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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXVII

No. 23

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1999

\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukrainian World Congress begins to assert its role as voice of Ukrainians

by **Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj**
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — The first plenary meeting of the Ukrainian World Congress Secretariat was held at its headquarters on May 14-15 and, judging from the report of President Askold Lozynskyj, the umbrella body is furthering his vision of the UWC as a voice for embattled Ukrainians around the world.

On April 26, the UWC sent a nine-point document outlining diasporan concerns to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko and the other candidates in this fall's presidential elections (Oleksander Moroz, Yevhen Marchuk and Hennadii Udovenko), excluding Natalia Vitrenko.

In the first point, the UWC asserted its claim as the sole representative of the diaspora. "Relations should be engaged directly between Ukraine's government structures and the UWC; other interventions are unnecessary," the memo read.

In the second point, the UWC affirmed that the same protections that Ukraine affords its minorities should be extended to Ukrainian minorities in the Russia, Poland, Belarus, Romania, Slovakia and elsewhere.

In the third point, the UWC praised the Ukrainian government's resettlement program which reversed the Soviet deportation of Crimean Tatars, and encouraged Kyiv to mount a similar effort to bring about the return of Ukrainians to Ukraine from lands to which they were deported.

In the fifth point, the UWC called for a ban on political parties whose members advocate measures inimical to Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity.

The remaining points included demands for official recognition of veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army; expressions of concern that the use of Ukrainian as the state language was being selectively enforced, that the defunct USSR's state symbols were still being used by certain government agencies and that "Soviet holidays" were being officially celebrated.

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Tkachenko accepts Peasants Party nomination for president

by **Roman Woronowycz**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, who had repeatedly stated that he had no desire to run for the presidency, on May 29 accepted the nomination of his Peasants Party to be its candidate, an announcement that has thrown the political left into further disarray.

Mr. Tkachenko said after his unanimous nomination at the party's congress that he felt he had no other option but to heed the call of his party.

"I must be able to face my fellow party members, citizens and the electorate," said Mr. Tkachenko after his nomination.

The Parliament speaker also said he was spurred to run by recent statements made by President Leonid Kuchma that the president might consider dismissing the current Parliament should he get re-elected.

"I became more inclined to such a decision after the president declared two weeks ago his intention to disband the Verkhovna Rada should he get re-elected," explained Mr. Tkachenko.

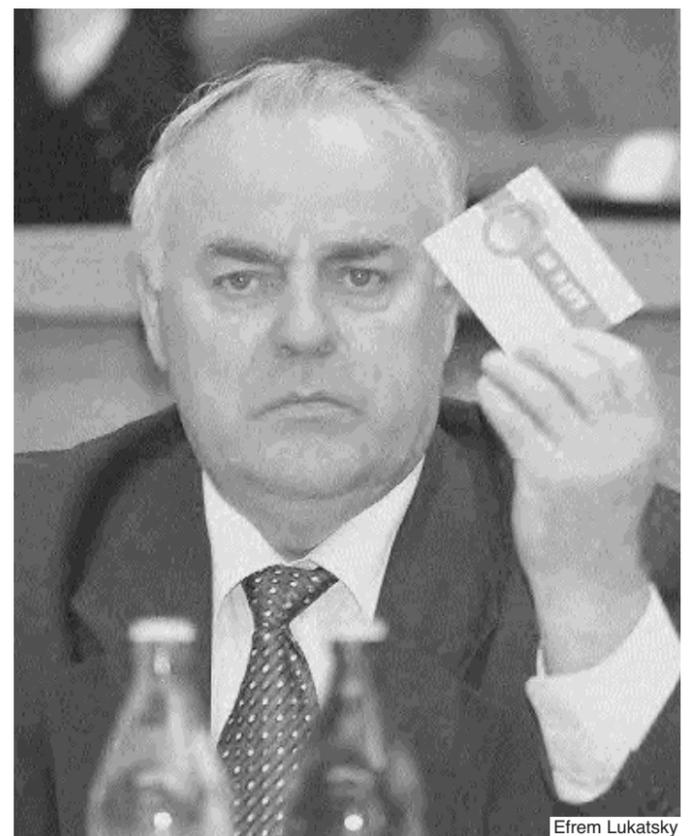
Responding to Mr. Tkachenko's remarks in an interview for Interfax-Ukraine, President Kuchma called the Parliament chairman's allegation "nonsense." He also stated that he had never doubted Mr. Tkachenko would run.

The decision by the Verkhovna Rada leader to enter the presidential horse race gives the political left a fifth candidate, which will now make it nearly impossible for them to present a united front. Members of the three leading parties of the left, the Communists, the Socialists and the Peasants, had hoped to join forces and put forward a single nominee, which would have given them a strong chance at victory, given the high voter turnout rate among their supporters and the strict party discipline among their members.

They had hoped that Mr. Tkachenko, by staying out of the race, would have been the decisive influence on who would carry the leftist banner.

Now each party has its own nominee — Petro Symonenko from the Communist Party, Oleksander Moroz from the Socialist Party and Mr. Tkachenko from the Peasants Party — and although all have held out hope that they may still agree on a single candidate from among them, that option is becoming increasingly remote.

"The three candidates from the leftist forces will find common ground," said Mr. Tkachenko. "At what stage this common



Efrem Lukatsky

Oleksander Tkachenko at the Peasants Party Congress, where he was unanimously approved as the party's candidate for president of Ukraine.

ground will be found is another matter, but we will unite and make the best decision in order to fulfill the hopes of the people."

But even as the Peasants' nominee pronounced that a united leftist front is still possible, the Socialist candidate said the Tkachenko candidacy "has seriously changed the situation in the alignment of political forces."

Mr. Moroz said, "Earlier Tkachenko had declared that he would not engage in 'such a stupid thing' as a presidential campaign. Following those statements, presidential hopefuls

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Omelchenko overwhelmingly elected as mayor of Kyiv

by **Roman Woronowycz**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — In a race that ended up being even more one-sided than the winner had predicted, the residents of Ukraine's capital city elected Oleksander Omelchenko as their mayor on May 30.

It was the first time Kyivans had a chance to pick the leader of their city, but only 49 percent of the residents came out to vote.

They chose the 60-year-old Mr. Omelchenko by a landslide. He received a whopping 76.4 percent support, while his closest competitor, 49-year-old millionaire businessman and politician Hryhorii Surkis, who owns the Kyiv Dynamo soccer club, could muster only 16.5 percent. Although most pre-election polls had predicted a comfortable win for Mr. Omelchenko, they pegged his support at between 60 percent and 65 percent.

The election campaign was basically a two-man race. The rest of the field of 27 candidates, with one exception, did not gather even 1 percent of the vote individually.

Mr. Omelchenko ran as the man who had returned to Kyiv its past beauty. In the last two years Mr. Omelchenko undertook ambitious construction projects that included the renovation of Kyiv's main boulevard, the Khreschatyk, and reconstruction of two of

Ukraine's most historic and treasured cultural symbols, the St. Michael Golden-Domed Cathedral and the Uspenskyi Sobor (Dormition Cathedral) located in the Pecherska Lavra (Monastery of the Caves) complex.

He spruced up the city, directed the renovation of historic apartment buildings and repaved many streets.

Mr. Surkis unsuccessfully attempted to paint Mr. Omelchenko's changes as mostly cosmetic and harped on his lack of attention to the outlying city districts, where he said nothing had changed.

Although neither candidate has divulged the cost of his election campaign, both utilized lavish techniques to draw voters. Mr. Surkis brought in popular Russian rock and pop singers for free concerts at his Dynamo Stadium. In political advertisements on television and in his public appearances he used his soccer team, which went to the European soccer semifinals this year, as an example of what he could do for the city as well.

Mr. Omelchenko, who had the advantage of being the head of the Kyiv City Administration, used his office to organize expensive May Day and Victory Day celebrations in the city center in the weeks prior to the elections. He also imposed his political weight to

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Crimean Tatars end protests after demands are met

by Lily Hyde
RFE/RL Newsline

A group of Crimean Tatars ended protests in the regional capital, Symferopol, last week, taking down tents that had ringed government buildings. That move came after Mustafa Jemilev, leader of the Mejlis (the Crimean Tatar political council), announced key demands had been met by Crimean Prime Minister Sergei Kunitsin. Mr. Jemilev said the agreement will allow Crimean Tatars to own land and open their own schools. They were also allowed to set up a council representing their interests.

The concessions follow a similar agreement reached by Mr. Jemilev in talks with President Leonid Kuchma in Kyiv in mid-May. After those talks, Mr. Kuchma issued a presidential decree setting up an official Council of Representatives of the Crimean Tatar people, with Mr. Jemilev as chairman. Part of the committee's mandate is to resolve the question of the status of the Mejlis and the Kurultai, the Tatar congress.

The agreement with President Kuchma followed massive demonstrations, organized by the Mejlis, in which an estimated 18,000 Crimean Tatars converged on Symferopol to protest discrimination.

The Tatars constitute just 12 percent of the Crimean population, but their cause carries great weight in view of the history of the peninsula. The Tatars were deported en masse from their Crimean homeland during World War II on the orders of Joseph Stalin, who accused them of collaborating with the Nazis. Between one third and one half of them died on the way to exile in Central Asia. Many Tatars have returned to Crimea since the 1980s, but they continue to suffer from political and economic discrimination.

Only half of the returned Tatar population has gained Ukrainian citizenship and, therefore, the right to vote. This means that Tatars are underrepresented in both Ukrainian and Crimean political institutions. Tatars argue that a number of seats

should be set aside for them in the autonomous republic's Parliament. They also demand that their language be granted the status of a state language and that more Tatar schools be established. At the moment, according to Tatar organizations, there are only six schools for 39,000 Tatar children. The Ukrainian Constitution guarantees all national minorities the right to use and to study in their own language.

The Mejlis, which has no official standing, is demanding that it be recognized as the council of the Tatar people. Mejlis member Kurtveli Khyiasidonov says that would be a step toward restoring the situation before World War II, when Tatars enjoyed a special status. "Let us be a minority," he says, "but there should be national autonomy because up to the war there was such autonomy and now [the authorities] won't grant it. Other nationalities [represented on the peninsula] — Greeks, Armenians, Bulgarians and so forth — have their own state, where their language develops, their culture can develop. We don't have that except for Crimea. And we can develop only in Crimea."

Last month's protest march not only highlighted current grievances but also commemorated the forced deportations the Crimean Tatars endured 55 years ago.

Highlighting the rights of the Tatars, however, is seen by many, especially Russians and Ukrainians, as stirring up ethnic tension. Events in Kosovo were not far from the minds of many who took part in the rally and those who observed it. One Tatar banner called Crimean Parliament Chairman Leonid Hrach a "mini-Milosevic," and speakers drew parallels between recent actions against the Kosovars and the deportation of the Tatars in 1944.

Ukrainians and Russians on the streets said they were afraid and angry at what they called "agitation." Many resent the Tatar towns that have sprung up throughout the peninsula, putting a strain on Crimea's already weak infrastructure. And, although a representative from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate spoke

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NEWSBRIEFS

Donetsk death toll increases

DONETSK — Seven more coal miners who were injured on May 24 in the underground methane explosion at the Zasiadko mine in Donetsk have died, bringing the death toll to 48. Ten miners were still in serious condition after being injured in the explosion that instantly killed 39, a spokesman of the local labor safety department said. The explosion was Ukraine's worst mine disaster in more than a year. (Eastern Economist)

First congress of Russians convenes

KYIV — The first congress of Russian residents of Ukraine elected a representative body, the Russian Council of Ukraine (RCU), and approved its policy paper, the Manifesto, on May 23. The Manifesto stresses that the RCU's major task is to consolidate the forces of public, cultural and human-rights organizations to ensure a wider involvement of the 12 million Russians living in Ukraine in all spheres of political life. (Eastern Economist)

Obschina supports autonomy for oblasts

LUHANSK — A meeting of voters took place in Luhansk on May 23 to discuss whether it is reasonable to demand national, cultural and economic autonomy for eastern and southern Ukraine. "The independence received by Ukraine has had a negative effect on the development of east- and south-Ukrainian regions," said Volodymyr Luzganov, deputy chair of the Russkaia Obschina (Russian Community) regional organization. The meeting discussed 20 principles of cultural and economic autonomy. It elected an organizing committee to hold a referendum on the idea of a cultural and economic autonomy. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine faces rush on sugar

KYIV — Vice Minister of the Economy Viktor Kalnyk on May 31 said increased demand for sugar and other foodstuffs has forced the government to impose retail price regulations. According to Mr. Kalnyk, demand for sugar increased following rumors of sugar shortages and low expectations for this year's crop following April's ground frosts. He said the government recommends that local administration bodies introduce "temporary" price regulations on sugar, bread, cooking oil and flour. He added that the government will also sell a part of its sugar reserves. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine's vice prime minister in Moldova

CHISINAU — Moldova's president,

Petru Lucinschi, on May 31 told visiting Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Serhii Tyhyhko that economic cooperation must be intensified on both the bilateral and the regional levels by providing for the establishment of free trade zones with Romania and Poland, Infotag reported. President Lucinschi said Moldova will back Ukraine's bid for a seat on the U.N. Security Council, and he praised Kyiv for its contribution toward helping resolve the Transdnister conflict. RFE/RL's Chisinau bureau reported on the same day that Ukraine has again cut electricity supplies to Moldova, whose debt has risen to \$16 million. (RFE/RL Newsline)

IMF OKs new funds for Ukraine

KYIV — The International Monetary Fund on May 27 approved the release of a \$180 million tranche of its \$2.2 billion loan to Ukraine, Reuters reported. It also endorsed Ukraine's request for an extra \$366 million in financial support. "In view of the country's heavy debt service obligations, Ukraine's economic recovery will require the continued involvement of private creditors. A collaborative solution to Ukraine's debt service must be found in line with Ukraine's capacity to pay," the fund said in a statement. The news agency added that the fund wants Ukraine to use IMF money to repay debts to private creditors. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Romanian president visits Ukraine

CHERNIVTSI — Romania's president, Emil Constantinescu, on May 28 visited Chernivtsi, capital of the Bukovyna region, which is home to approximately 460,000 ethnic Romanians. Thousands of people waving Romanian flags came out to greet Mr. Constantinescu, the first Romanian head of state to visit the area in 60 years. "Relations between Romania and Ukraine, as well as those between our ethnic groups can be an example for the world," Reuters quoted President Constantinescu as saying. Mr. Constantinescu and President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine inaugurated a Romanian Consulate in Chernivtsi. A day earlier, Presidents Kuchma and Constantinescu had met in Kyiv to discuss cooperation on border demarcation. "We have made good progress in resolving the question of border demarcation," the Associated Press quoted Mr. Kuchma as saying. The agency added, however, that no "major breakthrough" had been achieved on the issue. Ukraine and Romania disagree on how to demarcate a part of the continental shelf in the Black Sea where large oil and gas deposits are believed to be located.

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Lily Hyde is a Kyiv-based correspondent for RFE/RL.

FOR THE RECORD: Statement of Central European presidents

Below is the text of the statement by presidents of the Central European countries — Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine — issued on May 15 in Lviv. (The text was released by Embassy of Ukraine in Canada.)

We the presidents of the Central European countries, strongly condemn the systematic terror in Kosovo, cruelties against children, rapes, robberies and expulsions which are used as the means for ethnic cleansing.

We express our sorrow for the victims and for the suffering of innocent civilians in the whole of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

We welcome all international contributions to bring this grave crisis to a quick end. We call on the government in Belgrade to undertake the commitments which the international community demands as a precondition for a peaceful solution and which have been called for, in particular by the ministers of foreign affairs of the G-8 countries on their statement of May 6, 1999.

We attach special importance to the U.N. Security Council in resolving the Kosovo crisis in cooperation with other relevant international organizations.

