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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Auxiliary bishop is appointed for Philadelphia Archeparchy

PHILADELPHIA – Msgr. John Bura has been appointed as auxiliary bishop for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, announced the Office of the Metropolitan on January 3. He has been assigned the Titular See of Limisa. The appointment was made by Pope Benedict XVI.

Msgr. Bura, 61, is pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Wilmington, Del. He was born on June 12, 1944, in Wegelben, Germany, to Hryhory and Maria Bura, both deceased. His home parish after immigrating to America was Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jersey City, N.J. His siblings are Nicholas Bura, Rose Naumenko, Theodore Bura, Walter Bura and Irene Bura.

Bishop-Elect Bura attended St. Basil College in Stamford, Conn., and then studied at St. Josaphat Seminary and Catholic University of America in

Washington and received B.A. and bachelor of divinity degrees.

Ordained a priest on February 14, 1971, by Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, he also served there in 1971. Msgr. Bura also was an instructor of religion at St. Basil Preparatory School in Stamford, Conn., in 1971-1972; he was an instructor of Ukrainian at St. Basil College in Stamford in 1972-1975.

Other assignments included: administrator of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Trenton, N.J., in 1975-1976, administrator of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mahanoy City, Pa., in 1976-1980 and 1983, and administrator of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shenandoah, Pa., in 1976-1987.

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Candidates, blocs target Ukraine's voters as parliamentary campaign is in full swing

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The 2006 parliamentary campaign is already beginning to resemble the recent presidential campaign.

Once again, Viktor Yanukovich's image is blanketing Ukrainian television as political parties have been targeting voters with advertisements aimed at swinging them their way on March 26.

The Party of Regions has been the most aggressive on Ukrainian television, launching an intense campaign in the week leading up to New Year's Day just as the natural gas crisis was reaching its boiling point.

Many Ukrainians consider New Year's Eve their most important holiday, placing it even higher on their priority list than Christmas.

"The most technically versed ads are those featuring Mr. Yanukovich," said

Ihor Balynskyi, the editor-in-chief of Zakhidna Informatsiyna Corp., an information-analytical news agency based in Lviv. "They demonstrate a dazzling leader, someone who is strong and tough."

As President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov struggled with their Russian counterparts, a calm and confident Viktor Yanukovich, seated next to a Christmas tree with his hands neatly folded, greeted Ukrainians with a New Year's message:

"My dear countrymen! We lived through yet another year – a complicated and difficult one. But it also had its joys. We understood a lot after this year and experienced a lot. And what consoles us is that through the good and the unpleasantness, we were together."

"We leaned on each other's shoulders, and we were united in the belief that together we can make life better and we would be able to return our country to welfare and prosperity."

"Today, we thank God for this and we remember the past year as a good year. And with surety and joy let's turn to the new year. May it bring everyone happiness, may it be calm and good, may it bring warmth and wealth, and health for every family."

"Let's be happy in the new year and, as our people say, 'God help us to celebrate this holiday and meet the next one. Year after year, for many blessed years.'"

The ad was geared to give Mr. Yanukovich a presidential appearance, said Yulia Tyshenko, the council chair of the Kyiv-based Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research. "It's trying to present their candidate as a president, because enough votes were given to him during the elections," she said.

Presenting him in this way "satisfies the expectations of those who voted for the Party of the Regions," Ms. Tyshenko said.

However, Mr. Yanukovich's New Year's ad also has the potential to backfire on him, said Natalia Lihachova, the editor-in-chief of Telekrytyka, a Kyiv-based magazine and website that reports and analyzes mass media.

"When a man with a criminal past wishes the viewer 'Merry Christmas' with an insignificant smile, someone who isn't a great 'Did Moroz,' then this becomes an anti-advertisement," Ms. Lihachova said. "This can really hurt him. Ads should be geared to those who are weighing their decision."

Party of the Regions ads

In the weeks following New Year's Day, the Party of the Regions television ad campaign has been relentless. Most of Ukraine's major television channels have

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BRANCH OFFICERS AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, THAT THE

36th REGULAR CONVENTION

of the

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

will be held in Kerhonkson, NY
at the UNA resort of Soyuzivka

Beginning Friday, May 26, 2006, through Monday, May 29, 2006.

In accordance with the By-Laws of the UNA regarding election of delegates to the Convention, the qualifications for delegates, the number of delegates from each Branch and the credentials of delegates are as follows:

The election of delegates and their alternates must be held within 60 days of the announcement of the Convention. Since the Convention was announced on January 20, 2006, the 60-day term for election of delegates and their alternates ends on March 20, 2006.

Delegates and their alternates to which the Branch is entitled shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Branch by the members present. Nominations shall be made from the floor and all candidates will be presented to the membership for a vote. The candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected delegates. Alternate delegates shall be elected by separate vote in similar manner. All tie votes involving alternates shall be immediately resolved by another ballot for the candidates involved. Each member shall be entitled to one vote for each delegate and each alternate authorized to the Branch. Delegates and their alternates must be elected at the same regular Branch meeting. In the event that a delegate fails or is unable to attend a Convention, an alternate shall be seated in his or her place, and remain seated for the balance of the Convention. If a Branch has more than one delegate, the seats of the absent delegates shall be occupied by alternates in the order of the highest number of votes received in the election.

Only UNA members in good standing may be present at the meeting and vote for delegates and their alternates. A member in good standing is one who has a certificate of insurance in the UNA on which dues are being paid. A member who has transferred to extended insurance, or paid-up insurance, or is suspended, may not be present at the meeting nor can he (or she) vote. Members in good standing may vote for delegates and their alternates only in that Branch where they pay dues to the Fraternal Fund. No vote by proxy shall be allowed.

(Continued on page 3)

ANALYSIS

Ukraine's addiction to gas

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

During a January 2001 meeting in Viktor Yushchenko's office about energy conservation, Ukraine's then prime minister reportedly turned to his assistant and asked him to turn out the lights.

Such concessions – if, indeed, Yushchenko's request was meant seriously – are rare in Ukraine.

One of the most important and overlooked factors of the recent Ukrainian-Russian gas war is that Ukraine is one of the most energy-intensive countries in the world. Unless it kicks its wasteful habit, this type of crisis could repeat itself year after year as energy prices continue to rise.

It is perhaps easy and convenient to blame Russia and President Vladimir Putin for attempting to take revenge on Ukrainian President Yushchenko for his pro-Western stance or by placing the blame on Russia's "energy imperialism."

Gazprom's inept and heavy-handed handling of the situation certainly went a long way to discredit Russian leaders and have raised serious questions about their intentions. However, the fires have been stoked by Ukraine's stubborn refusal to conserve fuels and to expect that Russia and Central Asia would continue to subsidize its addiction to gas.

The figures for energy consumption in Ukraine are astonishing. Ukraine is one of the most energy wasteful countries in the world. It consumes more natural gas – 74 billion cubic meters in 2003 – than Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia combined. Despite the huge amount of energy Ukraine consumes –

Roman Kupchinsky is the former director of the Ukrainian service at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

1.5 percent of the world's total energy consumption according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) – Ukraine's GDP of \$300 billion in 2004 was far below Poland's figure of \$463 billion.

A 2004 study prepared by Margarita Balmaceda for the U.S.-based Woodrow Wilson Center, "Ukraine's Energy Policy and U.S. Strategic Interests in Eurasia," found that "not only does Ukraine have one of the highest levels of energy intensity in Europe and the world, but its energy intensity (measured as its energy consumption per unit of GDP) actually increased by about 50 percent from 1991 to 1999." Despite these dire figures, few in Ukraine seem to be paying much attention.

Successive governments have largely ignored energy waste: from pipelines in desperate need of repair to poor energy conservation in the home. When confronted over this state of affairs, politicians have prepared numerous energy-conservation plans – which have never been implemented or even made public.

The Ukrainian American Environmental Association is one group concerned with energy conservation in Ukraine. In a letter to senior Ukrainian officials sent on July 20, 2005, it wrote: "There are many energy-saving measures that can be acted on and implemented very quickly. ... These programs have included simple tasks such as urging people to turn off lights and appliances like TVs when not in use, suggesting ways to make doors and windows less drafty, or offering suggestions to motorists on how to drive while using less fuel. Similarly, common-sense energy conservation advice offered to schools, hospitals, stores and industries has helped reduce

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Why did the Rada sack Yekhanurov's Cabinet?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Opposition groups in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada on January 10 voted to dismiss the Cabinet of Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, pushing the country into a serious political crisis amid an ongoing parliamentary election campaign. Although the official reason for the no-confidence motion in the government was last week's deal on gas supplies to Ukraine, it appears that the opposition's desire to undermine the electoral chances of pro-government and pro-presidential forces played a no less important role in the vote.

The no-confidence motion in Prime Minister Yekhanurov's Cabinet was backed by 250 lawmakers in the 450-seat legislature, primarily from the Party of the Regions led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Social Democratic Party – United, the Communist Party and two groups supporting Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn. Lawmakers from the pro-presidential Our Ukraine caucus and the Socialist Party, which participates in the government, did not vote.

Jan Maksymiuk is the Belarus and Ukraine specialist on the staff of RFE/RL Newsline.

Simultaneously, the Verkhovna Rada adopted a resolution saying that the gas deal concluded by Naftohaz Ukrayiny with Gazprom and the Swiss-based RosUkrEnergo company on January 4 represents a threat to Ukraine's national security.

Under the deal, this year Ukraine is to receive 34 billion cubic meters of gas for \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters from RosUkrEnergo, which in its turn is to purchase the gas from Russia's Gazprom, as well as from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Ukrainian lawmakers said in their resolution that the January 4 deal violates previous gas accords between Ukraine and Russia, in particular a 2002 contract between Gazprom and Naftohaz Ukrayiny in which Gazprom obliged itself to supply gas to Ukraine for \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters from 2005 to 2009.

The resolution criticizes the Ukrainian government for allowing RosUkrEnergo, an obscure business entity, to become the monopolist of gas supplies to Ukraine. The document also points out that last week's gas deal guarantees the price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters for Ukraine only for the first six months of 2006, while simultaneously setting a stable tariff for Russian gas transit for five years.

(Continued on page 20)

NEWSBRIEFS

Financial Times interviews Yushchenko

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in a recent interview published on January 13 in the Financial Times that Ukraine will not change the ownership of its gas-transport system in a bid to settle the dispute over Russian gas supplies, Ukrainian news agencies reported on January 17, quoting a transcript of the interview that was disseminated by the presidential press service. "Our gas-transport system belongs to Ukraine, and Ukraine will not consider changing this status," Mr. Yushchenko said. President Yushchenko also said in the interview that the constitutional reform adopted in December 2004 was illegal, violated "procedural norms," and should have been submitted to a national referendum. "In view of this logic, I'm going to make several steps," Mr. Yushchenko said, according to the transcript of the interview from his press service. "I think it's not the right time now to do anything, since it could destabilize the situation before the [parliamentary] elections. But the Constitution should unambiguously be defended with the participation of the people, in a referendum, by mobilizing democratic forces." The president did not reveal when such a referendum might be held. He already signaled last week that he will seek a referendum on the constitutional reform that limited presidential powers in favor of the Parliament and the Cabinet. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Dispute over Crimean lighthouse

KYIV – Ukrainian Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko told the Kyiv-based Kommersant-Ukrayina on January 17 that the ongoing dispute between Kyiv and Moscow over a lighthouse in Crimea will not lead to a military confrontation between the two sides. "Let's not frighten people on both sides of the border," Mr. Hrytsenko said. "If servicemen in Crimea, as you say, begin to shoot, this will be a sentence for Ukraine, Russia and Europe as a whole. I categorically rule out such a scenario of events ordered from Kyiv or Moscow." The dispute erupted on January 13 when a group of Ukrainian officials

barred Russian personnel from entering the lighthouse in Yalta. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk said the Crimean lighthouses belong to Ukraine and that there are no legal grounds for Russia to claim them. Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Secretary Anatolii Kinakh reiterated on January 16 that in accordance with bilateral agreements of 1993 and 1997, Russia recognized Ukraine's ownership right to all Soviet-era facilities used by the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. Meanwhile, Russian Navy commander Admiral Vladimir Masorin said the Yalta lighthouse must be returned to the Black Sea Fleet. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko predicts referendum

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in an interview with four Ukrainian television channels on January 13 that he will seek a referendum on the constitutional amendments of 2004 that limited presidential powers in favor of the Parliament and the Cabinet, the OBKOM website (<http://ru.obkom.net.ua>) reported. "There will be a special announcement [regarding the referendum]," Mr. Yushchenko said. "I think it is obvious for every citizen that the topic of the changes to the Constitution, its legal aspect and the search for legal ways to overcome this problem is on the national agenda. Ukraine will have a difficult future with such amendments and procedures." President Yushchenko stressed that the constitutional reform was adopted without sufficient public discussion. "I think 95 percent [of Ukrainians] will tell you that they don't have any information [about the constitutional reform]," Mr. Yushchenko asserted. "They don't know that these changes were not proposed for public discussion, that they were not discussed in the Parliament. Everything was done on the sly." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Cancer institute to be established

KYIV – An agreement was signed on January 13 between the Ukrainian Health Ministry and two French organizations, the National Institute for Combating Cancer

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Tymoshenko Bloc launches action to fight Ukraine's federalization

by Yana Sedova
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Condemning the Party of Regions' idea of federalization as one that could throw Ukraine into chaos and destabilization, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc over the weekend of January 21-22 is launching a national action "For Unity Against Federalization."

The idea of a federal state, supported by 20 percent of Ukrainians, is one of the key items on the Party of the Regions election program. It foresees separate parliaments in all regions of Ukraine.

"Could you imagine legal authorities acting in every oblast and having 27 parliaments?" asked Mykola Tomenko, the vice-chairman of the Tymoshenko Bloc at a January 17 press conference. "And three or four of them could decide that autonomy is not enough and that they'd better become separate states. This is the break-up of the state."

Mr. Tomenko said he believes the federal state idea is a "co-project of the Party of the Regions and Roman Bezsmertnyi," the head of the Our Ukraine election campaign and the author of a proposal for administrative and territorial reform. Mr. Bezsmertnyi failed to implement reform that would have divided Ukraine into seven to 10 territories because the appropriate legislation was lacking.

The goal of the campaign "For Unity Against Federalization" is to explain the concept of a federal state system and the negative consequences it could have for Ukrainians.

"We consider this concept extremely wrong; given the present state of affairs it could lead to confrontation and conflicts between regions," said Mr. Tomenko.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc supports a different concept that would strengthen institutions of local authority and give them more power.

The federalization idea is promoted by the same politicians who called for the establishment of autonomy for Ukraine's southeastern region during a meeting in Severodonetsk in November 2004, said Mr. Tomenko.

The Tymoshenko Bloc wants to appeal to Ukrainian billionaire Rynat Akhmetov, one of the Party of Regions' candidates and the "real chair of the party," to ask him to get rid of separatists from the party's ranks.

"If they (the Party of the Regions) bet on Akhmetov as the future president or prime minister, it would be better if he cleared the party of separatists," Mr.

Tomenko said. "This would lessen fears that the 'Donetsk structure' wants to split the country."

It was also revealed at the press conference that the Tymoshenko Bloc wants to conclude an agreement with former allies Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party that will oblige them not to unite with either the Party of the Regions or the Communist Party.

That would prevent Viktor Yanukovich, Mr. Akhmetov and the leader of the Communist Party, Petro Symonenko, from winding up in the majority of the future Parliament, Mr. Tomenko said.

Among the first steps of the Tymoshenko Bloc in the new Verkhovna Rada elected in March will be bringing action against former President Leonid Kuchma and his circle, Mr. Tomenko said.

"We are disturbed by the fact that the Kuchma case has been limited to check-ups of his charitable fund's activity," he noted. "It looks as if Kuchma devoted himself to charity during the last 10 years and didn't rob the country. The Kuchma case is a litmus test for all the promises that we gave."

Mr. Kuchma, his son-in-law Viktor Pinchuk and other former officials must face trial for participation in the illegal privatization of strategic enterprises of Ukraine, Mr. Tomenko said.

