

INSIDE:

- Chief rabbi of Ukraine addresses New Yorkers — page 3.
- Ukraine arrives on the numismatics scene — page 9.
- Sports: Ukraine preps for Olympics, KLK hosts ski races — centerfold.

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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine continues efforts to mediate in Kosovo crisis

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With backing from a delegation of European foreign ministers in Kyiv for consultations on April 13, Ukrainian leaders said they were ready to continue to work behind the scenes to mediate the Kosovo crisis.

Ukraine has spent considerable effort attempting to work as a go-between in the conflict between NATO and the Yugoslav Federation over the Kosovo region of rump Yugoslavia, an initiative that has found support with NATO but not in the Serbian capital of Belgrade.

On April 13, leading foreign ministry officials from Germany, Austria and Finland and the acting chairman of the European Commission flew to Kyiv to meet with President Leonid Kuchma. Although the previously scheduled talks were originally to deal with the European Union's position on Ukraine, the delegation spent much of its time discussing the situation in the Balkans and NATO's stand.

The foreign affairs ministers, Joschka Fischer of Germany, Tarja Halonen of Finland and Benita Ferrero-Waldner of Austria, as well as the acting chairman of the European Commission, Hans Van den Broek, had little to say about what the short, four-hour talks had produced in the way of Kosovo. But Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk said his country would continue to work as a go-between and that Ukraine is ready to take the lead in the mediation process should separate plans proposed by the United Nations and Germany fail.

Germany's Foreign Minister Fischer hailed the Ukrainian effort thus far. "Its mission in the first stages of the Kosovo crisis was important," said Mr. Fischer at a press conference at Boryspil International Airport.

At the start of the Kosovo crisis, a Ukrainian delegation led by Minister Tarasyuk and Minister of Defense

(Continued on page 10)

UNA executives hold quarterly meeting

by Martha Lysko

UNA National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The Ukrainian National Association's Executive Committee held its regular quarterly meeting here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on March 19.

In attendance were all the members of the Executive Committee: President Ulana Diachuk, First Vice-President Stefko Kuropas, Second Vice-President Anya Dydyk, Director for Canada the Rev. Myron Stasiw, National Secretary Martha Lysko, Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj. Also present was the chairman of the UNA Auditing Committee, William Pastuszek.

The treasurer presented the financial report for 1998, noting that UNA assets total \$69,415,031. Income from dues was \$2,415,894. Expenses for 1998 were decreased by \$899,121, as compared with the previous year. The UNA's surplus now stands at \$8,078,705.

The national secretary reported that as of the end of 1998 the UNA had 55,247 members insured for a total of \$192,036,275. During 1998, she said, 823 new members were enrolled for insurance coverage of \$11,822,481.

(Continued on page 5)

Presidential polls reveal frontrunners: Vitrenko and Kuchma

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Progressive Socialist Nataliia Vitrenko continues to show surprising strength in presidential pre-election popularity polls.

The outspoken member of Parliament, who has found support among Ukrainians for her staunch Communist views and populist declarations for raising pensions and workers' salaries, has steadily risen in nationwide polls and now leads in at least one.

A Democratic Initiatives poll released at the end of March showed Ms. Vitrenko supported by 21 percent of the electorate. She outpolled President Leonid Kuchma, who got the nod from 19 percent of the voters who responded to the question, "If only these candidates appeared on the ballot, for whom would you vote?"

The list of nine candidates included all who have declared their intention to run plus three who have not — Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko, Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz and Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksander Tkachenko — but are strong possibilities.

Mr. Symonenko came in a distant third in the Democratic Initiatives poll with 10 percent supporting his candidacy. Although at one point the Communist leader had said he would not run, it is becoming increasingly evident that unless a compromise candidate from the Socialist-Communist left is found he will throw his hat into the ring.

Mr. Moroz, who has said he will run if his Socialist Party nominates him and who most experts thought would be the single candidate from the political left, followed in fourth place with a 9 percent share.

The poll, which has a margin of error of 3 percent and was based on 1,200 interviews, showed center-right candidate Hennadii Udovenko, who is supported by the three-party coalition of the Rukh, Reform and Order and Christian Democratic parties, far down the ranks in fifth place with 5 percent support.

Other contenders not doing so well include Yevhen Marchuk (3 percent), the former prime minister and ex-member of the Social Democratic Party (United), who has found some official support from among the parties of the political far right, and Pavlo Lazarenko (2 percent), who fled to the United States earlier this year after the Verkhovna Rada removed his immunity from criminal prosecution but continues to maintain that he is a candidate.

A parallel poll prepared by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) showed results that differed somewhat from the Democratic Initiatives survey. In the KIIS poll, based on 1,533 respondents, President Kuchma took the top spot, with 22 percent of those questioned supporting his candidacy, and Ms. Vitrenko finished second with 17.4 percent.

Mr. Moroz followed in the third position with 9 percent, while Mr. Symonenko could muster only 6.4 percent. Next came Mr. Udovenko with 3 percent. Mr. Tkachenko found no more than 2 percent support in either poll.

The KIIS survey, which was taken at the beginning of March, also showed that if a run-off was required between President Kuchma and Ms. Vitrenko, the voters would pick Ms. Vitrenko over the president by 30.1 to 28.5 percent.

As is common in Ukraine, a large percentage of the respondents said either that they found it difficult to make a decision or that they would vote for none of the above. In the KIIS poll 36 percent of those polled did not pick one of the names offered. In the Democratic Initiative poll 28 percent did likewise.

Most political pollsters explain Ms. Vitrenko's current popularity as a phenomenon that is based on her populist declaration for the need to raise pensions and wages and due to her support of issues important to the elderly and the poor, who turn out to vote most consistently and tend to support the political left.

They question her staying power, although her continued popularity has surprised some political experts.

Prof. Valerii Khmelko, president of the KIIS, said Ms. Vitrenko will show some decline as the campaign season begins. He explained that she has found support among many voters who earlier had intended to support Mr. Moroz — an electorate that could return to him once he begins campaigning actively.

Mr. Khmelko said that President Kuchma's ratings have risen as a result of the criminal proceedings begun against Mr. Lazarenko. "He showed the voters that he was doing something to battle corruption," said Mr. Khmelko.

Mr. Kuchma's resurgence also is based on his ability to use his office to project the image of a successful leader, according to Mr. Khmelko.

Many of the candidates, declared or not, have already begun to position themselves in the starting gate for the official May 16 start of the nominating process.

The most difficult initial hurdle they must overcome after they have officially registered is to obtain the 1 million voters' signatures required by the election law passed by the Verkhovna Rada on January 15. Those signatures must come from a minimum of 18 oblasts and the candidates have 60 days to gather them.

Ukraine's Central Election Commission will take two weeks to verify the signatures on the candidates' petitions, after which official campaigning will begin on August 2. The elections are scheduled for October 31.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Democratic Initiatives Foundation poll

If the ballot included only the following candidates, for whom would you vote?

Nataliia Vitrenko	21
Leonid Kuchma	19
Petro Symonenko	10
Oleksander Moroz	9
Hennadii Udovenko	5
Serhii Holovaty	2
Yevhen Marchuk	3
Pavlo Lazarenko	2
Oleksander Tkachenko	2
Would vote against all of the above	9
Hard to say	19

Kyiv International Institute of Sociology poll

If the following candidates were on the ballot today, for whom would you vote?

Leonid Kuchma	22.1
Nataliia Vitrenko	17.4
Oleksander Moroz	9.0
Petro Symonenko	6.4
Hennadii Udovenko	3.0
Yevhen Marchuk	2.9
Oleksander Tkachenko	1.8
Pavlo Lazarenko	0.5
Would vote against all of the above	10.5
Would not vote	7.9
Hard to say	17.5
Did not respond	0.9

NEWS ANALYSIS

Odesa police get their man — but that's about all ...

by Stefan Korshak

KYIV — A man from Moldova's separatist Transdnister region has been convicted of murdering the editor of an Odesa newspaper, but after a year and a half of looking, law enforcers have made little progress toward arresting the man who ordered the hit.

The Odesa Regional Court convicted Aleksander Glek, 42, on March 19. He had been accused of shooting Borys Derevianko, editor of Vechernaya Odesa newspaper, twice in the back on August 11, 1997. Twenty-four hours after the murder, police had already circulated a composite drawing of a man whom eye-witnesses had seen running down the tree-lined esplanade where the attack took place. On August 13, 1997, Ukrainian border police took two men into custody as they attempted to board an Illichivsk ferry to Varna, Bulgaria. Both were Moldovan citizens. Reportedly, one resembled the man in the composite drawing, an Odesa media source told the Post. Both were also suspected members of an organized-crime group and had solid alibis, police and media sources confirmed.

But under intense questioning that lasted over a week, the pair identified a fellow Moldovan to Odesa police: Aleksander Glek. According to a Kievskie Vedemosti newspaper report, police beat their informant; a police source denied the allegation.

Details on Mr. Glek emerged. The former Odesa State University geography professor had taken up residence in the town of Slobodzeia in the Transdnister region of Moldova. He had done well after the break-up of the Soviet Union, though police were unable to establish exactly by what means.

According to media reports, Mr. Glek had cashed in on Ukraine's burgeoning smuggling industry; his choice of country was, to say the least, convenient for that kind of business. A breakaway province with a Soviet-style government, in recent years the region has served as a tax-free haven for organized-crime groups operating on the Black Sea's north shore and importing goods into Ukraine. Odesa Regional Police Chief Grigory Epur was not phased by the fact that his suspect was not only out of his jurisdiction, but in another country entirely.

On September 1 at 4 a.m., Chief Epur led a six-man SWAT team to Slobodzeia. That part of the mission was relatively easy; for Ukrainian citizens transit of the border between the Transdnister region and Ukraine proper requires only a routine passport check.

Neither the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs nor the Republic of Moldova diplomats appear to have been aware of Chief Epur's decision to extend the long arm of Ukrainian law to the village of Slobodzeia. Chief Epur did, however, conduct "negotiations over jurisdiction with local police," Kievskie Viedemosti reported. Slobedzeia's finest yielded the field of action to their Odesa colleagues, and at 8 a.m. the Odesa cops attempted to arrest Mr. Glek.

The initial detention effort failed when an officer was unable to identify Mr. Glek as he exited his apartment and walked past the policeman. Local inhabitants subsequently provided a better description of Mr. Glek to the Odesa law enforcers, who made their collar that same evening when Glek returned home to collect his personal effects and cash. After a short chase, an

Odesa police tracking dog located Mr. Glek in a clutch of bushes. Odesa police transported Mr. Glek to an Odesa holding facility, effectively extraditing him across an international border, without interference from Moldovan or Transdnister authorities.

"We have good relations with our Transdnister colleagues," Chief Epur later explained to ART television.

A joint Odesa and Transdnister police search of Mr. Glek's apartment reportedly turned up an unregistered pistol and evidence of other murder contracts given Mr. Glek by local businessmen, the newspaper Kievskie Viedemosti reported on January 21.

Further investigation on both sides of the border led Odesa prosecutors to suspect that Mr. Glek had received between \$3,000 and \$10,000 to kill Mr. Derevianko. On September 8, 1997, Odesa police reportedly intercepted a package containing two pistols that was sent to Mr. Glek in jail, Kievskie Viedemosti later wrote. An independent Odesa media source confirmed the account, though neither could explain why anyone would send a murder suspect weapons while he was in police detention.

One of the pistols, a 5.45 mm weapon with a homemade silencer, was the weapon used to kill Mr. Derevianko, government prosecutors later argued. Certainly, sending a murder weapon to a man in jail on suspicion of gunning down a newspaper editor was odd. One possible explanation would be that, in Ukraine's violent and often uncontrolled detention system, a prisoner of the state could well use firearms as barter items or for self-defense.

Ukrainian media, led by Kievskie Viedemosti, argued Odesa police officers conspired to plant the pistol on Mr. Glek in order to give government prosecutors an open-and-shut case. Odesa Regional Police spokesman Yaroslav Koitniuk vehemently denies the allegation. "We did our job in very difficult conditions," he said in a recent interview. "Everything [in connection with the case's evidence] was in order."

The Glek case nevertheless has remained open for 18 months. Detectives working on both sides of the border turned up several persons, also named in local media, who could have paid Mr. Glek to carry out the hit. Police believe Aleksander Balashov, the head of the Odesa City Sports Association, to be a prime suspect. He apparently is in hiding abroad, a police source said.

Odesa police repeatedly have declined comment on how many other leads they are currently following up. Odesa media sources told the Post other possible suspects are a Moldovan businessman, Chechen mafia, Odesa mafia, associates of former Mayor Eduard Hurvits and Russian energy-industry insiders, among others.

"In the end, Borys Fedorovych [Derevianko] had many enemies, and we only know the man who pulled the trigger," said Larysa Burcho, Vechernaya Odesa editor-in-chief. Mr. Burcho said a police investigation of Vechernaya Odesa archives identified 52 persons or groups who could have been irritated by Mr. Derevianko during his 25-year career at the paper. "The police have not followed up one of those possibilities," she said. "No one has ever been found ... and to me it does not seem like the police are look-

(Continued on page 12)

NEWSBRIEFS

Pustovoitenko punishes tax inspectors

KYIV — Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko on April 9 ordered a cut in the salaries of tax inspectors after he was told they had failed to meet their tax collection target this year, the Associated Press reported. Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov reported that the state collected 3.4 billion hryvni (\$865 million) in revenues in the first three months of 1999, or 82 percent of the target. The overall tax debt to the government has risen to 13.9 billion hrv. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Rada to investigate Chornovil's death

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada on April 9 set up a commission to investigate the death of Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of Rukh and a former Soviet political prisoner and dissident. Both parliamentary caucuses of the internally divided Rukh have demanded that Mr. Chornovil's death in a car crash be investigated, even though Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Kravchenko has said the crash was accidental. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Kuchma recognizes diaspora activists

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma awarded three U.S. citizens of Ukrainian origin third-degree medals for service to Ukraine on April 9. They are: professor, linguist and renowned Ukraine specialist George Y. Shevelov, Ukrainian Fraternal Association President John Oleksyn and Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine President Wolodymyr Wolowodiuk. In accordance with a presidential directive, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Anton Buteiko presented the medals during a ceremony held in New York at the Consulate General of Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

Tatars protest alleged discrimination

SYMFEROPOL — Some 3,000 Tatars held a rally in front of the Crimean Supreme Council building on April 8 to protest discrimination. The protesters demanded a representative quota in Crimea's Parliament, official status for their language, and changes in the Ukrainian and Crimean constitutions, which the Crimean Tatars view as discriminatory. They burned documents symbolizing Crimea's Constitution and a 1783 manifesto in which Catherine the Great declared Crimea to be part of Russia. Protest actions will continue until May 18, the date of the deportation of Tatars from Crimea by the Stalin regime. Of the 260,000 Tatars who returned to Crimea in the past decade, some 100,000 are still unable to acquire Ukrainian citizenship. (RFE/RL Newswire)