The countries bordering the area of conflict are exposed to severe burdens because of the recent developments. We recognize the contribution made by those countries to alleviate human suffering. Extraordinary work has been done by international relief agencies, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We must not limit ourselves to coping with the short-term aspects of the crisis. Lasting peace in South-Eastern Europe will only be possible if a future of democracy, civil society, prosperity, and security is offered to this region. A high-level conference on South-Eastern Europe should elaborate a Stability Pact, including a comprehensive strategy for the stabilization of the entire region through economic reconstruction, the promotion of democracy, and inclusion in European integration and the Euro-Atlantic structures.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$50; for UNA members — \$40.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN — 0273-9348)

Also published by the UNA: Svoboda, a Ukrainian-language weekly newspaper (annual subscription fee: \$50; \$40 for UNA members).

The Weekly and Svoboda: UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510 Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:
The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, June 6, 1999, No. 23, Vol. LXVII

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New robot to help stabilize environment around stricken Chernobyl reactor

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

PRYPIAT — The U.S. Department of Energy demonstrated a mobile robot here on May 17 that they hope will be able to enter the radioactively poisoned environs of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's No. 4 reactor, which has remained sealed in a concrete sarcophagus since the reactor exploded 13 years ago.

Although not related to the Shelter Implementation Plan (SIP) signed in December 1995 by Ukraine, the European Union and the G-7 states, which lays the groundwork for sealing the quickly deteriorating outer covering, the robot is part of stepped-up activities at the Chernobyl site to finally stabilize the environment around the damaged reactor.

It is now estimated that 30 to 50 tons of radioactive materials still remain within the nuclear power plant that was the scene of the worst nuclear accident in history when it blew on April 26, 1986, sending tons of radioactive debris into the atmosphere and around the globe. The newest estimates put the amount of fissile material at nearly 10 times what was thought to exist even a couple of years ago.

It is hoped that the robot, a futuristic-looking, tracked, mechanical vehicle with radiation-resistant casing, will successfully withstand the electromagnetic and gamma rays and other radioactivity that fills the sarcophagus. Its function is to produce a three-dimensional map of the interior of the crippled reactor and its crumbling protective shell, and to take material samples of the sarcophagus walls and floors.

The developers of the vehicle, dubbed the Pioneer, claim it is the first vehicle ever developed that is able to withstand megadoses of radiation and still operate.

"Pioneer will be able to operate in work environments with radiation fields many times the lethal dose for humans," said U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy T. J. Gauthier, who was on hand for the demonstration held in the shadow of the crumbling reactor sarcophagus. "We are witnessing the result of years of work in a robot that has its foundations in the moon explorations."

Mr. Gauthier was in the Chernobyl region on a good-will tour that also included a visit to two of the international laboratories in the area, whose work it is to investigate the aftereffects of the Chernobyl tragedy, and to a Slavutych city high school, where he introduced an international student program.

The three-foot-long and three-foot-high Pioneer was developed by Red Zone Robotics of Pittsburgh with funding and technical assistance from the Department of Energy, NASA, Carnegie-Mellon University, Oak Ridge Laboratory, Jet Propulsion Laboratories and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

Pioneer is geared to generate photo-realistic 3-D images using NASA stereo technology developed for the Mars Pathfinder mission by Silicon Graphics, as well as radiological maps that will show the varying levels of radioactivity inside the sarcophagus. The robot has a 15-centimeter concrete sampling drill, a manipulating arm and a shovel to move and lift material.

But, according to some Chernobyl shelter officials, it is far from certain whether the \$2 million project will succeed. One official said that other robots had been developed and tested — including one built by a Japanese team — but had not been able to withstand the harsh environment within the sarcophagus and had broken down.

Valentyn Kupnyi, director of the No. 4 reactor shelter, told reporters after the Pioneer demonstration that he would not answer any questions regarding the robot until it had been put through a series of tests by his team.

The only accolade he would give the Pioneer was to say that it was an example of the intensive and fruitful cooperation between two countries and their ministries.

Even Red Zone Robotics Vice-President Bruce Thompson indicated that he could not be sure what the future holds for the Pioneer robot at Chernobyl. "We are still working to determine when and what the first mission will be," said Mr. Thompson.

Reconstruction of the sarcophagus

Approximately \$400 million of the estimated \$758 million that is needed to put a new shelter around the stricken reactor has been raised, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has promised to grant more money, which SIP officials hope will amount to between \$120 million and 160 million in the next several months.

Mr. Kupnyi explained that, while 1998 was a year of planning and design, actual reconstruction of the crumbling sarcophagus would begin in the second part of 1999.

"In the last five months we have seen a desire on the part of the foreign investors to get down to the actual work," said Mr. Kupnyi.

The engineering and design stage of the implementation program, although slightly delayed because of organizational problems, is about halfway through its two-year planned duration.

Armand Langmo, co-director of Project Management Unit, the three-company consultant consortium consisting of Bechtel, Electricité de France and Battelle that is directing the engineering stage, said workers will soon begin one aspect of the initial phase of reconstruction to strengthen and stabilize the major beams that support the roof of the structure.

"These beams rest upon the failed structural elements that are still standing but are in a damaged condition,"



Roman Woronowycz

Pioneer, a radiation-resistant robot, is introduced in the shadow of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

explained Mr. Langmo at a June 2 press conference in Kyiv. "It is urgent that we stabilize these beams so that there is not a roof collapse of the shelter."

Mr. Langmo said the threat of collapse is not immediate, but that the beams no longer meet general structural codes. While the engineers have faith that the walls of the reactor, although deteriorat-

ing, remain structurally sound, they have less faith in the beams. They most fear a natural calamity, such as an earthquake, which could cause the beams to shift and lead to a collapse of the roof.

"We decided that the B1-B2 beams were critical enough to do that first, even

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U.S. Ambassador Steven Pifer (seated, left) and Dmytro Bachev, head of the department of secondary education, Ministry of Education, sign a document designating Ukraine as the latest member of the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program. Standing behind them is U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy T.J. Gauthier. Jaroslav Dutkewych (left), Peace Corps director for Ukraine, assists Mr. Pifer.

Ukrainian World Congress...

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ed; and a denunciation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Moscow Patriarchate for sowing discord among Ukraine's faithful.

International correspondence

According to the UWC president's report, a number of memoranda were also sent to Ukraine's agencies and various governments around the world.

On May 6, a missive was sent to President Kuchma to express outrage at the assault on Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate in Mariupol and to denounce the Moscow patriarch's plans to lead a pilgrimage through Ukrainian territory for the purpose of political provocation.

In March, a letter was directed to the President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria seeking the release of Ukrainian crew members of a ship held hostage by a renegade Nigerian official.

Also in March, Mr. Lozynskyj and General Secretary Victor Pedenko dispatched a letter to German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder seeking further information about a fund set up to compensate the Nazi regime's former slave laborers and presenting the UWC as "the representative organization for Ukrainians residing outside Ukraine."

Mr. Lozynskyj reported that the effort to secure observer status for the UWC with the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) was proceeding, but

more slowly than previously hoped.

Such status requires NGOs to be legally incorporated in a particular country, which the UWC had not yet done. At the plenary meeting of May 14-15, it was agreed that the UWC will be formally registered in Canada, but a "U.S. section" will also be given legal standing.

Mr. Lozynskyj conceded that the timetable for securing U.N. observer status would be shifted. He had earlier hoped to meet a U.N. deadline for applications for observer status this June.

Presidential travel

Mr. Lozynskyj outlined his schedule for upcoming visits to Ukrainian communities around the world, in keeping with the practice initiated by his predecessor, Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk.

The new UWC president said he would tour Romania in May, and the Russian Federation and Kazakstan in August – all prior to the next meetings of the UWC presidium scheduled for the fall.

Mr. Lozynskyj said he plans to visit Hungary and Slovakia in November. The sojourn in the latter country could involve controversy, as the UWC is studying the situation faced by the Ukrainian minority there. Some local activists have complained that Ukrainians face discrimination and repressive measures denying them opportunities for education.

The most immediate trip the UWC president plans to make is to Kyiv to attend general meetings of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council (UWCC) in Ukraine's capital, along with Mr. Pedenko and UWC Vice-President Maria Szkambara.

Omelchenko overwhelmingly...

(Continued from page 1)

make sure that the elections were scheduled during the Kyiv Days celebrations, when the city is transformed into one large spring festival.

That success may have been the undoing of Mr. Surkis. The Kyiv Dynamo owner was relying on a large youth turnout to propel him to victory. However, that portion of the population, preoccupied with partying and relaxation during the holiday, practically did not show up for the vote.

The elections were not without controversy and mud-slinging. In his most serious accusations, Mr. Surkis charged that Mr. Omelchenko had awarded a contract for a portion of the Khreschatyk reconstruction to his son, who happens to own a construction firm. Before he entered politics and during the Soviet era, Mr. Omelchenko had headed various departments in Ukraine's nationalized construction industry.

Mr. Surkis also said the day after the

election that his campaign team had uncovered evidence of voter fraud and that his party, the Social Democratic Party (United), would appeal the results.

However, international observers and the Committee of Ukrainian Voters stated the day after the Sunday elections that there were no serious violations of election law or procedures.

Mr. Omelchenko becomes the first elected mayor of Kyiv since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. Technically, Leonid Kosakivsky was independent Ukraine's first elected head of the city in 1994, but he was voted in as a city councilman and then elected from among the members of the Kyiv City Council to lead it.

His term in office was marked by allegations of corruption and power struggles with Mr. Omelchenko, who was appointed to head the Kyiv City Administration by President Leonid Kuchma in 1996. Mr. Omelchenko won that battle as well when he replaced Mr. Kosakivsky as City Council president in 1998 via a council vote.



Oleksander Omelchenko, who was elected mayor of Kyiv on May 30, at a celebration.

Hard line on UWCC reasserted

In February, the UWC Presidium accepted UWCC palliatives regarding name changes to its official organ and the organization used as its administrative wing (the formerly KGB-dominated Ukraina Society) and agreed to send members of its executive for full participation in UWCC's meetings on May 20-25.

However, if UWCC President Ivan Drach expected Mr. Lozynskyj's administration to deviate from the course set by its predecessor, he was most likely disappointed.

On May 14, Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Evhen Czolij submitted a two-part memorandum on UWC-UWCC relations and the nature and structure of the UWCC itself. The section dealing with UWC participation in the Kyiv-based organization was adopted unanimously, but more radical proposals calling for a change in the UWCC's focus and structure were dropped.

Nevertheless, provisions mandating recognition of the UWC as the sole representative of the diaspora within the UWCC, full UWC participation in determining the date and location of meetings, the setting of budgets and accounting, as well as strict controls on by-laws matters, will represent a dramatic shift for the UWCC if they are adopted.

Representatives of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America agreed to drop their direct membership in the UWCC and encourage other U.S.-based organizations to do so as well.

After the plenary meetings, Mr. Lozynskyj was lighthearted and dismissive about prospects for the adoption of the UWC's recommendations in Kyiv. "[The May 20-25 meetings are] probably going to be a waste of five days, but [the UWC's] position will be made clear," he said, adding, "It's often said that Ukraine is a fairy tale land [kazkova kraina]," the UWC president quipped, "and in my estimation the UWCC is somewhat of a fairy tale organization."

Financial strains resurface

UWC's Chief Financial Officer William Sametz reported that the world umbrella body is once again facing difficulties in meeting its operational costs

because of lackadaisical submission of dues by member-organizations. Of the \$100,000 expected for the year's first quarter, only a paltry \$10,000 has made it to the world umbrella body's coffers. Mr. Sametz said this has been offset somewhat by local fund-raising drives, such as the effort mounted by Chicago's Julian Kulas.

Mr. Sametz commented that many of those who sought an expansion of the annual budget beyond \$240,000 at the December congress in order to allow the UWC to be "world-class" were clearly not showing the requisite commitment to the organization.

The possibility of a need to relocate the UWC's headquarters arose earlier this year because of changes in the financial situation at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation (UCAF), landlords of UWC's offices since the early 1980s. General Secretary Pedenko reported that the UWC executive held a special meeting with members of the UCAF board on May 14. He said that the matter had not yet been resolved, but that negotiations are ongoing. Mr. Lozynskyj expressed confidence that the UWC offices are likely to remain where they are.

Successions, resignations, etc.

The Ukrainian Catholic eparch of Toronto, Bishop Cornelius Pasichny, reported that the chairmanship of the UWC's Religious Council passed to him in March, after a term under Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada Bishop Yuriy Kalishchuk, the first chairman after the ecumenical body was revived in May 1996.

Christina Isajiw stepped down as chair of the Commission on Human and Civil Rights (CHCR), submitting her resignation to the UWC executive prior to the plenary meetings. Mr. Lozynskyj said a search for a replacement would be conducted, and he expressed his wish that a list of candidates be prepared for the next meeting of the UWC executives in June. The veteran activist told *The Weekly* she quit due to the UWC's unwillingness to allocate the necessary funds for the hiring of a paid CHCR staffer.

Ms. Isajiw said that, while other UWC officials contended volunteers might be found to perform the required research, lobbying and liaison, her search for such indi-

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Tkachenko accepts...

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planned their election campaigns, in particular the leftist parties."

Mr. Moroz added that he did not know what Mr. Tkachenko had in mind when he said that the political left would find a way to name a single candidate.

The leftist forces also must deal with a fifth and very strong candidacy, that of the renegade Progressive Socialist Natalia Vitrenko, who espouses an orthodox form of Stalinist Communism. She has refused to work with any of the other leftist parties, which she has called "traitors" and "sellouts." Pre-election polls have consistently put Ms. Vitrenko at the top of the presidential candidate field, along with President Kuchma.

Mr. Tkachenko, who admitted to reporters after his nomination that he may not be the best nominee, nevertheless asserted that he has strong qualifications to run, among them his vast experience in high government posts of the Ukrainian SSR and his three terms in the Verkhovna Rada, including his work as its chairman in the last year.

The Verkhovna Rada chairman's nomination expands an already large field of candidates. With his candidacy and the nominations of Vitalii Kononov by the

Green Party of Ukraine, Mykola Haber by the Patriotic Party of Ukraine and Yuriy Karmazyn by the Defense of the Homeland Party, the total number of presidential hopefuls registered reached 17.

However, many of those candidates will be cropped from the list in the next month and a half as they fail to collect the million signatures required by law before their names can be placed on election ballots.

According to the latest election poll, prepared by SOCIS-Gallup and the Democratic Initiatives just prior to the May 14 opening of the nominating season, Mr. Tkachenko has much work ahead of him if he hopes to win the election. Only 2 percent of the 1,200 respondents supported him in the poll, which asked, "If only these candidates were included on the ballot for whom would you vote?"

Leading the pack in the survey was Ms. Vitrenko with 21 percent, followed by President Kuchma with 18 percent, Mr. Symonenko with 9 percent, Mr. Moroz with 8 percent and Hennadii Udovenko of Rukh and Yevhen Marchuk of the extreme right with 3 percent each. The poll did not include the names of many of the candidates that have been nominated since May 14. The poll has a margin of error of plus/minus 3 percent.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Yevshan dancers to perform at Soyuzivka on Father's Day

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – The Yevshan Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, under the direction of Slavko Wirlo and Oksana Kraus, has been invited to present a program of traditional Ukrainian dance at the UNA resort, Soyuzivka, on Father's Day, June 20.

This April the ensemble performed at Walt Disney World's EPCOT Center. The dance ensemble is the elite performing group of the Yevshan Ukrainian Dance Group, which was founded in 1983 in affiliation with the Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization of Rochester. The group consists of 76 dancers ranging in age from 5 to 18.

As the dance students mature, they graduate to the dance ensemble, which has over the years performed throughout the immediate Rochester area, as well as at festivals in Auburn and Buffalo, N.Y. Since its founding the Yevshan Dance Group has operated under an open-door policy that allows any child who desires to learn Ukrainian dance to join.

For the past 13 years the soul of the group has been Mr. Wirlo, teacher innovator, choreographer and artistic director. His dedication and love for Ukrainian dance comes out in his students. Ms. Kraus, a former student, has joined him in teaching this group. Ms. Kraus adds a quality of depth and beauty to the teaching aspect that is evident in the group's performances. Under their tutelage Yevshan has flourished.

The administrators of Yevshan are Lesia Chwesik and Hanya Skrobach; Ms. Chwesik is in charge of wardrobe, which includes sewing all the costumes.