"Fortunately, Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] is not a candidate [in the parliamentary elections], so we will begin with him and then proceed to Yanukovich and Pinchuk and all those officials who used their positions and stole state property," he said.

In the nearest future, Mr. Tomenko said the Tymoshenko Bloc will name the criminal cases that were closed after President Viktor Yushchenko signed a memorandum of understanding with Mr. Yanukovich in September 2005.

Two articles of the memorandum referred to barring political repressions against the opposition and providing amnesty for petty violations of the law during the presidential elections of 2004.

"The Procurator General's Office and investigating authorities received instructions to stop investigations on the basis of the memorandum," Mr. Tomenko claimed.

Though President Yushchenko recalled his signature on January 12, many political criminal cases, such as the Kryvorizhstal case, were suspended because of the memorandum, Mr. Tomenko said.

The latest Ukraine-Russia conflict: lighthouses and properties in Crimea

by Yana Sedova
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – A conflict over Ukrainian lighthouses in Crimea took a bad turn after a Russian armored troop carrier blocked a Ukrainian lighthouse on the south coast of the peninsula for the entire day on January 19.

Russian personnel on January 13 on the grounds that no lease was signed with the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

This was the main reason that Ukrainian officials appeared at the Yalta lighthouse and took it under their jurisdiction, said Yurii Formus, the chair of the Yalta seaport.

Russian officials called the incident a



Yana Sedova

Oleh Yatsenko, leader of Studentske Bratstvo (Students' Brotherhood), displays one of the nameplates installed in various locations in Crimea that reads: "Territory of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation. Entry forbidden."

Though the troop carrier left in the evening, Russian marines continued to prevent Ukrainian staff from resuming their duties at the lighthouse located on a sandbar in Yalta.

Three other lighthouses, in Ai-Todor, Yevpatoria and Tarkhankut, are still under control of the Russian military.

The conflict started after several officials from the Ukrainian Transport Ministry's Hydrographic Service entered the Yalta lighthouse and barred access to

provocation and "a seizure" and demanded that their fleet staff be allowed on the lighthouse territory.

"We can't seize things that we own, we can only take them back," Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk said on January 14 in response to the statement. "Russia illegally held under its control navigation objects (in Crimea)."

The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign

(Continued on page 19)

UCCA's voter education project receives \$50,000 grant from NED

by Tamara Gallo Olexy

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – On January 13, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America was informed that its proposal to conduct the pre-election "Voice Your Vote" campaign was approved by the board of directors of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

"Voice Your Vote" will popularize the tenets of a developed democracy through a town hall approach to voter education. The UCCA brought the Western-style town hall meeting concept to Ukraine on two previous occasions – the 1998 parliamentary elections and the 2004 presidential elections – and found the format

highly effective, reaching over 20,000 voters.

Town halls promote greater involvement in civic decision-making by engaging the voter in political discourse with political parties and blocs, while simultaneously encouraging voter participation in the elections.

The NED grant of \$50,000 will allow the UCCA to set up a series of 15 town hall meetings to encourage interaction between individuals and representatives of political parties and blocs. The town hall meetings will be held primarily in the Eastern, Southern and Central regions of Ukraine where media bias and other abuses have been widely reported in previous years.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION...

(Continued from page 1)

Only those members may be elected as delegates or alternates who are in good standing and have all the qualifications for an officer of the Branch, i. e., have been members of the UNA not less than one year and of their Branch not less than six months, and in which they pay dues to the Fraternal Fund, are over 18 years of age, are of Ukrainian nationality or descent and are not officers or assembly officers, agents or salesmen of any other similar fraternal organization or life insurance company, and are fulfilling all obligations toward the UNA, in particular, have shown active participation in organizational and promotional work for the UNA. No person shall be eligible for delegate or alternate who at any time unjustifiably or maliciously instituted or caused to be instituted any suit, action or proceeding against the UNA either on his own behalf or on behalf of any other member.

Every duly established Branch in good standing in the Association, having 75 or more members who pay in fraternal dues into the Fraternal Fund of the UNA, shall be entitled to representation and vote on all matters to be acted upon at the Convention as follows: Branches having 75 to 149 members inclusive, one delegate; those having 150 to 225 members inclusive, two delegates; those having 226-301 members inclusive, three delegates; those having 301 or more members, four delegates. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. No Branch shall be entitled to more than four votes.

A Branch having less than 75 members, for the purpose of representation at the Convention, may unite with another Branch also having less than 75 members and if, when combined, the aggregate of the two Branches shall be no less than 75 members who pay dues in these Branches to the Fraternal Fund, they shall have the right to elect one delegate. Unless otherwise agreed by the mutual consent of both Branches, the Branch having the greater number of members shall be entitled to elect the delegate, and the Branch having the lesser number of members, the alternate.

Credentials of delegates and their alternates must be sent to the Home Office of the UNA within 10 days of the election, but no later than 60 days prior to the Convention.

Parsippany, NJ, January 4, 2006

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION:

STEFAN KACZARAJ, President
MARTHA LYSKO, First Vice-President
EUGENE IWANCIW, Second Vice-President
ALBERT KACHKOWSKI, Director for Canada
CHRISTINE E. KOZAK, National Secretary
ROMA LISOVICH, Treasurer



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Branch 76 of Newark meets, elects new officers



PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian National Association Branch 76 of Newark, N.J., held its branch meeting at the UNA Corporate Headquarters here on December 28, 2005. Newly elected officers (from left) are: Michael Koziupa, secretary; Irene Agne, assistant secretary; and Andrew Hrechak, treasurer.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 21

Please be advised that Branch 21 has merged with Branch 271 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Maria K. Zobniw.

Mrs. Maria K. Zobniw
247 Lower Stella Ireland Road
Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 798-9148

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 128

Please be advised that Branch 128 has merged with Branch 216 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Bohdan Odezynskyj.

Mr. Bohdan Odezynskyj
1034 Hartel Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19111
(215) 742-4650

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 166

Please be advised that Branch 166 has merged with Branch 230 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Annabelle Borovitcky.

Mrs. Annabelle Borovitcky
68 Kleber Ave.
Austintown, OH 44515
(330) 799-8037

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 58

Please be advised that Branch 58 has merged with Branch 39 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Joyce Kotch.

Mrs. Joyce Kotch
314 Demong Dr.
Syracuse, NY 13214
(315) 446-3814

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 38

Please be advised that Branch 38 has merged with Branch 283 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Stefan Lysiak.

Mr. Stefan Lysiak
3202 Barrington Way
Auburn, NY 13021
(315) 253-7282

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 62

Please be advised that Branch 62 has merged with Branch 397 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Ulana Prociuk.

Mrs. Ulana Prociuk
909 North 29th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19130
(215) 235-3709

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 154

Please be advised that Branch 154 has merged with Branch 83 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Stefan Hawrysz.

Mr. Stefan Hawrysz
600 E Cathedral Rd. Apt. A-306
Philadelphia, PA 19128-1933
(215) 984-8719

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 248

Please be advised that Branch 248 has merged with Branch 216 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Bohdan Odezynskyj.

Mr. Bohdan Odezynskyj
1034 Hartel Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19111
(215) 742-4650

Visit the websites of the UNA's publications:

www.ukrweekly.com
www.svoboda-news.com

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 256

Please be advised that Branch 256 has merged with Branch 267 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Gloria Tolopka.

Mrs. Gloria Tolopka
293 W. 5th St.
Deer Park, NY 11729
(631) 667-6483

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 268

Please be advised that Branch 268 has merged with Branch 397 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Ulana Prociuk.

Mrs. Ulana Prociuk
909 North 29th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19130
(215) 235-3709

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 290

Please be advised that Branch 290 has merged with Branch 55 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Marianna Cizdyn.

Mrs. Marianna Cizdyn
5422 Wasena Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21225
(410) 789-0229

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 296

Please be advised that Branch 296 has merged with Branch 161 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Nicholas Diakiwsky.

Mr. Nicholas Diakiwsky
2065 Ridge Rd. Ext.
Ambridge, PA 15003
(724) 251-4730

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 303

Please be advised that Branch 303 has merged with Branch 82 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Olga Maruszczak.

Mrs. Olga Maruszczak
7420 Robindale
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
(313) 274-3807

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 309

Please be advised that Branch 309 has merged with Branch 82 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Olga Maruszczak.

Mrs. Olga Maruszczak
7420 Robindale
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
(313) 274-3807

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 312

Please be advised that Branch 312 has merged with Branch 349 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Michael Zacharko.

Mr. Michael Zacharko
135 S. 18th Ave.
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 725-8062

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 321

Please be advised that Branch 321 has merged with Branch 362 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Fedir Petryk.

Mr. Fedir Petryk
1800 Grieb Ave.
Levittown, PA 19055
(215) 946-3962

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 350

Please be advised that Branch 350 has merged with Branch 59 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Bohdan Doboszczak.

Mr. Bohdan Doboszczak
203 Morris St.
Naugatuck, CT 06770
(203) 723-4304

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 439

Please be advised that Branch 439 has merged with Branch 466 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Anna Krutyholowa.

Mrs. Anna Krutyholowa
21 Alice St.
Brantford, ON N3R 1Y1
Canada
(519) 756-5825

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 440

Please be advised that Branch 440 has merged with Branch 401 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Stephan Chorney.

Mr. Stephan Chorney
22 Arrowsmith Ave.
Toronto, ON M6M 2W7
Canada
(416) 247-9618

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 888

Please be advised that Branch 888 has merged with Branch 432 as of January 16, 2006. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Olga Svystoun.

Mrs. Olga Svystoun
1040 Kipling Ave.
Etobicoke, ON M9B 3L6
Canada
(416) 232-9865

ПОВІДОМЛЕННЯ**в справі виборів делегатів у Відділах
УНСоюзу, які мають менше, як 75
повноправних членів**

Згідно з постановами статуту Відділ, який має менше як 75 повноправних членів, тобто членів, яких вкладки у даному Відділі включають вкладки до Братського Фонду УНС, може об'єднатися з іншим Відділом, який також має менше як 75 таких членів, щоб в такий спосіб набути право на спільне представництво на Конвенції. Коли обидва так об'єднанні Відділи матимуть разом 75 членів, вони зможуть вибрати одного делегата.

Відділи, які бажають об'єднатися для спільного вибору делегата та його заступника, повинні винести на своїх зборах такі ухвали, а після договорення із собою, пере-вести вибори.

Якщо ці два Відділи не договоряться інакше, то той Відділ, що має більше число членів, буде управнений ви-брати делегата, а Відділ з меншим числом членів — за-ступника.

Відділи, які договорилися про об'єднання з метою спільного вибору делегата та його заступника, повинні про це негайно повідомити на письмі Рекордовий Відділ Головної Канцелярії УНСоюзу, який вишле їм друки пов-новластей для виконання.

Для вможливлення спільного порозуміння між Відділами, які мають менше як 75 повноправних членів, подаємо внизу список цих Відділів з числом повноправних членів та прізвищами і адресами Відділових секретарів, як і числами телефонів, якщо їх маємо.

ANNOUNCEMENT**regarding election of delegates
in UNA Branches having less than
75 voting members**

In accordance with the By-Laws of the UNA a Branch having less than 75 voting members, that is, members whose dues to that Branch include contributions to the Fraternal Fund of the UNA, may unite with another Branch also having less than 75 voting members, for the purpose of electing a mutual representative at the Convention. If, when combined, the aggregate of the two Branches shall be no less than 75 voting members, they shall have the right to elect one delegate.

Branches wishing to unite for the purpose of electing a delegate and an alternate, should each adopt a formal resolution at their meeting and after mutual agreement, should conduct an election. Unless otherwise agreed by the mutual consent of both Branches, the Branch having the greater number of members shall be entitled to elect the delegate and the Branch having the lesser number of members, the alternate.

Both Branches, which have agreed to unite for the purpose of election a delegate and an alternate, should immediately notify in writing, the Recording Department of the UNA Home Office, which will send the proper credentials to each Branch.

In order to facilitate mutual agreements between Branches which have less than 75 voting members, we have listed these Branches below, showing the totals of voting members and the names and addresses of the Branch Secretaries, as well as telephone numbers if available.

BR. №	№ of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY
133	43	MICHAEL W BOHDAN 1027 FALLS TERRACE UNION NJ 07083 908-709-7296
134	41	IOURI LAZIRKO 5 BRANNON CT CLIFTON NJ 07013 973-881-1291
139	31	PETRO PYTEL P O BOX 535 TWIN LAKES WI 53181-0535 262-877-3539
142	33	RODNEY S GODFREY 188 LAKE AVE COLONIA NJ 07067 732-381-1212
153	50	JURIJ DANYLIW 503 LAWLER ST APT A PHILADELPHIA PA 19116 215-464-2858
162	16	GEORGE B FEDORIJCZUK 3520 SUSSEX LANE PHILADELPHIA PA 19114 215-632-8560
163	39	TEODOR DUDA 3212 GUILFORD STREET APT #2 SECOND FLOOR PHILADELPHIA PA 19136 215-332-4384
164	63	BONNIE L SCHOLTIS 9 WEST MAPLE LANE BERWICK PA 18603 570-759-7156
165	41	MARY K PELECHATY 3318 STICKNEY AVE TOLEDO OH 43608-1351 419-726-4712
169	49	GISELA STEFURYN 211 CARVERTON RD TRUCKSVILLE PA 18708 570-696-4666
178	5	SARAH B LAZOR 2 PARTRIDGE LANE E KINGSTON NH 03827 603-642-5955
180	73	NATALIA MIAHKY 647 GARNETTE RD AKRON OH 44313 330-864-9425
200	60	JOHN J PRYHODA 20 ROCK HAVEN ROAD KERHONKSON NY 12446 845-626-2925
214	58	ANNA TWARDOWSKA 943 GARDEN STREET UNION NJ 07083 908-688-8323
220	69	BOHDAN WOWCHYK 5005 S KOSTNER AVE CHICAGO IL 60632 773-284-0276
226	20	MARKO ZAWADOWYCH 637 MARION ST DENVER CO 80218 303-832-5502
233	26	JULIA KRYSCHTAL 1017 WEST RIVER RD ELYRIA OH 44035 440-277-8440
239	28	ALEX PRYSZLAK 5127 N 15TH ST PHILADELPHIA PA 19141 215-329-8988
241	17	JANET BARDELL 544 WINTER ST WOONSOCKET RI 02895-1176 401-769-7132

BR. №	№ of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY
001	22	GEORGE POLLYNIAK 1001 N SHAMOKIN ST SHAMOKIN PA 17872 570-648-2657
007	73	HELEN SLOVIK 33 S HANCOCK STREET MCADOO PA 18237-1424 570-929-2301
012	13	EUGENE GULYCZ 116 SUMMITWOODS DR NORWICH CT 06360
016	47	VASYL LUCHKIW 49 WINDMILL LANE NEW CITY NY 10956 845-634-9353
017	22	PETER BYLEN 6510 VIKING AVE PORTAGE IN 46368-3895 219-764-3922
020	43	ROMAN J KUROPAS 24619 HILL WARREN MI 48091 586-756-1627
028	9	OLHA DUB 7925 AIRLINA DR HOUSTON TX 77037 281-820-6132
037	39	OLGA OSEREDCZUK 21 COLLINS STREET CRANFORD NJ 07016-3450 908-276-6228
049	31	REV MYRON STASIW 18 LEEDS ST TORONTO ON M6G 1N7 416-531-9945
053	52	JOHN HOLOWATYJ 5034 CAROLYN DR PITTSBURGH PA 15236-2506 412-653-1510
056	23	PETE S KOHUT JR 67544 POGUE RD SAINT CLAIRSVILLE OH 43950-0415 740-695-4131