PACE chairman gets mixed reception

KYIV — "It is simply fantastic what you have done," Ukrainian Television quoted Lord Russell-Johnston, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), as saying at a Verkhovna Rada session on April 8, where he praised Ukraine's efforts to meet its obligations to the Council of Europe. But when Mr. Johnston criticized the Parliament for denouncing NATO strikes in Yugoslavia without mentioning Serb repression against Kosovo Albanians, left-wing deputies reacted with indignant shouts, ITAR-TASS reported. When he called the rule of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic a fascist regime, leftist deputies left the session hall in protest. (RFE/RL Newswire)

A memo on Kuchma's re-election

KYIV — A memo listing 12 reasons why President Leonid Kuchma should be re-elected was sent to regional centers on April 6, UNIAN reported, citing representatives of the parliamentary Committee for Defense and Security. The memo says that Mr. Kuchma's relatively good health and the experience he's acquired are highly favorable assets. It also argues that Mr. Kuchma is the cheapest option for taxpayers, while his opponents in the presidential elections — particularly leftist candidates — would likely increase public spending and taxation. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Kuchma reacts to ceasefire

WASHINGTON — In reaction to the announcement by the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of a unilateral ceasefire, President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine made the following comments on April 6: "Ukraine welcomes the announcement by the FRY leadership of its peaceful initiative — a unilateral ceasefire. I would like to believe that it has been induced to a certain extent by the mediation efforts of our nation. I urge Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to follow up with next steps, that is to start withdrawing his troops and security forces from the territory of Kosovo, permit the return of all refugees to the province, and allow the deployment of a group of international observers. Ukraine stands ready to send its representatives to participate in such a group. At the same time, the bombing should be stopped, too. We are sure that the peoples of Yugoslavia, the Europeans and the international community as a whole are waiting for that kind of action. I have reasons to believe that this

(Continued on page 18)

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Chief rabbi of Ukraine addresses New York community

by Stephanie Charczenko

NEW YORK – The chief rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine, Rabbi Yaakov Bleich, who arrived in the United States with representatives of Ukrainian Jewish businessmen to attend meetings with government officials in Washington, was guest speaker at the Shevchenko Scientific Society on March 17. The evening was sponsored by the Society for Ukrainian Jewish Relations (SUJR), the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Committee (UACC).

Opening remarks were delivered by Askold Lozynskyj, president of the UCCA and the Ukrainian World Congress. Referring to the historical parallels between the Jews and Ukrainians, and the fact that so many Jews lived on Ukrainian territory during both Russian imperialist rule and Polish domination, Mr. Lozynskyj fondly recalled his first meeting with Rabbi Bleich after the "60 Minutes" debacle, when he discovered the coincidental similarities of their familial backgrounds. Both Rabbi Bleich and Mr. Lozynskyj are from Brooklyn and apparently Rabbi Bleich's grandfather was the head rabbi in a small village near Ternopil (Kopychenchy), the birthplace of Mr.

Stephanie Charczenko is vice-president of the Society for Ukrainian-Jewish Relations.

Lazarenko argues he faces torture, even death, if forced by INS to return to Ukraine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – A U.S. immigration court on April 12 began formal hearings on Pavlo Lazarenko's request for asylum. In arguing his case, the former prime minister of Ukraine said he could be tortured and possibly killed if he is forced to return to Ukraine.

The full-day hearing was held behind closed doors and no details have been made available to the public, other than an April 14 press release issued by Mr. Lazarenko's public relations counsel.

In that release, Mr. Lazarenko states, in part:

"On Monday, April 12, I asked the court to defer my removal back to Ukraine under the provisions of the International Convention Against Torture. The court has heard evidence that I could be subjected to torture if I am deported to Ukraine. A large number of reports by international and non governmental organizations of cases of torture and violence committed by Ukrainian officials, causing suffering, bodily injury and, in a number of cases, death, have been submitted to the court. The widespread use of torture in the Ukrainian penitentiary system has been confirmed by a United States Department of State report issued February 26.

"I am particularly concerned that my status as a high-profile political opponent to President Kuchma will expose me to intense physical and psychological coercion and that my human rights will be abused. ...

"Since my departure from Ukraine, Kuchma's investigators have engaged in illegal and abusive harassment of my relatives. My home and office in Ukraine have been raided and ransacked several times, and my property has been seized in violation of my rights of due process."

The Embassy of Ukraine in Washington offered a "no comment" when asked by

(Continued on page 15)

Lozynskyj's mother.

Evhen Stakhiv, president of the Society for Ukrainian Jewish Relations, spoke briefly about the activities of the SUJR, which was established in 1980. The SUJR hosted many special evenings for renowned Ukrainian Jewish and American Jewish leaders. Among the featured guest speakers were: David Levitas, editor-in-chief of Yevreiskiy Vestnik and chairman of the Jewish Council of Ukraine; and Yakov Suslensky, head of the Society for Jewish-Ukrainian Relations in Jerusalem.

In May of 1995 the society honored Rabbi David H. Lincoln of the Park Avenue Synagogue with an award for fostering the improvement of Ukrainian-Jewish relations, and in December 1995 the SUJR conducted an academic conference titled "Ukrainian-Jewish Dialogue."

Introducing Rabbi Bleich to the audience, Mr. Stakhiv mentioned that when he and this writer, who is vice-president of the SUJR, traveled to Ukraine in 1995, they visited the synagogue in Kyiv and met with today's guest of honor.

Rabbi Bleich, who is fiercely loyal in his commitment to his adopted homeland, Ukraine, initially greeted the gathering of people in Ukrainian and apologized for his lack of expertise in the language, which he had begun learning upon his arrival in Ukraine 10 years ago. (Considering that this is the first Slavic language he has mastered – he speaks four other languages – the rabbi's Ukrainian is much better than he gives himself credit for.) Throughout the evening he alternated his discussion between Ukrainian and English.

The purpose of Rabbi Bleich's visit to the United States was dual in nature: first, to announce the formation of a Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, which would oversee and cultivate Jewish issues on the national and international levels; second, to meet with and speak to political entities in Washington about the economic and political future of Ukraine.

The approximately 500,000 Jews living in Ukraine today are astutely aware that their communities blossomed only during the new democracy in Ukraine, and they strongly support a secure and stable democracy, he noted. Given the precarious political climate and the uncertainty of the upcoming elections in Ukraine, Rabbi Bleich said he feels that, without financial, moral and humanitarian assistance from the United States, the possibility of a leftist government with political leaders such as "at best a Moroz, at worst – Tkachenko or Symonenko" could bring a future that most certainly would be dismal.

To underscore the dangerous myopic vision of such left-leaning politicians as Petro Symonenko, Rabbi Bleich recalled a conversation he had with the Communist leader during the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. When Rabbi Bleich, along with other Jewish leaders, asked the delegates from Ukraine to vote in favor of a resolution condemning anti-Semitism in Russia, Mr. Symonenko responded that they will decide how to vote when they consult with their friends from Moscow. When a somewhat stunned Rabbi Bleich reminded Mr. Symonenko that Ukraine is now an independent country, he recalled that Mr. Symonenko responded: "We lost our independence in 1991."

The rabbi also warned that if Oleksander Tkachenko receives enough votes in Parliament to change the Constitution, creating a parliamentary republic and possibly becoming the next president, "we would have Lukashenka No. 2." Incidentally, added Rabbi Bleich, Mr. Symonenko praises Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka for the "great Slavic unity" that he formed in joining with Russia and for the "great reforms



Rabbi Yaakov Bleich with Evhen Stakhiv, president of the Society for Ukrainian-Jewish Relations.

and advances taken by Belarus economically."

Regarding Oleksander Moroz, Rabbi Bleich adamantly declared: "He might be trying to play both sides, by trying to say the right things to the right people, but usually says the wrong things to the wrong people. He would be the best of the leftists, but make no mistake, he's a red ... he's a commie."

Prior to the Jewish delegation's trip to Washington, members met with President Leonid Kuchma. According to Rabbi Bleich, the president told them: "It will cost the West a lot more money to save Ukraine from the claws of Russia than it will cost them to keep Ukraine from falling into their claws." Mr. Kuchma also said that the United States' lack of commitment is pushing Ukraine towards a political union with Russia, something that, according to the president, Ukraine is not interested in – especially considering that

NATO is almost at the border of Ukraine's steppes. Since March 12, when Poland became part of the NATO alliance, it is obvious that Ukraine's eyes are turned westward.

One of the key and critical components Rabbi Bleich and the Jewish businessmen discussed at their meetings in Washington was the loss of \$200 million in credits and humanitarian aid from the U.S. Department of Agriculture this year as a result of the \$3.6 million in individual investment disputes between Ukraine and American businessmen. A \$20 million shipment of cotton earmarked for Ukraine, which would have created factory jobs for some of the unemployed populace, also was canceled due to these unresolved claims. Among the major obstacles in the settlement of these disputes is the lack of both decision-making by the courts and the

(Continued on page 12)

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Antonov planes in demand

MOSCOW – German Air Force aviation technology expert Gen. Herman Hagen said on April 3 that he highly rates the Ukrainian military-transport plane AN-70, currently competing in a tender to supply NATO countries. Gen. Hagen said the price of the AN-70 will be approximately 63-73 million euros. The market demand is 410 units. Meanwhile, Britain and the U.S. are studying a Ukrainian and Russian proposal to work together in plane construction. Developments of military and commercial versions of the AN-124-210 Ruslan and a number of other planes are planned, stated Antonov construction bureau officials on April 2. The proposal would call on the U.K. and the U.S. to provide engines, electronics and brakes, with the joint Ukrainian-Russian side required to carry out research, construction and personnel training, and to service the planes. A new version of the AN-124-210 Ruslan, equipped with Rolls-Royce engines, is planned to be leased to the British Defense Ministry, with a further new model of this plane currently being developed featuring American-made General Electric engines. The new versions of Ruslan are far ahead of the main competitor in a British tender, the American-made C-17, outperforming the Americans with a price tag that is half the cost of a C-17. (Eastern Economist)

Rocket launch goes off without hitches

KYIV – The Sea Launch project celebrated the successful launch of a three-stage rocket on March 28. The rocket, including two stages manufactured by the Dnipropetrovsk company PivdenMash, was launched from a converted oil rig in the equatorial region of the Pacific Ocean. The launch was the first of its kind, and should go some way to repairing confidence in the Ukrainian space industry following last September's disastrous Zenit rocket crash that destroyed \$190 million (U.S.) worth of Globalstar communication satellites. The remote launch site avoids many of the associated risks of launches in populated areas, and the equatorial location benefits from the earth's higher rotational speed at the equator, allowing the rocket to take aboard heavier loads. (Eastern Economist)

Broadcasters announce agreement to merge

KYIV – Studio 1+1's parent company, Central European Media Enterprises, and SBS Broadcasting SA have announced they have entered into an agreement for the \$615 million (U.S.) merger of CME into SBS. The combined company, which will retain the name SBS Broadcasting SA, will own interests in a diversified mix of television and radio broadcast-

(Continued on page 4)

Bishop Lubomyr Husar meets with professors and staff at Sheptytsky Institute

OTTAWA – Bishop Lubomyr Husar, special auxiliary to the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, recently met with professors and staff of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies. He also met with St. Paul University officials and was the guest of honor at a banquet marking the university's 150th anniversary.

While at the institute, Bishop Husar discussed the new graduate studies program starting in September 1999, scholarships for licentiate and doctoral students from Ukraine, further assistance to and cooperation with the Lviv Theological Academy, as well as other issues relating to theological formation in the Church.

The Sheptytsky Institute meeting was held following a week of consultations on liturgical renewal in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Under the chairmanship of Bishop Husar, a working group of bishops and scholars studied such issues as: the preparation of a liturgical directory; the establishment of a permanent liturgical office; the question of liturgical identity for the Greek-Catholic Church in Ukraine and abroad; as well as other related matters and challenges facing the Church in the 21st century.

In particular, the study group elaborated a liturgical mission statement focusing on four aspects of liturgical life: the divine gift of revelation; the human response of rendering glory to God; the effect of liturgy on individuals and their salvation; and the creation of Christian community through participation in liturgical prayer.

Participants in the liturgical consultation included: Bishop Lawrence Huculak (Eparchy of Edmonton), Bishop Robert Moskal (Eparchy of Parma), Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn (Eparchy of New Westminster), the Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Boniface Luykx (Holy Transfiguration Monastery, California), the Rev. Dr. Bernard Dribnenky, OSBM (Mundare, Alberta), the Rev. Dr. Peter Galadza (Sheptytsky Institute, Ottawa), the Rev. Mark Morozovych (Eparchy of Parma) and the Rev. Dr. Andrew T. Onuferko (Sheptytsky Institute, Ottawa).

The facilities of Holy Spirit Seminary in Ottawa were made available for the consultation and the seminary's rector, the Rev. Dr. David Motiuk, was also invited to participate and share his expertise in canon law. The study group visited Ottawa's Roman Catholic Archbishop Marcel Gervais, who is chancellor of St. Paul University, as well as



Bishop Lubomyr Husar (second from left) with staff at the Andrey Sheptytsky Institute in Ottawa.

the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Carlo Curis.

Accompanied by the Sheptytsky Institute's director, the Rev. Prof. Andriy Chirovsky, Bishop Husar also paid a visit to the Embassy of Ukraine in Ottawa. Ambassador Volodymyr Khandogiy and Bishop Husar expressed their shared hopes and concerns for the spiritual and intellectual development of Ukraine. The Rev. Chirovsky informed the ambassador of the Sheptytsky Institute's ongoing efforts and commitment to supporting the development of theological studies in Ukraine. Bishop Husar described the meeting as very frank and productive.

Commenting on the significance of Bishop Husar's January 22 visit, the Rev. Chirovsky remarked, "The bishops are the prime teachers in the Church and it is especially

important to have the bishop, who is effectively leading our Church, visit the institute, because we see ourselves as the bishops' helpers in forging a vision for our Church in the 21st century."

Bishop Husar concluded his visit to the Sheptytsky Institute, remarking: "As I see your work here in Ottawa, I realize how fortunate we are at this moment. ... Without theological scholarship we are somehow condemned to a very superficial spiritual life. It is only when we really seriously approach the sources, study Divine Revelation, study the witnesses throughout history, study our own history, our expressions of this evangelical and patristic tradition, that we can hope for a renewal, solid renewal, fruitful renewal, spiritual renewal in our Church."