Members of the Yevshan Ukrainian Dance Ensemble: (from left) Chrissy Skrobach, Alexis Szcurek, Maria Nestorowycz, Laurie Andrijenko, Mark Siolkowsky, Natalka Skrobach, Mark Loj, Larissa Wirlo, Alex Wirlo, Nicole Riedl, Slavko Wirlo, Oksana Kraus, Markian Lylak, Olena Chwesik, Zenon Borys, Kris Lanni, Michael Pratt, Adrianna Hontar, Ivanka Hanushevsky, Amber Welsher, Kathy Sydor and Justina Chmilar.

The UNA, Soyuzivka and youth: an irreplaceable combination

by Oksana Trytjak

UNA Special Projects Coordinator

What is the Ukrainian National Association doing for the younger generation – the very same group that the UNA wants to attract as members?

Like other well-established community organizations, the UNA is suffering from the natural loss of its older members. Senior members are the backbone of this organization, but youth is its lifeblood. To survive, the UNA must counter this natural decline and try to encourage the younger generation to become active.

The UNA is a fraternal organization that reinvests its profits in the community. During the early years of its existence the UNA helped coal miners organize themselves and help one another. In the

words of the Rev. Hryhory Hrushka, first editor of Svoboda, founder of the UNA and a leader of the community in the 1890s: "One person cannot help everyone, but everyone can help one person. Unity is a strength that is difficult to defeat." These words still hold true. As a Ukrainian organization, the UNA has an obligation to its community to help maintain a strong and vital presence for present and future generations.

The UNA has always invested funds and energy in education and the younger generation. Together with the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the UNA sponsors two-week courses at Soyuzivka for teachers of Ukrainian studies schools. These Ukrainian schools teach children the Ukrainian language, history and culture.

All eligible UNA members who apply are entitled to a UNA scholarship. Students who apply to universities appreciate any scholarship they receive, since being selected to receive a scholarship is an asset on a college application. To date the UNA has awarded almost \$2 million in scholarship grants. In addition, each graduate of a Ukrainian studies school receives a monetary graduation gift from the UNA.

For many years, beginning in 1953, Soyuzivka had offered Ukrainian cultural courses covering Ukrainian music, song and art, as well as language, history and geography taught by specialists in those fields. Guest lecturers were invited to speak on special topics.

Soyuzivka, the UNA's 400-acre mountain resort benefits the community at large, and youth in particular. There are

various summer offerings: from day camps for pre-schoolers to workshops for young adults.

"Tabir Ptashat" for Ukrainian-speaking pre-schoolers was founded in 1989 by the Plast sorority Pershi Stezhi. This camp has grown from serving a few children during a one-week program to hosting over 100 children, in several weeklong sessions, per season. Chemney's Fun Center for English-speaking pre-schoolers was initiated in 1995 and is becoming more popular every year.

For older children, Soyuzivka has boys' and girls' camps that originated in the late 1950s. More than 1,500 sports enthusiasts age 12-18 have participated in the Tennis Camp held at the resort since

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Preschoolers at "Tabir Ptashat" demonstrate their folk dancing skills.



Young athletes with their trophies following a sports tourney at Soyuzivka.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Pre-election provocations begin

With the official launch of the presidential campaign season in Ukraine a couple of weeks ago on May 14, endorsements and protests have begun to come in. Among the first protest was the recent declaration by the Organization of Russian Ukrainians of its opposition to the election of Leonid Kuchma for his failure to come through on a 1994 campaign promise to make Russian one of the official languages of Ukraine. The organization claims to speak on behalf of the 12 million ethnic Russians in Ukraine.

This declaration comes a few months after the left majority in Ukraine's Parliament passed a non-binding resolution that stated it is not obligatory for elected officials to speak Ukrainian. And that resolution came on the heels of a decision by Parliament to eliminate from pending education legislation a requirement that study of the Ukrainian language be mandatory in secondary schools. Fortunately that bill has not yet been passed.

During the Soviet era, the Ukrainian language was not seen as a threat by Communist Party officials and, therefore, was treated as the accepted language of ritual in the republic, though for serious work the preferred language was Russian. In 1989, now seen by many young scholars in Ukraine as a more nationally conscious period than today, Ukrainian was officially designated the state language. However, older scholars, who remember several decades of Soviet rule, note that this seemingly nationally conscious gesture was not the result of pride in things Ukrainian.

"Remember," says Dr. Yuri Shapoval, a history and politics scholar at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, "this was still the time of [First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Volodymyr] Scherbytsky, who had no great love for Ukrainian. He agreed to give the language official status for purposes of ritual. Not because he was nationally conscious – he simply did not have any respect for the language, did not take it seriously. He did not perceive the Ukrainian language as a threat, therefore, it did not cost him anything to declare, on paper, officially, that it was the state language."

Now, however, the Ukrainian language has come to be seen as a threat. For, no matter how weak its usage in Ukraine – and in most areas it is very weak – any usage at all implies, fundamentally, a separation from things Russian. For those who do not want separation from Russia and things Russian, this threat of things Ukrainian must be reduced. Therefore, even though it is almost impossible to find any genuine examples of government repression of Russian speakers in Ukraine, the Organization of Russian Ukrainians nonetheless accuses the government of President Kuchma of "establishing a policy directed at a massive expulsion of the Russian ethno-cultural factor from all aspects of society."

This false issue of linguistic and ethnic repression of Russians in Ukraine is only among the first of what will no doubt become a series of pre-election provocations and diversions. The Kuchma government cannot be seriously accused of repressing Russian-language speakers and expelling the Russian ethno-cultural factor from all aspects of society. For that matter, the government cannot be held accountable for doing much of anything good or terrible regarding the enactment or enforcement of any coherent language policy. The language factor is simply used as political leverage during election campaigns and to grandstand in between – but otherwise is not taken seriously, even though it should be. However, this cynical manipulation of language as part of a political game is not without consequences. In 1994, Mr. Kuchma used the language lever to his political benefit; now those same voters plan to use that lever against him.

June
8
1847

Turning the pages back...

Oleksander Barvinsky was born on June 8, 1847, in Shliakhnyntsi, a village near Ternopil in Galicia. Active in the populist Lviv Hromada as a young man, he began contributing to the movement's literary journal, *Pravda*, in 1867.

From 1868 he worked as a teacher in the high schools (gymnasias) of Berezhany and Ternopil, then at the Lviv Teachers' Seminary (from 1888) and the Lviv Theological Seminary (LTS). Influenced by the writer and scholar Panteleimon Kulish, Barvinsky prepared a series of textbooks for Ukrainian schools, and his articles on pedagogy were published in newspapers such as *Dilo* (his brother Vasyl was editor-in-chief) and *Hazeta Shkolna*.

In 1886 he initiated the publication of an influential series of textbooks known as the *Ruthenian Historical Library*.

From 1893 to 1918 he was a member of the Galician School Council and defended Ukrainian interests in the education system. He was instrumental in the introduction of a phonetic orthography in schools and the use of the term "Ukrainian-Ruthenian" in the system's textbooks.

He was an active member of *Ruska Besida*, *Prosvita* (vice-president in 1889-1895) and the *Ukrainian Pedagogical Society* (president in 1891-1896), and participated in the reorganization of the *Shevchenko Scientific Society*, which granted him full membership in 1899.

Barvinsky was active also in politics. In the 1880s the Austro-Hungarian authorities were made increasingly anxious by tensions with the Russian empire and by the worsening confrontation between Ukrainians and Poles in Galicia.

In 1890, a group of moderate populist leaders, including Barvinsky and Yulian Romanchuk, reached an agreement with Galicia's governor-general, Casimir Badeni, under which Ukrainians would be given greater autonomy in determining educational and cultural policy and a voice in social reform in return for recognition of Polish control of the regional administration. This was to usher in a "New Era" of reconciliation between

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Re: reasons for the doom of Ukrainian Festival U.S.A.

by Stan Jakubowycz

Each time I travel on the Garden State Parkway, I reminisce with great sadness and anger about the absence of the Ukrainian Festival U.S.A. from the Garden State Arts Center, now known as the PNC Bank Arts Center. My sadness and anger has prompted me to tell our Ukrainian community why we no longer have our festival.

I certainly hope that it was not replaced by the event in Cedar Knolls, N.J., which, according to several attendees, was more like a picnic for local community.

Yes, our festival was truly a showcase – not only for the residents of N.J., but for the residents of the entire U.S. as well as Canada. From the early 1970s into the mid-1980s, our festivals were the envy of other ethnic Americans, as well as non-hyphenated Americans. Our festival was hailed as a "Broadway spectacle" by both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian attendees.

Oh, how proud we were serving on the committee, year after year. It was hard work, but well worth it. I distinctly remember when I was in Georgia after Ronald Reagan's (the former governor was then a presidential candidate) visit to our festival, how many locals asked "where is Ukraine?" and commented on the beauty of Ukrainian culture. Even the customary Ukrainian petty squabbles, couldn't overcome my pride.

Now it is all gone! Why? Because of our inherent selfishness, greed and plain stupidity, and petty Ukrainian politics by a few Ukrainian "leaders."

Last year readers of *The Weekly* learned from Luba Z. Siryj why we no longer have our festival. Some were reasons, some were excuses. Some of them may have been valid, but she failed to mention the real reasons: the failings and the greed of some of the members of the New Jersey Coordinating Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (NJCC-UCCA) as well as the festival committees from 1987 and thereafter. The last decently attended festival was in 1986. Thereafter, the festivals got progressively worse, as evidenced by the poorer and poorer attendance. Professionalism was replaced by the amateurism of local talent as the NJCC-UCCA wanted to make more money by hiring local talent. One member of the committee boasted after the 1986 festival that the NJCC-UCCA made much more money then ever before. The greed overshadowed the purpose of our festivals.

Ms. Siryj pointed the change of date from June to September as one of the reasons for the Ukrainian Festival's decline. However, she failed to mention the reason for the change. It was not the New Jersey Highway Authority that changed the date, as we were led to believe. In fact, according to my sources, it was the committee that changed the date because it failed to get the program ready on time. I remember fighting for the June date because every other ethnic festival wanted it. Shame on the NJCC-UCCA and the festival committee for failing our Ukrainian community.

Ms. Siryj blamed the apathy of the public and poor attendance. Of course, the public wouldn't support programs consisting of over-exposed local talent – no matter how good this talent may have been – and at the same time, absorb the constant

Stan Jakubowycz is former general chairman and consultant to the Ukrainian Festival U.S.A.

increase in ticket costs.

Yes, she is right about the New Jersey Highway Authority's constant efforts to discourage festivals that did not make money. That has always been the case. She fails to mention that while the Highway Authority may have been losing money, the NJCC-UCCA, on the other hand, was making money from the festivals and, especially, from the dances. There could have been, and should have been, a compromise. All one had to do is show just a small profit. Unfortunately, the NJCC-UCCA wasn't about to part with a few dollars to save the festival.

I also wanted to blame the Ukrainian press/media, however, I have since found out why our press, most notably *The Ukrainian Weekly* and *Svoboda*, did not aggressively report to its readers the importance of the Ukrainian Festival U.S.A., as they have done in the past: the advertising in the press was minimized to one or two ads per festival. Effective advertising is the key to success. Similarly, press releases were reduced to a minimum and the courtesies of the press passes were not extended to these newspapers, as was done during the earlier years of the festivals.

I will, however, put some blame on the Ukrainian news media for not blasting the NJCC-UCCA for neglecting the festivals and for failing to see the slow demise of our festivals. When I say the news media, I do not refer only to *The Ukrainian Weekly* or *Svoboda*, I also refer to several other Ukrainian publications. They, too, must contribute to the health of our Ukrainian community.

Furthermore, most of the blame for the demise of the Ukrainian Festival must be placed on the leaders of various Ukrainian American organizations, who just sat on the sidelines and did nothing. Being the leaders, their responsibility was to step in because the festival was not only the UCCA's – it belonged to the Ukrainian community as a whole. There was no room for petty Ukrainian politics, and our typical show of jealousy. However, I place the bulk of the blame on the NJCC-UCCA and its branches.

Now with regard to the monetary issue: When I left the committee in 1986, to the best of my recollection, the NJCC-UCCA should have had around \$35,000 in the treasury from the annual festivals and dances. During my 14 years of involvement, I don't remember ever using any of this money to support the festivals, although we had every right to do so.

Ms. Siryj mentioned that during recent years the Highway Authority had put more pressure on the entertainment budget. That is nothing new, but we were able to negotiate harder each time. Assuming that Ms. Siryj is correct, why didn't she request financial support from the NJCC-UCCA? After all, the money was earned by the respective festival committees. Since 1986 the \$35,000 should have grown considerably as a result of successive festivals and dances, as well as from interest. In 1986 one of the members on the festival committee claimed that year's festival committee had made much more money than in previous years. If that is so, where is the money? Between 1986 and 1989, the NJCC-UCCA, on one hand, raised ticket prices by approximately 30 percent and on the other hand, reduced the talent costs by using local talent. That \$35,000 in 1986, plus higher profits for the next 12 years,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The UWC, the UOC and NATO strikes

Dear Editor:

Perhaps it was the pull of the April fool that prompted the Ukrainian World Congress to rise against the NATO's use of force against Slobodan Milosevic's Yugoslavia (April 11).

Like Ukraine's present government, the UWC posited that a sovereign state must be immune from outside military strike even if it commits monstrous crimes against its citizens, except perhaps when military intervention is authorized by the United Nations, with its unanimous Security Council – that is, with Russia's and China's consent. In the absence of such a mandate, so the reasoning goes, negotiation is the proper recourse. One might add, in the same vein, that the Ukrainian terror-famine in 1933 should have been avoided by negotiations between Stalin's Politburo and the Salvation Army or the peasants' committee.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma may be pardoned for taking his stance – considering that he is juggling impossible odds in his own precarious seat and is evoking applause even from NATO for his dexterity. But the UWC has no such excuse, unless it is determined to give credence to those who say its accomplishments are mainly in the realm of faux pas.

To top it off, the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada got into the act with its own expression of disapproval of NATO's action and with a characterization of the worst mass atrocities in Europe since World War II as "a conflict between Christians and Moslems." They must engage in a dialogue. Meanwhile, welcome to rape camps.

From the tone of the Synod's missive, you would never know that some of those "Christians" are wanted as war criminals at the International Court of Justice, or that the brutalization and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians – a humanitarian disaster of biblical proportions in modern Europe – had been meticulously planned while an ongoing chit-chat was used to stir disarray in the Western alliance. Sorry, no cigar.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, N.J.

America: last frontier and once-safe haven

Dear Editor:

Cherry blossom time is upon us. It is a perfect golden day. It is neither too warm, nor too cold. The sun is shining warmly and the white clouds are swimming by in the perfect blue. A gentle zephyr stirs the flower-laden branches and the pink and white petals snow down on us. The world is renewing itself.

Again we picnic on the green under a pink canopy of a flowering cherry tree, in the company of good friends. One might say, that this is about as close to paradise as you can get. All seems well in the world. But is it?

In Littleton, Colo., they have buried the dead and are wondering how this terror could have happened again in "the heartland of America." In April 1995 it happened in Oklahoma City. 1999 is the 50th anniversary of NATO, but we are bombing Serbia in the hopes of saving the Kosovars. It is also the 13th anniversary of Chernobyl; the aftereffects of the world's worst nuclear disaster continue to pose a threat to the entire continent.

Some of us remember how, 55 years

ago, we left our homes, families and friends, and fled the "Red Terror" that threatened to annihilate us. We went through a series of stages and stops on our odyssey – Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, Germany, France – and then, finally, we reached the haven: America. It was safe here – here there would be no more bombs. There was no more terror here.

Why then, in spite of the League of Nations, the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Helsinki Accords and a plethora of lesser treaties, covenants, councils and unions, are the bombs still falling? Why are the bombs made by children that take lives of other children still exploding in the neat-and-proper heartland communities of America?

For us, America has been and is more than just a home; it is a place to work and to rear families. It also became the last frontier – a safe haven. Once we had dreamed of returning to Ukraine, but with the passing of time we now realize that Ukraine neither wants us nor needs us – except for financial help.

Now, 50 years later, we have nowhere else to run. And, even if there were a place to run, we have become tired. We are here to stay, bombs and all.