BR. №	№ of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY
057	43	MICHAEL SAWKIW 18 BERKLEY AVE COHOES NY 12047 518-237-4700
066	52	PETER LESHCHYSHYN 3601 CULVER RD ROCHESTER NY 14622-1826 585-342-3874
067	27	FRANK F STUBAN 8 COLONY ST EXT SEYMOUR CT 06483-3502 203-888-9935
078	52	MARY PETRUNCIO 306 ARLENE STREET MINERSVILLE PA 17954 570-544-3522
082	67	OLGA MARUSZCZAK 7420 ROBINDALE DEARBORN HEIGHTS MI 48127 313-274-3807
086	33	NADIA DEMCZUR 152 ST PAUL'S AVENUE JERSEY CITY NJ 07306 201-216-1788
113	60	MICHAEL SHEAN P O 134 NEW DERRY PA 15671-0134 724-694-8114
114	44	OLGA BEREJAN 2324 W THOMAS CHICAGO IL 60622 773-278-1404
116	64	STEPHAN SHILKEVICH 109 GENESEE STREET TRENTON NJ 08611 609-695-8867
121	24	HELEN HEIM 7328 COLEMAN MILLS RD ROME NY 13440 315-339-2823
131	44	LEW BODNAR 1120 S CANFIELD RD PARK RIDGE IL 60068 847-825-4649

BR. No	of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY	BR. No	of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY	BR. No	of Mem.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY
247	39	LUBOMIRA SZEREMETA 120 CHERRY LANE NEW CASTLE DE 19720 302-652-8104	343	14	MARY SWERYDA 90 KARLAN DRIVE ROCHESTER NY 14617-5247 585-342-2089	412	68	EMILIA SMAL 217-16 DIXIE RD ST CATHERINE'S ON CANADA L2N 7N5 905-646-8158
253	32	PETER HAWRYLCIW 23 KAREN DRIVE LUDLOW MA 01056 413-589-0056	345	53	MICHAEL KARKOC 708 5TH STREET N E MINNEAPOLIS MN 55413 612-378-1675	417	18	ILKO CYBRIWSKY 3313 ELLIS WAY LOUISVILLE KY 40220 502-458-6168
254	45	ADAM PLATOSZ 37 OLIVE ST NEW BRITAIN CT 06051 860-225-9258	347	37	HALINA K ARCHETTO P O BOX 112 MINOTOLA NJ 08341 856-691-2038	423	30	VERA GOJEWYCZ 2147 YALE CIRCLE HOFFMAN ESTATES IL 60192 847-466-0817
257	33	PAUL BILECKY 3412 LA CRESCENTA AVE GLENDALE CA 91208-1514 818-249-7698	353	53	OSYP RINNYK 71 VAN LIEW AVENUE MILLTOWN NJ 08850 732-545-9171	441	34	SUSAN SOLDAN 190 WOLVERINE CRESC THUNDER BAY ON P7C 5Z1 CANADA 807-475-4550
264	48	BOHDAN HRYSHCHYSHYN 701 TRALEE DRIVE BETHEL PARK PA 15102-1333 412-833-2551	355	15	SEMEN HASIAK 530 KENTUCKY ST JOSEPH MO 64504-1408 816-238-5237	444	62	ALBERT KACHKOWSKI 126 SIMON FRASER CRESCENT SASKATOON SK S7H 3T1 CANADA 306-374-7675
267	43	GLORIA TOLOPKA 293 W 5TH STREET DEER PARK NY 11729 631-667-6483	356	16	OLEKSA PRODYWUS 908 AVERY ROAD BELLEVUE NE 68123-4001 402-292-2551	445	31	HALYNA PETRYK 342 KNOWLES AVE WINNIPEG MB R2G 1E2 CANADA 204-661-6316
283	72	STEFAN LYSIAK 3202 BARRINGTON WAY AUBURN NY 13021 315-253-7282	362	42	FEDIR PETRYK 1800 GRIEB AVENUE LEVITTOWN PA 19055 215-946-3962	450	61	MOTRIA M MILANYTCH 529 W. 111TH STREET APT #51 NEW YORK NY 10025 212-749-1664
287	63	DANA A JASINSKY 20 HERITAGE DR HOWELL NJ 07731	364	47	WLADEMER WLADYKA 7031 SEVEN HILLS BLVD SEVEN HILLS OH 44131 216-524-9005	456	5	BOHDAN LAWRYNIW 404 BIRCH ST S TIMMINS ONT CANADA P4N 2B8 705-264-7487
291	41	VERA NAPORA 3926 BROOKLYN AVE CLEVELAND OH 44109 216-749-7851	368	28	OLGA MAKSYMOWICH 10256 S.WEST 59TH ST COOPER CITY FL 33328 954-434-4629	466	54	ANNA KRUTYHOLOWA 21 ALICE STREET BRANTFORD ON N3R 1Y1 CANADA 519-756-5825
304	73	MARY I HNATYK 3359 ELMWOOD AVE KENMORE NY 14217 716-877-2182	372	59	SOPHIE LONYSZYN 66 CEDAR GROVE LANE APT 45 SOMERSET NJ 08873 732-356-2045	472	54	ROMAN ZAJAC 2200 W CORTEZ ST CHICAGO IL 60622-3517 773-384-7559
307	63	DMYTRO GALONZKA 550 BEECH STREET ROSLINDALE MA 02131-4940 617-327-6102	376	1	WANETA GWIAZDA 19991 COUNTY X LOT #11 CHIPPEWA FALLS WI 54729 715-723-9292	473	52	SERGUEI DJOULA 4740 LACOMBE MONTREAL PQ H3W 1R3 CANADA 514-733-3686
316	72	MARY SWERYDA 90 KARLAN DR ROCHESTER NY 14617-5247 585-342-2089	379	64	MYRON LUSZCZAK 215 S FOREST AVE PALATINE IL 60074 847-359-0467	484	64	NATALIE CHOLAWKA 709 JAMES ST UTICA NY 13501 315-724-3584
320	58	PAUL G FENCHAK 7422 BROOKWOOD AVE BALTIMORE MD 21236 410-663-9348	382	31	JULIA H CRESINA 312 N NICE ST FRACKVILLE PA 17931 570-874-0727	486	34	MYKOLA KIS 476 MAPLE AVE SAN BRUNO CA 94066 650-588-3133
323	18	MICHAEL BILYK P O BOX 13 BASEHOR KS 66007 913-724-2219	385	51	MYRON KRAMARCZUK 3438 SILVER LANE N E ST ANTHONY MN 55421 612-788-7957	488	12	VICTOR SZWEZ 5818 W CIELO GRANDE GLENDALE AZ 85310 623-516-9812
325	63	BARBARA CHUPA 240 E 6TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10003 212-674-5340	387	28	IRENE OLIYNYK 103 BIRCH STREET WILLIMANTIC CT 06226 860-423-3815	489	40	HALYNA KOLESSA 100 MONTGOMERY ST APT 23-H JERSEY CITY NJ 07302 201-200-1915
327	53	BOHDAN PODOLIUK 31 TEXAS STREET HICKSVILLE NY 11801-2524 516-433-9381	388	40	ANDREW MARYNIUK 9111 E BAY HARBOR DR APT #6-B BAY HARBOR ISLAND FL 33154 305-868-1594	498	17	LIDA HEWRYK 11440-37A AVENUE EDMONTON AB T6J 0J5 CANADA 780-435-1533
338	57	OLGA PISHKO 344 HELEN AVE MONESSEN PA 15062 724-684-3421	401	68	STEPHAN CHORNEY 22 ARROWSMITH AVE TORONTO ON CANADA M6M 2W7 416-247-9618	500	12	JOHN PAWLUK 920 CANNELL RD S W CALGARY AB T2W 1T4 CANADA 403-281-0280
339	21	MICHAEL LUCIW 1009 MELROSE AVE MELROSE PARK PA 19027 215-635-5109	402	60	ANNA BURIJ 16 KEYWELL COURT TORONTO ON CANADA M8Y 1S7 416-251-2776			
340	18	EUGENE MAKAR 1098 SUNNY SLOPE DR MOUNTAINSIDE NJ 07092 908-654-9568	407	42	TATIANA MISKIV 636 RUNNYMEDE ROAD TORONTO ON CANADA M6S 3A2 416-767-0628			
341	20	ANNA PETRICHYN 2409 MEIGHEN RD WINDSOR ON CANADA N8W 4C2 519-948-1127						

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Countdown to the UNA Convention

This week's front page, readers will no doubt notice, looks different from a normal issue of The Ukrainian Weekly. That's because a good portion of it is taken up by the official announcement of the 36th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association, which will take place over Memorial Day weekend at Soyuzivka – the first time ever the conclave will be held at the UNA estate.

The announcement is published in both official publications of the UNA as required by the UNA By-Laws, which stipulate that the announcement must be made at least four months before the convention's starting date. Thus, the procedures associated with the quadrennial convention of the largest and oldest Ukrainian fraternal benefit society, have been set in motion.

The next step is for branches of the Ukrainian National Association throughout the United States and Canada to hold meetings in order to elect delegates, as well as their alternates, to the convention. Such elections must take place within 60 days of the announcement of the convention. Since the first announcement was carried by our sister publication, Svoboda, on January 20, the elections must be concluded by March 20.

A minimum of 75 members is required for a branch to be entitled to one delegate; more branch members means more delegates. However, even smaller branches have a vote at the convention. They are entitled to unite, for the purposes of selecting a delegate, with another small branch. That is why, when readers turn to the inside of the paper, they will see long lists of contact information for branch secretaries, plus information on the number of members each of these smaller branches has. The intent is to allow each and every member of the UNA to have a say in who represents him or her at the convention, and, by extension, to guarantee that all possible viewpoints can be heard at what is the Ukrainian National Association's highest decision-making body.

It is extremely important for UNA members to attend the pre-convention meetings of their branches. Each convention is an important event in the history of the Ukrainian National Association. It is the convention that has the power to change the UNA By-Laws, to adopt resolutions (which require implementation) and recommendations (which are only suggestions for action) that direct the work of the UNA, and, of course, to elect new leaders for the organization: the officers, auditors and advisors who make up the UNA's General Assembly.

The 2006 convention is the 36th Regular Convention (as opposed to an extraordinary convention) of the UNA, which next month marks its 112th anniversary. It takes place at a time when the UNA like other fraternal organizations, faces many challenges – chief among them declining membership and dwindling resources that affect the fraternal benefits the UNA is able to offer.

As the countdown of days before the convention continues, UNA members can expect to see more information about the convention program, the topics that are expected to be discussed there and proposals to change the by-laws. UNA branches and district committees, as well as individual members, also have an opportunity to submit recommendations for the good of the organization and proposals for changes to the UNA By-Laws.

Thus, as the pre-convention season is upon us, we encourage all UNA'ers to become involved, to take an interest in their organization, and to share their thoughts about the course the Ukrainian National Association should chart. Furthermore, we hope UNA'ers will use the pages of the UNA's official publications – its two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly – to give voice to their opinions in preparation for the convention on May 26-29.

Jan.
23
2005

Turning the pages back...

One year ago, on January 23, 2005, Viktor Yushchenko was inaugurated as president of Ukraine during ceremonies in Kyiv. Our editorial of January 30, 2005, noted that the inauguration marked a turning point in the history of Ukraine. "A leader freely elected by the people, through myriad trials and tribulations – the man known as 'the people's president' – was inaugurated as the third president of Ukraine since the country re-established its independence in 1991," we wrote.

Following are excerpts from that editorial.

* * *

In a trio of speeches delivered on his inauguration day before different audiences, the new president delivered his message clearly and eloquently.

At the Verkhovna Rada, the new president addressed national deputies and guests from the international community. He told them that Ukrainian democracy was "built with millions of Ukrainian hands," and he explained that "The citizens of Ukraine have secured an honest election, and the transfer of government has been legitimate. This is a tremendous national victory." ...

On Independence Square, [the president said]: "Today Ukraine is a free and independent nation. We have thrown the burdens of the past off our shoulders. No one will ever dare to dictate to us how we are to live and whom to elect." ... Declaring the "victory of freedom over tyranny, of law over lawlessness, of the future over the past," he pledged to "change Ukrainian life." ... it was a speech that sought to ensure all the people of Ukraine, no matter their ethnic or religious background, or their political persuasion, that the new Ukraine will protect their rights because it will be "a state governed by the rule of law" ...

Finally, at the Mariinskyi Palace, at a state reception for foreign dignitaries, President Yushchenko emphasized: "A new Ukrainian nation has been born in Europe at the beginning of the 21st century. We are starting a new epoch of Ukrainian and European history in the third millennium." ...

Source: "A historic inauguration" (editorial), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 30, 2005, Vol. LXXIII, No. 5.

IN THE PRESS

The Russian-Ukrainian gas crisis and Russia's tarnished reputation

"Russia's Reputation Suffers in Gas Row," lead editorial, Financial Times (London), January 5:

... In the event, Kiev [sic] has escaped humiliation and Moscow has been left in the awkward position of explaining its actions to the world. Its reputation as a reliable energy supplier has been called into question. Ukraine bears some of the blame for extracting gas for its own use from supplies destined for Gazprom's European Union customers. But, to Mr. [Vladimir] Putin's embarrassment, international concern has rightly focused not on Kiev, but Moscow.

Russia has also failed in its long-term aim of securing a stake in Ukraine's export pipeline. In Georgia and Belarus it has recently struck deals swapping cheap gas for a say in pipeline management. Not for the first time, Kiev has escaped Moscow's clutches.

However, Ukraine must now adapt to rising gas prices. Increased energy efficiency will bring political as well as economic benefits. The sooner Kiev acts, the quicker it will reduce the scope for Russian political leverage. ...

"Potemkin Compromise," in the "Review and Outlook" section, The Wall Street Journal (New York), January 5:

... Gazprom's once impeccable reputation for reliability, arguably its most valuable asset, was destroyed in a few hours. By turning off the spigots to Ukraine on New Year's Day, President Vladimir Putin cut off clients down the pipeline in Europe, which gets a quarter of its gas from Russia and is suffering a particularly cold winter. Poland, Hungary, Austria, Germany and Italy reported reduced supplies, touching off a near panic.

Ukraine siphoned off some gas for its needs but the reduced pressure in the lines also played a role. Not even in the darkest days of the Cold War did the Soviet Union resort to energy blackmail. Mr. Putin, once again, broke the mold by unilaterally abrogating Gazprom's standing contract with Ukraine. If this can happen in Ukraine, who says Germany or France won't be treated the same one day. ...

Mr. Putin tried to bully Ukraine and comes away hurt himself, not for the first time. As in the winter of 2004, when the Kremlin wanted its own man installed in the presidency in Kiev [sic], the Russian leader figured that smaller, weaker Ukraine would bend to his will. The gambit was transparently intended to undermine President Viktor Yushchenko and Ukraine's young democracy that was born in the 2004 Orange Revolution.

Instead, Mr. Putin provoked a nationalist backlash in Ukraine that ended up strengthening Mr. Yushchenko and brought international rebuke. As Russia takes over the helm of the G-8, Mr. Putin reminded everyone that his country doesn't really deserve to belong in this Western club. ...

"Russian Gas: Putin's Momentous Move," editorial, The Guardian, (London), January 4:

... This crisis has been about something larger and more complex than the price paid by Ukraine for Russian gas. Russia is the world's largest supplier of natural gas and its huge state-owned

Gazprom energy company is fully entitled, in principle, to sell that gas at a market price. But Russia uses Gazprom to set its prices as a way of exerting political influence.

How else can one explain the fact that, until January 1, the same 1,000 cubic meters of gas was sold at such a variety of prices as \$120-125 to EU customers, \$110 to Georgia, \$50 to Ukraine and \$47 to Belarus. And the same is true, in spades, of the \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters that Russia unilaterally demanded of Ukraine from Sunday.

This was not just a breach of a five-year contract that Gazprom made in 2004. It was also an attempt to destabilize the pro-Western government that came to power after Moscow's candidate was ousted in Ukraine's orange revolution nearly two years ago. ...

"Playing Politics with Pipelines," column by Anne Applebaum, The Washington Post, January 4:

... By no ordinary measure does Russia deserve to belong to the G-8, a group meant to include only the leaders of the world's richest democracies. In sheer size, Russia's economy lags behind those of Holland, Mexico and Brazil, among others. In per capita income, Russians lag behind Malta, Brunei, Chile and Uruguay. Even in conventional military power, Russia, with its army still stuck deep in the Chechen mud, is hardly the behemoth it used to be.

