection

Irene Jarosewich was funded by grants from the Rochester N.Y. and Chicago chapters of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine to work in the public information section of Rukh, the Popular Movement of Ukraine, between July 1991 and December 1992 at the organization's headquarters in Kyiv. As we mark the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Ms. Jarosewich, now a staff editor at The Ukrainian Weekly, offers some personal reflections on the events surrounding August 24, 1991.

by Irene Jarosewich

CONCLUSION

Stanislav Hurenko's words still echo in my ears. I've read several interpretations and translations of the statement he made in the auditorium, and the phrase about voting for independence is usually similar. However his final phrase, "nam bude bida" has been variously translated as "there will be trouble," "there will be problems for us" and "it will be a disaster." The Economist once even rendered his words as "we'll be in deep s___!" The impact of his words, nonetheless, is the same each time: to leave me stunned. During the silence that followed his words, I remember sitting perfectly still in the back of the auditorium, barely breathing, hesitant to look up.

When I did look up, I saw a blur of bodies moving and caught a glimpse out of the corner of my eye of my colleagues Christine Demkovych and Natalia Fedushchak, sitting almost directly behind Mr. Hurenko, furiously taking notes. I turned around and looked at Mr. Lavrynovych of Rukh, a slight, pale man, who sat with lips pursed. He saw me and rose, shaking his head, slowly whispered, "I've never seen anything like this ... I never could have imagined."

As the auditorium emptied, a deputy in a Soviet military uniform remained seated in front of Ms. Lapychak and me. As he, one of the few remaining, got up to leave, he spotted us and stopped: "I'm sure that this meeting was interesting for you, young ladies," he said, "this was a unique event. ... However, - it [independence] will last only five years."

Rukh's Serhii Odarych later told me that several Communists, instead of returning to the main chamber, had tried to break away after leaving the auditorium by exiting the building through an underground passage that links the Parliament building with the parliamentary committee building across the street. They had hoped to either break the quorum, and therefore invalidate the vote, or simply did not want to cast a vote to end the Soviet Union. The possibility of such a breakaway attempt had been foreseen, and a group of young men from Rukh had gone ahead and shut the doors, and then stood to block the underground passage.

The "khloptsi z Rukhu" (guys from Rukh) were called upon whenever a minor Herculean effort was required at a moment's notice. Need to have several thousand leaflets distributed? O.K., ask the "khloptsi z Rukhu." Does a demonstration need to be organized? Get the guys. Need to block fleeing Communists? No problem, ask "nashi khloptsi."

When I had left the Rukh office the night before, my last memory was walking out of the large room off the entrance to the building that housed the printing and copying operation. During the final night, in several locations throughout Kyiv, parliamentarians, staffers and



Chrystyna Lapychak

National Council members carry in the Ukrainian flag that had draped a tank during the August 1991 coup standoff in Moscow.

friends wrote, typed, corrected, revised, printed and collated several hundred copies, one for each deputy plus some extras, of the acts and resolutions that were to be on the agenda the next day. This was a huge undertaking beyond the capabilities of the administrative staff of the Verkhovna Rada, which normally prepared documents for parliamentarians.

Resolutions were being written and revised late into the night. Besides the Act of the Declaration of Independence, they included such resolutions as removing the KGB from the control of the Communist Party, declaring the military to be under the control of the Parliament, creation of a national guard - 16 in all.

John Hewko, a Ukrainian American lawyer who was then with the Soros-funded Advisory Council to Parliament, and his wife, Marga, rented a tiny hotel apartment in the Hotel Kyiv - the building that also housed many of the national deputies, including several active members of the National Council such as Vyacheslav Chornovil, Les Taniuk and Mr. Filenko. The Hewkos, into the final hours, continued to make copies of revised resolutions on their small desktop Canon copier, one slow sheet at a time.

At the Rukh office, resolutions were being printed, collated and stacked. Whenever there was a minor revision, rather than remake entire sets of copies, staff were set to the task of manually revising the copies. Replacement parts for photocopiers, paper, toner, mimeograph stencils - these were in short supply - while labor, though exhausted, was plentiful.

As I said my late night good-byes, I remember Mr. Odarych standing alone in the center of the room, bending his head to light one of those god-awful Bulgarian cigarettes he smoked, flicking out the match, and slowly surveying what "khloptsi" he had left to work with - guys who had been up all night, every night, for almost a week. One tired soul had pulled three chairs together and made a makeshift bed, another was slumped over a stack of papers, a third was organizing packets to be loaded into a car.

For the week preceding the vote, the Rukh headquarters on Prospekt

Peremohy, the Ukrainian Writers' Union building on Ordzhonikidze and the Hotel Kyiv at the intersection of Kirov and Karl Libknekht streets was the triangle of activity for those working with Rukh and the National Council. Ivan Drach's office at the Writers' Union was the scene of many meetings and much resolution drafting, and the building's auditorium was used for caucuses and press conferences. Even the building manager's room on the first floor was occupied for action. With an accessible TV, people were always crowding around, tracking events.

The Rukh building was a grassroots organizing and information-production machine - with phones, faxes, computers, copiers, people going almost around the clock - while the Hotel Kyiv was the place to meet, eat, sleep. The hotel wasn't built to handle the volume of activity that it was forced to handle during the week of the coup. The all-too-small elevators were overworked, overcrowded and always getting stuck; to avoid the long wait, people would often walk up and down five, seven, nine flights.

Because of the number of national deputies who lived in the building, the Hotel Kyiv dining room was always a good place for journalists and staff to catch a parliamentarian, and, in general, the hotel was also a good place to observe who was talking with whom, who was coming and going, who was meeting with whom.

One of the funnier memories I have of that intense week came as Ms. Lapychak and I waited for an elevator. She and I were at the front of a group of about half a dozen people who had patiently watched the floor display above the elevator descend towards the lobby. The elevator landed, the door opened and revealed the back of Mr. Pavlychko, who was gesturing animatedly to three other men in the elevator. Realizing that the elevator had stopped, he turned around and looked out onto those waiting. Recognizing Ms. Lapychak and me, he calmly greeted us, "Good day, lovely ladies," and then pushed the button for the top floor. Obviously not yet finished with his discussion, and not yet willing to release his captive audience, Mr. Pavlychko turned

back around and continued talking animatedly. The door shut with the men inside, and we watched the elevator ascend.

Not only do I hope that someday historians will gather all the facts of who was where, when and how, and what they said - but I hope that those who played pivotal roles will write about their thoughts and emotions during that week.

What was going through the mind of Mr. Hurenko, one of the youngest people to ever head the Communist Party of Ukraine, when he asked his fellow Communists to vote for independence? What was Mr. Pavlychko thinking as he became one of the few and major negotiators between the National Council and the Communists over the wording and strategy of the declaration and other resolutions?

