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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Fourteen presidential candidates submit petitions to CEC

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Fourteen of the 19 declared presidential candidates met the July 12 deadline imposed by law and succeeded in gathering the required 1 million signatures to support their candidacies, which will give them a place on the presidential election ballot if the petitions pass Central Election Commission scrutiny in the coming weeks.

It is now up to the CEC to verify the authenticity of the signatures and determine whether the candidates lawfully obtained the signatures they have submitted.

So far the CEC has registered three candidates for the October 31 elections. President Leonid Kuchma, Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko and Yevhen Marchuk, the former prime minister and ex-head of the State Security Service of Ukraine, were registered by the CEC in mid-June. Messrs. Symonenko and Marchuk are both national deputies in the Verkhovna Rada.

Mr. Kuchma was the first to gather the minimum of 1 million signatures required, of which 30,000 had to be collected in each of at least 14 oblasts. On June 14, dozens of labeled boxes containing petitions with 1.89 million signatures of Ukrainian voters collected by Kuchma supporters arrived at the CEC offices in Kyiv. Later that day representatives of Mr. Symonenko submitted their petitions with signatures — some 2 million of them.

On July 1 both politicians were officially registered as the first two candidates in the presidential election race.

Mr. Marchuk, who was nominated by a coalition of rightist parties even though he had been a leader of the Social Democratic Party (United), was registered as the third officially sanctioned candidate on July 9 after submitting 1.6 million signatures.

In an example of the extent to which many candidates lack confidence in the CEC and believe that it is biased toward the incumbent president, Mr. Marchuk said at the time he handed over his petitions that he held a reserve of 400,000 signatures, which had been thoroughly scrutinized for their authenticity, to be submitted if the CEC threw out a large portion of his signatures.

All the mainstream party nominees and several more obscure but resourceful (financially and otherwise) individuals have filed a minimum of 1 million signatures with the CEC since then.

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## German chancellor and Kuchma disagree on construction of new reactors

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A proposal by German Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's proposal that Ukraine stop insisting on Western funding to complete construction of two nuclear reactors to replace Chernobyl and move towards substitute energy sources was quickly shot down by the Ukrainian leadership.

President Leonid Kuchma told Mr. Schroeder during his July 8-9 visit to Kyiv that, while he understands the pressure the German chancellor was facing from the Green Party in his government coalition to not support nuclear energy development, Ukraine is committed to the two uncompleted nuclear facilities.

"Had the situation in Ukraine's economy been different, we would have taken a different position in 1995 and would not have objected to the construction of thermal, gas or steam stations," said Mr. Kuchma.

While underscoring in his talks with Mr. Schroeder that Ukraine is ready and able to immediately shut down the Chernobyl plant, the Ukrainian president emphasized that the G-7 industrialized nations had repeatedly stated their support for the completion of the two reactor complexes, and that now it is simply too late to make other plans.

President Kuchma also said that alternative energy sources, "both in terms of time and spending, are far more expensive than solving the problem by the completing of the construction of the reactors at Khmelnytski and Rivne."

Ukraine has waited in vain for several years now to receive funding for the completion of the last of four nuclear reactors near the central Ukrainian city of Khmelnytskyi and the second of two near Rivne, located in the northwest corner of the country. Kyiv says the new reactors are needed to replace the energy generated by the infamous Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

In 1986 an explosion at the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear facility sent a cloud of radiation around the world, poisoning much of northern part of the country, as well as a good portion of Belarus, and leaving Ukraine with a chronic energy shortage.

Ukraine has promised the West that it will close the only nuclear reactor that continues to operate at Chernobyl if the West will help fund substitute other energy sources. The G-7, which includes Germany, has repeatedly stated that it would do just that — an intent that was reaffirmed in Cologne in the spring



Efrem Lukatsky

### President Leonid Kuchma and German Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder meeting in Kyiv,

of this year at the last G-7 summit. In a statement released by the G-7, the leaders affirmed their intention to provide funding to complete both the Rivne and the Khmelnytskyi complexes.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has been tasked with determining the level of funding needed and is finally due to render a decision in September. However, the EBRD has been involved in the issue of funding for the two complexes for some time and has repeatedly hemmed and hawed in disbursing the money, while demanding that Ukraine reform its energy sector. The international bank has also questioned the profitability, and even the need, for additional reactors for Ukraine.

In addition the EBRD has questioned the accuracy of the \$1.5 billion estimate that Ukraine says is needed to complete

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## Canadian Press retracts defamatory headline

by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — The Canadian Press, one of Canada's major news services, issued a "corrective" on July 9, following a concerted reaction to a defamatory headline from community members across the country, an established media watchdog and a newly elected community leader.

On July 5 the Canadian Press (CP) ran an item headlined "Gunman belonged to 'church' founded by Ukrainian-Canadian," which provided background on the spate of racially motivated killings apparently perpetrated in Illinois and Indiana by Benjamin Nathaniel Smith over the Fourth of July weekend.

Affixed to a story originally issued by the Associated Press, datelined Peoria, Ill., the offending headline was carried only in Canada as written by

one of CP's editors.

The 12th paragraph of the 18-paragraph article, about the founder of a racist organization called The Church of the Creator, read: "Founded in 1973 by Ben Klassen, a former Florida state legislator who was born in Ukraine and raised in Canada, the church attracted neo-Nazis and skinheads."

There were no other references to either Ukraine, Ukrainians or Canada in the item.

A campaign urging Ukrainian Canadians to express their dissatisfaction was mounted by Alberta-based activist Orest Slepokura, Ukrainian Civil Liberties Association Research Director Lubomyr Luciuk and recently elected Ukrainian Canadian Congress Ontario Provincial Council President Volodymyr Halchuk.

On July 8, Paul Loong, World Editor at CP, notified interested parties that "a

Corrective (i.e. retraction)" would be published the following day.

On July 9, CP carried an item tagged "Corrective, Index: International, Justice, Religion," which read:

"The Canadian Press erroneously reported in a headline on July 5 that the founder of the Church of the Creator was a Ukrainian-Canadian.

"In fact, the late Ben Klassen was not of Ukrainian heritage and the Ukrainian-Canadian community had no contact with him when he lived in Canada. He was residing in the United States by the 1950s and died there in 1993."

On July 12, Mr. Luciuk wrote in an e-mail addressed to members of the Ukrainian community that "Mr. Loong ... has proven his willingness to consider a problem, deal with it expeditiously

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## INTERVIEW EXCERPTS: Kuchma comments on presidential elections

Following are excerpts, provided by the RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report, from an interview with President Leonid Kuchma conducted by RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service on June 22:

### How do you assess your chances in the presidential elections?

I am convinced of my victory. That is why I am running. In the current situation a change of political course would be fatal for Ukraine. I see my duty as continuing what I began in 1994. There is simply no other way for Ukraine. This is the main motive behind my struggle for the presidential post.

### It is no secret that the overwhelming majority of media in Ukraine have been unofficially made inaccessible to other presidential candidates. What is your comment?

We have more than 8,000 print media in Ukraine. And more than 1,000 television companies. All of them are private or, one can say, non-state media. It is no secret to anybody than many of [my rivals in the presidential race] have their own private media. The president has no such media. If one looks closer at the media, one will see at once who possesses this or that newspaper or this or that channel. Thus, I absolutely disagree [with your opinion].

### What were your main achievements during your presidential term?

Let us recall the year 1994 when inflation in the country reached 10,600 percent. Kupony [the Ukrainian currency at that time] were lying scattered on the streets, having no value at all. Production in the country came virtually to a halt. Now let us look [at the situation] today or in 1998. Our currency [the hryvnia] has been stable for several years. If it had not been for the global and Russian crises, we would have seen serious improvements in our economy.

I can also judge [on my achievements] by the trust of foreign investors who have gradually begun investing in our economy, even though not to the extent I would want. But reasons for that are understandable. All [investors] are waiting for political and legislative stability. And the main thing: they want to be sure that Ukraine's course is irreversible.

I am not going to mention privatization, though most of the national product is produced today not by state-owned but private enterprises. ...

A zone of stability has been created around the country. I have in mind such fateful treaties as those with Russia, Poland or Romania. Ukraine today is known in the world; its opinion is taken into account to some extent. ...

by certain leftist candidates, including Mr. Moroz, for favoring the current administration in the process by which the official petitions were dispersed, said that, in his view, many of the signatures that have been submitted by all the candidates are questionable.

"If these signatures had to meet the analysis tests that a criminal enforcement organization would put them through, then we wouldn't have a single candidate today who had collected 1 million signatures," said Mr. Riabets on July 11, the day before the petition filing deadline.

The CEC has rejected hundreds of thousands of signatures collected by the various presidential aspirants. Thus far, the candidates have overcome the problem by filing far more than the minimum number required.

For example, of the 1.89 million signatures submitted by President Kuchma, the CEC threw out more than 300,000. It accepted only 1.15 million of the 2 million signatures presented by Mr. Symonenko and 1.36 million of the 1.6 million signatures that Mr. Marchuk had gathered.

Political analysts have criticized the signature-gathering system as being unsupervisable. Reports of fraudulent and unethical gathering techniques have abounded. Accounts by various individuals and news agencies have accused many of the potential candidates' organizations of paying people to sign and of forcing government and members of collective farms to support certain candidates or risk losing their jobs.

Other criticism has been leveled at the law itself, which allows voters to put their names to countless petitions and, in effect, allows a large candidate field to develop.

President Kuchma has come under some of the most intensive criticism, particularly from the left, which has accused him of transforming the entire government structure at his disposal – from the presidential administration and the Cabinet of Ministers to his government representatives on the regional levels – into a large election machine.

## Fourteen presidential...

(Continued from page 1)

Of the other major candidates, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, who was one of the last candidates to announce, and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz still await a decision on their registrations. Mr. Tkachenko submitted 2.05 million signatures, while Mr. Oleksander Moroz came close to the 2 million mark.

Rukh leader Hennadii Udovenko and his counterpart in the splinter Rukh organization, Yurii Kostenko, each submitted more than 1.7 million signatures in the first week of July.

Progressive Socialist leader Natalia Vitrenko, who for all her support in pre-election polls, in which she finds herself running head-to-head with the president, managed to collect only 1.12 million signatures.

They were presented to the CEC on deadline day, as were the petitions of four other candidates, who are thought to have little chance of seriously contending in the elections: Vasyl Onopenko of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, Yurii Karmazyn of the Defenders of the Homeland Party, Mykola Haber of the Patriotic Party of Ukraine and Oleksander Rzhavskiy of the Single Family political organization.

Two other candidates who turned in their petitions to the CEC several days early are Green Party leader Vitalii Kononov and Volodymyr Oliynyk, an independent nominated by voters in Kirovohrad.

The final flurry of submissions leaves the CEC two weeks to verify the authenticity of a total of 15 million signatures, which CEC Chairman Mykhailo Riabets called a monumental task. He said that among the last-minute submitters were some individuals who had withheld their petitions purposely so as to throw the work of the CEC into disarray. The CEC, by law, must announce the final list of presidential candidates by August 1.

Mr. Riabets, who has been criticized

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Molotov cocktails aimed at U.S. Embassy

KYIV – At approximately 2 a.m. on July 8 two unknown assailants lobbed two Molotov cocktails at the U.S. Embassy. According to militia called to the scene, the home-made bombs fell to the ground and exploded. Firemen were not called because the fire was almost immediately extinguished. Embassy officials commenting on the bombing said that the Embassy had not received any threats prior to the incident, and no one has yet claimed responsibility for the bombing. (Eastern Economist)

### Illegal immigration on the rise

KYIV – According to the State Border Guards Committee, there are about 60,000 illegal immigrants in Ukraine. The authorities are preparing to deport 2,630 of them on suspicion of prostitution, drug trafficking and other crimes. Most of the immigrants listed for deportation are from Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and Vietnam. The committee has asked the government to allocate \$1.8 million to have the immigrants put on a ship and dispatched to a port in China or India. Since 1991 there has been an increase in the number of immigrants from poor Asian countries passing through Ukraine on their way to Western Europe. Last year, Ukrainian border guards detained some 12,000 illegal immigrants. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### Ukraine's Russians form new group

KYIV – A new umbrella organization of Ukrainian Russians – the Russian Community – was established in Ukraine in late June by delegates from 18 regions gathered at a congress in Kyiv. The Russian Community founding congress pledged to defend the Russian language as well as ethnic Russian and Russian-speaking citizens in Ukraine. The first nationwide gathering of ethnic Russians in Ukraine was held in May to establish the Congress of Russians of Ukraine. Another meeting, calling itself the Congress of Russian Organizations of Ukraine, was held in early June and nominated its head, Oleksander Bazyluk, as a candidate in the presidential elections. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### 12 parties support president's re-election

KYIV – Twelve democratically oriented parties issued a statement on July 10 expressing support for President Leonid

Kuchma on the fifth anniversary of his presidency, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. The statement noted that during the last five years Ukraine has established itself as a state recognized by the world community. It added that "only Leonid Kuchma will be able to secure the further consistent implementation of reforms." The statement was signed by, among others, the Agrarian Party, the Liberal Party, the National Democratic Party and the Party of Muslims of Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newslines)

### Hottest day in over 100 years

KYIV – The air temperature on July 7 in Kyiv reached 39 degrees Celsius (102.2 degrees Fahrenheit) – the highest in 117 years. (Eastern Economist)

### Kyiv seeks to postpone bond payment

KYIV – Ukraine and the Dutch-based bank ING Barings are continuing negotiations on Kyiv's redemption of an overdue \$155 million bond. The June 9 deadline was extended to July 9, but the two sides have not yet agreed on a payment scheme. Ukraine has proposed to pay off only 20 percent and convert the rest into three-year bonds. As of last week, Ukraine had \$1.3 billion in hard-currency reserves, but the government wants to save those funds for other debt payments that are due later this year and in 2000. (RFE/RL Newslines)

### Rada bans sale of Ukrtelekom

KYIV – Ukrainian legislators on July 9 voted 235-23 to reject a bill that would have sanctioned the privatization of more than 25 percent of Ukrtelekom, which employs some 130,000 people, while ensuring that the state retains a majority stake in the company. The Parliament said there is no need to privatize Ukrtelekom since the company is operating at a profit. President Leonid Kuchma criticized the decision as a political move, adding that proceeds from the sale would have been used to pay off wage and pension arrears. (RFE/RL Newslines)

### French firms to build N waste facility

KYIV – A consortium of three French firms led by the Framatome state company has signed a deal with Ukraine on building a nuclear waste storage facility at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will finance the \$72

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## Kostenko-led Rukh loses a round in court; faction must register under new name

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Supreme Court of Ukraine on June 30 upheld the ruling of a lower court that in effect denies the splinter organization that formed after the division of the Rukh Party legal status as a political party.

