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Bomb explodes in downtown Kyiv hotel

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — An explosive device detonated in the Sport Hotel at midday on June 15 injuring nine people, three of them critically, and destroyed the building's first three levels.

The bomb, which contained nearly two kilograms of plastic explosives, blew out car windows and building glass on adjoining streets and caused ceiling tiles and light fixtures to fall on the upper floors of the building. Many of the injuries were due to flying glass and debris.

Ministry of Internal Affairs officers said the bomb was placed underneath a sofa in the hotel's first-floor reception area. Officials noted that fragments of the explosive device and the suitcase in which it was contained had been found in the area.

The hotel, located in the city center and adjoining the city's large Olympic Stadium, had received at least one bomb threat weeks prior to the explosion. An employee of the hotel told *The Weekly* that last month hotel officials had received a telephone call stating that a bomb had been placed in the building and would detonate momentarily. The hotel was evacuated immediately, but no explosive device was found. The employee, who works as an accountant in one of the hotel's restaurants and wished to remain unidentified, said this time no warning calls were received.

Ministry of Internal Affairs officials told the newspaper *Fakty* that they are not excluding the possibility that the bombing was part of a mafia war or that it is a revenge attack among commercial interests.

Fakty noted that several commercial entities had ongoing business disputes in which the hotel was directly or indirectly involved, including problems with a firm that was renting the second floor and another one that was doing renovation work on the building.

Several top Ukrainian athletes were registered at the hotel on the day of the explosion, among them Kateryna Serebrianska, the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games gold medalist in rhythmic gymnastics, and members of the Ukrainian national basketball squad and the national power lifting team. None of the athletes are among the injured or hospitalized.

Ukraine's Institute of Sport is located across the street from the hotel, and the offices of Ukraine's State Committee on Sports and Youth, as well as the National Olympic Committee are nearby, so many of Ukraine's top sports stars reside at the hotel when in Kyiv.

Several hours later a bomb threat was received at the Hotel Myr, located on the other side of the city. However, militia officials found no evidence of explosive devices during a search of the premises.

Inter-parliamentary conference in Kyiv promotes integration

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Continuing to strive for deeper relations and to convince Ukraine to join a larger political union, parliamentary leaders representing the leftist political forces of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine gathered in Kyiv on June 10-11 to discuss economic integration.

Most of the Communist and Socialist leadership of the three countries was here for what was, in effect, an extended leftist political congress. Speakers glorified the accomplishments of the Soviet Union and called for re-establishing the geopolitical clout that it carried — even as they agreed that little hope exists for a return to the now disassembled Soviet state.

Officially, the topic of the inter-parliamentary conference, called "Belarus, Russia, Ukraine: Experiences and Problems of Integration," was joining the economies of the three neighboring countries, which made up the largest share of the economic strength of the Soviet Union. However, talk of the possibility of Ukraine entering the Belarus-Russia political union, which Yugoslavia recently asked to join, flowed as freely as the vodka.

The chairman of Ukraine's Verkhovna



Etrem Lukatsky

President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine (left) with the Russian Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev (center) and Russian State Duma Chairman Gennadii Selezniiov enter the Mariinsky Palace before the interparliamentary conference.

Rada, Oleksander Tkachenko, who organized and hosted the conference, downplayed any talk of political union for Ukraine, although in the past he has expressed support for such a move. In his keynote opening address he said that today the three countries must accept

their separation. "We were once one. We remember that well. Today let us genuinely learn independence and cooperation," said Mr. Tkachenko.

However, the Ukrainian Parliament chairman continuously made tacit refer-

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California dedicates new historic landmark: Ukraina

by Maria Lewytzkij
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

HAYWARD, Calif. — The newest California State Historic Landmark — Ukraina — was unveiled here on Saturday, May 15, and dedicated to the Ukrainian American community of northern California. The site immortalizes the Rev. Agapius Honcharenko, who lived on 40 acres of rolling California hills for 43 years in the late 1800s and early 1900s, blending a deeply spiritual life with his love of the earth.

Nearly 400 Bay Area Ukrainian Americans came to Garin Regional Park to witness the unveiling of the monument and help celebrate the remarkable life of Father Honcharenko, the first nationally conscious Ukrainian in the U.S., and his wife, Albina.

Guests were able to appreciate the magnificence of the site the Rev. Honcharenko chose for his homestead. It seems fitting that a person of such complexity built his homestead in the Hayward hills, a geologically complex landscape of sandstone and oceanic sediments.

Today, housing developments have cropped up on the hill and the preserved park is perched above California State University. One can only imagine the view that Father Honcharenko was privy

to in the late 1800s.

At the gate to the site, Ukrainian men and women dressed in traditional attire welcomed guests with salt and bread. To fuse the Ukrainian and American spirits, at the start of the ceremony the Ukrainian Brass Orchestra from Sacramento performed the American and Ukrainian national anthems. Carol Severin, an East Bay Regional Park District Board member and coordinator for this event, served as the master of ceremonies.

Before the unveiling, guests were treated to performances by the Bandura Ensemble of Northern California, the Mriya Dance Ensemble of Sacramento, soprano/bandurist Alina Ilchuk and mezzo-soprano Maria Tcherepenko.

Jars Balan, author and scholar from Edmonton, spoke of Father Honcharenko's life. In his book "Salt and Braided Bread: Ukrainian Life in Canada," Mr. Balan describes Father Honcharenko's small yet pivotal role in establishing Ukrainian institutional life in Canada. "In some ways I am fulfilling a pilgrimage that I began several years ago," averred Mr. Balan.

Mr. Balan summarized his own research and referred to the work of others who also have found Father Honcharenko a fascinating figure. Although he was ordained a priest,

Father Honcharenko spent most of his life unaffiliated with any Church. This spiritual, unconventional man based himself in the Orthodox Christian faith, yet broadened his beliefs to include his own perspective. As a result of his rather radical notions about society, his criticism of the rules of the Church and his independent views, which interfered in his relationship with other priests, he was not in good standing with the Russian Orthodox Church.

The dedication ceremony attracted many Ukrainian Americans, visiting Ukrainians and recent Ukrainian immigrants who reside in Sacramento. Guests included many dignitaries representing the Orthodox and Catholic Churches, chief among them Metropolitan Constantine, primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. Also present were clergy from Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Hayward and Redwood Valley, Calif., as well as Portland, Oregon.

Life as a fugitive

Father Honcharenko lived much of his life as a fugitive. Due to his bitter attacks against the tsarist government in Ukraine, the Rev. Honcharenko changed his name from Andrii Humnytsky in

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ANALYSIS

Ukraine's human rights ombudsman in tight spot

by Lily Hyde

RFE/RL Newsline

KYIV – Hopes were high last year when Ukraine established the office of ombudsman, charged with monitoring, protecting and upholding the rights of individuals.

But those hopes have since been dashed, with some citizens saying the office seems remote and unhelpful. And, employees at the office say they lack the resources to provide much help.

The problems come at a critical stage for Ukraine's international relations. The Council of Europe is threatening measures if the country does not introduce improved human rights legislation. While the ombudsman's office is only a small part of Ukraine's human rights activities, improvements in the way it functions would clearly help the country's image abroad.

Under existing laws, the office's powers are fairly clear. Citizens or residents can address complaints to the ombudsman, who can then present their case to the authorities or the Constitutional Court. The ombudsman also has the right to unrestricted access to any public official, including the president, and is free to inspect any government institution, such as prisons.

The problem is that the law provides the ombudsman with only limited enforcement authority and does not penalize those who obstruct human rights inquiries. Although the law states that the executive branch is to draw up and submit amendments necessary for Ukrainian legislation to comply with the mandate of the ombudsman, this has yet to be done.

According to Nina Karpachova, whom the Verkhovna Rada elected as ombudsman last year, her office has taken over that task, proposing amendments to some 70 laws to allow her to operate as stipulated by the ombudsman law. However, those amendments have not been enacted.

One of Ms. Karpachova's aides, Vasili Radko, told RFE/RL that the failure to enact the amendments means that the office can do little to address the concerns of those who petition it. "We made our changes to 70 laws because the rights of the plenipotentiary Secretariat aren't written [into legislation]," he noted. "Until that's done it's difficult for people and for us. We need such an institution with plenipotentiary power. People appeal to us, with their misfortunes, as a last resort. Of course we want our help to be more functional, but at this stage we can only

Lily Hyde is an RFE/RL correspondent based in Kyiv.

talk to people and help if we can."

There are other shortcomings. Last year, the office, which includes a staff of 30 squeezed into a few small rooms, was not included in the budget, so the employees depended solely on contributions from the foreign diplomatic community. Mr. Radko said part of the problem is that a large percentage of those who come to the office have complaints that are not within its competence.

For example, a former collective farm head from the Khmelnytskyi region claimed he was unfairly convicted of alleged abuse of his position because he had installed a telephone at work and tried to privatize the farmland. The ombudsman applied to the regional prosecutor, who eventually gave a negative answer, whereupon the ombudsman turned to the procurator-general to review the case. Mr. Radko can only explain to the outraged farmer that the process takes a very long time and the ombudsman can do nothing more for him.

Citizens, however, can take their pleas a step further than the ombudsman. Last year 13,000 Ukrainians applied to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, according to Petro Rabinovich, a human rights expert from Lviv University. Only 200 cases were accepted. The problem, said Mr. Rabinovich, is that people do not know how to formulate their complaints or indeed what their rights are under the European Convention of Human Rights.

In theory, those rights should be the same as they are at home, as Ukraine ratified the convention in 1997. One of the jobs of the ombudsman is to oversee Ukraine's adherence to the convention. But in the year since Ms. Karpachova was appointed, Ukraine's human rights record has been criticized by a Council of Europe report released at the end of 1998 and a U.S. State Department report released in February of this year.

Both reports sharply criticized the country for what they described as an unreformed prison system, a corrupt judiciary and the repression of the free press. The Council of Europe report also cited Kyiv's failure to abolish the death penalty. In May President Leonid Kuchma was named the world's sixth-worst enemy of the free press by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Official response to the criticism so far has been angry and defiant. Mr. Kuchma has threatened to sue the authors of the New York report. Some national deputies have said Ukraine cannot impose Western standards on human rights because of its weak economy, arguing that international bodies have no right to criticize the country.

Kuchma comments on Kosovo peace plan

The following commentary by President Leonid Kuchma was released in Washington by the Embassy of Ukraine.

Ukraine welcomes the agreement of President Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbian Parliament to accept the peace plan proposed by the European Union and Russia.

Since the very first hours of the Kosovo crisis, Ukraine has exerted efforts to settle this crisis by peaceful means. On March 27 we proposed our plan for settling the crisis, provisions of which were reflected in proposals approved by Belgrade. In view of that, we truly hope that the next step will be the practical and expeditious realization of the reached agreements.

We have already stated and confirm again our readiness to participate in the international forces in Kosovo. I am glad that there is unity on this matter between the

executive branch and the leadership of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Ukraine, having suffered from damages as a result of the crisis, is ready to join the efforts at rebuilding Yugoslavia's economy, as well as at stabilizing the countries of the region, in the framework of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe.

I am confident that the Kosovo crisis should become a bitter lesson, from which the whole international community must draw respective conclusions. They are as follows: Without respect for human rights, the rights of national minorities, as well as without respect for international law as a whole the world will continue to face conflicts and humanitarian catastrophes.

Another conclusion: there is a need for the major international organizations – primarily the United Nations and the OSCE – to urgently improve the mechanism for conflict prevention.

NEWSBRIEFS**No progress on border dispute**

KYIV – Ukraine and Romania have failed to define their common border in talks held in Kyiv, the Associated Press reported on June 15. "There is no concrete solution ... The discussion at the Kyiv talks is proceeding in a tense manner," the chairman of Ukraine's delegation, Yurii Kostenko, commented. Ukraine and Romania disagree on how to demarcate the Black Sea continental shelf near Zmiinyi (Serpent's) Island, where oil and gas deposits are believed to be located. The two countries signed a political treaty in 1997 pledging to solve the border dispute within two years or appeal to an international court for arbitration. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine to sell shares in oil refinery

KYIV – Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Viktor Kaliuzhnyi said in Kyiv on June 15 that Ukraine will sell a controlling stake in the LiNOS plant, a major oil refinery in Lysychansk, eastern Ukraine, the Associated Press reported. The Ukrainian government currently owns 67.41 percent of the shares in LiNOS. Ukraine does not have enough money to keep the refinery afloat, while Russia's ownership is expected to guarantee a steady oil supply to LiNOS and to provide revenues for the Ukrainian budget. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada postpones debate on Cabinet

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada has put off debate, originally scheduled for June 16, on the dismissal of Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko's Cabinet until next week. The debate was proposed by the Parliament's Communist deputies who collected 153 signatures to initiate a vote of no confidence in the government. The postponement decision was taken because of several urgent economic bills and because Mr. Pustovoitenko was attending a CIS economic forum in St. Petersburg, the Associated Press reported on June 15. (RFE/RL Newsline)

2 million signatories for Kuchma

KYIV – The election staff of Leonid Kuchma on June 14 submitted voter registration forms with nearly 2 million signatures supporting the president's re-election bid in the October 31 elections. Each of the 18 candidates registered by the Central Election Commission must collect at least 1 million signatures by July 13 in order to be allowed to run. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Oil, gas extraction down, coal up

KYIV – Ukraine's oil and gas production decreased by 3.8 percent and 0.7 per-

cent respectively, compared to the same January-May period last year. The Naftohaz state company reported that Ukraine had extracted 1.5 million tons of oil and 7.3 billion cubic meters of gas in the first five months of 1999. The coal production in the same period totaled 33.5 million tons, increasing by 1.9 percent compared to last year. The increase is attributed to the fact that the government has managed to increase the level of cash payments for the mined coal. According to First Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Kuratchenko, 65 percent of the bill for the coal mined last month was paid in cash. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Miners launch protest march

KRASNODON – Some 200 miners from the town of Krasnodon in eastern Ukraine have started a protest march due to reach Kyiv next month, Reuters reported on June 11. Mykhailo Volynets, head of the Independent Coal Miners Trade Union, told the agency that the march is a spontaneous protest action by people who have not been paid for more than 14 months. Mr. Volynets added that the government owes Ukrainian miners some 1.37 billion hrv (\$346 million U.S.) in unpaid wages and that miners are planning massive nationwide protests next month. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma condemns Soviet repression

KYIV – In a statement released on June 11, President Leonid Kuchma condemned the Soviet policy of repression against religion and the Church, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma recalled the liquidation of Ukraine's Autocephalous Orthodox Church in 1930 and the Uniate Church after World War II, as well as repression against Roman Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims. "Although the Ukrainian state was not involved in these persecutions and bears no responsibility for them, I share the view that the Church should be exonerated morally and politically as a public institution harmed by the totalitarian regime," the statement reads. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lazarenko nominated by Hromada Party

KYIV – The second part of the sixth session of the Hromada Party nominated the party leader, Pavlo Lazarenko, as its presidential nominee. In all, 256 delegates from all regions of Ukraine took part in the meeting held at a Kyiv enterprise. Delegates listened to a tape recording of Mr. Lazarenko's appeal about the country's political situation. Several days later, on June 14, it was reported that Mr. Lazarenko

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Ukrainian Canadian, member of mission for OSCE, reflects on crisis in Kosovo

by **Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj**
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO – Now that the conflict over Kosovo has entered yet another phase, it is hardly surprising to learn that a local solution brokered in part by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was within reach two weeks before NATO's bombing campaign began on March 24.

Such is the portrait of the situation provided by Myroslaw Tracz, a Ukrainian Canadian who was there as a verifier for the OSCE.

Mr. Tracz is an elections officer from Winnipeg, a veteran of two tours of duty as an international observer for the United Nations and the OSCE in Bosnia, as well as stints in Armenia, Cambodia, and Kazakstan.

“It seems Milosevic learned nothing from the Bosnian conflict. There, too, there was destruction for the sake of destruction.”

– *Myroslaw Tracz, verifier for the OSCE*

Mr. Tracz arrived in Kosovo on February 7 as part of the OSCE's Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM), an effort made possible by a truce agreement signed in October 1998 by the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and OSCE Chairman Bronislaw Geremek of Poland, and in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199, also passed at that time, which mandated a ceasefire in the region.

According to the OSCE's official website, the mandate of the mission was to promote dialogue between Serb/Yugoslavian authorities and representatives of various communities; collect information on instances of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote solutions to such problems; to assist in the organization and supervise elections in Kosovo and ensure their openness and fairness; and to assist in the establishment of local Kosovar institutions and a police force.

Mr. Tracz said he met Ukrainians from Ukraine everywhere he went, including Ihor Soloviov, an artillery captain from Odesa, and Volodymyr Nestor, an air force major from Kyiv.

“People had various functions, but camaraderie was established based on common well, a common place of origin – people tended to gravitate to their own people,” the OSCE verifier recalled, “Of course, we were also all stuck in a volatile, tense situation together.”

Mr. Tracz described his tour of duty, based for the most part in Pec and Jakovice in southwestern Kosovo. Every day at 8 a.m. an international group drawn from such diverse countries as Canada, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Kazakstan, Moldova, Romania, Russia and Ukraine would be briefed by an OSCE intelligence officer, then set out in orange-painted

armored personnel vehicles, wearing orange-colored helmets and flak jackets.

“Usually teams of three people, including a translator, would go out and go into a region, investigate allegations of killings and human rights violations, monitor troop movements, inspect gun emplacements, talk to members of the Yugoslav army and police, talk to villagers and townspeople,” Mr. Tracz said.

For the Winnipeg-based activist, there was no doubt as to his focus: preparation for elections, based on a new assessment of the number of voting-age Kosovars. “We did not accept the figures that were quoted by either side; we were going to conduct a review, since the last census had been conducted in 1991,” Mr. Tracz said.

“Nobody really new how much things had been affected by internal migration since then, or how many people had left Yugoslavia outright as refugees. We conducted an informal verification, handing out questionnaires about how many adults there were in a particular area, and what was their ethnic origin,” the verifier explained.

“In Pec, there were five of us in our democratization section, and I hired two translators, one Serb one Albanian, in order not to be perceived as favoring one over the other,” Mr. Tracz said.

“The region is more diverse than you'd expect from media coverage,” Mr. Tracz said. “It's not simply split along Albanian Muslim-Serbian Orthodox lines, there are Catholic Albanians as well as Turks, Romani (Gypsies) and a mountain people known as the Goran.”

