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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Poll shows citizens' dissatisfaction with Yushchenko administration

KYIV – Freedom House and the Razumkov Center announced the results of their second annual nationwide poll on public sentiments. The findings come amid a tumultuous start to the new year in Ukrainian politics, which opened with the controversial no-confidence motion in the Parliament on January 10, effectively firing the government of Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov.

Conducted in late November 2005, the poll gauged citizens' sentiments leading up to the March 2006 parliamentary elections. It focused on underlying concerns of the population one year after the Orange Revolution and the election of President Viktor Yushchenko. It also looked at attitudes toward the upcoming elections and citizens' knowledge of the new election law.

The results come at a critical time in Ukraine's democratic transition. According to Freedom House's annual study *Freedom in the World*, political rights in Ukraine increased during the past year, upgrading Ukraine's ranking from "partly free" to "free." At the same time, the country has faced numerous crises, including the September 2005 dis-

missal of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, the recent no-confidence vote and the heated dealings with Russia over natural gas prices.

The poll results show that the new Ukrainian leadership has not managed to meet the expectations of Ukrainians. Forty-four percent of those who voted for Mr. Yushchenko a year ago now believe the country is headed in the wrong direction whereas only 32 percent see the country heading in the right direction. Overall, 60 percent of Ukrainians think the country is headed in the wrong direction, up slightly from last year's survey of 56 percent, which was carried out before the elections and subsequent Orange Revolution.

At the same time, a majority of Ukrainians still plan to vote in the upcoming elections and believe that it is important for citizens to participate in elections. An overwhelming majority – 79 percent – also support provisions in the election law that allow NGOs to monitor the election.

The study highlights regional differences in attitude: 71 percent of citizens in

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Ukrainian American leaders meet with Ukraine's new ambassador

WASHINGTON – Representatives of Ukrainian American organizations had an opportunity to meet with Ukraine's newly appointed ambassador to the United States, Oleh Shamshur, on Tuesday evening, January 24, at the Embassy of

Ukraine. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and Ukrainian National Association were among the organizations represented at the meeting by their executive officers.



Leaders of Ukrainian American organizations during their meeting at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington with Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (center).

Snapshot: People of Chortkiv celebrate Epiphany

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

CHORTKIV, Ukraine – The soft snow scintillated under the caressing moonlight, which guided us on our way to church at about 6 a.m.

It was the morning of Epiphany, when

Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan River and then revealed Himself as the Messiah and Savior of mankind.

The chilly air woke anyone going to church half asleep, as it was 4 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit).

The older women clung to each other as the snow crunched under our feet in

Chortkiv, a small city in the Ternopil oblast.

"Is it a Greek-Catholic or Orthodox church?" I asked.

"It's Orthodox," Yevhenia said defensively, probably because different family members attend different Churches. "It makes no difference to me. Wherever God is, that's where I'll pray."

She then began to boast of how the Orthodox priest prayed for each of her family members, particularly her son and daughter in the United States. "He prays for our health and our well-being," she said. "He prayed for Roman and Lena and Sasha."

The stern, bass voice of Father Vasyl Semchyshyn leading the divine liturgy echoed in the dark as if it were the voice of God Himself, greeting us hundreds of feet away as we approached St. Volodymyr's Church.

It was a modest building that looked like a barn, but the choir's saintly song elevated it to a place where worshippers met God.

Before entering, the faithful grabbed a small broom to shake snow off their feet. So many people had crowded inside that most stood shoulder-to-shoulder.

Father Vasyl delivered a sermon on the Blessing of the Waters, or "Vodokhreshchennia" as it is known in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

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In his opening remarks to the gathered community representatives, Ambassador Shamshur focused on several key issues: the graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik amendment; commemorations of the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster; the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and the building of a monument in Washington to its victims; as well as the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) reported that the meeting was held in a very cordial and informative atmosphere as the newly appointed ambassador spoke of Ukraine's commitment to democratic principles and the Embassy's cooperative efforts with the Ukrainian American community.

A discussion ensued about Ukraine's parliamentary elections in March, the Jackson-Vanik issue, and plans for commemorations of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

In greeting the new ambassador, Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), welcomed the initiative of the Embassy of Ukraine to cooperate on a number of important issues of concern, particularly the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

UNIS quoted Mr. Sawkiw as saying: "The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide in 2008 relates to a full array of activities designed

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Faithful gather at St. Volodymyr Chapel in Chortkiv to bless water on the morning of Epiphany, January 19 according to the Julian calendar.