Bozhena Olshaniwsky
Newark, N.J.

More on helping Ukraine's intellectuals

Dear Editor:

Reading Roman Voronka's reply (April 18) to my article "How can we best help Ukraine's intelligentsia?" (February 14), I was pleased to discover that my comments were received in the spirit in which they had been written, namely, as an attempt to find constructive solutions to the very important issue of our support for Ukraine's intellectuals.

I would like to reiterate that my article was never intended to question experience or past achievements of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine (the list of CCAU's past activities provided by Dr. Voronka is a clear reflection of the committee members' sincere dedication to their cause). My sole objective was to discuss a number of complex issues associated with their current, and very important, project. My ultimate hope was that the suggestions I expressed would constructively help the CCAU channel its aid to Ukrainian intellectuals as effectively and efficiently as possible.

I am very happy that our discussion in *The Weekly* has resulted in concrete positive developments. Inspired by the idea of providing direct help to Ukrainian scholars and writers through the program of grants for scholarly/literary publications in Ukraine's leading journals, a group of benefactors and partners of the Jacyk Foundation has pledged their support for this initiative. A separate fund has been established for this purpose at the Jacyk Foundation and negotiations with a number of Ukrainian journals, such as *Krytyka*, are under way. I expect that soon we will be able to inform the readers of *The Weekly* about the successful launch of the project. Once effectively established, the project will be open for other benefactors to join.

Dr. Marko R. Stech
Toronto

The writer is managing director of the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Europe or Moscow?

A recently expanded NATO celebrated its 50th anniversary in April, with a big meeting in Washington. All European heads of state were there, with the prominent exceptions of Russia, Belarus and Yugoslavia. Since Russia made noise about staying away, President Leonid Kuchma's active representation of Ukraine at NATO made a powerful statement. Diplomatically but unmistakably, he made it clear that Ukraine has its own view of things and does not take orders from Moscow. Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk explained that "Ukraine's goal, to integrate into European and Trans-Atlantic structures, remains unchanged."

But not everyone in Ukraine agrees. The chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Oleksander Tkachenko, has an entirely different orientation: he's nostalgic for the Soviet Union and is working to have Ukraine join the union of Belarus and Russia.

This clash of policies between Messrs. Kuchma and Tkachenko is disquieting to be sure, but given where Ukraine is in its national development, the tension between two competing geopolitical orientations is not unhealthy. It represents the resumption of a political-cultural struggle that consumed Soviet Ukraine throughout the 1920s, only to end violently in the '30s. Then, the question was settled by brute force. Today the question has returned: should Ukraine orient itself on Russia or the West?

In the 1920s the writer Mykola Khvylioviy led the debate. He was born in a village near Kharkiv and fought in the tsar's army as a front-line soldier in World War I. When the revolution broke out in 1917, he was caught up in the complicated, bloody power struggle that pitted Ukrainian nationalists, Bolsheviks, tsarist generals, peasant anarchists and a half dozen foreign governments against one another. Ultimately, Lenin's Bolsheviks won, but the strong support for the Ukrainian national movement during the Revolution remained a formidable political factor in 1920s Ukraine.

In 1921 Khvylioviy and his friends assessed Ukraine after nearly 10 years of war and revolution, and concluded that coerced association with Moscow had stifled their country's development. Over the previous 250 years, Imperial Russia had systematically dismantled Ukraine's government, destroyed the Kozak Sich and finally banned even the language. While Russian culture flourished, Ukrainian culture had shriveled into provincialism and insignificance. This is unacceptable, Khvylioviy said. Ukrainian culture, he argued, must aspire to achieve world-class status. His remedy was summarized in two short slogans: "Away from Moscow!" and "Toward Europe!"

"This point is," he wrote in 1926, "that Russian literature has weighed down on us for centuries as master of the situation, as one who has conditioned our psyche to play the slavish imitator." Ukrainians, therefore, must break with Moscow: "Our orientation is to Western European art, its style, its techniques ... We conceive of Europe as a psychological category that thrusts humanity forward onto the great highway of progress." He maintained that Ukraine, located strategically at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and oriented on Europe, was poised to lead a political and cultural revival of

the "peoples of the East."

Soon Khvylioviy saw results from his campaign. The Ukrainian government in Kharkiv implemented a "Ukrainization" program designed to reverse generations of Russification and foster cultural rebirth. Before long, Ukrainian literacy flourished, magazines and journals were established, libraries of books were published, and plays were performed. Oleksander Dovzhenko's film studio, for example, became world-renowned.

All these developments did not sit well with Moscow and particularly with Joseph Stalin. In time, Moscow struck back ruthlessly. In April 1929 the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party approved the first Five-Year Plan and its infamous goal to collectivize the land. Three months later the OGPU (secret police) arrested some 5,000 members of a fictitious organization, the "Union for the Liberation of Ukraine." In March 1930, after more than six months of beatings and torture, a series of show trials was held where the writers, scholars, critics, theater people, priests and others arrested the previous July, confessed to preposterous crimes. Khvylioviy and his followers found the ground crumbling beneath their feet. In those circumstances, it was suicide to stick to your position and Khvylioviy wrote abject apologies for his views, acknowledging them to be "definite deviations from the proletarian line on internationalism."

In 1932 – the last year of the Five-Year Plan – the party declared outright war against Ukraine. It's a horrible story: well-fed Communists scoured the countryside, taking away every scrap of food. Their orders were to "liquidate the kulaks as a class." In the cities, stomach-turning torture and executions continued: a little-known poet, Maria Dyka, to cite just one example, was torn to pieces by wild dogs in the courtyard of a Kharkiv prison. That kind of savagery was common throughout Ukraine in 1932-1933. Use of the letter "g" became one of the litmus tests for "nationalist degeneracy."

On May 13 of that year, with millions dead or dying in the countryside and Ukraine's intellectual and political elite enduring mass terror, Khvylioviy summoned a group of friends to his apartment in Kharkiv for breakfast. Moments after they arrived, he went into his study and blew his brains out. He decided to commit suicide after all. On the table was a letter to the Communist Party of Ukraine accusing its members of betraying the revolution and their country. Khvylioviy became a non-person, and for the next 55 years it was impossible to find a word of his writings anywhere in Ukraine.

Right now Ukraine is preparing for its third presidential election to be held this fall. In the first election in 1991 there was only one issue: independence. The second election in 1994 proved the country could manage a smooth and peaceful transition of power from one president to another. The third presidential election in October will be about Ukraine's direction: the one Khvylioviy mapped out in the 1920s – "Away from Moscow!" and "Toward Europe" – or Stalin's centralizing policy, with Ukraine looking to Moscow as its point of reference.

Chairman Tkachenko and the leftists in the Verkhovna Rada have never acknowl-

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A future Ukraine: one nation, two languages, three cultures?

by Mykola Ryabchuk

Every time I discuss the problems of contemporary Ukraine with my foreign colleagues, I cannot find a topic more controversial and confusing than who is the "majority" and who is the "minority" in Ukraine, what is the national identity of this folk, and consequently, which cultural and linguistic policy is being, or should be, officially pursued by such the state.

To the foreigners' credit, I must say, however, that the same controversy and confusion exists in Ukraine, where the most diametrically opposed views on the problem are expressed. More often than not, the first view is labeled as a "Ukrainian nationalistic" one, while the opposite view is usually presented as being "universal" and "liberal." Both definitions are questionable, and the things they define are even more questionable. Therefore, I start with an analysis of both pictures of contemporary Ukraine, as presented from opposite points of view.

Virtual Ukraine No. 1: "The nationalizing state"

Consulting an encyclopaedia, or appropriate reference work, any foreigner may learn that Ukraine is a country of approximately 50 million people: 73 per-

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cent are Ukrainians, 22 percent Russians, and 5 percent other nationalities. Many might also easily conclude that, within the USSR, Ukrainians were a minority, while nowadays, within the independent Ukraine, they are the majority — one that tends to dominate, as elsewhere in the post-colonial world, oppressing minorities (including Russians) and suppressing minority languages and cultures.

Indeed, this picture can be confirmed by many facts and figures. For example, the Ukrainian language has the constitutional status of a state language — the only state language in Ukraine. This language, however oppressed and marginalized in the USSR (and completely forbidden in the Russian Empire), now is being gradually introduced as the language of instruction in a growing number of schools and even in some universities, in the post-Soviet army inherited and nationalized by Ukraine, in the state-sponsored and/or state-controlled mass media where some language requirements exist, as well as in advertisements, street signs, etc.

The Ukrainian language is compulsory, at least as a second language, in any educational institution; it is the official language of top Ukrainian officials, including presidents (and leaders in their administration), prime ministers (and other ministers), heads of the Parliament (and many national deputies). And last but not least, as opinion surveys show, the number of people who claim they are Russians has been gradually decreasing, so that the next national census in Ukraine will probably find half as many Russians in the country as the last Soviet census, conducted in 1989.

If one remembers that 10 years ago the general tendency was quite the opposite,

one might conclude that today Ukrainization is on the march, and nationalism looms large in Ukraine.

I have Belarusian friends who envy Ukraine; they say they would like the Belarusian language and culture to be in the state of Ukrainian. I also have some Russian friends who are deeply concerned about forceful Ukrainization and the plight of the Russian language and culture in Ukraine. And finally, I know many Western liberals who mistakenly believe that Russophones are oppressed in Ukraine, as in the Baltics and elsewhere, and that Ukraine is a nationalizing state with post-communist rulers in the Yugoslavian mold.

I cannot say this picture is utterly false. Yet, it is quite superficial. It can be modeled on stories by Western journalists (who visit Moscow rather than Kyiv), and Russian scholars and diplomats (who are much more visible in the West than their Ukrainian counterparts).

No Ukrainian "nationalist", however, would ever agree with this picture because he has a completely different idea about the picture in today's Ukraine.

Virtual Ukraine No. 2: "Ukraine without Ukrainians"

In its extreme form, the opposite picture as articulated by Ukrainian "nationalists," is that of a quasi-Ukrainian state dominated by an imperial minority, while the native majority still is oppressed and marginalized, like the blacks of South Africa or the Indians of South America. In their view, Ukraine is ruled by the creolic, i.e. Russian, elite who incorporate and corrupt the native elite and pay lip-service to some Ukrainian symbols, including language,

which is employed mostly for ritual purposes and never permeates the depths of the state apparatus.

Russian is still the language of business and industry, the state bureaucracy and higher education, science and mass culture. In the free market, some 80 percent of periodicals sold are in Russian, as well as some 90 percent of books. Most programs on private TV and radio stations are broadcast in Russian; as are most plays in theaters, and nearly all films and videos (mostly American, but translated in Moscow). Russian popular music is second after American (if not the first) in the Ukrainian market, and second-rate Russian pop-stars regularly gather their tribute in the aboriginal wonderland of Ukraine.

In many terms, Ukrainian culture is a culture of a minority that has rather high achievements produced and consumed by the native elite, but which cannot compete in a free market with a dominant imperial mass culture (first, because it is imperial, second because it is mass). It is not a matter of quality, rather of the mental predisposition of the consumers. They are deeply biased against things Ukrainian and this is the main reason why so few people in urban centers communicate in Ukrainian, despite the fact that nearly everyone can do so if necessary. This mental predisposition is the reason teachers and pupils informally communicate in Russian in Ukrainian schools, as do soldiers and officers in the Ukrainian army.

The Ukrainian language still has a very low social status in Ukrainian society, although many top state leaders use it in their official appearances — (but not in

(Continued on page 9)

Mykola Ryabchuk speaks on Ukraine's future and political forces

by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — Literary critic, editor and political commentator Mykola Ryabchuk was in Toronto in March during his five-month visit to North America this spring that included a stint as a visiting research fellow at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in Washington.

Mr. Ryabchuk, who is the deputy editor of *Krytyka*, the Kyiv-based journal modeled on *The New York Review of Books*, as well as a columnist for the newspaper *Den* and a research fellow at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, gave two presentations in Toronto, the first on March 19 titled "A Future Ukraine: One Nation, Two Languages, Three Cultures?" at the University of Toronto Center for Russian and East European Studies (a presentation that he also delivered at the Kennan Institute; see the edited text above this article) and the second presentation on March 21 titled "Ukraine on the Eve of Elections: Between Bad and Worse?" that was hosted by the Ukrainian Research and Documentation Center.

The principal theme of the first presentation was that the primary antagonism in Ukraine is not ethnic but linguistic — between those who are Ukrainophones and those who are Russophones, a group that includes many ethnic Ukrainians. Furthermore, Mr. Ryabchuk suggested that at present, despite persistent efforts by Western commentators that claim otherwise, this linguistic antagonism does not create tremendous fault lines in the fabric of the nascent state and that economic concerns are paramount.

Furthermore, he indicated that virtual unanimity has been shown in polls on the troubles in the Crimean peninsula, with easily 90 percent of the population — again across ethnic and regional lines — in favor of strong measures to preserve the Ukrainian state's territorial integrity.

Ukrainian's low social status

Mr. Ryabchuk said that few people in Ukraine use Ukrainian, despite the fact that most can, because the language has low social (and former colonial) status.

"Not only [President Leonid] Kuchma, but also [for-

mer President Leonid] Kravchuk, speaks to his family members in Russian," he suggested.

Aside from official use, he noted: "Ukrainian is used only in family settings and in the countryside, where the fault can be tolerated, and at the Writers' Union building, an intellectual ghetto dominated by odd regional fixations."

Mr. Ryabchuk also contended that although Ukrainian is the state language, a Ukrainian-influenced Russian form of the language — the "Third Culture" referenced in the presentation's title — is most frequently used as soon as the microphones are turned off. The result is that there is a de facto cultural/linguistic trifurcation of the society.

Possible outcomes

Tailoring his address to his Canadian audience, Mr. Ryabchuk stated that while it is tempting to apply the Canadian model — "adopt official bilingualism and grope for peace" — to the Ukrainian experience, he believes this solution is applicable to Ukraine only in terms of the possible future rather than the present situation.

The *Krytyka* editor opined that in Ukraine "the question is, who will be Québec?" He stated there are two possible and entirely polar outcomes.

If Ukrainization succeeds, then Russophone Russians would become a true minority, concentrated in the south central regions. Mr. Ryabchuk contended there is a strong likelihood this Russian enclave would easily maintain significant control of large sectors of Ukraine's economy and thus would enjoy sufficient political influence to ensure that its rights as a minority are respected.

However, if Russification by default proceeds, the scholar said Ukrainophone Ukrainians could well become a minority in their own country, concentrated in western Ukraine. Given that this minority status would be unacceptable to nationally conscious Ukrainians, Mr. Ryabchuk warned, this outcome has the potential for great political instability.

Mechanics of Ukrainian politics

The visiting scholar's second address, "Ukraine on the Eve of Elections: Between Bad and Worse?" focused on

the sociological background of the forces that the various potential presidential candidates represent, and the mechanics of maintaining political power in Ukraine.

Mr. Ryabchuk said Ukraine is an odd democracy because, while the minority suffers, as it does in most countries, the majority suffers as well. He noted that because each administration's policies since 1991 have aimed only to redress specific grievances — merely reacting to demands from miners, nationalists, minorities, socialists or others — they have not been geared to bringing positive benefits to anyone.

In terms of civic consciousness, Mr. Ryabchuk stated that the general population is still showing signs of Soviet upbringing: they see social conflict as the unwanted residue of class war, as the seeds of chaos, and thus are terribly frightened of any confrontation.

Since there are no adequate civic institutions devoted to conflict resolution (such as a justice system that citizens can trust), the current regime is free to foster the above-mentioned notions, and present itself as the guarantor of stability even as it exploits social divisions.

That said, Mr. Ryabchuk pointedly reminded his audience that, for all their faults, Ukraine has never had rulers who were as well disposed to its population as the current crop. As yet, they have not mounted any direct assaults on the citizenry, or on the country's language or culture, as previous regimes have for centuries.

Without wishing to make a commitment to a particular presidential candidate, Mr. Ryabchuk said the worst outcome would be a maintenance of the status quo. "If Mr. Kuchma were returned to office, this would simply send a signal to the apparatus that its approach is correct," he said.