Quickly, as a calming presence amidst armed tension, the mission took on another shape. “As long as we of the KVM were there, we represented hope.” For example, mission members provided an escort for electrical workers (normally too frightened of the fighting to go out into the field) to restore power lines, and assisted in the safe conveyance of a body for proper ritual burial.

One team commander seized an opportunity to broker a compromise between the Serb police and local villagers near Pec to re-establish a multi-denominational school.

New order in Kosovo was in reach

Working six-day weeks, the OSCE officials gained the confidence of the local population and began drawing up a framework for an entirely new government structure and to redefine their own role in the region.

“Working region by region, we built a consensus for a new legislature with 280 seats, 140 were to be directly elected, 140 were to be based upon ethnic groups,” the verifier said.

Of a 2,000-member contingent, the vast majority were either active military personnel from various OSCE countries or retired officers, with Mr. Tracz in the civilian minority. And yet, by mid-March, they had agreed that circumstances were appropriate for a shift toward a majority civilian operation, and a renaming of the contingent as the “Kosovo Implementation Mission,” geared to providing the province with a functional governing body.

“In a matter of days, the transformation of the KVM would have occurred, the structure of the organization would have been altered and nature of personnel participating would have dramatically shifted away from the military toward civilian elements,” said Mr. Tracz.

“I argued for no troops whatsoever,” he related, “When I met with people on the Serb side, they said: ‘you need NATO to

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Pustovoitenko announces Ukraine will seek “debt forgiveness” from IMF

by **Roman Woronowycz**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko announced on June 15, while attending the Commonwealth of Independent States Economic Forum in St. Petersburg that he would ask the International Monetary Fund to forgive Ukraine its multi-billion dollar debt.

Finance ministers of the Group of Seven most-industrialized states, which to a large extent funds the IMF, agreed over the weekend of June 12-13 in Cologne, Germany, to forgive the debt of the 36 poorest countries of the world, in order to remove the crushing debt burden that many economic experts consider a hindrance to their economic growth.

Although the IMF and the G-7 have

not yet specifically listed what countries will qualify for the debt forgiveness, Prime Minister Pustovoitenko jumped at the chance to have Ukraine included.

“The possibility of restructuring or writing off the debts of borrowers, especially the post-Soviet states, is being examined in the IMF's program of activities in the 21st century,” noted Ukraine's prime minister, according to Interfax-Ukraine. “It would not be a bad thing, if Ukraine and Russia get such a restructuring for the whole of their lives.”

Mr. Pustovoitenko met on June 16 with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, who also was at the St. Petersburg economic forum, to discuss Ukraine's possibilities, but little was

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BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Despite problems, Monsanto to stay in Ukraine

KYIV – Monsanto's project and development coordinator in Ukraine, Volodymyr Vasyliiev, said on June 10 that the U.S. agricultural company intends to curtail its operations in Ukraine due to the slow pace of economic reform and the growing debts of its local clients, which are running debts into the tens of millions of dollars. Mr. Vasyliiev, however, refused to go into details of the company's plans, reiterating merely that Monsanto's sales dropped 30 percent in 1999. He pointed to the lack of private property and the prevalence of low-productive Soviet-type collective farms as factors that influenced the company's tentative decision, which will be finalized after the presidential elections in October. Two days later, however, Monsanto Ukraine Acting General Director Maria Osyka disavowed those remarks by a lower-ranking Monsanto official. “Ukraine is a strategic country for Monsanto and we will work here,” Ms. Osyka told wire services on June 12, adding, “The company is willing to increase supplies in the nearest future if debts are partially paid off.” Headquartered in St. Louis, Mo., the Monsanto Corp. has operated in the former Soviet Union since 1988, supplying 15 -20 percent of imported herbicides and other chemicals used for crop protection. (Eastern Economist)

Khlib Ukrainy to become 100 percent private

KYIV – State Property Fund Vice-Chairman Yurii Gryshan announced on June 8 that 50 enterprises under the umbrella of the state company Khlib Ukrainy will be completely privatized by the end of the month. Mr. Gryshan said that the State Property Fund (SPF) has fulfilled all major requirements set by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund for Ukraine to receive the last EDAL II loan of 100 million hrv and the next tranche of the EFF loan. In order to qualify for the WB's loan, the SPF privatized 100 enterprises with nominal value of assets amounting to 170 million hrv. “Cooperation with international finance organizations is our daily work, although it is not always visible,” said Mr. Gryshan. As of June 1, the SPF collected privatization revenues worth 275 million hrv. (Eastern Economist)

Lucent picks up where Qualcomm left off

KYIV – Lucent Technologies and Telesystems of Ukraine signed two contracts for a total of \$50 million (U.S.), for supply of equipment to provide cellular connection in CDMA standard. Telesystems of Ukraine decided to switch its equipment supplier from Qualcomm to Lucent Technologies after Ukraine's State Committee for Telecommunication recalled Qualcomm's license. (Eastern Economist)

Sea launch plans for an August launch

KYIV – Sea Launch, DIRECTV and Hughes Space and Communications announced that DIRECTV is to be the first commercial client of the Sea Launch program. A DIRECTV 1-R satellite is to be launched in August. A Ukrainian-made Zenith 3SL rocket will be used to propel the satellite into space. (Eastern Economist)

Akhmad Tea plans to launch 12 new lines

MOSCOW – According Akhmad Tea representative Makhdi Mansurfar, British Akhmad Tea plans to start production of its blends in Ukraine. The British-Ukrainian joint venture of Kharkiv completed the construction of three packing lines at the Kharkiv-based tea packing factory. Production is scheduled to start in July. Akhmad Tea plans to install 12 packing lines, which will make the Kharkiv factory the largest facility of its kind in the former Soviet Union. According to Mr. Mansurfar, factory production will be exported to Russia and other CIS countries. Ukraine's legislation presently provides customs duty breaks for unpacked tea. (Eastern Economist)

British Airways celebrates three-year mark

KYIV – British Airways celebrated its third anniversary of operations here by launching “Ukrainian Initiatives” on June 3. Daniel Burkard, BA general manager in Kyiv, explained that in his three years in Ukraine, “the share of Ukrainian passengers on British Airways has increased significantly, and we want to speak our customers' language.” The program involves using the Ukrainian language in printed materials, on the BA website and by flight and ground staff, including at London's Gatwick Airport. The

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FCC approves settlement in CBS case

by Donna T. Pochoday

CHATHAM, N.J. — The Mass Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on June 7 approved the settlement agreement filed by CBS and Ukrainian petitioners in the case arising out of the October 1994 CBS broadcast of "The Ugly Face of Freedom."

The FCC granted the joint petition for approval of the settlement agreement between the "CBS parties" (CBS and Westinghouse) and the "UCCA parties" (Alexander Serafyn, Oleg Nikolyszyn and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America) under the terms of which the CBS parties will pay attorneys for the UCCA parties \$328,000 to reimburse legal expenses incurred in prosecuting the various petitions, complaints and appeals. The joint petition had been filed on April 21. In addition, the FCC dismissed the UCCA parties to

Donna T. Pochoday is counsel for Oleg Nikolyszyn.

any further proceedings regarding those matters.

The June 7 decision also provides that when the FCC so directs, CBS will file comments with the FCC requesting approval of the WGPR-TV (Detroit) and the WPRI-TTV (Providence, R.I.) assignment applications and addressing any questions that remain to be resolved in light of the District of Columbia Circuit's remand of these proceedings. The UCCA parties will not object to such filings on any matters raised in the above-noted proceedings or occurring prior to June 7.

During the last four and a half years Mr. Serafyn, Mr. Nikolyszyn and the UCCA had been involved in various legal proceedings against CBS at the FCC level and a successful appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, filed in reaction to the controversial segment on "60 Minutes" that depicted Ukraine as a country where anti-Semitism was on the rise and Ukrainians as "genetically anti-Semitic."

Four Ukrainian crewmen freed in Nigeria

by Stephen Vitvitsky

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — After almost two years of captivity, four Ukrainian crewmen of the M/V Dubai Valour — the captain, the chief engineer and two officers — were released on May 11. The four had been held hostage since August 1997, along with 23 others who were released earlier, by Chief Humphrey Idisi of Sapele, Nigeria.

The men were held hostage as part of an attempt by Chief Idisi to extort money from the ship's owner, a subsidiary of Gulf Azov, a Ukrainian government-run shipping company that deals with foreign vessels. He was asking to be compensated \$5 million to \$17 million for his lost cargo, which the ship's insurance company, UK P&I (Protection and Indemnity) Club, estimated to be worth only \$170,000.

After releasing the majority of the crew in September 1998, Chief Idisi ignored orders from the Nigerian courts to release the remaining four. Chief Idisi controls a small informal army, which was the probable cause of the Nigerian courts' limited intervention in this matter. He also has some influence on the government because he was able to enlist the assistance of the Nigerian navy, which physically prevented the Maltese-registered vessel from leaving Nigerian waters.

The crewmen were not allowed to leave the ship or to have any visitors for the duration of the hostage situation. Conditions on the ship became consistently worse as time wore on, and medical complications threatened the lives of the four crewmen. There were reports of skin and gastro-intestinal problems and malnourishment, and the chief engineer was said to have suffered a heart attack.

The recent release was due, in large part, to the efforts of the Center for Seafarer's

Rights (CSR) at the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) of New York and New Jersey. Though the ship's owner and insurance company tried to rescue the remaining crewmen, they were unable to strike a deal with Chief Idisi until support arrived from the outside in the form of the SCI and its contacts.

SCI reported that the United Nations requested the assistance of the Center for Seafarer's Rights on behalf of the four crew members' wives in an attempt to put political pressure from every possible source on Chief Idisi and the Nigerian courts. The CSR, in turn, looked to Ukrainian, Nigerian and Maltese authorities for cooperation and aid, and petitioned for the assistance of the Ukrainian community in the United States and Canada, as well as various human rights organizations. The CSR's major moves were an appeal to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the British Commonwealth's foreign ministers. The British Commonwealth played an especially significant role because it has been considering the re-admission of Nigeria into the Commonwealth.

The details of the release are unknown, however, it is most likely a result of the SCI's quick action and persistence. The director of the Center for Seafarer's Rights, Doug Stevenson, said he was "absolutely elated that the crew has been released. We hope that they receive the peace and rest they deserve."

According to Mr. Stevenson, this was one of the more dramatic situations that the SCI has encountered since its inception in 1834. He added, "The community of nations ought to take steps to prevent such things from happening in the future."

Ukrainian Canadian...

(Continued from page 3)

make this work, don't you?' and I answered 'No, we don't need NATO, we need laws and respect for laws.'

"In Pristina, regulations for running elections were being put in place, a training academy for local police officers would have been established," Mr. Tracz said.

"In Pec, we had just made a commitment to rent a new location which was away from the OSCE headquarters for Kosovar officials of various ethnic and political backgrounds to meet and thrash out concerns," added the verifier.

"The new plan, the blueprint was in place," Mr. Tracz said.

The various sides were waiting for the outcome of negotiations taking place in Rambouillet, France. As Mr. Tracz related, "Both Serbs and Albanians asked 'When will they sign?' not 'What will they sign?'"

"Whoever screwed up, it was screwed up somewhere in Rambouillet," Mr. Tracz said, "not at the local level, it was not a situation that was getting out of control on the ground, not at all."

Signs of breakdown

And yet, even as the OSCE mission neared success, Mr. Tracz said that signs FRY authorities in Belgrade were preparing to scuttle it were evident.

He concedes that even as the OSCE conducted population surveys and tried to compile electoral lists based on local birth records and school registrations with the assistance of local Serbian officials, representatives of the FRY Ministry of Internal Affairs were gathering up documents from the local Albanian population and refusing to release them.

"They were collecting documents in key villages, and then officials at local administration buildings told the villagers and OSCE personnel that 'the records are no longer available at the local level for security reasons,'" Mr. Tracz said. "We couldn't tell if they were being destroyed on the spot or moved away."

The verifier also recalled that FRY Army armored vehicles and heavy weapons were being moved out from central depots into the field. "The area around

Jakovice is mountainous like around Sarajevo, and the Serbs were moving out to establish a cordon just like they had in Bosnia," Mr. Tracz said.

The verifier said the OSCE failed because it left the theater of action, and yet was fatalistic about the outcome. "Of course, we couldn't have stayed, because the situation was becoming very dangerous. The Serbian police could have taken us hostage," he said.

"It was they who let us go. We were essentially under the 'protection' of the Ministry of Interior and the police," he added.

Destruction for the sake of destruction

Preparing to leave for duty as an observer of elections in Armenia in late April, Mr. Tracz was baffled by the turn of events and the ruthlessness of the deportation operations.

"This is worse than my childhood memories. In World War II, when my parents and I left Ukraine, there was a slow movement of people behind retreating armies, or people left before major battles. Here, the Serb police arrived and gave people 10 minutes to move out. Just leave your life behind, leave."

"It seems [Yugoslav President Slobodan] Milosevic learned nothing from the Bosnian conflict. There, too, there was destruction for the sake of destruction. One town, a population of 28,000, was mostly Serbian before it was torched during the war, and yet now there are maybe 40 people living there," Mr. Tracz said.

"It's unfathomable what Milosevic intended to do with burnt out [Kosovar Albanian] houses. I don't see any Serbs moving in there. After their troops burnt these houses, who is going to live there? It's not even a moral question, but a matter of what can you do, physically, to make the region liveable," he added.

Mr. Tracz was evacuated from the beleaguered province on March 14, but said he has every intention of returning to Kosovo and resuming his work.

"I still have a valid visa and a work card," the activist said. "I'm one of the few guys who managed to get them [the documents] out of the country, before [Serb authorities] took them away from people."

Pustovoitenko announces...

(Continued from page 3)

decided. Ukraine's ambassador to Russia, Volodymyr Fedorov, said after the meeting that there were concrete discussions on debt restructuring, but that more talks are needed.

Ukraine currently owes the IMF \$2.64 billion and is in the midst of a \$2.2 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program, by which the IMF gives Ukraine tranches as it meets economic reform, restructuring and liberalization requirements. Ukraine has so far received about half of the EFF amount.

The country is facing especially large outlays in the coming months for short-term treasury bonds it issued in the 1996-1998 time period. It also has begun to repay the first IMF loans that it accepted several years ago.

The IMF representative office in Kyiv would not comment on Ukraine's chances of receiving credit discharge or on restructuring of its repayment schedule.

But World Bank economist Andrii Storozhuk said that it is very unlikely that the IMF would forgive Ukraine its debt. "I do not see that Ukraine has that sort of possibility," said Mr. Storozhuk, in an article in the newspaper Den. He said Ukraine's repayment problems are relatively short-term, and that after 2001, its loan payments will be relatively small.

The World Bank economist did not exclude that Ukraine may be able to reschedule its IMF debt so that the larger chunk of the money owed begins to be repaid after 2001. He also suggested that Ukraine could request additional credits to use directly to make scheduled payments, as the IMF is proposing for Russia.

Mr. Storozhuk explained that, compared to other countries, Ukraine's debt-to-GDP ratio is fairly low and that the World Bank, with whom the IMF works closely, classi-

fies Ukraine as a country with a low amount of financial debt.

He said that the recent G-7 decision was aimed more at countries that were suffering the aftereffects of war and natural calamities, such as Somalia and Eritrea, and have been unable to maintain their repayment schedules.

Prime Minister Pustovoitenko traveled to St. Petersburg to take part in the third economic forum of the ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which Russian officials were comparing to the annual meeting of Western economic leaders in Davos, Switzerland.

Speaking before the delegates as the chairman of the CIS Council of Heads of State, a position to which he was elected last month, Mr. Pustovoitenko continued to push for a wide open free-trade zone among the members of the CIS. He called for broad implementation of a barrier-free economic zone and for reducing the amount of waivers for such a zone. The legal basis for a CIS free-trade zone was created in April 1994 and was recently reinforced by another agreement signed during the last CIS summit in April, an effort led by Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma.

In addition to the Ukraine's prime minister and Mr. Camdessus of the IMF, the St. Petersburg forum was attended by some 2,500 delegates, among them Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin, United Nations Deputy Secretary General Yves Bertollo, members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and Peruvian Congress Speaker Ricardo Marcenaro.

The Ukrainian delegation also included Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, whose presentation to the delegates called for the economic integration of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

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Jobs, Gates and, now, Furdyk: Ukrainian Canadian is teenage entrepreneur

by Christopher Guly

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

HULL, Quebec – He might not be Bill Gates (yet), but Michael Furdyk is well on his way to becoming a heavyweight in the high-tech industry. In mid-May, a Ukrainian Canadian resident of Etobicoke, a Toronto suburb, and two colleagues sold their Internet-based venture of six websites and six e-mail newsletters called MyDesktop.com to one of the pioneers of the online publishing industry, internet.com LLC of Westport, Conn.

The deal was worth more than \$1 million U.S.

Mr. Furdyk is 16, but already he talks like a seasoned Silicon Valley executive. He says other companies expressed interest in investing in MyDesktop.com. One was willing to help the three partners – Mr. Furdyk, Michael Hayman, 18, and Albert Lai, 20 – take their venture public.

“We decided this was the best deal,” said Mr. Furdyk of the decision to go with Internet.com’s offer. “They were giving us the most flexibility.”

Indeed, the gangly six-foot-one teenager has more flexibility than any of his peers have.

While Mr. Furdyk isn’t allowed to reveal the value of the deal with internet.com – publishers of Internet World magazine – he admits he will earn a six-digit salary as a consultant to the company and has stock options.

Is he a millionaire? “I guess so,” Mr. Furdyk says cautiously. He and his fellow cyber-young guns are also mighty popular these days, appearing in national print and television, and meeting with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in Ottawa on June 9.

Mr. Furdyk added that he and his partners received a letter of congratulations from pro-business Ontario Conservative Premier Mike Harris – a man, the new business titan surmises, who “really rocks.” Unfortunately, Mr. Furdyk was two years too young to vote for the premier’s party, which he said he “definitely”

supports, in the June 3 provincial election. He turns 17 July 4.

Mr. Furdyk, the eldest of three children of Paul and Marcia Furdyk, seems to have quickly matured into a savvy executive with a downtown Toronto office, but he’s eager to enjoy the life of a 16-year-old.

“I don’t work 24 hours a day,” Mr. Furdyk says. “My friends make me do tons of stuff with them, especially on weekends.” His best friend also doubles as a regular squash partner. Sometimes, Mr. Furdyk fits in a game of pool after school. Girlfriend? “I’m not really interested right now,” he said.