Business in brief

(Continued from page 3)

ing assets in Europe's fastest growing markets. In addition to 1+1, the enlarged SBS will own a number of major TV stations across Europe and a group of Scandinavian radio stations. Harry Sloan will remain co-chairman and chief executive officer of the expanded SBS and Ronald Lauder, the chairman of Central European Media, will take on the role of co-chairman at SBS. CME will own approximately 33 percent of the combined company. The merger is expected to close in 90 days. Studio 1+1, a Ukrainian-German-American company, started broadcasting in 1995 on UT-1, providing this state television channel with self-produced and acquired programs. In November 1996 1+1 won a tender for a 10-year license to broadcast on the second channel UT-2. 1+1 is currently entitled to 15 hours of broadcast time per day. (Eastern Economist)

P&G boss in court over certification

KYIV – Kyiv's Moskovskiy District Court passed a guilty verdict on April 8 on former P&G Ukraine GM Kesser Sharif on charges of selling non-certified products on the domestic market using P&G trademarks. P&G Ukraine PR head Vitalii Prokopenko responded: "The company is disappointed with the court's decision and has begun work on our appeal." Mr. Prokopenko said that Mr. Sharif had faced similar accusations last year from the Moskovskiy District Court which were later dropped. P&G has faced a number of certification problems in Ukraine. The State Standardization Committee in March 1998 revoked several certificates for some P&G products produced by the company's plants in Turkey, Romania, the Czech Republic, Poland and the U.S. P&G appealed to the court of arbitration and the ruling was eventually reversed. (Eastern Economist)

McDonald's opens new railway restaurant

KYIV – McDonald's opened its 20th restaurant in Ukraine on March 30 at the Kyiv railway station. The restaurant is located in a newly constructed two-story building in the square opposite the station's main terminal. It is the first of 16 planned new restaurants in Ukraine in 1999. McDonald's investments for 1999 for construction and development of local supply infrastructure should exceed \$15 million (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

Volvo eyeing Ukrainian market

STOCKHOLM – The Swedish firm Volvo signed a contract on March 25 to supply 1,000 diesel engines that will be mounted on Ukrainian-built farming machines. The engines will be supplied over two years. Announcement of the contract came during President Leonid Kuchma's state visit to Sweden. Volvo also signed a protocol of intention with the Orlan transport company, which is going to buy 200 Volvo trucks. Volvo Trucks has plans to increase its presence in Ukraine by setting up a dealership network and strengthening its servicing stations network. So far, Volvo has sold 350 trucks in Ukraine, which amounts to 40 percent of total number of trucks imported. Volvo chief executive director Leif Johansson said Volvo Bus is currently studying the Ukrainian market to expand its operations and holding talks with Zhytomyr authorities to build a bus assembly plant, similar to its plant in Omsk, Russia. (Eastern Economist)

OBITUARY: Stefan Czerkas, 18, honors student

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – Stefan G. Czerkas, an 18-year-old honor student at Boca Ciega High School, was killed in a car accident north of Palmetto, Fla., on March 17.

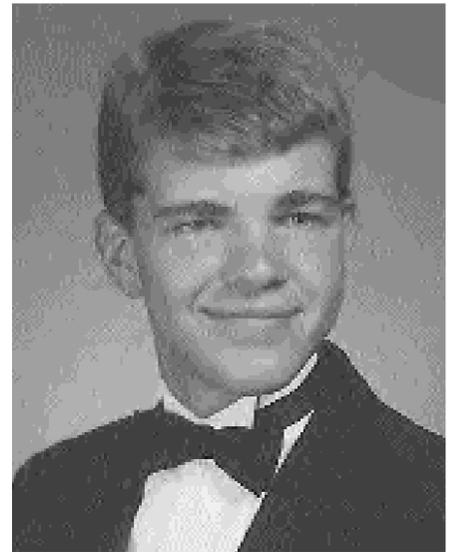
Initially declared missing, Mr. Czerkas was found dead two and a half days later in his car, which ran off Interstate 275 in Manatee County. The overturned car, concealed by brush, was finally spotted by a lawn cutter working along the interstate highway. In the interim, family and friends searched the stretch of highway between Sarasota and St. Petersburg retracing Mr. Czerkas' route countless times in an effort to find him or any trace of him. At the time of the accident Mr. Czerkas was en route home to St. Petersburg from Sarasota, where he was visiting his friend, Tanya Guran of New York.

The story was given detailed coverage in the St. Petersburg Times, initially alerting readers to the missing teen, and then reporting on the accident and its victim. Police investigators concluded that Mr. Czerkas probably fell asleep while at the wheel.

Stefan Czerkas was born in Cleveland on September 26, 1980, the son of John and Olya Czerkas. The family moved to St. Petersburg in 1983 from Lorain, Ohio.

A senior honors student in the Boca Ciega medical magnet program, Stefan last decided to enroll at the University of Southern Florida in Tampa. His expressed area of interest was in engineering/bio-engineering.

For the past five years Stefan was a volunteer at the All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg and for the past three an officer in the Medical Explorers organization, which organizes volunteer students as well as programs for students to learn about medical careers and hospital positions.



Stefan G. Czerkas

A person who enjoyed being involved, Stefan was a model Scout who achieved Eagle Rank at Post 263 in St. Petersburg. He also worked as a camp counselor at the Ukrainian National Association estate, Souyzivka, in Kerhonkson, N.Y., where the Czerkas family enjoyed going each year. The entire family belongs to UNA Branch 377.

A skilled swimmer, Stefan was on the school's swim team and also worked as a lifeguard and water safety instructor at various locations in the city.

At the wake, the deceased, dressed in a Ukrainian embroidered shirt, was honored with a Boy Scout honor guard. In attendance were numerous teachers, fellow students and friends who came to bid farewell and express their love and esteem for Stefan.

(Continued on page 13)

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

Northern New Jersey

by Roma Hadzewycz
District Press Liaison

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Northern New Jersey District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association held its annual meeting here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on Friday, March 5.

The meeting was brought to order by UNA Advisor Eugene Oscislowski, the district chairman, who welcomed branch representatives, district officers and members of the UNA General Assembly: President Ulana Diachuk, National Secretary Martha Lysko, Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj, Advisor Andre Worobec and Honorary Member Walter Sochan. Also present were former UNA Advisor Andrew Keybida and Honorary District Chairman John Chomko.

Gregory Klymenko was elected to chair the meeting; Mark Datzkiwsky was elected secretary of the annual meeting. Mr. Datzkiwsky also read the minutes of the 1998 annual meeting, which were unanimously accepted.

Mr. Oscislowski delivered a report on the work of the district during the past year, noting that the district has been a very active one thanks to active officers, who held five meetings and conducted diverse activities, from a garage sale to raise funds for district activity, to a lecture by Dr. Myron Kuropas, author of the centennial history of the UNA (accompanied by an art exhibit by Roman Demko). Perhaps the most successful event of all was a Yalynka (Christmas party) for children that attracted 60 children and their parents, including newcomers from Ukraine.

Of the 16 members of the district board, Mr. Oscislowski said 12 were active. The

district chairman concluded his report by calling on all branches to enroll at least five members each during 1999.

Treasurer Lon Staruch reported on the district's income and expenses, noting a balance of \$2,883.67 in the district treasury.

After all officers had delivered brief reports, Dr. Ivan Pelech, speaking on behalf of the auditing committee, noted that all district books are in order and recommended a vote of confidence for the outgoing officers.

Next came the report of the nominations committee, consisting of Andre Worobec, Julian Kotlar and Maria Oscislowski.

The committee recommended the following board: Mr. Oscislowski, chairman; Mr. Kotlar, first vice-chairman; Mr. Staruch, second vice-chairman; Mr. Datzkiwsky, secretary; Mr. Worobec, treasurer; Sofia Derzko, Ukrainian-language press liaison; Roma Hadzewycz, English-language press liaison; Mrs. Oscislowski and Maria Haluszczak, events/organizing directors; Daria Semegen, member at large; Dr. Pelech, Mr. Klymenko and Stephan Welhasch, auditors; Wolodymyr Bilyk and John Chomko, honorary chairmen of the district. The slate was unanimously elected.

Next came remarks by the UNA executive officers in attendance. Mrs. Lysko spoke about the UNA's new insurance plans, including a term policy for children, and lower rates for term insurance. She added that a new UNA ratebook should be ready by mid-April.

Mrs. Lysko also explained that branch secretaries can now opt for direct billing (done by the Home Office) of their members.

Mrs. Diachuk congratulated the district

be deposited only in Canadian banks, and that all investments be invested for longer terms. The authorities have also requested a five-year projection of the UNA's Canadian business.

The Ukrainian National Aid Association of America (UNAAA) and the UNA had agreed in May 1998 to merge. To date, the UNA has not received a response from the state insurance authorities of New Jersey; the merger will go into effect only after the state approves it.

A wide-ranging plan for new insurance products was presented for discussion at the Executive Committee meeting. New dues books and new UNA plans will come into use in May of this year. Taking into account increased life expectancy in the U.S., the UNA will sell life insurance to applicants up to age 85, and single-premium certificates to persons up to age 90. In general, it can be said that the UNA will decrease dues on insurance policies by between 20 and 67 percent, depending on the class of insurance. These discounts are based on the establishment of new rates for non-smokers. The UNA will also issue a new term policy for children up to age 15.

In order to increase its organizing activity, in January the UNA signed an agreement of cooperation with another fraternal organization, Western Catholic Union. The UNA has hired its director to seek insurance salespersons and agents who will sell UNA products on commission. Such agreements have already been put into effect by other fraternal organizations and have achieved good results. The UNA plans to begin this campaign in Ohio, Illinois and Michigan.

(Translated from Ukrainian by The Ukrainian Weekly staff.)



Roma Hadzewycz

District Chairman Eugene Oscislowski and Andre Worobec of the district's nominations committee. (Both are also UNA advisors.)

for being No. 1 among all UNA districts in organizing activity for 1998, having enrolled 132 new members insured for \$1,963,116 (for an average face value of \$14,872) and thus attaining 120 percent of its annual quota. The top two organizers were Mr. Oscislowski, who enrolled 34 members insured for \$737,455; and Mr. Worobec, who signed up 16 members insured for \$325,661. She presented the district with a reward of \$630 for its active enrollment campaign.

The president also spoke about secretaries' and organizers' courses that are being planned in various districts, as well as refresher courses for secretaries that are scheduled to take place at Soyuzivka in mid-August. She spoke also of new procedures and requirements of the UNA Scholarship Program, and noted that the Association of UNA Seniors this year will mark its 25th anniversary.

As regards the UNA's newspapers, Mrs. Diachuk said efforts are being made to increase the number of subscribers and called on all present to help promote Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly by enlisting new subscribers. The Svoboda Bookstore, meanwhile, is now undergoing inventory; its older stock is being liquidated and books are being shipped to Ukraine.

Finally, the UNA president touched upon the UNA By-Laws, which now contain a provision for voting by mail on

amendments to the by-laws. By the end of 1999, she said, the UNA must poll delegates to its last convention on whether the fraternal organization should adopt a corporate structure, i.e., elect a board of directors who will then hire officers to conduct the UNA's day-to-day business. If that proposal is adopted, the next UNA convention in 2002 will no longer elect a General Assembly composed of executive officers, advisors and auditors, but an 11-member board of directors.

Mr. Kaczaraj gave a summary of UNA finances for 1998, reporting on insurance and investment operations, Soyuzivka, the Svoboda Press and The Ukrainian Weekly. He indicated that the UNA had succeeded in significantly cutting back on expenses for 1998 as compared with 1997.

During the discussion period various matters were raised, including: dividends to members, scholarships, reasons for losses in membership, discontinued UNA insurance policies, payment of dues to branches and the fate of the Svoboda Bookstore.

At the conclusion of the meeting, newly re-elected District Chairman Oscislowski thanked the branch delegates and district activists for their confidence and expressed thanks to other board members for their cooperation. Discussions continued over refreshments.

UNA executives...

(Continued from page 1)

The president began her report by focusing on UNA publications. During January and February of this year Svoboda gained 26 new subscribers, while The Ukrainian Weekly had a loss of 13 subscribers during the same period. The UNA Almanac brought in \$32,095 and covered all expenses. During the first two months of the year the Svoboda Press Fund collected \$7,457 (most of that from donations collected with payments for the 1999 UNA Almanac), while the Weekly had donations of \$696.

The president further reported that Soyuzivka is planning to host a Mother's Day celebration, is preparing a picnic for new arrivals from Ukraine, and is readying itself for the summer season.

As regards organizing work, the president provided a short review of statistics for 1998, singling out three top organizers: Eugene Oscislowski, Andrew Skyba and Joseph Chabon. She noted that 19 branches had enrolled 10 or more new members during the report period. In Canada the UNA's professional sales force sold 58 policies, while secretaries brought in 38.

The Toronto Sales Office and the dismissal of its director, Robert Cook, were discussed during the meeting. The office was officially closed as of the end of December and all salespersons were laid off. During the past year, Canadian insurance authorities had conducted an audit of the UNA's insurance operations, giving a series of recommendations on procedures. The authorities require that all Canadian checks be signed by the UNA's chief agent in Canada, that all funds collected for dues

Young UNA'er



Chesaria Sofia Reffner, seen above with her pal, is a new member of UNA Branch 277 in Hartford, Conn. Chesaria is the daughter of Natalie and Michael Reffner. She was enrolled by her grandparents George and Areta Baranowskyj.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A Pulitzer-winning offense

In "Bloopers of the Century," an article about "blunders, hoaxes, goofs, flubs, boo-boos, screw-ups, fakes" published in the January-February issue of *Columbia Journalism Review* (CJR), John Leo, a syndicated columnist and a contributing editor of *U.S. News & World Report*, writes that the worst reportorial sins "always involve getting it wrong on purpose." That is his lead-in to one particularly egregious example: coverage of the USSR by *The New York Times* correspondent Walter Duranty, "perhaps the only Pulitzer winner that *The Paper of Record* would fervently like to forget."

Mr. Leo is referring, of course, to Duranty's role in concealing the Great Famine of 1932-1933. The article reports: "When Stalin engineered massive famine in the [sic] Ukraine to help break resistance to Soviet control, Duranty told *Times* readers that 'any report of a famine in Russia today is an exaggeration or malignant propaganda.' In 1933, at the height of the famine, he wrote of abundant grain, plump babies, fat calves, and 'village markets flowing with eggs, fruit, poultry, vegetables, milk and butter at prices far lower than in Moscow.' He added that 'a child can see this is not famine but abundance.'"

Furthermore, Mr. Leo emphasizes: "In fact, the death toll was enormous and Duranty knew it. He told colleagues privately it was in the range of 10 million. British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge said Duranty was 'the biggest liar of any journalist I ever met.' But the Pulitzer committee praised Duranty's reports for their 'scholarship, profundity, impartiality, sound judgment, and clarity.' ..."

"Eventually, Duranty's Soviet coverage provoked debate among his editors and readers. To its credit, *The Times* editorial page challenged his accounts. But in the genteel journalistic world of that era, his reporting was never odious enough to get him recalled or fired." And the clincher, as pointed out in CJR: "The embarrassing Pulitzer has never been withdrawn or returned."

This week, as the major news media reported on the winners of this year's Pulitzer Prizes, our thoughts turned, once again, to Duranty's ill-gotten prize. In previous years, when *The Times* won a new Pulitzer it had trotted out all its Pulitzer winners, from the year 1918 on, as a reminder of its distinguished record through the decades. For Ukrainians, seeing Walter Duranty's name on that list was akin to rubbing salt into a wound. But no longer does *The Times* boast about Duranty ...