Zenon Zawada

ANALYSIS

“Bandits to Parliament” rather than “Bandits to Prison”

by **Taras Kuzio**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

President Viktor Yushchenko is insisting that he will hold a referendum on the constitutional reforms that went into effect on January 1 (see *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, January 3). These comments, and others, suggest Mr. Yushchenko is increasingly out of touch and that he has poor strategists. Together these two factors denote weak leadership.

Interviewed by the *Financial Times* (January 13), President Yushchenko said the “changes to the Constitution were an anti-constitutional action, hidden from the people.” He added that there was no referendum and the new provisions were not discussed in Parliament.

These factors may indeed have been absent. Nevertheless, five questions spring to mind that suggest a referendum is unlikely.

First, why did Mr. Yushchenko agree to the constitutional reforms during the December 2004 roundtable at a time when he controlled the streets of Kyiv with over a million Orange supporters? Mr. Yushchenko also had the support of the military, intelligence services and elements of the Internal Affairs Ministry, while both President Leonid Kuchma and his former Prime Minister and chosen successor Viktor Yanukovich were increasingly powerless.

Second, Mr. Yushchenko’s Our Ukraine bloc always supported constitutional reforms (unlike the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc) and merely differed with the Kuchma camp and the left on their timing. Our Ukraine insisted the reforms should come into effect after the March 2006 elections while the Kuchma camp and the left supported their introduction after the 2004 elections. In agreeing to the reforms’ introduction in January 2006 Our Ukraine obtained the timing of their introduction that it had sought.

Third, why does President Yushchenko need to continue to hold extensive powers, as in the pre-2006 Constitution? Mr. Yushchenko has possessed President Kuchma’s extensive executive powers throughout 2005, but has failed to make use of them. Fourth, why has Mr. Yushchenko waited so long to call a referendum? If agreeing to undertake constitutional reforms was merely a tactical ruse to overcome the Orange crisis and hold a re-run of the second round of the 2004 presidential election on December 26, 2004, why did Mr. Yushchenko not seek to hold a referendum immediately after coming to power in January 2005? Then Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko would have wholeheartedly supported such a move at a time when the opposition was still in disarray.

Fifth, Mr. Yushchenko needs the support of the Socialists in any parliamentary coalition in the 2006 Parliament. The Socialists will not remain allied with President Yushchenko over two policies. First, if he goes ahead with a constitutional referendum, they will not support it. Second, Mr. Yushchenko backs NATO membership for Ukraine, while the Socialists oppose it.

These five questions suggest any constitutional referendum will be held only after the March elections if they go badly

Dr. Taras Kuzio is visiting professor at the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University. The article above, which originally appeared in The Jamestown Foundation’s Eurasia Daily Monitor, is reprinted here with permission from the foundation (www.jamestown.org).

for Mr. Yushchenko. In other words, Mr. Yushchenko would be threatening a referendum, like Mr. Kuchma in 1996, because he did not like the political configuration of the 2006 Parliament.

President Yushchenko’s fears are a product of his own weak political will. His rallying cry in the 2004 elections and the Orange Revolution was “Bandits to Prison!” But, the only “bandits” to have suffered this fate have been lower- and middle-level officials. As in the Kuchma era, senior officials have again escaped justice.

Not a single high ranking “bandit” that Mr. Yushchenko pointed to during the Orange Revolution has been criminally charged. Instead of being sent to “prison,” these “bandits” will be elected to the Verkhovna Rada on the Party of the Regions list and thereby obtain immunity for the duration of the five-year (2006-2011) parliamentary term. Kuchma era leftover Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun is on the Party of the Regions list, as are a multitude of the previous regime’s high-ranking officials who were never charged.

Recent polls suggest that the Party of the Regions is set to have the largest faction in the 2006 Parliament. Mr. Yanukovich is promoting Ukraine’s wealthiest oligarch, Rynat Akhmetov, who is on the Party of the Regions list, for prime minister and president.

Thirty percent of Kyiv residents see Mr. Akhmetov as a “criminal authority of the Donetsk mafia.” Similar numbers see him as an “oligarch” and the “political khaziayin [master] of Viktor Yanukovich and the Party of the Regions” (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, December 19, 2005).