But movies are a big thing for him. And Mr. Furdyk has the choice of going to see them at a cinema, rent a video or watch the flick on his computer. A copy of Keanu Reeves’ current box-office cyber-thriller “The Matrix,” downloaded from the Web, occupies space on his desktop that can accommodate 16.7 billion bytes of data. “That’s about 25 or 30 CDs full of stuff on my hard drive,” he explained.

While Mr. Furdyk recently leased a \$45,000 (\$30,000 U.S.) 1999 Infiniti QX4 sport-utility vehicle, he can drive it only with a parent until he successfully passes a driver’s test following his forthcoming birthday.

The young man is a hit with his two “Babas” (grandmothers), Vera Evanetz and Katherine Furdyk, and their friends, and his years of attending the Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies on Saturday mornings in Etobicoke are paying off: Mr. Furdyk can understand them when they fuss about their “velykyi” (great) success.

He is certainly an overnight financial success. However, the Grade 11 student in Martingrove High School’s gifted program didn’t happen upon that success by luck. Mr. Furdyk worked hard to get to where he is. Three years ago he created an online tutorial called “The Internet Exposed,” which essentially taught people, at no cost, how to develop their own websites.

While surfing on the net, Mr. Furdyk met Mr. Hayman, an Australian, online and the two agreed to concoct MyDesktop.com in 1997. Fellow Canadian Mr. Lai, a veteran in forming three companies as a teenager, later joined the duo and became the venture’s business-legal engine. Last August they established a central office in Toronto. And the rest, as they say, is history.

But while the high-tech path Mr. Furdyk is following may fashion him into a young Bill Gates, he warms more to Apple Computer’s founder, Steve Jobs, a man Mr. Furdyk considers “awesome,” and lionizes for popularizing the “think different” concept behind using Macintosh computers.

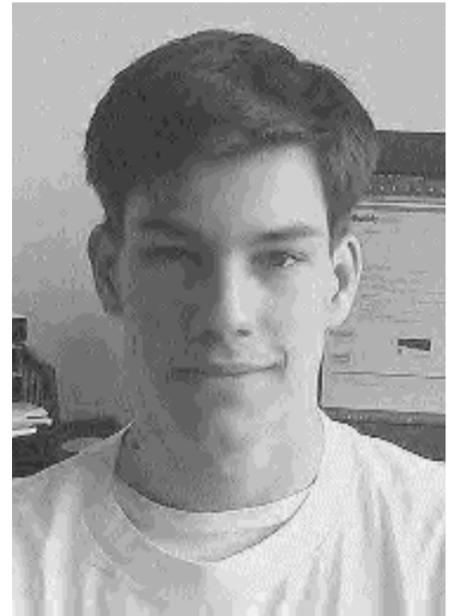
The world’s richest man, Mr. Gates, meanwhile, “just got lucky,” in Mr. Furdyk’s opinion. “There is a certain point where you wonder if he has enough,” Mr. Furdyk says. “It seems like he wants more and more and more.”

Mr. Furdyk says his hunger is not insatiable – though he admits his salary is higher than the income his father pulls in as an executive at cash register-maker NCR Canada Ltd.

“What I’ve got now would be enough to retire on but I’m definitely not interested in doing something like that,” he said. Still, Mr. Furdyk doesn’t plan on playing the high-stakes, high-tech game all his life.

Just as selling off MyDesktop.com (www.mydesktop.com), which attracts some 6 million page views a month and earned revenues in the six digits last year, revealed impressive business acumen on the part of three partners, the service had largely served its purpose, noted Mr. Furdyk. It was time to move on to other things – namely a new venture he founded called BuyBuddy.com (www.buybuddy.com), with which the trio is now actively involved.

The online service is essentially an electronic commerce search engine that helps a user find the best price for computer hardware and software, books,



Michael Furdyk

music and videos – and tells you where to find it – at no cost. “BuyBuddy is already worth multiples of what MyDesktop is worth because of the media attention and interested investors what they’ve offered us,” Mr. Furdyk explained. “So the evaluation for BuyBuddy has exponentially grown during the last month. We’re hoping to take it public now that we have the resources.”

Other goals? Getting his high school diploma is a plan, as is attending a university with some friends “just to have a good time” learning.

Considering he could probably teach an M.B.A. course, Mr. Furdyk has his academic sights set on, perhaps metaphorically, the stars. “I’m very interested in astronomy,” he says, then pauses. “Astronomy isn’t the same as astrology, right? Astrology is like the whole weird gypsy thing, right?”

Mr. Furdyk added: “And the great thing will be that I won’t have to worry about the marks. I’ll be able to just enjoy it and learn. So that’ll be cool.”

Inter-parliamentary...

(Continued from page 1)

ences to Slavic unity and brotherhood.

At one point in his speech, he said, “Our earlier experience supports the fact that Ukrainians, Belarusians and Russians were and will continue to be brothers.” Then, while referring to the need to form a synchronized economy similar to what has developed in the European Union, he said, “And we also lived on friendlier terms, better, more peacefully within the framework of the Soviet Union.”

Other speakers and attendees were less nuanced in their call for Ukraine to join the Slavic union. The chairman of the Russian State Duma, Gennadii Seleznirov, just off the plane from Moscow, said, “We would like for Ukraine to join the union of Belarus and Russia.”

Meanwhile Yegor Stroyev, Mr. Seleznirov’s counterpart in the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian Parliament, said Ukraine should not fear either political or economic integration. “Russia sees no contradiction between integration of states and preservation of their sovereignty,” he explained during his speech before the inter-parliamentary conference.

At a panel on the prospects of such a union, Belarusian and Russian deputies took turns calling on Ukraine to join them. Russian State Duma Deputy Telman Gdlyan called on Ukrainians to begin a petition-signing campaign for a national referendum on joining the Russia-Belarus union, which he said would easily get between 10 million and 15 million signatures.

Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada National Deputy Georgy Kriuchkov (Communist faction) explained that sociological polls show a majority of Ukrainians want to join the union.

Even though the issue of political integration was a major sideshow, the economies of the three countries and how they could better work together did manage to remain at center stage.

Both Mr. Tkachenko and Mr. Stroyev asked that the three Parliaments start building the legal and normative base for economic integration, which they described as a painstaking and tedious, but unavoidable process.

Mr. Tkachenko said that Belarus, Russia and Ukraine must begin by deepening economic and trade ties, especially among separate regions, industries and worker’s collectives. He called for the formation of transnational financial-industrial groups and the establishment of international free-trade zones, parallel tax systems and common customs regulations.

The starting points for the economic integration that the leftist-dominated Parliaments of the three countries are calling for are the economic and political treaties signed among them in the last several years, noted Mr. Tkachenko. He identified the Ukraine-Russia Treaty on Economic Cooperation: 1998-2007; the treaty signed by Belarus and Ukraine on economic cooperation for the years 1999-2008; and Ukraine’s accession to the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The inter-parliamentary conference issued two documents at the close of its session. One called on the executive branches of all three countries to outline a joint program to develop similar laws and programs in taxation, transport tariffs, price formation, customs regulation, the fight against organized crime and corruption, and capital flight abroad. They demanded the development of a mechanism for the settlement of mutual accounts among companies and organizations, and called for more joint social and cultural programs.

In their summation document the conferees, also called for the three governments to explore the possibility of creating an interstate leasing fund for farm machinery and developing an interstate program on sugar and vegetable oil. They recommended the establishment of an interstate database of laws and legal acts.

Much controversy surrounded the location that Mr. Tkachenko chose for the inter-parliamentary conference.

Originally, it had been scheduled for the city of Chernihiv, but several days prior to the arrival of the delegates, the conference location was moved to the Verkhovna Rada building in Kyiv. Although Oleksander Kolinko, head of the Verkhovna Rada press office, explained that the move was made because of a shortage of hotel rooms for the hundreds of delegates and their support staffs, Ukraine’s center and right-wing political factions criticized Mr. Tkachenko, a declared presidential candidate, for moving the venue to give himself a bigger soapbox.

The Reform and Order Party issued a statement on June 10 in which it stated that: “The conference, which originally was to take place on April 23-24 in Chernihiv and was to be a routine interstate conference in the realm of the CIS, today has developed into a propagandistic advertisement in connection with the presidential candidacy of Oleksander Tkachenko.”

National Deputy Ivan Zayets (Rukh-Chornovil faction) blasted Mr. Tkachenko for using the session hall of Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada “to pursue unconstitutional and treasonous aims,” while National Deputy Yurii Kostenko (Rukh-Kostenko) questioned the legitimacy of an inter-parliamentary conference not officially sanctioned by the Verkhovna Rada.

Another national deputy suggested on national television that Mr. Tkachenko had fooled the national deputies the week before the event when he unexpectedly but successfully moved to have the week of the conference designated as a week of committee work for Ukraine’s parliamentarians. That decision freed the session hall for the conference.

Meanwhile, Ukraine’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk called the conference “an attempt to return to the past.” His criticism was in stark contrast to that of his boss, President Leonid Kuchma, who hosted a reception for the delegates at the Mariinsky Palace and met privately with several leaders of the conference, including Russian State Duma Chairman Seleznirov and Federation Council President Stroyev.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Synergy: make it work for us

It's just days before the first Joint Conference of Ukrainian American Organizations convenes in Washington, bringing together diverse and active segments of our community in this country at a gathering the likes of which has never before been seen.

Lawyers, doctors, engineers, architects, women's activists, librarians, credit union leaders and the myriad professionals who belong to our Ps and Bs groups will hold their respective conferences. One of the most notable among them is The Washington Group, which this year holds its Leadership Conference (traditionally held in October) during the Joint Conferences.

The mega-conference will also attract members of organizations and institutions well-known in our community, such as fraternal organizations, veterans groups and Ukrainian American umbrella organizations, as well as representatives of sponsoring organizations, including financial institutions and Ukrainian American media.

The event promises to be a rendezvous of truly historic import – and proportion.

As of one week before its assembly, more than 700 persons were registered to take part in one or more of the Joint Conferences' sessions and events. And, all indications are that there will be even more participants arriving in Washington for what many are calling "Ukrainian Events Week."

According to conference organizer Dr. Roman Goy, "This has been a success beyond anyone's wildest imagination, so much so that the evening receptions at the State Department, the Congress and the Embassy of Ukraine are already filled to capacity, and even the meeting rooms are nearing capacity."

But the significance of the meeting is not based on numbers alone.

As Dr. Goy put it, "There are two things that we lack in this community: enough cooperation with one other and enough influence on political processes in this country. The very fact that we have been able to get so many organizations and so many people together for this conference and can have such a significant presence in Washington is proof of what we can do. In a sense, this, in and of itself, is a success."

The level of cooperation among disparate segments of our community preparing this conference is extraordinary, and such collaboration manifests a yearning and a need for contact among our organizations and among individuals. It also demonstrates that, with a little bit of motivation, we can marshal our forces, we can work together for the good of the whole community.

With the Joint Conferences providing a venue – indeed an opportunity – there is one unanswered question: How many leaders of our Ukrainian community establishment will attend?

The theme of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations is synergy. Its goal: to make that synergy work for the community as a whole. All of our community's leaders have an occasion to confer during the Joint Conferences' sessions on Sunday, June 27, when the program will be devoted to topics like the financial strength, political empowerment and direction of our organizations. We hope all will take advantage of this confluence of people to attend and to talk – with each other and with the members of the community they both lead and serve.

Ultimately, our greatest hope is that this interchange has tangible results: that it enables our community to make a successful transition into the future.

June
20
1892

Turning the pages back...

Pavlo Pecheniha-Uhlytsky was a composer and conductor with flair who became one of the more colorful figures of New York City's musical world in the 1930s, but quickly and unfairly fading into obscurity.

He was born on June 20, 1892, on an estate near the village of Pecheniha about 50 miles southwest of Kharkiv. At the age of 7 his singing attracted the attention of a church choir conductor in Kharkiv. At merely 16, he wrote his first choral work, "Kheruvymaskaia Pism" (Song of the Cherubim), became the conductor's assistant and was accepted into the city's musical school, where he distinguished himself as a double bassist in the orchestra.

After enrolling at the Imperial Music School in Kharkiv, Pecheniha-Uhlytsky was accepted in 1912 to the St. Petersburg Conservatory and studied under Ukrainian composer and pedagogue, Fedir Yakymenko, as well as two others renowned composers: Aleksandr Glazunov and Aleksandr Cherepin.

After graduating in 1914, he continued his studies, receiving the Diploma of the Free Artist in 1918, and later teaching theory and composition. In 1919 he returned to Ukraine to teach and conduct in Rostov and Yalta.

As the civil war intensified, he left for Istanbul in 1920, where he conducted opera, including Georges Bizet's "Carmen," Pietro Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" and Piotr Tchaikovsky's "Evgenii Onegin."

Pecheniha-Uhlytsky then sailed for the U.S., settling in New York City, where he played with the Wagnerian Symphony Orchestra, the City Symphony Orchestra and the State Symphony Orchestra. By dint of his powerful personality, he secured the position of in-house composer, conductor and orchestrator at the National Broadcasting Corp. in the 1920s. In the 1930s, he emerged as an important organizer of Ukrainian musical life in the city. His most resounding success came on January 8, 1939, when the NBC Radio Chorus and the Philharmonic Symphony Society Orchestra performed his and other works at Carnegie Hall. It was the first Ukrainian symphonic concert in North America.

Among the works performed at Carnegie Hall was his "Heroic Cantata," based on the poem "Biut Porohy" (The Rapids Roar) by Taras Shevchenko, which the composer dedicated to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Also in the 1930s, he began working on his dream: the staging of "Vidma" (The Witch), a full-length opera rooted in Ukrainian themes, in the 1920s based on a story by Yevhen Hrebinka, with a libretto by Stepan Charnetsky. The score was published by The Metropolitan Opera in 1936 and for years he labored in vain to have it performed there.

He also composed the ballet "Legin" (The Youth, 1938); a tone poem "Ukraina" (based

(Continued on page 16)

Ukrainian Canadian professionals to present Nation Building Awards

by Olga Kuplowska

TORONTO – The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation (UCPBF) has announced the winners of the 1999 UCPBF Nation Building Awards: Don (Bohdan) Lahanky, in the category of Friend of Ukraine; Roman Kroitor, in the category of Business Achievement; Terry Evanshen, in the category of Professional Achievement; and Lubko Belej, in the category of Youth Achievement.

The Nation Building Awards, inaugurated at the 1997 UCPBF Biennial Convention in Calgary, were created to recognize the contributions of Canadians in building Canada through their local, national or international endeavors, and are presented at the biannual Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation Conventions.

The first four recipients of the Nation Building Awards were: Lloyd Axworthy, minister of foreign affairs; Roy Romanow, premier of Saskatchewan; Ivan Fecan, president, Baton Broadcasting; and Jon Tomas, past president, Ukrainian Canadian Students Union (SUSK).

Mr. Lahanky is a successful business entrepreneur currently residing in Moncton, New Brunswick. Mr. Lahanky is being recognized in the category of Friend of Ukraine because of his lifelong dedication to and active promotion of the Ukrainian culture and heritage both in Canada and more recently in Ukraine. In Canada, he has used his resources to make the Ukrainian culture known to his fellow New Brunswickers, be it through sponsoring dance and choir performances, donating books on things Ukrainian to university and municipal libraries, or supporting a diversity of other charitable and community projects and activities.

In Ukraine, he has contributed most generously to such endeavors as the building of a village church, a monument in honor of Taras Shevchenko and a museum in honor of Ukrainian freedom fighters.

On the business front, Mr. Lahanky is president of Allsco Building Supplies, a successful manufacturing company he has built up over the last 20 years that today employs over 200 people and exports products internationally.

Mr. Kroitor, co-founder, former senior vice-president and former director of Imax Corp. (Imax), began his career at the National Film Board (NFB) of Canada and is now one of Canada's leading filmmakers, with numerous awards and honors for his work. One of his first films, "Paul Tomkowicz," which focused on the life of a Canadian railway worker, is considered a milestone in the development of documentary film.

Other major achievements include: "Candid Eye," the world's first cinema vérité television series; "Universe," the first depiction with pictorial realism of the geography of space; "Labyrinth," the multi-screen hit at Montreal's Expo '67; and of course, the IMAX motion picture system that over the last 30 years has revolutionized cinema and created a worldwide industry. Mr. Kroitor continues to explore new ways to use the IMAX medium, expanding its use of 3D technology.

Mr. Kroitor was born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, and currently resides in Rouge River, Quebec.

Mr. Evanshen, a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, who was twice voted the "Most Outstanding Canadian" in the CFL, is the holder of numerous pass-reception records, some of which still stand today.

In 1988 he was in a car accident that nearly claimed his life and inflicted neurological damage, causing him to lose his

memory including all recollections of personal and family experiences. With the help of friends, family and a caring chiropractor – and by his own determination to survive – Mr. Evanshen made the long road back to himself, rebuilding his identity, confidence and purpose, one step at a time.

Today, the former football legend travels across the country sharing his remarkable story with thousands of people from all walks of life, hoping that his experiences will help others. Born in Montréal, Mr. Evanshen currently resides in Oshawa, Ontario.

Mr. Belej, immediate past president on the current executive of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK), has been a very active and involved member of the Ukrainian Canadian community from a very young age. His early years include altar boy service and active membership in youth organizations, first in SUM and then in Plast. During his university years Mr. Belej became involved with the Ukrainian students' movement and helped to revitalize the Brock University Ukrainian Students' Club. He went on to become president of SUSK, giving up much of his personal time and earnings potential to help place SUSK on a solid ground. During his term in office, Mr. Belej visited many of the member clubs across the country and ensured that the Ukrainian Canadian student voice was heard at many community events and forums.

This past December, he was one of four panelists for the World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations Conference and was elected to represent SUSK for a four-year term in the conference. Mr. Belej lives in Toronto.

This year the UCPBF will also present a Humanitarian Award to the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Yorkton and District in recognition of its moral and financial support of two Ukrainian families from Bosnia over a two-year period.

This Special Jury Award was created to recognize the association's generous and selfless act and so that others could learn by its leading example.

The five awards will be presented at the Nation Building Awards Banquet, a "black tie" reception and dinner, to be held at the Holiday Inn on King Street in Toronto, on Saturday, July 3.