A major turnaround came on June 24, 1990, when Karl A. Meyer of *The Times*, in a feature on its editorial page called "The Editorial Notebook," wrote about the infamous Moscow correspondent and acknowledged that what Duranty wrote from his post constituted "some of the worst reporting to appear in this newspaper." (The item also noted that Duranty's misdeeds are detailed in a new book, "Stalin's Apologist" by S.J. Taylor. A review of that biography appeared in the very same issue in *The New York Times Book Review*.)

Nonetheless, more than six decades after Stalin's artificially created Famine killed between 7 million and 10 million people, *The Times* has not relinquished Duranty's Pulitzer Prize. Nor has the Pulitzer committee done the right thing.

Isn't it clear that, in order to achieve just a measure of justice, there must be no Pulitzer Prize associated with Walter Duranty's name?

April
17-21
1917

Turning the pages back...

After the abdication of the Russian tsar, forced by the events in Petrograd in early March 1917 (February by the "old" Julian calendar), three political bodies made a claim to political authority in Ukraine. The first was the Provisional Government based in

Petrograd (not yet headed by Alexander Kerensky); the second was a council of workers' and soldiers' councils, which represented the mostly Russian and Russified urban population of central Ukraine; and the third was the Central Rada, a broad and loose coalition led by nationally conscious Ukrainian activists.

Embroiled as it was in the chaos in the erstwhile imperial capital and in an ongoing war, in the initial months the Provisional Government was hard-pressed to make its influence felt outside Russia proper.

Meanwhile, under the leadership of Mykhailo Hrushevsky, the activists of the Central Rada, until then a clearinghouse of various Ukrainian organizations, realized that the body had real potential to serve as a representative body for the majority of Ukraine's population – including Russians, Poles, Jews and other minorities – without regard to their nationality.

On April 17, 1917, the All-Ukrainian National Congress was convened in Kyiv with over 1,000 delegates from political, cultural and professional organizations representing workers, peasants, the intelligentsia, soldiers and clergy descending on the capital. Activists streamed in from across the country, from the front and from Ukrainian communities in Russia's major cities.

Over the first few days, delegates heard addresses concerning Ukraine's demands for autonomous status within a newly constituted democratic and federative Russia, the delimitation of Ukraine's borders, and projected participation in a peace conference that would bring the conflict in Europe to a halt.

On April 19, Hrushevsky was elected president, with Volodymyr Vynnychenko and Serhii Yefremov as vice-presidents. One hundred fifteen delegates were chosen as representatives of Ukraine's gubernias and major cities, as well as of the Ukrainian communities of Moscow and Petrograd, and the Central Rada was reorganized to function as a parliamentary and administrative body.

In the coming months, the Central Rada would be instrumental in organizing Ukrainian military councils, issuing universals on Ukrainian autonomy, and dealing with the increasingly hostile policies emanating from Petrograd – generally steering Ukraine's course on the way to statehood.

Sources: "All-Ukrainian National Congress," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 1* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984); Paul Robert Magocsi, "A History of Ukraine" (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996).

The Ukrainian Museum reports on status of its building project

The members of the board of trustees of The Ukrainian Museum on April 7 issued the following communique in order to share with the Ukrainian community information about the current status of the museum's new building project.

Museum history

The Ukrainian Museum was founded in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America as an independent entity. Generously supported by the community, both morally and financially, the institution grew and continued to develop in all phases of its endeavors. Its work brought success and with it popularity, not only among the public, but among the museum's peers as well.

Three major fields of interest formed the mainstay of the museum's holdings: folk art, fine arts and photographic/documentary collections. These expanded over the years, as did the institution's agenda, bringing to the forefront the pressing problem of shortage of space at the museum's present location. It became clear that the museum's modest facility could not meet its current needs. The institution was also long overdue for a proper setting within which to realize its mission: to present the rich cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people to the general public. By virtue of its location in New York City, a major global cultural center, a modern, representative museum of Ukrainian history and culture would certainly be a showcase for what is best in the Ukrainian experience.

In 1985 the board of trustees of The Ukrainian Museum purchased a commercial building on East Sixth Street in New York City, in the heart of the Ukrainian community, with the aim of rebuilding it into a modern museum facility.

The Ukrainian community embraced this idea with great enthusiasm and most generous support, contributing to the quick repayment of the mortgage on the property. The fund-raising campaign for the rebuilding project, which then had begun in earnest, was also strongly endorsed by the museum's friends and supporters in various ways: through donations to the Building Fund, often in the memory of a beloved family member; through purchases of exhibition galleries and other spaces in the proposed new building; through the organization of special events, the proceeds of which benefited the fundraising endeavor. More than \$3 million was raised for the Building Fund – a monumental achievement for our community. While joining forces to support the new building project, many museum supporters were concerned also about the future of the institution. Thus, they made sure that the endowment and memorial funds, which are designed to safeguard the financial stability of the museum, continued to grow.

Past successes and future plans

With the endorsement of our community, the fund-raising campaign in support of the building project has been very successful. Initially, \$1.5 million had been raised toward the purchase of the industrial property and toward paying off the mortgage. Since 1991 over \$3 million was raised for the Building Fund.

In May of 1998 the New York City Department of Buildings approved the architectural design plans for the new facility. The final design was the result of many detailed revisions and was the best one chosen from all the variants. All expenses tied to this phase of the project have been paid.

Raising funds, even with the generous

assistance from the community, took a very long time.

Unfortunately, time has affected the cost of the project. The 1992 projected total project cost of \$3.5 million has now increased to approximately \$6 million. This increase is due primarily to the annual construction cost increases of 5 to 10 percent per year, as well as the increased size and scope of the project, which has now grown by over 2,000 square feet. Although the museum has no control over annual construction cost escalation, the increased project size and scope was approved by the board to allow for sufficient exhibition space and visual impact of the new building. The museum, therefore, needs an additional \$3 million to fund this project.

In June 1998 the members of the board of trustees, chaired by the newly elected president, Olha Hnateyko, found themselves in the inevitable position of having to sign the contract with the builder. But they re-evaluated the various financial aspects of the project, under the current circumstances, and decided that they needed to take a more judicious approach to this matter.

The people in our communities are very generous and they know how important it is for the museum to have a building that will not only meet its professional needs, but also be a source of pride for all Ukrainians. The members of the board of trustees, like many people in our community, realize that time is of the essence. Thus, at one point recently, the board members were ready to borrow the necessary funds to complete the building. However, after analyzing the situation, they reconsidered, since \$3 million does constitute an enormous debt for many years, which the museum would have to carry while concurrently maintaining a brand new building and running a professional museum. The board members also expressed their strong reluctance to leave such a large debt for our children and grandchildren to repay.

It was decided, therefore, to review various other options. It must be made clear, however, that the project of building a new museum facility on East Sixth Street is not being rejected, but is merely being put on hold for a short time. Should fund-raising yield enough money so that it would not be necessary to borrow more than \$1 million, the project will be reactivated.

In the meantime, long negotiations were conducted with the owners of a building on Third Avenue, which they had considered offering for sale. The building presented a reasonable solution to the board's dilemma. The museum could sell its Sixth Street industrial building, have the necessary funds to purchase the one on Third Avenue and use some of the previously raised money for remodeling. This looked like a good opportunity to have a new museum facility without going into heavy debt. However, this became a prolonged affair, and to this date has not yielded any positive results. Other possibilities are being explored whereby the museum's resources may be used in alternate ways, but these probes are in the initial stages only.

Members of the board of trustees and the administration of The Ukrainian Museum continue to work every day with great enthusiasm and the conviction that our goal will be reached shortly. Just like our friends, whose support of the museum and faith in its mission have held steadfast, we also are sure that The

(Continued on page 17)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A response re: helping intelligentsia

Dear Editor:

On February 14 The Ukrainian Weekly published an article titled "How can we best help Ukraine's intelligentsia?" by Dr. Marko Stech, managing director of the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation. In reading the article, I must admit that I agreed with most of the ideas presented. The author not only argued ably as to what not to do, but constructively outlined methods for achieving positive results.

My reason for writing this letter is that Dr. Stech begins his article with criticism of a project to aid Ukraine's intelligentsia that was undertaken by the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine. Dr. Stech predicts "minimal, short-term results" and proceeds to offer his ideas on how to best help. As a member of the CCAU Executive Council, when I read the many constructive suggestions I had a "been there, done that" feeling.

It seems that when he wrote the article, the author was not acquainted with the many projects (and the methods used to implement them) that the CCAU has conducted in the past eight years. Many of the ideas Dr. Stech offers have been and are routinely and effectively used by the CCAU. If one considers the criticized project within the spectrum of the CCAU's activities, the criticism seems to be undeserved. (For readers of The Ukrainian Weekly who wish to acquaint themselves with the CCAU's work, I refer to the organization's latest detailed report that appeared in Svoboda of March 12.)

I take this opportunity to offer a few examples of projects undertaken by the CCAU that resonate with some of the ideas that are offered by Dr. Stech. The CCAU channeled tens of thousands of dollars to aid the members of the intelligentsia who publish or write for newspapers and periodicals. Among such publications were: Literaturna Ukraina, Ukrainska Hazeta, Molod Ukrainy, Chornomorski Novyny, Zona, Kurier Kryvasu, Vsesvit, Siverschnyna, Veselka and others. Please note how this list intersects with those mentioned by Dr. Stech. The CCAU purchased computer systems suitable for editorial work, fax machines, copiers and even paper. In cases where funds were badly lacking, hundreds of subscriptions were funded and later donated to schools and libraries throughout Ukraine.

In cooperation with Prosvita, the CCAU sponsors Ukrainian language courses for employees of various ministries and government agencies that need to know the Ukrainian terminology pertaining to their professional work. Both the teachers and the government employees-students are members of the intelligentsia, as are those who learn. The instructors are remunerated.

For the past five years, the CCAU has sponsored courses that raise national consciousness among secondary school teachers. Participants in these two-week seminars (approximately 24 sessions) come from all regions of Ukraine. The lecturers were well-known literary and cultural figures, respected historians and political activists. All lecturers were remunerated for their work – this was help to Ukraine's intelligentsia. The seminars were so successful that they have been offered to officers of the Ukrainian armed forces. In February of 1998, officers of the Kyiv Garrison and the Southern Command had 24 such ses-

sions. In the fall of 1998 in Sevastopol, 520 officers heard lectures on Ukrainian history and culture. The next series of courses will be offered in Odesa.

I could continue by mentioning other projects, such as the purchase of the remaining edition of "Pravo Zhyty" from Yurii Badzio, which the CCAU distributed to libraries, or the publication of over 2 million textbooks for schools of Ukraine, in conjunction with which artists and in some cases authors received some remuneration. All these projects were a part of the mosaic wherein the intelligentsia of Ukraine participated and had commensurate financial rewards.

For those who are not acquainted with the CCAU, I would underline that there are tens of organizations that are members of the CCAU. Many of them have projects that are unique to their respective organizations and support the efforts of Ukraine's intelligentsia to live a dignified life despite today's economic hardship.

To underline the concern of those who participate in the CCAU's activities for worthy causes mentioned by Dr. Stech, I will note that among the financial supporters of two periodicals that he mentions in his article, Suchasnist and Vsesvit, is a member of the CCAU board of directors who in the past year donated \$3,000 to Suchasnist and \$2,000 to Vsesvit.

The CCAU has been successful in obtaining funds for its project to aid Ukraine's intelligentsia. The drive for funds continues. Readers still can contribute and sponsor Ukrainian poets, writers, artists or scholars who find themselves in dire straits. In communities where there are no active committees affiliated with the CCAU, those wishing to become sponsors may do so by sending checks directly to: CCAU, 66 Susan Drive, Chatham, NJ 07828. All donations to the CCAU are tax-deductible.

Roman Voronka
Newark, N.J.

Veterans' stories should be told

Dear Editor:

Paul Fenchak's article in The Ukrainian Weekly (February 28) was of particular interest to my husband, Paul Pachowka, a Ukrainian American veteran of World War II.

He and his three brothers all served in the U.S. Army and all went overseas. Paul was a paratrooper assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division and later to the 17th Airborne Division. He came into contact with Ukrainians who were taken to Germany to work on their farms. He has several interesting stories about them, and also of Russian soldiers who tried to kill him and his buddy. Thank God Paul can speak Ukrainian and understood the hissed words from one of the Russians to "kill them!" You can imagine their astonishment when he spoke to them in Ukrainian and cursed them out. There is more to this story.

Ukrainian Americans served with honor, and their stories should be told.

Sophie Pachowka
Woodlyn, Pa.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Hollywood Reds

When actress Jane Fonda received an Academy Award for her role in "Coming Home" in 1978, she received a standing ovation from the Hollywood establishment.

When the academy presented Elia Kazan, who directed such classic films as "Gentlemen's Agreement" and "On the Waterfront," a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999, most of the audience refused to stand as the 90-year-old artist walked on stage.

Why the discriminatory treatment? Simple: Jane Fonda can be forgiven by the Hollywood elite for traveling to Hanoi during the Vietnam War and sitting on an anti-aircraft gun while Americans were bombing because she is of the anointed left. Elia Kazan can never be forgiven because he betrayed the left. He identified Stalinists during the 1952 House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigation into Communist infiltration of Hollywood. For those on the anointed left, this is a cardinal sin. "If I had to choose between betraying my country and betraying my friend," wrote leftist writer E.M. Forster in 1951, "I hope I should have the guts to betray my country."

Some of the Communists identified during the hearings came to be called "The Hollywood Ten." Blacklisted by themajor studios, few were able to find work.

Thanks to unrelenting leftist disinformation, the entire HUAC investigation is now viewed as a sleazy witch hunt. "To name names was to give legitimacy to unconstitutional demagoguery," wrote film critic Roger Ebert on March 10. "Kazan cooperated with an illegal and immoral investigation. These were show trials, just like under Stalin." Given Mr. Kazan's behavior, Mr. Ebert urged those planning to attend the Oscar ceremonies "not to applaud, but simply to observe." And so they did.

For the Bolsheviks, of course, penetrating America's film-making establishment was a significant achievement. According to Communist dogma, "art is a weapon in the class struggle" and, in the words of Vladimir Lenin, "of all the arts, for us, the cinema is the most important."

According to Kenneth Lloyd Billingley, author of "Hollywood Party: How Communism Seduced the American Film Industry in the 1930s and 1940s," the Stalinists working in Hollywood were part of a network of actors, technicians, producers and directors. Few were privy to the names of the entire membership because they came together in small cells.

Nonetheless, only three films can be truly identified as Stalinist propaganda. The first was "Mission to Moscow," the film version of a book penned by Joseph Davies, ambassador to Moscow, who praised Stalin as a great democrat. According to Mr. Billingsley, the film was produced at the urging of Franklin D. Roosevelt's White House. Starring Walter Huston as the American ambassador, it "supported Stalin's charge that Zinoviev, Kamenev and all the old Bolsheviks he executed were fascist agents, it ignored the Nazi-Soviet Pact, and justified Stalin's invasion of Finland."