The ratings of the Party of the Regions have steadily grown, especially since the September 2005 government crisis and split in the Orange camp. A new poll gave the Party of the Regions 31 percent support – a growth of over 10 percent in the last four months (*UNIAN news service*, January 13). Other polls give the Party of the Regions closer to 23 percent (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, December 21, 2005) or even higher ratings of 34 percent (*Kyiv International Institute Sociology [KIIS]*, December 2005).

In the most recent poll, the two halves of the Orange camp (the Our Ukraine People’s Union [OUPU] and the Tymoshenko Bloc) have a total of 29.2 percent. Together with the Socialists, the combined Orange camp could rise to 34 percent – only 3 percent higher than the Party of the Regions. President Yushchenko remains publicly convinced that these polls will not translate into an election defeat. Speaking to the *Financial Times* (January 13), Mr. Yushchenko said the OUPU will obtain the largest number of seats in the 2006 Parliament. Based on current polls, this seems unlikely. The poll cited by *UNIAN* (January 13) gave the Party of the Regions 31 percent support and the OUPU only 13 percent. *KIIS* gave the Party of the Regions 34 percent, the Tymoshenko Bloc 21 percent and the OUPU 18 percent.

The Tymoshenko Bloc has called for the signing of a joint election alliance between the OUPU, the Socialists and itself (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, January 17). Such an alliance could lay the foundation for a parliamentary coalition that would re-unite the Orange Revolutionaries. The OUPU and the Tymoshenko Bloc have informally agreed that whichever of their two forces comes in first has the right to

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NEWSBRIEFS

Tarasjuk: MAUP activities unlawful

KYIV – On January 23, speaking on national television, Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk strongly condemned the anti-Semitic actions of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, known by its Ukrainian acronym as MAUP, in Ukraine. He confirmed that “having exhausted all efforts to convince MAUP leaders to drop their unlawful and wrongful actions,” he broke off contacts with the university a year ago. According to Mr. Tarasyuk, “there is no place for any form of anti-Semitism or xenophobia in Ukraine.” At the same time the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine issued a press-release accusing MAUP of breaking Ukrainian law. In particular it pointed out persistent non compliance with requirements of state licensing rules for universities, failure to abide with legally binding decisions of the State Accreditation Commission, etc. (Embassy of Ukraine)

Gas deal signing again postponed

KYIV – Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov suggested on January 25 that the signing of accords resulting from the January 4 framework agreement on gas supplies to Ukraine in 2006 between Gazprom, Naftohaz Ukrayiny and the Swiss-based intermediary RosUkrEnergo will be put off again, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Initially the signing was planned for January 21 and then put off to January 25. “It looks today as if the agreements will not be signed,” Mr. Yekhanurov said. “Russian experts are currently working in Ukraine but, unfortunately, we are not yet going ahead with the signing,” he added. Earlier this week Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Ivan Plachkov told journalists that the Ukrainian Cabinet had approved a directive on setting up Gazenergo, a joint venture by Naftohaz Ukrayiny and RosUkrEnergo to sell gas to Ukrainian consumers, as stipulated by the January 4 agreement. The joint venture’s charter capital is reportedly to amount to 5 million hrv (\$1 million U.S.) and will be

contributed equally by Naftohaz Ukrayiny and RosUkrEnergo. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Leaflets predict Russian invasion

KYIV – Interfax-Ukraine reported on January 18 that unidentified distributors have been disseminating leaflets in the port of Henichesk near the Azov Sea, predicting a Russian military intervention in Ukraine. The report was confirmed by the Russian newspaper *Trud* in its January 19 issue. The leaflets, attributed to the Party of the Regions led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, reportedly claim that Russia “has made the decision to bring a limited contingent of Russian troops and special units to Ukraine to establish control over gas pipelines considered vital to Russia.” The leaflets also urge locals “to come to the nearest peacekeeping headquarters within the first 14 days of the Russian military operation to provide them with names and descriptions of Orange Movement activists.” The Russian Black Sea Fleet has a radar station in Henichesk. Ukrainian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko told journalists in Kyiv on January 17 that the Russian Black Sea Fleet had illegally deployed a group of its marines at the radar station in Henichesk, adding that Russian troop movements in Ukraine should be coordinated in advance with Ukraine. According to *Trud*, the Henichesk marines are armed only with rubber batons. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. lobbyist to help Yanukovich