But in its ability to manipulate European supplies of natural gas, Russia is once again emerging as a superpower. There are still limitations: It is true that Ukraine was paying less than the world price for its gas, and also true that Ukrainian and Russian oligarchs were both profiting from that post-Soviet arrangement (which helps explain why it existed so long). ...

Nevertheless, the theatricality of the shut-off – those television pictures of big men turning big wheels – suggests that this was a political decision. The facts suggest that, too. After all, the object of the blackmail was Ukraine, a country that is striving to achieve political independence from Russia – not neighboring Belarus, a country that remains subservient to Russia. It was also President Putin, not Gazprom, the Russian gas monopoly, who publicly announced the decisions this week. ... Theoretically, the Europeans could also fight back diplomatically, in concert with the United States. Take that presidency of the G-8, for example: Is everybody still absolutely sure that Russia should remain a G-8 member? Is everybody absolutely positive that they want Putin to act as the G-8 president?

But before Western leaders can even contemplate asking such impolitic questions, they'll have to recognize Putin's new year's celebration as the warning signal it was. Manipulation of television stations, harassment of human rights activists, imprisonment of the president's political rivals – none of that has so far excluded Russia from the club of civilized nations.

Like the war in Chechnya, Russia's bitter dispute with Ukraine over gas prices was, until now, largely dismissed as a regional spat. That has to change. Perhaps if the Russians want to talk about "energy security" in 2006, we should take them up on it.

View from the

Trembita Lounge

by Taras Szmagala Jr.

Inverting the hierarchy

"What the heck was he thinking?" I asked Bohdan as we sat in our familiar seats in the Trembita Lounge. "Who?" he replied, "What was who thinking?" "Putin, of course. His idea to turn off the gas to Ukraine ranks high on the list of all-time stupid political moves." "Like Bush's 'Chicken Kiev' speech?" taunted Bohdan, a die-hard Democrat. "Well, certainly up there with Dukakis having his picture taken in that tank," I retorted. "Seriously, Bohdan, I don't get it."

"What don't you get?" Bohdan humored me. It was the New Year, and I already was dragging my friends into political conversations. Oh, well – another resolution bites the dust.

"Here's what doesn't make any sense," I said. "I'm no expert, but it seems to me that Russia's post-Soviet Union policy towards Ukraine is to treat Ukrainian statehood as a historical fluke. Sure, Russia recognizes Ukrainian independence. But many, if not most, Russians view this as a strange by-product of the fall of the USSR, hopefully to be rectified by some sort of pan-Slavic union in the not-too-distant future."

"So?" Bohdan puzzled, "What about that is strange to you?"

"Well, in order to accomplish this goal, Russia needs to convince Ukrainians – and the world – that Russians and Ukrainians really aren't all that different. Just as they did in Soviet times, the Russian objective is to make it seem that Ukrainians are just Russians from a specific area of the empire. And, as we Ukrainian Americans know, they have generally done this quite well. Heck, years ago it seems we spent half our time correcting people who didn't see a difference between the two nations."

"Now," I continued, "comes the Orange Revolution. For the first time since 1991, the world sees a Ukraine clearly differentiated from Russia. Putin meddles in Ukrainian politics, misplays his hand and is embarrassed. And Ukraine acquires a distinct identity on the world stage – a peaceful state striving to become a responsible member of the European community of nations. How does Putin react to this? By picking an unnecessary fight, acting like a bully, and, for good measure, dragging Western Europe into the action. Rather than smoothing over the differences between the two nations, Putin seems as if he is doing everything in his power to exacerbate them."

"That's easy to explain, Taras," Bohdan replied with a strange smile on his face. "Remember Volodya's hierarchy?"

I thought ... Volodya's hierarchy. Sounded strangely familiar.

Bohdan got tired of waiting. "Remember when we met during our first trip to Ukraine? Back in 1991? And we couldn't get a table at that empty restaurant? We couldn't figure it out. But my cousin Volodya pointed out the hierarchy, and it became clear to us."

Now I remembered. We were indeed unsuccessful in getting a table at a Kyiv restaurant, even though the huge room was completely empty. Apparently, the entire place was "reserved" and, despite

our efforts to use reason with the maitre d', we could not get a table. It did not seem to matter that he had room. It also did not seem to matter that he'd be increasing his restaurant's business by giving us a table. We did not bribe him on principle, and he did not budge.

When we mentioned this to Volodya, a native Kyivan, he did not seem surprised. "You Americans need to understand our hierarchy," he lectured. "You see, in America, there is a hierarchy of methods you use to solve problems. First, you use reason. That's what you did at the restaurant – you applied common sense. If that doesn't work, you appeal to ego. By making the person feel important, or by asking for a personal favor, you can often get something done. And if that doesn't work, as a last resort you appeal to power or leverage. If you know someone who knows the guy's boss, you can use that information to compel him to act."

"In Soviet times," Volodya continued, "we had a hierarchy, too. But ours was inverted from yours. Generally, we were trained by our system to use power and leverage first. Ego is next, with appeals to reason the last resort. If you knew the guy's boss, you made that clear at the outset – that's how things got done in the Communist days. Power and fear were the 'coin of the realm.' You had problems because you immediately used reason – which, in our society, is used last, not first."

At the time, I thought this analysis to be interesting. And it certainly seemed to explain many of my experiences within the old Ukrainian system. But it also seemed to be a gross generalization. After all, simply because a person grew up under the Soviet system does not mean that he checked his rationality at the door. It struck me as hard to believe that a culture would be so dismissive of reason in favor of power. Volodya's hierarchy was just too convenient and simple.

An overgeneralization, perhaps. But we wouldn't know it from Russia's recent behavior. When faced with a political challenge on his southwestern border, President Vladimir Putin reacted exactly as Volodya predicted an old Soviet would. Logic suggests that, following the Orange Revolution, Russia would have redoubled its efforts to smooth over the waves caused by its political blundering. Yet Mr. Putin rejected the rational approach, and proceeded directly to the use of power and leverage. It was classic Brezhnev-era stuff: rather than using a public relations campaign or diplomacy to exert a subtle influence on Ukraine's upcoming March elections, Russia just decided to turn off the gas.

Maybe Volodya was on to something after all. And perhaps one can see the Orange Revolution as an attempt to invert the old Soviet hierarchy – to make reason primary, and to relegate power and fear to the back of the line. It hasn't been entirely successful, but progress is being made. One need only look to Russia to see how far Ukraine has come.

Taras Szmagala Jr. may be reached at Szmagala@yahoo.com.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas

**In the beginning was the UNA**

The recent mine tragedy in West Virginia that killed 12 miners brought to mind the early days of the Ukrainian immigration to the United States when most males from Ukraine were coal miners.

Our first immigrants began arriving in eastern Pennsylvania in the late 1870s, settling in anthracite coal towns such as Shenandoah, Shamokin, Mount Carmel, Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Olyphant. Largely illiterate, they called themselves "Rusyns."

Immigrants from Ukraine were initially brought over as strike-breakers to take the place of earlier immigrants from Western Europe who were demanding higher wages and safer working conditions. Ukraine's immigrants were thrust into the mines to work 10 to 11-hour days for \$10 a day. Many were beaten severely by the strikers. Some were killed.

In those days, there was no Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to monitor conditions in the mines. The average miner worked in dark, damp shafts, often knee-deep in water. With mine flooding and cave-ins common, death was a constant companion. "In the anthracite coal fields," wrote Michael Novak in his book, "The Guns of Latimer," "three men died every two days on the average. Nearly every miner bore external signs of injuries, a missing finger, stitches, scars, limps."

Initially, coal-mine owners ruthlessly exploited their workers. Dissent was systematically crushed by the lowering of wages, union busting, terrorism – often perpetrated by the Coal and Iron Police (a "security" force funded by coal mine owners) – and, as was the case with immigrants from Eastern Europe, the importing of ignorant and docile workers.

By the late 1870s, the coal barons of northeast Pennsylvania had successfully broken the first serious threat to their control, a six-week strike. Moreover, the "Molly Maguires," a clandestine group of Irish Catholic miners who, in the early 1870s, had attempted to resist management exploitation and terrorism with violence of their own, had been vanquished, their leaders hanged. It was hardly an auspicious time to begin work as an immigrant laborer in the mines of Pennsylvania. Immigrants from Ukraine, however, persevered and eventually joined their fellow workers in America's emerging labor movement.

Father Ivan Wolansky, America's first Ukrainian Catholic priest, arrived in 1884 and established a parish in Shenandoah. Shunned by Archbishop Patrick Ryan because of his married status, Father Wolansky refused to return to Ukraine as the archbishop demanded, and began to organize parishes throughout Pennsylvania. Thoroughly at home with his flock, Father Wolansky quickly adapted to American ways, providing secular guidance as well as spiritual succor to his flock. During the next six years he established a newspaper (Ameryka), a co-op grocery store, a choir, a school for children and, in contrast to Roman Catholic priests in the area, a cell of the Knights of Labor, then a secret labor union. Recognized for his leadership skills, he became a leading unionist rallying miners to strike when other leaders advised caution.

Mine safety remained a serious problem. The question of family security following the death of the primary breadwinner in a mine accident was a major concern. The solution was the creation of fraternal bene-

fit societies – initially called "burial societies" – a movement that began in Pennsylvania among many ethnic groups during the second half of the 19th century. Coal miners, whose risky occupation prohibited affordable insurance premiums, were especially vulnerable. Survivors, left with no source of income, suffered greatly when miners were killed or disabled. Few families were left with much to live on after paying funeral expenses.

Led by their priests, immigrants from Ukraine began to establish local mutual-aid societies on the fraternal model. On February 22, 1894, delegates from 13 such societies came together in Shamokin, Pa., to establish the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz (RNS). Elected president of the new fraternal organization was Theodosij Talpash, a leading Rusyn activist in Shamokin.

The first regular convention of the new fraternal was held on May 30, 1894. Convention delegates representing a membership of 505 voted to formally adopt Svoboda (founded in 1893) as the official organ of the RNS, and to pay benefits of \$400 upon a member's death, \$200 on a wife's death. Dues were 50 cents a month.

In addition to providing death benefits for its members, the most significant accomplishment of the new mutual benefit organization was education. Local branches established reading rooms where illiterates were taught to read and U.S. citizenship classes were conducted. Following ethnographic trends in western Ukraine, Svoboda published article after article explaining to its Rusyn subscribers that their true national identity was "Ukrainian." The message was heard and accepted. In 1914, delegates to the national convention in Buffalo, N.Y., formally voted to adopt "Ukrainian National Association" as the new and permanent name of their 20-year old fraternal organization. At the time, the organization had 25,335 adult and juvenile members. By 1970, the UNA had grown to 89,119 dues-paying members.

The Ukrainian National Association was there in the beginning and it has remained there for 111 years. There has never been a significant development in the Ukrainian American community that didn't involve the UNA. Worthy of mention here are such achievements as the publication of Svoboda (the oldest Ukrainian-language periodical in the world) since 1894, the publication of The Ukrainian Weekly since 1933, The Ukrainian Pavilion at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, demonstrations against the Polish pacification and the Holodomor during the 1930s, the establishment of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) in 1940, the purchase of Soyuzivka in 1952, the publication of Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia in 1963, the erection of the Shevchenko monument in 1964.

During Memorial Day weekend this year, delegates from UNA branches throughout the United States and Canada will gather at Soyuzivka to develop plans for the future. Their decisions are important. Think about it. What happens to the UNA during the next four years may well determine the future of the entire Ukrainian American community. Now is the time for the UNA membership at large to educate their delegates regarding their organizational aspirations.

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is kuropas@comcast.net.

FOR A QUICK LOOK AT THE TOP NEWS IN EACH WEEK'S ISSUE OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.UKRWEEKLY.COM

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks on behalf of Paul Baran

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Paul Baran and his family, we would like to thank all of you who helped in any way with the bone marrow drives aimed at helping leukemia patients. On Sunday, November 6, 2005, 131 people were tested in Whippany, N.J., and on Sunday, October 30, 84 people were tested in Passaic – a total of 215 people. This gives Paul, or someone else in need, 215 “opportunities” of finding a compatible donor and being able to beat this aggressive life-threatening illness!

Incremental to the 215 people tested, many other individuals wanted to be tested but were denied for particular health reasons. We must also thank those who registered to be tested but were denied.

Due to the generosity of the following sponsors, the \$30 per person testing fee was eliminated: MICROS Retail Systems, Inc., Junior League of Morristown, National Council of Jewish Women (West Morris Section), Whippany Rotary Club, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, Marrow Power, Knights of Columbus EAS Council 6904 of Whippany, Ukrainian National Association, Polish American Club of Whippany, Acura of Denville, Kiwanis Club of the Hanovers, Billy & Madeline's Red Room Tavern of Whippany and numerous individual donors.

Additionally, the following companies donated goods or services that helped cover the costs of advertising and food for the drives: Morris County Duplicating (Morristown), CRT International (Whippany), Fedex Kinkos (Parsippany), Bagel Brunch (Whippany), Signs By Tomorrow (Whippany), Costco (East Hanover), Sports Authority (East Hanover) and ShopRite (Springfield). Special thanks to the Soyuz Ukrainok at St Vladimir's Church in Elizabeth who made very tasty baked goods for the drive in Whippany and Nicki Kulyk, Carmella's Bakery in Clifton and Krystyna's Bakery in Garfield for their donations of food for the Passaic drive. Members of the “Stepovi Koni” troop from the Whippany branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) also helped with soliciting food donations for the Whippany drive.

Even though the drives are over, we should all continue to encourage anyone who hasn't been tested to do so. If you were unable to come to be tested at one of the two drives we had, we ask that you still consider being tested. If you were tested, we ask that you continue to encourage your family and friends who may not have been tested to do so.

Anyone in good health between the ages of 18 and 60 can call the HLA Registry at 1-800-336-3363 and they can send you a kit for testing or visit www.communitybloodservices.org for more information on becoming a donor. If you choose to call for this testing kit, you should reference the “Paul Baran Marrow Drive” so you are not charged the testing fee.

The greatest gift anyone can give is the gift of life. We were able to witness so many people willing to help – most of whom do not know Paul or his family. These acts of kindness “mean the world” to Paul, Nina and their family. Again, we thank everyone who helped contribute to these drives. May God bless you!

Genia Maksymiw
Clifton, N.J.

Joe and Maria Shatynski
Whippany, N.J.

Please, send Ukrainian cards

Dear Editor:

Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time when we gather with our families to celebrate our beautiful Ukrainian Christmas traditions. It is also a time to send cards and letters to friends and relatives.

Ukrainian Christmas cards are very beautiful, and many of them are bilingual. Unfortunately over the years, most of my Ukrainian friends are sending generic “holiday cards.” Needless to say, I find this very upsetting.

Please, dear friends support Ukrainian culture and tradition, and send Ukrainian Christmas cards.

Inia Tunstall
Annandale, Va.

The meaning of “nationalism”

Dear Editor:

In his letter published on January 1, Leo Iwaskiw cites Webster's Dictionary to provide “the real meaning of nationalism.” One can infer that he believes that nationalism and patriotism are synonymous, and would probably be irked if nationalism were defined as an extreme form of the latter (as Oxford actually does).

Rather than dictionaries, one can find a better “definition” of these two concepts in an essay by George Orwell titled “Notes on Nationalism” (May 1945). He states: “By ‘patriotism’ I mean devotion to a particular place and a particular way of life, which one believes to be the best in the world but has no wish to force on other people. Patriotism is of its nature defensive, both militarily and culturally. Nationalism, on the other hand, is inseparable from the desire for power. The abiding purpose of every nationalist is to secure more power and more prestige, not for himself but for the nation or other unit in which he has chosen to sink his own individuality.”

Perhaps this “desire for power” is but one element that contributes to evoking negative connotations for nationalism. Mr. Iwaskiw's definition as simply “loyalty and devotion to a nation” does nothing to enhance his contrary position.

Bohdan Pasichny
Hamilton, N.J.

We welcome your opinion

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Seattle community welcomes new priest, Father Abraham Miller

by Orysia Bilyk Earhart

SEATTLE – The liturgy at our Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Zarvanycia (Zarvanytsia) in Seattle was held in Ukrainian. Nothing special about that. But, the priest who was saying the mass in Ukrainian was not Ukrainian. He was an American, a very unusual American, who fell in love with our Eastern-rite traditions and listened to the voice of God who directed him to us through a fascinating journey.