Was it the case, as later claimed by Mykhailo Horyn, who was still hospitalized with a heart condition on August 24, that the text of the declaration was grabbed out of Levko Lukianenko's hands by Mr. Yavorivsky seconds before it was to be read on the floor of Parliament, so that Mr. Yavorivsky could be the one noted in history as having read the declaration? Or was it, as others claimed, that Mr. Yavorivsky's reading was part of the final compromise the Communists requested: that the act not be read on the floor of Parliament for the vote by someone as far right as Mr. Lukianenko - but by someone more moderate - and that Mr. Pavlychko had agreed without the consent of fellow members of the National Council?

How important was news about events in Moscow in convincing the deputies to vote for independence? Susan Viets, a correspondent for the British paper The Independent, never set foot outside her door without a short-wave radio after August 19. On August 24 she could often be seen in the hallway on the top floor of the Parliament building, near a window, trying to pick up bands to hear reports of the special session in Moscow and the struggle between Messrs. Yeltsin and Gorbachev. At one point, placing the

(Continued on page 12)

Kyiv theater group tours Canada's Fringe Festivals

by Kalyna Yosipiv and Yuriy Diakunchak

TORONTO – “Why should theater be entertaining?” asked Kyiv actor Oleh Liptsyn after a performance of “The Old Woman” at Toronto’s Fringe Festival on July 10.

That may sound like an absurd question to someone brought up on a steady diet of Broadway hit musicals, but Mr. Liptsyn wasn’t kidding. “Theater is meant to move the soul,” he said. In the 30-something thespian’s interpretation, this is not necessarily an entertaining proposition.

Despite such convictions, “The Old Woman,” a production of the Kyiv-based TheaterClub Company, is a rather entertaining piece of theater, at least in its North American incarnation. Revolving around the imaginary meeting of two old, half-insane writers who lived a century apart, Mykola Hohol (Nikolai Gogol) and Daniil Kharms, the play explores aging and the realization that death is near. As the end of life approaches, the characters express regret about the many things they haven’t achieved, and now will never be able to achieve.

Caught between reality and imagination, the characters feel a spiritual void that needs to be filled, leading the audience on a fascinating journey deep into the human psyche. “Yerusalym, Yerusalym,” intones the Kharms character (played by Mr. Liptsyn), reflecting his quest for deeper meaning.

Mr. Liptsyn, also the staging’s director, sees the play as an avant-garde interpretation of the Slavic absurdist tradition in the manner of Hohol. “Slavic absurdist tradition differs from the Western concept of absurdism in that it is optimistic. The circumstances of life conspire to beat a person down, but the spirit always seeks to rise above the mundane,” he said.

Humor, too, is received differently here than in Ukraine. “People look for deeper or hidden meanings in humor in Ukraine, they expect to have their soul touched by the performance. Here I’ve been forced to be much more demonstrative in my humor, more obvious.” Mr. Liptsyn opined that audiences approach theater from a more realistic angle in North America. “They expect theater to be a slice of life on the stage. In Ukraine the approach is much more abstract,” he said.

“That was probably the most challenging thing about performing here. It is difficult to gauge and read an unfamiliar audience, improvise in front of it and try to get the best response possible,” Mr. Liptsyn said.

Slightly longer than one hour in length, the play is presented in English and Russian. The troupe decided to keep a part of the play in Russian because it was the language in which Hohol and Kharms wrote. Two other actors perform in the play, Gediminas Sederavicius, who plays the part of Hohol, and Alla Daruga, who plays a cat transformed into Pulkheria Ivanovna, a character

from Hohol’s writings.

Particularly effective was Ms. Daruga’s haunting chant, not quite singing, but not quite cat-in-estrus-yowling either. Almost orgasmic in quality, it embraced her transformation from feline to the human “old woman” of the title.

The play premiered at the Kyiv Avant-Garde Theater in 1995, and the troupe has performed it across Europe. The ensemble also enjoyed a successful visit to the United States last year. Co-founded in 1988 by Mr. Liptsyn, Ms. Daruga and Igor Lesthenko, TheatreClub is billed as “one of Kyiv’s elite artistic groups.”

Mr. Liptsyn said that all of the troupes’ plays have been developed in Kyiv, drawing on the works of Shakespeare, James Joyce, Hohol, Mykola Khvyliovyi and Kyivan Russian Mikhail Bulgakov. He added that his company’s intent is to tap into English, Continental European and Slavic theatrical traditions. The troupe’s productions have won prizes for staging and experimentation in theater in Ukraine.

TheatreClub’s tour of Canada’s Fringe Festivals began in Toronto in early June and will continue westward until late September. The stops include Winnipeg (July 17-26), Saskatoon (July 31-August 9), Edmonton (August 14-23) and four cities in British Columbia: Kelowna (August 13-22), Victoria (August 27-September 7), Nanaimo (September 10-13) and Vancouver (September 10-20).

DRAMA REVIEW: Yuriy Tarnawsky’s “Not Medea”

by Leonid Hrabovsky

Whereas Ukrainian poetry and prose have always been a part of the major developments in world literature, the genre of drama has been and today still is generations behind.

Contemporary Ukrainian avant-garde writers, such as the members of the New York Group and the Kyiv School, can be considered as part of the contemporary currents in world poetry, though their works may not have found adequate dissemination due to political repression in Soviet Ukraine on the one hand, and the sui generis conditions of diaspora literature on the other.

However, when it comes to drama, one must ask: does truly modern Ukrainian drama, such as one expects to see at the end of the 20th century, exist?

The cycle of Yuriy Tarnawsky’s six plays titled “6 x 0,” is a definite contribution to modernist Ukrainian drama. Sequentially the third of these plays, “Not Medea,” was recently brought to the U.S. in the author’s English-language version, as an experimental, work-in-progress production.

The cycle, in its original Ukrainian, is in the process of being polished, and it will be up to literary critics to evaluate it from the literary standpoint when it is released. I will limit myself to expressing my thoughts on the staging of the play which took place June 6-7, under the Resident Artists Program of Mabou Mines/Suite at the Toronada Theatre in New York City.

“Not Medea” is not simply yet another myth set in modern times. Mr. Tarnawsky’s attitude to the classical story is complex and highly individual. The epigraph in the play reads: “Warning: Written with body fluids. Made in Ukraine.” The structure of the play, its fabric of motives and motivations, is quite complex and multi-layered.

In the play, there are no figures from the classical prototype (Medea, Jason, their children), but only a narration of its story – grotesquely deformed in that



Tania Maria Miller in final scene of “Not Medea.”

Medea has turned into a melodramatic and calculating Multi Medea, and one character, the Man, remains alone on the stage throughout the play, his only partners a set of puppets dressed as medics who come out carrying stretchers and then remain asleep until the very end of the play. (In the staging even they were absent, having been replaced by the author’s words, with the author reading from the text about them.)