NEW YORK – The Wall Street Journal, citing a report from Washington Wire, reported “a hush-hush deal,” whereby long-time Republican lobbyist Paul Manafort has signed on as a behind-the-scenes campaign adviser for Viktor Yanukovich. Mr. Manafort’s U.S. political résumé includes a stint as a top strategist for Bob Dole’s unsuccessful 1996 presidential run. (Washington Wire, Wall Street Journal)

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Kyiv Appeals Court closes some parts of Gongadze trial

Committee to Protect Journalists

KYIV – The Kyiv Court of Appeals moved on January 23 to close to the public significant portions of the trial of three men charged in the 2000 abduction and murder of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze. Journalists and a lawyer representing the Gongadze family criticized the decision, saying it would keep the case out of the public eye, local and international press reports said.

The appellate panel headed by Judge Iryna Hryhorieva barred the press and public from attending the testimony of the defendants and government security agents. The public is also barred from proceedings at which materials containing state secrets are to be considered. The court will decide what hearings will be accessible as the case proceeds, local reports said.

The trial of former police officers Valerii Kostenko, Mykola Protasov and Oleksander Popovych reconvened on January 23 after a two-week pause. The hearings had started on January 9 but were postponed after Mr. Protasov suffered a hypertension attack in court. Mr. Protasov's lawyer argued that media presence aggravated his client's health, the Associated Press reported.

Andrei Fedur, a lawyer representing Gongadze's family, criticized the court decision, which effectively closes most of the proceedings. "Society will not know what is happening here," the Associated Press quoted Mr. Fedur as saying. "There are no legal grounds for this." Mr. Fedur said the court closed certain hearings because high-ranking officials would be called to testify, the AP said.

"The integrity of the government's prosecution is undermined by a secretive process," CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper said. "Given the allegations of high-level involvement in this terrible murder, closing the proceeding is the last thing the government should do if it wants to ensure a credible outcome. State secrets can be guarded without the wholesale closing of the trial."

The three defendants are charged with premeditated murder and abuse of power in the killing of Gongadze, editor of the independent news website *Ukrayinska Pravda*, Interfax said. The Procurator General's Office said it continues to search for the crime's masterminds.

The Gongadze murder was among the catalysts for the popular uprising in late 2004 that ousted former President Leonid Kuchma's corrupt government and propelled reformist President Viktor Yushchenko to power. Allegations of high-level government involvement in the Gongadze murder dogged Mr. Kuchma throughout his final term.

In September 2005 a parliamentary commission investigating the case accused President Kuchma, the late Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn and former Security Service of Ukraine Chief Leonid Derkach of plotting the journalist's murder. The commission recommended that prosecutors open criminal cases against Messrs. Kuchma, Lytvyn and Derkach. The commission's findings were not binding on prosecutors.

Also on January 23 the appellate panel rejected a defense request to summon Messrs. Kuchma, Derkach, Lytvyn and Melnychenko to testify. The court said the request was premature, according to the Kyiv-based television channel Inter.

Velyka Kyshenia supermarket chain expands in Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The supermarket chain Velyka Kyshenia has recently emerged as one of Ukraine's top-financed and most recognized companies internationally.

On December 23, 2005, the company concluded a 10 percent sale of \$27.5 million worth of its shares to Western investors by offering them on the First Securities Trading System, the closest thing Ukraine has to a stock market.

The income earned from "the 10 percent that we floated will be directed towards developing our retail network in 2006," said Roman Lunin, the board chairman of Retail Group, the company that owns Velyka Kyshenia.

The company plans to open 15 new supermarkets this year. It currently operates 23 stores – 15 in Kyiv and one hypermarket recently opened in Ivano-Frankivsk. Hypermarkets are stores that are double the size of supermarkets.

Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital brokered the deal in which eight European institutional investors became shareholders, including Swiss-based Julius Baer, Germany's DWS Investments and Sweden's East Capital.

Retail Group hopes to make its stock available to all investors with a planned 2007 initial public offering (IPO) of between 25 and 30 percent of its stock on the London Stock Exchange.

If successful, Velyka Kyshenia would be the first Ukrainian company to have

its shares traded on a major stock exchange.

At present, two Ukrainian firms have traded their shares on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

On December 16, 2005, Kyiv-based real estate development and property management firm XXI Century Investments began selling its shares on the AIM. It raised \$140 million by floating 32 percent of its shares.