His name is Father Abraham Miller. He came from Chicago and he is going to help us build our church.

Born as Anthony Joseph Miller of German and Irish parents, he grew up in Yorktown Heights outside of New York City and attended St. Patrick's School in Yorktown, N.Y., and JFK High School in Somers, N.Y. Since childhood, he longed to become a priest.

At first, young Anthony was drawn to the Franciscans and had taken Spanish in high school in order to be ready for missionary work in South America. However, we all know what God can do to the best of plans.

In the summer between his freshman and sophomore years, on the way to their vacation home on Long Island, he noticed an unusual church: St. Mary's Ukrainian Church. It piqued his interest. So he and his mother attended a liturgy unlike any

Orysia Bilyk Earhart is a Ukrainian community activist in Seattle. Among her roles is that of secretary of the Ukrainian American Club of Seattle.

they'd known in their Roman Catholic Church. Anthony was captivated.

He loved listening to the old "babtsi" (elderly women) singing off-key. He loved the smell of the incense and the sounds of the liturgy. Even the oppressive heat of the day did not deter him from embracing the experience of an Eastern-rite service. He felt he had finally found his spiritual home.

Back at school, he found an article about the Basilian Fathers in Guidepost Magazine. So when he graduated from high school, he joined the Basilians and began his novitiate in Glen Cove, N.Y. After that, he studied philosophy and theology in Rome at St. Anselm's while living at the Basilian Generalate, where he learned Ukrainian by immersion. He also took classes on the Byzantine rite, iconography and liturgical chant, among others.

When he took the Basilian habit, Mr. Miller took the name of Abraham. When I asked him "Why Abraham?" he replied that, like Abraham, he felt he was heeding God's call, and starting on a new journey into a foreign land. For an American to turn toward the path of Ukrainians, that indeed is stepping into a foreign world. He felt this name was appropriate for his new life. After his ordination in 1979 by Bishop Basil Losten, of Stamford, Father Miller finished his studies in Rome and was assigned to Hamtramck, Mich., to the Church of the Immaculate Conception as an associate pastor.

His years in Hamtramck gave him much joy in the people he met, especially Dr. Bohdan Lonchyna, who was his tutor in Ukrainian. It was Dr. Lonchyna who

guided him in the Ukrainian language through grammar drills, books, articles and the reading of the gospel. Father Miller said that he found Dr. Lonchyna not only a gentleman who respected and loved Ukrainian traditions, but also, through his love of the Church, an inspiration.

While at Hamtramck, Father Miller decided to obtain a master's degree in library science from Wayne State University, specializing in archives and materials preservation/conservation. In 1985 he was called back to Glen Cove to organize the Basilian Provincial Library and to teach English and liturgical chant.

In October 1988, Father Miller was asked to go to Chicago to help build a church for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. Through his leadership, a new church and rectory was built in Palos Park, Ill. His interests also involved him in other activities such as membership in the Ukrainian Folk Ensemble Baida, and he received a Certificate of Special Studies in Technical Services in 1992 from Rosary College.

In 1994 he felt called to another kind of ministry and became a chaplain at Mary of Nazareth Hospital in Chicago. This, along with joining the eparchial clergy, opened new landscapes in his ministry to the Ukrainian people.

As a chaplain, he visited Ukrainians who were sick and found that they remembered him from when he would serve liturgy at Ss. Volodymyr and Olga Parish. He came to understand that people come to hospitals for healing, and not just to be treated as "patients." He saw that those who cared for others found healing in their own personal lives. He said that helping others reconnects us with our own humanity and through that connection, we experience healing ourselves.

Father Miller was asked if he would like to come to our parish here in Seattle. Our priest, Father Joseph Ostopowich, found the

three-hour journey from Vancouver, British Columbia down to Seattle difficult, especially after 9/11 when the border crossings tightened. Added to that, he also had numerous commitments in Vancouver which prevented him from becoming our full-time parish priest. He knew Father Miller, and knew that he would be an excellent pastor for our Ukrainians here in the Northwest.

Father Miller is one of those rare priests who understands how important it is to adapt our Ukrainian heritage within the country we live in. That does not mean forgetting our heritage. But, while we preserve our traditions, language and rite, we also need to be open to what America offers us. We should not consider ourselves isolated emotionally and culturally from the land that nourishes us.

Our Ukrainian Catholic Church in America has deep roots, going back over 100 years to its beginnings. We need to embrace these roots. They are part of our heritage as much as the roots of our Ukrainian forefathers. We need to embrace those Ukrainians who have established a new life here in the past, and bridge that life to the present so that we can feel at home in both the Ukrainian and American society we live in.

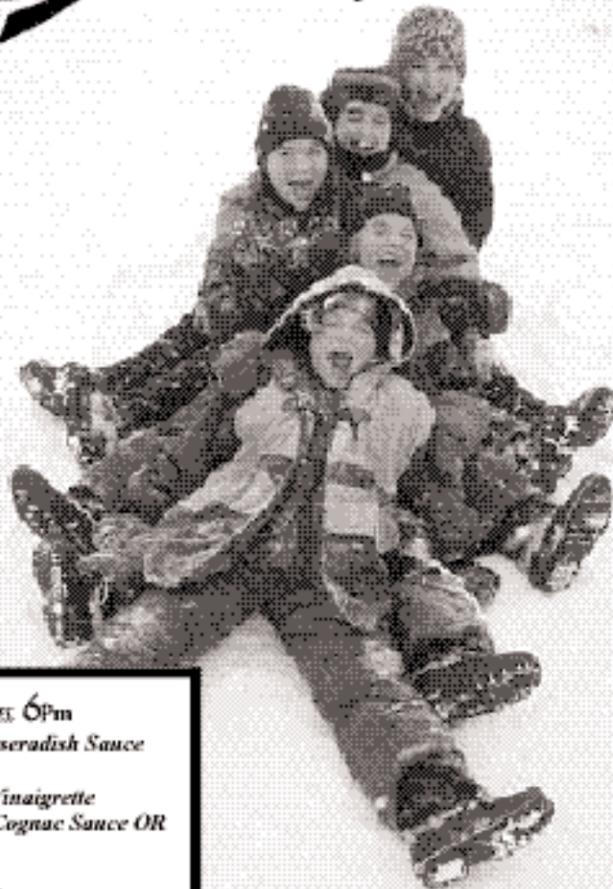
Father Miller has wonderful ideas to help us grow as a people of faith and as Ukrainians. He is planning to start religion classes not only for the youth, but also for adults. He would like to teach scripture, Eastern spirituality and liturgical chant. He sees a future in which we can be comfortable in both communities, where we do not have to sacrifice one at the expense of the other.

He wants us to become a community of faith, strong in the knowledge of who we are as a people of faith and as Ukrainians who have been welcomed here in this great land.

God guided his servant well. Father Abraham Miller is a blessing.



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A look at the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Ukrainian School in Tbilisi

by Yuriy Diakunchak

TORONTO – Late last fall tens of thousands of Ukrainians braved the wintry weather to gather in the streets and squares of Ukraine to demand a say in their country's affairs. The whole world took notice. The diaspora especially did everything that it could to morally and financially support the demonstrators.

But this year, and every year for the past seven years, a much smaller group of Ukrainians is preparing to face the cold. These Ukrainians are not only smaller in numbers (there are approximately 90 of them), they are also much younger.

The young students of the Mykhailo Hrushevsky First Ukrainian School in Tbilisi, Georgia, go to a Georgian public school system that offers a Ukrainian curriculum with classes in Ukrainian language, history and culture. The same program is also offered on Saturdays for students that attend other public schools in the capital city of Tbilisi. The premises also serve as a Ukrainian community center on weekends. The government in Georgia has been very supportive of the efforts of the small Ukrainian community in Tbilisi, as has Ukraine's government, but one thing always in short supply is basic operating funds, which up until now have been scraped together by a small group of donors in Canada and the United States.

"We want to thank everyone who has generously responded to our call for support for the school in these difficult times," wrote Hanna Matveyeva, the school's director, in a letter to those who have donated in the past year. Another winter looms, though, and Ms.

Matveyeva worries about what will happen to her young charges if money is not forthcoming.

Diaspora support

Several years ago, Walter Kudryk, the honorary consul of Georgia for Canada, and a prominent member of the Ukrainian community in Toronto, began a campaign to raise funds for the school. The M. Hrushevsky Development Fund sends several thousand dollars every year to help the school survive the winter and deliver on its mission.

The school's three biggest needs are funds for oil to heat the school, fuel for its school bus and money to provide lunches for children who come from needy families. On many winter days students have to shiver in class wearing their winter coats because the administration could not afford to pay its heating bills. And often the school bus is unable to pick up students from far-flung suburbs due to a lack of gasoline.

Though fuel is expensive for this small non-profit organization, generous donations from the North American diaspora go a long way in Tbilisi. Just last year the foundation gave close to \$4,000 to the school for these basic needs. Without these donations the children would suffer.

Ukraine provides some assistance to the school in the form of books, teaching material, computers and other equipment such as generators, but not financially because Ukraine's law does not allow financial support to diaspora organizations. So while the school has the equipment it needs to power and heat the school, without the necessary funds this equipment would sit idle.



Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili (foreground, second from right) with students and staff at the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Ukrainian School.

Small but thriving community

According to the most recent estimates, the Ukrainian community in Georgia numbers some 35,000 residents or less than one percent of the total population of this small country nestled in the Caucasus. Just over 16,000 of them live in Tbilisi. Among the 18 or so concentrated communities of Ukrainians in Georgia are Sukhumi (4,000), Batumi (4,000), Kutaisi (2,000) and Poti (1,700). Many of these people, including about 46 percent of those living in Tbilisi, consider Ukrainian to be their mother tongue and want to bring their children up with a love and understanding of their roots and history.

The Ukrainian program school in Tbilisi was named in honor of the great Ukrainian historian and president of the Ukrainian National Republic, who studied at the Tbilisi Classical Gymnasium from 1880 to 1886. It is temporarily housed in only three rooms of a regular public school building with space provided by the Georgian authorities. The school's opening in 1999 was facilitated by the presidents of Georgia and Ukraine at the time, Eduard Shevardnadze and Leonid Kuchma, respectively.

The school's goals are very straightforward – the rebirth of Ukrainian con-

sciousness through language, history, culture, the arts, and folk customs and traditions among young diaspora Ukrainians in Georgia.

Recently, with the personal involvement of the newly elected president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, who studied in Kyiv and speaks Ukrainian, the school was able to secure permission to move to a four-story building in central Tbilisi. This will give the staff and students more room and, in time, better conditions. But the costs to bring the building up to acceptable conditions will be substantial.

So far \$100,000 has been pledged by the Georgian Ministry of Culture and several charitable foundations in Ukraine and Georgia. Several hundred thousand more will be needed before the project is completed. The administrators of the school are hoping for some additional funds to come from Ukrainians in North America. Once the building is made habitable it will also serve as the community/cultural center for the Ukrainian diaspora in Georgia.

To donate please make checks payable to the Hrushevsky First Ukrainian School Development Fund and mail to: Consulate of Georgia, 55 Ormskirk Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, ON M6S 4V6.

U.S. Department of Agriculture offers credit guarantees for export sales to Ukraine

Embassy of the United States

KYIV – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102) announced the availability of \$200 million in credit guarantees to finance commercial exports of U.S. agricultural and food products for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine for fiscal year 2006, which ends on September 30.

Under this program, the USDA's Commodity Credit Corp. (CCC) reduces the financial risk to lenders by guaranteeing payments due from approved foreign banks to exporters or financial institutions in the United States.

To participate in the program, interested Ukrainian importers must first decide on the product(s) they wish to import and establish contact with a U.S. exporter. All eligible products are listed at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/gsm-commodities.html>.

The guarantees are available to U.S. exporters who wish to supply products to the above countries on a first-come, first-served basis. Coverage of up to 98 percent of the principal is offered on credit terms from 30 days to two years. For exports to

Ukraine, the guarantee fee ranges from \$0.323 per \$100 dollars of coverage for 30 days to \$0.876 per \$100 dollars of coverage for 36 months based on semi-annual payment of principal. For details, see the GSM-102 Guarantee Fee Rate Schedule at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/gsm102fees.html>.

The CCC approved five Ukrainian banks for this program: Bank Aval, Bank Forum, Nadra Bank, UkrSibbank and UkrSotsbank. The five Ukrainian banks have a total \$47.1 million credit limit in the program; however, a bank in another country approved by the CCC in the region is also eligible to participate. For a complete list of eligible banks, see <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/foreignbanks.html>.

The program requires active interaction between U.S. exporters, Ukrainian importers and the banks involved in the transaction. For additional information, readers may contact Dmitro Prykhodko, Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, at dmitry.prykhodko@usda.gov or the Contract and Registration Branch of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service at AskGSM@fas.usda.gov.

Ukrainian Canadian named honorary consul of Georgia

TORONTO – How does a member of the Ukrainian community in Toronto become a representative of the government of Georgia in Canada? It's mostly a factor of being in the right place at the right time, says Walter Kudryk, honorary consul of Georgia for Canada.

In its search for an appropriate consul, the Georgian government contacted Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs for some advice, which resulted in a recommendation to contact Mr. Kudryk.

Seven years ago there "weren't too many Georgians in Canada when I was asked to become Consul," Mr. Kudryk said. "And, as I had quite a bit of experience working as a consultant on World Bank-funded projects for the Georgian government, my name must have come up in some conversations."

This led to a luncheon in Toronto with Georgian Ambassador Levan Miheladze, who is based in Washington and is responsible for the

U.S., Canada and Mexico. At the luncheon, Mr. Kudryk accepted the proposition to become the honorary consul.

"It all happened pretty fast," Mr. Kudryk said. "They asked to meet my wife, so I called her and we met the same day at our home. We all chatted for a bit to feel each other out and that's how it all happened."

As the honorary consul, Mr. Kudryk travels to Ottawa whenever the ambassador comes up from Washington, handles contacts between Ottawa and Tbilisi with the exception of highly sensitive issues, and helps Canadians who plan to travel to Georgia and Georgians in Canada who need to renew their Georgian passports.

Mr. Kudryk was recently instrumental in establishing Canada-Georgian Trading House, which brings together Canadian businesses, some of the 2,000 to 3,000 Georgians who live in Canada and their counterparts in Georgia.

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Ethnomusicologist speaks on the Roma rights movement in Ukraine

by Maya Lew

NEW YORK – Over 70 people gathered at the Shevchenko Scientific Society on December 3, 2005, for a lecture on “‘Tsyhanska Doroha’ (Romano Drom): Politicizing the Roma-as-Nomad Stereotype in Ukraine,” by Dr. Adriana Helbig, the society’s youngest member and lecturer.

Dr. Helbig graduated from Columbia University in May 2005 with a doctorate in ethnomusicology. Her dissertation, titled “‘Play for Me, Old Gypsy’: Music as Political Resource in the Roma Rights Movement in Ukraine,” is an ethnographic study of Roma (Gypsy) communities in Transcarpathia from 2000 to 2004. This work analyzes the ways in which Roma utilize expressive culture to draw awareness to the minority rights movement in post-Soviet Ukraine.

Dr. Helbig’s research was made possible through a grant from the Fulbright Association (2001-2002) and through travel grants and teaching fellowships from Columbia University’s Department of Music.

The theme of the evening’s lecture and Dr. Helbig’s research was how the perpetuating stereotype of Roma-as-nomad is rooted in racial prejudice. There are over 168 Roma settlements in the Transcarpathian region with populations that range from 200 to 2,000 Roma.

Dr. Helbig lived and worked in Roma communities in Uzhhorod and Lviv. She detailed how Roma have throughout recent years been pushed out of the economic sphere, for example in Uzhhorod, where they can no longer trade at the central bazaar. Other examples included how floods have wiped out entire “tabory,” or settlements of Roma, a situation exacerbated by the lack of knowledge and support for rebuilding from the rest of Ukraine.