The community is invited to attend the celebratory banquet to honor and thank the 1999 Nation Builders. To order tickets for the awards banquet or for information regarding the 1999 Convention, please contact: telephone, (416) 236-2093; fax, (416) 253-9745; e-mail, naza@globalserve.net.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Great Famine and genocide

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond one last time to the various responses to my two articles on the Ukrainian Famine both in *The Weekly* and in Internet discussion groups. My definition of genocide in those articles was based on the literal translation from the Latin, signifying the destruction of or attempt to destroy an entire race.

However, if one adheres to the definition of the Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, then the Great Famine was indeed an act of genocide.

I apologize for any offense my comments may have caused to members of the Ukrainian community.

David R. Marples
Edmonton

The writer is professor of history and director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta.

EDITOR'S NOTE: According to the Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as: "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, such as: a) killing members of the group; b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

Language is key to Ukraine's survival

Dear Editor:

I agree with Mykola Ryabchuk's commentary that describes the current state of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine. He describes Ukraine as a potentially two-language and three-culture society.

I have been to Ukraine seven times with the U.S. military. My perspective is limited but it isn't hard to come up with reasons and questions regarding the language issue: Can Ukraine survive without its national language? What is the end game of Russians in Ukraine?

During our first mission to Ukraine in 1993, everyone tried to use Ukrainian as often as possible. Also, in Kyiv you could hear Ukrainian at least a third of the time. Programs were initiated to teach Ukrainian history and language in the military. By 1997 all this had changed. In May of 1997 in Kyiv, the welcoming Ukrainian general greeted us in Russian, even though he knew we had only Ukrainian interpreters. In 1996 at Peace Shield, the same general spoke to me in fluent Ukrainian. In 1997 I did not hear one word of Ukrainian on the streets of Kyiv.

In 1998 we attended a conference on infectious diseases in Kyiv and we gave our scientific presentations in Ukrainian. The Ukrainian conference bulletins were all in Ukrainian, but the presenters from Ukraine, with three exceptions, presented in Russian.

Russians in Ukraine despise the Ukrainian language because of what it stands for: freedom. Ukrainian reminds them of the failed empire. They are determined to finish the job the USSR could not:

to eliminate a language and thus, its people. Russians know that without Ukrainian, the Ukrainian people will cease to exist and independence will be lost.

Our national interests lie in supporting a free democratic Ukraine, therefore we must support the language. The military should insist that only Ukrainian interpreters be used in Ukraine. Would anyone suggest using Ukrainian interpreters in Russia? I don't think so.

The Ukrainian American Veterans and the Ukrainian American Military Association will be discussing these issues on September 25 at 1-5 p.m. in Chicago.

Roman G. Golash
Palatine, Ill.

Sitch grateful for cooperation

Dear Editor:

It is my pleasure to thank you on behalf of the officers and the entire membership of Chornomorska Sitch for the prominent coverage provided by *The Ukrainian Weekly* (May 30) regarding the history and activities of our society in conjunction with its 75th anniversary.

We particularly appreciate the fact that you not only published the lengthy article on Chornomorska Sitch submitted by Dr. Orest Popovych, but took the trouble of suggesting it be illustrated with photographs, which enlivened the text.

The resulting article in the centerfold of *The Ukrainian Weekly* represents more than a fitting component of our yearlong celebrations of the anniversary of Chornomorska Sitch. By providing publicity to the activities of our society, you encourage all Ukrainian sports organizations in North America to continue or to revive their own efforts on behalf of Ukrainian youth and the entire community.

We are confident that we can look forward to your valuable cooperation with Ukrainian sports organizations in the future.

Myron Stebelsky
Newark, N.J.

The writer is president of the Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch.

UCCA should respond to article

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing in your "News and Views" a commentary regarding "reasons for the doom of the Ukrainian Festival U.S.A." (June 6). It is long overdue as there are some of us who want to understand the full reasons for the demise of the Ukrainian Festival U.S.A., which was a glorious exhibit of the Ukrainian community's culture and heritage in America during the years it was produced in June.

Since Stan Jakubowycz puts the finger of blame on the New Jersey Coordinating Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, it seems to me that you ought to have a reply from either or both the NJCC and the parent organization, as well as other branches.

Considering all of the good work that has been done to keep Ukrainian culture and language in the forefront of the international community, the discontinuation of the festival each year in June is truly a disgrace. The UCCA needs to determine if the Ukrainian Festival is salvageable.

Joseph Jackson
New Providence, N.J.

CANADA COURIER

by Christopher Guly



Peter Liba moves into Government House

With its Golden Boy adorning the top, surroundings that feature a statue in tribute to Taras Shevchenko and well-appointed landscaping, Manitoba's Legislative Building – a stone's throw from the Assiniboine River – is a nice place to be in the summertime. If you live there, all the better, as Peter Michael Liba will soon discover as he moved into the newly renovated Government House on May 27.

On March 2, Mr. Liba was named Manitoba's 22nd lieutenant-governor, the vice-regal counterpart to the governor general, who represents the queen, Canada's constitutional head of state. Indeed, Mr. Liba has something in common with Governor General Roméo LeBlanc: both worked as journalists in previous careers. Mr. Liba also shares something with a lot of Manitobans: a Ukrainian heritage, which also makes him Manitoba's first lieutenant-governor of Ukrainian descent.

Born in Winnipeg 59 years ago to a father who emigrated from Ukraine in the 1920s and a mother who grew up in Portage la Prairie (a community about an hour's drive west of Winnipeg), Mr. Liba began his career in newspapers. After working as a reporter and editor with Portage la Prairie's *Daily Graphic* and *The Neepawa Press*, in 1960 he joined the since-closed *Winnipeg Tribune*, where he was appointed city editor seven years later. But print wouldn't be where Mr. Liba would make his mark. Television grabbed him and he became part of one of Canada's fastest-growing television networks.

In 1974 Mr. Liba joined the CanWest Group of Companies, of which he was a founding shareholder.

Eventually he was named president and chief executive officer of CKND-TV in Winnipeg and SaskWest TV in nearby Saskatchewan. In 1993 Mr. Liba moved to corporate office where he served as executive vice-president of CanWest Global Communications. Two years ago, when he was semi-retired, Mr. Liba took on part-time duties as the company's executive director of corporate affairs. In 1998 the Canadian Association of Broadcasters inducted him into the Canadian Broadcast Hall of Fame.

CanWest Global Communications Corp. owns and operates the Global Television Network in Canada, as well as one radio and two television networks in New Zealand. The Winnipeg-based company also has TV operations in Australia, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Mr. Liba's former boss, media mogul and former Manitoba Liberal Party leader Izzy Asper, today is considered one of the most powerful people in Canadian broadcasting.

But, as Mr. Asper would know from his days in politics, when the federal Liberal leader comes calling – and he happens to be the prime minister – it's hard to turn down a request to serve one's country. So, when Jean Chrétien called Mr. Liba, it took all of about three minutes for the cherubic-faced broadcasting executive to agree to the job that will pay an annual salary of \$97,200 (about \$70,000 U.S.).

Mr. Liba said he was honored by his January 18 appointment and took some satisfaction in being able to "come back to the legislature in such an entirely different role and be the one who does the

functions I used to observe" as a journalist from the legislative press gallery.

The role carries much ceremony – greeting dignitaries (as he did recently when Czech President Václav Havel came calling) and opening sessions of the legislature – and some power. Mr. Liba signs all Manitoba bills into law and could technically refuse to do so under the Constitution Act of 1867. However, it's more likely – given his ethnic background and anticipating the numerous invitations he will receive from the local Ukrainian community – he will be the one hobnobbing at festivals, sampling varenyky and holding the front-row seat for dance recitals.

But maintaining a community profile won't be something new for Mr. Liba, who was named a member of the country's highest civilian honors system, the Order of Canada, in 1984.

Until his appointment as lieutenant governor he had been a director of the St. Boniface General Hospital for 12 years and served as chairman of the hospital board for the last seven. Mr. Liba was also the founding chairman of the Variety Club Telethon in Manitoba, and has served as chairman and director of the Winnipeg Convention Center, as well as director of the Manitoba Heart Foundation, the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews' Prairie Region and Winnipeg's Refugee Assistance Committee.

Mr. Liba has been married to Shirley Ann Collett for the past 36 years; has three children and two grandchildren. He also served as an elected school trustee in Winnipeg's Transcona-Springfield School Board from 1964 to 1967. Sensitivity to the needs of his community, mixed with a dose of diplomacy, appears to be part of his nature as witnessed by his pledge to advance the interests of aboriginal and young people at the top of his agenda. Mr. Liba's predecessor, Yvon Dumont, was Manitoba's first lieutenant governor of Métis descent when he was appointed in 1993. With a provincial election looming on the horizon in Manitoba, Mr. Liba will be one of the few constants around the Manitoba legislature in the near future.

His somewhat new face on the provincial government scene will have become a familiar one – and Government House's new carpets will be ready to handle the most energetic of hopaks over the next five years.



Peter M. Liba

Scholarly panel dedicated to the memory of Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw

NEW YORK – A scholarly panel, “Church and Nation in Ukraine,” was held April 17 at Columbia University in memory of Dr. Bohdan R. Bociurkiw (1925-1998), professor emeritus of Carleton University in Ottawa and long-time colleague and friend of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. The session was organized by the CIUS Church Studies Program as part of the fourth annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), held April 15-17. The conference was sponsored by The Harriman Institute, Columbia University, and the Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University.

The panel session was chaired by a former student of Prof. Bociurkiw, Dominique Arel (Brown University), ASN vice-president and head of the convention’s program committee. Papers were presented at the session by the heads of two CIUS programs: Dr. Frank Sysyn, director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research, and Dr. Serhii Plokhly, director of the Church Studies Program.

In his paper, “The Ukrainian Controversy and the Orthodox Oecumene,” Dr. Sysyn discussed the current status of Ukraine’s Orthodox Churches, stressing the role of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in the United States and Canada and their relations with the Ecumenical Patriarchate in settling the religious conflict in Ukraine.

Dr. Plokhly’s paper, “Religion and National Identity in 20th Century Ukraine: Re-evaluating the Soviet Period,” analyzed the influence of Soviet religious policy on the relationship between national and religious identity among residents of Ukraine. In his discussion, Dr. Plokhly made extensive reference to Prof. Bociurkiw’s research.

The commentator for the session was Jose Casanova, chair of the department of sociology at the New School for Social Research, who proposed sever-



Irene Jarosewich

At the panel “Church and Nation in Ukraine” (from left) are: Jose Casanova, Frank Sysyn, Michael Bociurkiw, Vera Bociurkiw, Dominique Arel and Serhii Plokhly.

al sociological models that might help to explain the interaction between Church, state and society in contemporary Ukraine. The papers and commentary were followed by a discussion among numerous members of the audience and scholars from Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Israel.

Following the session, Prof. Bociurkiw’s widow, Vera, and his son, Michael, expressed their thanks to the organizers of the session, and all present for honoring the memory of their husband and father. Prof.

Bociurkiw willed his extensive library and archive to the Church Studies Program at CIUS.

Most of this treasured gift has already been received by CIUS, thanks to the generous assistance of Prof. Andrii Krawchuk of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University (Ottawa). Once the material has been reorganized in its new location, Prof. Bociurkiw’s library and archive will be open to researchers and students.

CONFERENCE PAPER: Religion and national identity in 20th century Ukraine

Dr. Serhii Plokhly is the first director of the Church Studies Program at the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta-Edmonton. The Church Studies Program was established in 1994. This paper, titled “Religion and National Identity in 20th Century Ukraine: Re-evaluating the Soviet Period,” was presented at the panel “Church and Nation in Ukraine,” held on April 17 at the Association for the Study of Nationalities conference in New York City. The panel was dedicated to the memory of renowned Ukrainian Church historian and scholar, Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw.

With the Bolshevik takeover in Petrograd in November 1917, the competition between Russian and Ukrainian Orthodoxy that began with the events of the 1905 revolution was abruptly interrupted. The atheistic state effectively removed religion from public life, but, unable to eliminate it completely, tended to exploit Russian-Ukrainian religious rivalry for its own political ends.

The major issue addressed here is the impact of Soviet religious policy on the process of formation of Ukrainian national identity and specifically on the nature and character of the Russian-Ukrainian religious encounter. In an attempt to provide at least partial answer to these questions, I shall discuss not only the “Soviet” history of the different Orthodox jurisdictions in Ukraine, but also the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which was forcibly “reunited” with Moscow in 1946 and then re-established itself in the period of Gorbachev’s glasnost.

The first massive encounter of Ukrainian (Kyivan) and Russian (Muscovite) Christianity took place after the Pereiaslav Council of 1654. Although Moscow succeeded in subordinating the Kyivan Metropolitanate to its own patriarchate by the end of the century, the Kyivan clergy struck back with the “Ukrainization” of the entire Church during the late 17th and early

18th centuries. The role of the Ukrainian element, symbolized by the names and writings of Petro Mohyla, Teofan Prokopovych and St. Dymytrii Rostovsky (Tuptalo), in the shaping of Russian Orthodoxy before and after Patriarch Nikon’s reform, was so important and the Ukrainian impact on the theological doctrine of the Church so strong that the Russian Orthodox Church in its synodal period was considered as much the product of the Ukrainian religious tradition as of the Great Russian one.

In the course of the 19th century the stronger Russian Church consolidated its hold on Ukraine, hence the revolution of 1917 found Russian and Ukrainian Orthodoxy in different starting positions. In the second half of the 19th century the Russian Orthodox Church emerged as a powerful instrument of official Russification. The movement for Church reform that began with the outbreak of the 1905 revolution did not challenge the basis of ecclesiastical nationality policy. The government controlled the Holy Synod – the highest authority in the Church – continued to regard Ukrainians (Little Russians), along with Belarusians, as branches of an “all-Russian” people and rejected any attempts by non-Russian clergy to distinguish themselves in national terms.

The Ukrainian national movement, which first openly manifested itself within the Church at the beginning of the 20th century, was very weak and indecisive. Most of the Ukrainian-born Orthodox clergy shared the Little Russian identity and strengthened the “all-Russian” element within the Church. The Ukrainian national ideology spread first among the lower married clergy, which had little influence in Church affairs, and among seminarians. Although it is true that the Orthodox seminaries in Ukraine educated a number of prominent leaders of the Ukrainian national movement, including Symon Petliura and Volodymyr Chekhivsky, most of the alumni joined, not the religious, but the secular national movement. In this regard

Ukraine was no exception to the general rule, as all the seminaries of imperial Russia produced secular revolutionaries on a massive scale.

In December 1917 a small group of Ukrainian-oriented clergy in Kyiv, led by Archbishop Oleksii Dorodnitsyn and military chaplain Oleksander Marychiv, founded the All-Ukrainian Orthodox Church Council, which managed to get permission from Moscow to convoke the first All-Ukrainian Church Sobor. This was a major achievement for the young movement for the autocephaly (independence) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, but, contrary to the expectations of its initiators, the All-Ukrainian Church Sobor was dominated by proponents of the “all-Russian” idea. It was only the intervention of Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky that forced the Sobor to ask Moscow to grant autonomous status to the Ukrainian Church. This request was approved by Patriarch Tikhon in a matter of months, but subsequent attempts of the Hetman government to obtain autocephalous status for the Church were in vain.

The Ukrainian secular movement in the Russian Empire was strongly influenced by socialist ideology. Anticlerical sentiments among the leaders of the Central Rada and other Ukrainian governments, shared by such prominent politicians as Mykhailo Hrushevsky and Volodymyr Vynnychenko, certainly played a negative role in the history of the autocephalist movement in Ukraine. To be sure, this was not the only reason for the weakness of the movement. Before the revolution of 1917, no Ukrainian translation of the Bible had been published in the Russian Empire, and, owing to the lack of translations of liturgical texts, the first Ukrainian liturgy was served in Kyiv by Archpriest Vasyl Lypkivsky only in the summer of 1919.

The autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was first proclaimed by a decree of the Ukrainian Directory in January 1919 and only then by the All-

Ukrainian Orthodox Church Council in May 1920. Both proclamations had a mainly symbolic character, as the overwhelming majority of the Orthodox parishes in Ukraine remained faithful to Moscow. During the revolution the Ukrainian Orthodox felt themselves more or less secure only on territory controlled by successive Ukrainian governments. The White governments, for their part, supported the Russian Orthodox Church, which used every seizure of power by the Whites to attack its opponents. Only in the case of the Soviets was a compromise with a non-Ukrainian government theoretically possible, and it was, in fact, temporarily achieved by the autocephalist movement.

Ukrainian Orthodoxy, unlike the Russian, initially benefited from Soviet religious policy. First of all, the official ideology of the new rulers was proclaimed to be “proletarian internationalism,” not Russian nationalism as under the old regime. Secondly, the Bolsheviks not only eliminated state support for the Russian Orthodox Church, but also considered it their major enemy on the religious front. Lenin’s decree on the separation of Church and state, issued in January 1918, was aimed first of all at the Russian Orthodox Church and was welcomed by all other Churches and religious denominations of the former empire.

The Bolsheviks not only registered the Ukrainian parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church as independent (including the parish at St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv), but also allowed the re-emergence of the All-Ukrainian Orthodox Church Council, banned by the Whites. It was also under Soviet rule that in May 1920 the council proclaimed the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church; in October 1921 the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UOAC) held its first Sobor in Kyiv.

The Soviets openly exploited the rival

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Religion and national...

(Continued from page 8)

minor Churches to undermine the strength of Russian Orthodoxy, which was their most dangerous ideological enemy because of its close association with the tsarist regime and its anti-Bolshevik policies during the revolution. The Bolsheviks' main instrument in their attack on the Russian Orthodox (Patriarchal) Church was the small group of the leftist, reform-minded clergy that became known as the Living Church.

The Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, as constituted at its first Sobor in 1921, was almost as leftist and "renovationist" as the Living and Renovationist Churches in Russia. It adopted many of the ideas initially promoted by the all-Russian movement for Church reform, including the most controversial one: the concept of a married episcopate. The active participation of laymen in the government of the Church and the prominent role played in its leadership by the former socialist premier of the Directory, Volodymyr Chekhivsky, resulted in the dominance in Church doctrine of the Ukrainian variant of Christian socialism.