In its decision, the Supreme Court agreed with the Kyiv Oblast Court that Yurii Kostenko had no legal standing to file a suit in which he claimed that his right to act as the justly elected chairman of Rukh was violated by a Ministry of Justice decision.

Mr. Kostenko is the leader of the wing of Rukh that ousted the late Vyacheslav Chornovil as chairman, causing a split in the party.

Mr. Kostenko filed his suit against the Ministry of Justice in April after it refused to act on amendments to the statutes of the Rukh wing that he came to lead, while accepting the amendment to the statutes of the competing wing of Rukh.

Under Ukrainian law the statutes of all parties and political organizations, as well as any subsequent changes to them, must be registered with the Ministry of Justice.

The Supreme Court decision noted that, in keeping with Ukrainian law, only a political organization as a whole, not individual members or leaders, have the right to bring a suit against the Ministry of Justice.

The high court also stated in its ruling that Mr. Kostenko showed neither sufficient proof of the denial of his rights nor the basis for the charges.

The court's decision was met with outrage from the leadership of the Kostenko-led party, which now must change its name and register with the Ministry of Justice as a new political entity.

The party's presidium released a statement on June 30 in which it said that it would not bow to what it considers political pre-election pressure by the government to bring the democratic and center-right leaning parties into the presidential fold. "No decision by the authorities will force Rukh members to give up their convictions or turn the party over to those people serving the oligarchic regime," read the statement.

The party leadership also accused the Supreme Court of yielding to pressure from

the presidential administration, and the government of using Soviet-style tactics.

Ivan Lozovy, a member of the secretariat of the Kostenko-led party, said the court used illogical circular argumentation in its explanation. "According to the oblast court decision, Mr. Kostenko's rights could not have been violated because he was never officially registered by the Ministry of Justice as the chairman of the party," said Mr. Lozovy in explaining that it was absurd to argue that Mr. Kostenko had no right to bring suit against the ministry because it did not acknowledge him as representing Rukh.

"They completely obviated all the facts of the case because they were all on our side," added Mr. Lozovy.

Mr. Kostenko filed his complaint with the Kyiv Oblast Court after the Ministry of Justice ignored documents submitted by the 10th Congress of Rukh held on February 29, which elected him chairman of a Rukh that had taken the reins of power from Mr. Chornovil. It accepted only the statutes changes made by the second half of the Ninth Congress, which was held on March 7 by delegates loyal to the late Mr. Chornovil.

Mr. Kostenko had said earlier that he was particularly irked that the Ministry of Justice abbreviated a registration process that should have taken much longer to accept the statutes changes of the second half of the Ninth Congress, which he said was evidence that the decision was based on a political directive not on legal reasoning. He also accused the ministry of ignoring accepted bureaucratic procedures in the registration process.

The two competing Rukh congresses, which ended in the split of the nationwide party, were convened after a group of national deputies of the Rukh faction in the Verkhovna Rada led by Mr. Kostenko and Bohdan Boyko accused Mr. Chornovil, the long-time Rukh leader who died in a tragic car accident several weeks after the split, of violating party statutes and procedures.

The Rukh faction first ousted Mr. Chornovil as head of its parliamentary faction in mid-February. Then on February 20 the Central Leadership of Rukh voted to have Mr. Chornovil step down, which was followed by a hastily called Tenth Congress

of Rukh on February 28.

Mr. Chornovil responded by calling his own congress, the second half of the Ninth Congress on March 7. A month after the second congress the Ministry of Justice registered the statutes changes of the Chornovil-led congress. The ministry has never acted on the documents submitted by the Kostenko political organization.

Mr. Kostenko's group must now submit documents to the Ministry of Justice to continue to be recognized officially as a political party – and it must do so under a new name. Thus far two suggestions have been submitted, according to Mr. Lozovy. "We will go forward, whether as the Ukrainian National Democratic Party, as [Ivan] Drach suggested, or maybe as the UNR, the Ukrainian National Rukh, as [Bohdan] Boyko suggested," explained Mr. Lozovy.

The two wings of Rukh have viciously bickered ever since the split. Mr. Kostenko's group has accused the Rukh faction formerly headed by Mr. Chornovil and now headed by Hennadii Udovenko of kow-towing to President Leonid Kuchma.

In turn, the Kostenko-led faction has been accused of betraying the cause of the national democratic movement and of putting a priority on protecting their commercial self-interests.

The wing of the party led by Mr. Udovenko has been particularly emotional in its pronouncements, calling the "Kostenkivtsi" "traitors" and "pimps of the national Ukrainian idea."

Although the two parties – only one of which can now legally call itself Rukh – are far from close to an understanding on how they can unite to again wield their once formidable political clout, at least some hope remains. Dmytro Ponomarchuk, press secretary of the Udovenko-led Rukh, said on July 13 that reconciliation is the only possible course.

"We find it important that the courts recognized that only one Rukh exists. It is a victory for healthy reasoning," said Mr. Ponomarchuk. "This is the first step toward a decision that has to be made to reunite Rukh. It is a crisis of the leadership, not a crisis of the Rukh Party."

## BUSINESS IN BRIEF

### Univermah Ukraina closed for reconstruction

KYIV – Ukraina, Kyiv's biggest department store, which is visited by over 5,000 persons daily, was closed for reconstruction on June 17. A high-ranking representative of the JSC Univermah Ukraina stated that renovations costing US \$15 million (U.S.) will be financed by an American investment fund. The reconstructed building is to become a modern shopping mall, with a parking lot and a cinema. (Eastern Economist)

### Kazakstan temporarily suspends Baikonur blast-offs

KYIV – The launch of a Zenit-2 booster rocket carrying the Ukrainian-Russian satellite Okean-O from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakstan was postponed once again on July 12. Kazakstan's government has halted the launch due to the crash of a Russian Proton rocket. Kazakstan is demanding compensation for damages caused by the crash. (Eastern Economist)

### Launch explosion blamed on computers

KYIV – The cause of September 1998 crash of the Ukrainian-made Zenit booster rocket, which is used in the Global Star international project was determined to be low-quality electricity supply equipment assembled by a Russian company in Saratov. (Eastern Economist)

### New Donets missile system is launched

KYIV – The Zenit-rocket complex Donets, designed at the Kharkiv-based Malyshev factory, was successfully tested, Holos Ukrainy reported on July 1. Improved and modernized, the new weapons-system is considered unique in the arms trade. The Donets can also be equipped with ground-to-air missiles and guided anti-tank jet-propelled missiles. (Eastern Economist)

### Black Sea trade is inaugurated in Greece

THESSALONIKI, Greece – The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, or BSTDB, was inaugurated on June 21 in Thessaloniki, Greece. During the inaugural ceremonies, BSTDB President Eskor Volkan stressed that the main goals of the bank are to improve economic relations between member-countries and to promote stabilization and further development of their economies. The bank will also support the involvement of international capital and investments. Mr. Volkan said the bank has not considered any concrete project for financing as yet, and that in the future it will not differentiate between state and private projects. For major projects, the BSTDB hopes to attract international financing, in particular from the World Bank and EBRD. (Eastern Economist)

### Countries protest steel dumping

KYIV – The South African government raised anti-dumping taxes on June 21 on the import of hot-rolled sheet steel from Ukraine and Russia, to 95 percent and 82 percent of the customs value, respectively. Until recently tax rates were 6 percent for Ukrainian steel and 14 percent for Russian steel. The new tax rates can be revised no sooner than one year after their imposition. Closer to home, three Polish steel companies, Florian, Pokoj and Sandzimira, announced plans to appeal to the Polish government to protest sheet steel dumping from Russia and Ukraine in 1997-1998. According to the Polish steel producers, imports of hot-rolled sheet steel from these countries to Poland over the last two years has increased by 50 percent, to 516,000 tons from Russia and 255,000 tons from Ukraine, which resulted in heavy losses to domestic producers. India's trade ministry began an anti-dumping investigation of the import of seamless pipes from Austria, the Czech republic, Russia and Ukraine, following a complaint by India's Association of Seamless Pipe Producers. According to the association, cheap imports in 1997-1998 brought about the closure of two Indian companies, Remi Metal and Tisco. (Eastern Economist)

## United Nations annual report ranks Ukraine 91st in 'human development'

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's standing in the world in terms of "human development" has improved some in the last year, according to a rating of 174 countries by the United Nations. But, the country remains far down in the rankings from where it stood even five years ago.

The annual report, released on July 12 by the United Nations Development Program, puts Ukraine in the 91st slot this year, an improvement of nine positions over its 1998 rating of 102nd. However, it shows that the country is in far worse shape in the categories that the United Nations surveyed than in 1995, when Ukraine was rated 54th in human development.

Nina Karpachova, human rights representative for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, said at a press conference at which the report was released that the improvement was no cause for celebration. She explained that for the most part the improvement Ukraine showed was due to changes in the information gathering methodology used by the UNDP this year.

"The 91st position does not encourage

us. If we concentrated on a human rights index our rating would not be high at all," said Ms. Karpachova.

The UNDP report rates 174 countries of the world based chiefly on life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income.

The report, which gathered its information on Ukraine through the country's State Committee on Statistics, shows that Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita has continued to fall since 1990, from \$1,165 to \$496 in 1997, and that currently 63 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

According to the report, Ukrainians have a life expectancy at birth of 68 years, compared to 77 years for citizens of Canada, which led this year's human development rating and 76.7 for those living in the United States, which came in third in the report.

Ukraine's infant mortality rate stands at 18 per 1,000, while Canada and the U.S., respectively, have rates of 6 per 1,000 and 7 per 1,000.

Ukraine's only strength was in the area of educational attainment, where the U.N. identified Ukraine's literacy rate at

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# Summer's here and Soyuzivka's begun its 45th season

by Tanya Singura

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – School is out, summer is here, and Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association's resort in the Catskills, is back in full swing. The summer wouldn't be the same without the arrival of Tabir Ptashat, the Ukrainian-speaking pre-schoolers' day camp.

The first tour of this camp – which is organized by the Pershi Stezhi sorority of Plast and this year marked its 10th anniversary – made itself at home, as campers sang, enjoyed storytelling, made crafts and learned about Ukrainian culture. A circus was here for one of the final days of camp, held June 27 through July 4. From the "big top" set up in front of the Main House, to the clown making animal balloons, "ptashata" were in awe as they walked from station to station enjoying the festivities.

The first tour of Tabir Ptashat – directed by Motria Boyko Watters – ended with the traditional closing ceremonies. Gathered around a "bonfire," the 37 campers sang songs and acted out the play "Brown Bear" to the more than 100 people in attendance.

Tennis campers (see story below) also made their presence known. The courts were full and tennis balls were flying as the campers showed that practice does make perfect. Camp directors Zenon Snylyk and George Sawchak could be seen on the courts with camp counselors, leading drills and showing proper techniques. The camp ended with tournaments and a banquet. The campers left smiling, a little tired and with great tans.

Summer also means the beginning of the resort's theme nights. Soyuzivka's first Steak Night had to be moved from the Veselka patio downstairs rather quickly, when an unexpected rain storm swept through the area. Although the rain

*Tanya Singura is activities director at Soyuzivka.*

delayed dinner a bit, the steak still was cooked to perfection.

The threat of rain for the first Hutsul night was held off by Manager John A. Flis, who held his "bulava" (or mace, a Kozak symbol of authority) in the air. Greg Hrynovets entertained the crowd by singing traditional Ukrainian songs. He brought guests to their feet with the "Macarena."

Odesa night, Soyuzivka's seafood night held on Fridays, also took place in the Veselka hall, as rain once again chased everyone indoors.