The political commentator averred that Ukraine's Communists present very little threat. He said they make motions towards Moscow out of nostalgia for the USSR rather than for a "reunification" with Russia. Suggesting that any efforts to reconstitute the defunct Soviet Union are doomed, Mr. Ryabchuk quipped that supporters of such notions are "the kind of people who constantly step on the same rake and repeatedly get smacked in the face for their pains."

A future Ukraine...

(Continued from page 8)

private, the most graphic and telling detail for the majority of the people).

Indeed, this predisposition against Ukrainian can be explained as the gloomy result of the centuries-long policy of russification. Both the Russian and Soviet empires had oppressed, persecuted and crushed the Ukrainophone elite, while the common folk, mostly the rural population, had been successfully marginalized, despised and ridiculed as quasi-feudal "kolkhoz slaves," with "white skin," but a "black" language.

This language, unlike black skin, can be easily changed by those slaves who escape their rural environs and head for urban centers, looking for a better life and serving as street sweepers, garbage collectors, dish washers, builders. Thus, the low social status of Ukrainian language, and Ukrainian culture, is a direct result of the low status of Ukrainians (more precisely, Ukrainophones) in Ukrainian society. The Ukrainophone world has been firmly associated with a narrow circle of dissidents depicted as imperialistic agents, or crazy nationalists, a ghettoized Writers' Union (talentless puppets), and, by and large, with backward, uncivilized villages that have had no prospects for the future.

Myths revisited

Ukrainian nationalists who blame the government as being an "anti-Ukrainian" regime that promotes russification under the guise of political independence and free-market reforms, sincerely believe that everything would change if the proper people – "true Ukrainian patriots" – would come to power, and the proper policy – "real Ukrainization" – would be pursued. They never explain, however, how these people would come to power if urban Ukrainophones are too small in number, and rural Ukrainophones are too undeveloped to accomplish this. Even less clear is why this creolic regime should listen to the demands of the marginalized Ukrainophone minority instead of the dominant Russophone majority.

As regards Russian nationalists, they deny the very existence of the Ukrainian nation, claiming that it is just a regional branch of the Great Russian nation. This view, however, is more widespread in Russia; in Ukraine a special sort of local Russian nationalism has developed – I call it "creolic," or "Russophone." In political terms, it is quite "Ukrainian," i.e., quite supportive of state independence, territorial integrity, and many historical myths and symbols shared with Ukrainophones. In cultural and linguistic terms however it is rather "Russian," in nature, i.e., unsympathetic to Ukrainophones (with their allegedly "western Ukrainian nationalistic obsession," and is strongly biased against the Ukrainian culture and language.

Unlike "true" Russian nationalists, they never deny Ukrainian culture and language completely. Their approach is rather "archeological": they recognize that the Ukrainian language is beautiful, but it has disappeared and will never be revived. They claim that official Ukrainian is artificial, and spoken Ukrainian in western Ukraine is even more artificial. They praise Ukrainian culture – but only as great folklore; the only writer they recognize is Taras Shevchenko, a "national prophet," a semi-legendary, semi-folkloric figure.

Such an attitude is ambiguous: it combines both "Ukrainian" patriotic nostalgia for the "glorious" past (in the style of Hohol) along with creolic superiority to the present "backward" Ukrainophones, plus a bias against western Ukrainians

who are not "backward," but who are pretentious, artificial and menacing. They perceive any "Ukrainization" as a personal threat and insist on a kind of linguistic and cultural laissez-faire, i.e., on preserving the status-quo inherited from colonial times that grants them their privileged and superior position. They claim the Russian language and culture are as natural and as important a part of the Ukrainian heritage as Ukrainian language and culture, perhaps even more so.

Ironically, both Russian and Ukrainian nationalists derive an argument for their colonial (or anti-colonial) rhetoric from the same meaningless census data that divides the Ukrainian population into 22 percent Russians and 73 percent Ukrainians. The Russians claim that they never oppressed or marginalized Ukrainians because there are many more ethnic Ukrainians in various top positions than ethnic Russians. And Ukrainians claim that they are a majority that deserves more rights as a titular nationality, while the Russians should be treated as just a minority, like Poles, Jews and Hungarians, whose political and cultural rights are guaranteed but not "exaggerated."

The real problem, however, is that Ukrainian society is not divided into just Ukrainians and Russians, but into at least three major groups: Russophone Russians (about 20 percent), Ukrainophone Ukrainians (about 45 percent) and Russophone Ukrainians (about 30 percent). All other ethnic groups (5 percent) are mostly Russian-speaking as well.

Apparently, the weakest and vaguest sense of national identity is that of the Russophone Ukrainians who are rather "Ukrainian" in political terms, and rather "Russian" in terms of culture. Both Ukrainians and Russians compete for the support this group, and both claim it to

Ukrainian society is not divided into just Ukrainians and Russians, but into at least three major groups: Russophone Russians (about 20 percent), Ukrainophone Ukrainians (about 45 percent) and Russophone Ukrainians (about 30 percent). All other ethnic groups (5 percent) are mostly Russian-speaking as well.

be their own. On many levels, this competition looks like a cold civil war, with hardly predictable results. The probable scenarios, however, should be considered – in order to forestall the most dangerous developments.

The solution

First of all, we should recognize some facts and realities that cannot be ignored, however much we may dislike them.

Since 1991, the Ukrainian nation exists as a nation-state and, apparently, nation-building has been hastened and strengthened by this fact. The essence and shape of this nation are more an internal than an external problem, and its future existence cannot be questioned unless we decide to question regional stability and, perhaps, world order.

The Ukrainian nation that emerged in 1991 as a nation-state is bilingual: both Ukrainian and Russian have, more or less, equal currency in Ukraine. For many Ukrainians, as well as for Russians, language is a major part of

their identity. However, it is not the case for many Russified Ukrainians whose identity is rather mixed and vague, and who usually identify themselves in pre-modern terms as "locals" ("we are the Odesans," "we are the Kyivans," "we are Donbasians," etc.). Within the Ukrainian state their identity will certainly be modernized; the problem, however, is whether the process of modernization will coincide with linguistic Ukrainization, or whether a Ukrainian-creolic (i.e. Russophone) national identity will emerge.

The first development would probably mean that Russians in Ukraine will become a true minority, concentrated mostly in the southeast, especially in Crimea. The second development means that the role of minority is destined for the Ukrainophones who live mostly in western Ukraine.

One may suggest that a third scenario of "no winners, no losers" is possible, i.e., that today's status quo can be maintained, and even somehow improved. I cannot agree with this assumption for two reasons. First, I do not know any real example where two languages co-exist equally – within the same territory, the same spheres of functioning and the same population. And secondly, today's status quo in Ukraine is far from equal; it is based on the political, cultural, economic and financial dominance of the Russophones, and the colonial marginalization of the Ukrainophone part of population.

This is a social rather than a linguistic problem: therefore, it cannot be eschewed or fixed by laissez faire policy. Any attempt to reform agriculture, to abandon kolkhoz feudalism, and to liberalize the economy and politicum beyond the capital city will inevitably lead to emancipation of rural Ukrainophones, the strengthening of Ukrainian civil society and a dramatic alteration of the post-

colonial balance of power in Kyiv.

Ukraine, in a sense, is destined to be like a Canada, with its own Quebec. The problem, however, is whether it will be a Russophone Donbas and Crimea within a greater Ukraine, or a Ukrainophone Galicia within a Ukraine that mostly speaks Russian.

I find the first scenario preferable for two reasons. First, the Ukrainophone Ukrainians who had managed to defend their linguistic identity under the enormous pressure of the Russian and Soviet empires, would never agree to be marginalized and turned into a minority within independent Ukraine. Their resistance would certainly have the most radical forms since they have no other place to cherish their own language and culture. Ethnic Russians would sooner accept minority status – as long as the Ukrainian state remains democratic, tolerant and economically prosperous. Secondly, Russophone Ukrainians, however resistant and unsympathetic they are to their own "Ukrainization," seem to be much more accepting of the gradual



Roma Hadzewycz

Mykola Ryabchuk

Ukrainization of their offspring. This point is confirmed by various opinion polls, as well as by the de facto acceptance of a very moderate Ukrainization that has been carried out by the government agencies since 1991 (in education, etc.).

The slow pace of Ukrainization, under the current circumstances, seems to be the most optimum and proper solution – despite the fact that it suits neither the Russian nor Ukrainian nationalists. The term, however, is dubious, and should definitely be replaced with the more suitable and internationally recognized concept of "affirmative action." Such a policy is necessary in any post-colonial culture, particularly in Ukraine. The appropriate scale and pace of these actions should be defined for each case separately to make the social agenda clearer and promote social dialogue.

The Ukrainophones should probably abandon the controversial idea to "re-Ukrainianize" their Russified fellow-citizens – some 15 millions "prodigal sons" derogatively labeled as "janissaries" who, so far, have little if any wish to change their cultural and linguistic identity once again.

And the Russophones should unequivocally accept the necessity of "affirmative action" on the part of the Ukrainophones' side to promote their true, not just token equality. The government should be a major designer and coordinator of an appropriate policy that should be coherent and comprehensive.

So far, the talks on Ukrainization resemble the talks on market reforms, which have aptly been labeled "shock without therapy." The Russophone population seems to be more concerned with the talks on Ukrainization than with real, very moderate and limited acts of "positive discrimination." The laissez faire language policy that prevails constantly kindles the dissatisfied Ukrainophones; these talks in turn frighten the Russophones even more, further hampering any governmental steps toward affirmative action.

The vicious circle should have been broken – not so much by hastening the pace of Ukrainization or by slowing it down, but first and foremost by making policy clearer, more transparent, outspoken and unambiguous. Such a policy should be overtly negotiated within society since a nation is not just a permanent plebiscite, but also a permanent search for consensus.



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych and Volodymyr Bekhtir

A rich heritage of folk art

Folk art on stamps has long been popular in philately. Sometimes collectors lump folk art under the larger field of art, in general; but other specialists focus strictly on the "folk" aspect. Although Ukraine's history as an independent country was interrupted for over 70 years during its forceful incorporation into the Soviet Union, folk motifs played a prominent role in its first period of stamp production (1918-1920) and have enhanced many of its modern releases (since 1992). Ukraine's very first stamp set of five-shah values showed folk ornamentation (Figure 1); its 14-stamp lithographed issue of 1920 used folk designs in the borders of every value (Figure 2).

Newly independent Ukraine's first two stamps, issued in March 1992, show richly embroidered folk dress, various folk crafts, and even a historic stringed folk instrument, the kobza (Figure 3). That same year saw the release of Ukraine's first souvenir sheet, which was dedicated to folk music. Displayed on that sheet are various Ukrainian folk instruments and a folk dance (Figure 4). Late that year, a stamp appeared showing a sample of typical Ukrainian embroidery, including some of the most popular mythological motifs: the tree of life and love birds (Figure 5).

Numerous additional single stamps with folk art elements were issued by Ukraine in the ensuing years.

In late 1997 a stunning folk art miniature sheet was released; it consisted of two sets of four stamps surrounded by a selvaže border showing well over a dozen folk design motifs (Figure 6).

The first stamp on this sheet depicts Ukrainian folk painting. The design displays a folk rendering of a rooster done in tempera on paper. The depiction was selected as typical of Ukrainian folk design: colorful, ornamental and with an animal motif.

Ukrainian folk painting may be found on walls, furniture, ceramics, glass, paper

and cloth. The elements of these traditional embellishments have survived since ancient times. Particularly famous for its ornamentation is the eastern Ukraine whence this rendering hails.

The type of fauna depicted on a folk painting also is significant. The rooster, for example, who greets each day with his crowing, serves to drive away all kinds of evil spirits with his cry. In the folk imagination, a red rooster is particularly powerful in this respect: he brings happiness, protects the cattle from the enchantments of witches, and little children from being stolen by "unclean forces" who can turn them into changelings.

The red rooster can also find a hidden treasure, thus he is also a symbol of wealth. This belief is the reason a rooster is so often seen as an element of Ukrainian embroidery, and so it was only right that the rooster was chosen to decorate one of the folk art stamps. The face value of the stamp is 20 kopiiky.

The second stamp in the sheet illustrates another type of ancient Ukrainian folk art: ceramics. The depicted figure a ram, is an example of the "animal-art style" introduced into the Mediterranean world by the ancient Scythians (who inhabited Ukraine in the first millennium B.C.). Originally such items were ritual vessels (hollow inside) used for holding and pouring wine and other alcoholic beverages.

The choice of a ram is not accidental. In ancient times a ram was the symbol of masculinity, creative energy and the rebirth of the sun's energy in the spring, as well as happiness, wealth, well-being and dignity. But, at the same time, a ram can also be a symbol of unyielding steadfastness, even stupidity.

Ceramic arts in Ukraine date back to 5000 B.C. The techniques for preparing clay, sculpting vessels and statues out of clay, glazing and firing the finished product were developed over many centuries.



Figure 1 (left): The 50-shah value is composed almost exclusively of folk design.

Figure 2 (above): A klym-weave design borders a pastoral steppe scene on the 200-hryvnia stamp.



Figure 3: Traditional garb on Ukraine's first issues of 1992.

Ceramic technology was one of the most important crafts practiced in ancient Ukraine. Over time, distinctive traditions, styles and uses evolved.

In Ukraine, ceramics were divided into four basic types: utilitarian vessels, ornamental vessels, ornamental tiles and building products (roof coverings, bricks, pipes, etc.). Today many ancient ceramic centers continue to thrive in Ukraine. The ram shown on the 40-kopiika stamp is rather typical for central Ukraine, which, since antiquity has been renowned for a number of excellent clay deposits.

The third stamp in the series shows an ornamental plate from western Ukraine. Wood carving is a very elaborate type of folk art, typically practiced in the wooded mountainous areas. The oldest extant examples of woodworking date only from the 17th century because, unfortunately, wood decays fairly rapidly. These examples are called "obrazy" (pictures), because

they were really carved icons. Surviving materials from the 18th century are much more elaborate; they include furniture and other utilitarian objects.

All carving elements are geometric in nature and very ancient in origin. They are similar to the ornaments used on Ukrainian Easter eggs (pysanky), and they have the same symbolic meanings. Most of the utilitarian objects were ornamented with flat, dry carving. In some cases, the effects of the flat carving were reinforced by inlays of horn, metal wires, small nails or beads. The main decorative principle in preparing these flat carvings was to divide the surface into smaller and smaller geometric areas: squares, circles, semicircles, rectangles, triangles, etc. The 40-kopiika stamp illustrates just such a technique in a contemporary object.

The final stamp of the sheet is devoted

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Remembering Kateryna Bilokur

Ukraine's most recent special release featuring folk art was part of a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Figure 7). Two stamps with a central non-denominated label show paintings by Kateryna Bilokur (1900-1961), the self-taught but amazingly talented master of folk art from the village of Bohdanivka, Poltava region. As a youngster, Bilokur's parents frowned on her passion for art, but she persisted and was eventually allowed to paint. Recognition of her work began to grow steadily before World War II, but almost all of her pre-war paintings were lost when the Poltava Art Museum burned down. The 15 years after the war were her most productive and creative. A spinster, semi-invalid and somewhat of a recluse, she died alone in her native village.

The two flanking stamps show pictures of flowers (her favorite subject) from her pre- and post-war periods. The painting on the 30-kopiika stamp is titled "Flowers in Fog" (1940); the subject of the 50-kopiika stamp on the right is "Bouquet of Flowers" (1959). A self-portrait of the artist appears on the central label.



Figure 7: The Declaration of Human Rights release honoring Kateryna Bilokur.



Figure 4: A Hutsul "troisti muzyky" folk ensemble entertaining a group of dancers; all are dressed in folk attire.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Celebrations around town

by Helen Smindak

At the rate events have been taking place this season at the Ukrainian Institute of America, this institution can be considered the leading venue of Ukrainian cultural events in New York. During the past month, the institute hosted a gala fund-raising concert starring bass Paul Plishka, an all-Lysenko program featuring soprano Oksana Krovtytska, an evening of impassioned poetry and music by the Zankovetska Theater Group from Lviv, and an end-of-the-season frolic for the Music and Me preschool program.