The play’s director, the internationally acclaimed figure of Ukrainian stage and screen Gregory Hlady, has used Mr. Tarnawsky’s text, as happens frequently in modern theater as a springboard for his own improvisations and experimentations. Mr. Hlady’s staging bears the stamp of an explosive talent endowed with a rich, almost limitless, imagination. So, the play itself and Mr. Hlady’s staging should be viewed as two distinct works of art, although the link between them is undeniable and obvious.

Mr. Hlady also introduced into the play another actress, Laila Maria Salins, a professional opera singer (mezzo soprano). One of Ms. Salin’s functions was to sing, to

her own accompaniment on the piano, some lines from Mahler’s “Kindertotenlieder” (“Songs of Dead Children”), an obvious allusion to Medea’s situation. Toward the end of the play, the spectators were treated to the opening of the well-known and richly associative Chaconne for solo violin by Bach.

In addition to singing, Ms. Salins created an active counterpart to the main character of the play, the Man, played by Tania Mara Miller. Ms. Miller carried with brilliance, ease and at the same time dignity the heavy load of performing a long chain of difficult and often simultaneous tasks which monodramas typically place on the shoulders of the performer.

The stage, costume, and lighting designer, Volodymyr Kovalchuk, is a brilliant partner of the performance team. His minimalist approach showed a profound understanding of the author’s concept, bringing out the very essence of the play for the audience’s benefit and to understand “Not Medea,” one should have a good grasp of classical Greek drama. Mr. Tarnawsky has supplemented the text of his play with helpful notes but

these were not available to the audience at the staging.

In the end one still wants to ask: what is “Not Medea” about? One has to concede that it is impossible to give an answer to this question in brief without resorting to oversimplification and schematization.

The play is replete with hidden historical references (including the history of theater art itself), paradoxes and enigmas. Even though the spectator may not be able to grasp each recalcitrant detail of the text aurally, he can’t avoid being struck by a strong sense of logic (iron logic, one wants to say) emanating from its structure; a reading of the text only reconfirms this belief.

“Not Medea” is a tragedy. The whole is aptly conveyed through the synthesis of the text, action, sound, light and stage design. It is a tragedy set in a web of irony, grotesqueness and self-deprecation.

In spite of some shortcomings, “Not Medea” is a truly significant work in the history of modern Ukrainian drama and theater.

Concert series celebrates 60th of composer Skoryk

HUNTER, N.Y. – A series of concerts marking the 60th anniversary of the birth of prominent contemporary Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk is being performed this year on three continents – Australia, North America and Europe. Maestro Skoryk arrived in the U.S. in July.

The world premiere of the composer's latest work – Piano Concerto No. 3 (String Quartet Version) "Prayer; Dream; Life" – was held July 12 at the prestigious Music Mountain concert series in Falls Village, Conn. The work, performed by the Leontovych String Quartet, and the composer were enthusiastically received, and Maestro Skoryk was invited by Nicholas Gordon, the festival's director, to have the work performed once again in the year 2000.

Prior to his arrival in the U.S., concerts of Maestro Skoryk's work were held in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra, Australia.

Anniversary concerts for Maestro Skoryk, with the composer in performance, were to be held in Germany in August and in Ukraine in September and October.

Maestro Skoryk returns to the U.S. in November, and concerts will be held in New York, Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit, among other cities.

Concert at the Grazhda

On July 18 the anniversary concert for Maestro Skoryk opened the summer concert series held at the Grazhda in Jewett Center, N.Y., which is held under the auspices of the Music and Art Center of Greene County, with Dr. Ihor Sonevtsky as artistic director.

The concert program was marked by rich stylistic diversity.

Among the works for piano performed by the composer was a new work titled "Duma," which draws on motifs from Ukrainian Insurgent Army songs; "Three Pieces For Piano: Lullaby, The Lira Player, Folk Dance;" as well as "A Leaf from The Album" and "Melody."

Violinist Yuri Kharenko and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky performed Maestro Skoryk's "A-RI-A" for violin and piano, a work that was especially favorably received by the audience.

Mr. Vynnytsky was also awarded resounding applause for his brilliant performance of Maestro Skoryk's "Burlesque."

The high point of the first part of the concert was the performance of five jazz pieces for piano, four-hands, played by Messrs. Vynnytsky and Skoryk: "Pryemna Prohulianka" (A Pleasant Stroll); "Naviazlyvyi Motyv" (A Persistent Motif); "V Staromu Dzhazovomu Styli" (In the Old Jazz Style); "Kapryz" (Caprice); and "V Narodnomu Styli" (In the Folk Style). For the encore, the duo played Maestro Skoryk's clever jazz reworking of Beethoven's "Für Elise."

The second part of program featured the Leontovych String Quartet – Yuri Mazurkevych, first violin; Mr. Kharenko, second violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; and Volodymyr Panteleiev, cello. The quartet opened the program by dedicating its performance of Beethoven's String Quartet in F Major Op. 18, No. 1 to Maestro Skoryk on the occasion of his anniversary.

The concert concluded with the performance of Maestro Skoryk's recently premiered new work – Piano Concerto No. 3 (String Quartet Version): "Prayer; Dream; Life" – as performed by the

(Continued on page 14)



The Leontovych String Quartet, with Myroslav Skoryk and Volodymyr Vynnytsky at the piano, performs at the Grazhda.

"Yarylo's Games" festival hosts international drama troupes

by Julie Anne Franko

LVIV – Under the auspices of the Center for International Cultural Initiatives and as part of its "Week of European Culture," the Les Kurbas Theater opened "Yarylo's Games," an international theater festival devoted to "song as an extension of the dramatic act," at its theater in Lviv.

Hosting theaters from Austria, Denmark, Georgia, Latvia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine, the eight-day festival named for the god of spring presented its participants and spectators with workshops, concerts and performances that demonstrated a theatrical diversity of musical technique and methodology.

The festival began with the Kurbas Theater's production of "Grace-given Erodii" on the evening of May 8, and officially opened the following afternoon. The opening ceremonies commenced with the theater leading a songful procession of the festival participants from the Kurbas Theater to the opera house square, where the festival's artistic director, Oleh Drach, brought together participants and Lviv pedestrians.

Running for about 15 minutes, this unrehearsed opening was graced with a Euclidean precision of energy, enthusiasm and talent. The Kurbas Theater's songs from "Marusia Churai" gave way to the folk songs of the Georgian theaters Mtiebi and Mzetamze. And, in the echo of the applause, the members of the Swedish theater Slava arrived, still in their traveling clothes, to render a cappella versions of music from their international repertoire. Accompanying themselves on violin and accordion, the two-person Danish Musik-Teatr Ofyn Veg wove in ancient folk songs, which were followed by the voicefully singing of Austrian theater duo Tanto.