The first (un)official Suzy-Q grand prix also took place during the week preceding Independence Day weekend. Office workers (past and present) raced around Soyuzivka trying to outsmart each other's team. The race ended in a tie and a rematch has been requested. (We'll keep you updated.)

Some would say that summer really doesn't begin until the Fourth of July weekend. If that's the case, it started off with a bang on Friday, July 2, as Midnight Bigus, Soyuzivka's home-grown rock band, once again packed the Trembita Lounge into the wee hours of the morning. Bigus has gotten quite a following after playing at Suzy-Q for three summers. From Eric Clapton to the Rolling Stones, Midnight Bigus sounds like its members have been playing together forever. If you haven't heard them, be sure to catch their next performance Friday, August 13 – the beginning of Miss Soyuzivka weekend.)

Summer's arrival also marks the beginning of Soyuzivka's concert series. This year the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami kicked off the season on Saturday, July 3. The troupe, which this year celebrates 50 years of dancing, entertained the crowd with traditional Ukrainian dances along with original dances choreographed by members of the group. The dance group was followed by the vocal ensemble Trio Maksymowich. The group's beautiful voices were carried throughout the Veselka hall and into the



Hot fun in the summertime in Soyuzivka's pool.

hearts of the audience.

Independence Day weekend is the beginning also of the zabava (dance) season at Soyuzivka, and this was the year of "Canadian Invasion." Zolota Bulava of Quebec and Burya from Ontario rocked Soyuzivka inside and out on Saturday night of the Independence Day weekend. Those choosing to escape the heat and listen to Burya headed downstairs, while others, braving the heat and humidity, danced outside. Die-hard zabava-goers danced in the rain during the brief rainstorm, while others escaped downstairs until the rain stopped.

Soyuzivka patrons were awakened to a beautiful "burya" – of the meteorological variety – on Sunday morning; the thunderstorm caused a power outage for a little more than two hours. Rolling blackouts plagued the resort during the extreme temperatures and high humidity, making Sunday morning checkout more difficult than usual. Office staff rose to the occa-

sion, however, sitting with guests and tallying their bills while they ate breakfast.

At the same time, another group of "ptashata" – 50 campers and their families – began checking in. The second tour of Tabir Ptashat (July 4-11) was directed by Areta Siryj-Kuritz.

Sunday's concert also garnered rave reviews. Pikkardiiska Tertsia, the renowned a cappella group from Ukraine, sang a variety of songs from classical to '50s rock n' roll and doo-wop, and Ukrainian folk, which brought the crowd to its feet.

On Sunday night, the musical Burya rocked Soyuzivka yet again, this time outside. Even the heat and humidity, which was horrible, could not keep the band's loyal followers from dancing up a storm, or at the very least energetically tapping their feet.

Soyuzivka guests departed on Monday, July 5, hoping for a respite from the heat, but sad to go. You know the saying: "There's no place like Soyuzivka!"

## Thirty-three attend 31st tennis camp at UNA resort

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Thirty-three young tennis players – 16 boys and 16 girls – between the ages of 9 and 17 opened the summer camp season here at the Ukrainian National Association's resort.

The 31st tennis camp, directed annually by Zenon Snylyk and George Sawchak, took place at Soyuzivka from June 20 through July 1.

The camp program included daily cal-

isthenics, running, lectures on tennis technique and practical lessons. Lessons covered all aspects of the sport: including tactics, strategy, good sportsmanship and participation in tournaments.

In addition, the tennis campers utilized all the amenities of Soyuzivka for relaxation, including its pool. During the evenings there were recreational activities, such as dances.

Christine Telyan, Luba Wojnow, Ulana

Tatunchak, Steve Kolodiy, Victor Sulzynsky and Dan DiBono – all former campers – were instructors at this year's camp.

Singles competition was held in five groups and the first- and second-place winners in each group were: Girls A – Larissa Szczupak and Natalie Pearson; Boys A – Damian Zajac and Andrij Bluj; Girls B – Natalie Mandzy and Ariana Flis; Boys B – Alex Flis and Stephan

Sikorsky; Mixed – John Szendiuch and Natalka Turynsky. An informal doubles competition also was held.

At the conclusion of camp, the traditional banquet and awards ceremony was held. All camp participants received certificates, while four youths were recognized with separate awards as the best campers in 1999: Miss Pearson, Chris Oleksiuk, Peter Krup and Mr. Bluj.



The participants and staff of the 1999 Tennis Camp at Soyuzivka: left, the boys; right, the girls.

## PHOTO REPORT: Opening days of Soyuzivka summer



Clowns entertain the littlest campers.

Photos by Markian Hadzewycz, Roma Hadzewycz, Pat Sawchak, Tanya Singura and Wolodymyr Sochan.



Participants of one of the two tours of Tabir Ptashat.



Ptashata gather for a circus under the "big top."



The path to the Veselka patio overlooking the Shawangunk mountains of the Catskills.



The best tennis campers, (from left) Natalie Pearson, Chris Oleksiuk, Andrij Bluj and Peter Krup, are flanked by Zenon Snylyk (right) and George Sawchak, camp directors.

### Who's who at Suzy-Q

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — As Soyuzivka opened its 45th summer season, Sonia Semanyshyn, the resort's office manager, took some time out to speak with *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

She reported that the summer staff is composed of nearly 70 employees who work in the office, the kitchen and dining room, in maintenance and housekeeping, and at Soyuzivka's children's camps.

What follows is a brief account of who is who (or, more appropriately who is responsible for what) at Soyuzivka during the summer of 1999.

John A. Flis continues as manager of the Ukrainian National Association's resort, a position he has held since 1987.

Ms. Semanyshyn is the office manager, as well as the manager of the Soyuzivka gift shop. In November Ms. Semanyshyn marks 10 years at the resort.

Tanya Singura is the activities director,

and there are two children's activities coordinators, Tatiana Flis and Karolina Kalinowska.

Chef "Snake," Andrij Sonevytsky, who has been with Soyuzivka for seven years, even while a student at the renowned Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., continues to delight guests with his culinary expertise. He is assisted by a staff that includes last year's maitre d', Yaro Strohj, a student at the Culinary Institute who will go on from Soyuzivka to an internship at Disney World in Florida. Bill Swiach is the maitre d'.

There is a new operations manager in the person of Taras Tiutiunnyk; the executive housekeeper is Daria Nyzankiwsky.

Dawn Pryhoda is manager of the Q-Cafe, and Andrij Cade is the bar manager.

Working together, the Soyuzivka staff aims to make the summer of 1999 pleasant and memorable for all guests.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Synergy and the press

The Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations are history now. Our editorial of two weeks ago characterized the event as an unqualified success and expressed hope that it had succeeded also in providing a new model of cooperation for the future based on the synergy envisioned by conference organizers.

This week we would like to focus on what the power of synergy means for The Ukrainian Weekly. The 28-page issue of this newspaper published on July 11 contained 12 pages dedicated to reports from the individual conferences and panels held during the Joint Conferences. The issue was a follow-up and a wrap-up to the coverage begun a week earlier when we published our lead stories on the mega-conference.

How did it happen that 11 different bylines appeared on the stories in our July 11 issue? Prior to the Joint Conferences The Weekly had contacted all the groups holding sessions during the five-day event and proposed that they become collaborators of our newspaper in presenting the important – and complete – story of the Joint Conferences to the Ukrainian community and the general readership of The Weekly.

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, the dedicated efforts of a core group of our regular contributors and the experience of our editorial staff, our plan of action worked. It worked marvelously! The end product was even better than we had expected. The reactions of our readers are just starting to come in. "Congratulations for excellent coverage of the Washington meetings," wrote one of our regular subscribers. Clearly these Joint Conferences and their coverage on the pages of this newspaper are appreciated by the community at large – not just by those who participated in one way or another in the events in and around Washington.

The Weekly's collaboration with volunteers from diverse organizations was an example of synergy at work, an example that fit – to a T – one of the definitions of this word: "cooperative interaction among groups that creates an enhanced combined effect." The teamwork exemplified by this collaboration vividly illustrates what we can do, together, for our community. It also demonstrates something that we have been saying for years, but that has become more and more evident as our community becomes more and more scattered. The Ukrainian press is key to the survival of our Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities, and of our Ukrainian diaspora. The Ukrainian press can be the network that keeps us all in touch.

While community leaders spoke at the last session of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations about establishing a council of presidents to meet regularly in order to consult on issues of concern to the entire community, this newspaper's correspondent commented by underlining that a corollary to their cooperation would be cooperation with and use of the Ukrainian press in order to keep the Ukrainian community at large informed about their work on those issues. "Use us" – that was the message to our community leaders. And, dear readers, that is also our message to you. Consider our newspaper's pages your pages; consider us your colleagues. And together we will be able to create a network that benefits us all and successfully transports our community into the 21st century.

July  
24  
1907

### Turning the pages back...

Vasyl Mysyk belongs to the highest circle of great translators of world literature into Ukrainian, perhaps a rung below his brilliant junior, Mykola Lukash, but equal to Mykola Bazhan and Maksym Rylsky.

Mysyk was born in Novopavlivka, a village about 50 miles west of Yuzivka (now Donetsk), in what is now the Dnipropetrovske Oblast, on July 24, 1907. His secondary school teacher noticed his budding talent and sent off examples of his poetry to Pavlo Tychyna, who saw to it they were published in the journal *Chervonyi Shliakh*. Mysyk was then 16. In 1924, Tychyna convinced Mysyk to move to Kharkiv, where the Ukrainian literary revival was in full swing, to join the luminaries of what came to be known as "The Fusilladed Renaissance" (Rozstriliane Vidrodzhennia).

Drawn to the writers' group Pluh (with Petro Panch, Hryhoriy Epik and Dokia Humenna), he continued his studies at Kharkiv University, at the Technicum for Eastern Studies and the Institute for Foreign Languages. By the time he graduated in 1929, Mysyk had befriended the writer-critic Maik Yohansen, and Mykola Khvylioviy's publishing house, VAPLITE, had published his first collection of poetry, "Travy" (Grasses, 1927).

Mysyk's works appeared twice in the journal that was the exuberant hot-house of Ukraine's best literary talent – *Literaturnyi Yarmarok*. His first Ukrainian translations to be published were of Aleksandr Pushkin's poetry, which appeared in a collection of the Russian versifier's work edited in the 1920s by the Neoclassicist Pavlo Fylypovych.

From the massist, peasant-oriented group Pluh, Mysyk jumped to the elitist writers' circle, Prolitfront, again pulled by the dynamism of Khvylioviy. He embarked on the translations that would make him great: John Dos Passos's "42nd Parallel," the poetry of Robert Burns, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, as well as the Persian classics Rumi, Omar Khayyam, Hafez, Rudaki and Tagore. Mysyk also produced three more poetry collections, "Blakytnyi Mist" (The Azure Bridge, 1929), "Chotyry Vitry" (The Four Winds, 1930), "Turksyb" (1932) and "Budivnyky" (The Builders, 1933); and a collection of short stories, "Galaganiv Son" (Galagan's Dream, 1930).

In 1931, Mysyk embarked on a trip to the Soviet eastern republics, Tajikistan and Kazakstan, and returned with a readiness to render the material he gathered there, but he also found the Stalinist noose tightening around the Ukrainian intellectual milieu, and the hammer of genocidal famine about to descend on the heartland he came from.

By May 1933, the time of Khvylioviy's suicide, his world had fallen apart. The poet-translator found he was unable to "restructure" himself (the word "perebudova" had a more sinister currency in the 1930s) as his mentor, Tychyna did. In December 1934 he was arrested and imprisoned in a distant Arctic concentration camp. Somehow, Mysyk was spared amidst the wave of executions that claimed so many of his contemporaries in the fall of

(Continued on page 13)

## BOOK NOTES

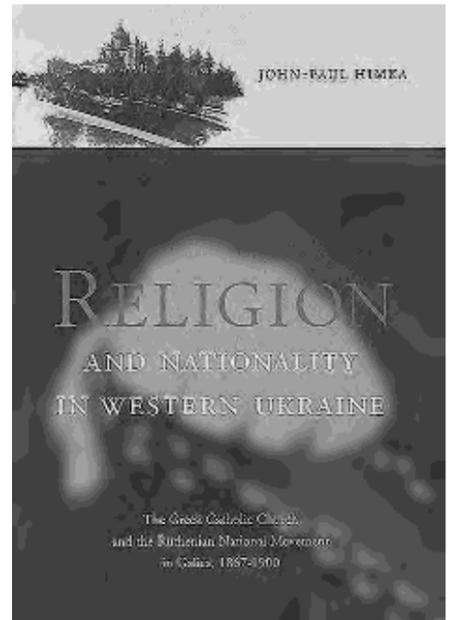
### New study examines religion and nationality in western Ukraine

MONTREAL – The Greek-Catholic Church has been described as a hybrid of Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism that combines the heritage of Byzantine Christianity with submission to the Roman papacy. The Eastern and Western elements of the Church have often collided, but perhaps never so dramatically as in the Austrian province of Galicia in the late 19th century.