Other films produced with a Stalinist slant were "Song of Russia" and "North Star." The latter portrayed Ukraine on the eve of the German invasion. Currently available on video cassette, the film shows happy, smiling village people who own their own land, surrounded by a bountiful supply of farm animals and produce, and blessed with the presence of a world-famous medical doctor who has opted to

live with the common people. The Nazis destroy this idyllic Stalinist existence.

"While the party was limited in how it might include its propaganda in Hollywood films," continues Mr. Billingsley, "it enjoyed greater success in blocking anti-Communist and anti-Soviet sentiments." Strategically positioned to reject anti-Communist material, Communists were able to kill or stall scripts and blacklist anti-Communist actors as being sympathetic to Hitler – "an effective smear with Jewish producers," according to Mr. Billingsley. The party was also highly successful in recruiting prominent Hollywood personalities to serve as members of various Communist-front organizations.

Another Hollywood personality who decided, eventually, to expose the Stalinist conspiracy was Edward Dmytryk, a Canadian-born Ukrainian whose parents slipped into the United States to avoid being interned by the Canadian government during World War I for having immigrated from Austro-Hungary. Committed to improving the social order, Mr. Dmytryk was initially impressed with the stated goals of the Communist Party of the United States (CPUS) which in the preamble to its Constitution claimed, among other things, to be "a working class party carrying forward today the traditions of Jefferson, Paine, Jackson and Lincoln and of the Declaration of Independence. Using the name Michael Edwards, Mr. Dmytryk joined the party on May 6, 1944, at a time when Stalin was being heralded as America's greatest ally. When the party changed its name to the Communist Political Association, he joined again – this time under his own name. When he realized that the loyalty of American Communists was to Russia first, he quit.

Although he was no longer a CPUS member, Mr. Dmytryk was subpoenaed by the HUAC. Believing that the committee was unconstitutional, he refused to name names during his initial HUAC testimony. He was fired from RKO and spent three years in England before returning to the U.S. to serve a six-month jail term for contempt of Congress. After much soul-searching, he opted to cooperate with the HUAC.

In his fascinating book "Odd Man Out: A Memoir of the Hollywood Ten," he describes how he came to his agonizing decision. "You know they preach freedom of speech but censor unorthodox opinion," he told himself; "you know they talk democracy but prepare the way for the most inhuman autocracy in human history ... why are you still protecting them? Could you still be searching for utopia? Or could you still believe there is a possibility of a decent world through Stalinism?"

He also examines the hypocrisy of the leftist elite who enjoyed all the benefits of capitalism. "Some may have suffered occasional twinges of conscience, but few were eager to rush the day of their triumph – they were in no hurry to sacrifice their Beverly Hills lifestyles for an egalitarian existence. They wanted it both ways."

Mr. Dmytryk has directed such notable films as "Crossfire," "The Caine Mutiny," "Raintree County," "The Young Lions" and "The Carpetbaggers." Like Elia Kazan, he's been demonized by the left and he is up in years. It's time Hollywood made amends and recognized him for his artistic achievement, and the courage of his convictions.

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FOCUS ON NUMISMATICS

by Inger Kuzych

Ukraine arrives on the numismatic scene

Less than five years ago Ukraine did not have any coins in circulation; the populace instead used small paper karbovantsi-coupons as a medium of exchange. The remarkable monetary transformation that has occurred since then has been spearheaded by the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), which has brought on line separate facilities for the production of bank notes and for coins that are among the most sophisticated in the world.

The arrival of Ukraine on the world's numismatic scene has been largely unheralded; this article will attempt to help remedy that situation.

Setting up a national currency

One of the preconditions of a strong and stable currency is its cheap and efficient production and circulation. Thus, one of the NBU's first priorities after independence was the creation of currency production centers. By 1994, less than three years after the break-up of the USSR, Ukraine had its own Banknote Printing Works, where paper money of international-standard quality, security level and design could be produced.

The establishment of a coin-producing mint works, however, took longer and followed a more convoluted path. Ukrainian commemorative (collectible) coins were first made available in 1995, one year before general circulation coins were released with Ukrainian monetary reform (during September of 1996, when the karbovanets was dropped in favor of the new hryvnia). All these early coins were produced at a temporary facility, a converted factory in Luhansk. They were the first coins minted on Ukrainian soil in over 300 years.

Planning for a national coin production facility in Kyiv began in 1995, but it was not until the close of 1997 that the first stage of the NBU's mint was put

into operation and not until April 23, 1998, that the new Ukrainian Mint building was officially opened in the capital. Present at the ribbon-cutting were Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma and also Austria's Chancellor Viktor Klima, since the Austrian Mint had served as the general contractor in the construction and equipping of the new Ukrainian facility.

Production of commemorative coins

The gold commemorative coin "Kyiv Psalmbook," dedicated to the 600th anniversary of this unique work of Ukrainian literature, became the first coin minted at the NBU Mint and the first new coin produced in Kyiv in almost 900 years – since the time of the medieval Kyivan Rus' state, (see Figure 1). The mint was also equipped to satisfy all of the Ukrainian government's needs for medals, orders and badges.

The new mint enterprise is being called "the pride of Ukraine," and the entire construction project has been nominated for the Ukrainian State Prize. A few statistics give an idea of the production capacity inherent in the new plant: the mint can annually produce 1.5 billion coins for circulation, over 1 million special jubilee or commemorative coins, and 200,000 orders and medals. Over the course of last year alone, since the April unveiling, the enterprise minted 14 commemorative coins of precious metals (gold or silver) and nine of cupronickel (copper-nickel-zinc alloy), whose combined total was over 1.1 million units.

The mint is equipped to handle all stages of the coin production process from initial designing, to modeling, to pattern creation and final impression. Commemorative coins are fashioned on German computer-controlled Graebner hydraulic presses. This state-of-the-art

(Continued on page 16)



The modernistic Ukrainian mint building in Kyiv.



Figure 1: The first coin struck at the NBU Mint (in gold) commemorated the sixth centenary of the "Kyiv Psalmbook" manuscript.

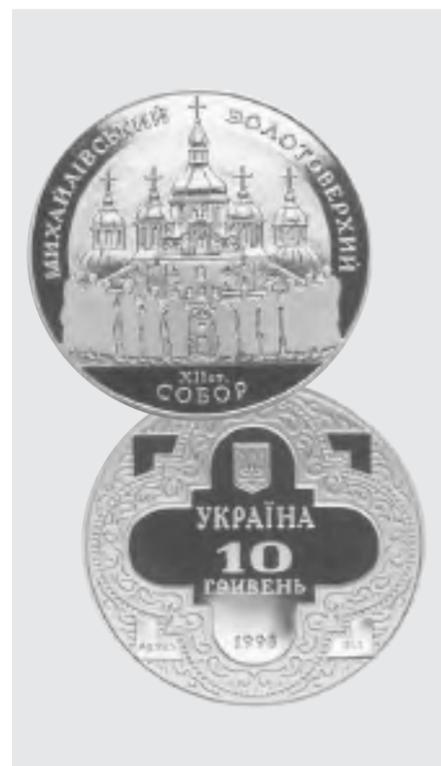


Figure 2: The coin depicts the newly rebuilt St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral (available in gold or two grades of silver).

The coins of Kyivan Rus'

The first centralized state on Ukrainian lands was Kyivan Rus', and the coins authorized by several of its rulers are the numismatic forerunners to the emissions prepared in today's mint. Most of those early coins carried the dynastic trident (or in some cases, bident) emblem; it is this symbol that Ukrainian governments have twice formally readopted this century (in 1918 and 1992) to emphasize the link with the medieval entity and Ukraine's status as a successor state.

Some 308 surviving coins of Kyivan Rus' are definitely known (about 40 more are described, but their whereabouts are unknown); they are broadly grouped by their composition: gold ("zlatnyk," Figure A, only 11 described) or silver ("sriblianyk," Figure B, about 340 recorded), but we do not know what their original names were. All of these numismatic rarities carry the inscriptions of the ruler who minted them and it is by these names that the coins are further classified.

There is no dispute that Volodymyr the Great (who ruled in 980-1015) is depicted on all of the zlatnyky; however, which rulers were responsible for the minting of the various types of srib-

lianyky has long been the topic of numismatic debate. Most of the sriblianyky are labeled either Volodymyr, Sviatopolk or Yaroslav; they have traditionally been attributed to the three rulers who reigned in the late 10th and early 11th centuries, and their minting is thought to have been confined to a three-decade period in 990-1020.

A recent masterful reassessment of Rus' coins by Omeljan Pritsak, professor emeritus of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (in "The Origins of the Old Rus' Weights and Monetary Systems"), attributes some sriblianyky to several later rulers and their minting as late as the beginning of the 12th century.

Knowing that Byzantine (Greek) fashions strongly influenced the Rus' court, especially after the adoption of Christianity by Rus' (988), Prof. Pritsak examined the various ways Byzantine rulers had themselves presented on coins and how Rus' rulers copied the Greek preferences. He makes a convincing case for ascribing many Rus' coins to new (different) rulers (e.g., many "Volodymyr" coins were most likely struck not by "The

(Continued on page 16)



Figure A: A zlatnyk of Volodymyr the Great issued about 990 A.D.; on the reverse is a representation of Christ.



Figure B: A sriblianyk of Yaroslav the Wise; the figure is that of St. George, Yaroslav's patron saint.

INTERVIEW: Larysa Barabash Temple on Ukraine's preparations for the Olympics

Larysa Barabash Temple is the U.S. representative to the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine. She played an integral organizational role in Ukraine's successful effort at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and will be deeply involved in Ukraine's preparations for the Salt Lake City Games in 2002.

The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau editor Roman Woronowycz recently met with Ms. Temple in Kyiv to discuss current NOC-Ukraine preparations for the 2000 Olympic Games set for Sydney, Australia.

Ms. Temple also commented on the controversy that has developed among sports enthusiasts in the Ukrainian diaspora regarding the November 1998 signing of an agreement between the state sports committees of Russia and Ukraine to cooperate in the development of their individual Olympic programs. Following is the edited interview.

PART I

Is there going to be a fund-raising effort for Sydney similar to the one organized for the Atlanta Games?

I have to speak in complex in terms of Sydney and Salt Lake City (the 2002 Summer Games) because you can't attempt any kind of sponsorship or even financial negotiations if you start to divide up Games.

Fund-raising efforts can't ever remain static. Fund-raising must always have its own dynamic and has to have growth. You can't maintain the status quo and do the same thing over and over again. In particu-

lar the dependence on diaspora funding has to decrease, the dependence on local funding here has to increase. Professional sponsorship and a professional financial structure has to take shape.

You can't repeat even a very successful effort.

Will you then be asking the various sports organizations and affiliations of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States and Canada to donate money?

Money, in terms of sports, is always a necessity. [The giving of] money for sports is done willingly by those who are very enthusiastic about sports. It is less of a patriotic duty and more about "I love sports and therefore I contribute."

Of course you try to make sure that every dollar that you can possibly raise, you raise. I really try to work with a conscience and try to make sure that my efforts are far more concentrated on corporate sponsorship than they are on community funds. But I also understand that regardless of how well you build the sponsorship system to pay for, say the training facilities that are required even a year prior to the Olympic Games, you still have to have that initial seed money. In Atlanta, just as an example, we used as a base that we could afford \$25 per person per day. We simply couldn't afford any more, even though we had one of the world's best teams.

So where the costs ran upward of \$70 to \$120 a day that was all paid for by local sponsors, but we still had to pay the \$25 per person per day, and that is where we used a

lot of community funds.

That seed money is always necessary, but we have to develop the other far more, because it is absolutely unfair and unreasonable to depend on the diaspora. When you are talking about the Olympics you are talking about a multi-million dollar project, and the funding for that has to be stable and it has to be corporate.

Presidents change every four years, or five, but financial structures remain in place. Even when you look at the United States Olympic Committee, they have a vertical financial structure. They have a hired person who handles funding, and the presidents come and go, but their financial structure doesn't change.

Whereas in Ukraine when there is an election there is an absolute ruination of the entire system, and they start all over again. So they do not understand the principle of a vertical financial structure, and I think that in essence is a huge difficulty in continuing any type of work.

It's impossible for us to preach here, but it is also impossible for us not to work at our level because even though the essence of the work of the sports system is here, their competitions are abroad. In other words, they work in their own world, they compete in ours, so they have to listen to us in ours.

How does Ukrainian government financing of the NOC compare to the U.S. and Poland, for example?

There is no government financing in the U.S. The only way you can even get to government financing in the U.S. is that there

are certain government grants given to universities, and part of it goes to the sports system. But there is no government financing of the USOC.

You can't possibly compare the USOC to any other Olympic committee in the world, because their financing is so stable and it is just such a broad system that we can only dream about that [for Ukraine].

But if you consider that Ukraine's preparation costs are a million dollars and U.S. preparation costs are a billion dollars, we simply need less. We can still do it at a lower cost because the U.S. simply deals in much higher numbers [of athletes].

I really was successful at [keeping costs down] by making sure that the costs of hotel, food and other things were held to an absolute minimum. We did not spend any extra money on facilities. But training, sports equipment and anything that was required for the actual performance of athletes was at Olympic par, and I would never accept anything less.

We have to think in those terms. I am terribly careful to make sure that unessential spending is kept at a minimum.

How about in comparison to Poland, or France?

Obviously in other countries, developed countries, their ability [to fund sports programs] is much greater. Here, even though government funding is proportional to the needs, the reality of what comes in is a tiny percent of the budgetary allotment. The

(Continued on page 13)

Ukraine continues efforts...

(Continued from page 1)

Oleksander Kuzmuk had flown to Belgrade to meet with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. They left with no response to their proposals for mediation. Mr. Tarasyuk then flew to Bonn, Paris and London in a whirlwind tour of the major European capitals to lay out Ukraine's peace plan, after which the mediation effort seemed to die.

But Mr. Tarasyuk's work had continued in meetings with foreign ambassadors in Kyiv and via telephone with European leaders. He announced during the visit by the foreign affairs ministers that a renewed initiative was imminent.

Mr. Tarasyuk also announced that Ukraine is ready to send a peacekeeping force to Kosovo, but only under the aegis of the United Nations.

The next day, President Kuchma stated in an interview published in the government newspaper *Uriadovyi Kurier* that Ukraine is ready to present its new plan, which would call for a simultaneous ceasefire by both sides, followed by the removal of Serbian troops from Kosovo and the return of ethnic Albanian refugees under the direction of either the U.N. or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The president said he had received backing for his plan from the three visiting European foreign ministers. "The E.U. trika that just left Ukraine not only expressed the worthiness of the plan but called for its activation," said Mr. Kuchma.