Initially, in order to destroy the Patriarchal Church, the Bolsheviks supported as many schisms and autocephalies as possible. Once the Russian Orthodox Church had been weakened sufficiently to make the patriarchal locum tenens, Metropolitan Sergii, announce complete surrender to the state in 1927, Soviet policy toward the autocephalous Churches changed dramatically. Now that the most powerful Church had become an obedient subject and tool of government policy, schisms and autocephalies were no longer considered useful, and the repressive organs of the state turned with utter brutality against its former allies.

In many respects the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church shared the fate of the Renovationist Church in Russia, the difference being that its clergy was persecuted more severely, not only on charges of religious, but also of nationalist propaganda.

Both Ukrainian national communism and Ukrainian Orthodoxy were tolerated by the regime in Moscow as long as Stalin needed their support or neutrality in the struggle with his main enemies – political rivals in the Central Party apparatus and the Patriarchal Church. Once the struggle on both fronts was over, the former allies and "fellow travelers" were ruthlessly eliminated. In Church policy, the new agenda was to bring under the control of the loyal Russian Orthodox leadership all its former flock, thereby establishing effective control over Orthodox believers throughout the country. The same tactics were used at the beginning of World War II in western Ukraine and western Belarus, where the autocephalous Orthodox eparchies were forcibly brought under Moscow's control.

The attack on the autocephalist movement in Ukraine in the late 1920s and early 1930s was so strong and effective that even during the German occupation of Ukraine, when the remnants of the persecuted Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church joined forces with the adherents of the autocephalist movement of western Ukraine, they were unable to gain control over the majority of Orthodox parishes in Ukraine. Instead, they became involved in rivalry with the Autonomous Orthodox Church, which remained faithful to the Moscow Patriarchate. This was in part the result of German policy [during the occupation], whose goal was to limit the activity of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church to select areas of Ukraine.

During World War II, the Soviet regime decided to formalize its new relations with

the Russian Orthodox Church, allowing it to elect a patriarch and virtually transforming it into a department of the state. As under the old regime, the new deal promoted a Church-state partnership in the strengthening of Moscow's grip over the non-Russian regions of the country. In Ukraine, the most vivid example of Church-state cooperation in the post-war years was the liquidation of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and the subordination of its parishes to the Moscow Patriarchate.

The act of "reunification" of the Greek Catholics with the Moscow Patriarchate was accomplished by the Lviv Church Sobor of 1946. At the Sobor the authorities once again, as in the 1920s, exploited Ukrainian nationalist ideas to be employed for the achievement of their current political goals. Participants in the Sobor praised Stalin for the "gathering" of Ukrainian lands, and the "reunification" of Ukrainian Catholics with the Orthodox Church was portrayed as a reunion of Galicians with their brothers in Dnipro Ukraine.

During World War II Stalin had managed to employ not only Russian nationalism, but also the nationalisms of the other peoples of the USSR in order to fight the Nazis. Ukraine was no exception, and the patriotic rhetoric of the Lviv Sobor was not entirely unusual for World War II Ukraine. What was unusual was that the authorities tolerated some manifestations of the Ukrainian religious tradition in western Ukraine long after the end of the war.

The constant threat from the clandestine Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church forced authorities to tolerate the distinctly Ukrainian character of the new Orthodox exarchies of western Ukraine. Manifestations of Ukrainian religious tradition in Church life were tolerated there as long as the parishes remained Orthodox. In order to please the new flock, the publication of the Church journal in the Ukrainian language was allowed in Lviv. The former archbishop of Lubny, Poltava and Myrhorod, Iosyp Oksiuk, was allowed to serve as secretary to the Russian Orthodox archbishop of Lviv, his brother, Makarii Oksiuk. The authorities attempted to employ the tradition of Ukrainian national Orthodoxy to keep the former Greek-Catholics in Moscow's embrace.

Although in the short run limited tolerance of the Ukrainian religious tradition in western Ukraine helped the regime achieve its goal, in the long run such tolerance resulted in the Ukrainization of a significant part of the Russian Orthodox Church in Ukraine. In the 1970s and 1980s Ukrainian Orthodox comprised approximately 60 percent of all Orthodox believers in the USSR, while some 60 percent of these resided in the five western oblasts of Ukraine. Most of the Greek-Catholic parishes that were brought under Moscow's complete control only in the late 1940s and early 1950s managed to survive Khrushchev's anti-religious campaign of the 1960s. The authorities simply feared that with the closure of Orthodox churches believers would go to the clandestine Greek-Catholic priests.

In 1989, with the Kremlin losing its grip on Ukraine and with the legalization of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, the Galician parishes of the Orthodox Church gave birth to a new wave of the autocephalist movement in Ukraine. As in the 1920s and 1940s, the movement appeared unable to gain control over the majority of Orthodox parishes in Ukraine. The policy of Russification pursued by Communist Moscow in the non-Russian republics after World War II left the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church with few followers in highly Russified eastern and southern Ukraine.

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INTERVIEW: Dr. Frank Sysyn on the future of Ukrainian studies

NEW YORK — Dr. Frank Sysyn, director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at the University of Alberta-Edmonton, was invited recently by the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey to speak on the history of Ukrainian studies in the United States and Canada and the potential of establishing a program of Ukrainian studies at an academic institution in New York City.

Dr. Sysyn, who received his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University and was one of the early members of the student fund-raising effort to raise money for the Harvard Ukrainian Studies Fund, spoke on April 25 at the Ukrainian Institute of America and also gave an interview to Irene Jarosewich of *The Ukrainian Weekly*.



Dr. Frank Sysyn

This spring you were on sabbatical from the University of Alberta and were here in New York City at The Harriman Institute as the Petro Jacyk Visiting Professor of Ukrainian Studies at Columbia University. Can you please explain a bit about this position?

The Petro Jacyk Visiting Professor of Ukrainian Studies at Columbia is based on a \$500,000 donation by Mr. Jacyk, a Ukrainian Canadian businessman, to Columbia University. The position is administered by The Harriman Institute, but a professor from any field can be invited as a visiting professor of Ukrainian studies. I was the first professor to be brought to Columbia under this program and taught a course in Ukrainian history and gave several lectures. The visiting professor position is intended to expand upon existing Ukrainian studies efforts at Columbia by bringing in specialists in a variety of fields for short periods to give instruction in Ukrainian studies.

Ukrainian studies at Columbia includes the teaching of Ukrainian literature and language in the Slavic Department, the sponsoring by Harriman of conferences on topics related to Ukraine, hosting Fulbright scholars and other visitors from Ukraine, and this position of visiting professor. However, most of this hinges on the efforts of individuals. For example, the current director of Harriman, Prof. Mark von Hagen, is very interested in Ukraine, as was the associate director, Alex Motyl. However, Dr. von Hagen's term ends in two years, and Dr. Motyl left for a professorship at Rutgers University. In order to ensure a continuing presence, Ukrainian studies should be institutionalized at Columbia. The Jacyk donation is a move in that direction.

Why was Columbia chosen for the Jacyk endowment?

The potential in New York City for Ukrainian studies is tremendous, and an excellent location is Columbia. Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs is one of the largest in the United States; it is important for Ukraine to have a presence here. During the academic year, between 15 and 20 people from all over the world come through daily with lectures and presentations. There are a substantial number of presentations on Ukraine annually. At the recent Association for

the Study of Nationalities conference, co-sponsored by Harriman and held at Columbia, there were more than 40 topics related to Ukraine. Prof. George Shevelov, now professor-emeritus, taught at Columbia for many years. Columbia also has top graduate centers in many fields. So Columbia has a great deal to offer.

Columbia has shown its willingness to use its own resources to expand into Ukrainian studies. However, once again, there is no permanence to many of these efforts and steps should be made to take advantage of the opportunities at Columbia to develop a permanent program.

What sort of program do you envision?

It's best, of course, to endow permanent faculty, but this is much more expensive. It is, therefore, important to at least have sessions and courses and a variety of scholars, even if for a short period. In general, the Ukrainian studies program needs to be more broad and flexible than a chair in a particular department.

Barring major donations to fund chairs, the sensible strategy would be endowments or contributions to a program of Ukrainian studies. Courses in language, literature, history are always basic to any program of Ukrainian studies, but also can branch out into other fields, such as sociology and political science.

The program can provide administrative assistance to traveling scholars. Furthermore, scholars come here to do research, but they are also a resource that can be used by a program.

It is important to train people, this will have long-term impact. For example, students studying for a master's degree in international affairs should take a course in Ukrainian studies for perspective, even if they do not intend to become Ukraine experts. There should be support for those who do plan to become Ukraine experts, as well.

We saw for example, at the ASN conference, policy analysts appointed by their respective governments – one from Finland immediately comes to mind – who study Ukraine because that is their job. With an independent Ukraine, suddenly every government needs to have Ukraine experts. Many come not only to Washington, but to

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The Rev. Agapius Honcharenko, 1832-1916

Ahapii [Ahapius, Agapius] Honcharenko (real name: Andrii Humnytsky) was born August 31, 1832, in Kryvyn, Skvyra county, Kyiv gubernia. The Rev. Honcharenko was an Orthodox priest, publicist and the first Ukrainian political émigré to the United States. A descendant of a Kozak family, he graduated from the Kyiv Theological Seminary and entered the Kyivan Monastery of the Caves.

Sent to Athens in 1857 to serve as deacon at the embassy's church, he began to contribute articles to Alexander Herzen's *Kolokol*. He was discovered and arrested in 1860, but escaped and traveled extensively before immigrating to the United States in 1865.

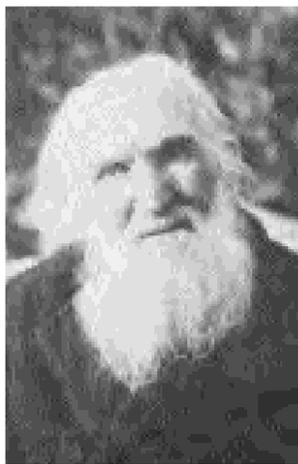
A subsidy from the federal government enabled Father Honcharenko to establish, in San Francisco, a semimonthly (eventually a semi-weekly) newspaper – *The Alaska Herald*, with a Russian- and Ukrainian-language supplement, *Svoboda* – aimed at the inhabitants of recently purchased Alaska.

He published the paper singlehandedly from 1868 to 1872, glorifying the Ukrainian Kozaks, popularizing Taras Shevchenko's poetry, defending democracy, individual freedom and private initiative, and attacking Russian autocracy and imperialism, the conservatism and corruption of the Russian Church, and capitalist monopolies. He also prepared the "Russo-English Phrase Book" (1868) for American soldiers serving in Alaska.

He retired to a farm in Hayward, Calif., that he named "Ukraina Ranch." There, in the early 1900s, a group of Ukrainian immigrants from Canada and Halychyna organized a short-lived commune called the Ukrainian Brotherhood.

The Rev. Honcharenko died May 5, 1916, in Hayward, Alameda county, Calif.

– *From the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 2 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988).*



(Continued from page 1)

order to protect his family in Ukraine. Kyiv region village records of 1832, the year Father Honcharenko was born, list a Rev. Onufrii Humnytsky with son Andrii.

Father Honcharenko moved to the U.S. in 1865, after having traveled extensively in Greece, London, Syria, Jerusalem, Egypt and Turkey. Once on North American soil, his restless spirit continued to drive him. He helped establish a Greek Orthodox church and served in New Orleans. He visited Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Central America and Alaska before settling in Hayward, Calif.

His work in Alaska inspired him to begin publishing *The Alaska Herald* in 1868. He printed articles that fought for the cause of the Aleuts and against groups who tried to downgrade Alaskan citizens to a state of slavery. The central mission of *The Alaska Herald*, as reported by the San Francisco Call, was "to enlighten the Muscovites [a reference to former Russian colonists] of Alaska as to their duties and privileges now that they are U.S. citizens."

Published in 1868-1872, *The Alaska Herald* was printed in Russian and English. Due to his Ukrainian patriotism, Father Honcharenko often included the works of Taras Shevchenko, and articles on Ukrainian topics.

Throughout his life, Father Honcharenko openly expressed his opinions – which often brought him into conflict with the establishment. He uncovered what he viewed to be corruption, immorality and failings in the Orthodox Church.

Mr. Balan told guests that Father Honcharenko had a favorite saying: "No police, no priests." Over the door to his home, he posted the slogan: "Revenge on the wolves that devour the lambs." Both dictums are indicative of his utopian vision of the future society. He believed that those who did not need guidance or punishment would someday people society and that their daily lives would serve as their expression of love for God. Even while upper echelons of the Orthodox Church often attacked him, Father Honcharenko never succumbed to their intimidation, Mr. Balan noted.

Evidence of some of the attacks on

Father Honcharenko can be seen in reports to Bishop Paul of Novoarkhangelsk (in Sitka, Alaska) that were sent from San Francisco. In one report, dated March 1868, Prince D. Maksutov, wrote, "Last year Agapius Honcharenko arrived in San Francisco, who escaped from a certain monastery. At the beginning, he was conducting divine services here, but since he is not following the precise rules of our Church, all those who share our faith left him and renounced him as a schismatic."

In another report, Father Nicholas Kovrigin wrote of Father Honcharenko: "Mister Consul warned me to not allow myself to receive him and not to talk to him." Following Father Honcharenko's arrival at the priest's home, Father Kovrigin wrote: "As I was already warned, I told him that I could not have anything to do with him and asked him to leave me alone. He left my apartment very angrily. The Slavs cannot stand him."



At the Honcharenko monument dedication (from left) are: Yuriy Oliynyk, Carol Severin, Michael Car, Tamara Horodysky, Maria Iskiw and Oksana Tscherepenko-DiRicco.

Father Honcharenko sought out Ukrainians wherever he traveled and yearned for a time when Ukraine would be free of tsarist autocracy. He came from a distinguished Kozak family, descendants of Col. Ivan Bohun.

"Father Honcharenko was, in many ways, a stereotypical Californian," Mr. Balan noted. "He loved liberty, enterprise and personal responsibility. He was a dreamer and a romantic, who thought deeply and looked down the road at how things might be." His California spirit to produce global change via local action is evident, notably in the experimental commune that emerged on Father Honcharenko's homestead in 1902.

Along with a few colleagues, newly arrived Ukrainian Canadians from Winnipeg, Father Honcharenko formed a commune on his land in California. Due to conflicting views on its management, the commune of a half-dozen soon disintegrated and the group returned to Canada. Members of the group became initiators of Ukrainian community and church life in various Canadian cities. After the dissolution of the commune they continued to correspond with Father Honcharenko and kept readers informed about him via the Ukrainian Canadian press.

Much of the interest in Father Honcharenko's life began with the work of two scholars, authors of two books about the cleric: "Ahapius Honcharenko and The Alaska Herald: The Editor's Life and An Analysis of His Newspaper" by Wasyl and Theodore Luciw, (Toronto, 1963); and "Father Agapius Honcharenko: First Ukrainian Priest in the United States" by Theodore Luciw (New York, 1970).

A 30-year battle

The battle to dedicate the former Honcharenko homestead in his honor to the Ukrainian American community has lasted 30 years. Oksana Tscherepenko-DiRicco knows this battle intimately; her father played a role in the battle before her. Mrs. DiRicco, along with other members of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC), Northern California Branch, continued this fight.

The Russian American community had attempted to claim Father Honcharenko as their own and pursued the dedication for the Russian American community. Once the park dedication was secured for Ukrainians and the name "Ukraina" proposed, members of the UACC – Michael Car, Yuriy Oliynyk, Tamara Horodysky and

Maria Iskiw and Ms. Tscherepenko-DiRicco – formed the Ukrainian American Honcharenko Committee, which played the key role in organizing this event.

Father Honcharenko had owned the land until his death in 1916. Afterwards, the Meillke family purchased and owned it until 1991, at which time the East Bay Regional District took ownership. What remains of the homestead is the foundation of the chicken house, the couple's gravesites and a grotto where the priest meditated and conducted religious ceremonies.

Ron Meuhler of the East Bay Regional Park District explained that he has read a lot about Father Honcharenko in the Hayward Museum. During the 1950s the Meillke family bulldozed the house to stop vandalism. The grotto, a wind cave about six feet wide and three feet across that formed into the sandstone cliff, still stands. A few paintings, one of a cross, remain on the cave walls.

During the 43 years that Father Honcharenko and his wife kept the homestead, the grounds approaching the gravesites, which now are covered in grasses, were gardens. The blend of almond, walnut and peach trees near cacti fascinated many guests. In 1873 Mrs. Honcharenko wrote an article in a horticultural publication describing the planting of new olive trees. These olive trees still stand in the orchard 125 years later.

New public land

Prior to the memorial service (panakhyda) conducted at the gravesite on the dedication day of California's newest historic site, Mr. Meuhler showed a few guests around the grounds. He indicated the spot where the Honcharenko home once stood – now a field of wild barley and foxtail surrounded by fruit and nut trees; an old well where Indians once ground acorns lies a short distance away.

Father Honcharenko was always ready to share his land with others. For example, it is recorded that Father Honcharenko allowed victims of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 who lost their homes to stay on the land temporarily.

Currently, the site is in land bank status, which means it is owned by the public, but is not officially open. A few public access issues need to be resolved before the park can open, which may take a couple of years, according to Mr. Meuhler.

(Continued on page 17)

Ukrainian American Nautical Association sets sail in diverse locales

by Olenka Stercho

PHILADELPHIA – A total eclipse of the sun at mid-day off the coast of Guadeloupe ... The ancient ruins of Byzantium in Turkey ... The bleached white houses of the Corfu coast ... Whale spouts on the horizon ... And, as always, wind, sun, aquamarine water and miles upon miles of white, sandy beaches ...

These sights, and so much more, have been enjoyed over the last few years by members of the Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. (UANAI).

The UANAI was formed in 1993 to serve as a means for Ukrainian American sailors and would-be sailors to meet, enjoy each other's company and develop nautical skills within their own cultural milieu.

Now, six years after its creation and almost 20 sailing trips later, the UANAI has attracted over 50 full members and an even larger contingent of associate members from all walks of Ukrainian American/Canadian life.

UANAI sails have been held in a wide range of locales: the Caribbean, Chesapeake Bay, Europe, Florida, the Hudson River, as well as on the Great Lakes. Of these, the Caribbean and the Chesapeake Bay have been favorites. Of the six Caribbean trips, four have taken place in the British Virgin Islands (BVI).

The BVI are particularly friendly to novice sailors with their two- to three-hour hops from island to island in fair winds. The islands offer tremendous diversity in terms of topography, beaches, entertainment and opportunities for snorkeling and other water sports. As a rule, the UANAI returns to the BVI every other year, not only to enjoy these spectacular islands, but to give new sailors an opportunity to hone their skills in a friendly environment. The most recent of such trips took place in February.