UkrProduct Group Limited became the first Ukrainian company to sell its shares on the AIM on February 11, 2005, offering 27.2 percent of its shares.

The company didn't respond to a question asking how much the sale raised.

Retail Group expects to earn between \$30 and \$35 million in profit in 2006, Mr. Lunin said.

Retail market poised for growth

Ukraine's retail market is poised to grow 10 to 15 percent annually through 2010, according to a Global Retail Development Index study performed by A.T. Kearney, a Chicago-based market research firm. Retail sales in Ukraine have increased 40 percent in the past two years, the report said.

The retail market is still very fragmented, with the five top grocers owning more than 20 percent of the total share.

"Although food sales account for two-thirds of total retail sales, as the population becomes wealthier, the balance is tip-

ping toward non-food," the report said.

Although "Ukraine's infrastructure is underdeveloped, and spending power remains limited ... the time to enter is now," the report said.

Velyka Kyshenia probably had sales of \$270 million in 2005, which it expects will increase by 63 percent to \$440 million by the end of 2006, Mr. Lunin said.



Retail Group Board Chairman Roman Lunin.

USTR reinstates GSP benefits for Ukraine

Embassy of the United States

KYIV – In recognition of the Ukrainian government's efforts to improve the enforcement and protection of intellectual property rights, U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman on January 23 announced that the United States will reinstate Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits for Ukraine and lower Ukraine's designation under Special 301 from Priority Foreign Country to Priority Watch List.

"I commend the government of Ukraine for its sustained efforts to crack down on copyright piracy and urge the government to continue their efforts," said Ambassador Portman.

In 2001 significant illegal manufacturing of optical media products, such as CDs and DVDs, was occurring in Ukraine. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative designated Ukraine as a Priority Foreign Country and repeatedly urged Ukraine to take steps to address this problem.

In July 2005 Ukraine passed legislation that strengthens its licensing regime and enforcement efforts to stem the illegal production and trade of CDs and DVDs.

"Since the legislation passed, Ukraine has been actively inspecting plants licensed to manufacture optical discs, conducting raids against businesses involved in commercial distribution of IPR-infringing products and imposing fines against infringers," Mr. Portman continued.

"We strongly urge Ukraine to keep up these efforts, which reflect positively on the investment environment in Ukraine," he added.

Snapshot...

(Continued from page 1)

"Just as the water will never change or spoil, Jesus promises us that God has been, is, and always will be," Father Vasyl told the faithful.

After the liturgy, all the worshippers filed out, led by those carrying the "fany," or the Orthodox banners of icons and saints. In a procession through the town, about 80 people walked on the ice-covered streets to the church's chapel, cozily situated in a valley.

Before the altar, the faithful placed scores of metal pots, elaborate ceramic vases and plastic two-liter bottles full of water, which awaited Father Vasyl's blessing.

Another abridged liturgy was performed before Father Vasyl declared, "Khrystos khreschayetsia!" ("Christ is baptized!")

"U Richtsi Yordani! ("In the Jordan

River!"), the people responded in unison.

Father Vasyl then dipped a Q-tip-shaped aspergillum into a chalice of holy water and began sprinkling the people, who eagerly accepted the droplets despite the frigid air engulfing them.

He continued blessing the vases before him. Soon enough, throngs began reaching over one another to grab hold of their blessed canisters. To ease the pushing, those up front began removing and passing them into the surrounding crowd.

"Mine's the tall black one!" one woman yelled from the chapel's steps as light snow blew across her face.

Those carrying the church banners lined up at the hilltop to lead the procession back to the church.

Elderly couples in fur hats gripped each other to prevent from slipping as they ascended the valley's icy hill.

Water splashed out of a ceramic vase, onto the bare feminine hands holding it. She wasn't bothered.



Father Vasyl Semchishyn blesses the water in containers placed at the altar of St. Volodymyr Chapel.

Self Reliance New York supports "The Orange Effect" project

NEW YORK – The board of the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union has provided \$20,000 in funding support for a feature-length documentary film project titled "The Orange Effect."

The producers of the film are documentary filmmaker and Emmy Award winner Robert E. Frye and Prof. Alexander J. Motyl of Rutgers University – Newark, a noted Ukraine expert.

As a major voice in the Ukrainian American community, Self Reliance and its president, Dr. Bohdan Kekish, have generously supported a variety of important projects, including the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, The Ukrainian Museum of New York, The Orange Circle, and Ukrainian-language courses at Rutgers University – Newark.