As promptly as this ceremony began, it dispersed into another procession that led to a specially built stage behind Lviv's Arsenal. Here each of the groups performed again, formally, and this concert ended with Mr. Drach inviting Lviv to a week's worth of theatrical enterprise.

"What is interesting about this festival," observed the Kurbas Theater's artistic director, Volodymyr Kuchynsky, "is how all of these theaters are very different from one another, yet they all have something to contribute to the theme of music use in theater."

The Tanto Theater's two-person produc-

Julie-Ann Franko is associate artistic director and dramaturge of the Les Kurbas Theater. She received her master of fine arts degree in dramaturgy and drama criticism from Yale University.

tion, "The President and I," explored the dynamics of a woman's relationship with a president made of plasticine with whom she is in love. The work used song and music as an equal element with body movement and text, which resulted in a clear and focused picture of a whole theatrical – and universal – understanding of the forces beneath all relationships.

The Ithaca Theater's (Sweden) all-female collective produced a work in progress, "Virtue and Bliss," based on writing of the collectives' diaries. Here everything from first loves to vegetarianism presented itself as text upon which movement and song was either layered or augmented.

The Slava Theater – a parent group to the Ithaca Theater – offered the festival the vital performance, "Wild Voices," a compilation of theatrical effects (medieval lights and torches, interchangeable satiny robe-like costumes) and song. Incidentally, the title "Wild Voices" is a misnomer. While the tones and harmonies of this collective are far-reaching, and arouse the core of what may euphemistically be called "primitive," the collective's voices (and bodies) exude professional training and demonstrate the degree to which song may be used as a component of theatrical expression.

The Riga New Theater (Latvia) brought Lviv an intentionally disturbing production based on Oscar Wilde's "Salomé." Graphic in its use of colors, textures and distortions of reality, this work, which aspired to look at itself through an opium-induced state, was coalesced by the voices of two musicians who underscored the text with the musical motifs of Indian, Japanese, African and Baltic folk music.

The Zurich Young Theater (Switzerland) presented the two-person opera, "Vis-à-vis," a sentimental comedy about the lives of two shy neighbors who share both a bathroom and dreams for the future. This production did not use its song as a means to join theatrical elements: as an opera, the song and text were one, rather than correspondents. What gave the performance a heightened musical theatricalism was the inclusion of the company's pianist on stage – not exclusively as a means for accompaniment, but as an active source of commentary on the work.

The Ukrainian Folk Theater Gerdan, like the Georgian theaters Mtiebi and Mzetamze, served the festival's theme by providing a context for song's use in theater. While visually and aurally distinguished from one another, both performances incorporated the ritualistic origins of song, which blatantly demonstrated song as an extension of a dramatic act. In

the instances of both the Ukrainian and Georgian theaters, the rites and passages of life events, such as courtship and marriage, were recreated through the use of occasional song in which the timbre, emotion and energy calibrated and reinforced the life-force of the act.

The two other Ukrainian theaters represented in the festival were Lviv's Theater in a Basket and Kharkiv's Arabesky Theater. The former presented "White Moths, Woven Chains," a mono-drama based on the writings of Vasyl Stefanyk in which the former Kurbas Theater actress Lidia Danylchuk beat out the rhythms and tones of Stefanyk's work through the use of voice and body.

The Arabesky Theater – a young theater of great promise – presented a colorful and sprightly rendition of Ivan Kotliarevsky's "Eneida." The production infused song into the text as a means to explore the work through the potential of its rhythmic energy. In choosing to approach the work as such, it freed itself of being a work of comic stereotype, and like the energy exuded by Ms. Danylchuk's performance (albeit energy from a wholly different vein), the text's underlying resources became uncovered.

Within the context of the festival's goal, the most critically acclaimed work came from the Danish Ofyn Veg Theater's production of "Hamlet." From "to be or not to be" to "... we know what we are, but we know not what we may be ...," this work evolved as an epitome of theater. In selecting various texts from "Hamlet," and splicing them with various songs and song genres (although the primary source for song in this work was Shakespeare's contemporary, John Dowland), Uta Motz's virtuoso performance as Hamlet, Ophelia, the King, et al, against Christian Bredholt's poised director/bass fiddle and accordion player (irony and comedy intended) transported the will and whimsy of Shakespeare's text through the vehicle of players. These players' bodies became the instruments of the text's spirit, while their use of musical instruments and voices became the body for the work's spirit.

The festival came to a close in a loud echo of its opening. Congregating before the Kurbas Theater, festival participants were immersed in the sounds of Sweden's traditional horns, and a prolonged celebration of the music and song of the gathered countries ensued. The event ended with a bonfire torching of Yarylo, the god of spring, for whose spirit the festival is most indebted.

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Basilian sisters celebrate jubilees

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa. — The Sisters of St. Basil the Great recently held a jubilee celebration here, honoring five sisters for their years of service and commitment to the order.

Sisters were honored for 60 and 70 years of service. The celebrant for the divine liturgy was the Rev. Paul Repela, chancellor for the Ternopil Eparchy in Ukraine. The liturgy was followed by a dinner celebration in the convent dining room.

Honored for 60 years of service were:
• Sister Cornelia Shevchuk, who entered the order in September 1938. Born in the Bronx, N.Y., Sister Cornelia was a member of St. George Parish in New York City and taught or served as principal at Ukrainian schools in Chicago, Pittsburgh and New York City. She currently teaches religion at St. Josaphat School in Philadelphia.

• Sister Damien Matschak, who entered the Order in June 1938 and was a member of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral parish. Born in Philadelphia, Sister Damien taught or served as principal at Ukrainian schools in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Syracuse, N.Y., and Newark, N.J. She currently teaches religion at St. John the

Baptist School in Newark.

Celebrating 70 years of service were:
• Sister Julia Karpiak, who joined the order in July 1928 and was a member of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral parish. Sister Julia taught in Ukrainian schools in Pittsburgh, Scranton, Pa., Chicago and New York, and served as resident dean at Manor Junior College in the early 1980s. She is now retired at the Sisters' Motherhouse in Fox Chase.

• Sister Lucy Malanczyn, who entered the order in January 1928 and was a member of St. Michael Parish. Born in Saylesville, R.I., Sister Lucy taught in schools in Pittsburgh, Newark, N.J., Yonkers, N.Y., and Maryland. She is retired at the Motherhouse in Fox Chase.

• Sister Neonilia Malanczyn, who was born in Saylesville, R.I., and entered the order in January 1928 as a member of St. Michael Parish. Having served as novice director in 1953-1968, Sister Neonilia taught at schools in Scranton, Pa., Pittsburgh Philadelphia, Chicago and Newark, N.J. She currently teaches religion part-time at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic School in Parma, Ohio.