Meanwhile, on the Lower East Side, the New York Bandura ensemble celebrated its 25th anniversary with a concert by its students and Kyiv bandura virtuoso Roman Hrynkiw.

A star and a crown jewel

Met Opera star Paul Plishka is never so happy as when he's performing. He's also happy chatting with friends and admirers after a performance. Both ideals were attained when he appeared at the Ukrainian Institute of America last month in a fund-raising concert and reception benefiting the UIA's Crown Jewel Endowment.

Mr. Plishka's vibrant program began with a selection of contemplative songs by Ihor Sonevtytsky, compositions by Stanislav Liudkevych and Mykola Lysenko, as well as the forceful Sultan's aria from Semen Hulak-Artemovsky's "Zaporozhets za Dunayem." The concert's second half highlighted works by American composers – robust gambler songs by John Jacob Niles, Blue Mountain ballads by Paul Bowles and compositions exalting the four seasons by Charles Ives.

Vocally and dramatically at his very best in operatic works, Mr. Plishka has been performing at the Met for over 30 years. Mr. Plishka concluded the first segment with the comic aria "Madamina! Il Catalogo" from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and the great aria "La Calunnia" from Rossini's "The Barber of Seville." He ended his concert with a powerful performance of two Verdi works. Banquo's aria from "Macbeth" and the nobleman Fiesco's lament "Il Lacerato Spirito" from "Simon Boccanegra," bringing the audience to its feet for a standing ovation.

True to form, pianist Thomas Hrynkiw provided impeccable accomplishment throughout the evening.

The audience included Ukraine's consul general in New York, Yuriy Bohaievsky, and his son, Vitaliy; Theodore Dzus Jr., grandson of Institute founder William Dzus, with his wife, Carol, and other members of the Dzus family; and a group of guests from Washington, among them, George Chopivsky.

Event co-chairman Bohdan Shandor told the audience before the concert, "We are here to celebrate the UIA building and to celebrate maintaining this building within the Ukrainian community for a very, very long time. The reason that we formed the Crown Jewel Endowment was to create an endowment fund that will allow the Ukrainian Institute to maintain these fabulous quarters forever."

"This is a historic building which cannot undergo any renovations or any changes without the approval of the New York Historical Society. That adds to the cost and complexity of anything we do," Mr. Shandor added. Reviewing renovations made in recent years, Mr. Shandor concluded: "Our goal is to make this building the 'crown jewel' of the

Ukrainian community so that 50 years from now, 100 years from now, Ukrainians – not just in New York City and the United States – but throughout the world can look at this building and be happy, grateful, encouraged and enthused by what we have contributed and done here today."

He thanked all those who had assisted in planning and preparing the event, with special acknowledgment to Mr. Plishka for donating his services to the institute, and the Crown Jewel Endowment benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Dzus Jr. (\$10,000), Myron and Olha Hnateyko (\$5,000) and a group of people who donated between \$1,000 and \$2,000. These included Ostap and Ursula Balaban, Joseph and Olha Boba, Dr. Michael George and Mrs. Ulana George, Marko and Ljubow Melnitschenko, Walter and Frances Nazarewicz, Andrew and Larysa Paschuk, Yaroslawa Rubel, Shandor & Co. Inc. and Dr. Eugene Stecki.

Principal benefactors were given a private photo opportunity with Mr. Plishka after the concert. Later, guests mingled and chatted in a festive cafe setting on the third floor. Mr. Plishka, surrounded by admiring fans, continued to beam with happiness.

A Lysenko tribute

In the six years since she joined the New York City Opera, soprano Oksana Krovtytska has developed and flowered into a compelling singer and a mature personality. Those attributes were delightfully evident when she performed in the Music at the Institute concert on April 24, fresh from critically acclaimed performances in the title role of NYCO's new production of "Madama Butterfly." In solo work and in appealing duets with mezzo-soprano Charlene Marcinko and baritone Yaroslav Hnatiuk, she sang with remarkable expressiveness, her stage presence warm and gracious.

The concert featured vocal works of Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912), who studied and published the folk songs of his native village Hrynky in the Poltava region, which allowed him to lay the foundation for the Ukrainian national school of music.

Among the works chosen by Ms. Krovtytska for her solos were poignant Lysenko works with words by Taras Shevchenko – "Sadok Vyshnevyy Kolo Khaty" (The Cherry Grove) and "Oy, Odnia Ya, Odnia" (Alone Am I) – and another with words by Ivan Franko, "Misiatsiu Kniaziu" (Princely Moon). She interpreted Maryltsia's aria from the opera "Taras Bulba" with great depth and feeling.

In her debut performance at the UIA, Ms. Marcinko displayed a strong voice and excellent stage presence in such songs as "Yak by Zustrylisia My Znovu" (If Ever We Should Meet Again), a Lysenko work set to Shevchenko's words. The daughter of Glenda and Patrick Marcinko of Olyphant, Pa. (Mr. Marcinko serves as deacon at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church there), she holds degrees from Boston University and the Peabody Conservatory, gaining her early experience at the Pittsburgh Opera Center, the Aspen Opera Theater, the Opera Theater of St. Louis and the Washington Opera.

Mr. Hnatiuk, a native of Bilobozhnytsia in the Ternopil Oblast who studied voice at the Verivka Choir Studio and the R. Glière Music Academy, is a graduate of the opera division of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Kyiv. His solo contributions to the program were Ukrainian folk songs, for which he is



Theodore Dzus Jr. (left), grandson of UIA founder William Dzus, and his wife, Carol, with Met opera star Paul Plishka and pianist Thomas Hrynkiw.

especially noted, songs such as the humorous "Kazav Meni Batko" (My Father Bid Me Marry). Mr. Hnatiuk, who possesses an energetic baritone voice, has recorded more than 250 works for Ukrainian State Radio and created four music films. He is presently engaged as deacon at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic, N.J.

The accompanist for the performers was the gifted pianist Thomas Hrynkiw, a much sought-after chamber music performer who has had a long association with Mr. Plishka. Currently recording accompaniments to 800 works and solo pieces for Yamaha Disklavier, Mr. Hrynkiw appears annually at the Newport Music Festival in Rhode Island, where he is the artistic advisor and vocal director, and at countless other festivals from Alaska to Mexico.

UIA Vice-President Jaroslav Kryshchalsky, thanking the performers for a superb evening of Lysenko music, noted that the concert marked the close of the ninth successful MATI season. He presented gifts of appreciation from the institute to two UIA volunteers – editor and translator Marta Skorupska, who has prepared program notes for years, and Valida Suk, concert reservations manager and receptionist.

The MATI concert series is managed by Mykola Suk, artistic director; Taras Shegedyn, executive director; and Virko Baley, artistic advisor.

A bandura celebration

The steady melodious plink, plink of bandura strings plucked in unison by a group of youths age 8 to 18; the fresh, bright voice of bandura instrumentalist Olya Chodoba Fryz singing Ukrainian folk songs; the unique improvisation stylings of Kyiv bandurist Roman Hrynkiw – these glorious sounds emanated from the auditorium of the Ukrainian Liberation Center on a recent Saturday afternoon, celebrating the establishment of the New York Bandura Ensemble 25 years ago and the kickoff to the next 25 years.

Students of bandura schools in New York and Yonkers, taught by Julian Kytasty, and a group from Astoria, Queens, directed by Alla Kutsevich, gave a charming concert of simple folk songs, including Misevych's "Kozachok" and a

very admirable rendering of the ever-popular "Vziav By Ya Banduru" (I'd Take Up My Bandura). For contrast, Mr. Kytasty and his colleague, Mykola Nemec, teamed up for the contemporary Atonal Étude No. 3, a Kytasty composition.

Ms. Fryz, a solo vocalist whose music reflects traditional Ukrainian concepts with individualized arrangements, has three popular albums to her credit.

Mr. Hrynkiw, the grand prize winner of the first Hnat Khotkevych International Bandurist Competition held in Kyiv in 1993, has been recognized by such internationally renowned musicians as John Williams and Al DiMeola. A bandura teacher at the Kyiv Conservatory since 1995, he designed and built his own instrument, which produces unusually rich sounds.

Mr. Kytasty, a member of the famous Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, has been the NYBE's musical director from 1980 to 1987 and from 1997 to the present. He was one of the first Ukrainian artists from the West to tour in Ukraine, performing his own arrangements and original compositions in more than 100 concerts and on national radio and television in 1989-1990.

The NYBE board of directors, introduced by Iryna Czorny Andreadis, a founding member of the school and herself a board member, includes executive director Nick Czorny, Mr. Kytasty, Myroslaw Shmigel, Maria Kozychka, Sviatoslav Makarenko and Bohdan Kopystiansky.

Music for everyone

Six members of Lviv's renowned Zankovetska Theater Ensemble, who stayed behind when the main troupe returned to Ukraine last January, have been touring from town to town with presentations that bring tears to the eyes of their Ukrainian American compatriots. On May 8, at the Ukrainian Institute of America, the group presented a costumed dramatization of works by Taras Shevchenko, including poems, songs and excerpts from Shevchenko's "The Slave" delivered proudly and fervently. Headed by Stepan Hlova, the group includes Mykola Shunevych, Nazar Stryhun, Ihor Havryliv, Olena Smolynets and Ludmilla

(Continued on page 12)

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Roman Rudnytsky performs concerts from Australia, to Britain, to Chile

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio – Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky one of the most traveled of all classical performers, will be on tour for extended concerts from June 6 to September 16.

The core of his activities will be his 11th Australian tour, which will take place June 25 to September 1, comprising 21 concerts in all the mainland Australian states. Among these concerts will be appearances as soloist with two orchestras. He will perform the Rachmaninoff Concerto No. 2 in C minor with the Zelman Memorial Orchestra in Melbourne and the Chopin Concerto No. 1 in E minor with the Cairns (Queensland) Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Rudnytsky, who has now played in 70 countries around the world, first visited Australia in 1979 and has played about 350 concerts there in all.

Before and after the Australian tour, he will give six recitals on two cruises from Britain to the Mediterranean. From June 6 to June 20 he will be performing aboard the Oriana. Ports of call to be visited include Gibraltar, the islands of Elba, Corsica, Menorca and Mallorca, Monte Carlo, Toulon (France), and Santa Margherita and Livorno (both in Italy).

Mr. Rudnytsky's concerts since the fall of 1998 have included a recital in Tunisia as part of the music festival "October Musicales de Carthage" (at the famous ruins), performances in Venezuela as soloist with the orchestras of the cities of Maracaibo and Mérida, his sixth tour in Chile (seven recitals), recitals in Britain, plus performances aboard the Victoria on a Caribbean cruise from Barbados. (Both the Oriana and the



Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky.

Victoria belong to the British P&O company – one of the largest and oldest of all cruise liners.)

On Sunday, May 2, Mr. Rudnytsky played a recital for the Cleveland-area Ukrainian community as a fund-raiser for a charity helping blind children in Lviv.

Planned concerts in the fall of this year include his seventh tour in Chile (late October), a recital on the island of Aruba (November) and performances in the U.S. Since 1972 Mr. Rudnytsky has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University and in 1990 received a "Distinguished Professor Award" from that institution.

Celebrations...

(Continued from page 11)

Nikonchuk. (Mr. Hlova and Ms. Nikonchuk are Merited Artists of Ukraine.) They travel in one van, accepting whatever stopover accommodations are offered along the way. They are deserving of support and assistance. Do see their performance when they stop in your town; you will be impressed with its patriotic fervor.

A rainy afternoon did not dampen the spirits of a group of preschool children who were busy planting and harvesting a turnip in the Ukrainian Institute's concert hall May 23. Taking part in a playlet devised and narrated by their music teacher, Marta Sawycky, the children

were guided by piano music as they went through the motions of planting, feeding, watering, cultivating and harvesting an oversize fabric turnip with the help of "farmer" Walter Zarycky, a politics professor at New York University.

Mr. Zarycky, whose daughter attends the Music and Me preschool program, filled in for an indisposed youngster.

The children celebrated the end of their school year with musical games and a refreshment break as beaming parents and sleepy-eyed babes-in-arms looked on. Taking part as observers were the non-Ukrainian parents of two adopted children from Ukraine – a small girl from Sevastopol and a little boy from Kyiv – who have been enrolled in the preschool program which begins in September, to be kept close to their ancestral culture.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

the two peoples, as well as ensure loyalty to Austria-Hungary.

In 1891 Barvinsky was elected as a deputy to the imperial Parliament in Vienna, where he served until 1907. In 1894 he also began his 10-year term as a deputy to the Galician Diet (the regional parliament), representing the Catholic Ruthenian People's Union (CRPU)

However, 1894 also marked the year that the New Era arrangement fell apart. Repeated Polish manipulation of elections, and the restriction of reforms to some concessions in secondary and post-secondary education (particularly at the expense of the Ukrainian peasantry) prompted Romanchuk and the majority of the Ukrainian populists to join forces with more radical activists such as Ivan Franko and Mykola Pavlyk.

Barvinsky and others, including Metropolitan Sylvester Sembratovych (who had appointed Barvinsky to the LTS faculty) and the composer Anatol Vakhnianyn, stood by their more conciliatory positions. In 1897 he established and edited the daily Ruslan, which promulgated this line. In 1911 Barvinsky reorganized the CRPU as the Christian Social Party, although he failed in his re-election bid.

In 1918 Barvinsky served as the Western Ukrainian National Republic's secretary of education and religious affairs. After Polish forces captured Lviv, he retired from political life.

Oleksander Barvinsky died in Lviv on December 25, 1926.

Sources: "Barvinsky, Oleksander," "New Era," "Populism," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vols. 1, 3, 4* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984, 1993).

Anatolii Solovyanenko to perform in recitals in U.S. and Canada

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The renowned Ukrainian opera singer Anatolii Solovyanenko arrived recently in the United States, where he will appear in recitals for Ukrainian communities. During the tour he will also perform in Canada.

The tenor began his tour with an appearance at the Glen Gould Hall in Toronto on May 30, where his performance was enthusiastically received by the audience.

Upon winning a voice competition in Moscow, Mr. Solovyanenko received a scholarship to Milan's La Scala, where he studied from 1963 to 1965. He was a soloist with the Kyiv Theater of Opera and Ballet from 1965 to 1993.

Well on his way to an illustrious career, he concertized throughout the Soviet Union and countries of the Eastern bloc, as well as Germany, Australia, Japan and Canada.

In 1977-1978 he sang at The Metropolitan Opera in New York in the roles of Turiddu in Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" and the Duke of Mantua in Verdi's "Rigoletto."

A native of the coal-mining region of Donetsk, he was born into a miner's family. Mr. Solovyanenko graduated from the Donetsk Polytechnical Institute and studied singing under Oleksander Korobeichenko. He completed his studies at the Kyiv Conservatory of Music in 1978.

Mr. Solovyanenko was accorded the title of National Artist of the Soviet Union in 1975 and was the recipient of the Druzhba Narodiv Lenin Prize in 1980. He was awarded Ukraine's prestigious Taras Shevchenko State Prize in 1997.

Mr. Solovyanenko's diverse operatic repertoire included the lead tenor roles of Italian opera — including "Edgardo in Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor," Alfredo in Verdi's "La Traviata," Rodolfo in Puccini's "La Boheme" and Cavaradossi in "Tosca" — as well as Des Grieux in Massenet's "Manon," Lensky in Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin," Andrii in Hulak-Artemovsky's "Zaporozhets za Dunayem" and Petro in Lysenko's "Natalka Poltavka,"



Renowned Ukrainian tenor Anatolii Solovyanenko.

among others. Mr. Solovyanenko's discography includes 18 recordings and three CDs featuring operatic arias, Ukrainian folk songs and Russian romances.

Among his latest CDs are "Anatolii Solovyanenko: Italian Arias and Songs," released in 1996 (distributed by S.I.T. Karavan CD), and "Anatolii Solovyanenko: Ukrainian Folk Songs" (1998).

In his upcoming recitals in North America, Mr. Solovyanenko, accompanied by pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, will perform selections from Italian and Ukrainian opera, as well as Ukrainian songs.