The Orange Revolution both refashioned and consolidated Ukrainian identity and exposed its fissures – the conflicts, disagreements and animosities between east and west, democrats and non-democrats, Ukrainian speakers and Russian speakers, supporters of a European tendency and supporters of a Russian tendency, nationalists and Communists, young and old.

No less important, the Orange

Revolution brought into especially sharp focus the controversies surrounding Ukraine's historical memory.

"The Orange Effect" will investigate how Ukrainians are remembering their past and imagining their identity. These questions are open-ended, but "The Orange Effect" will capture changing feelings, moods, and beliefs in a cinematic tapestry consisting of portraits, words, music and images conveying the multi-layered complexity of ongoing changes in identity and of attempts to grapple with reconciliation in Ukraine.

The founding members of the advisory board for "The Orange Effect" project are: Adrian Karatnycky, president of The Orange Circle; Dr. Zenon Kohut, director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies; Dr. Larysa Onyshkevych, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society; Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky, former president of the Ukrainian American Professional and Businesspersons' Association of New York and New Jersey; and Irene Zabytko, author.

Dr. Motyl is professor of political science and deputy director of the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University – Newark. A specialist on Ukraine and the post-Soviet states, he is the author of six

academic books, including "Dilemmas of Independence: Ukraine after Totalitarianism" (Council on Foreign Relations, 1993), and the editor of the 2-volume Encyclopedia of Nationalism.

Mr. Frye is managing director of Whistling Communications, an independent producer of documentaries, and a senior fellow at the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University – Newark. His most recent film is "Berlin Metamorphoses." A feature-length documentary examining the transformation of Berlin and Germany since 1989, the film has been broadcast on over 80 public tel-

evision stations around the country including WNET and WNYC in New York.

Mr. Frye's work as a producer over four decades has been recognized with several awards, including an Emmy, the Dupont-Columbia Silver Baton, the Peabody and the Cine Golden Eagle.

For further information or to provide support for "The Orange Effect" project, readers may contact Prof. Motyl or Mr. Frye at ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu or Thinkmedia@aol.com, or write to Whistling Communications, 130 E. 67th St., Suite 9B, New York, NY 10021.

Canadians protest exclusionary approach of human rights museum

TORONTO – Canadians are being asked to contact Governor General Michaëlle Jean to ask her to withdraw her patronage of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, as proposed by the board of directors of Winnipeg's Asper Foundation.

Supported in large measure by taxpayer's funds provided by the municipal (Winnipeg), provincial (Manitoba) and federal Canadian governments, this museum is intended to focus attention on the horrors that befell European Jews.

According to reports, the museum will not include episodes of genocide that occurred before, during and after World War II, not only in Europe but elsewhere in the world, including Asia and Africa.

Commenting on the Asper Foundation's proposal, James Kafieh of Canadians for a Genocide Museum, a coalition of dozens of Canadian ethnic, religious and racial minorities who have come together to question the lack of inclusiveness and transparency in this project, said:

"We are calling upon Her Excellency, the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, to withdraw her support of this initiative because we are not convinced that the Asper museum will be inclusive or equitable in its treatment of the many episodes of genocide and crimes against humanity that befouled not only 20th century Europe but other regions as well. Of course, we have no objection to an exhibit on the Holocaust, which took millions of Jewish

and non-Jewish lives, but that crime is well-known and already extensively treated in museums around the world.

"We believe a Canadian institution funded largely by the taxpayers should not suggest that any atrocity is more deserving of attention than others, or that the suffering that befell one community should be made to appear as being more worthy of memory than those endured by others. We want a museum that is not partial or prejudiced and that is developed and managed openly instead of behind closed doors. The Asper Foundation's proposal does not meet these criteria. Their spokespersons are not being candid in responding to our legitimate concerns.

"Accordingly, we are asking our friends and supporters to contact the governor general and petition her to withdraw her support, at least until there are public assurances that our frankly stated concerns have been addressed. Her majesty's representative in Canada should not be engaged in partisanship nor in endorsing a project that is so very controversial."

The governor general may be contacted by mail (no postage necessary within Canada) at: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A1, or via e-mail at info@gg.ca.

George Washington arrives in Kaniv's Shevchenko museum

by Walter Karpinich

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. – Last year's effort to help obtain a bust of George Washington (see The Ukrainian Weekly May 8, 2005) for the Shevchenko museum in Kaniv has been realized.