Basilian sisters who celebrated jubilees: (front row, from left) Sister Cornelia and Sister Damien, (second row) Sister Neonilia, Sister Lucy and Sister Julia.

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Friday, September 4

10:00 p.m. **DANCE — FATA MORGANA**
11:00 p.m. **"Midnight Bigus" in the Trembita Lounge**

Saturday, September 5

8:30 p.m. **CONCERT**
VOHON — Ukrainian Dance Ensemble — Edmonton
OXSANA CHARUK — vocalist
THOMAS HRYNKIV — pianist
10:00 p.m. **DANCE — "TEMPO"; "ZOLOTA BULAVA"**

Sunday, September 6

2:15 p.m. **CONCERT**
VOHON — Ukrainian Dance Ensemble — Edmonton
Duet **LUBA and MYKOLA**
8:30 p.m. **CONCERT**
ROSEMARY MUSOLENO-MARTYNUK — soprano
THOMAS HRYNKIV — pianist
10:00 p.m. **DANCE — "TEMPO"; "FATA MORGANA"**

Ukrainians for Voinovich established in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Gov. George V. Voinovich received the support of 35 nationality communities on August 10 in his bid for the U.S. Senate.

Ralph J. Perk, former mayor of Cleveland, will serve as honorary chairman of the Ohio Nationalities for Voinovich Coalition. Ukrainians for Voinovich, a committee headed by Daria Futey and George Oryshkewych, was established to get the Ukrainian American community in Ohio involved in the campaign at a grassroots level.

The other nationalities forming committees in support of Gov. Voinovich include: Albanians, Arabs, Armenians, Asian Indians, Belarusians, Bulgarians, Chinese, Croatians, Cubans, Czechs, Estonians, Filipinos, French, Germans, Greeks, Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Japanese, Koreans, Latvians, Lithuanians, Macedonians, Mexicans, Native American Indians, Poles, Puerto Ricans, Romanians, Russians, Scots, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenians and Vietnamese.

For more information about the Voinovich campaign, contact Andy Futey or Caryn Candisky at (614) 280-6446.

UCCA designates Famine remembrance

NEW YORK, N.Y. – The national executive of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America has designated November 8-9, as Famine Remembrance Days.

A solemn ecumenical prayer service will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 51st Street and Fifth Avenue in New York City, on Sunday, November 8, at 2 p.m. In addition to the prayer service, the program will include addresses by prominent religious and civic leaders.

The UCCA has asked the Ukrainian community of New York and the metropolitan area to not organize other events for this day, but rather to take part in this national commemoration to honor the victims of Ukraine's worst tragedy.

NOTES ON PEOPLE

Cleveland couple marks 60th wedding anniversary

CLEVELAND – Nicholas and Mary (Szmagala) Bobeczko were married 60 years ago, on August 6, 1938, at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church here on West Seventh Street.

A divine liturgy with the Rev. Canon Peter Waslo officiating was held on August 9 at St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church in Parma, Ohio, in honor of the couple's 60 years together. A special blessing was given by Msgr. Leo Tymkiw and the Rev. Waslo.

A delicious dinner for family members was served at the home of Taras and Katherine Szmagala immediately following the anniversary liturgy.

The Bobeczkos are active members of the UNA. Mr. Bobeczko has been financial secretary of Ss. Peter and Paul Branch 102 since 1947 – 51 years. Mrs. Bobeczko has faithfully assisted her husband with the duties of secretary and is now the recording secretary of the branch.

Both are very active with the UNA Seniors Association that meets at Soyuzivka every year in June. They also volunteer in the community with seniors projects. The Bobeczkos have attended many UNA conventions – Nicholas as a delegate and Mary as a guest. Mr. Bobeczko has been an active member of the Elections Committee during many conventions.

They are the proud parents of Gerald, who resides in Glendale, Ariz., with his wife, Mary Jo; and Daniel and his wife, Oxana, of Mentor, Ohio. Other family members are: grandson Paul and his wife, Laura, of Arlington, Va.; granddaughter Anne and her husband, Joe Callis, of Houston; granddaughter Karen and her husband, Paul Ridder, of Strafford, Pa.; grandson Daniel of Mentor, Ohio; granddaughter Andrea of Phoenix, Ariz.; and grandson Gregory of Mentor, Ohio.

Paul and Laura Bobeczko are expecting a baby in December – Nicholas and Mary Bobeczkos' first great-grandchild.



Nicholas and Mary Bobeczko mark their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mary Bobeczko is a daughter of the late Dmytro and Bronislawa Szmagala and the sister of Taras Szmagala Sr. and aunt of Taras Szmagala Jr. Dmytro Szmagala was a UNA advisor for 25 years, Taras Szmagala Sr. for over 20 years, and Taras Szmagala Jr. has just been elected to his second term as an advisor.

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The vote for...

(Continued from page 7)

radio to her ear, she grew still and announced aloud, "Oh, my God. In Moscow the Communist Party just disbanded."

Apparently the Parliament staff also had heard about the resignation of Mr. Gorbachev as the general secretary of the CPSU because about 15 minutes later, a staff member walked out to the chairman's podium, whispered into the ear of the deputy chairman, Ivan Plusch, and suddenly another break was called. Ms. Viets and her short-wave were surrounded by people as news of Mr. Gorbachev's decision spread in the hallways.

It is difficult to reconcile the optimism and excitement of August 24, 1991, with today's often dismal reality. The vote for independence – 321 for, two opposed, six abstaining – followed by a vote to accept a December 1 referendum – was met with a relatively sedate standing ovation by the parliamentarians, most of whom still were, after all, Communists. However, there was obvious enthusiasm and joy on the part of members of the National Council. And roars of euphoria from the crowd outside permeated the thick walls of the building, and in the press and visitors' galleries, tears flowed with the applause.

As the session drew to a close, Mr. Chornovil, the National Council chairman and a human rights activist who had spent years in the Soviet gulag, asked Verkhovna Rada Chairman Leonid Kravchuk to allow a huge, blue-and-yellow flag into the chamber – a gift from supporters outside.

He led the procession that carried the massive flag into the room, and helped drape it over the podium. The session officially over, and most of the parliamentarians gone, members of the National Council remained, surrounding the flag-draped podium. Many of them cried as they sang "Hey u Luzi Chervona Kalyna." Ms. Lapychak and I remained in the press gallery, singing and crying along with them.

When the lights were finally dimmed, we left, walking in the warm evening to Mr. Chornovil's suite in the Hotel Kyiv. The street around the Verkhovna Rada was quiet, the world unaware of the day's drama.