Using Soviet archival materials declassified in the 1980s, John-Paul Himka, a professor of history and classics at the University of Alberta, examines a period during which the Greek-Catholic Church in Galicia was involved in a protracted, and at times bitter, struggle to maintain its distinctive, historically developed rites and customs. He focuses on the way differing concepts of Ruthenian nationality affected the perception and course of church affairs, while showing the influence of local ecclesiastical matters on the development and acceptance of these divergent concepts of nationality.

The implications and complications of the Galician imbroglio are engagingly explained in this latest addition to Prof. Himka's work on nationality in late 19th century Galicia. His analysis of the relationship between the Church and the national movement is a valuable addition to the study of religion and the national movements in Eastern Europe and beyond.

Richard Greenfield of the department of history at Queen's University, said of the book, "By thus seeking to reconstruct and detail the immensely complex and constantly changing situation in Galicia Prof. Himka attempts to provide an insight into



realities of construction of a national identity. At the same time he demonstrates clearly the impossibility of disentangling religious and political developments in this context."

According to Andrew Sorokowski of St. Basil College, "'Religion and Nationality in Western Ukraine' is engaging, entertaining and not without humor. [John-Paul Himka's] style is suitable for the educated non-specialist and non-scholarly reader. He tells a good story."

The book, at \$65 (cloth), may be ordered from: McGill-Queen's University Press; 3430 McTavish St., Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1X9 Canada; telephone, (514) 398-2555; fax, (514) 398-4333.

### Analysis of Slavonic biblical work

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Old Testament Book of Esther in Slavonic Translation is known from East Slavic manuscripts of the late 14th to late 16th centuries. Working from the Masoretic Hebrew texts and Greek translations, in "The Slavonic Book of Esther: Text, Lexicon, Linguistic Analysis, Problems of Translation," Horace G. Lunt and Moshe Taube examine textual clues to the circumstances of Esther's translation, sources and redactions.

This study creates a solid basis from which scholars can now discuss the particulars of this important translation, the nature of East Slavic biblical translating activity, and the relationship of old East Slavic bookmen to Hebrew and Greek.

This book will be of interest to philologists and cultural religious historians alike. The edition contains a full redaction with variants and received translation, a full word index, grammatical analysis, verse-by-verse commentary, and discussion of vocabulary of selected semantic fields, not only of the Book of Esther, but of comparable texts.

The price of the 324-page book, published by the Harvard Series in Ukrainian Studies in 1998, is \$39.95 (hardcover). It is available from: Harvard University Press, 79 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138; telephone, 1 (800) 448-2242; fax, 1-800-962-4983 (from the U.S. and Canada); telephone, (617) 495-2480; fax, (617) 495-8924 (international).

## Canadian Press...

(Continued from page 1)

and take recommendations for ensuring that similar problems do not arise in future. He and CP are to be commended for their fast reaction time and sensibility."

Mr. Halchuk also circulated a letter to Mr. Loong, in which he expressed thanks "for establishing an amicable relationship" and appreciation for the CP editor's "apology on behalf of The Canadian Press and welcome[d] the opportunity to help in preventing such incidents from being repeated."

Reached at the CP's offices in Toronto, Mr. Loong said he "had a long talk with the person" responsible for the offending headline.

"Based on information that was geo-

graphic in nature, a statement concerning ethnic background was made," the CP World Editor said, adding: "This was clearly a leap that was wrong."

Mr. Loong said although he had since found that Mr. Klassen was born in Ukraine but was of another ethnic heritage, "[Mr. Klassen's] ideas should be the topic, not his background."

Mr. Loong confirmed that Mr. Halchuk had proffered a list of individuals available as resource people if CP staff need to consult specialists.

In a follow-up e-mail to The Weekly, Mr. Loong wrote: "The editor involved realizes an error was made and assures me that no malice was intended. To prevent this kind of mistake in the future, I have written a detailed memo to all my editors about the need for greater accuracy and sensitivity in our work."

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## How a small contribution made a large difference in Ukraine

by Stephanie Richard  
*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

MYRHOROD, Ukraine – As an American TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Peace Corps volunteer, I am a recent arrival to Ukraine. However, I have already grown accustomed to the constant shortages of supplies and materials that is an everyday reality for the people here. Currently, with the growing economic crisis, things are only getting worse.

The best way to explain my experience of living in this country is “double culture shock.” On the surface many things look very Westernized, but they do not in fact work this way. We have faucets, but no water comes out; we have light switches, but there is never any power (electricity and water are highly rationed). People work eight hours a day, but cannot feed their families because they are paid only once every three or four months. In a country where education is highly valued, schools have no textbooks, and those books they do have contain hopelessly outdated information.

Accordingly, throughout my three-month training with the Peace Corps, I was prepared to teach in a Ukrainian classroom with little or no resources. You can imagine my surprise then when I arrived in Myrhorod for the first time, a town of only 47,000 people, and while stepping into my new classroom found that it would be the envy of many American teachers. My walls are lined with new and contemporary books, there is a television/VCR, and an up-to-date sound system. Standing in the corner is a beautiful new photocopying

machine. I have yet to see so many English resource materials anywhere else in Ukraine.

I soon learned that the materials in this room are part of an ongoing project sponsored by Siena College and Americans for Democracy in Ukraine, and that I, as the first native English speaker to live in Myrhorod, was the newest resource of center. The amazing materials in my room are actually shared with nine other schools in Myrhorod, and the English Resource Center has just come into existence this year after an extensive teacher training seminar hosted by teachers from Siena College in Albany, N.Y., in the summer of 1998.

I have found the center to be an invaluable resource as I try to share American culture and values, as well as English language with my students. In turn, as Ukraine struggles to join the world economy, I know the knowledge I impart to my students is equally invaluable. For the teachers of Myrhorod, the center is simply a treasure beyond compare. It has allowed them to revolutionize their teaching methodology and take a far more creative approach to their lessons.

Not only has this wonderful center made my job and that of others here in Ukraine 100 times easier, it is living proof that a few committed individuals can really make a difference in the life of both the students and the teachers of a whole community.

To donate to this valuable project, please contact: Lydia Tarnawsky, Siena College, Department of Modern Languages, 515 Loudon Road, Loudonville, NY, 12211-1462.

## Myrhorod thankful for assistance

Myrhorod, a small town of only 47,000 people located in central Ukraine, has just recently established an excellent English resource center and on March 10, Myrhorod School No. 9 hosted the grand opening of this new center. Generous donations of books and supplies by Siena College and Americans for Democracy in Ukraine made this center possible.

Local officials and teachers from surrounding schools attended this event, which was ushered in with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an assembly presentation by schoolchildren.

The center contains a library of English books on subjects as diverse as teaching new methodology for elementary teachers and life in Great Britain and America. It also houses a television/VCR and an up-to-date sound system. Also because of a generous gift from the Narodna Kasa in Montreal, the center is the proud owner of a copy machine.

This center is one of four that has been created by the hard work of Siena College professors and local teachers. The other three centers in Ukraine are located in Kovel, Chernihiv and Ochtryka. These centers are coordinated through the creation of local teachers' associations whose responsibilities include sharing the new teaching methodologies presented by teachers from Siena College in the summers of 1995-1998, building the centers resources and making these resources available to as many teach-

ers and students as possible.

The impact of this center was best describe by Lyuba Zheliznyak, the head of Myrhorod's Teachers' Association, who said “The center has really helped to change our old stereotypes and revolutionize our teaching methods ... I believe this center will be a center for enlightenment.”

“Four years ago, after attending the Ochtyrka English teachers' training seminars (Sumy Oblast) conducted by methodologists from Siena College Teacher Training Institute, a group of Myrhorod teachers organized Poltava Oblast's English Teachers' Association. During the last few years Myrhorod's association has collaborated with Siena College and the ADU, as well as with similar associations in Chernihiv, Ochtyrka, Pryluky and Kovel to implement new English teaching methods in secondary schools. Teachers could not imagine before that teaching and learning English could be fun. Unfortunately, until we were exposed to the new methodologies presented by Siena College we had no idea that creative ways of teaching existed. We acted only by intuition seeking effective methods, our only resources being a blackboard, chalk and textbooks full of propaganda such as revolution, constitution, demonstrations, capitalism, Marxism, communism, etc,” noted Ms. Zheliznyak.

“But time flies,” she continued, “Now we feel as rich as Rockefeller.”

(Continued on page 16)

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



## Captive Nations Week – 1999

Ever since I was a kid, the third week in July has been Captive Nations Week. I remember marches on steamy downtown streets ending up at a rally on Public Square. Civic leaders, politicians and professors around the country examined the annual presidential proclamation searching for hidden clues about the ebb and flow of American policy toward the Soviet Union.

It's now 1999 and July is as hot as it's ever been – that hasn't changed – but the Soviet Union is now gone and we don't observe Captive Nations Week as we once did, although the law is still on the books. Like a lot of Ukrainian Americans, I took part in my share of marches and heard more than my share of speeches. At the time, the exercise seemed futile, but looking at it from the perspective of the years, I see how these observances played a key role in the ultimate demise of the Soviet Union.

When Congress voted in 1959 to mandate an annual Captive Nations Week, the world was a lot different. It was the height of the Cold War and America was profoundly anti-Communist – for good reason. Stalin was still a fresh memory. Nikita Khrushchev was testing hydrogen bombs in the atmosphere and blustering about how the Soviet Union would “bury” its capitalist opponents.

I grew up in Cleveland in the 1950s and went to Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. From the playground, you could smell the steel mills in the valley about a mile away. All of us kids took perverse pride in the fact that Cleveland's manufacturing would be a prime target in a potential nuclear attack and we would be among the first to go.

Every couple of months the school bell started ringing and then, ominously, would keep on ringing, over and over. “A security drill,” we thought and filed quickly down the stairs to the basement. There we knelt against the walls, huddled together with our arms wrapped around our heads to protect them, we were told, from the blast and debris of the bombs that would be falling on the steel mills down the road. Outside, a siren wailed. A siege mentality steeled the country for what President John F. Kennedy labeled a “long twilight struggle” against an enemy that had already murdered millions and was bent on world domination. This was before Vietnam.

Prior to the adoption of Captive Nations legislation, the struggle against communism was waged on terms set by Lenin and Marx. Communists would point to the shortcomings of capitalism: depression, crime, unequal income distribution and racism, and offer their “utopia” as an alternative. The West found itself defending a flawed capitalist system that existed in the real world, against the vision of Communist perfection sometime off in the future. As for communism's repressive nature? This was either denied or downplayed as something that had to be done to bring about “paradise on Earth.”

The Captive Nations Week Resolution (Public Law 86-90) officially introduced a new element to the debate: national self-determination. Forget economic utopia, Ukrainian Americans said. That's

a phony vision anyway. The reality is more like famine and labor camps. With the annual endorsement of Congress and the president, Ukrainian Americans demanded the restoration of Ukraine's national symbols, its language, its heroes. Standing next to them at Public Square rallies were Balts, Poles, Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks, Czechs and others – each with grievances and Captive Nations agendas of their own.

Over the years, people in Washington who are paid to look at the big picture came to accept the Soviet Union as a permanent fixture. Ultimately, for the State Department, focused on big-power diplomacy and the minutiae of arms control, wheat contracts and cultural exchange negotiations, the separate Captive Nations agendas voiced by people with funny names and strange accents were a distraction and an embarrassment. For the Soviets they were a mortal threat.

As the people at the top cut deals, millions of Americans at the grassroots were spreading the word about national self-determination. The countless channels of personal communication, the brave publishing houses like Smoloskyp, Ardis and Kultura, the Voice of America, Radio Liberty and the sacrifice of dissidents within the Soviet bloc ultimately overwhelmed the ability of the KGB and other secret police organizations to control political thought.

Each national group represented in the Captive Nations coalition had its separate agenda, yet was each linked politically to the other, because each shared the same political objective: the demise of the Soviet Union. East and West might have found a way to “peacefully co-exist” – what other choice was there? – but still, each July, the president issued a proclamation that said it was the objective of the United States to free the Captive Nations, i.e., destroy the Soviet Union. Millions of Americans worked to make it happen, despite the best efforts over time of our diplomats to downplay the significance of Captive Nations Week.

The annual observances, of course, did not escape the attention of smart local politicians everywhere. They looked at the crowd of sweaty marches and saw dedicated constituents, voters. More than one got up on a podium, slung his jacket over his shoulder, just like in his campaign photos, and told the Captive Nations crowd what they wanted to hear: that the Soviets were brutes and imperialists. A few of the politicians rode the coalition into city hall, the governor's mansion, the Congress of the United States. Indeed, the Captive Nations coalition has been the swing vote in every recent presidential election.

In 1972 ethnic Americans joined Richard Nixon's “Silent Majority” to crush George McGovern, who was perceived as soft on communism. Four years later President Gerald Ford came to the astonishing conclusion that there was no Soviet domination of Poland. People of Central and Eastern European heritage, who knew better, flocked to Jimmy Carter's campaign, tipping the

(Continued on page 14)

## DATELINE NEW YORK: Night songs from a neighboring village

by Helen Smindak

Testifying to the complex relationship between two peoples who have existed side by side and influenced each other for centuries, two musical traditions – East European Jewish and Ukrainian – were brought together in a recent concert program at Manhattan's Symphony Space.