The Caribbean was also the location of the UANAI's most challenging trip to date when, in March 1998, three boats covered 276 miles in six days, sailing one-way from Guadeloupe to St. Martin. The highlight of the voyage was the full solar eclipse, that occurred on February 26, plunging the waters between Guadeloupe and Antigua into an eerie and awe-inspiring mid-day darkness.

As if the eclipse was not enough, on the same day, UANAI members also spotted whales, observed a volcanic eruption on the island of Montserrat and saw a water spout in action. The rest of the trip was a true test of sailing mettle as the boats covered an average of 46 miles per day moving from Guadeloupe to Antigua and then on to Nevis and St. Kitts, ending on St. Martin.

Six UANAI trips have been held on the Chesapeake Bay, typically in the month of June. Usually run as weekend sails, these trips are not only for experienced sailors craving to be out on the water, but are offered as an opportunity for those who have never tried the sport to get a taste of both sailing and the group. Destinations have included Annapolis, St. Michael's, Baltimore and Knapps Narrows, Md. Known as one of the great sailing grounds of the world, the Chesapeake offers infinite variety, both in terms of rivers and creeks to explore, as well as in sailing conditions, from the most benign to the very blustery.

The UANAI has also ventured off the North American continent with trips to Greece and Turkey. The Turkish Regatta, which was held in 1997 and featured one week of land excursions

and one week on the water, has generally been hailed as the best of the UANAI sails. During the trip UANAI members had the opportunity to explore the architecture of Istanbul as well as its Grand Bazaar, Izmir and the sacred city of Efes. The sailing portion of the trip was launched from Marmaris, which also featured frequent stops to explore archeological ruins including Caunos, an ancient ruined Greek City and Xanthos, one of Lycia's greatest cities.

Not only did UANAI sailors have a sterling opportunity to learn of connections between our Ukrainian culture and that of Byzantium, but the men on the trip learned to belly-dance!

The next international trip is slated to take place from September 17 to October 1 in Spain. The first week will feature land excursions centered on Barcelona. After seeing the sights of the city, UANAI members will have the opportunity to explore the monastery in Montserrat, as well as Costa Brava, a 95-mile stretch of coastline passing through resort towns and small fishing villages. The second week of the trip will consist of a sail around the spectacular island of Majorca.

All UANAI trips are planned by volunteer members and are bareboat charters, which consist of members, the captain, the crew and the boats. Each vessel is operated by its designated skipper with the assistance of the crew.

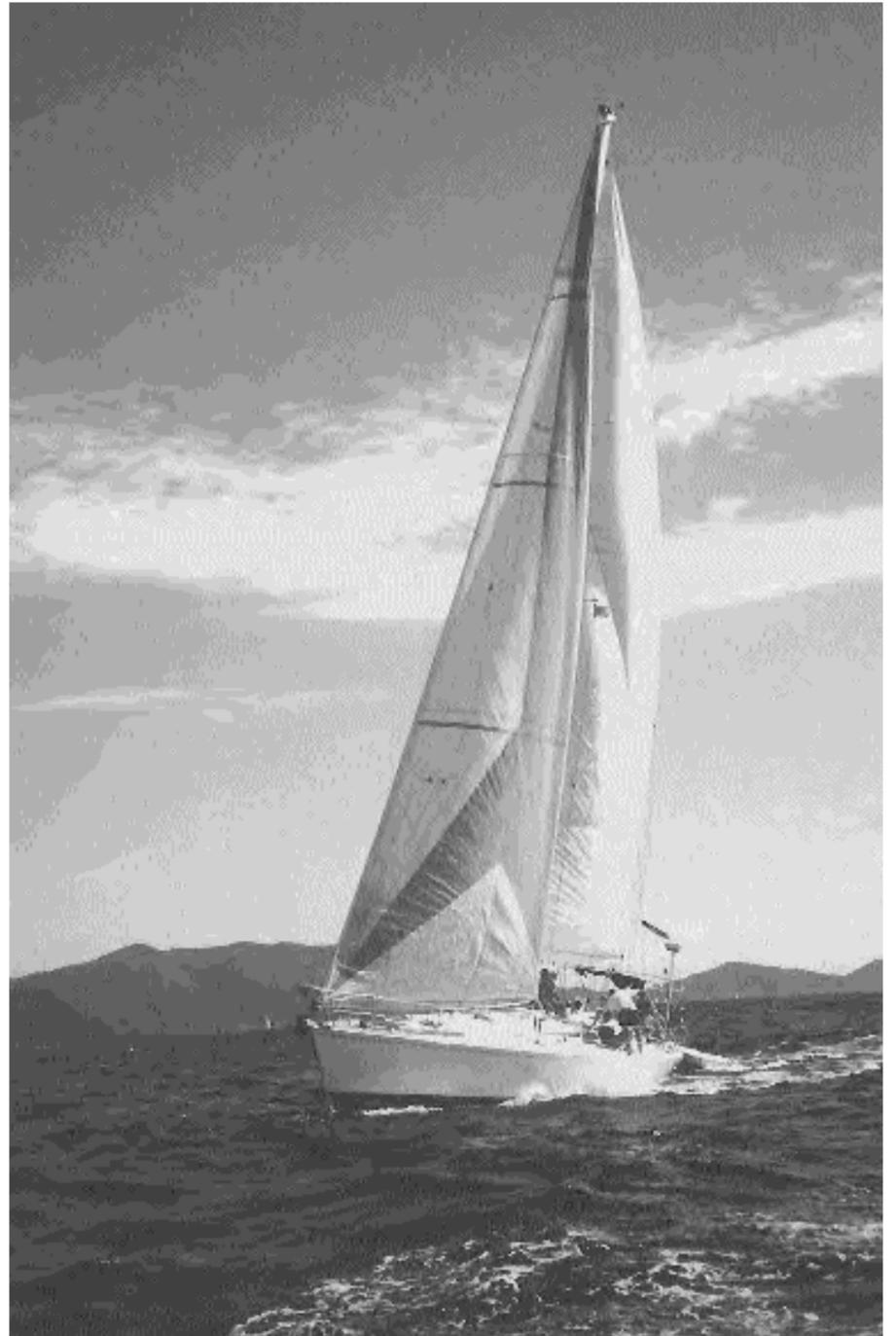
Past and present UANAI skippers include: Roman Goy (Baltimore), Slavko Klaczany (New York), Myron Klos (Cleveland), Yuri Mykolayevych (New York), Julie Pawluk (Minneapolis), Daria Pishko (New Jersey), Olha Rybakoff (Delaware), Wally Wdowychyn (Minneapolis) and this writer (Philadelphia). Because skippering on trip after trip is a tremendous responsibility, the UANAI is always on the look-out for new skippers.

During each trip, all crew members share the responsibilities on the boat, from hauling lines to working the helm, preparing meals and keeping the vessel in a general state of cleanliness. The development of sailing skills is actively encouraged and someone is always available to "show the ropes to novices."

The best part of each sail for many UANAI members is the social interaction among Ukrainian Americans whose paths might not have otherwise crossed. The group is diverse in many ways: the age of its members ranges from the late 20s to the mid-60s, and the group includes single, married and widowed persons hailing from all across North America, from the East Coast to Canada, the Midwest and California. It includes Catholics and Orthodox, as well as members of a variety of Ukrainian Protestant denominations; and, of course, there are members of the Plast and SUM youth organizations.

Living cooperatively in the kind of tight quarters that can only be found on a boat while sailing in tabled locations has fostered friendships (and even some marriages) that might not otherwise have been formed in the ordinary course of Ukrainian American life. This, in turn, has led to many meaningful dialogues and interactions in the broader community context, and even more plain old fun.

For further information about the UANAI, please contact UANAI President Wally Wdowychyn, (612) 561-8965; or Activities Coordinator Olenka Stercho, (215) 635-2708.



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Folk music enthusiasts gather in New York for workshop



Participants of folk music workshop sponsored by the New York Bandura Ensemble.

NEW YORK – Thirty Ukrainian folk music enthusiasts congregated at an intensive one-day workshop sponsored by the New York Bandura Ensemble on Saturday May 8. The workshop, held on the premises of St. George Ukrainian Catholic School in the East Village, was led by the NYBE's music director, Julian Kytasty, and guest instructor Alexis Kochan of Winnipeg.

Ms. Kochan and Mr. Kytasty, who worked together to record the acclaimed CD "Paris to Kyiv Variances," created a program that allowed the participants to experience layers of Ukrainian folk song that rarely are examined by traditional choirs and other musical groups.

After a brief vocal warm up conducted by Ms. Kochan, participants divided into men's and women's groups and focused for the rest of the afternoon on highly specific repertoire: ancient ritual songs and examples of polyphonic village singing from Central and Eastern Ukraine for the women's group, and medieval chant, historical Kozak songs and chumak songs for the men.

After a break for supper, the workshop continued with both groups singing for each other some of the material they had worked on during the day and blending their voices in a final set of songs that featured unique Ukrainian folk songs recorded by Mr. Kytasty from descendants of the Zaporozhian Kozaks in the Kuban region in 1989.

Participants who came from throughout the region, included: director Alex Kuzma and members of Hartford's Yevshan Choir,

members of New York's Yara Arts Group, conductors of youth and community choirs, as well as members of choral ensembles ranging from the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus to the New York Russian Choir.

The workshop, advertised primarily via the Internet and word of mouth, succeeded in creating a virtual community of Ukrainian folk song. When event ended at 8 p.m., the participants spontaneously formed a human chain as the sounds of "Oi Hyllia, Hyllia" resounded through the empty halls of the school.

A week earlier, Ms. Kochan and Mr. Kytasty had performed with their Paris to Kyiv ensemble at Symphony Space on New York's Upper West Side in a concert program titled "Nightsongs From a Neighboring Village." "Nightsongs" also featured Brave Old World, a leading ensemble in the New Jewish Music movement.

The concert, presented by the World Music Institute, which showcased two ensembles who have found an esthetic common ground by exploring the depths of their respective traditions, was well received by an eclectic audience at Symphony Space. The two groups also performed a one-hour program, including interviews of their principal members, on WNYC's "New Sounds" which are on April 28.

The workshop was organized and presented by the New York Bandura Ensemble, whose activities are funded in part by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts.

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Business in brief

(Continued from page 3)

initiative was accompanied by a brief promotion aimed at local travelers, offering extremely low prices to three BA destinations. (Eastern Economist)

Boeing keen on cooperating with Ukraine

KYIV – Leading U.S. aircraft maker Boeing said on May 21 that it would strengthen cooperation with Ukraine in the aerospace sector. Raymond J. Waldmann, Boeing vice-president for international affairs, said Boeing is primarily interested in supplying its passenger aircraft to Ukraine and cooperating in commercial satellite launches. It has so far made no investment into Ukraine's economy, but Mr. Waldmann said the company may buy stakes in several local aerospace companies or airlines. Last month Ukraine's second largest carrier, Ukraine International Airlines, bought a new Boeing 737-300 and plans to increase its fleet. Mr. Waldmann said Boeing is interested also in cooperating with Ukraine's Defense Ministry and could eventually start selling its modern military equipment and planes to Kyiv. (Eastern Economist)

French billionaire interested in Antonov

KYIV – French billionaire Andre Gelfi expressed a wish to participate in promoting the Antonov Construction Bureau on European markets at a meeting in Kyiv on May 25. He is ready to provide financial and political assistance on condition that imported engines are used on the planes. Mr. Gelfi also wants sales rights to Antonov planes, especially the AN-124, known as the Ruslan. Mr. Gelfi expressed interest also in the AN-225, Mria, which can be used as a platform for space launches. (Eastern Economist)

Motorola in radio station production

KYIV – The Kharkiv-based Kommunar electronics plant and the U.S. firm Motorola announced on May 25 the imminent start of a joint project to manufacture GP-300 and GM-350 duplex radio stations to be used primarily by special services, police and fire brigades. Kommunar Director General Oleksander Asmolov announced that 12,000 radios will be produced the first year, their sale being guaranteed through the Motorola dealer network in Ukraine. Phase one of the project will be jointly financed by Motorola, contributing \$300,000 (U.S.); Kommunar, \$300,000; and the U.S. Defense Department, \$300,000. The Defense Department's contribution will be regarded as compensation for a failed Ukrainian-U.S. accord to establish a joint venture to produce cellular telephones. Total initial investment in radio station production will be \$5 million (U.S.), and Motorola has promised to increase its investment if the project proves successful. Mr. Asmolov also announced an agreement to establish another JV between Kommunar and Motorola that may attract additional investors. Kommunar specializes in control systems for spaceships, telecommunications systems and TV sets. (Eastern Economist)

Naftohaz Ukrainy, BP Amoco sign deal

KYIV – Ukraine's national oil and gas monopoly company, Naftohaz Ukrainy, signed an agreement with BP Amoco on May 24 on the implementation a geological research project in the Dnipro-Donetsk oil and gas region. According to Naftohaz President Ihor Bakai, the agreement implies investment of \$1 billion (U.S.). According to Mr. Bakai, another Western firm, Shell, plans to invest in another project in Ukraine. He confirmed that implementation of these projects may require the creation of an international consortium with total investment of about \$2 billion (U.S.) needed. (Eastern Economist)

EBRD loan to improve water supply

KYIV – Ukrainian Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov and EBRD Vice-President Charles Frank signed an agreement on May 21 on implementing a program investment and development of the water supply and water purification systems in the city of Zaporizhia. The value of the project is \$42.5 million (U.S.) and the loan is worth \$28 million. It provides for improving the water supply and sewage systems, and cutting water losses and electricity consumption. The project also aims to improve the environment in the Dnipro and Black Sea basins. (Eastern Economist)

Hilton hotel contract finally signed

KYIV – Hilton International, Teatralnyi Hotel and the Kyiv City Administration on April 29 signed a contract for construction of a five-star Hilton hotel in Kyiv based on the current Teatralnyi Hotel. The four-year legal dispute over ownership of the hotel was resolved in the following way: shares in the hotel will be split among KCSA Real Estate Department, the Nigma company, Hilton International and an American real estate investment fund. "Total project costs will be \$60 million (U.S.), 50 percent of which are to be financed from the capital of JSC Hotel Teatralnyi and the other half from loans," said Valerii Mishenko, president of Teatralnyi Hotel. Hilton is to invest \$5 million (U.S.), according to Clive Hillier, Hilton's vice-president for corporate development in Eastern Europe. He said that construction should be finished by the end of 2000, with the project expected to show a profit extremely quickly, since it will be the only hotel of its class in Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Dr. Myroslaw M. Hreshchyshyn

Dr. Myroslaw M. Hreshchyshyn, 71, of Buffalo, NY, professor of gynecologic oncology and obstetrics died Monday, May 24, 1999, in Lviv, Ukraine. He was working on a gynecology and obstetrics textbook to be published there.

Memorial services were held May 27-29 in Orłowski-Pietszak Funeral Home, in Cheektowaga, NY. The liturgical services were held Saturday, May 29, at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Buffalo, NY. Interment at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Buffalo, N.Y.

Dr. Hreshchyshyn was a professor of gynecology-obstetrics at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine since 1970 and chaired the department from 1982 to 1996. He also headed the departments of GYN/OB at Children's, Buffalo General, Millard Fillmore, and ECMC until 1996. He was a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, founding chairman of the Gynecologic Oncology Group (1971-1975) and president of the Buffalo Gynecologic and Obstetric Society (1977-1978). He was a member of over 20 professional associations and societies, and contributed selflessly to civic and educational institutions, especially in the Ukrainian American community.

In addition to the USAID American International Health Alliance Medical Partnerships Program (exchanging medical personnel and information between two hospitals in Lviv and the Millard Fillmore Hospital in Buffalo), Dr. Hreshchyshyn was co-investigator in the ongoing \$10 million NIH funded Women's Health Initiative at SUNY-Buffalo, and others.

Born in Kovel, (Volyn) Ukraine, Dr. Hreshchyshyn completed his doctorate at J.W. Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany in 1951. He interned in Yonkers, NY, resided at SUNY Downstate, Cumberland Hospital, Brooklyn, NY, and was a clinical fellow in Gynecologic Cancer, SUNY Downstate, Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn.

He moved to Buffalo in 1957 becoming Fellow in Chemotherapy at SUNY-Buffalo, Roswell Park Memorial Institute.

He married in 1958 and settled in Buffalo, N.Y.

Missed by many students, colleagues, and friends, he is survived by wife Lidia, five children, and four grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Myroslaw M. Hreshchyshyn, M.D. Memorial Gynecologic Oncology Lectureship at the University of Buffalo Foundation or Friends of Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.