Twenty or so people were crammed into Mr. Chornovil's small room for a toast. A mere six days earlier,



Members of the National Council of the Verkhovna Rada and Rukh's leadership attend a briefing on August 20 in the auditorium of the Ukrainian Writers' Union building.

er, in Zaporizhia, I had been in a similar hotel room with Mr. Chornovil, but under starkly different circumstances.

John Stepanchuk, then the U.S. deputy consul in Kyiv, and I had come to his room shortly before 7 a.m. on August 19. The weeklong Chervona Ruta music festival in Zaporizhia had ended the night before, and after-hours singing and music playing had gone on until dawn.

Cries of "coup in Moscow" were heard in the halls in the very early morning, as staffers ran down the halls, knocking on people's doors to alert them. Mr. Stepanchuk was Rukh's guest for the festival, and I dashed to his room to see if he had heard the news. "Let's go to Vyacheslav Maksymovych's," he said, "if anybody knows what's going on, he does."

As Mr. Stepanchuk and I were let into Mr. Chornovil's room, his dark silhouette stood against the backdrop of a lace-curtained, sunlit window. He fiddled

with his short-wave antenna aimed out the window, and then turned to see who had come in.

"Ah, my friends," he greeted us and approached with open arms as though to hug, "how happy I am to see you – good morning, good morning. It seems as though we have some news today. Well, no need to worry. Pack your bags and your passports. Soon they will be sending you back to America, and me to Siberia."

Now, in just a blip of a week's time, he was offering a toast to a close circle of supporters and friends. "To an independent Ukraine," he began amid immediate cheers and first sips, "may God protect her." Then he paused and began again, "To an independent, but still socialist, Ukraine," and was greeted with cries of protest. He insisted firmly: we need to understand the nature of our victory. He continued, "To an independent, but socialist, Ukraine, and long, I fear, will she remain so."



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 16)

Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, a Ukrainian Youth Fest will be held at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Orthodox Church Hall, 3176 St. Paul Blvd. The festival sponsors are: the Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, Zoloti Struny Bandura Ensemble, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic School, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, Ukrainian Sunday School - St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Yevshan and Dunay SUM Ukrainian Dance Schools, Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, and Plast and SUM Ukrainian Youth Associations. The objective is to have all youth participating together in this commemoration. All proceeds will be donated to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. Admission is \$5. Live music and a DJ will be featured.

Tuesdays, September 22 - October 20

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Ave., is offering a five-week workshop titled "Gerdany: Beadwork Ukrainian-Style." Learn how to make your own seedbead collars, pendants and bracelets in traditional patterns or using contemporary colors. In this series, Maria Rypan, program director and instructor, will teach the mesh technique with a single needle and thread, and various variations. A two-needle technique will also be shown for even-width bands, and needle weaving, a versatile form of weaving without a loom, will also be covered. The classes are at 7-9 p.m. and the fee is \$60 for five sessions, or \$15 per class. For further information call the institute, (416) 923-3318.

Thursday, September 24

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America, Inc., invites the Ukrainian community to an art exhibit titled "Hnizdovsky: Selected Portraits." Exhibit hours are: Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Suggested contribution: \$5. For additional information please contact the UIA, Tuesday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., (212) 288-8660. The exhibit continues through October 4.

ONGOING

YONKERS, N.Y.: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 30 is currently accepting registration for its Ukrainian preschool (Svitlychka) for 3- and 4-year-old children. The Svitlychka meets on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, at St. Michael's Church on Shonnard Place at North Broadway starting Saturday, September 19. For additional information please call Nadia Cwiach at (914) 949-7010.

PLEASE NOTE

PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

• To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information written in Preview format (date, place, type of event, admission, sponsor, etc., in the English language, providing full names of persons and/or organizations mentioned, and listing a contact person for additional information). Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published. Please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours.

Ukraine marks...

(Continued from page 3)

Dr. Alexander Serafyn, an auditor of the Ukrainian National Association, said the speech showed that Mr. Tkachenko still holds Communist ideology close to his heart. "A speech on such an occasion should have a unifying goal, not a divisive message, especially when it talks of communism and extremism," said Dr. Serafyn.

Soviet-style military parade

The next day, Monday, August 24, the celebrations of the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence continued with a parade down the newly reconstructed Khreschatyk, the capital city's main thoroughfare. For the first time since independence the parade included a display of military hardware, a long-standing Soviet tradition brought back from the grave this year by Ukraine's leaders.

As hundreds of thousands of adults and kids watched from the edge of the street, Minister of Defense Ivan Bizhan began the proceedings by reviewing troops while standing in the back-seat area of an old Soviet Zil convertible limousine.

After the review, he made a short presentation in which he said, "The seven years that have passed since [independence] are a whole epoch during which we have created all the elements of statehood."

The parade then began with some 5,000 soldiers goose-stepping down the Khreschatyk, bedecked in blue and yellow. They marched from City Hall, past a reviewing stand set up near the street on Independence Square, where President Kuchma, Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Tkachenko and a host of government leaders and dignitaries stood, and down to European Square.

After that came the military hardware:

130 armored vehicles, howitzers, missile launchers and rockets on transport machines, their diesels sputtering while emitting dense, dark smoke.

The drab green and black machines gave way to Olympic athletes, past and present in colorful costumes, followed by kids of all ages in various athletic pursuits, as a tribute to Ukraine's youth and its future.

The Khreschatyk had been completely excavated and renovated just prior to Independence Day at a cost of some \$25 million after it was discovered the underground electrical cables were badly deteriorated.

The two-month-long renovation blitz, with thousands working around the clock and on weekends, produced what presidential administration representative in Kyiv Mr. Omelchenko called "a street as beautiful as any in Europe" during ribbon-cutting celebrations a week before Independence Day.

Canada's new envoy...

(Continued from page 1)

ment, but did say that "barriers are down, and trade should grow naturally."

But the veteran diplomat added that "it's wrong to simply announce that 'barriers are down' and sit back and watch things happen. We hope to facilitate the process."

He conceded that Hungary has had an easier task in effecting a transition from a centralized to a market economy because it endured only 40 years of Communist domination, while Ukraine was controlled even before the revolution under a largely centralized Russian imperial economic system.

Mr. Fraser has a B.A. and LL.B. from the University of British Columbia (1958 and 1963, respectively) and joined the Department of External Affairs in 1963.

He then served in Saigon, Bonn and Brussels, and was first secretary counselor at Canada's Embassy in Moscow in 1973-1976. While in Ottawa, Mr. Fraser was director of the USSR and Eastern Europe Relations Division in 1984-1988,

as well as acting director general of the International Cultural Relations Bureau.

After his tour of duty in Budapest, Mr. Fraser was director of the Central and Eastern Europe Relations Division, 1993-1995, and since 1995 was the ambassador to Greece.

Mr. Fraser was to depart for Kyiv on August 28.