Although the Ukrainian plan has been criticized for its similarity in design to one proposed by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on April 9 in Geneva, Mr. Kuchma said Ukraine's proposal is not intended to replicate the U.N. plan and that results are all that matter in the end.

"Our intention is not to make the initiatives a source of competition," said Mr. Kuchma. "The overriding goal is peace in the Balkans."

The Ukrainian initiative also has been welcomed by U.S. President Bill Clinton, who notified President Kuchma via a letter that he believes Ukraine's latest proposals

"are an important step towards restoration of peace in the Balkans," according to Interfax-Ukraine.

President Clinton invited Mr. Kuchma to meet with him in Washington, where the Ukrainian president is scheduled to travel on April 23 to attend NATO's 50th anniversary summit. Mr. Kuchma recently said he still expects to make the trip, regardless of the situation in the Balkans.

Ukraine, to a certain extent, has become obsessed with the Kosovo crisis and for very good reason: the country is situated between the Balkan region and a Russia that seems ready to come to the aid of Yugoslav President Milosevic at any moment.

The Ukrainian government has attempted to play a neutral role in the Balkan crisis, but it must deal with the fact that many Ukrainians, like Russians, look at Serbians as ethnic cousins, fellow Slavs and Orthodox Christians.

Joining the international humanitarian aid effort, Ukraine sent a truck caravan to Macedonia on April 8, which delivered clothing, tents, blankets and basic foodstuffs, but not armored military vehicles and gas supplies as a Russian humanitarian truck convoy attempted to do a day later.

The Russian convoy, which was given free movement through Ukraine, was stopped at the Hungarian-Ukrainian border town of Chop by Hungarian officials who refused to allow the trucks to proceed. After a day of political maneuvering between Budapest and Moscow, the convoy was allowed to proceed, minus the armored vehicles and most of the gas.

The incident followed by a week Russia's decision to dispatch a reconnaissance ship from its Black Sea Fleet, harbored in the Ukrainian port city of Sevastopol, to the Mediterranean. Some experts believe the ship has electronic eavesdropping capabilities.

Although NATO and the West looked critically on both incidents, Ukrainian officials have downplayed them. On April 15, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry press spokesperson Serhii Borodinkov said, "At this time the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine has not taken an official position on either of the two incidents."

Even as Ukraine has attempted to stay above the fray that Russia has produced as it attempts to assert some authority over the situation in the Balkans, some Ukrainian leaders have tried to push Ukraine into the epicenter.

Oleksander Tkachenko, chairman of Ukraine's Parliament, said soon after NATO bombing of Yugoslavia commenced that Ukraine should support Serbia with military hardware – which his press service later explained actually meant non-military, technological support and which Mr. Tkachenko still later explained meant military aid for reconstruction of Yugoslavia after the bombing ceased.

Nonetheless, the Verkhovna Rada has refused to take him up on any of the three variations, and even rebuffed an initiative in the parliament chamber proposed by leftist deputies on April 6 that Ukraine cancel its special charter with NATO and leave all NATO-affiliated structures, including the Partnership for Peace program.

Ukrainian officials have also looked pessimistically, if not critically, at Yugoslavia's offer to join in a union with Russia and Belarus.

President Kuchma said on April 10, during a trip to Odesa that he views the Yugoslav proposal as a "political measure to settle the Kosovo crisis" and that he "does not see any particular logic" to it, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

Ihor Hrushko, a Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson called it "bringing psychological pressure to bear on NATO."

That does not mean that Ukrainians are for the NATO bombing either. On the contrary, in the halls of the Verkhovna Rada, where the representatives of the Ukrainian electorate roam, and on the streets of Kyiv, few had anything good to say about the NATO bombing of the rump Yugoslavia.

National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko, leader of one of the Rukh factions in the Verkhovna Rada, said that although he understands the NATO bombing will continue indefinitely, "it would be far better that the alliance pass a decision on putting an end to the air strikes."

Ukraine's former president and current

National Deputy Leonid Kravchuk, a member of the Social-Democratic (United) faction, also said he understood the NATO objective and the need to continue to bomb, but "advocates the settlement of all issues at the negotiating table." He blamed President Milosevic for the continuation of the crisis. "His philosophy is different. It is to draw in Russia in order to broaden the conflict," said Mr. Kravchuk.

Hryhori Kriuchkov of the Communist faction, who heads the parliamentary Committee on National Security and Defense, said that although he is against NATO bombing, he sees the NATO position softening. As for Yugoslavia's desire to join the Russian-Belarus union, he called it understandable.

"It makes sense, yet it is far too early to know whether it can be practically implemented," said Mr. Kriuchkov.

Kyivan Marianna Oryshak, 24, a cosmetic store manager, said she doesn't support what Yugoslavia is doing, but is even more critical of NATO's actions. "I believe that NATO should not be interfering in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia. It is for them to decide on their own," said Ms. Oryshak.

And, finally, came a lone voice that supports NATO involvement in the Balkans. Volodymyr Opanasenko, 62, a director at the Ivan Franko Theater, said he categorically opposes the actions by Yugoslavia. "This is overt robbery. What they are doing is a provocation to the world," he explained. But he also said he doesn't support NATO bombing.

"I am decidedly for NATO sending in ground troops. The conflict would be over within a month," added Mr. Opanasenko.

Wrong date

In last week's report on the game played by Kyiv Dynamo vs. München Bayern in Kyiv on April 7, it was incorrectly stated that the next match between the two teams will be on April 14. In fact, the game – the second leg of the semifinal of the European Champions League – is scheduled for April 21 in Munich.

Carpathian Ski Club marks 75th anniversary, sponsors annual ski races

by Roma Hadzewycz

WINDHAM, N.Y. – The Carpathian Ski Club began celebrations of its 75th anniversary most appropriately: with ski races here at the Ski Windham resort on March 6. Sixty-six skiers of all ages competed in the event.

Known by the Ukrainian-based acronym of KLK, the sports club was founded in 1924 in Lviv by enthusiasts of skiing and sports in general. KLK officials proudly point out that the Carpathian Ski Club is one of the oldest ski clubs in Europe, as well as in the U.S.

Its portfolio has included much more than skiing, however, as a quick glance at the organization's 60th jubilee book titled "Almanac 1924-1984 of the KLK Ukrainian-American Sport Club" proves.

The volume divides the club's activity into three stages: 1924-1944, the period of its founding and activity in Ukraine, when a resort was built in Slavske for club members' use; 1945-1950, when KLK was active in Germany and other countries of Europe – "na emigratsiyi," having emigrated abroad in the post-war years along with its members; and 1955-1984, from its first sports meets in the United States to its 50th anniversary celebrations and its activity in North America during its 60th jubilee year.

In that volume, edited by Olha Kuzmowycz, one sees KLK's involvement in tennis, swimming, table tennis, canoeing, and track and field, and reads about its activity also in canoeing, water polo, volleyball and basketball.

Of course, there is also skiing – plenty of skiing: from the mountains of western Ukraine, to Germany and, finally, the United States and Canada. Highlighted are 25th anniversary ski races in Mittenwald, Germany, the first ski races in the U.S., held in 1954 at Whiteface Mountain near Lake Placid, N.Y., and others.

The Carpathian Ski Club is now experiencing a revival in Ukraine – much like other organizations that were born in Ukraine, were brought to the diaspora, where they were lovingly cared for and nourished, and then re-emerged decades later on its native land. As it turns out, said longtime KLK activist Wolodymyr Hnatkiwsky, "The U.S. members of KLK were the catalyst for the KLK's resurrec-

tion from the ashes in 1989 in Ukraine."

Thus, each year the U.S. club sends its official representatives to KLK ski races in Ukraine. Like their counterparts in the U.S., this year's national ski races, which were held in Lviv on February 19-20, celebrated the KLK's diamond jubilee. However, the event also marked the 10th anniversary of the Carpathian Ski Club's rebirth in Ukraine. The U.S. KLK was represented at the event by Severin "Erko" Palydowycz. Twenty-six youths and 66 adults competed in the Lviv races.

In the U.S., ski races are held annually during the first weekend of March. This year's races at Windham attracted 66 skiers of all ages, from age 4 through seniors – truly a family affair as entire families competed in the races. All raced on a standard NASTAR course and were divided into 11 groups: three girls', one women's (gently dubbed women "age 20 and above") four boys' and three men's.

A jubilee dinner and dance were held in the evening at the Windham Ski Lodge. Trophies and ribbons, funded by the Ramada Hotel of East Hanover, N.J. (managed by Orest Fedash), were presented to the top skiers in each group as they were announced by KLK President George Popel. (See results on the right.) A special guest of honor was former world champion and Olympic bronze medalist Karl Plattner, who competed for the Austrian ski team.

Also during the dinner, which was emceed by Mr. Palydowycz, brief remarks about KLK's 75th anniversary were delivered by Roman Hawrylak. Mr. Hawrylak noted that through the years KLK has seen sports, not only as a pleasant and healthy pursuit, but also as a means to educate, to build character and instill noble qualities such as fair play, patriotism and dedication to the community – the very same traits on which the Olympic movement is based.

He noted also that the Carpathian Ski Club has flourished because its members have always felt that "KLK exists wherever its members are."

Celebrations of KLK's 75th anniversary will continue at the organization's traditional fall get-together at the Ukrainian National Association estate Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y., on September 18. The program includes a tennis tournament and a jubilee banquet.



A historic photo: competitors in KLK's first ski races in the U.S., held in 1954 at Whiteface Mountain, line up before the start.

RESULTS OF 1999 KLK SKI RACES

Girls age 8-10

1. Larissa Kobziar, 41:07
2. Orysia Kucher, 43:19
3. Melanie Siokalo, 49:24

Girls age 11-15

1. Roxanna Kobziar, 34:33
2. Alexandra Kachala, 34:75
3. Katya Gaynor, 34:85

Girls age 17-19

1. Taissa Kachala, 34:09
2. Talia Fedash, 34:25
3. Tamara Heimur, 39:32

Women age 20 and up

1. Volodymyra Hankewycz, 37:46
2. Christine Kochan, 38:20
3. Christine Gaynor, 38:54

Boys age 4

1. Petro Iwasiwka, 1:02:61

Boys age 6-7

1. Mark Kochan, 42:43
2. Nicholas Siokalo, 55:05
3. Paul Hadzewycz, 1:06:28

Boys age 11-14

1. Adrian Zelechiwsky, 31:69
2. Alex Kosovych, 35:94
3. Adrian Rybak, 36:73

Boys age 15-18

1. Justin Matycio, 30:35
2. Jeremie O'Connell, 32:02
3. Roman Hankewycz, 32:94

Men

1. Damien Vena, 27:68
2. Taras Popel, 29:76
3. Danko Kobziar, 32:58

Men age 35-50

1. Yuriy Kucher, 29:90
2. Andrij Sonevtsky, 30:57
3. Peter Strutynsky, 31:13

Men age 50 and up

1. Orest Fedash, 31:81
2. Gerald Tysiak, 34:61
3. Andrei Kachala, 34:69

Special Category

1. Yuri Kobziar, 25:54



Orest Fedash (left), winner among men age 50 and up, receives trophy from Zenon Stakhiv.



Severin Palydowycz presents the top award for boys age 6-7 to Mark Kochan.



Women's champion Volodymyra Hankewycz receives her trophy from former world champion skier Karl Plattner.

Roma Hadzewycz

Chief rabbi of Ukraine...

(Continued from page 3)

implementation of rule of law.

Generally speaking, according to Rabbi Bleich, people feel comfortable living in Ukraine; he gave much of the credit for inter-ethnic equilibrium to President Kuchma and the Ukrainian government. However, because of Ukraine's unstable economic situation, there is a tremendous exodus of Jews to Israel from Ukraine (20,000 per year). Although Rabbi Bleich claimed this is the largest source of Jewish émigrés in the entire world, he said he believes this migration would decrease given a more optimistic economic forecast.

Queried about the U.S. State Department's report on human rights in 1998, which noted that there are indica-

tions that acts of anti-Semitism have increased in Ukraine from previous years, Rabbi Bleich responded that, in his opinion, the facts are subject to Western standards of interpretation which quite often results in a misrepresentation of the truth as evidenced, for example, by the highly publicized and controversial "60 Minutes" segment on "The Ugly Face of Freedom." As a matter of fact, the rabbi said he informed the U.S. Embassy last year that there is "definitely no official anti-Semitism in Ukraine."

On the subject of Jewish organizations and schools in Ukraine, Rabbi Bleich said there are over 350 very active Jewish organizations in existence in Ukraine today; that funds for humanitarian and social welfare services have been donated by the Jewish diaspora, which has received remuneration for property

reclaimed from Germany.

Rabbi Bleich said he met with and informed the Ukrainian survivors' organization that compensation from the German government is available for Jewish as well as non-Jewish survivors of the ghettos and concentration camps, and invited them to learn how to utilize these funds for setting up day care and social welfare services of their own. Apparently, the German government would prefer that the money be used for providing social services to the indigent, elderly and disabled members of the communities rather than making one-time payments.

There are 16 Jewish day schools in Ukraine, 12 of which are partially supported by the Ukrainian government, with an enrollment of 5,000 Jewish students. Quite obviously pleased with the educational accomplishments of his schools, Rabbi Bleich reported that all the lessons are taught in Ukrainian in the schools he operates in Kyiv, and that singing the Ukrainian national anthem is mandatory at the beginning and end of the school year, graduations and special occasions. The singing of the Ukrainian anthem in most schools in Ukraine has not, as yet, attained the same kind of respect or pride as a national anthem does in other democracies throughout the world, he added.

Solomon University in Kyiv, a university founded and supported by Jews, is mostly attended by Ukrainians because of the Jewish faculty. Rabbi Bleich, who often sprinkles his exceptionally riveting dialogues with humorous anecdotes, took this opportunity to share the following witicism with the audience: "You should always have a Jewish mechanic, a Jewish doctor and a Jewish teacher."

One of the last questions during the question and answer session at the end of the evening concerned the use of the Jewish lobby to obtain aid for Ukraine. Responding to this, Rabbi Bleich gently chided the Ukrainian diaspora for the lack of a strong lobby in Washington stating: "If five measly businessmen can withhold \$100 million of aid from Ukraine because of individual claims ... believe you me, Ukraine has no lobby in Washington."

Rabbi Bleich suggested that it is the responsibility of the Ukrainian diaspora to "get their act together and invest their money" and that "it's a pretty sad situation" that he was the one who informed an unenlightened Ukrainian lobby office of the Department of Agriculture's funding cutoff. With 1 million ethnic voters in the U.S., setting up a powerful Ukrainian lobby should be a priority, he underlined. The Ukrainian Jewish community is more than willing to voice its support for Ukraine in Washington and is "willing to work along with, but not for" the Ukrainians, added Rabbi Bleich.

Following the formal discussion and questions from the audience, there was a reception and photo opportunity with the distinguished guest. During the reception, Rabbi Bleich, who candidly expresses his intense concern for the general welfare of all of Ukraine and believes that "what's good for Ukraine is good for the Jewish community," proudly displayed a photograph of his family neatly attired in Ukrainian folk costumes. Donning clothing other than the ceremonial garments required by the orthodox Jews, he explained, is allowed only once a year, during the Jewish holiday of Purim.