"Night Songs from a Neighboring Village," sponsored by the World Music Institute, featured the four-man Jewish ensemble Brave New World headed by Michael Alpert (vocals, fiddle, guitar, percussion) and the Ukrainian foursome Paris to Kyiv, led by the much-admired Canadian songstress Alexis Kochan and New York's popular bandurist/singer Julian Kytasty.

Assisting Ms. Kochan and Mr. Kytasty in presenting an exquisite program of Ukrainian liturgical and folk music were violist Richard Moody and Martin Colledge, an artist who specializes in playing the cittern (a guitar with a pear-shaped, flat-backed body, popular in Renaissance England), the mandolin and the Northumbrian pipes, similar in sound to the Ukrainian *duda* (bagpipes).

The second half of the program presented by Brave New World was devoted to cantorial and klezmer traditions combined with classical music and jazz. With modes and scales in Eastern European Jewish music echoing those in Ukrainian music, the presentation pointed out the close interaction between the two cultures. Melodic phrases and tempos familiar to Ukrainian ears could be distinguished in the Jewish tunes. Besides Mr. Alpert, Brave New World included Alan Berns (accordion, piano), Kurt Bjorling (clarinets) and Stuart Brotman (bass, cimbalom, *tilinka*, percussion).

The Paris to Kyiv ensemble wove together pre-Christian ritual songs and harmonies inspired by folk polyphony with fragments of medieval chant and modern influences. Capturing the essence of old Ukraine and ancient folk rituals were a pensive wedding ballad sung by Ms. Kochan to the accompaniment of flute music and the sweet drone of bagpipes, and another old wedding song "Tuman Yarom" a quiet, a cappella refrain in which Mr. Kytasty's mellow voice blended beautifully with Ms. Kochan's contralto.

Ms. Kochan joined in the somber vocals of "Cross, Cradle, Tree," an inspirational ode to the Madonna intoned by Mr. Kytasty. "Vocalise" highlighted wordless singing by both performers. "Stone Age Carol" begun by Ms. Kochan in slow tempo, grew faster-paced and very exciting as Mr. Kytasty added his voice and the other artists brought flute and percussion

sounds into play.

The prevailing mood was serious, since many of the songs were in the minor mode. However, contrast was achieved in lively bandura selections played by Mr. Kytasty, some his own compositions based on old melodies.

The Ukrainian set ended with the upbeat "Katherine's Kolomyika" – a rapid-fire dialogue between Ms. Kochan and Mr. Kytasty, singing in the open-throat style common in villages and backed by the combined music of viola, flute and percussion instruments. When the fast-paced song concluded, there was a moment of awestruck silence before the audience broke into wild applause.

Ms. Kochan, whose dusky-voiced delivery lends an ethereal quality to her voice, has a warm, engaging personality that served her admirably in presenting explanatory remarks before each selection. The Winnipeg-based vocal teacher, singer, producer and recording artist has devoted much of her career to exploring the oldest layers of Ukrainian folk music. She was well-qualified to tell the rapt audience, "There are thousands upon thousands of folk songs – all of them incredible pieces of jewelry – that represent the spirit of the Ukrainian people."

Introducing her partners, she presented Mr. Kytasty as "my colleague and excavator, who works with me very closely and is a jewel of a human being."

At the end of the evening, Mr. Alpert brought the Jewish portion to a close with a soulfully sung rendering of "Night Songs from a Neighboring Village," a poem about the beauty of Ukrainian songs penned by the Ukrainian Yiddish poet Herts Rivkin (1908-1951).

Ms. Kochan came on stage, crooning the first lines of a lovely old lullaby "Oi Khodyt Son Kolo Vikon" (A Dream Passes by the Windows) to Mr. Kytasty's bandura strumming. Mr. Alpert joined his Ukrainian colleagues, continuing his Yiddish "Night Songs." Listeners could recognize the "Khodyt Son..." melody as the well-known ballad "Summertime," which George Gershwin composed for his musical "Porgy and Bess" after hearing the lullaby at a 1929 Carnegie Hall concert that featured the Koshetz Ukrainian National Choir.

Prior to the Symphony Space concert, the Ukrainian and Jewish ensembles were heard in interviews and performances during a one-hour session on WNYC's "New Sounds" show. The Paris to Kyiv ensemble also gave a concert at the French Embassy in Washington, an evening that "had a nice vibe and a youthful audience," according to Ms. Kochan.

While in the U.S. Ms. Kochan was also guest instructor at folk-song workshops in New York City and Hartford, Conn., conducted by Mr. Kytasty, the director of the New York Bandura Ensemble. A participant of the NYC workshop described the intensive one-day examination of Ukrainian folk songs as "a fabulous experience."

### Wedding frivolity

The Shevchenko Scientific Society, like its uptown-based counterpart, the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, is generally regarded as a serious-minded, scholarly institution involved with conferences and publishing activities. Yet it has its lighter moments, as a recent lecture at the society's trim four-story building revealed.

Natalie Kononenko, professor of folklore and East Slavic languages at the University of Virginia, discoursed on Ukrainian village wedding customs of central Ukraine, specifically those of the



Alexis Kochan and Julian Kytasty

Cherkasy and Kyiv oblasts, which she visited last year.

Describing the Ukrainian village wedding as a complex affair with many important functions, the speaker said it cements the union between bride and groom, contains fertility symbols to ensure the couple will bear children and honors the parents who reared the young couple. The village wedding also includes many moods, from solemn religious expression to a great deal of frivolity and merry-making.

Parents assume prominent roles throughout the wedding process, Ms. Kononenko pointed out. For a couple to be engaged, a formal request must be made to the parents, who are also in charge of the wedding preparations. Parents are the first to be invited to the wedding, the bride inviting the groom's parents and he inviting hers. After the vows, the bride and groom bow to both sets of parents and often to their godparents. Parents also begin the gift-giving and the expression of good wishes that conclude ceremonial meals during wedding festivities, which usually last two to three days.

The solemn part of the wedding, Ms. Kononenko said, is followed by a period of frivolity variously called "tsyhanschyna" (gypsy fest), "kury" (chickens), "tsyhany" (gypsies) or "vechirky" (evening party). She explained that *tsyhanschyna* activities, which provide tension release and balance to the solemnity and seal the serious rite "with the magic of laughter," also confirm the power of the parents as well as subvert it. These activities might include a day of general thievery and mischief on the part of wedding guests or an "attack" by wedding guests on anyone who chooses to return to daily activities (instead of continuing the celebration) by committing pranks in their homes.

The most popular form of post-wedding romping, in Ms. Kononenko's view, is the *tsyhanschyna* that includes a costume party, with some guests in gypsy attire (and some cross-dressing) and a procession along the village street to the river bank. Several young men pull a decorated cart in which the bride's or groom's parents are transported to the river and dumped into a shallow spot in the stream. Some of the men go after the couple, especially the father, dousing him and pushing him into deeper water. In an attempt to get more people into the water, general pushing and shoving follows; at that point, many people disrobe to their underwear and go swimming.

Ms. Kononenko's interest in folklore began with the Ukrainian tales and other stories she heard in her childhood from her mother and grandfather. A graduate of

Radcliffe College (B.A.) and Harvard University (M.A. and Ph.D.), she has won a number of distinctions and awards, including the 1997 Kovaliv Prize for best book in Ukrainian studies awarded for "Ukrainian Minstrels: And the Blind Shall Sing" (published by M.E. Sharpe, Armonk, New York and London, England, 1998).

Illuminating a tradition of oral poetry, "Ukrainian Minstrels" focuses on the blind *kobzari* and *limnyky* of the Ukrainian countryside and includes new translations of the basic songs of their repertory. Ten years in the making, the book includes detailed chapters on the evolution of the minstrels' elaborate guild system and its connections with the Orthodox Church.

Ms. Kononenko is also the author of "Witchcraft," a book just published in Canada, and "The Turkish Minstrel Tale Traditions"; she is co-editor of "Ukrainian Dumy," editor of "The Magic Egg and Other Ukrainian Stories," to which she contributed a number of tales; and she has prepared an array of articles, book chapters and encyclopedia entries on folklore topics.

### Bravos for Hrabova

Back in February, soprano Oleksandra (Lesia) Hrabova appeared as Violetta in the Dicapo Opera production of Verdi's "La Traviata," winning "star of the show" commendation from The New York Times. Now Opera News has jumped into the act with ecstatic compliments.

Music critic John W. Freeman called Ms. Hrabova's performance "a remarkably detailed, sensitively responsive, wholly convincing Violetta."

Mr. Freeman's review, which appeared in the June issue of Opera News, included these details: "The Ukrainian soprano looked, acted and sounded the part with gripping sincerity, wearing her costumes and jewels in Act I with the classy assurance of a Jarmila Novotna, singing her Act II duets with the vibrant intensity of a Licia Albanese. Hrabova's bright, steady, expressive voice handled a full range of dynamics without any lapse of composure, and her attentiveness to the other characters followed a legato line of motivation. In 'Sempre libera' her passagework sounded accurate yet spontaneous; in 'Addio del passato' one felt the purity of despair."

Concurrent with her growing fame in the world of opera, Ms. Hrabova remains very active in Ukrainian circles. During the Fourth of July weekend she appeared at the Grahda cultural center in Hunter, N.Y. (July 3) and at the Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM) camp in Ellenville, N.Y. (July 4).



Natalie Kononenko

# Mountains and magic: The Zakarpattia region's Lake Synevyr

by Ksenia Rychtycka

Zakarpattia. Like the region it depicts, the very resonance of this word when spoken aloud in Ukrainian conveys a sense of allure, magic, music and, yes, overwhelming beauty. Zakarpattia – the land that lies beyond the Carpathian Mountains. Somehow the English equivalent, Transcarpathia, does not set the same ambience.

Last summer, before floods and tragedy struck the residents of Zakarpattia, I had an opportunity to visit this scenic region of western Ukraine where life slows to the beat of an earlier century, an outmoded pace of living, in many respects a more rustic yet somehow satisfying existence that has long been extinguished in much of the modern world. Horses, geese and ducks amble along the side of the road, cows graze only a few feet away from the path of automobiles, dogs race through the countryside in a carefree and lively manner – this is an area where spontaneity and an easygoing simplicity exist side by side. Houses, located against the backdrop of mountains and rushing streams, are tidy and well-kept, and even when passing through the smaller cities and towns, rows of windowbox flowers frame each dwelling along the street, lending a Western European air.

Although newcomers are observed with precision in these parts, the stares are ones of friendly curiosity as one drives past a group of men standing in a circle, all sporting close-fitting “kashkety,” caps that resemble Greek fisherman caps. The men's faces are dark and heavily creased from the sun and it is easily evident that these are robust and hardworking people. The women are no less curious or stalwart, gold teeth glinting in the sunlight as they ride past in horsedrawn buggies, prod cattle on with a stick or sit with their neighbors, flowered kerchiefs tied tightly underneath their chins.

The atmosphere is so far removed from the bustle of the 20th century that I had to keep reminding myself that I was not on the set of a movie and that no director would dispel the pastoral scene before my eyes by yelling out the words “CUT!”

My destination was the mountain lake Synevyr, known as the blue pearl of the Ukrainian Carpathians, located 20 kilometers from the town of Mizhhiria, which literally means “between the mountains.”

Considering Ukraine's poor economic state, the roads in this part of the country are in fairly good condition until one reaches the final 10-kilometer stretch that leads to the Synevyr resort. Here the road turns into a dirt track where boulders, wide gaping holes and puddles makes it nearly impossible to navigate a bicycle, let alone an automobile. The endeavor becomes worthwhile, however, when one finally makes it to this lake, whose very existence is amazing, given its location in the mountains at an elevation of 989 meters.

My traveling companions and I arrived in the evening and walked up the paved road to the lake as the sun was casting a glow on the surrounding mountains lined with rows and rows of spruce trees. It appears as though the tree tops are tapping the sky. At the edge of the lake is a large wooden deck. When one stands there, one feels the rushing water from the three streams that flow into the lake create an uncanny sensation of movement.

The lake was formed about 10,000 years ago when the river valley was dammed in the post-glacial period. Today, swimming is prohibited, due not so much to the icy water as to the dangerous undertow. At the edge of the path, not far from the steps leading down to the lake, I spotted a large, wooden house that was lit up, casting an air of coziness and reminiscent a Victorian bed and breakfast situated in some New England



Ksenia Rychtycka

## Zakarpattia's picturesque Lake Synevyr.

village rather than the pristine wild of western Ukraine.

After venturing up to the house, a man who was sitting on the porch asked me in half-Ukrainian and half-English if I happened to speak “anglais.” When I responded that I did, he sprang to his feet and greeted me as though he were a castaway on some far-flung isle. Sixty-year-old Gale Jamsen was a Peace Corps volunteer who had been in Ukraine for a year and, by coincidence, hailed from my home state of Michigan. Although he had great difficulty in learning Ukrainian, he claimed that Ukrainians are the most hospitable people in the world and that the locals had taken him under their wing.

There is no plumbing at this B&B, but there is a sauna of which Gale, being of Finnish descent, took great advantage and highly recommended.

He told me that one of the first words that he did pick up in Ukrainian was “dosyt,” means “enough.” As visitors quickly discover, in practically every region of Ukraine, it is almost impossible to refuse heaping quantities of food and drink, Zakarpattia is no exception.