Mr. Solovyanenko's itinerary will include appearances in Philadelphia on Sunday, June 13; Buffalo, N.Y., on Saturday, June 19; Rochester, N.Y., on Sunday, June 20; Hamilton, Ontario, on Wednesday, June 23; Hunter, N.Y., on Sunday, July 4 at the Grazhda concert hall; as well as Boston (date to be announced).

For specific information and additional listings of Mr. Solovyanenko's recitals, check the weekly calendar in "Preview of Events."

Paris to Kyiv ensemble debuts in D.C. at Embassy of France

WASHINGTON — Alexis Kochan and her ensemble, Paris to Kyiv, made their Washington debut on April 29, under the sponsorship of The Washington Group Cultural Fund, presenting a program of Ukrainian songs at the Embassy of France.

TWG Cultural Fund Director Laryssa Lapychak Chopivsky opened the evening with a short history of French-Ukrainian relations, in which she pointed out that the French connection with Ukraine dates back almost a millennium to the Ukrainian Prince Yaroslav the Wise and one of his daughters, Princess Anna Yaroslavna, who married the French King Henry I.

Ms. Chopivsky recounted her trip to France, where she visited the beautiful medieval town of Senlis, just 40 kilometers from Paris, where Princess Anna lived and is believed to be buried. She explained that Anna Yaroslavna is a leg-

end in this area and that the Senlis tourist brochure mentions "Anne of Kiev" because in 1060 she founded an abbey dedicated to St. Vincent, the patron saint of vineyards and winemakers. The vineyards flourished and brought prosperity and wealth to the Senlis area.

Ms. Chopivsky also noted also that Princess Anna Yaroslavna was apparently the only literate person in King Henry's court and signed many official documents "Queen Anna" in Cyrillic.

After this informative introduction, Ms. Chopivsky introduced and welcomed the musical ensemble Paris to Kyiv: Ukrainian Canadian vocalist Ms. Kochan, the renowned bandurist Julian Kytasty, jazz violist Richard Moody and multi-instrumentalist Martin Colledge, who played the lute, sitar and Northumbrian pipes.

Ms. Kochan, who is a singer, teacher,

(Continued on page 20)



Natalie Sluzar

Paris to Kyiv ensemble members Alexis Kochan and Julian Kytasty are greeted with flowers by Alison Courtney (daughter of U.S. Ambassador William Courtney, an honorary member of The Washington Group), after their concert at the Embassy of France in Washington.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Andreychuk not done yet

Discreetly, but not silently, the New Jersey Devils wondered whether Dave Andreychuk was finished. As he struggled all of 1997-1998, it was suggested the 500-goal scorer had lost his scoring touch.

But if Devils' coach Robbie Ftorek's looser reins have proved anything this current season, it is that Andreychuk does still have it. After scoring the game-winning goal in overtime against the Philadelphia Flyers before Christmas, Andreychuk actually shared the team lead in goals with Petr Sykora.

"He's doing the things he has always done well," Ftorek said.

Even more impressive was the fact Andreychuk, 35, was in double figures in goals (he finished the recently concluded 1998-1999 regular season with 15 goals), despite missing several games with a bruised sternum following a hit from Florida Panthers' forward Peter Worrell and assorted other physical ailments later on.

"I don't know who was concerned. I wasn't concerned," Andreychuk said. "It was a while before I felt back to normal. My first week back I didn't play great, but then I felt pretty good. Before that, I couldn't do too much. I feel more confident."

At the time, some three months into this season, Andreychuk was being mentioned among the top candidates for the Bill Masterton Trophy for perseverance. He basically played in some degree of pain all season long.

"I think it [the pain] is going to be there for a while. It's just going to linger on," Andreychuk said. "It's like a sprained wrist. That's what I've been told. I just have to deal with it."

In his time, he has dealt with worse,

such as a very conservative defensive approach during the Jacques Lemaire era, which transformed him from a goal-scorer to a component of the neutral zone trap. He still scored big goals, but not as many as he might have scored elsewhere. He blamed himself for scoring only 14 goals in 1997-1998.

"I tried to think back to when I had a tougher year," he said. "Maybe my first year of junior. It was tougher mentally more than anything. Physically, my game hasn't changed," he noted.

Khristich productive in Beantown

Statistics like those compiled by Dimitri Khristich would normally attract a great deal of attention. However, when the numbers are put up by a quiet man who really goes all out to deflect attention, it's left to the others to express how well the 29-year-old Ukrainian right-winger performed for the Boston Bruins this season.

"You can tell he was determined," said coach Pat Burns. "When he had that face on him, he could really play the game. Dima [Khristich's nickname] was in the zone. He was in a groove a couple of times during the season where he was really playing well."

Byron Dafoe's top drawer goaltending, Ray Bourque's standard top-notch play, holdouts by Anson Carter and Kyle McLaren that were eventually settled, a short-lived comeback attempt by Cam Neely and the second-half coming-on by future star Joe Thornton managed to keep the spotlight off Khristich almost all season long.

For the year he was Boston's second most productive player. His 29 goals led the Bruins while his assist total (42) placed him in third. His 71 total points

(Continued on page 15)



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The UNA, Soyuzivka...

(Continued from page 5)

1969. The resort is also home to popular dance camps that began well over 25 years ago — first under the instruction of Volodymyr Bacad of the Avramenko School of Dance, later Petro Marunchak and now Roma Pryma Bohachevsky.

Over the years thousands of children have benefited from one or more of these camps. Camp participants of the past have continued their Ukrainian camping tradition by bringing their own children to Soyuzivka camps.

Other than camps, Soyuzivka holds tennis tournaments, swim meets and volleyball competitions for sports enthusiasts. The resort remains a principal setting for youth gatherings and meetings of many youth organizations.

Countless young Ukrainians from the United States and Canada congregate at the resort during Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends. They come simply because "everyone will be there." (One can only guess how many happy unions began with a first meeting at Soyuzivka.)

For young ladies, there is the annual Miss Soyuzivka contest, during which they are judged on their knowledge of Ukrainian culture, their community involvement and their talents. Soyuzivka has become known also as a venue for the presentation of art by young artists, be it in performing or fine arts. Singers, bands and choirs often have their first performance on the Soyuzivka stage;

many theatrical groups from Ukraine also have appeared on the stages of the resort, later touring other cities of the country.

Both Soyuzivka and the UNA Home Office employ students — especially during the summer period. Such opportunities recognize the need for students to earn a little during their vacations and yet spend time in a setting where they can meet their contemporaries and fellow Ukrainians.

Activities at Soyuzivka are geared toward promoting Ukrainian culture and enhancing parents' efforts to rear their children in a Ukrainian milieu. By supporting and maintaining Soyuzivka, the UNA offers a setting that nurtures younger generations aware of their ethnic background and mindful of the needs of their Ukrainian community.

Thus, it is worthwhile to support the UNA, which has pledged to continue focusing its programs on the younger generation and subsidizing Soyuzivka as long as possible. By joining the ranks of the UNA, members can promote youth-oriented programs. By supporting Soyuzivka, they can be sure that their children and grandchildren, too, will be able to enjoy all that Soyuzivka has to offer.

So, here's the key: become involved in the Ukrainian community, support local community activities, join your local UNA branches, come and vacation at Soyuzivka. Help the UNA help our community.

Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 14)

was second best. Perhaps his most compelling statistical achievement was his 20.1 percent shooting percentage – an unusually high number for a first-line forward. It was best on the club. He tied for second in game-winning tallies with six. Of course, being the modest fellow he is, Khristich downplayed all of the above.

"If I stop doing the right things, it's all going to go away," he said. "I'm trying not to celebrate too much."

Unlike their valuable right-winger, the Boston Beantown hockey club celebrated quite a bit in 1998-1999 as the Hub skated past the Carolina Hurricanes into a second-round playoff confrontation with their division rival Buffalo Sabres.

Ratchuk lands on own board

Most professional athletes are very mindful not to say things that might wind up on an offended opposing team's bulletin board. Rookie defenseman Peter Ratchuk put a whole new twist on that particular notion after notching the game-winner in the Florida Panthers' 2-1 pre-season victory over the Boston Bruins. He wound up on his own team's bulletin board.

"I don't think there are many other guys here who can do the things I can do offensively," Ratchuk said.

By the magic-marker-wielding hand of an injured veteran, those words became the bulletin board's most prominent feature in the Panthers' locker room. While it steamed a few vets and seemed awfully cocky as the goal was the result of a fluke deflection by Boston's Ray Bourque, Panthers' coach Terry Murray plainly liked the 21-year-old.

"Ratchuk's a player," Murray said. "He's going to play in the NHL. He's got great speed and the ability to carry the puck out of trouble. He's pushing for a spot." (He eventually got one.)

That willingness to be active put Ratchuk on coach Murray's good side after the first pre-season game, even as

Panthers' GM Bryan Murray and the scouts winced over Ratchuk's five elementary defensive zone turnovers.

"That first game, I was thinking about making the team rather than the game," Ratchuk said. "I was really nervous. The second game, I told myself to relax and play the way I can. I just had to go out, play with confidence and know I belong here."

The Buffalo native was picked in the first round of the 1996 entry draft by the Colorado Avalanche, but never signed with that team. He scored 23 goals and 54 points in 60 games with Hull of the Quebec League in 1997-1998.

This past 1998-1999 regular season Ratchuk got into 24 games with the parent Panthers, totalling two points (1 goal) and 10 penalty minutes. He spent about half the campaign in the AHL and rode the Beast of New Haven to Florida shuttle like a regular commuter.

(Quotes courtesy of Rich Chere, Mike Loftus and David Neal, beat writers for *The Hockey News*, covering the *New Jersey Devils*, *Boston Bruins* and *Florida Panthers*, respectively.)

League leaders

POINTS

- 1) Jagr, Pittsburgh 127
- 2) Selanne, Anaheim 107
- 3) Kariya, Anaheim 101
- 22) KHRISTICH, Boston 72
- 24) TKACHUK, Phoenix 68

GOALS

- 1) Selanne, Anaheim 47
- 2) Yashin, Ottawa 44
- 3) Jagr, Pittsburgh 44
- Amonte, Chicago 44
- 14) TKACHUK, Phoenix 36

ASSISTS

- 1) Jagr, Pittsburgh 83
- 2) Forsberg, Colorado 67
- 3) Kariya, Anaheim 62
- 4) Selanne, Anaheim 60
- 6) GRETZKY, NYRangers 53

Final Ukrainian scoring leaders

(through end of regular season)

Player	Team	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Dimitri Khristich	Boston	79	29	42	71	48
Keith Tkachuk	Phoenix	68	36	32	68	151
Wayne Gretzky	Rangers	70	9	53	62	14
Peter Bondra	Washington	66	31	24	55	56
Brian Bellows	Washington	76	17	19	36	26
Andrei Nikolishin	Washington	73	8	27	35	28
Alexei Zhitnik	Buffalo	81	7	26	33	96
Dave Andreychuk	New Jersey	52	15	13	28	20
Tony Hrkac	Dallas	69	13	14	27	26
Ed Olczyk	Chicago	61	10	15	25	29
Oleg Tverdovsky	Phoenix	82	7	18	25	32
Steve Konowalchuk	Washington	45	12	12	24	26
Drake Berehowsky	Edm-Nash	74	2	15	17	140
Mike Maneluk	Phila-Chi-NYR	45	6	9	15	20
Richard Matvichuk	Dallas	64	3	9	12	51
Ken Daneyko	New Jersey	82	2	9	11	63
Brent Fedyk	Rangers	67	4	6	10	30
Curtis Leschyshyn	Carolina	65	2	7	9	50
Dave Babych	Phila-LA	41	2	6	8	22
Joe Kocur	Detroit	39	2	5	7	87
Brad Lukowich	Dallas	14	1	2	3	19
Greg Pankiewicz	Calgary	18	0	3	3	20
Steve Halko	Carolina	20	0	3	3	24
Peter Ratchuk	Florida	24	1	1	2	10
David Nemirovsky	Florida	2	0	1	1	0
Greg Andrusak	Pittsburgh	7	0	1	1	4
Wade Belak	Col-Cal	31	0	1	1	94
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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.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

Interfax reported that both presidents also discussed plans for transporting Caspian oil to Western Europe. Ukraine proposes a route extending from Supsa, in Georgia, via Odesa and Ukraine to Poland, while Romania prefers a route from Odesa to the Romanian port of Constanta. "The two routes will not compete because they will service different areas," President Kuchma commented. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Bulgarian center opens in Odesa

ODESA – A Bulgarian Cultural Center was inaugurated in Odesa on May 24 by First Lady Liudmyla Kuchma. The center, which is housed in a former movie theater, will contribute to the preservation and promotion of the cultural values, traditions and customs of the 168 ethnic Bulgarians who live in the Odesa region, said Serhii Hrynevetskyi of the Odesa Oblast Administration. Mr. Hrynevetskyi added that the Odesa Oblast has a Bulgarian library, a Bulgarian school, as well as a department of Bulgarian studies at Odesa State University. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine denies shipping oil to Yugoslavia

KYIV – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry on May 26 denied U.S. allegations that Ukraine is delivering oil to Yugoslavia in violation of the oil embargo. "Ukraine does not provide oil deliveries to Yugoslavia, does not offer its vessels for such deliveries, and does not possess any information concerning oil transit through Ukrainian ports to Yugoslavia by a third party," the DPA news agency quoted the ministry's statement as saying. Several days earlier, wire services had reported that a Pentagon spokesman, Kenneth Bacon, said the U.S. is putting pressure on Ukraine to stop allowing Russian oil shipments to Yugoslavia via Ukrainian ports on the Danube. He was quoted as saying: "We believe that some of it [oil and petroleum products] is coming from Russia and being shipped through Ukrainian ports. We're very concerned about this. We're in the process of talking to Ukrainian officials about it in an effort to get them to stop." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Albright: Ukraine very cooperative

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on May 25 said that Ukraine has been "very cooperative" in NATO efforts to maintain a strict oil embargo against Yugoslavia. She added, however, that the U.S. will "soon" talk with Kyiv about allegations that Ukrainian barges have been shipping oil to Belgrade via the River Danube. The New York Times on May 25 had quoted unnamed U.S. officials as saying that oil is loaded onto Ukrainian barges in Ukrainian ports and then shipped across the Black Sea to the Danube. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma signs decree on local taxes

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree on local taxes, that will take effect on January 1, 2000, UNIAN reported on May 26. The decree establishes mandatory taxes on advertising and foreign tourism, as well a hotel tax for those staying in hotels and camping areas. The decree also legalizes the collection of fees for operating trade outlets and service facilities. Under the decree, towns may impose parking fees, charge for holding auctions, sales and lotteries, and collect payment for crossing the territory of Crimea and border regions. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine gets funding for Y2K compliance

KYIV – The Science and Technology Center (STCU) on May 27 approved initial funding for the coordination of Year 2000 compliance in Ukrainian nuclear power plants. The first stage of the project, which is financed by the Canada, the European

Union and the U.S. Department of State, provides for compiling an inventory of computerized information systems at nuclear power plants and a detailed assessment of their compliance. Stage 2 will involve testing, selection and purchase of Y2K scanning tools, with stages 3 and 4 focusing on training and scheduling remediation of non-compliance. STCU Deputy Director Prof. Frantisek Janouch said that more than \$1 million (U.S.) in funding has been secured for all four stages and that additional funds may be provided on an expedited basis to nuclear power plants that submit projects to the STCU board. He said that the results of the remediation proposals will be made available to all potential donors. Nuclear power plants generate approximately 45 percent of Ukraine's electric energy. Ukrainian watchdog groups say Ukrainian plants are behind schedule for Y2K fixes. (Eastern Economist)

Kyiv Day festivities draw crowds

KYIV – Kyiv Day celebrations took place over the weekend of May 29-30 with the public enjoying fireworks, free concerts and a theater festival. Artists displayed their wares along the old Andriivskiy Uzviz. About 1,500 people took part in the annual Chestnut Tree Charity Run on May 29, collecting 30,000 hrv in entry fees. The money will go to the Okhmadit Children's Hospital in Kyiv. In addition, all public transport was free on Sunday. The last day of celebration coincided with the holy day of the Holy Trinity, 50 days after Easter, and the mayoral election. (Eastern Economist)

Edict on protection of morals signed

KYIV – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has signed an edict on "developing spirituality, protecting morals and establishing a healthy way of life," Ukrainian Television reported on April 28. The document sets up a nationwide body, headed by Vice Prime Minister Valerii Smolii, to coordinate the edict's implementation. Among other things, the Cabinet of Ministers and local authorities are ordered to take urgent measures to prevent the "propaganda of violence" in the media and the dissemination of pornography. "The edict is by no means intended to return to the former times [in Ukraine] of censorship or bans of a political or ideological character," Mr. Smolii commented. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Youth unemployment on the rise

KYIV – The rate of unemployment is on the rise, especially among young people, said Education Minister Valentyn Zaichuk speaking in the Verkhovna Rada on May 11. Annually 1.6 million young people come through the education system, but many cannot find work, he said. In 1998 alone .76 million people up to age 28 were registered as unemployed. Mr. Zaichuk spoke on measures to improve the situation, such as job quotas for employers to help young people secure their first jobs. In 1999 148,000 jobs have been reserved for specific categories, including 78,500 positions reserved specifically for the young. (Eastern Economist)

Kuchma lists priorities for next decade

KYIV – Addressing a joint congress of the Confederation of Employers and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, President Leonid Kuchma said the "consolidation of the government system" and national security is Ukraine's top priority in the next stage of its development, Interfax reported. The second priority is the continuation of systemic reforms and market-oriented transformations, while the third is to achieve economic growth of 5 to 6 percent of GDP in the next five years and 8 percent by 2010. He also cited the "drastic" restructuring of the Ukrainian economy as a priority. The congress unanimously voted to support Mr. Kuchma in the October presidential elections. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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A rich heritage...