Odesa police...

(Continued from page 2)

ing too hard."

Mr. Glek has maintained his innocence throughout. Writing for a three-member panel decision, Odesa Regional Judge Yurii Poherelyi concluded that Mr. Glek's testimony was false and ordered him executed by firing squad.

According to Ukrainian law, Mr. Glek's lawyers had until March 26 to appeal the decision. To date, no appeal has been made. However, a higher court - in this case, most likely the Supreme Court of Ukraine - could accept a later appeal if lawyers could justify missing the one-week deadline, a spokeswoman for the Ukrainian Legal Foundation said. Legal

observers believe that, given Ukraine's moratorium on the death penalty put into effect in the beginning of 1998, Mr. Glek's sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment.

The police investigation into who ordered the hit on Mr. Derevianko continues, Mr. Koitniuk said. But his former colleagues are not holding out too much hope. "The police could have and could be doing a great deal more," Ms. Burcho said. "But they aren't, and I don't expect them to."

Meanwhile, observers from the legal and media industries said most of Ukraine's contract killings are ordered by the mafia or one of the country's political clans; both are too powerful for regional law enforcers to investigate effectively.

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Larysa Barabash Temple...

(Continued from page 10)

financial shortfalls here also affect sports, obviously.

I don't currently have the percentages, and I don't think that the statistics are available because private funding is basically on the federation level.

The federations secure themselves. The NOC is government-funded, plus what they get from Olympic Solidarity, IOC money that goes to the various Olympic committees and then is distributed to the federations.

Adidas and Coca-Cola are currently the two big private sponsors.

How much Ukrainian private funding is there in the NOC, or to the federations. Is it sufficient, or insufficient or is it simply non-existent. In other words, is there such a thing as private, charitable funding by Ukrainian firms to Ukrainian Olympic institutions?

Absolutely, but there is not as much funding to NOC-Ukraine as there is on the federation level. The federations that have serious presidents, who are seriously involved in searching out financing, are the ones that compete really well at the international level.

Could you give some examples?

The ones that I can name immediately are wrestling, weightlifting, biathlon.

Look at our biathlon team. Today they are the best women's team in the world. Everybody was shocked at their performance in Norway. They have a federation president who seeks out funding.

Basketball is another one. Judo is one that has good federation people. Swimming has good people.

Track and field?

Track and field has a world structure. There (Valerii) Borzov (IOC member, former NOC-Ukraine president, former minister of sports and youth of Ukraine) is the president.

I don't want to be exclusive here because I may have missed somebody. But as examples, those federations that have strong federation presidents are the ones that do well.

If you look at the federations, they are almost entirely self-sustaining. There is so little budgetary support given them today and it continues to be cut.

Some say that the 1996 Olympics still reflected a certain amount of Soviet-era training, that a lot of the talent in these athletes was developed during that time, even though it was further nurtured during the earlier years of an independent Ukraine. Given that, the thinking is that the 2000 Olympics will be the ones in which the truly Ukrainian-developed talent will show itself.

I consider that mythology. In some sports you have older athletes and you can

Stefan Czerkas...

(Continued from page 4)

Stefan is survived by his parents, John and Olya Czerkas; brother, Marko A.; maternal grandparents, Stefan and Kateryna Szuja, of St. Petersburg; and paternal grandmother, Pauline Czerkas, of Northport, Fla.

Funeral services were held March 24 at Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church with the Rev. Mitred Matthew Berko officiating, followed by interment at Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

A scholarship fund in engineering has been established in Stefan's memory. Checks, with the notation "Stefan G. Czerkas Scholarship," may be sent to: University of South Florida Foundation, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., EMB 118, Tampa, FL 33620-5350.

consider them Soviet-developed athletes. But when you look at gymnasts, they are 14 years old. Well, Ukraine has been an independent country now for eight years. They're not Soviet-developed athletes - that's silly. They were tiny little children. So that certainly cannot be generalized and it does not make any sense unless you look at each sport individually and say, "okay, here is a Soviet-developed athlete."

Generally speaking then, is the next crop of Ukrainian Olympians going to be as good as the last crop?

Right now, even though all of the indicators for Ukraine are moving downwards, the indicators for sports are stable or going up, and I am speaking strictly statistically. This is in terms of medals at various international levels: junior teams, national teams and the Olympic-caliber team, which is drawn from the national teams.

If you look at the situation today, it is stable or slightly rising; and we can expect stable and slightly rising, except in a situation where individual teams are unable to complete their cycle of preparation and training as their federation sees fit.

In Atlanta we were able to secure the preparations exactly and absolutely across the board as each federation saw fit for their athletes. So if they needed 17 days (of training) and two days of swimming pool and a sauna, we had all of the elements of athletic preparation that they requested of us.

If those elements are not available to us in Sydney, that's where the final difference comes in between medals and fourth to 10th place. We are talking about world-class athletes, but they need that final element of preparation. The only place that I can see where we could have a problem in Sydney is if the financing does not become available for the final element of preparation as determined by the federations.

The one absolute constant I have found here in my work when I deal with the federations is their knowledge and their understanding of their sport - their understanding of sports education, sports medicine, sports science. I am astounded by their professionalism toward their sport in spite of the difficulties they are constantly confronted with.

Could you explain the term "professionalism"?

When I come and I speak with the federations and ask them what they need for Salt Lake City, they say, "We have a championship in '99, we have a championship in 2001. What we need is an Olympic-level facility 10 days prior to the '99 championship. We have to have one at an elevation of 1,200 feet. We need seven days for the athletes. We have to have two days' rest."

They need a sauna, they need this, we need that. I am saying that they have the complete technical ability to predict what it will take.

So they never say simply "give us the money and we will take care of it on our own"?

Absolutely never. What they request of me is to find the best possible facilities they are asking for. This is one place where the interaction between the diaspora and the NOC is truly positive in the sense that the athletes of the Ukrainian national team must compete in our world.

We know how to make reservations, how to make arrangements and to ensure that all of the local arrangements are taken care of. That is not cost, that is simply legwork and telephone work, and to make sure they have the best possible arrangements made to take care of their needs. So one of the things they expect from me is the best possible arrangements.

By the way, that is really where the committee in Sydney is doing such an excellent job. They are doing a superb job on the arrangements.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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Ukrainian women's...

(Continued from page 8)

necessary fundamental changes in attitude towards women, a critical step in the process of recognizing women's equality to men with the same basic rights as men.

"The dynamic involvement of government, law enforcement, medical communities and society as a whole are essential to the effort of eliminating the threat of trafficking of women and reversing the perception of women as commodities ..."

These two statements were prepared by Ms. Stawnychy and Hanya Krill and distributed at meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women with the help of Nadia Shmigel.

On March 4, at the International Women's Day Conference on Women's Rights, First Lady Hillary Clinton spoke about women's rights and her related experiences in her travels throughout the world.

She specifically spoke about the trafficking issue and her experience in Ukraine, stating:

"...I also, in Ukraine, heard of women who told me with tears running down their faces that young women in their communities were disappearing. They answered ads that promised a much better future in another place and they were never heard from again. This is an international criminal activity, with traffickers operating boldly across international borders. But we are finally as a world beginning to address it. ... The U.S. government is working closely with the governments of Italy, Israel, Finland and Ukraine on this critical issue. ..."

The WFUWO was represented by Ms. Krill at the special session of a global video conference on "A World Without Violence Against Women," which was

held March 8 at the United Nations.

At a session on "Health and the Environment" held on March 10, Helen Prociuk spoke on the effects of nuclear waste on women's health.

On March 18, a special panel on "Women's Rights to Health and Development" was organized by Dr. Christine Durbak, president of World Information Transfer and vice-chair of the Department of Public Information at the U.N.

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations was represented at the various sessions by its NGO representatives: Ms. Stawnychy, chief representative and public relations chairperson, Ms. Krill, Chrystyna Nawrocky, Yaroslawa Rubel and Dora Rak. The World Movement of Mothers, an organization affiliated with the WFUWO, was represented by Iryna Kurowycky, Mrs. Prociuk and Ms. Shmigel.

The WFUWO has expressed support for S600, "International Trafficking of Women and Children Victim Protection Act of 1999," a bill introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.). Currently in the Foreign Relations Committee, this bill is aimed at protecting and providing temporary asylum to the victims of trafficking. The WFUWO has urged Ukrainian Americans to call their senators in support of this bill and help in the fight against international trafficking. (The full text of the bill is available on <http://thomas.loc.gov/>)

Oops!

In the story on the New York School of Ukrainian Studies reunion (April 11), the story was mistakenly attributed to Anisa Sawycky Mycak instead of Ivan Durbak. Also, the correct e-mail address for Mr. Durbak is idurbak@netmail.hscbklyn.edu.

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Trade show scheduled for Ottawa

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa will host its second annual trade show on Tuesday, May 18, at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Hall. The show will be open to the general public at 7-11 p.m.

The event is a showcase of products and services, professionals and businesses, artists and artisans, associations with programs and projects, international development NGOs with programs in Ukraine.

William (Vasy) Teron, CEO of Teron International Building Technologies and former chairman of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., will speak on "Doing Business in Eastern Europe." Mr. Teron accompanied Prime Minister Jean Chrétien on recent business development missions to

Poland and Ukraine.

Teron International Building Technologies with SNC-Lavalin and Katrides American Trading have signed memoranda of understanding for three major construction projects in Ukraine: modernization and reconstruction of Lviv's airport; modernization and reconstruction of Lviv's city center; and development of two deluxe apartment buildings in Kyiv.

For advance booth registration send request on letterhead or enclose a business card by mail to: UCPBA Ottawa Trade Show, 913 Carling Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 4E3; or Mark Dayneka (UCPBA Ottawa vice-president of operations) by phone, (613) 225-1042; fax, (613) 225-1104; e-mail, pentlandite@intranet.ca

Lazarenko argues...

(Continued from page 3)

The Weekly to react to Mr. Lazarenko's latest public statement.

RFE/RL Newsline reported that last week in Kyiv a Ukraine-based lawyer for Mr. Lazarenko said his client has every reason to expect that Washington will heed his plea for asylum. He added, "There are no grounds to refuse Lazarenko asylum, and furthermore, his life will be in danger if he is forced to return to Ukraine." He also confirmed that Mr. Lazarenko remains an official candidate in the presidential elections.

RFE/RL also reported that, according to his Kyiv lawyer, Mr. Lazarenko maintains that charges of misappropriating more than \$2 million worth of state property in Ukraine and of money laundering in Switzerland are politically motivated.

Meanwhile, Eastern Economist reported that Ukraine's Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko said on April 14 that "former

Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko cannot take part in the presidential elections because he committed crimes against Ukraine and has to be arrested."

Mr. Potebenko added, "I'm confident Lazarenko will be returned to Ukraine by the U.S. government. The U.S. does not offer asylum to thieves." Eastern Economist also noted that Mr. Lazarenko's lawyer in Ukraine, Ihor Hrytsiak, announced on April 14 that Lazarenko's case had been adjourned and would get under way again at the beginning of May.

Contacted by The Ukrainian Weekly via telephone, Joe Grillo of Nicolazzo and Associates, a Boston-based firm hired by Mr. Lazarenko as communications counsel, said the one-day immigration hearing in San Francisco saw a number of witnesses testify on behalf of Mr. Lazarenko and regarding conditions in Ukraine. He could not say when a decision is expected in the asylum case.

Mr. Lazarenko remains in INS custody in a federal detention center.



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WFUWO statement...

(Continued from page 8)

their wives and children. Physical abuses of the trafficked victims, ranging from threats and beatings to drugging and starvation, are reported to have left women crippled and emotionally scarred for life. The devastating psychological effects on trafficked women, even if eventually released, are immeasurable. Suicides are not uncommon, sexually transmitted diseases are being spread at a faster rate, and the death toll due to HIV/AIDS is rising.

Practical solutions for these issues can include, among other things, easy access to public health facilities for women working in the sex trade. In cases where women are able to free themselves of bondage, appropriate assistance from law-enforcement officials must be offered. Many of these women, especially those who find themselves in foreign countries without proper credentials, are often incarcerated rather than returned home, and access to medical services, again, is either limited or denied.

Availability of medical and psychiatric rehabilitation, as well as financial and legal assistance for those who escape, is

integral to workable solutions that address the issue. Support for existing rehabilitation programs and facilities in countries that traffickers source for their supply of young women are key elements of any plan to tackle the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

In 50 years, societal values have not come far enough to effect the necessary fundamental changes in attitude towards women, a critical step in the process of recognizing women's equality to men with the same basic rights as men. The dynamic involvement of government, law enforcement, medical communities and society as a whole are essential to the effort of eliminating the threat of trafficking of women and reversing the perception of women as commodities.

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations supports the 1999 draft resolution for the Commission on the Status of Women, "Women's Health Throughout the Life Span," in calling for the urgent implementation of the health objectives of the Platform for Action and other relevant international agreements in order to ensure progress in women's health, and to include among these initiatives the health and rehabilitation of the enslaved women who have no voice.

The Ukrainian Museum...

(Continued from page 6)

Ukrainian Museum will have a new home in the very near future.

The museum is the depository of many objects of historical and cultural merit, given to us in trust by people who have cherished them and brought them, under very trying conditions, from Ukraine to their new home in America. These objects are treasures of our cultural heritage and are fundamental to the preservation of our identity as a people. They also constitute our contribution to the enrichment of the country where we have settled. These treasures must be preserved and protected; they must remain here to confirm our existence and our input into the multicultural mosaic that is the hallmark of the United States; they must remain here as a source of pride for future generations, to share with our

neighbors, for the use of scholars and researchers.

Museum staff members very often see cultural treasures being destroyed because people who own them are not aware of their value and their uniqueness. It is for all these reasons that it is important for the Ukrainian community in the United States to have a proper sanctuary for these objects, where in accordance with contemporary museum practices, museum professionals would be able to protect and care for them, as has been done for more than 22 years. Our community needs a showcase, a new, modern museum building in which to display the remarkable achievements of our immigration, as well as the rich cultural legacy of the Ukrainian people.

Together we need to raise the necessary funds to complete this project. Let each of us contribute to this effort.

Together, let us be the ones who will build a new facility for The Ukrainian Museum by the end of this century.

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SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM - six to nine awards with specific designations.

- a) Scholarships and Awards will be granted to UNDERGRADUATE students attending accredited colleges or universities studying towards their first bachelor's degree and to high school graduates.
- b) Applications for Special Scholarships or UNA Awards will be accepted from students who have been ACTIVE UNA MEMBERS for at least TWO YEARS by JUNE 1 of the filing year.

Applications and required enclosures must be sent to the UNA in ONE MAILING and be POSTMARKED not later than JUNE 1.

Incomplete and/or late entries will be automatically disqualified.