On August 23, Mr. Fraser attended the seventh anniversary celebrations sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Toronto Branch at the St. Volodymyr Culture Center in Oakville, Ontario.

Mr. Fraser said he'd worked with the UCC in the past as director of the Soviet relations division, particularly in the area of human rights, and is looking forward to further cooperation. He highlighted his past consultations on efforts to secure the release of Valentyn Moroz and concerning the Vienna review meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

He affirmed that he would follow the course set by his predecessor, Mr. Westdal, and said he looks forward to greeting representatives of the Ukrainian



Derek Fraser, Canada's new ambassador to Ukraine.

Canadian community in Kyiv. "I extend my invitation to you - next week, next month, next year, in Kyiv," the new ambassador told the crowd.

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**THE YEAR 2020
CONFERENCE PROGRAM**
Program current as of August 31, 1998

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Opening Address 9:00 am
Bohdan Vitvitsky, *Attorney, author - NJ*

Panel 1: Views and Perspectives of the Younger Generation (20 - 35 years old) on the Diaspora's Future

Moderator: Mark Kapij, *Entrepreneur - MA*
Participants: Stefko Kuropas, *Banker, UNA VP - IL*
Oleh Mahlaj, *Attorney, creative director of The Bandurist Chorus - OH*
Xenia Piaseckij, *Radio journalist - NY*
Oksana Stojko, *Architect - NJ*
Taras Szmagala, *Attorney - OH*

Lunch

Special Guest Speaker:

Roman Szporluk, *Historian, director of Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute - MA*

Panel 2: Relationship of the Respective Evolutions of the Canadian and American Diasporas

Moderator: Alexander Motyl, *Political scientist, assoc. director of the Harriman Institute, Columbia University - NY*
Participants: Ihor Bardyn, *Attorney - CDA - ON*
Alexis Kochan, *Recording artist, psychologist - CDA - MB*
Zenon Kohut, *Director, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies - CDA - AL*
Victor Satzewich, *Sociologist - CDA - ON*

Panel 3: The Role of the Fourth Wave of Immigrants in the Diaspora's Future

Moderator: Vitaly Chernetsky, *Slavicist - NY*
Participants: Serhiy Myroniuk, *Newspaper editor - NJ*
Kateryna Nemyra, *Radio journalist - OH*
Petro Rybchuk, *Newspaper editor - NJ*
Michael Stashchyshyn, *Entrepreneur, musician - NJ*

Banquet

Special Guest Speaker:

The Honorable Yuri Shcherbak, *Author, physician, Ambassador of Ukraine to U.S. - DC*

Musical Interlude: Performance by "Paris to Kyiv" featuring Alexis Kochan with Julian Kytasty.

Sunday, October 11, 1998

Brunch 10:30 am

Some Possible New Ways of Defining Ukrainian Content in Art and Culture for the Year 2020
Viriana Tkacz and Yara Arts Group - NY

Panel 4: Views and Perspectives of the Mid-Life Generation

Moderator: Askold Melnychuk, *Poet, novelist - MA*
Participants: Vera Andrushkiw, *Slavicist - MI*
Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, *Professor of theology - CDA - ON*
Peter Paluch, *Entrepreneur, community activist - NJ*
George Sawicki, *Architect - NY*

Closing Address

Myron Kuropas, *Author, historian, columnist - IL*



October 10-11, 1998 • Ramada Inn • Rt 10 West • E. Hanover, NJ

Conference addresses on the Diaspora's future will be delivered by Myron Kuropas, Roman Szporluk and Bohdan Vitvitsky. In addition, the Conference will feature a series of panels devoted to the views and perspectives on the Diaspora's future of, respectively, the younger generation and the mid-life generation; a panel on developments in Canada and the relationship of the American and Canadian Diasporas; and a panel on the role of the Fourth Wave in helping to determine the future of the Ukrainian Diaspora in the U. S. and Canada.

At the Saturday evening banquet, the Honorable Yuri Shcherbak will be the guest speaker, and the ensemble Paris to Kyiv will provide the musical feature.



Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak



Bohdan Vitvitsky



Myron B. Kuropas



Roman Szporluk

REGISTRATION FORM

Send registration form with check or money order in U. S. currency to:

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Registration by NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 29. Tickets for conference events will not be mailed to you; they will be available upon registration.

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If you are currently a dues-paying member of one of the associations or clubs that belongs to either the American or Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Organizations, you will, for purposes of conference registration, be considered a "member"; if you are a member, please identify the association to which you belong: _____

If you are a student with a currently valid identification card, please identify the college or university in which you are enrolled: _____

Conference Registration Fees:

	<u>Non-member</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Student</u>
Entire conference:	\$190	\$170	\$ 45
Saturday conference sessions & Saturday lunch only:	\$ 65	\$ 55	\$ 20
Saturday banquet only:	\$ 80	\$ 75	\$ 20
Sunday conference sessions & brunch only:	\$ 70	\$ 60	\$ 20

(Please locate and circle the registration category that applies)

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 3

EDMONTON: Snap Gallery, located at 10137 104th St., is featuring "Ex Libris," an exhibition of contemporary Ukrainian printmakers. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; telephone, (403) 423-1492; fax, (403) 424-9117. The exhibit runs through September 26.

Friday-Sunday, September 4-6

SAN DIEGO: San Diego's Ukrainian Festival 1998 will feature the following events: a bonfire on the bay at Crown Point Shores on Friday at 5 p.m.; an open house at the House of Ukraine in Balboa Park at noon-4 p.m.; a performance by the Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theater of Vancouver at the University of California, San Diego Mandeville Center Auditorium at 7 p.m.; a lawn program of Ukrainian dance at the House of Pacific Relations International Cottages Lawn Stage on Sunday at 2 p.m., and a dance at the Hanalei Hotel in Hotel Circle with music by Trubka from Edmonton at 6 p.m. For more information call (619) 291-0661.

Saturday, September 5

GLEN SPEY, N.Y.: The Ukrainian Fraternal Association's resort and youth center, Verkhovyna, invites everyone to a dance featuring the Mria orchestra at 9 p.m. For more information call (914) 856-1323.

Thursday, September 10

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., is presenting an exhibition of paintings, photographs and constructions by Chicago artists Ralph Arnold, Morris Barazani,

Ghita Hardiman, Leopold Segedin and Joan Taxay-Weinger. A reception will take place on Sunday, September 13, at noon-4 p.m. The institute's hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. For more information call Oleh Kowerko, (773) 227-5522, or Natalie Domchenko, (773) 283-7868. The exhibit closes on October 18.

Sunday, September 13

PARMA, Ohio: St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church is sponsoring its 24th annual homecoming at the parish picnic grove, 7700 Hoertz Road. Ukrainian food will be served beginning at 1 p.m. A prayer service will be held for the Ukrainian nation at 3 p.m. Dancing will begin at 4 p.m. with music provided by the Romen Band. The Kashtan Dance Ensemble will perform at 6 p.m. and a raffle drawing will take place at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 per car. For more information call St. Andrew Church, (440) 843-9149.