(Continued from page 10)

to a particular type of embroidery, "bisrom" (an Arabic word, describing embroidery with little beads). This type of embroidery is particularly effective on a type of leather jacket, called a "kyptar." The 20-kopiika stamp illustrates a kypitar from western Ukraine. The sleeveless kypitars are a traditional item of clothing in the Carpathian Mountains and foothills; they are trimmed with fur, ornamented dyed leather strips, embroidered using a floral design, colored wool strings and small beads. The colors of the threads used in the embroidery are mostly green, reddish-blue and yellow.

This folk art overview is by no means intended to be exhaustive. Nevertheless, it should be apparent that Ukraine's folk heritage is well-represented on its philatelic issues.

A different version of this folk art survey first appeared in Linn's Stamp News. The authors wish to recognize the help provided by Lubomyr Onyshkevych and Val Zabijaka in the preparation of this article.



Figure 5: Flora and fauna motifs typical of Ukrainian embroidery.

Volodymyr Bekhtir is president of the Philatelic Society of Ukraine and is on the editorial board of Poshta i Filateliia Ukrainy.

Dr. Inger Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150; ingertjk@gateway.net



Figure 6: The special folk art miniature sheet.

Crimean Tatars...

(Continued from page 2)

out for peace and understanding at the rally, some inhabitants of Symferopol, with the Serbian and Bosnian conflict in mind, said it is impossible for Christians and Muslims to live together peacefully.

In Kyiv, Georgii Popov, head of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee for Human Rights, Minorities and Ethnic Issues, said the problems of the Tatars should not be given special priority; rather they should be solved along with the overall economic problems of the country. Mr. Popov said, "these problems are felt especially painfully by those repatriated to Crimea, to the place where their ancestors lived." But, he added, "this same difficulty is the general situation in Ukraine."

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- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
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Yevshan Choir performs at Connecticut College on Earth Day

NEW LONDON, Conn. – The Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ensemble performed in concert at Harkness Chapel on the campus of Connecticut College in New London on Sunday, April 18.

The concert was part of a daylong commemoration of Earth Day, which was organized by the students and environmental organizations at this renowned liberal arts college in southeastern Connecticut.

The concert followed a short presentation on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster by Alex Kuzma, director of development for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

The Hartford-based choir of 20 men and women performed several selections from the Easter Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, including "An Angel Proclaimed" and the Greek hymn "Xristos Anesti," as well as two evocative laments from the Polissian-Chernobyl region arranged by Mykola Kolessa: "Zhuravko" and "Oh, Barren Fields."

The concert also featured the bandura trio of Christine Jamaghian, Daria Richardson and Irene Kytasty-Kuzma.

The concert ended with works by Yatsynevych, Avdievsky and Lysenko celebrating the resiliency of the Ukrainian people and the richness and beauty of the Ukrainian countryside.



Lyda Atwood

Members of the Yevshan Choir during their performance at Connecticut College in New London.

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Re: reasons...

(Continued from page 6)

plus interest, should amount to a lofty sum in 1997. Why weren't these funds used to save the festival?

I think the public, especially the committee members, have a right to know. If these funds were used for recognized Ukrainian causes, then the NJCC-UCCA should proudly disclose these donations. I think full disclosure is in order.

I have used some very strong words referring to the festival committees and to

the NJCC-UCCA. I apologize to those individuals who have honestly worked very hard on festival committees even as the ship was sinking. There are a number of individuals with whom I had the distinct pleasure of working as they worked tirelessly to preserve our beautiful culture. Unfortunately, some of their leaders were not as sincerely dedicated.

I firmly believe that the Ukrainian Festival U.S.A. can be resurrected at the PNC Arts Center. I am certain there are many qualified people who cherish our culture above politics, and who will strive for professionalism rather than cronyism.

Europe...

(Continued from page 7)

edged, let alone apologized for, what their party did to Maria Dyka, Mykola Khvylioviy or the millions of other victims of Soviet criminal insanity. What's worse, their refusal to return the land to the people or to privatize the agricultural sector perpetuates the evil of the collective farm system Stalin established with the Great Famine. With Stalin as their legacy and Soviet ideology as their platform, the Communists and their allies have no solutions to offer a country that's desperate for

progress and growth.

Leftist efforts to reintegrate Ukraine with a moribund Russia, I believe, are bound to fail. Let's hope so. In Bible, Lot's wife looked back on the destruction of Sodom and was turned to salt. Any orientation backward for Ukraine toward the malevolent legacy of Moscow and the Soviet Union promises the same sterility and paralysis. Chairman Tkachenko and followers should educate themselves about their country's past.

They might start by reading the letter Mykola Khvylioviy left on his desk 66 years ago – he wrote it for them.

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Conference on Ukrainian Subjects slated at U. of Illinois for June 14-19

CHAMPAIGN, ILL. – The 18th annual Conference of Ukrainian Subjects will be held June 14-19 at the University of Illinois.

The theme of the conference this year is "Between Modernism and Post Modernism: New Developments in Ukrainian Philosophy, Art and Literature." Sessions, which are free and open to the public, are scheduled for 9 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. each day in Rooms 314 A and B of the Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana.

Dmytro Shtohryn, organizer of this and all previous Ukrainian conferences at the University of Illinois and chairperson of the University's Ukrainian Research Program, said that more than 40 speakers – primarily scholars from Canada, Germany, Ukraine and the United States – will present papers. Among the speakers are four members of the Ukrainian conference program committee: Assya Humesky, University of Michigan; Larissa Onyshkevych, Princeton Research Forum; Jaroslav Rozumnyj, University of Manitoba; and Bohdan Rubchak, University of Illinois at Chicago.

The conference, which will be conducted mostly in Ukrainian, is being held in conjunction with the university's Summer Research Lab, a function of the Russian and East European Center.

Prof. Shtohryn is professor emeritus of library administration in the Slavic and East European Library and of Ukrainian literature in the department of Slavic languages and literatures.

Earlier this year the Foundation for Ukrainian Studies in Australia invited Prof.

Shtohryn to be guest speaker at the opening of the Archives of the Ukrainian Community in Australia at the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney.

Prof. Shtohryn also presented a special lecture for Ukrainian organizations in Sydney and Brisbane. In addition, he visited libraries and departments of Slavic studies at Macquarie University, the University of Newcastle and the University of Sydney.

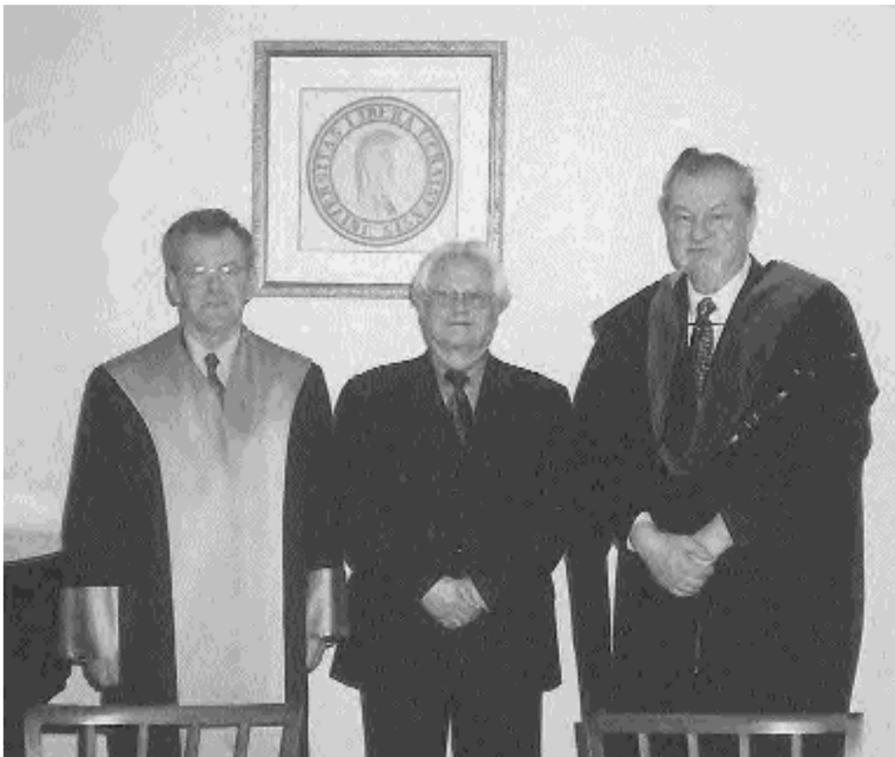
Late last year, five Ukrainian libraries, institutes and societies invited Prof. Shtohryn to present papers at their conferences. They included the Volodymyr Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine and the National Parliamentary Library, both in Kyiv; the Maxim Gorky Scientific Library in Odesa; the State Pedagogical Institute in Kolomyia; and the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society, which was celebrating its 125th anniversary, presented Prof. Shtohryn with the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Medal, given annually to a single designee for "distinguished contribution to the development of Ukrainian studies in Western countries." The ceremony was held in Lviv's opera house.

At the University of Illinois, Prof. Shtohryn continues to teach a course on Ukrainian culture in the department of Slavic languages and literatures, and conducts a seminar on the Ukrainian language.

For more information about the Ukrainian conference, contact Prof. Shtohryn at: (217) 356-9195; e-mail, shtohryn@uiuc.edu.

UFU awards honorary doctorate



Prof. Dr. Richard J. Brunner (center), a distinguished German linguist and speech pathology expert, was honored at a ceremony at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich on April 28 during which he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the university's rector, Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky (right), and Prof. Dr. Roland Pietsch (left), associate dean of the philosophy department. The event was attended by members of the German and Ukrainian scholarly communities.

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It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals, only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 13
HAMPTONBURG, N.Y.: The annual pilgrimage to the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery will take place June 13. A divine liturgy will be celebrated at noon, followed by the blessing of ground for St. Andrew's Church. At 2 p.m. a parastas will be celebrated followed by panakhydy at individual graves. Bishop Innocent Lotocky OSBM will officiate at both services. For more information contact the Chancery Office at (203) 324-7698.

PHILADELPHIA: The renowned Ukrainian opera singer Anatolii Solovyanenko, accompanied by pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, will appear in concert in a program of selections from Italian and Ukrainian opera as well as Ukrainian songs at the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa., at 4 p.m.

ADVANCE NOTICE
Sunday, July 11; Thursday, July 15; and Sunday, July 18
NEW YORK: The 41st annual Captive Nations Week, organized by the Captive Nations Committee, Horst A. Uhlich, acting president, begins Sunday, July 11, with an assembly at 9 a.m. at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue (Plaza Hotel) in Manhattan. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 10 a.m., followed by a march to Central Park at 72nd Street and Fifth Avenue at 11 a.m., where the official opening will be held, featuring guest speakers and a folkloric entertainment program. On Thursday, July 15, there will be a freedom demonstration in front of the United Nations, 42 Street and First Avenue. Closing ceremonies will be held Sunday, July 18, with a payer service at the Immanuel Lutheran church, 122 E. 88th St. (corner of Lexington Avenue). This will be followed by a reception, greetings by officials and dignitaries, and the reading of official greetings and proclamations. Refreshments will be served.

CORRECTION
Saturday, June 5
NEW YORK: The lecture by Dr. Volodymyr Morenets, director of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, was incorrectly listed as taking place at the Shevchenko Scientific Society on June 12. The lecture was held June 5 at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 5 p.m.

Ukrainian World Congress...

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viduals among students and professionals in the area turned up dismissive attitudes about the UWC's current human rights effort.

Ms. Isajiw said the UWC lacks a general effort to attract youth and veteran activists in the field, and its refusal to hire a professional showed a lack of commitment to the issues.

"Volunteers are necessary and should be tapped into, but they should work together under the supervision and coordination of a professional," the outgoing CHCR chair said.

General Secretary Pedenko reported that the project to set up an improved UWC website had lost some momentum. Oksana Horikh, chair of the Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations, had volunteered to spearhead this effort and provide a report at the May 14-15 session.

The website committee struck in February met only once and has accomplished little. Ms. Horikh did not attend the plenary meetings and had not returned The Weekly's calls at press time.

UWC Sports Commissioner Laryssa Barabash Temple was unable to attend the meetings, but her submitted report was read to the assembly. It was noted that there would be no organized diaspora participation in this year's inaugural All-Ukrainian Games because the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S. and Canada (USCAK) had determined that "scheduling of competitions was awkward and incompatible with diaspora participation."

The UWC Scholarly Council, headed by Dr. Lubomyr Wynar, held a special session on May 16, at which the prospects of coordinating the work of diaspora academics and academics in the field of Ukrainian studies was discussed.

New robot to help...

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though we didn't have the total study on paper yet," he added.

The B1-B2 beam project is scheduled to begin in August-September and to be completed by the end of October.

The shelter reconstruction plan will not be a project that moves from one stage to another in a linear fashion, but will consist of a variety of individual projects that will be introduced in various stages to stabilize different aspects of the shelter, said Mr. Langmo.

The Shelter Implementation Plan, which has 22 planned stages, was begun in July 1998. Four bid packages have been tendered and approved by SIP authorities for work on the shelter that will include participation by companies from Japan, Germany, France, Great Britain, the United States, Russia and Ukraine. Neither Mr. Kupnyi nor Mr. Langmo would say when the reconstruction of the shelter would be complete.

Paris to Kyiv...

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producer and recording artist — and psychologist — introduced each of the songs on the program in her characteristically warm and engaging manner. These songs, in Ms. Kochan's own unique arrangements, capture the essence of tomorrow's Ukrainian spirit, interweaving pre-Christian ritual songs and fragments of medieval chant with contemporary influences.

Ms. Kochan recalled pre-Christian times in a beautiful schedrivka called "Pavochka." Introducing the song "Oy Khodyt Son Kolo Vikon," she mentioned the world tour of the famous Koshetz choir and its influence via songs such as this one, on the American composer George Gershwin.

With other songs like "Cross, Cradle and Tree" she illustrated the meeting of two genres: the secular and the sacred. In "Jerusalem Matins" by the Ukrainian composer Pavlo Matsenko from Winnipeg, Ms. Kochan underlined the influence of the Ukrainian folk song on sacred work. There were also samples of the kolomyika and lovely wedding songs.

The informal atmosphere on the stage, and the informative explanations and beautiful renditions of jewels of Ukrainian musical culture by Ms. Kochan made this a memorable experience for the audience of over 180 people who attended this special performance at La Maison Francaise.