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I am a member of UNA Branch _____

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

will bring about the cessation of hostilities and return the conflicting sides to the negotiation table. On its part, Ukraine will continue to exert all efforts to this end." (Embassy of Ukraine)

Ukraine sends aid to Kosovo refugees

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian government has decided to deliver humanitarian aid to Kosovo refugees. The first five trucks with tents, blankets and medicines from the reserves of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry left Kyiv on April 7 for Macedonia. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk stressed that the delivery of the first tranche of humanitarian aid to the Kosovars testifies to Ukraine's readiness to come to the aid of all those who need it. (Embassy of Ukraine)

Transdnister summit canceled

CHISINAU – Moldovan presidential spokesman Anatol Golea announced on April 7 that the summit on the Transdnister conflict planned for the next day in Kyiv has been canceled due to the illness of Russian Prime Minister Yevgenii Primakov. Mr. Golea said he believed the meeting will nonetheless be held soon, "maybe even in April." On April 10 President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine announced that the summit will be held on April 29-30. The previous day Grigorii Marakutsa, chairman of the separatist region's Supreme Soviet, had met in Chisinau with Moldovan Parliament Chairman Dumitru Diacov, discussing the settlement of the conflict and energy deliveries from the Transdnister to Moldova. Mr. Marakutsa said after the talks that the proposals advanced by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the mediators are "unacceptable" to the Transdnister side and "other alternatives will probably be examined in Kyiv and Odesa." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Energy deliveries to Moldova are cut

KYIV – Ukraine and Romania suspend-

ed the supply of electricity to Moldova because of Chisinau's mounting debt. The move places the country on the verge of what Anatol Saracuta, chief of the Moldovan state energy company, called an "energy disaster." Chisinau owes Romania about \$9 million and Ukraine some \$24 million. Several days later Romania renewed electricity supplies after receiving assurances from Moldovan Premier Ion Sturza that Chisinau's debt will be paid "within the shortest possible time." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma voices support for Palestinians

KYIV – "Ukraine supports Palestinian independence," said President Leonid Kuchma on April 6 following talks with Yasir Arafat. Mr. Kuchma stated that in order to achieve the goal of independence, "All sides involved in the process need to implement the numerous agreements reached over the last five years." The five-year peace term agreed upon between Israel and Palestine will expire May 4. (Eastern Economist)

PM reacts to possible NDP split

KYIV – Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko reacted April 7 to recent comments by National Democratic Party leader Anatolii Matvienko on a possible split in the NDP, saying, "I am going to do everything within my power to ensure that the NDP remains united and doesn't split into factions that may unite with other parties." He added that he regards the NDP as the strongest party in the Verkhovna Rada after the Communists. Mr. Pustovoitenko said, "I view Matvienko, Oleksander Yemets and Volodymyr Filenko as initiators of the potential split within the NDP." He argued that they do not know the situation in the regions and do not do enough work within the party. (Eastern Economist)

New head for organized crime committee

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on April 7 issued a decree removing Vasyl Durdynets from the position of chairman of the Committee against Corruption and Organized Crime. He subsequently

appointed Prosecutor General Mykhailo Potebenko to the post. (Eastern Economist)

Presidential elections date approved

WASHINGTON – The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on April 7 approved the date set for the next presidential elections. The third elections of the president of independent Ukraine will be held on October 31. In accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the president is elected for a five-year term. Under Ukraine's Law on Elections of the President, approved by the Parliament last March, the election campaign starts 180 days prior to the date set for the elections. Candidates must be nominated 90 days before the voting takes place. (Embassy of Ukraine)

SDP(U) supports Kuchma bid

KYIV – Social Democratic Party (United) Leader and Rada Vice-Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk announced on April 7 that SDP(U) heads had decided to support President Leonid Kuchma in forthcoming presidential elections. Mr. Medvedchuk said he was sure that at the forthcoming SDP(U) party conference the party would officially announce its support of the incumbent in the elections. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian cargo plane detained

CHISINAU – Moldovan customs authorities on April 9 detained a Ukrainian Air Alliance AN-26 cargo plane secretly transporting 5,000 Hungarian-made pistols bound for Yemen, via Sofia, Infotag and Reuters reported the same day. The plane, which originated in Budapest, landed in Chisinau due to technical problems. The crew provided documentation claiming the plane was transporting oil exploration equipment. On March 12, a Ukrainian plane belonging to the Air City company had been detained in Chisinau on route to Yemen, upon suspicion that it was transporting cartridge-cases. That plane was allowed to take off following the intervention of the Embassy of Ukraine. Air City said it will sue for damages. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine receives World Bank credit

KYIV – The World Bank announced on March 30 that it has granted Ukraine loans worth \$110 million, the Associated Press reported. The move had been expected after the International Monetary Fund agreed to renew a \$2.2 billion loan to Kyiv. Presidential adviser Valerii Lytvynskyi said the World Bank loan will lead to greater financial stability in Ukraine. Kyiv had warned it might default on its \$2 billion or so foreign debt unless it received new loans. Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov said that even with the IMF and World Bank loans, Ukraine is some \$100 million short of the money needed to service its debts this year. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Turkmenistan opts out of visa pact

KYIV – Turkmenistan has decided to drop out of the agreement on non-visa travel for CIS citizens through CIS territory that was signed in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on October 9, 1992. According to Elvira Babakhanova, aide to Turkmenistan's ambassador to Ukraine, beginning on June 9, all CIS citizens, including Ukrainians, will require a visa to visit Turkmenistan. (Eastern Economist)

Transport crime statistics released

KYIV – The Transport Ministry announced March 17 that within the national transport system 1,618 economic crimes, including thefts and muggings, were recorded in 1998; 1,301 people were arrested, 10 percent less than in 1997. Losses for the year due to crime on the nation's transport network were estimated at 57.8 million hrv. (Eastern Economist)

Parties may unify in time for elections

KYIV – The Reform and Order Party and the Democratic Party of Ukraine signed a March 24 document on their readiness to form a single political party with a single name, statutes, program and management structure. ROP leader Viktor Pynzenyk stated that the social, economic and political situation in the country necessitated creation of a joint party. Mr. Pynzenyk emphasized that "such a party will never be bought and will never fight for private interests." DPU leader Volodymyr Yavorivskyi called the idea of setting up the new party, "a direct challenge to the party splits occurring in Ukraine." A final decision over party unification is expected in May. Mr. Pynzenyk added, "ROP will continue to cooperate with Rukh and the Republican Christian Party." (Eastern Economist)

Rada ratifies fleet agreements

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 24 voted 250-63 with five abstentions to ratify the three agreements on the Black Sea Fleet, which were signed by Presidents Leonid Kuchma and Boris Yeltsin in May 1997. While approving the Russia-Ukraine 1997 friendship treaty last month, Russia's Federation Council conditioned its implementation on the Ukraine's ratification of the Black Sea Fleet agreements. Under those accords, Russia will keep 460 naval vessels belonging to the fleet, while Ukraine will have 162 ships as well as \$526 million compensation from Russia. The Russian part of the fleet will be based in Sevastopol until 2017. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Greece sends aid to Zakarpattia

KYIV – Greece has provided Ukraine with 590,000 hrv worth of humanitarian aid for victims of the flooding in Zakarpattia. The aid consists mainly of medical supplies. A representative of the Greek government is helping Ukrainians distribute the aid among the region's needy. Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, France, the U.S. and Russia also provided aid for Zakarpattia following the last year's flooding. (Eastern Economist)

Lysychansk recognizes Russian language

LUHANSK – The City Council of Lysychansk, a city near the Russian border, voted on April 5 to recognize Russian as the business language of the city. City deputies took a recently conducted public poll into account, in which 120,000 Lysychansk inhabitants – 81.5 percent of the city's population – identified Russian as their native language. (Eastern Economist)

Rabinovych to head Jewish coalition

KYIV – A United Jewish Coalition was founded at an inaugural meeting on April 5. The association will include over 300 Jewish organizations, 12 of which are already national. The association will be headed by Studio 1+1's Vadym Rabinovych. (Eastern Economist)

Utility costs, minimum wage laws vetoed

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma vetoed a law on utility price hikes passed by the Parliament on March 17 that obliges the Cabinet to ask the Verkhovna Rada for permission to raise utility prices and bans the Cabinet from such initiatives until it fully pays its wage and pension arrears. Mr. Kuchma has also vetoed a law passed by the Parliament last month that raises the minimum monthly pension from 16.6 hryvni (\$4.20) to 55 hryvni. The Associated Press reported on April 5 that the president argued Ukraine cannot afford the hike, adding that the law would only increase the current pension arrears of 2.3 billion (\$585 million U.S.). (RFE/RL Newsline)

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Morning News—11 a.m., Monday to Friday
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SPORT

Wednesdays at 8 p.m.—the best examples of sport from Ukraine

THURSDAY NITE THEATER

Productions of the Kyiv Opera and Ballet Theater
"Giselle"—February 25 at 7 p.m.

HISTORY

Historical films Fridays at 7 p.m.

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Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, April 19

YONKERS, N.Y.: A liturgy to celebrate the blessing of the newly formed Ukrainian American Veterans Post 301 of Yonkers, N.Y., will be held at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 510 N. Broadway, at 7 p.m. Following the liturgy there will be a ceremony of induction of new members and installation of new officers at the Ukrainian Youth Center, 301 Palisade Ave. The veterans of the newly formed post represent all branches of the U.S. armed forces whose tours of duty included World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. Attending dignitaries will include John D. Spencer, mayor of Yonkers; Col. Sydorenko, Ukrainian military attaché to the United Nations; Steve Szweczuk, UAV national commander; and local politicians. There will also be representatives from the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) Veterans, the Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM), local posts of the Ukrainian American Veterans, VFW and American Legion. RSVP to Taras D. Szczur, commander-elect, at phone/fax: (914) 376-3272.

Thursday and Friday, April 22 and 23

NEW YORK: The World Information Transfer, a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the United Nations, is sponsoring its eighth international conference to be held at the United Nations. The conference is co-sponsored by the U.N. Department of Public Information. Conference hours: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; and 3-6 p.m. The theme of the conference is "Environmental Challenges to Health through Key Stages of Life." Taking part in the conference will be some 20 speakers, among them Nina Kowalska, Ukraine's ambassador to Switzerland. The conference is free of charge; (luncheon, at \$75 per person, is optional). Due to security measures at the U.N., registration is required. To register by telephone, call (212) 686-1996; fax, (212) 686-2172; on the day of conference, one may register in person in the U.N. vestibule (visitors entrance).

Saturday, April 24

NORTHPORT, Fla.: Composer Myrsolav Skoryk's 60th anniversary concert, with Maestro Skoryk, vocalist Marianna Vynnytsky and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky will be held at St. Andrew's Religious and Cultural Center, 4100 S. Biscayne Drive at 7 p.m. The concert program will feature popular songs, jazz and classical works by Maestro Skoryk as well as other composers. Tickets: \$10. For more information call Roman Maluk, the center's president, (941) 497-3548.

ORLANDO, Fla.: At the invitation of Walt Disney World, the Yevshan Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, under the direction of Slavko Wirlo and Oksana Kraus, and in affiliation with the Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization of Rochester, N.Y., will present a program of traditional Ukrainian dance at the Walt Disney World EPCOT Center, Future World West Stage, at 5:30 p.m. For more information contact George Hanushevsky, (716) 544-6437.

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art along with Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 84 and the Ukrainian Language Society, is sponsoring a lecture with slide illustrations by Prof. Ivan Luchechko of New York who will speak on the topic "In the Footsteps of Ukrainians in Murmansk, Akhangelsk and the Solovetskiye Islands." The presentation will take place at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 6 p.m. For additional information call the institute, (773) 227-5522.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill.: The Palatine Branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM) presents a Ukrainian Youth Concert featuring Ukrainian folk dance, song, poetry and bandura performances. The concert will be held at the Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebert Road., (half mile East of Arlington Heights Road, between Golf and Algonquin), at 4:30 p.m. The concert is sponsored by the Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union of Chicago.

HARRISBURG, Pa.: The International

Heritage Festival will be held at Harrisburg Area Community College. Among the many ethnic organizations presenting their own programs is St. Mary's Traditional Ukrainian Dancers, under the direction of Walter Milinichick. The dance group, which includes children ages 4-16, from both the Allentown and Harrisburg areas, is associated with St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Allentown, Pa. The performance is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 25

NEW YORK: The public is invited to attend the next meeting of the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey which will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., starting at 3 p.m. Special guest speaker will be Dr. Frank Sysyn, director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at the University of Edmonton, Alberta, and currently, Visiting Peter Jacyk Professor of Ukrainian Studies at Columbia University. Dr. Sysyn will address the topic "The Present and Future Status of Ukrainian Studies at American and Canadian Universities." Wine and cheese reception to follow. Members, \$8; non members, \$10; students, free of charge.

MIAMI: A 60th anniversary concert for composer Myroslav Skoryk, with Maestro Skoryk, vocalist Marianna Vynnytsky and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky will be held at the Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, 39 N.W. 57 Court at 1:30 p.m. The concert program will feature popular songs and jazz compositions by Maestro Skoryk as well as other composers.

HOUSTON, Texas: The 37th annual St. Cyril and Methodius Slavic Heritage Festival will be held at the University of St. Thomas, Jerabek Center, at noon-6 p.m. The festival will feature dancers, musicians and singers representing the Croatian, Czech, Polish, Slovenian and Ukrainian communities of Greater Houston. Admission: \$3, adults; children under 12, free. For additional information call Daniel Hrna, festival chairman, (281) 564-9800.

Thursday, April 29

WASHINGTON: Ukrainian Canadian singer Alexis Kochan captures the essence of tomorrow's Ukrainian spirit in "Paris to Kyiv," with bandurist Julian Kytasty, jazz violinist Richard Moody and multi-instrumentalist Martin Colledge at The French Embassy, 4101 Reservoir Road NW at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15; \$10, seniors and students. Reservations are required by April 26. Send checks, made out to TWG Cultural Fund, to: 3722 48th St., NW, Washington, DC 20016. Guest list at gate. Free parking in underground garage. For more information, call Laryssa Chopivsky, director of The Washington Group Cultural Fund, (202) 363-3964.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, May 15

CHICAGO: Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 will hold a convention task force meeting at 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare to discuss the upcoming UAV/Ukrainian American Military Association convention scheduled for September 24-26. The final program will be discussed and flyers sent out. All vets who served in the U.S. armed forces are encouraged to attend. For more information call Roman Golash, (847) 885-0208, or e-mail Golash_Roman@compuserve.com.

CORRECTION

Monday, April 19

NEW HAVEN, Conn.: Please note that the time of Dr. Frank Sysyn's lecture at Yale University titled, "Grappling with the Hero: Hrushevsky Confronts Khmelnytsky," which will be held in the Hall of Graduate Studies, 320 York St., Room 401, has been changed from 4 p.m. to 3 p.m. (The original notice appeared in the April 11 issue of The Weekly.)