Dr. Helbig also focused on the recent organization of Roma in response to these stereotypes. Over the last 15 years, Roma in Ukraine have begun to organize themselves culturally and politically through a network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These NGOs



Dr. Adriana Helbig (right) with Shevchenko Society President Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych.

receive financial aid from Western philanthropic organizations like the Soros Foundation to implement various development projects in impoverished Roma communities. Represented by more than 80 cultural, judicial, educational and political organizations, Roma have become one of the most socially organized national minorities in post-Soviet Ukraine.

The goal of this Roma movement and organization in Ukraine is to abolish stereotypes of Roma and to educate others about their culture, as well to draw government attention to the state of Roma affairs in Ukraine. Some aspects that may be missed by those in Ukraine

and other countries who chose to write off “Tsyhany” are that Roma do not want to live in poverty or be considered outsiders, and despite their stereotype as nomads with apathy toward the land, that they do and want to work the soil.

Dr. Helbig discussed in detail one of the most widely known customs of the Roma, namely the funeral procession that even non-Roma acknowledge: “Roma funeral processions serve as a poignant example of one of the ways in which Roma in Uzhhorod ground their lived experience in the physical world. Movement signifies a crucial aspect of this grounding. Roma do not bury their dead near the Roma settlement but rather walk through town to the cemetery in Uzhhorod proper. Non-Roma must wait until the procession passes before continuing with their daily business. As one Roma informant put it, however, ‘it is only in death that non-Roma treat us with respect.’ The procession demands politeness from onlookers for the Roma deceased and concurrently affirms the strength of the Roma community who participate in this ritual of collective mourning. Yet it is the accompanying music that roots the procession in the consciousness of those who see and hear it.”

The evening’s lecture ended with a short film produced for Ukrainian television by The Romani Yag organization in 2002. Filmed on location in Transcarpathia, the film offered powerful insights into the ways in which Roma perceive themselves and want to be perceived by non-Roma in Ukraine and elsewhere – having jobs, working the land, playing music and educating their young.

After hearty applause and a question and answer period moderated by Prof. Vasyl Makhno, Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, thanked Dr. Helbig. The evening concluded with conversation over wine and cheese.

For more information about Roma or The Romani Yag monthly newsletter readers may contact Dr. Helbig at anh5@columbia.edu.

University of Vermont scientists visit Carpathian Mountains

by Bill Keeton

The Carpathian Mountains in eastern Europe have some of the highest levels of species diversity and endemism in Europe. The range harbors a full complement of native predators, including brown bear, lynx, and gray wolf, as well as European bison and elk (or red deer). The mountains sport magnificent old-growth European beech forests, including a 10,000 hectare stand protected by a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The region is also experiencing forest health concerns, many of which stem from a history of intensive, plantation-style forest management and the effects of air pollution.

Conservation value, old-growth forests, a need for sustainable forestry, and forest health issues? Sounds like a job for a crack squad of University of Vermont [known as UVM for Universitas Viridis Montis, Latin for University of the Green Mountains] forest scientists.

In September, forest scientists Dr. Bill Keeton and Dr. Dale Bergdahl of The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (RSENr) traveled to Ukraine with former Fulbright Scholar and UVM research associate Yuriy Bihun. The trip was conducted as part of an international exchange between RSENr, The Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, and the Ukrainian National Forestry University. The ongoing exchange includes both forest scientists and ecological economists, and is funded by a grant from the Trust for International Understanding (Dr. Josh Farley, P.I.). Mr. Bihun acted as translator and facilitator throughout the trip.

The UVM delegation met with collaborating scientists and economists at both the Ukrainian National Forestry University (NFU) in Lviv and the National Agricultural University, Institute of Forestry in Kyiv. These meetings were fruitful in terms of exploring possible research collaborations and future exchanges of administrators, scientists and students.

While in Lviv, Dr. Keeton and Mr. Bihun gave presentations at the International Conference on Ecology, Economics and Sustainable Development. Drs. Keeton and Bergdahl also guest lectured before an undergraduate forest management class.

The highlight of the trip was a three-day tour of the Ukrainian Carpathians. Several NFU faculty members and a

graduate student acted as guides through the often treacherous terrain. The UVM delegation visited areas intensively managed for timber using short rotation, even-aged methods. There the team identified a number of fungal pathogens impacting the primary commercial species, Norway spruce, and suggested alternative management approaches.

Next on the agenda were visits to several national parks and biological reserves. At each stop, the team was graciously hosted by officials and natural resource staff and treated to sumptuous traditional Ukrainian meals. While visiting the old-growth stands, the UVM delegation inspected permanent

monitoring plots and shared ideas about research on forest dynamics and biodiversity.

The tour concluded with a spectacular daylong hike up to high elevations in a montane research preserve. The tour through the Carpathians was a fascinating introduction to a region rich in cultural and ecological significance.

The international exchange continues with visits to UVM by Ukrainian ecological economists (October 2005) and forest scientists (May 2006). UVM scientists plan to further its research collaboration with the Ukrainians, beginning with a return trip to the region in summer 2006.



University of Vermont scientists and associates hike high in the Carpathian Mountains with Ukrainian National Forestry University faculty and biological reserve staff.

Dr. William Keeton, assistant professor of forestry, University of Vermont School of Forestry, is a specialist in old growth forests and forest ecosystem dynamics. His article is reprinted, with permission, from the The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources Newsletter (December 2005 issue).

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

and the International Fund for Medical Cooperation. The agreement was signed by Ukrainian Health Minister Yurii Poliachenko and the fund's president, Christian Carrera. In accordance with the agreement, a National Cancer Institute will be established in Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn: Rada vote could be canceled

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said on January 16 that he believes canceling the resolution on the government's dismissal is possible, but a dialogue with the president and the acting prime minister about the situation in Ukraine is needed. According to Mr. Lytvyn, the dialogue and settlement of all challenging issues is possible, if the government is cleaned up of odious figures, "who know nothing except of talking." Mr. Lytvyn also spoke about the complicated psychological climate in Ukraine, noting that, after the presidential elections, "instead of uniting people, they have quarreled." Mr. Lytvyn stressed the need for normal cooperation with the president and the government, noting that this is possible only if the cooperation is based on principled positions. On January 10 the Verkhovna Rada had voted to dismiss the government. However, President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yekhanurov said the decision is not constitutional. The reason for the dismissal was the agreement between the Naftohaz Ukrainy and Russia's Gazprom on gas supplies to Ukraine and its transit to Western Europe. Some political forces, particularly Yulia Tymoshenko, view the agreement as a betrayal of national interests. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn suggests reshuffling Cabinet

KYIV – Speaking to journalists in Kyiv on January 16, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn suggested the government's partial reshuffling as the optimal way to solve the problem of the Cabinet's dismissal. Such a partial reshuffling would allow the Parliament to either revoke its resolution on sacking the government or adopt another version of that resolution. Mr. Lytvyn noted that the Rada may not nullify the resolution because it has not been challenged and, therefore, remains valid. In this connection the chairman urged a Verkhovna Rada dialogue with the government to decide what steps the Parliament and the government should take to normalize the situation. Mr. Lytvyn pointed to another likely variant to resolve the dispute: the president's move to nominate a new prime minister. The Parliament, Mr. Lytvyn contended, will surely support the nominee, otherwise, both parties will stick to their ground and will pretend that nothing has happened, hardly a constructive stand. (Ukrinform)

Rada vice-chair on president's demand

KYIV – The first vice chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Communist Party member Adam Martyniuk, delivered a rather harshly worded statement on January 16 when he told a press conference in Kyiv that the Verkhovna Rada will not consider President Viktor Yushchenko's letter, which demands that the Parliament revoke its January 10 resolution on sacking the government. According to Mr. Martyniuk, the president's letter was a demand, rather than a request, though the president is not entitled to make any demands of the Verkhovna Rada. Mr. Martyniuk also said the tenor of the president's letter was inadmissible, though the text was conveyed to every deputy for familiarization. The president and the government insist that the Parliament's January 10 resolution was unconstitutional. Opposition factions and

the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc collected 260 votes in support of sending the government packing. The Constitutional Court is entitled to solve the dispute, but its new judges have not been appointed or sworn in. Speaking at the news conference, Mr. Martyniuk voiced his assumption that the Parliament will succeed in appointing its quota of four Constitutional Court judges this week. He also accused the pro-authority factions of having frustrated the Parliament's January 12 attempt (the third in a row) to elect Constitutional Court judges. (Ukrinform)

Rada prolongs session for one week

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on January 13 decided to prolong its current session for one more week, until January 20, the UNIAN news service reported. The motion was backed by 241 deputies; pro-government factions did not participate in the vote. The previous day pro-government deputies blocked the Verkhovna Rada rostrum in a successful bid to prevent opposition groups from tabling a vote on the dismissal of Justice Minister Serhii Holovaty. It is not clear from media reports why the Ukrainian Parliament wanted to sack Mr. Holovaty one more time, two days after its vote to dismiss the entire Cabinet of Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov. Mr. Holovaty said after the January 10 sacking of the government that the move was unconstitutional and contravened parliamentary procedures. President Viktor Yushchenko instructed Mr. Yekhanurov to continue performing his duties until the parliamentary elections in March and called on the Verkhovna Rada to annul the dismissal vote. (RFE/RL Newline)

More than 7,000 to vie for Rada seats

KYIV – Ukraine's Central Election Commission on January 12 considered complaints from some political forces regarding the registration of their candidates for the March 26 parliamentary elections, the UNIAN news service reported. As of January 12 the commission had registered 7,650 candidates from 44 political parties and blocs. This year's elections are the first in independent Ukraine to be held under a fully proportional, party-list system. Under the constitutional reform that took effect on January 1, the new Parliament will have a decisive say in forming the government. Its term is extended to five years from the current four. Sociological surveys indicate that six or seven Ukrainian parties and blocs may overcome the 3 percent vote threshold that qualifies a party for parliamentary representation. (RFE/RL Newline)

No Ukrainians in RosUkrEnerg

KYIV – Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov said on January 12 that the Swiss-based RosUkrEnerg company has no Ukrainian owners, UNIAN reported. Mr. Yekhanurov said the component "Ukr" in the company's name indicates that the company originally planned to have Ukrainian stockholders. He stressed that Russia did not leave Ukraine any other option for a gas supplier in 2006 apart from RosUkrEnerg. On January 4 Gazprom and Naftohaz Ukrayiny, Ukraine's oil and gas transport company, signed a controversial gas deal that made RosUkrEnerg the monopolist of gas supplies to Ukraine. RosUkrEnerg was described in the media as a company owned by Gazprom and unidentified "Ukrainian investors." Meanwhile, Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's first vice prime minister and head of the Gazprom board of directors, said on January 12 that the "optimal option" for Gazprom would be to have Naftohaz Ukrayiny as a

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

partner in RosUkrEnergо. Mr. Medvedev confirmed earlier reports that Gazprom owns a 50-percent stake in RosUkrEnergо. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Gazprom wants Ukrainian partner

MOSCOW – Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's first deputy prime minister and Gazprom's chairman of the board, said in Moscow on January 12 that he hopes the Ukrainian state energy company Naftohaz Ukrayiny will become a partner in RosUkrEnergо, the shadowy Swiss-based company set up by Gazprom as an intermediary, RIA-Novosti reported. Moscow has made similar suggestions to Kyiv in the past. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Gazprom hints at higher prices

MOSCOW – Gazprom chief executive Aleksei Miller told RTR state television on January 15 that his firm is participating directly in the RosUkrEnergо joint venture with Ukraine that sells Russian natural gas, ITAR-TASS reported. "The joint venture between Russia and Ukraine should be absolutely transparent. Gazprombank, a 100 percent subsidiary of Gazprom, represents Russia in the joint venture, and its activities are absolutely clear and transparent. Meanwhile, a foreign bank represents Ukraine. Russia has said many times that it would be better to make Gazprom and Naftohaz Ukrayiny the co-founders of the joint venture," Mr. Miller said. He argued that Russian gas prices for Ukraine may vary depending on market conditions and petroleum product prices. "The current gas price for [what] Ukraine [gets in Russian gas] is \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters. Bearing in mind the shift to market terms, gas prices for Ukraine may increase or go down. This is the market. The gas price is linked to prices for petroleum products and crude oil. So, Russian gas prices on the Ukrainian market may fluctuate," he said. Mr. Miller stressed that "the European market is the sole determinant of gas prices." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Putin wants renewal of nuclear ties

ASTANA – Russian President Vladimir Putin said in Astana, Kazakhstan, on January 12 after meeting with his Ukrainian and Kazakh counterparts that he wants to restore the kind of nuclear energy ties between the three states that existed under the USSR but based on market lines, The Moscow Times reported. He called the prospects for nuclear cooperation with Ukraine "nothing but promising." Sergei Kirienko, who heads the Federal Atomic Energy Agency, or RosAtom, said that he wants to "rebuild the Minsredmash complex," meaning the former Soviet ministry that dealt with nuclear power. He will present a plan for cooperation between Kazakhstan and RosAtom at the St. Petersburg summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on January 25 and then go to Kyiv for talks on cooperation with Ukraine. Russia inherited about

80 percent of the nuclear industry of the Soviet Union but has only about half of the uranium ore it needs to make fuel to power it. RosAtom wants to buy uranium from Kazakhstan, which seeks Russian money to finance new nuclear power stations. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President wants retraction of vote

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said at a government meeting on January 12 that he has requested that the Verkhovna Rada cancel its January 10 decision to sack Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov's Cabinet, the UNIAN news service reported. "I have written an appeal to the Verkhovna Rada with the request that it cancel [its] unconstitutional decision to dismiss the government," Mr. Yushchenko said. He added that he considers the current Cabinet to be a full-fledged government, adding that Mr. Yekhanurov does not need to use the adjective "acting" before his official title. (RFE/RL Newsline)

...withdraws from pact with rival

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko also informed the Cabinet of Ministers on January 12 that he has withdrawn his sig-

nature under the memorandum he signed with his former presidential rival, Party of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich, to enlist Mr. Yanukovich's support for the approval of Yurii Yekhanurov as prime minister in September, UNIAN reported. President Yushchenko explained that the Party of the Regions violated the memorandum by voting on January 10 to dismiss Mr. Yekhanurov. Mr. Yushchenko obligated himself in the 10-point memorandum to restrain from using "repression against the opposition" and to draft a bill on amnesty for those guilty of election fraud in the 2004 presidential election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New UOC-KP bishop for Poltava

KYIV – Archimandrite Mykhail (Bondarchuk) was ordained bishop of Poltava and Kremenchuk for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate on January 1 in St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv. Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the UOC-KP, was the principal celebrant. According to uaorthodox.org, the new bishop is the 41st hierarch of the UOC-KP. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Kryvorizhstal is renamed

KYIV – The company Mittal Steel has announced that the Kryvorizhstal mill has been officially renamed the Mittal Steel Krivoi Rog. A decision to this effect was made at a general meeting of the company's stockholders. The general meeting also appointed the company's CEO and elected its board of directors, headed by Narendra Chaudhari, who has 40 years' experience in managerial work. He has been with Mittal Steel since 1993. He was once executive director of Mittal Steel Galati (Romania) and Mittal Steel Temirtau (Kazakhstan). The general meeting elected the company's new supervisory panel, composed of Malai Mukherjee, Vijai Bhatnagar, Gregor Munstermann, Simon Ivans, Sherde de Vrise. Kryvorizhstal is Ukraine's biggest steel works, accounting for around 20 percent of Ukraine's metal market. Its facilities annually produce over 6 million tons of rolled metal, about 7 million tons of steel and over 7.8 million tons of cast iron. Mittal Steel is the world's biggest manufacturer of steel and runs steel mills in 14 countries. It supplies its metal to major automakers, engineering industry enterprises and construction businesses. (Ukrinform)