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

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: The Editor, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

had announced that he is dropping out of the presidential race. Mr. Lazarenko accused the government of a harassment campaign against his supporters in Ukraine and urged them to support any of the contenders who oppose Kuchma. Meanwhile, San Francisco county court on June 7 postponed a hearing regarding Mr. Lazarenko's political asylum case until June 21. (Eastern Economist, RFE/RL Newsline)

Tymoshenko leaves Hromada Party

KYIV - UNIAN reported on June 1 that Yuliia Tymoshenko, leader of the Batkivschyna faction in the Verkhovna Rada, had announced her official departure from the Hromada Party. She blamed the moral qualities of its leaders for her decision. Three other founders of Hromada joined Ms. Tymoshenko, noting in a letter: "The party has lost its authority, disappointed the electorate, and, therefore, is left without a future." (Eastern Economist)

Kyiv has hottest summer day this century

KYIV - State Weather Service Senior Engineer Liudmyla Savchenko said on June 10 that the 34 degree C (93.2 F) temperature registered in Kyiv on June 9 is one degree lower than the record recorded in 1885. According to state health officials, ultraviolet radiation will be greatest on June 22-23. Health officials have recommended minimizing the amount of time spent in the sun. (Eastern Economist)

Tarasyuk leads trade delegation

VILNIUS - Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, accompanied by a trade delegation, was in Lithuania on June 14. He met with President Valdas Adamkus to discuss wide-ranging bilateral and international issues, with the focus on economic issues. In response to Lithuanian concerns that Ukraine's across-the-board import tariffs violate a free trade agreement, Mr. Tarasyuk said: "These are not import tariffs, just an extra, small levy on imported goods," according to ELTA. Mr. Tarasyuk also was to attend the Council of Baltic Sea States meeting, as Ukraine holds observer status in the organization. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Foreign minister looks westward

KYIV - Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk held a meeting with parliamentary deputies of the North-Atlantic Assembly on June 10, ITAR-TASS reported. Mr. Tarasyuk said the development of a "parliamentary dialogue with NATO has become an important lever for Ukraine to gain a foothold on the world arena." The minister stressed that "European and European-Atlantic integration" remains Ukraine's top priority. Referring to Kyiv's bilateral ties with neighboring states, he emphasized that they are aimed at establishing a "safe zone of peace and stability" around Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

NATO group visits Kyiv colleagues

KYIV - The NATO Defense College visited Kyiv and Ukrainian Ministry of Defense colleagues on June 2-4. The delegation, headed by Lt. Gen. Hartmut Olboeter, consisted of 125 persons from 22 countries. The main topics of discussion at the meetings were prospects for Ukraine-NATO cooperation in various spheres. The first day's program included a roundtable discussion, lead by Canadian Ambassador Derek Fraser, concerning the current realities facing Ukraine. The second day's program included meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk and his predecessor Hennadii Udovenko, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

Inflation index up by 8.5 percent

KYIV - The inflation index over the first five months of 1999 grew 8.5 percent, or 5 percent higher than over the same period last year. Over the period, sugar prices increased 24.8 percent, with potato, flour, cereal, vegetable prices increasing approximately 10 percent. Egg prices dropped 16.4 percent, as did prices for butter and milk. Although gasoline prices dropped 1.7 percent, utilities rates increased by 6 percent. The consumer price index for May rose half a percentage point, pushing the overall index up to 4.5 percent for the first five months of 1999. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine seeks to reschedule debt payment

KYIV - The Ukrainian government failed to pay \$163 million to the Dutch-based ING-Barings last week, but still hopes to persuade the lender to reschedule the payment, the Associated Press reported. Ukraine has entered negotiations with the bank, proposing to pay off only 20 percent of the loan and convert the rest into state bonds. According to the agency, ING Barings is reluctant to accept the offer. Commenting on Ukraine's huge foreign debt, Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov said there is a "large difference between the obligations and means available to cover them." (RFE/RL Newsline)

World Bank calls for privatization

KYIV - Gregory Jedrzejczak, World Bank representative to Ukraine, has urged Ukraine to accelerate privatization and use the proceeds to service its foreign debt. Ukraine has to repay \$1.2 billion this year and an estimated \$2.3 billion next year. World Bank Vice-President Johannes Linn said in Kyiv on June 9 that Ukraine may receive \$400 million in loans by next summer if the government moves to implement the bank's requirements. According to Reuters, Mr. Linn commented that "the No. 1 issue is to ensure that the privatization process is very transparent and clearly competitive." Meanwhile, ITAR-TASS quoted Ukrainian officials as saying that the World Bank will "soon" extend to Ukraine two tranches worth \$100 million each. The agency also reported that the International Monetary Fund will release by late June an unspecified tranche under its loan program for Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Bulgaria to seek compensation

KYIV - President Leonid Kuchma and his Bulgarian counterpart, Petar Stoyanov, said after talks in Kyiv on June 9 that their countries will seek compensation for economic losses due to NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia. Mr. Kuchma said the Balkan crisis was the main topic of discussion, adding that the two countries, along with Romania, will coordinate their efforts in the post-war restoration of Yugoslavia and the Danube waterway. Both presidents also stressed the need to boost economic cooperation. Bilateral trade turnover totaled \$325 million in 1998. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian troops may join Kosovo force

KYIV - "Ukraine intends to take part in international peacekeeping forces in Kosovo," announced Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk on June 8 in Oslo where he was on an official visit. Gen. Kuzmuk said 1,300 Ukrainian peacekeepers will be ready for departure by July 1. The contingent is made up of a field hospital, a helicopter detachment, a railroad battalion, a motorized company and, possibly, a company from a Ukrainian/Polish peacekeeping battalion. Ukraine has sent an official letter presenting this initiative to Brussels, but has not yet received a reply. If the Ukrainian proposal is accepted and if there is a request to Kyiv from the United Nations Security Council, Ukraine will consent to alter the size of the contingent. (Eastern Economist)

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Ukrainian American architects to caucus during Joint Conferences in Washington

WASHINGTON – Ask an architect: Does it mean anything to be a Ukrainian American architect? How do both sides of this description present themselves?

The caucus of Ukrainian American Architects meeting within the framework of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations plan to examine this question on Friday, June 25.

While laying the foundation of a professional association, the one-day forum will discuss design in the diaspora, as well as challenges of design implementation in Ukraine. Presentations range from tradition in church architecture to expansion of ethnic heritage through style.

Friday's program includes:

- Anatole Senkevitch, a University of Michigan scholar who has studied Ukrainian churches in Canada, will speak on "Cultural and Liturgical Cross-fertilizations in Ukrainian Church Architecture: A Rich Elusive Legacy," 9-9:50 a.m.;

- A discussion between Jurij Sawicki, architect for The Ukrainian Museum in New York, and Walter Daschko, representing the Canadian Society of Ukrainian Architecture on "Kitsch vs.

Mainstream Design: The Dilemma of Architects," 10-10:50 a.m.;

- Oleh James Kruhly on "Contextualism: Subliminal Tradition vs. Applied Ornament," 11-11:50 a.m.;

- Ireneus Harasymiak on "The Construction Process in Ukraine: King Richard Castle in Kyiv," 1:30-2:10 p.m.; and

- Oleh Cherniahivsky with Walter Boykovich on "Opportunities for Ukrainian American Architects in Ukraine; Developing an Intern Program," 2:20-3 p.m.

The program will conclude with a visit to the World Bank, followed by a tour of Octagon at AIA Headquarters.

The program for Saturday, June 26, features a presentation on the ABCs of designing a new home, moderated by Ivan Bereznicki, followed by a design clinic where conference attendees are encouraged to bring future projects for review and consultation.

For further information specifically about the architect's program call Ulana Baczynskyj, (215) 572-1648; for registration call 1-888-798-6262.

Congressional reception slated for June 24

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – One of the joint programs of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations, to be held here on June 23-27, will be a Congressional Reception on Thursday, June 24, at 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Rayburn House Office Building, Rooms B339-B340.

The main focus of the reception is to provide members of the Ukrainian American community an opportunity to meet their members of Congress. The reception is sponsored by the 1st Security Federal Savings Bank (Chicago/Philadelphia) and hosted by the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington bureau of the Ukrainian

Congress Committee of America.

The member-organizations of the Joint Conferences have unanimously decided to recognize four members of Congress for their efforts to promote U.S.-Ukraine relations: Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the International Relations Committee; Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE); Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), ranking member of the Armed Services Committee; and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), member of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee. They will be presented "Friend of Ukraine" awards.

Tickets for the reception are very limited; cost per person is \$25. For further information, contact UNIS, (202) 547-0018.

D.C. conference to feature cultural program

WASHINGTON – The Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations have announced that the very popular a cappella group Pikardiiska Tertsiiia from Lviv has agreed to participate in the conferences' extensive cultural program.

Pikardiiska Tertsiiia, is a very successful group of seven singers which, although immensely popular in Ukraine, is largely unknown in the United States. The group was invited specifically to take part in the cultural program during the joint brunch scheduled for Sunday, June 27. However, their participation has now been expanded to include a talk by their manager, Roman Klimovsky, on "Contemporary Popular Music in Ukraine" during the Joint Conferences' open program. In addition, the group is slated to provide enticing examples of its repertoire at the Saturday, June 26, gala banquet.

The Joint Conferences' cultural program will include an opening reception at the Ukrainian Embassy during which a collection of works by selected Ukrainian artists will be sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of America, as well as an art fair by the new Ukrainian Art Organization and a photographic journey through Ukraine by

photographer Tania D'Avignon; both are to take place at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, the Joint Conferences' headquarters hotel. Off-site cultural activities include the specially prepared Ukrainian art exhibit at the Alla Rogers Art Gallery in Georgetown.

For information about Joint Conferences programs call 1-888-798-6262.



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SUMMER PROGRAMS 1999

Friday, July 2

10:00 p.m. MIDNIGHT BIGUS – Trembita Lounge

Saturday, July 3

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Ukrainian Dancers of Miami
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by ZOLOTA BULAVA and BURYA

Sunday, July 4

10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by BURYA
EXHIBIT – Ukrainian Items - all weekend

Saturday, July 10

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Vocal Ensemble PROMIN,
Director BOHDANNA VOLANSKY
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by VIDLUNNIA

Saturday, July 17

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – soprano HALYNA KONAREVA
Composer LEONID VERBYTSKY
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by SWITANOK

Saturday, July 24

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – soprano LILEYA VOLANSKY
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by VODOHRAY

Saturday, July 31

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – DUMKA CHORUS
Conductor – VASYL HRECHYNSKYJ
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by CRYSTAL
EXHIBIT – works by TARAS BILTCHUK

Saturday, August 7

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Ensemble UKRAINIAN FAMILY
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by LUNA
EXHIBIT – works of the KOZAK FAMILY

Friday, August 13

MIDNIGHT BIGUS – Trembita Lounge

Saturday, August 14

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Bass STEFAN SZKAFAROWSKY
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by FATA MORGANA
Midnight Crowning of MISS SOYUZIVKA 2000
EXHIBIT – works of ZENOBIA HULEY

Saturday, August 21

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – SOYUZIVKA DANCE WORKSHOP RECITAL
Director: ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by TEMPO
EXHIBIT – works of DARIA "DYCIA" HANUSHEVSKY

Sunday, August 22

UNWLA DAY

Saturday, August 28

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Soprano OKSANA CHARUK
Pianist THOMAS HRYNKIV
10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by NA ZDOROVJA
EXHIBIT – works by TARAS BILTCHUK

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JOINT CONFERENCES OF UKRAINIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

THE WASHINGTON GROUP (TWG) LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE "AT THE THRESHOLD" Saturday, June 26, 1999

Crystal City Hyatt Regency, Arlington, VA, Regency A/B

TWG Conference Sessions will examine specific subjects within the overall political, strategic, humanitarian, economic and technical environment in Ukraine, with a focus on the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship.

- 8:45 am OPENING REMARKS**
Orest Deychakiwsky, The Washington Group
- 9:00 am U.S.-UKRAINE MILITARY COOPERATION**
Colonel Ihor O.E. Kotlarchuk USAR (Ret.) Judge Advocate General's Corps
Colonel Askold D. Mosijczuk, US Army Medical Corps
Yurij Holowinsky, Ph.D Science Applications International Corporation
Colonel Olexander Galaka, Embassy of Ukraine
- 10:30 am UKRAINE'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL SPACE PROGRAMS:**
The International Space Station, Research, and Human Space Flight Programs
Moderator: Dr. Theodor Kostiuik, NASA
Dr. Michael Yarymowych, International Academy of Astronautics
Prof. Yaroslav Yatskiv, National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine
Prof. Roald Sagdeev, East-West Space Science Center, University of Maryland, Angela Diaz, NASA
JOINT SESSION WITH THE UKRAINIAN ENGINEERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA
- 12:00 noon UKRAINE ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**
Moderator: Dr. Nadia Diuk, National Endowment for Democracy
Amb. William Green Miller, former US Ambassador to Ukraine
Dr. Sherman Garnett, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Dr. John Tedstrom, National Security Council.
- 1:00 p.m. Joint Conferences Luncheon (\$35)**
- 2:30 p.m. U.S.-UKRAINE BUSINESS COOPERATION**
Moderator: Bohdanna Pochoday, Esq. Ukrainian-American Bar Association
Dr. Yaroslav Voitko, Embassy of Ukraine
Markian Silecky, Esq. Silecky Firm
Danylo Kourdelchouk, Esq. Ukrinurcolegia
Kempton Jenkins, Ukraine-U.S. Business Council
Dr. Bohdan Budzan, International Management Institute (IMI-Kyiv)
JOINT SESSION WITH THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
- 4:00 p.m. TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN FROM UKRAINE**
Moderator: Xenia Jowyk, Ukrainian National Women's League of America
Anita Botti, U.S. Department of State
Natalia Zarudna, Embassy of Ukraine
Irene Kurowyckyj, Ukrainian National Women's League of America
Walter Zalisko, Jersey City Police Department
Hanya Krill, La Strada-Ukraine, Brama-Gateway, Ukraine
JOINT SESSION WITH THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE CHAPTER OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Joint Conferences Gala Banquet/Ball with special guest speaker and two bands: Tempo and Fata Morgana — \$100/\$180/couple 6:00 p.m. — Cocktails 8:00 pm Banquet 10:00 pm Ball (\$50 Dance only; \$25 students with valid ID)

After June 20: On-site registration only

\$45 TWG Members and Members of NY/NJ Ps and Bs \$70 Non-Members

\$40 Registration as Second Conference (for those attending another conference of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian-American organizations). Registration fee includes the cost of the conference, handouts, coffee breaks/light breakfast, open sessions and exhibits. Luncheon and Banquet/Ball not included in TWG conference price.

Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations Washington, D.C. June 23-27, 1999

HYATT REGENCY CRYSTAL CITY, 2799 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY, ARLINGTON, VA

Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc.

Friday, June 25, 1999

- 9:00 a.m. Executive Committee meeting**
Barbara Bachynsky, Moderator
- 10:00 a.m. All the things you wanted to know about the UNWLA**
Panelists: Oxana Farion, Sophia Hewryk, Anna Krawczuk, Hanna Krill and Iryna Kurowyckyj
- 1:00 p.m. Women's health during their lifetime in the USA and Ukraine**
Speakers: Sorosh Roshan, M.D., M.P.H. and Zoreslawa Shkiryak-Nyzhnyk, M.D., Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2:00 p.m. Can U.S. labor laws be changed to help women in Ukraine**
Speakers: Alexandra Isaievych-Mason and a representative from the U.S. Labor Department
- 3:00 p.m. Genetic engineering: blessing or hindrance**
Speakers: Tamra E. Raven, Martha Pelenskyj, Federal Drug Administration representative and representative from Monsanto

Saturday, June 26, 1999

9:00 a.m. Meeting of all UNWLA members

UNWLA schedules special session in D.C.

WASHINGTON— The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) is holding a special session on Friday, June 25, at 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations being held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Va. June 23-27.

A major focus of the session, which is open to the public, is to examine and discuss the approaches that the UNWLA should adopt as it moves into the next century.

The morning session, titled "All You Wanted to Know About the UNWLA," will give an overview of the UNWLA's 75-year history, focusing on the accomplishments of the past and present. Speaking at the session will be: Iryna Kurowyckyj, UNWLA's newly elected president; Anna Krawczuk, UNWLA honorary president; Sophia Hewryk, second vice-president and chair, UNWLA Membership Committee; Oxana Farion, third vice-president and chair, Cultural Affairs and Members-at-Large Committee; Hanna Krill, UNWLA member and representative of the Brama.com website; with Barbara Bachynsky, UNWLA recording secretary, serving as moderator.

Among the topics to be addressed during the afternoon segment are:

- "Women's Health in the U.S. and Ukraine," with Sorosh Roshan, M.D., M.P.H., obstetrician and gynecologist and president of International Health Awareness Network and of the National Council of Women USA; and Zoreslawa Shkiryak-Nyzhnyk, M.D., professor of medicine in Kyiv;
- "Can U.S. Labor Laws be Changed to Help Women in Ukraine?", with Harriet Harper, U.S. Department of Labor; and Alexandra Isaievych-Mason, consultant in the area of international economic development; and
- "Genetic Engineering: Blessing or Curse?" with Tamra E. Raven, vice-president, National Council of Women USA; Martha Pelenskyj, chair, UNWLA Ecology Committee; a representative from Monsanto (to be announced); and a representative from the Federal Drug Administration (to be announced).

The registration fee for the June 25 session is \$25.

For additional information contact Mrs. Kurowyckyj by phone, (212) 477-0039, or fax, (212) 477-4539.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

on Shevchenko's "Haidamaky"); a string quartet, "Shepherd's Dream," based on themes written by his teacher, Yakymenko; a film score to a projected feature based on Leo Tolstoy's "Resurrection"; a violin concerto; a fanfare; a "Melody" for cello and orchestra; arrangements of the "Arkan" and "Kolomyika" for string orchestra; and began sketching a symphonic jazz opera he titled "Brain Child." He also wrote compositions for solo violin, piano and voice.

In the mid-1940s, worn out by efforts to secure financial backing for his opera, and increasingly unable to secure conducting jobs, Pecheniha-Uhlytsky suffered a series of strokes that left him partially paralyzed.

He turned to liturgical music, producing arrangements of works by Artem Vedel and Dmytro Bortniansky, as well as writing his own music to the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (1946). Pavlo Pecheniha-Uhlytsky died in New York on July 2, 1948.

His opera "The Witch" was staged in 1969 at Carnegie Hall under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian National Association to mark the organization's 70th anniversary.

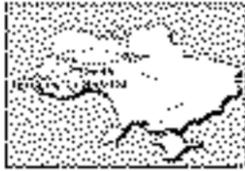
Sources: "Pecheniha-Uhlytsky, Pavlo," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 4* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); *Ihor Sonevitsky and Natalia Palidvor-Sonevitska, ed. Dictionary of Ukrainian Composers (Lviv: Union of Ukrainian Composers, 1997); "Pomer Pavlo Pecheniha-Uhlytsky," Svoboda, July 7, 1948.*

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Ukrainian American credit unions gear up for annual meeting in D.C.

by Roman Stelmach

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA) is preparing for its annual meeting of Ukrainian American credit unions in Washington on June 25-26.

The association which represents over 20 credit unions with more than \$1.25 billion in combined assets, will discuss many issues, such as free life insurance for members, which each Ukrainian American credit union has been providing, for the past 45 years.

As technology is very much on the forefront of financial services, a seminar titled "Paving the Way To The Next Millennium," will be presented by the National Credit Union Administration. The afternoon sessions begin with an "Analysis of the Credit Union Movement in the Diaspora."

Bohdan Leshchyshen, president of the World Council of Ukrainian Cooperative, is scheduled to speak of the meeting. The day's final session is an "Analysis of the Credit Union Movement in Ukraine." Presenting the status of credit unions in Ukraine are Lucy Ito of the World Council of Credit Unions Inc., and Ivan Ivasiuk and Petro Kozynets, both from the National Association of Credit Unions in Ukraine.

Saturday's meeting comprises the annual meeting of the association and the general meeting of the board of directors.

Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union (Chicago) has also scheduled its board meeting for Thursday afternoon.

The credit union's annual meeting is being held in conjunction with six other Ukrainian American professional organizations. The credit unions will participate, and are actively supporting, a number of joint events, including receptions at the Embassy of Ukraine, the U.S. Congress and the Department of State.

The highlight of the joint conferences is the Saturday evening gala dinner and dance. Music will be provided by Tempo

and Fata Morgana. Scheduled to appear during Sunday's special brunch is the Lviv cappella group Pikkardiiska Tertsia.

The credit union's annual meeting is hosted by the Ukrainian Washington Federal Credit Union, whose president, Stephen Kerda, stated that although that credit union may not be as big as others, it is perfectly positioned to facilitate these conferences as Washington is an excellent source for speakers on the credit union movement as well as an excellent recreational/historical area for spouses and children.

Both Mr. Kerda and Ann (Nusia) Kerda, manager of the Selfreliance Baltimore Federal Credit Union, have been instrumental in providing valuable on-site support to the Joint Conferences' chief planner, Dr. Roman Goy.

Dmytro Hryhorczuk, president of UNCUA, stated that the number of registered delegates is at a record level. He said he believes the idea of "joint conferencing" of Ukrainian American organizations is not only an ideal vehicle for the exposure of Ukrainian American credit unions, but also an excellent method of exchanging ideas and information with other professional Ukrainian American organizations.

The general public is invited to sections of the credit unions' annual meeting and to the conferences of the following organizations: Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, The Washington Group, Ukrainian American Bar Association, Ukrainian Engineers Society of North America, Ukrainian Library Association of America, Association of Ukrainian American Architects and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Admission to the conferences is by advance registration only; seating at certain joint events is limited. The public is welcome to stop by any credit union for a brochure or call 1-888-798-6262 for information, further details and registration.

California dedicates...

(Continued from page 10)

The UACC, in conjunction with other Ukrainian American organizations in the Bay Area, plans to host festivals on the land once or twice a year. Such activities will have to be coordinated with the Department of Interpretation of the East Bay Regional Park District. Some members of the Ukrainian American community have also proposed building a gazebo on the site.

As Mr. Meuhler explained, "If the

Ukrainian community would like to adopt the area and help with its maintenance, there are possibilities."

The Rev. Agapius Honcharenko was a man who befriended people of diverse cultural backgrounds, yet never forgot his own heritage. Ukraine now stands as a monument to this unique person and a site where Ukrainians and people of all cultures can come to remember what a difference one life can make.



During the service at the former Honcharenko homestead (from right) are: Metropolitan Constantine with Deacons John R. DiRicco and Gary Gebet.

From Resolutions of the Hierarchical Section of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyivan Patriarchate from 14 May 1998

The Holy Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate, in its resolution of May 14, 1998, regarding the joint conferences of Ukrainian American credit unions, stated that the joint conferences of Ukrainian American credit unions are an important part of the spiritual and cultural life of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States.

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For further information, contact: The Rev. Metropolit Constantine, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate, 1000 14th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 462-1111. Fax: (202) 462-1112.

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.

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To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, and the like – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Persons who submit any materials must provide a phone number where they may be reached during the work day if any additional information is required.

Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Daneyko, teammates pick up slack for Stevens

Early in his NHL playing career, New Jersey Devils defenseman Ken Daneyko wanted to be just like Scott Stevens: a tough, stay-at-home rearguard who can pop an occasional goal or lend a hand on the offensive end, who is known as a fearless body checker. That's all.

Although they have now been teammates for eight seasons, Daneyko finally got the chance to do his best Stevens impression when the Devils' captain suffered a groin pull midway through a five-game road trip and had to return to New Jersey. Nevertheless, the NHL's deepest defense corps never missed a beat.

"I wanted to be a poor man's Scott Stevens even when he was in Washington," Daneyko readily admitted. "I know I'm not as talented, but I wanted to try to do the job and not hurt us when Scott was out. I took pride in that challenge."

Stevens was hurt early in a mid-March victory against Vancouver, which forced Coach Robbie Ftorek to play virtually the entire game with only five defensemen. The Devils came within 79 seconds of a shutout over the Canucks and, two nights later, routed the Oilers in Edmonton to extend their on-the-road winning streak at the time to four straight.

Veterans Daneyko and Lyle Odelein played tough and smart, while Scott Niedermayer played almost 30 minutes

in Edmonton and collected three assists. With Brad Bombardir, Kevin Dean and Sheldon Souray playing quite steadily, the Devils raised their (at the time) league-best road record to 24-8-2.

"The guys knew ... we really had to be ready to play," Niedermayer said. "We were going out there trying to do the best we could to fill (Stevens') shoes."

Veteran Capitals plug away through storm

Ron Wilson called it a genuine flashback to the good old days – the way the game was played way before the present modern era.

"That's old-time hockey, that's all," said the coach of the Washington Capitals, referring to the play of some of his grizzled veterans as his team played out the final days of a disappointing 1998-1999 season.

While it turned out to be only a shell of the team that went to the Stanley Cup finals a year ago, it was wily veterans like Adam Oates and Brian Bellows who actually held this mongrel club together, providing the necessary spark, while some of the younger players were finding it hard to keep up the pace.

"We really didn't have much hope, but pride is a good word," said Oates after the Caps beat the Florida Panthers for the second time in a week late in the season, putting a severe crimp in the Panthers' post-season plans. (Both the Capitals and

(Continued on page 19)

Dr. Frank Sysyn...

(Continued from page 9)

New York City, and there should be an organized academic resource available to them.

It is important to instruct scholars who are not necessarily Ukraine scholars – to keep them informed. And, ultimately, a program should be able to provide positions for scholars and research opportunities.

So are you appealing to the Ukrainian American community to raise funds for a Ukrainian studies program at Columbia?

Well, I am not appealing as much as I am offering the suggestion that, as a scholar, I believe it is necessary that a more comprehensive and permanent program of Ukrainian studies be established in New York and that I believe that Columbia is the ideal institution to have such a program.

My major commitment is the Peter Jacyk Center at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Hrushevsky Translation Project, both of which have considerable support from our community. As I am frequently asked to give presentations, I often suggest that the community consider establishing a Ukrainian studies program in New York. I have no specific suggestions about which community organizations could or should undertake the effort, I am simply proposing the idea. For example, I am addressing the New York and New Jersey professionals, which has already shown initiative in fund-raising for a Ukrainian studies program at Columbia.

Ukrainian scholarship is important and significant for our community and our stated goal to reach out into the world. Given that this is the New York metro area, this is a very important city for

scholarship and research, for networking and training, for opportunities. Columbia already has a relationship with the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in New York and the Shevchenko Scientific Society here, and is offering more access to mainstream academia for these organizations. In turn, these organizations have depth and history and, practically speaking, archives to complement Columbia. So there already is a connection with the institutions established by our community.

How would a fund-raising structure be organized?

Columbia doesn't have a fund-raising structure for Ukrainian studies comparable to those at the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies or the Ukrainian Studies Fund at Harvard. Therefore, some group or groups would need to take the lead to raise funds to develop this program. Fund-raising in the Ukrainian community is very specific. It requires trust and a hands-on approach and networking. I'm not sure that Columbia could do this on its own. So, I hope that more organizations get behind this idea and hope there still are a considerable number of people who would consider this project to be important.

Harvard, as the university with the largest Ukrainian studies program in the United States, has done a tremendous amount for the development of the field. However, Ukrainian studies is expanding. There are entire new areas for research and scholarly work in Ukrainian studies. Therefore we can only greet the new initiatives such as those at Yale and the University of Kansas.

With an endowment already established at Columbia, Ukrainian studies has a long-term future at the university. Of course, I would like to see the Jacyk endowment become part of a thriving and multi-faceted endowed Ukrainian studies program at Columbia.

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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 18)

Panthers failed to qualify for the playoffs in the recently completed campaign.) "It's a hard situation. We brought it on ourselves, but it was still a hard situation. Now (toward the end of the season) we're just counting down the games. I don't know how baseball guys do it when they're already out of it with 60 games still left to play."

With a total of 17 goals, the Ukrainian Bellows continued the drive he started in 1982 with the Minnesota North Stars, zeroing in on the 500-goal plateau. He pulled to within 15 of that lofty number, passing Darryl Sittler and getting himself ready to take aim at Norm Ullman, who is 29th on the all-time list with 490 goals.

"Those two guys have a lot of pride, they're true professionals, they come out and play hard every night," Wilson said. "You either have that or you don't. You either have the will to compete or you don't. You can't teach people how to compete, it's just there, part of your personality."

That's a character trait certainly not lacking in one Brian Bellows - not since 1982, his rookie year in the NHL, some 17 years ago.

Andrusak fills hole, seeks full-time duty

A whopping total of seven (yup, seven) Pittsburgh Penguins' defensemen had to get themselves injured before Greg Andrusak got himself a chance to re-enter the National Hockey League. He certainly did not waste his precious chance.

The Penguins signed Andrusak, 29, out of the German League in late March of this year. He was originally drafted by Pittsburgh in the fifth round (88th over all) in 1988, but played only 12 NHL games over three seasons before taking off for Berlin in 1996.

Andrusak had a brief stint with the Houston Aeros of the International Hockey League before joining the Penguins on April 5 at Buffalo. He played well over the next four games, including a plus-2 with an assist in a March win at Detroit. Suddenly, Andrusak was a good bet to be part of the Penguins' playoff plans.

"He has good speed, and he caught onto our system pretty good," said coach Kevin Constantine. "If he keeps playing the way he has (at the time), then he has a chance to be with us."

Andrusak improved his one-on-one defensive play in three years on the wider European ice sheets. He also improved his attitude and outlook.

"I look at things a lot differently in my life nowadays," Andrusak said. "My wife is seven and a half months pregnant. There's a lot more important things in life than hockey. I guess I used to bite my nails and worry about everything all the time. Now I come here, and if they don't like my game, well, I've offered my best and that's all I can ask of myself, and that's all they can ask of me. I've got nothing to lose."

The Penguins figured to keep at least eight defensemen for the playoffs. It was likely six of them would play.

At the time Andrusak had the sixth spot to himself, with Victor Ignatjev, Sven Butenschon and Maxim Galanov (a United Nations delegation?) waiting in

the wings. Ignatjev and Galanov were coming off lengthy shoulder injuries, however.

"They had guys coming back and I just wanted to stay in the line-up," Andrusak said. "It was a tough situation. I was playing some and the guys who were coming back, they were a little rusty because they were off a month or more."

"With the playoffs, you want to have momentum, and you're going to go with the guys who were playing well at the time. Hopefully, that would include myself."

For Greg Andrusak, it did, as our Ukrainian blue liner suited up and saw lots of game action in the 1998-99 Stanley Cup playoffs for the Pittsburgh Penguins. Maybe the second time around is the charm.

Feisty Konowalchuk = Capital work ethic

One of Steve Konowalchuk's Washington teammates was asked to describe the left-winger. There was a thoughtful pause before the response.

"He doesn't take any nights off, I'll tell you that," the veteran said. "I wish I could make the same claim."

Coach Ron Wilson seconds the motion.

"He's like a lightning rod on our team for hard work," Wilson said. "I know he's not going to have a bad night. He might not score, but he's going out, finish his checks, win battles in the corners, play with determination, block shots, does whatever it takes."

Midway through the recently concluded 1998-1999 regular season, Konowalchuk played in his 400th NHL game, which satisfied one of the goals he personally set for himself years ago.

"Yeah, it feels good, but once you get it it doesn't feel good enough, you want more," the 26-year-old said. "I didn't set many goals when I came in; I didn't know what my role was going to be. I just wanted to make the team, then do whatever it took to help it win."

The Salt Lake City, Utah, native broke into the NHL in 1991 after the Caps drafted him in the third round (58th over all) of the 1991 entry draft. His only major disappointment since joining the Capitals is missing last season's Stanley Cup run when he was sidelined with injuries.

He has been compared to former NHLer Dave Poulin because of his work ethic and tenacity, the way he becomes visibly upset when the opposition scores while he is on the ice.

"I still like to think I can contribute more offensively so I want to improve in that area," Konowalchuk said. "But I play hard and I always focus on defense. I get a bad feeling when the other team scores when I'm on the ice. I have a fear of that happening and I think that motivates me to play hard."

"I probably hate that feeling - being scored on - more than I enjoy the feeling I get when I score. When you screw up on a goal, you feel like you let your whole team down."

Ukrainian puckster Steve Konowalchuk is the ultimate team warrior!

(Thanks to Rich Chere, Dave Fay and Joe Starkey, beat writers for the New Jersey Devils, Washington Capitals and Pittsburgh Penguins, via The Hockey News.)

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The *Help Us Help the Children* project of the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund delivers humanitarian aid to over 185 orphanages in Ukraine improving the quality of life of over 35,000 orphans. In addition to providing the children with the basic necessities of life, such as medication, infant formula, clothing, footwear and educational supplies, *Help Us Help the Children* also strives to develop their self-confidence, independence, self-sufficiency, team work and self-esteem. Over the past four years, over 1,000 orphans have attended summer camps in Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains, where both Canadian and Ukrainian professionals focus on the development of orphans through extra-curricular activities. This year we have once again accepted 300 orphans to participate in Summer Camp '99 - "Kozaks of the 21st Century." We will continue to instill among the children an understanding of Ukraine's history and culture and to develop a sense of belonging and pride in their country.

Please assist *Help Us Help the Children* and sponsor an orphan to Camp '99 in Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains. It costs \$150.00 for one child to attend camp. This includes their transportation to camp, accommodation, three meals a day, new shoes, socks, a hat, T-shirts, pants, towels, hygiene items such as toothpaste and shampoo, as well as other items for each child. With a minimum donation of \$50.00 You will receive: a certificate of your sponsorship, a picture of the

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AIHA is a non-profit group which supports health care assistance projects in the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), under grants from USAID, AIHA is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following position:

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 26

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society is holding a talk by Serhii Kvit, lecturer at the Kyiv University School of Journalism and editor of the journal "Ukrainski Problemy", who will speak on the topic "Ukrainian Youth: Problems, Aspirations and Prospects for the Future." The talk will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 5 p.m.

BOSTON: Tenor 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 St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 24 Orchard Hill Rd., at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 27

IRVINGTON, N.J.: Tenor Anatolii Solovyanenko, with Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano accompaniment, will appear in concert in a program of selections from Italian and Ukrainian opera as well as Ukrainian folk songs at the Ukrainian National Home, 140 Prospect Ave., at 3 p.m.

Thursday, July 1

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute presents "Simply Ukraine," a lecture and slide presentation featuring the work of photographer Tania D'Avignon, published recently as a book. The presentation will be held in Sever Hall, Room 103, Harvard Yard, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 3

HUNTER, N.Y.: A program of satire, humor and song with Dr. Evhen Steckiiv and soprano Alexandra Hrabova will be held at the Grazhda, Route 23 A, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, July 4

HUNTER, N.Y.: Ukrainian tenor 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 Grazhda, Route 23 A, at 8 p.m.

CHANGE OF VENUE

Thursday, June 24 and July 8

NEW YORK: Yara's new series, Nova Nomada, Night No. 3 – Kupalo Freakout, featuring an evening of music, poetry and the screening of Andrea Odezynsky's award-winning comedy "Dora Is Dysfunctional," an outrageous look at the Ukrainian diaspora's attempts to keep old country rituals in America, will be held at the Ukrainian Sports Club, 122 Second Ave. (at Seventh Street) on Thursday, June 24, at 8:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Night No. 4 – Kupalo Freakout (Julian Calendar), an outdoor extravaganza featuring traditional Kupalo songs, music and poetry will be held in the Community Garden, East Sixth Street and Avenue B., on Thursday, July 8, at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Artists interested in helping to create these events should contact Virlana Tkacz, (212) 475-6474, or yara@prodigy.net, as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

- Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Listings are published only once (please indicate desired date of publication) and appear at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax (973) 644-9510.

UCCA initiates "brown bag" lunch series

NEW YORK – Since its establishment in 1940, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, a not-for-profit-educational institution, has raised awareness of Ukraine and represented the interests of the Ukrainian American community. In an effort to expand upon this objective and generate positive exposure of Ukrainian topics, the UCCA is launching a new pilot program this summer in New York City: a series of "brown bag" lunches.

The program will allow people who are interested in Ukrainian issues to assemble on a monthly basis and discuss current topics. The brown bag lunch series will follow a basic format that will encourage dialogue, including brief opening remarks by the guest speaker followed by questions and answers in a relaxed atmosphere allowing for an open, frank discussion amongst the participants. As the program name indicates, participants are asked to bring their own "brown bag" lunches. Coffee and soda will be available for guests.

The first brown bag lunch will be held on Wednesday, June 30 at 12:30 p.m. at the UCCA National Office located at 203 Second Ave. The guest speaker will be Volodymyr Yelchenko, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, who will discuss Ukraine's position and policy regarding the Kosovo crisis. All those interested in attending are asked to contact the UCCA National Office to register at (212) 228-6840.

Religion and national...

(Continued from page 9)

Regarding Ukrainian national identity, one should recognize that while the authorities temporarily tolerated some limited manifestations of the Ukrainian religious tradition, they never allowed the Ukrainian autocephalist movement to challenge the foundations of the Moscow Patriarchate's rule in Ukraine. With the victory of Russian national communism in the USSR in the 1930s, the national liberalism of the Bolsheviks of the 1920s necessarily gave way to Russian nationalist policies.

Beginning in the late 1930s the Soviet state openly made use of the Russian Orthodox Church to combat all manifestations of the Ukrainian religious and cultural tradition. Such a policy helped the Russian Orthodox Church to preserve, through the long decades of Soviet rule, its old imperial view of Ukraine and Ukrainians as a branch of the Russian people. After the collapse of the USSR, the Russian Orthodox Church appeared to be the only "all-union" institution that preserved Moscow's grip over a huge number of its non-Russian subjects. In Ukraine it also managed to split the weak autocephalist movement and to revive the Russophile traditions of its pre-revolutionary centers, such as Kyivan Monastery of the Caves, and the Pochaiv monastery in Volhynia.

The concept of "Holy Rus'," the imagined community of the Orthodox Slavic peoples based on the religious tradition of Kyiv, Moscow and St. Petersburg, and created with the active participation of Ukrainian clerics, seems alive and well today on the ruins of both the Russian Empire and the Russia-led Soviet Union.