After serving as an interpreter between Mr. Jamsen and the B&B owner, I and my companions headed back to the Synevyr resort, where we were staying for the night. In total darkness, with no lights whatsoever to guide the way, the road down was uneven and even somewhat treacherous, but the sky above us was glorious and clear, filled with masses and masses of stars.

Our journey in the dark, however, did not turn out to be our biggest obstacle that night. Although its rugged grandeur and overwhelming atmosphere of peace and calm make Zakarpattia a good tourist retreat, a sense of adaptability to the existing, sometimes even primitive, living conditions is an absolute must. For instance, hot water is more of a luxury than a basic in these parts.

Then there is the matter of making tourists feel welcome rather than like intruders. The idea of making paying guests happy had not fully sunk in with the employees at the resort where we were staying.

We made it back that evening only to find that the doors were locked and there was no one on duty. Even though it was only 10 p.m., we were effectively locked out for the night. The entire building was suspiciously dark, making us wonder if we

were the only group of tourists in the entire complex. Trying to remain calm, we finally saw a light on in one of the rooms off to the side. Through a window we spotted a woman sitting. Two of us crawled up onto the ledge and began knocking on the window, asking her to please open the front door. The woman saw us and stood up. Assuming she would let us in, we traipsed back to the front of the building.

After about 15 minutes, it became obvious that she had no intention of letting us inside. So I headed back to the ledge and once again began knocking on the window, telling her that we were guests here. After a few more minutes, she flared up, grabbed the keys and finally opened the door for us, screaming that she was not on duty and that we had disturbed her child. She also claimed that if she hadn't locked the door, we would be complaining about thieves coming in the night to rob us. Nothing like encouraging tourism, I couldn't help thinking.

The next day we found out that indeed she was the one on duty, however when we ran into her later, she was a different person – smiling, friendly, pointing the way to the dining room.

Finding a working telephone to call my sister back in Ivano-Frankivsk on the following morning turned into another two-hour trek. The phones at the post office and city hall had been out for two weeks and we ended up driving to the town of Synevyr, where there is one phone line, one that can be used only by state officials. We, however, were allowed to use it since the state official also happened to be from the Ivano-Frankivsk region, the region of my family's roots.

Afterwards, we headed back to the resort and went for one last look at the lake. The Peace Corps volunteer was giddy about being able to converse freely for the second day in a row and told me that although he greatly enjoyed his work here, he was concerned about a few things, such as the fact that trees are still cut down in the national park and that the locals don't yet understand that conservation is essential.

In a few months, Mr. Jamsen said, he would be leaving Zakarpattia and Ukraine for good. We were also getting ready to explore other areas in this part of the country, but he wouldn't let us depart without filling us in on the legend of Lake Synevyr.

“You know the locals say everybody who falls in love at Synevyr will never

break up,” he told us, grinning. “It's all part of the legend.” As we listened, intrigued, he told us that according to legend, a long time ago, the mountains here belonged to a rich count who forced the mountaineers to work for him. One day, the count decided to inspect his lands and see how his woodcutters worked. His young, beautiful daughter, who was named Syn (blueness) – since her eyes reflected all the blueness of the endless Carpathian sky – went along with him.

Her father, busy with his own work, didn't notice when Syn, enchanted by the beauty around her, went out to the mountain meadow. She sat down under a spruce tree and suddenly heard the soft, haunting melody of a sopilka (wooden flute). When she looked around, she saw a gorgeous boy who played the sopilka and herded sheep. His name was Vyr and when he noticed Syn, he stopped playing. The girl asked him to play some more and listened to the magical, beautiful melody as he played until evening.

The next time her father went to the mountains, Syn went along to meet Vyr and they ended up falling in love. However, someone told the count that his daughter and Vyr, the poor shepherd from Verkhovyna, were in love. And as is the case in all such tales, the count forbade his daughter to meet Vyr. The lovers paid no heed.

One day, when the couple was supposed to meet, Vyr came to their usual meeting spot and began playing the sopilka. The count's servants snuck up and threw a large stone at him from a cliff, killing him instantly. When Syn arrived, she saw what had happened to her love and began sobbing. A lake formed from the tears that she shed and swallowed her up. People named the lake Synevyr (Syn and Vyr) and say that the water in this lake is as blue as the Carpathian sky, blue as the eyes of Syn.

“That's the legend around here,” Mr. Jamsen finished, still grinning. We agreed to pass the legend on to other tourists, acknowledging this could be a good promotion for a honeymoon getaway. As we drove away from the blue pearl of the Carpathians, I stole one last look behind. Beside the looming spruce trees and greenery, I spotted Gale Jamsen standing alone, his hands bulging with cookies that my aunt, an Ivano-Frankivsk local, had enthusiastically pressed into them, while he helplessly uttered the word “dosyt!” over and over.

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## German chancellor...

(Continued from page 1)

the two nuclear complexes.

Germany, which had supported the completion of the Rivne and Khmelnytsky reactors, has done a turn-about of sorts since Mr. Schroeder's new center-left coalition government, with its heavy smattering of anti-nuke Green Party members, assumed power. It is believed that Mr. Schroeder, a Social Democrat, came to Ukraine with only a half-hearted proposal, but one that would keep the Greens in his coalition satisfied.

Mr. Schroeder, whose only comment on Ukraine's rebuke was that Germany would make its final decision on whether to support Ukraine's request in September when the next G-7 summit is to be held, chose instead to accent the developing relations between the two countries and their joint intention to develop investment in Ukraine.

After arriving in Kyiv on July 8 he made it plain that the success of his visit would not depend on Ukraine acceding to demands put on it by Germany's Green Party.

"The main objective of my visit is to develop political and economic relations between Germany and Ukraine," said Mr. Schroeder at Boryspil Airport.

Germany has invested merely \$231.8 million into the Ukrainian economy since 1991, even though it has held itself out to be a major European partner for Ukraine. Mr. Schroeder said in Kyiv that he is looking for ways to spur German investment here.

True to his word, most of the eight agreements that were signed were commerce-related, including an agreement with Siemens AG to develop high-technology freight and passenger rail trunk lines and a joint German-Ukrainian proj-

ect for the development of an agricultural machinery manufacturing plant.

President Kuchma admitted that Ukraine is at fault for the low level of German investment and said he would work to rectify the matter. "This has happened because of an insufficiently attractive investment climate," said Mr. Kuchma.

Yet, during a German-Ukrainian business forum, the Ukrainian side said it could not give German investors government guarantees for investment in the country which they have sought to safeguard German businesses against the instability of the Ukrainian marketplace.

As regards political affairs, Mr. Schroeder said that Germany would support Ukraine's integration into European institutions, but that the process of Ukraine joining the European Union would take place incrementally.

"It will proceed stage by stage. First an agreement on free trade must be agreed upon, then Ukraine should attain associate membership," said Mr. Schroeder.

Although the two sides could not reach agreement on some of the most important economic and political issues they sought to resolve, both Chancellor Schroeder and President Kuchma expressed their satisfaction with the two-day visit.

At the closing press conference at Mariinsky Palace, Mr. Schroeder, who called the Ukrainian president "a good friend," even let down his diplomatic guard a bit and made a quip about the upcoming Ukrainian presidential elections. "While respecting the independent choice of the Ukrainian electorate, who will judge on their own the policies that have been pursued, let me just say: Kuchma is for an independent state, which does not wish to depend on anybody," said the German chancellor.

## United Nations...

(Continued from page 3)

better than 99 percent.

For Ms. Karpachova the education rating was the only encouraging news in what for her was a dismal report. But even there she tempered her optimism.

"Education is probably the only thing that kept us from not placing further down the list," said the Verkhovna Rada human rights ombudsman. "But much of that effect is a remnant of the Soviet Union and our future possibilities are decreasing there as well."

Ukraine finds itself sandwiched below Sri Lanka and above Uzbekistan in the U.N. Human Development Report. It is rated as more developed than six of the 15 republics that once made up the Soviet Union and countries such as China, Egypt, India and South Africa. However, it is far down the line from its neighbors Poland (rated 44th), Russia (71st), Romania (61st) and most surprisingly of all Belarus, which was put in the 60th slot.

Mridula Ghosh, program advisor for the U.N. Development Program, said Ukraine's lower rating is chiefly due to an ever-worsening life expectancy rate and the country's inability to pay wages and pensions, which brings per capita income averages way down.

She explained that the big difference between Ukraine and Belarus is that the latter, with its much smaller population, can show a better GDP per capita income. She also said that Ukraine's position is skewed by the fact that Ukraine has often submitted inaccurate or incomplete information to the UNDP.

Mykola Tomenko, director of the Institute of Politics, who helped develop the report for Ukraine, had a more direct answer as to why Belarus, which from all indications seems to be sinking to the level of a Third World country, fared so much better than Ukraine in the human development report.

"There has long been an ongoing discussion within the UNDP on whether or not to establish indicators for free speech and level of democratization, but that has not yet been realized," said Mr. Tomenko. "That is why we see Belarus in 60th place."

Ms. Ghosh underscored that the rating is not the end-all in terms of how countries are developing, but merely a snapshot at a given moment which can utilize only the information that is available. "This should not be looked at in absolute terms, it is only a way of weighing and relating Ukraine to other countries. It is relative, and it is impossible to quantify everything," said Ms. Ghosh.

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## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

million contract. The facility, which will have a storage capacity of 3,000 tons, is scheduled to be completed by 2003. Vissarion Kim, director of Ukraine's Enerhoatom nuclear energy company, described the construction of the storage facility as a "step toward the timely closure of the [Chornobyl] station." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Police remove plant manager

KYIV – Police on July 7 forced Vitalii Meshyn, former director of the Mykolaiv Alumina Plant, out of his office and "isolated him in another room," the Eastern Economic Daily reported. The government, which holds a majority stake in the plant, on June 24 appointed a new director to replace Mr. Meshyn. The dismissal has provoked protests among the plant's 7,000 workers. According to Mr. Meshyn, the government fired him in order to put the plant under the control of an international metallurgical company that already controls much of the aluminum production in the former Soviet Union. Last week the Verkhovna Rada passed a statement declaring Mr. Meshyn's dismissal illegal and asking the government to revoke it. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Youth protest proliferation of tax officers

KYIV – The Molod – Nadiia Ukrainy (Youth – The Hope of Ukraine) all-Ukrainian association on July 8 protested the "proliferation" of tax officers with a demonstration outside the State Tax Administration. The protest featured a "ceremonious, free of charge and VAT-free" handout of condoms to STA workers. The action is dedicated to a new surge in the "birth rate" of tax collectors, and the introduction of district tax inspectors, who will be authorized to conduct searches of taxpayers' homes. Association leader Vadym Hladchuk said Ukraine has seen an increase in the number of brutal raids on entrepreneurs by tax authorities. He connected the increase with the upcoming presidential election. Mr. Hladchuk said this is "the final blow to the constitutional right of Ukrainian citizens." The action is designed to draw public attention to the willful and "foul" behavior of individual tax officers who ignore presidential decrees for deregulation of entrepreneurship. (Eastern Economist)

### Rada warns against dictatorship

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on July 2 adopted a statement claiming that the Ukrainian government is illegally helping President Leonid Kuchma in his preparations for the October 31 presidential election. The statement warns against the threat of "replacing democratic principles with a government dictatorship" in Ukraine. It adds that the government has "usurped" the media and put pressure on other presidential candidates. All of Mr. Kuchma's main presidential rivals – Yevhen Marchuk, Oleksander Moroz, Petro Symonenko, Oleksander Tkachenko and Natalia Vitrenko – are members of Parliament. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Azerbaijan, Ukraine sign agreements

BAKU – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk held talks in Baku on June 30 with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Tofik Zulfugarov, focusing on more intensive cooperation between NATO and the GUUAM member-states (Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova), Ukrainian arms sales to Azerbaijan and the possible export of Azerbaijan's Caspian oil via

Ukraine, Turan and Interfax reported. The following day, the two ministers signed cooperation agreements on motor transportation, sea trade and tourism. On July 1 Mr. Tarasyuk met with Parliament Chairman Murtuz Alesqerov and with President Heidar Aliev. Describing Ukraine as one of Azerbaijan's most important partners, Mr. Aliev expressed support for Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's bid for re-election this fall. President Aliev also acknowledged, but declined to divulge the content of, a new Ukrainian proposal for resolving the deadlocked Karabakh conflict, according to Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Mitiukov earmarks technology budgets

KYIV – During Cabinet Day at the Verkhovna Rada on June 8 administration officials reported to lawmakers on financial support for the science and technology sector. The Parliament also heard reports by Accounting Chamber Chairman Valentyn Symonenko, and by the Committee for Science and Education. Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov announced that 1.08 percent of GDP, or 1.3 billion hrv, will be earmarked for projects in science and technology in 1999, including 1.36 percent, or 671 million hrv, from the state budget. Mr. Mitiukov blamed cuts in science support on first quarter budget revenue shortfalls. The Cabinet has imposed a temporary ceiling on science funding at 671 million hrv, or 81 percent of the 1999 target figure, to be removed automatically should revenues go up. "The only area to receive 100 percent of target allocations by June 1 is fundamental research," Mr. Mitiukov said. Unpaid salaries to science workers total 95 million hrv as of June 1. "It's right where it was back in January," said Mr. Mitiukov, who promised to pay down arrears by the end of 1999. He stressed the need to prioritize fundamental research and hold tenders to competitively select bidders to carry out research projects. (Eastern Economist)

### Land privatization proceeds slowly

KYIV – The privatization of land is taking place at a sluggish pace in Ukraine, according to the Eastern Economic Daily. So far, some 27 million hectares of land have been privatized, with an average of 4.2 hectares per landowner. The main factors holding up the process are the lack of appropriate legislation and the negative public attitude toward land privatization. A recent poll found that 37 percent of Ukrainians are opposed to the privatization of land. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### End of duty-free trade with Belarus

KYIV – The Ukrainian government has abolished the regime of duty-free trade with Belarus under which the value-added tax was not imposed on goods imported to Ukraine from Belarus. The decision came in response to Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's February decree imposing a VAT on Ukrainian exports to Belarus. The duty-free trade regime between the two countries lasted for only one year. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### U.S. announces scholarship competitions

KYIV – The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine will issue 15 scholarships for scientists. The scholarships will enable selected scientists from Ukraine to conduct research in the U.S. for up to one year on a variety of topics, including political and social science, philosophy, international relations, legal issues, economics and business. (Eastern Economist)



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що 10 липня 1999 р. відійшов у вічність на 85-му році життя

бл. п.