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey is hosting a lecture titled "A Work in Progress" by Christina Saj on art, iconography and the influences on her work as a painter. The lecture will take place at 3 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America, southeast corner of 79th Street and Fifth Avenue. Admission is \$8 for members, \$10 for non-members; students, free. A wine reception will follow. For more information please call Areta Pawlynsky, (609) 683-5959.

Saturday, September 19

ROCHESTER: In commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the Rochester

(Continued on page 13)

At Soyuzivka: September 4-7

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Concerts, dances, a tennis tournament and swim meet all combine to make Labor Day weekend, September 4-7, at Soyuzivka a special experience.

The fun begins on Friday, September 4, with a dance to the music of the ever popular Fata Morgana beginning at 10 p.m. Then, beginning at 11 p.m., the Midnight Bigus band takes over the Trembita Lounge.

The headliner of Saturday evening's program is the Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Edmonton. The troupe of 68 dancers works under the artistic direction of Ken Kachmar, assisted by Debbie Kachmar. Its repertoire comprises modernized Ukrainian folk dance, incorporating elements of ballet, jazz and modern dance. In addition, Vohon has moved into the realm of experimental Ukrainian dance.

The ensemble has many festival appearances on its list of credits, including the Pysanka Festival in Alberta, the Vesna Festival in Saskatchewan, and the world's largest Ukrainian festival, Canada's National Ukrainian Festival at Dauphin, Manitoba. In 1997 Vohon embarked on its premier tour, dubbed "Go Beyond the Boundaries," which took the dancers to California, Australia, Fiji, Japan and elsewhere.

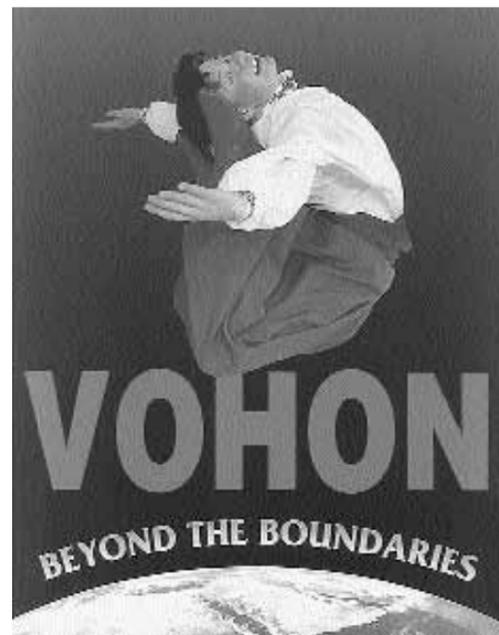
The Saturday evening concert also spotlights vocalist Oksana Charuk and pianist Thomas Hrynkiv, both of New York.

Afterwards, at about 10 p.m., there will be not one dance, but two, to the music of Tempo and Zolota Bulava.

On Sunday, Soyuzivka guests can enjoy an afternoon performance beginning at 2:15 p.m. by the Vohon troupe, and the singing duo of Luba and Mykola.

The weekend's third concert slated for 8:30 that evening, spotlights soprano Rosemary Musoleno-Martynuk and Mr. Hrynkiv.

Ms. Musoleno-Martynuk is an American operatic singer whose reputation is growing both in opera houses and in the recording studio. Reviewers have cited her sunny Italianate voice, combined with natural musicality and a commanding stage presence. During the 1997-1998 season she appeared with the Marseille Opera in "Un Ballo In Maschera" in the role of Oscar; at the Puccini Festival in Italy in "La Boheme" in the role of Musetta; and with the Bern Opera in Switzerland in "La Traviata" in the role of Violetta. She also appeared in "Stabat Mater" at the Prague Festival in the Czech Republic and in "Carmen," in the role of Michaela at the



A promotional poster for the Vohon dancers of Edmonton.

Varmland Classic Festival in Sweden.

Ms. Musoleno-Martynuk sang with the Ukrainian Catholic church choir in Olyphant, Pa., where she says she fell in love with Ukrainian music – both religious and secular. Her husband, George M. Martynuk is a public relations and artists management consultant; her father-in-law is a longtime branch secretary of the Ukrainian National Association in Olyphant. At her Soyuzivka debut Ms. Musoleno-Martynuk will sing Ukrainian selections as well as operatic favorites.

Mr. Hrynkiv, an accomplished soloist well-known to Ukrainian audiences, will appear during the concert both as an accompanist to Ms. Musoleno and as a solo performer. Hailed as a pianist of "dramatic power and poetry," Mr. Hrynkiv has been making appearances since the age of 13. At the age of 19 he won a competition whose first prize was an opportunity to perform the Tchaikovsky Concerto with Leopold Stokowski conducting. Since then has performed around the globe. He is also a much-sought chamber music performer and is a recording artist with Yamaha Disklavier. Mr. Hrynkiv is director of the Ukrainian Music Institute in New York. This concert at Soyuzivka will mark his return to the UNA resort after an absence of several years.

The dance on Sunday evening, once again, features the music of two bands, Tempo and Fata Morgana.

For information about Soyuzivka accommodations, entertainment programs, art exhibits and other special features, call (914) 626-5641.

Attention, Secretaries and Members of the Northern New Jersey District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association!

On Saturday, September 12, beginning at 9 a.m., the Northern New Jersey District Committee of the UNA is organizing a

GARAGE SALE.

We ask all branch secretaries and members to take an active part in this fund-raiser to support the activity of our district. You may bring all items for sale – everything accepted – to the UNA before September 12 or on the day of the garage sale.

For more information call 1-800-253-9862 and dial ext. 3019 for Maria, or 3055 for Andre.

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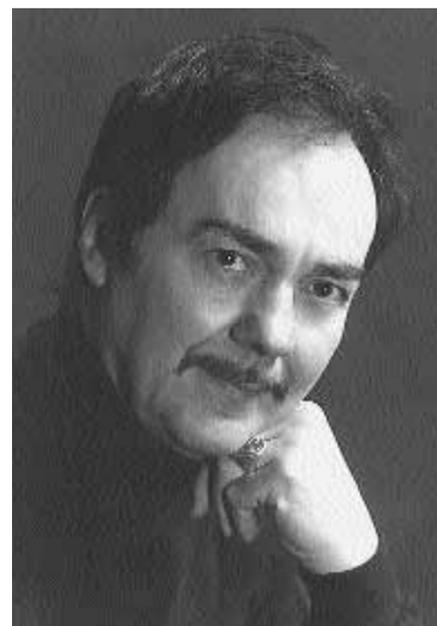
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