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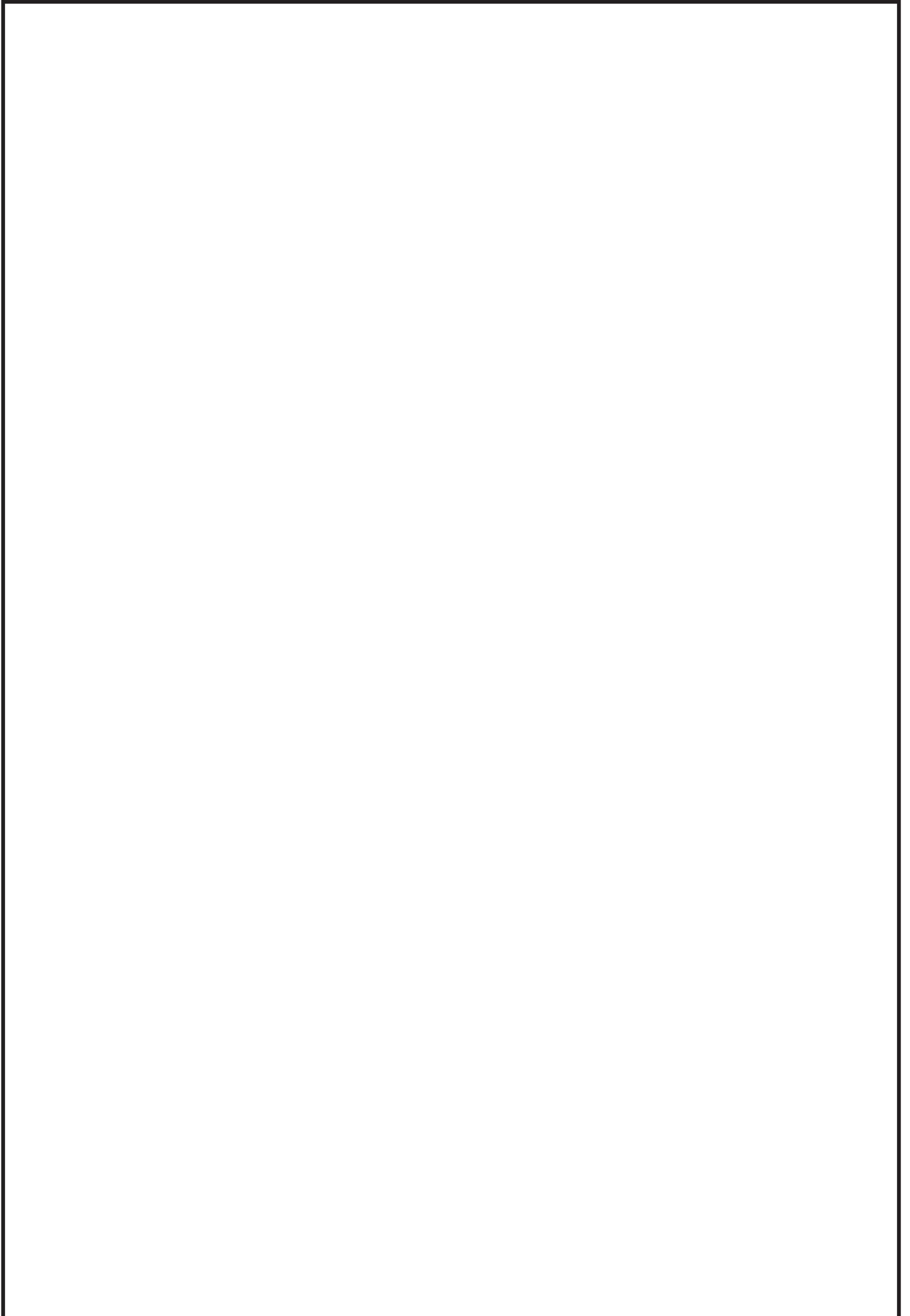
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Kulish appointed artistic director for Vermont Opera Festival

WAITSFIELD, Vt. – Canadian opera singer, Taras Kulish, bass-baritone, was appointed new artistic director for the Vermont Opera Festival (VOF), as announced on January 13 by the Green Mountain Cultural Center.

With over 10 years of professional singing experience, Mr. Kulish, a native of Montreal, has performed in Canada and internationally in such roles as Figaro in "The Marriage of Figaro," Colline in "La Bohème," Leporello in "Don Giovanni," Basilio in "Il Barbiere de Siviglia," and Raimondo in "Lucia di Lammermoor," among others. His performances have taken him to France, Belgium, the Czech Republic and England.

Mr. Kulish's most recent engagement was with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra as bass soloist in Nielsen's 3rd Symphony. In the fall he will perform the role of Don Magnifico in "La Cenerentola" at the Calgary Opera.

Mr. Kulish's academic background includes music studies at McGill University and opera performance as a graduate student at the University of Toronto.

His performances have been critically singled out for "exemplary diction and a warm masculine bass-baritone, charming the audience with his thespian antics" (Opera News) and "impressive projection and rich timbre" (Opera Canada Magazine).

As the newly appointed artistic director of the Vermont Opera Festival, Mr. Kulish said he looks forward to putting on the festival's first full-length opera production. Alongside the production of Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" next summer, the VOF will present several opera excerpt concerts with various themes, including a celebration of Mozart's 250th birthday.

According to Mr. Kulish, his biggest



Taras Kulish

challenge for next summer is to raise funds to provide for the use of a full symphony orchestra for the opera productions. Accordingly, a fund-raising event, including a concert performance, will be held on February 11 at the Bundy Center for the Arts.

The VOF, the only venue of its kind in the state of Vermont, embarks on its sixth season next summer in the Mad River Valley. For now, the festival spans a two-week period, slated for June 11-26; however, Mr. Kulish's long-term plan is to progressively expand the festival to three, and eventually to four, weeks.

Mr. Kulish is also interested in nurturing young talent by eventually implementing a young artist's program at the VOF that would offer training and much-

needed performance opportunities.

VOF performances take place at the Barre Opera House – a beautiful European-style theater built in the 1890s with a seating capacity of 650. Rehearsals, as well as various performances, take place at the Round Barn in Waitsfield. The Round Barn, which was built in 1910 and was recently fully restored, is one of only five remaining round barns in Vermont.

Certain rehearsals at the Round Barn will be free and open to the public.

There will be an opportunity to meet Mr. Kulish at the February 11 fund-raiser. For more information on the festival or the fund-raiser, readers may call the Green Mountain Cultural Center, (802) 496-7722. Information on the opera house may be found on the website www.barreoperahouse.org.

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"Так! Українці перемагають сміючись" (Yes, Ukrainians Win Laughing)

A unique publication about the events that took place during the 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine. The book features the Ukrainian people standing up for honest and transparent elections as well as combating the flagrant fraud of the vote by the government. Abundant in illustrations, it conveys the spirit of Independence Square in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, during the peaceful Orange Revolution. "Так! Українці перемагають сміючись" became possible thanks to the financial support by Alex, Halyna, George and Nina Woskob and the Ivan Bahriany Foundation. The project was administered and coordinated by Oleh Chornohuz and Yuri Zadoya, respectively.

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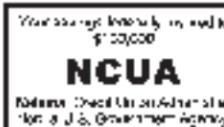
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Yana Sedova

An advertisement featuring Ukrainians in holiday costumes is part of the Lytvyn People's Bloc "We" campaign.

Candidates, blocs...

(Continued from page 1)

played their latest political ads several times a night on a daily basis.

Their most recent ads are snapshots from a political rally where Party of the Regions leaders appear on stage, waving and embracing each other in front of large, roaring crowds.

One features snapshots of five Party of Regions leaders giving dramatic speeches in front of cheering crowds.

Former Kharkiv Oblast Council Chair Yevhen Kushnariov, who was arrested last year for embezzling large sums of money from the government, is featured first in the advertisement. Mr. Kushnariov late last year dissolved his New Democracy Party to join the Party of the Regions, earning the 11th slot on its electoral list.

"We are a force! We are united! We are confident in tomorrow!" declares the Russian-speaking politician, whom many Ukrainians remember calling for eastern Ukraine's secession during the Orange Revolution.

Following Mr. Kushnariov is Taras Chornovil, the infamous turncoat who abandoned the pro-Western forces led by his father, dissident Vyacheslav Chornovil, who is widely believed to have been killed in a staged car accident.

"We are a real team – the team of victors!" declares Taras Chornovil, who served as campaign manager during Mr. Yanukovich's 2004 presidential run.

Next in the ad is Donetsk billionaire Rynat Akhmetov, who declares in Russian, "We should build a strong economy and create new jobs."

"... So that together with you we will unite Ukraine into a single, unified Ukraine!" chimes in Nina Karpachova, the Verkhovna Rada's ombudsman for human rights who stunned many when the Party of the Regions announced in December that she was ranked second on its electoral list, just behind Mr. Yanukovich.

Finally, the party chief appears in the ad declaring in Russian, "Together we will win for all of Ukraine!"

Though odious in most regions of Ukraine, these leaders enjoy strong support in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv oblasts, media experts said.

"Akhmetov has reached mythical status in Donetsk," Mr. Balynskyi said.

The ad, therefore, is not meant to draw new voters to the Party of the Regions, but to reinforce its base in eastern Ukraine and encourage the people to come out and vote, media experts said.

"This clip demonstrates that their campaign team is influential, united and powerful," Mr. Balynskyi said.

Another Party of Regions ad currently on Ukrainian television seeks to capitalize on the shortcomings of the

Yushchenko presidency.

"You remember how it was," declares an ominous-sounding voice. "They promised you a better life. Think about what's happened in the past year: prices have risen, pensions are miserly, heating got more expensive. Soon the future of Ukraine will depend on you."

"The Party of the Regions and Viktor Yanukovich are going into the elections to defend your interests – to renew stability, increase pensions, create new jobs and to ensure decent wages."

Then came the Party of Regions 2006 slogan: "The Party of Regions – A Better Life Right Now!"

At the end, the five Party of Regions leaders are shown standing together, arm in arm, on a stage in front of a cheering crowd.

Such an ad is specifically targeted at those disappointed in the Orange Revolution, Ms. Tyshenko said. And it may be effective, she added.

Giving the Russian language official status in Ukraine is a main theme of a third Party of the Regions advertisement, making it apparent the party wants to exploit this issue to the fullest.

"The Party of the Regions will lead the country in making the Russian language the second official language of Ukraine," Mr. Yanukovich declares on a stage in front of a sea of supporters. "We are ready to fight for lower taxes."

Then he makes a statement that will likely offend most Orange Revolution participants, if only the commercial made it more than barely audible above the background music.

"It's time to put an end to stealing and incompetence," Mr. Yanukovich says in Russian, then repeats the Party of Regions slogan. "Together we will win for all of Ukraine."

Media experts are divided on whether or not such ads will be effective.

"That ad might work against him," Ms. Lihachova said. "It's mainly for people who sympathize with their bloc."

The Party of Regions is trying to convince voters it offers a better vision than their opponents, Mr. Balynskyi said.

"You can say Yanukovich is speaking to the idea of revenge and to his version of Ukraine's development," he said. "He is telling the voter that he will change everything from the way the government is currently doing it."

Our Ukraine campaign

Only Our Ukraine has mounted a television ad campaign that even approaches the massive presence the Party of the Regions has.

During the New Year's holiday, the Our Ukraine ads bore the slogan "Always return home!" – an apparent reference to those voters who might have drifted from Our Ukraine in supporting other Orange parties.

Our Ukraine's current advertisement features no personalities or politicians, just large text excerpts which appear on the screen that echo a stern voice that states:

"Think Ukrainian. Think about Ukraine. Take care of Ukraine. This is your land, your responsibility, your mission. Think Ukrainian. Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine."

Compared to the more active, dynamic Party of the Regions ads, such ads seem passive, a trait of Mr. Yushchenko himself, Ms. Lihachova said.

"People see him as a beekeeper who doesn't have the charisma of a politician committed to struggle," she said. "That kind of ad gives that kind of impression – someone not ready for an active struggle."

In a similar Our Ukraine ad, a stern voice says, "Think in Ukrainian. You are descendants of the great Princess Olha, Volodymyr the Great and Yaroslav the Wise. History demands that you believe in yourself and in Ukraine. Think Ukrainian. Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine."

Such ads are not effective because they are too patriarchal and excessively patriotic, Mr. Balynskyi said.

"They don't take into account the uniqueness of Ukrainian cities, particularly in the industrial regions of southern and eastern Ukraine," he said. "But I don't exclude that this is done especially to save and bring together the Orange electorate, which is based in central and western Ukraine."

Tymoshenko opts for personal visits

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc has yet to launch any television ads. Instead, the charismatic leader relies more on live campaign visits, Mr. Balynskyi said.

In just the past week, she visited the western oblasts of Lviv, Chernivtsi and Khmelnytskyi to perform damage control on her image after her political bloc voted to dismiss Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov and his Cabinet of Ministers.

"Yanukovich and Lytvyn are weak orators and aren't capable of captivating large audiences," Mr. Balynskyi said. "Tymoshenko can turn an audience of 15,000 people in her

favor. I have seen with my own eyes how she turned people who were against her to her side after delivering a speech."

Lytvyn's "We" approach

More than any other party, Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Bloc has dominated billboards and outdoor advertising spaces with its "My" ("We" in English) campaign.

Featuring no text other than the word "My," the ads feature ordinary Ukrainians at work or at play.

During the holidays, "My" billboards and posters showed a typical Ukrainian family cheerfully gathered around a dinner table toasting with glasses in their hands, or dressed in humorous, festive holiday costumes.

Other "My" posters employ old Soviet photographs of Ukrainians at work on a farm or in a factory.

While the Party of Regions ads are aimed at reinforcing their support, the "My" campaign is aimed at attracting as many voters as possible to Lytvyn's People's Bloc, Mr. Balynskyi said.

"Everyone clearly understands that his ads are a mixture of Soviet nostalgia with the idea that with Lytvyn you have stability," he said. "Nostalgia for Soviet times is nostalgia for stability."

The single television ad from Lytvyn's People's Bloc is certainly among the most creative, media experts said. It's a cartoon of a tug-of-war battle between muscular men wearing orange on one side, pulling against another group of athletic men wearing blue. As they both tug on the rope with all their strength, it begins to tear in the middle.

Just as it rips and both sides are about to fall on their backsides, a handsome, confident Lytvyn steps up to the center, grabs both ends and ties them back together. "An attempt at understanding – Lytvyn's People's Bloc," a voice states.

Such an ad attempts to establish Lytvyn as a moderate, third choice in Ukrainian politics that will seek the middle road in Ukrainian politics, experts said.

"Lytvyn is showing he wants to develop Ukraine without any radical changes," Mr. Balynskyi said. "His ads are exceptionally and expertly done. He has surprisingly climbed the election field."

Communists invoke Picasso

Although typically averse to television ads, the Communist Party has launched at least one during the 2006 campaign.

It's rather unique, emphasizing the historical fact that abstract artist Pablo Picasso was once a devoted Communist. The ad features a voice quoting Picasso:

"Through painting and color, I want to advance my understanding of people and this world in the direction that this understanding makes us freer. My membership in the Communist Party is the logical extension of all my life and all my work. Geniuses think alike. Communist Party of Ukraine."

Other political parties and blocs that are unlikely to break the 3 percent barrier also have launched television ads, including the Christian-Democratic Party.

Leonid Kravchuk's "Not So"

Former President Leonid Kravchuk of the Ne Tak! Bloc also makes an appearance on a television ad. Seated in an armchair, he is shown watching television. Mr. Yushchenko's voice is heard giving a speech during the Orange Revolution, and the crowd is chanting "Yush-chen-ko! Yush-chen-ko!"

Then Mr. Kravchuk grins into the camera: "He said, 'He knows, he believes.' They promised they could. Life showed that they couldn't do anything. Enough of tormenting people!" Then the Ne Tak! Logo appears on the screen.

The Ne Tak! (Not So) Bloc is largely composed of the Social Democratic Party – United (SDPU), a group that promotes the interests of a business clan led by Viktor Medvedchuk and Dynamo Kyiv owner Hryhorii Surkis.

Political advertising is moving in a new, positive direction, a trend noticed by media experts. So far this year, aside from the Ne Tak! ad featuring Mr. Kravchuk, there haven't been any attack ads, or what's commonly referred to in Ukraine as "black public relations."

There also haven't been any attempts, thus far, to manipulate voters, exploit the east-west divide or play on people's fears, experts said.