д-р мед

## ІВАН МАКАРЕВИЧ

ПАНАХИДА відбулася ввечері, 13 липня 1999 р.  
ПАРАСТАС в середу, 14 липня 1999 р. в заведенні Quinn Funeral Home, Асторія, Н.Й.  
ПОХОРОН в четвер, 15 липня після Служби Божої о год. 9-й ранку з церкви Чесного Хреста в Асторії на цвинтар св. Андрія Первозваного в С. Бавнд Бруку, Н. Дж.

Залишені в смутку:

дружина – НАТАЛІЯ  
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Вічна йому пам'ять!

Ділимося сумною вісткою, що в неділю, 11 липня 1999 р. відійшла у вічність на 78-му році життя наша найдорожча ТЕТА



бл. п.

## ВОЛОДИМИРА САДІВНИК

ПАНАХИДА відбулася в середу, 14 липня 1999 р. о год. 7:30 веч. в Peter Marrocco Funeral Home в Пассейку, Н. Дж.  
ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ в четвер, 15 липня 1999 р. в церкві St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ, а відтак на цвинтар св. Андрія Первозваного в С. Бавнд Бруку, Н. Дж.

Залишила в смутку:

родину – ЛЕЩУКІВ  
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## SPORTSLINE

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

### SOCCER

#### Ukrainian league to contract

Adding to the pain of the loss of its marquee player, the Ukrainian Professional Football League (UPFL) has decided to cut the number of teams in the premier division from 16 to 14 by the 2000-2001 season.

According to a Reuters report of July 1, League Secretary Dmytro Reznik said the reduction was necessitated by the large increase in the number of games for top clubs like Kyiv Dynamo.

Dynamo, who won the league and cup double and reached the semifinals of the European Cup last season, must again play in domestic and European competition while its players also make up the bulk of the national squad.

"It makes such a heavy load for our best players so they barely have time to rest," Mr. Reznik said.

The new season begins on July 12.

The 1998-1999 campaign ended on June 25, as Dynamo Kyiv lost its final game with Mr. Shevchenko on its roster, a 2-1 decision taken by Karpaty Lviv. (See chart below.)

#### National team stumbles

Once again, after looking very strong, lackadaisical play by Ukraine's national side has allowed its rivals in its European Cup qualifying group to close in on them. On June 5, in Kyiv, they trounced group doormats Andorra 4-0 on goals by Serhii Popov (36th minute), Serhii Rebrov (41st), Yurii Dmytrulin (60th) and Andrii Husin adding a marker in the final seconds.

However, matters soured considerably four days later in the team's away match against Armenia. As they did in World Cup qualifying play, the Armenians held the Ukrainians to a scoreless tie, with coach Jozsef Szabo substituting Andriy Shevchenko and Mr. Rebrov out of the game in frustration. However, neither Serhii Skachenko (for Rebrov in the 72nd minute) nor Vasyl Kardash (for Shevchenko at the 67th) could provide the needed marker.

In the meantime, Russia has been on a charge, winning its away match in France 3-2 on June 5 and avenging an earlier loss to Iceland by taking the return engagement 1-0 on June 9. Iceland did not find Armenia as puzzling as the Ukrainians did, and took its June 5 match by a score of 2-0. France looked weak in its away game against Andorra, needing a penalty kick at the 87th minute to prevail narrowly 1-0.

This has plunged the group into turmoil, with France a scant point behind Ukraine in

the standings and Russia and Iceland tied for a close third behind. Every one of the ensuing matches, played this fall, will be crucial.

Schedule (home team first):

#### September 4

- UKRAINE vs. France
- Iceland vs. Andorra
- Russia vs. Armenia

#### September 8

- Iceland vs. UKRAINE
- Andorra vs. Russia
- Armenia vs. France

#### October 9

- Russia vs. UKRAINE
- France vs. Iceland
- Andorra vs. Armenia

### STANDINGS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Ukraine	4	3	0	12	3	15
2. France	4	2	1	11	6	14
3. Russia	4	0	3	17	10	12
4. Iceland	3	3	1	7	3	12
5. Armenia	1	1	4	3	10	4
6. Andorra	0	0	5	6	19	0

(Legend: W-Win, D-Draw, L-Loss, F-Goals For, A-Goals Against, Pts-Points)

### HOCKEY

#### World championships

When Ukraine's players reach the top level in international hockey competition, they often receive a rude greeting. This year's International Ice Hockey Federation World Senior Championships, held May 1-16 in Oslo, Hamar and Lillehammer, Norway, were no exception.

Ukraine lost to Finland 3-1 on May 2, 4-1 to Russia two days later, then were beaten soundly by Belarus on May 6 in a 6-1 shocker (given the closeness of the previous games).

Two Ukrainians have top-10 stats.

Ukraine's goaltender Oleksander Viukhin faced a barrage of 76 shots in three games, allowing eight goals, for a ninth-ranked save percentage of 89.47. Quite respectable, given that he bested NHL standout Arturs Irbe of Latvia, who benefited from a stronger defense.

In the "toughness" category, defenseman

(Continued on page 13)

### Final standings in Ukrainian soccer

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dynamo Kyiv	30	23	5	2	75	17	74
2. Shakhtar Donetsk	30	20	5	5	70	25	65
3. Kryvbas Kryvyi Rih	30	6	11	3	43	18	59
4. Karpaty Lviv	30	15	10	5	54	34	55
5. Metalurg Mariupol	30	14	6	10	35	27	48
6. Metalist Kharkiv	30	14	5	11	31	32	47
7. CSKA Kyiv	30	11	10	9	37	35	43
8. Metalurg Zaporizhia	30	12	6	12	46	43	42
9. Tavria Symferopol	30	10	7	13	33	39	37
10. Vorskla Poltava	30	10	5	15	36	43	35
11. Zirka Kirovohrad	30	9	7	14	31	40	34
12. Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk	30	9	5	16	28	44	32
13. Nyva Ternopil	30	8	7	15	29	41	31
14. Metalurg Donetsk	30	7	7	16	27	51	28
15. Prykarpattia Ivano-Frankivsk	30	6	6	18	21	59	24
16. SK Mykolaiv	30	2	6	22	18	67	12



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# Sportsline

(Continued from page 12)

Viacheslav Zavalniuk placed eighth in the "most penalized" list, on the strength of a 10-minute misconduct and four minor penalties. The team performed well in killing penalties, managing to hold off 84 percent of opponents' man advantages, to finish seventh in the special teams rankings.

Ukraine finished 14th in a field of 16, but avoided relegation. They will play in the next millennium's qualification tournament against Kazakstan, Latvia and the U.K. (newly promoted from Pool A).

At the World Under-18 Junior Championships, held April 8-18 in Füssen and Kaufbeuren, Germany, Ukraine fared somewhat better.

Resounding losses to the Czech Republic (6-1 on April 10) and Sweden (10-2 on April 13) in the preliminary round were balanced by a victory over Germany (4-0 on April 11). In relegation play, Ukraine bested Norway 3-0 on April 15, but lost to the U.S. 6-0 the next day. As a result, the blue-and-yellows finished eighth out of a field of 10.

Ukraine's goaltender, Vadym Selevestrov, deserves a special medal. Over six games, he faced a monstrous 227 shots (an average of 38 shots per game), making a tournament-leading 201 saves, for a percentage of 88.55 (seventh over all). Now if only he had a defense corps ...

Following a recurring theme, a Ukrainian distinguished himself by landing in the penalty box. Right-winger Alex Salashchenko garnered 33 minutes in penalties (third in the rankings), boosted by a 20-minute misconduct added to his five minors and one five-minute major. Roman Scherbatiuk took a category-leading total of 11 minor penalties, placing him 14th on the "most penalized" list. Yevhen Yemelianenko also kept busy with 18 minutes on nine minors (18th), and Oleksander Pobedonostsev sat out 12 minutes on six minors (tied for 24th).

This proved costly, as Ukraine surrendered nine goals when in a manpower disadvantage. Mr. Salaschenko made some amends for his willingness to tangle by potting a short-handed goal. The team's penalty killing was seventh over all, with a 84.48 percentage.

Right-winger Oleksander Yanchenko was among the leaders in goal scoring in the tournament. He was the championship's leading opportunist, with three powerplay goals, and adding one at even strength to place fourth over all in goals scored. Mr. Salaschenko added two goals at even strength, for 10th spot over all.

### Identity mysteries

There seems to be an even split among

Ukrainian hockey fans on the subject of Wayne Gretzky, definitely the highest scoring player who ever donned a pair of skates and arguably the greatest. There are those who insist that Mr. Gretzky is himself Ukrainian; and those who are embarrassed by this insistence, likening it to erstwhile Soviet claims on the invention of baseball. These two camps are likely to exist past the Brantford, Ontario, native's retirement, which, sadly, he announced in New York in April.

In the meantime, one mystery surrounding a hockey player's background that arose earlier this season can be dispelled. In this space it was noted that Denys Shvydkiy, a center on the Russian national junior team that won the 1999 world championship in Winnipeg, could be Ukrainian.

In fact, Mr. Shvydkiy was born in Kharkiv, on November 21, 1980, and in the 1998-1999 season played as a left-winger for the Ontario Hockey League's Barrie Colts. A 6'1" 195-pounder, he was Barrie's first round selection in the Canadian Hockey League's import draft (11th over all), arriving from Russia's Torpedo Yaroslavl senior team.

The Kharkovite was selected as the OHL's rookie of the month in November 1998 and the league's player of the week for the seven days ending on January 17. On April 16, Mr. Shvydkiy was named to the OHL's First All-Rookie team.

Over the season, the forward scored 35 goals and 59 assists for 94 points in 61 games, the second highest total among rookies, behind teammate Sheldon Keefe.

In the playoffs, the Colts, who finished atop the Central Division, were upset in seven, often chippy, games by the Oshawa Generals. Mr. Shvydkiy stayed out of the penalty box throughout the brouhaha that broke around him, scored five goals and assisted on six.

He is eligible for the 1999 NHL Entry Draft.

### Golf note

Matt Kuchar, the Floridian phenom who was invited to last year's U.S. Open Golf tournament and performed so well that he earned a return trip, has suffered the fate of many young golfers. After the initial flash, Mr. Kuchar wilted under the pressure of having turned pro. At this year's U.S. Open, he shot a 16-over par in the first round and did not make the cut.

Sportsline can be reached by e-mail: [toronto@ukrweekly.com](mailto:toronto@ukrweekly.com).

If you know of the sportish exploits of a Ukrainian athlete, team, coach, or even management type, please let us know. Please provide evidence of any individual's Ukrainian background or history of having played/coached for Ukraine.

## Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

1937. In late 1941 he was pressed into a front-line punitive battalion thrown against the invading Nazis, and months later was taken prisoner, now suffering at a different oppressor's hand, and languished in a POW camp in Germany until 1945.

At war's end Mysyk managed to return to his native Dnipropetrovske region and worked as an accountant until 1956, when as a result of the partial thaw of the Khrushchev years, he was "rehabilitated." It took him only two years to pick up where he left off. Invigorated by his encounter with Lukash, by 1958 he completed a volume of translations of Burns' poetry. Through the 1960s and '70s he tackled Shakespeare's "Timon of Athens," completed a version of Omar Khayyam's "Rubayat," translated John Keats "Selected Poems," and produced renderings of works by John Milton, Byron, Goethe, Friedrich Hölderlin, Pierre-Jean Beranger, Walt Whitman, Joe Wallace, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and the Persians Saadi, Busti, Ibn Sina, Djami and Firdousi.

He returned to the works of Tajik poets, translated from Azerbaijani, Turkmen, Georgian and modern Greek, and wrote another five collections of poetry: "Borozy" (Furrows, 1962), "Verkhovittia" (Top Branches, 1963), "Chornotrop" (The Snow-Free Way, 1966), "Lan" (Farmland, 1970) and "Bereh" (The Shore, 1972). In 1977 he was awarded the Maksym Rylsky Prize in Ukrainian Literature.

Vasyl Mysyk died on March 3, 1983 in Kharkiv.

Sources: "Mysyk, Vasyl," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 3 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); "Mysyk, Vasyl," *Ukrainska Literaturna Entsiklopediya*, Vol. 3 (Kyiv: URE, 1994); Hryhorii Kostyuk, "Spomyn pro Vasylia Mysyka" *Suchasnist*, No. 6, 1965.



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## SUMMER PROGRAMS 1999

**Saturday, July 24**  
8:30 p.m. **CONCERT** – soprano **LILEYA VOLANSKY**  
10:00 p.m. **DANCE** – music provided by **VODOHRAY**

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**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**  
Director – **OKSANA LYKHOVYD**  
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**

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**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**  
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## Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

### Matvichuk, Hrkac among shining Stars

There were nights during the 1999 playoffs when the Dallas Stars were Joe Nieuwendyk's team – and he has the Conn Smythe Trophy to prove it. There were other nights, like when the Stanley Cup was awarded after the second-longest game in the history of the final, when it was overtime hero Brett Hull's team.

Then there were nights when it was Mike Modano's or Ed Belfour's or Jere Lehtinen's or Pat Verbeek's or Derian Hatcher's or Guy Carbonneau's or Mike Keane's. Heck, there was even a night when it was Craig Ludwig's. One could make a case that on any given night, it belonged to coach Ken Hitchcock.

But as the Stars captured the organization's first Stanley Cup on Hull's goal at 14:51 of the third overtime period – with a thrilling 2-1 win and six-game series victory over the Buffalo Sabres at 1:30 a.m. EDT on June 20 – there was but one man with proprietary rights to this club.

The cup-winning Dallas Stars are Bob Gainey's team.

"Not only did Bob put the team together piece by piece," said Bobby Clarke, Gainey's close friend and GM of the Philadelphia Flyers, "the Stars play the way he did. They play hard and smart, they're as good without the puck as they are with it. There's a strength of character there. That's Bob's team, all right."

In 1999, finally, the man with five cup rings, a Conn Smythe Trophy and four Selke Trophies as the league's best defensive forward has a new label: architect of a champion.

Once a winner, always a winner –

through it has been 13 long years since Gainey last won it all, as captain of the Montreal Canadiens in 1986. Three years ago, his now cup-contending Stars lost in the opening round to the Edmonton Oilers. Last year, with Nieuwendyk going down with a knee injury just minutes into the first playoff game, the Stars fell victim to eventual champion Detroit Red Wings in the Western Conference final. There were times when many wondered if the Stars were destined to be a championship team.

Bob Gainey was not one of them.

"I knew if we could get a full team on the ice we would have our chance (to win the cup)," Gainey said. "Last year, Joe (Nieuwendyk) was out, and this year we were able to add Brett. There weren't as many holes as there were in other years."

The Stars are champions – only the 14th time in NHL history the Cup was won in an overtime game – but never let it be said they made it look easy. Three of their four series wins came in overtime.

While they swept the Oilers in the first round, every game was a one-goal decision. They beat the St. Louis Blues in six games, but four of them went into overtime. And they fell behind 3-2 in the Western Conference final against the Colorado Avalanche before rallying for a seven-game victory.

Against the Sabres, it was more of the same. Close, taut, hardfought hockey. Old time. Rarely during the final – five minutes and five seconds in the 430 minutes and 39 seconds of the series, to be precise – was there more than one goal separating the teams. In fact, throughout the playoffs, the Stars played 89 percent of the time either tied or in a one-goal

(Continued on page 15)

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## Gretzky voted into Hockey Hall of Fame

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Wayne Gretzky was voted into the Hockey Hall of Fame on June 23. The Associated Press reported that Mr. Gretzky was voted in "with the same ease with which he broke offensive records, as the 18-man selection committee waived the standard three-year waiting period."

Gretzky retired from hockey two months ago at age 38. He is the 10th player in National Hockey League history to have the waiting period waived.

Gretzky who played for the Edmonton Oilers, Los Angeles Kings, St. Louis Blues, and, most recently, with the New York Rangers, holds 61 NHL records. He was a 10-time scoring champion and a nine-time MVP. He won four Stanley Cups with the Oilers.

During his 21 years as a pro hockey player, Gretzky scored 894 goals, and had 1,963 assists for a total of 2, 857 points. He played in 1,487 games in 20 seasons.

## Captive Nations...

(Continued from page 7)

election his way. In 1980 Ronald Reagan blasted "the Evil Empire." This was music to the ears of ethnic Americans – "Reagan Democrats" – and they rewarded him with their votes. In 1991 President George Bush delivered his disastrous speech in Kyiv about "suicidal nationalism" and advised Ukrainians to stick with Russia. This was just days after Captive Nations Week and less than a month before Ukraine declared its independence. Bill Clinton and Al Gore, of course, capitalized on President Bush's mistake and won the next two elections.

Captive Nations, for obvious reasons, has faded as a slogan and an issue. The American military investment, the relentless efforts of the Captive Nations coalition and, yes, the dedicated work of

diplomats who negotiated arms control agreements and opened cracks in the Iron Curtain with exchanges, all contributed enormously to the final victory during the Cold War.

Yet in a way, Ukraine and the other former Soviet colonies are still "captive" – at least to the extent that they're stuck with the old Communist mindset. The West invested a great deal to win freedom for the Captive Nations, but victory will not be complete until those countries are democratic, secure and prosperous.

As we stop to reflect on Captive Nations Week, let's resolve to make sure America does not revert to isolationism, but remains involved, informed and engaged. Tell Gore, tell Bush, tell Bradley, tell Dole and Forbes and McCain. Oh, and I promise, no more sweaty marches during the third week of July. That's history.

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# Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 14)

game either way. The Stars were like a contending boxer who won bout after bout without ever scoring a knockout.

The final was the best for the NHL since 1994, when the New York Rangers beat the Vancouver Canucks in seven games. The Stars-Sabres series ended the ignominious streak of four straight Stanley Cup final sweeps.

The final was interesting, at times even compelling, because of its sheer intensity. The battles for the puck and space fairly raged; ultimately, it was a victory of grit over goals.

The Buffalo Sabres were valiant finalists.

Coach Lindy Ruff's playoff record as Sabres' coach stands at an impressive 24-12. The Sabres, throughout their playoff run that included victories over the Ottawa Senators, Boston Bruins and Toronto Maple Leafs, showed great resiliency, especially in their Game 4 victory and the Game 6 triple-overtime heartbreaker. "There was no quit in that Sabre team," Hitchcock said.

The Sabres' payroll of about \$26 million is \$20 million less than the Stars, who under owner Tom Hicks haven't hesitated to sign core free agents such as Hull, Belfour and Verbeek, not to mention veterans like Dave Reid and Shawn Chambers.

To suggest, though that the Stars are the best team money can buy would be an insult to Gainey, who patiently and steadfastly stuck with a program even through the dark days of recent playoff failures. Only one Star player - Modano, the NHL's No. 1 pick in 1988 - dated Gainey in the organization. Some, such as Hatcher, Ukrainian defenseman Richard Matvichuk and back-goal tender Roman Turek, were drafted when Bobby Clarke was the Stars GM and Gainey was the coach. But Gainey oversaw the drafts that netted Jamie Langenbrunner, Jere Lehtinen and Jon Sim, with many more fine young prospects on the way.

Gainey also realized when it was time for him to move on as coach. "I had run out of energy as a coach and the team had run out of energy with me as coach," he said of stepping down midway through the 1995-1996 season installed Hitchcock as coach. "We needed a change," he said.

Almost overnight that change gave the Stars an added dimension, and Hitchcock has emerged as one of the pre-eminent bench bosses in the game today.

Mind you, one of Gainey's strengths is his dogged determination to avoid change. He doesn't believe in renting players. He still clings to the notion of one player playing for one team, as outdated as that has become.

And he likes players who are capable of playing the game the way he played it: responsibly and at a high level when the chips are down. It was almost as if he were building a team in his own image, and though the Stars were lacking the ultimate success, he never really wavered.

"There are no guarantees, no matter what you do," Gainey said. "You chart your course and sail it. I think it's important to be consistent, be persistent and just believe in what you're doing. There's no magic recipe. You always just try to get a little better."

If that's so, then it was simply a matter of this being the right time for the Stars to succeed - as long as everyone knows it was no overnight success story.

"When I came to the organization (in 1991)," Ludwig said, "it was a .500 club, but I knew that was never going to be good enough for Bob.

"Bob has an aura about him and he

doesn't even have to be present for you to feel it. His office window overlooks our practice rink and not a day goes by that we're not aware of him, whether he's looking out or the shades are drawn. There are no pom poms with Bob, but when he speaks, he's heard. It was like when he was a player. He wouldn't say much, but when he did, you stood and saluted. He has instilled in every guy on this team, in one way or another, what it is to win because he himself is a winner."

A Stanley Cup winner - again. A Stanley Cup architect - finally.

(Quotes courtesy of Bob McKenzie of The Hockey News. Thanks.)

## Ukrainian player profiles: Stanley Cup winners

**HRKAC, TONY:** Born July 7, 1966, Thunder Bay, Ontario ... 5-11/185 ... Shoots left ... Full name: Anthony J. Hrkac ... College: North Dakota.

Transactions/career notes: Selected by St. Louis Blues as underage junior in second round (32nd over all) of NHL entry draft in 1989 ... Traded by Blues to Quebec Nordiques in 1989 ... Traded by Nordiques to San Jose in 1991 ... Traded by Sharks to Chicago Blackhawks in 1992 ... Signed as free agent by Blues in 1993 ... Signed as free agent by Dallas Stars in 1997 ... Claimed on waivers by Edmonton Oilers in 1998 ... Traded by Oilers to Pittsburgh Penguins in 1998 ... Selected by Nashville Predators in NHL expansion draft in 1998 ... Traded by Predators to Dallas in 1998.

Honors: Won Hobey Baker Memorial award (1986-1987) ... Won WCHA Most Valuable Player Award (1986-1987) ... Named to IHL All-Star first team (1992-1993).

**MATVICHUK, RICHARD:** Born February 5, 1973 in Edmonton, Alberta ... 6-2/190 ... Shoots left ...

Transactions/career notes: Selected by Minnesota North Stars in first round (eighth over all) of 1991 NHL entry draft ... North Stars franchise moved from Minnesota to Dallas and renamed Stars for 1993-1994 season ... Tore knee ligaments and underwent knee surgery in September 1994 ... Tore anterior cruciate knee ligament in January of 1998.

Honors: Won Bill Hunter Trophy (1991-1992).

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# PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, July 22

**NEW YORK:** The Yara Arts Group's new series, Nova Nomada, will present the debut performances of the Experimental Bandura Trio of Julian Kytasty, Mike Andrec, and Yuri Fedynsky; Maria Rewakowicz will read from her new book of poetry; actors from Yara Arts Group will perform poetry from a new book of translations of Ludmyla Taran's work; Eugene Hutz will read from his forthcoming books. Afterwards, Mr. Hutz will deejay his special blend of ethno-music as the audience will meet the artists over beer and pretzels. The event will take place at 8:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Sports Club, 122 Second Ave. Admission is \$5.

of the popular talk show "Just You," will speak on "The Mass Media and Ukraine's Upcoming Presidential Elections." Participants are advised to bring their own lunches; coffee and soda will be provided. To register, call the UCCA, (212) 228-6840.

Saturday, July 24

**HUNTER, N.Y.:** Satoko Ishidze and Maryna Rohozhyna, master class students of pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, will appear in concert at the Grazhda, Route 23A, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, July 25

**UNIONDALE, N.Y.:** St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church invites everyone to the annual picnic at the parish center. There will be ethnic food, music and activities for children. Admission is free and there is ample parking. For more information call the Rev. Maxim Kobasuk, (516) 481-7717.

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America will host its second "brown bag" lunch at noon at the UCCA National Office, 203 Second Ave. Olha Taukach, Ukrainian TV journalist and host

### PLEASE NOTE PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

- Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided free of charge by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.
- To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information written in Preview format (date, place, type of event, admission, sponsor, etc., in the English language, providing full names of persons and/or organizations mentioned, and listing a contact person for additional information). Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published. Please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours.
- Text should be double-spaced.
- 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.

### How a small contribution...

(Continued from page 7)

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use these resources every day in our classrooms," Ms. Zheliznyak said.

She underlined that the main thing teachers and students have gained from these gifts is not material, but knowledge — the one thing Ukraine needs most right now because knowledge will help to overcome the hardships that Ukraine is experiencing.

"We could never have imagined these treasures, even in our wildest dreams, but now thanks to the tremendous efforts, enthusiasm and generosity of Siena College, Americans for Democracy in Ukraine and Canadian Credit Bank, we

"We can only say thanks again to the people who have enlightened us. Thank you dear people, whose hearts and souls hurt for our Ukraine and whose initiative and drive have made the opening of our resource center possible," she added.

— Stephanie Richard

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