One of the Party of the Regions hired guns in the 2004 campaign, television personality Vyacheslav Pikhovshek, joked this year that there won't be any attack ads such as "Yekhanurov – The Buryat," referring to the attacks on American-born Kateryna Yushchenko. Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov is an ethnic Buryat from Russia.

"Political parties and blocs are working much more professionally than earlier," Mr. Balynskyi said. "It's obvious that some negative ads against Yushchenko in the last campaign had the opposite effect. They helped Yushchenko. These parties and blocs are using ads to try to carry ideas to the voters."

The latest...

(Continued from page 3)

Affairs released a statement on January 13 noting that Russia has no property rights in Crimea.

Moreover, under bilateral agreements signed in May 1997, Russia confirmed that Ukraine has all property rights to real estate and land that is in use by the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

At the same time Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov acknowledged on January 17 that there are no official agreements concerning Ukrainian hydrographic objects. Negotiations are still in progress.

The dispute over lighthouses in Crimea became another sticking point in relations between Ukraine and Russia after the gas conflict, revealing the legal deficiencies of bilateral agreements between the two countries.

"The situation surrounding the lighthouses infringes on Ukraine's national interests and undermines our authority in the world," said Anatolii Kinakh, National Security and Defense Council secretary, in a January 16 interview with Channel 5. "In recent years the so-called 'diplomacy without neckties' caused many problems concerning the handover to Ukraine of hydrographic objects, including lighthouses, and land."

Only 65 of 100 hydrographic objects are under Ukraine's control. The other 35 objects are situated at Russian military installations and are guarded by Russian marines.

However, Ukrainian officials state that it is the Ukrainian Hydrographic Service that oversees the lighthouses, which ensure security in Ukraine's territorial waters, not the military of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

Members of the Ukrainian youth

organization Students' Brotherhood (Studentske Bratstvo) who have been monitoring the latest conflict said during a January 17 press conference that the Russian Black Sea Fleet not only withholds properties but subleases them to Ukrainian organizations.

Oleh Yatsenko, the leader of Studentske Bratstvo, asserted that after the Yalta lighthouse incident Russia seized new properties in Crimea and installed special nameplates inscribed with the words "Territory of the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation."

Ukrainian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko said on January 17 that the nameplates are illegal and that the territory doesn't belong to Russia.

Ukrainian officials should sue Russia for its activity in Crimea, said Mr. Yatsenko. "At the Sevastopol police department I was assured that if there were court decisions, they would set all the lighthouses free [of Russian control]," he said.

However, this would hardly solve the problem, as Russian officials don't want to acknowledge Ukrainian court decisions that order them to return hydrographic objects to Ukraine, as happened in case of the Yalta lighthouse.

Russian officials insist that this is an international problem that must be solved on the intergovernmental level.

A special commission will hold a meeting on February 16 and try to settle all issues regarding the Russian Black Sea Fleet, Mr. Kinakh said.

The press secretary of the Ukrainian State Property Fund, Nina Yavorska, said in a January 15 interview with the Russian-language newspaper Kommersant that a special commission would soon carry out an inventory of all Ukrainian property in Crimea.



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Why did the Rada...

(Continued from page 2)

Mr. Yekhanurov, who spoke on the gas deal in the Parliament before the no-confidence vote, argued that it was the best possible compromise under strong pressure from Moscow, which demanded a price of \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters. Mr. Yekhanurov also maintained that resorting to international arbitration over the 2002 gas-supply contract with Gazprom and previous intergovernmental gas agreements with Moscow was not a good option for Kyiv, since, he argued, both sides would have to wait for years for a ruling in such a quarrel.

Opposition lawmakers, however, did not heed these arguments and voted Prime Minister Yekhanurov out of his office, simultaneously charging him with

the task of a caretaker until a new Cabinet is formed.

But the formation of a new Cabinet may prove to be a tricky task. Under the constitutional reform that took effect on January 1, it is possible for the current legislature to dismiss the current Cabinet but impossible to form a new one. This can be done only by the new composition of the Verkhovna Rada to be elected on March 26.

On the other hand, President Viktor Yushchenko cannot form a new government either, since the constitutional reform in force gives a decisive say in this regard to the Parliament. Mr. Yushchenko said in a statement on January 11 that Mr. Yekhanurov's Cabinet will continue to perform its tasks as if nothing has happened.

If the opposition knew that it is impos-

sible to replace Prime Minister Yekhanurov prior to the parliamentary elections, why did it decide to hold a no-confidence vote in him?

It seems that the primary reason behind the no-confidence vote was to send the strong message to the electorate that President Yushchenko and his government no longer represent the people's interests and that voters should look for other depositors of their political hopes.

However, it is not presently obvious that the no-confidence vote can improve the electoral chances of major opposition forces. Mr. Yekhanurov said the move against his Cabinet is likely to improve the standing of the pro-presidential camp in the elections since, he asserted, Ukrainians are rather prone to take the side of a wronged party in quarrels – in this case, the government.

As for Ms. Tymoshenko, the no-confidence vote – which can be seen as an apt act of revenge for her September 2005 dismissal by President Yushchenko from the post of prime minister – may even harm her election chances.

After her split with the president, Ms. Tymoshenko began to claim that it is her bloc, not Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine,

that preserves the true ideals of the 2004 Orange Revolution. It seems that she will find it much harder to ingrain this conviction in voters now, after she sided with the Party of the Regions and the Communist Party – firm opponents of the Orange Revolution – in the anti-Yushchenko vote on January 10.

What seems to be perfectly clear after January 10 is that Ms. Tymoshenko, who until recently remained relatively neutral in her public attitudes toward President Yushchenko, has finally decided to take a path of war against him. Therefore, one should expect more anti-Yushchenko moves and statements from her side in the election campaign.

Second, the January 10 vote appears to indicate that one cannot exclude any governing alliance in Ukraine after the March 26 elections – be it between Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovych or between Messrs. Yanukovych and Yushchenko, or once again between Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko. The stakes in the elections are extremely high, and what now can be seen as improbable and unthinkable may become an act of political expediency after three months.



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Auxiliary bishop...

(Continued from page 1)

Msgr. Bura also served as rector of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington in 1987-1997. From 1997 to 2002 he was pastor of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chester, Pa., and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic

Church in Millville, N.J. From 2002 until the present he has served as pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Wilmington, Del., and St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chesapeake, Md.

On June 12, 1991, Bishop-Elect Bura was named a monsignor by Pope John Paul II with the rank of papal chamber-

lain.

In addition to these duties, he is president of the Providence Association for Ukrainian Catholics and was recently re-elected for a second term which expires in 2010; a member of the Archieparchial Consultors and member of the board of directors of the Sheptytsky Educational Center in Philadelphia, a member of the Presbyteral Council, a member of the Archieparchial Liturgical Commission, and a member of St. Josaphat Seminary Admission Board and Advisory Board.

A date of episcopal ordination will be announced shortly.

Another appointment recently announced for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States was that of Bishop Paul Patrick Chomnycky, apostolic exarch for Ukrainian Catholics in Great Britain, as eparch of Stamford, Conn. (The appointment was reported in The Ukrainian Weekly on January 8.)

In a statement released to the press, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka said: "I look forward with excitement and enthusiasm to sharing with Bishop-Elect John Bura and with Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, in the pastoral leadership of our metropolia. I thank them for their willingness to embrace this new

challenge and I congratulate them on this special elevation. I believe that God directs and guides His servants best when they pray and consult with one another. Our newly appointed auxiliary bishop and the new Eparch for Stamford have the personal abilities and spiritual qualities and the energy to engage in this journey of shared leadership. I ask that our clergy, religious and faithful especially pray for Bishop-Elect John Bura at this time of his preparation for the fullness of the priesthood as a bishop, and for the successful fulfillment of episcopal ministry by Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, in the Stamford Eparchy."

Ukraine's addiction...

(Continued from page 2)

energy demand anywhere from 10 to 30 percent."

Corruption also figures prominently in Ukraine's dismal energy efficiency. The more gas sold to Ukraine, the greater the kickbacks to the chain of suppliers and their protectors in government.

But subsidies are doing much to hamstringing Ukraine's energy efficiency. On December 23, 2005, Interfax reported that Gas Ukrayiny, a subsidiary of Naftohaz Ukrayiny, announced that the company planned to supply natural gas to the population and public sector at the current price of about \$35-\$38 per 1,000 cubic meters for the population and about \$46 for public-sector entities. With Ukraine buying gas for \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters, household prices will continue to be heavily subsidized. And with gas so cheap, there has never been a pressing need to save it.

This is insignificant compared to Ukraine's highly subsidized metallurgy and chemical industry, which consumes gargantuan amounts of gas. Companies such as Interpipe, the Kryvorizhstal steel works and the Industrial Union of the

Donbas thrive on cheap and plentiful gas supplies, which allow the owners to produce steel at rock-bottom prices.

The metallurgy industry was the main factor behind the rapid growth of Ukrainian gross domestic product (GDP) in 2001-2004. The government of former President Leonid Kuchma and former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich was loath to see it drop - something that was sure to happen if gas prices increased. Russia, in turn, was interested in supporting the Kuchma-Yanukovich government for political reasons and continued to supply cheap gas in the hope that this would keep the bond strong.

That bond could be partly broken by Ukraine's (and Russia's) application to join the World Trade Organization. The WTO has impressed upon post-Soviet states that they must pay market prices for energy in order to improve the efficiency of their economies. Ukraine has another six months before it renegotiates with Russia the price it pays for gas. One highly placed Naftohaz Ukrayiny official in Kyiv told RFE/RL that it would be the height of irony if President Putin, by raising the price of gas to Ukraine, forced Ukrainians to conserve energy and adopt European norms - thereby hastening Ukraine's entry into the European Union.

Errata

In her article headlined "Charitable organization focuses on needs of orphans in Odesa" (December 25, 2005), Bozhena Olshaniwsky gave incorrect information on the address and phone number for Maryanne Olsen, founder and director of the Cross Cultural International Institute - New Hope for Children. The correct information is: Maryanne Olsen, 740 Plympton St., New Milford, NJ 07646; telephone, (201) 262-7544.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
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| January 27, 2006
Pre-Malanka Pub Night featuring music by Zukie & Friend, 9 p.m. | March 3-4, 2006
Plast Kurin "Chornomortsi" Annual Rada |
| January 27-29, 2006
Church of Annunciation Family Weekend, Flushing, N.Y. | March 4-5, 2006
Plast Kurin "Chornomorski Chvyli" Annual Rada |
| February 3, 2006
KAFAS Banquet, Kerhonkson Accord First Aid Squad Installation Banquet | March 10-12, 2006
Plast Kurin "Khmelnychenky" Annual Winter Rada |
| February 10-12, 2006
Valentine's Day Weekend | April 16, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m. |
| February 11, 2006
Five-Course Dinner | April 22, 2006
Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal Dinner Banquet |
| February 17-20, 2006
Family Winter Weekend | April 23, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m. |
| February 18, 2006
Pub Night with music featuring Zukie & Friend | April 28, 2006
Ellenville High School Junior Prom |
| February 25, 2006
Wedding | April 28-30, 2006
UNWLA Branch 95 Spa Weekend |

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 24

NEW YORK: Mary Mycio, author of "Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl," will present her book at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. (between Second and Third avenues) at 7 p.m. Ms. Mycio, a former Kyiv correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, has worked in Ukraine since 1989. Suggested donation: \$10, adults; \$5, seniors and students; donation includes admission to the museum's exhibitions, beginning at 6 p.m. A wine reception will follow the book launch. RSVP to info@ucca.org.

Thursday, January 26

EDMONTON: The Bohdan Bociurkiw Memorial Lecture at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) will be delivered by Myroslav Marynovych, vice-rector, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, on the topic "Religious Freedom in Ukraine: Achievements and Challenges." Mr. Marynovych, a co-founder of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group (1976), was arrested and sentenced for his human rights activities to forced labor camps and exile. He is the author of numerous publications on topics dealing with religion, politics and human rights. The lecture will be held in the Heritage Lounge, 227 Athabasca Hall, at 7 p.m. For additional information contact CIUS, (780) 492-2972, or e-mail cius@ualberta.ca.

Saturday, January 28

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a roundtable titled "Language and Elections in Ukraine, 2004-2006," featuring Larissa Onyshkevych, Alexander Motyl, Mykola Ryabchuk, Yuriy Shevchuk and Antonina Berezovenko. The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

Saturday, February 4

MANALAPAN, N.J.: Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 98, Holmdel/Middletown, jointly with Monmouth County Library Headquarters, is sponsoring the screening of the documentary film "Between Hitler and Stalin: Ukraine in World War II - The Untold Story." The film will be shown at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, 125 Symmes Drive (off Route 9 South) at 1 p.m. Guest speaker at the event will be Prof. Taras Hunczak. Free admission; refreshments will be served. Please come and bring your friends. Library telephone: (732) 431-7220. UNWLA Branch 98 is grateful to the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, and Flora Higgins in particular, for co-sponsorship of the event. For more information call UNWLA Branch 98 President Viki Mischenko, (732) 671-1914, or e-mail ukr.info@att.net.

CHICAGO: The St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Parish Centennial Committee invites the public to attend a special day of reflection for men and women, "Renewing and Committing for the Next 100 Years," with Father Peter Galadza and Olenka Galadza, at the Cathedral School Auditorium, 2238 W. Rice St., at 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A fee of \$25 per person includes continental breakfast and

lunch. Reservations required; please call (773) 276-9500. Father Peter is Kule Family Professor of Liturgy at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, St. Paul University, Ottawa, and editor-in-chief of "The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship"; Mrs. Galadza teaches at Immaculate High School.

Saturday, February 11

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a literary evening featuring Dr. Marko Robert Stech, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Toronto, who will present the following two publications: "The Whole World Belongs to You" by Eaghon G. Kostetzky (Kyiv: Krytyka 2005, edited by Marko Robert Stech), and his own new novel titled "Holos" (Voice), (Lviv: Piramida, 2005). Also appearing will be Mykola Ryabchuk and Vasyl Makhno. The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

TROY, Mich.: The Detroit Chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) cordially invites the Ukrainian community to its 43rd annual Winter Ball and Presentation of Debutantes. The black-tie event will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Troy Marriott Hotel, 200 W. Big Beaver Road. Cocktails: 6:30 p.m.; presentation of debutantes-dinner: 7:30 p.m.; ball: 9:30 p.m. Music will be provided by the Vorony. Admission: dinner and ball, \$90 per person; students under 21, dinner and ball, \$75 per person. Tickets for ball only: \$30 per person (21 and over), \$20 (under 21). For ticket/table reservations contact Greg and Oksana Woloszczuk at gwoloszczuk@comcast.net or call (248) 646-6933 (before 9 p.m.). Dinner tickets must be purchased by January 28. For hotel reservations call (248) 680-9797. A block of rooms is reserved for UESA through January 28. For general information contact Dianna Korduba Sawicky at sawicky@twmi.rr.com.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, February 25

LOS ANGELES: The California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) will host its annual charity ball and presentation of debutantes. Pack your beach hat and join us at the Marriott Hotel in Marina Del Rey, Calif., south of Los Angeles. Proceeds from the 2006 ball are designated for biomedical research in Ukraine. Admission: \$95 per person, adult; \$85, students. Admission price includes champagne and hors d'oeuvres, three course meal, live music and dancing. The Silent Auction will feature a dazzling array of Hollywood items, Ukrainian gifts, baskets, artwork and toys. For reservations please send a check to the CAAU, treasurer, Marta Mykityn-Hill, 1219 Via Arroyo, Ventura, CA 93003. Accommodations are available at the hotel. For preferred rates please book before February 6; mention CAAU when booking. Rooms are subject to availability. For further information contact Luba Keske, (818) 884-3836 (home) or (310) 449-3485 (office), or Shannon Micevych, (818) 774-9378.

Being Ukrainian means:

- Malanka in January.
- Deb in February.
- Sviato Vesny or Zlet in May.
- Wedding in June.
- Tabir in July.
- Volleyball at Wildwood in August.
- Labor Day at Soyuzivka in September.
- Morskyi Bal in November.
- Koliada in December.

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Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!

As in the past, The Ukrainian Weekly is planning to publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's debutantes. The 2006 debutante ball section will be published in March. The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 6.