Viktor Tarakhan, a long-time staff member and tour-guide of the museum, sent word at end of December about the safe arrival of the statue in Kaniv. The success of this undertaking was made possible through the generosity of James Rees, the executive director of the George Washington Estates and Gardens in Virginia. After personal contact was made with Mr. Rees, he graciously agreed to gift the bust to the Shevchenko museum.

Volodymyr Karpinich, Ph.D., is professor of languages and literatures at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The bust – approximately two feet in height – is patterned after the marble sculpture of George Washington that was created by the internationally renowned sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon. The work was originally commissioned in 1785 for the State Capitol Building in Richmond, Va., where the statue graces the Rotunda today.

The Washington bust is an exquisite work of art and is now part of the collection of busts of famous world personalities like Mozart, Beethoven, Goethe, Burns and many others that are on permanent display in the main exhibition hall of the Shevchenko museum.

The staff of the Consulate of Ukraine in New York, along with Scope Travel Inc. and Olymp Travel in Kyiv, made arrangements for the shipping of Washington's bust to Kaniv. A heartfelt thank-you to all!



Viktor Tarakhan and a fellow staffer at the Taras Shevchenko museum in Kaniv unpack a bust of George Washington that will be displayed at the museum.

Quotable notes

The dispute that recently erupted between Moscow and Kiev [sic] over Russian natural gas prices was a trying test of our political maturity. Corporate players threatened our sovereignty, economic independence and freedom.

We could have contributed to the rising tensions by pursuing court action to assert our contractual rights. Under the terms of an existing agreement signed in 2004 between our national gas companies, prices had been fixed until 2009.

However, we were troubled by the fact that Gazprom's unilateral decision to reduce gas deliveries to Ukraine also led to a loss of gas pressure in our pipelines to the rest of Europe. Instead of escalating the conflict we therefore sought to settle the differences with Moscow and allay the fears of both Ukrainian and European citizens. ...

Together with Russia's President Vladimir Putin, we were able to find a workable formula for the transport of Russian natural gas to European consumers. As was our strategic goal from the outset, the deal was based on mutual respect for national interests and market pricing.

For Ukraine, the compromise has several advantages. First, unlike in our neighboring countries – where Gazprom has taken control of the national gas pipelines – our strategic gas pipelines remain Ukrainian property.

Second, and maybe most importantly, the compromise finally introduces cash payments to our international gas trade, ending the murky Russian-Ukrainian barter operations for energy supplies. ...

For 14 years, though, international barter settlements had cost Ukraine hundreds of strategic assets such as factories, shipping vessels and other enterprises, which had been used as payment for Russian (and Turkmen) gas supplies. The practice of forfeiting strategic assets had fueled cronyism and corruption, enriching a few oligarchs at the expense of the rest of the nation. This intolerable practice has finally ended. ...

– President Viktor Yushchenko, writing in the January 25 issue of the *Wall Street Journal (Europe)*.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

A family reunion at Soyuzivka: what could be simpler?



The extended Hawryluk family during a reunion at the UNA estate Soyuzivka.

by Osyp Hawryluk

No planning! No grocery shopping! No frantic cleaning! No messy cooking! No dirty dishes! No need for extra bathroom towels! No extra laundry after the guests leave! All you do is visit with each other, and not worry about anything!

What is that?

A family reunion at Soyuzivka!

That's exactly what I did New Year's Eve weekend 2005!

Thirteen extended family members met to welcome in the New Year with some dancing, and to celebrate the January 5 birthdays of twins Diana (Hawryluk) Burns and Ulana (Hawryluk) Pedersen. Family came in from Johannesburg, South Africa; Albany and Buffalo N.Y.; Parma, Ohio; and Matawan and Teaneck N.J.

We also did some hiking in the snow, singing in the Main House, and shopping at the beautifully stocked gift shop with Sonia Semanyszyn at the counter.

By the end of the reunion, nobody was complaining about how much work it had been, and about all the cleaning they would now have to do.

After all, Office Manager Olesia Guran had coordinated all the reservations (845-626-5641), Master Chef Andrij Sonevtsky had done all the food shopping and cooking, and General Manager Nestor Paslawsky's staff had done all the cleaning. At the end, we just packed our bags and left.

Sure, you can have a family reunion at any American venue. But for me, a Ukrainian American, nothing beats family time at the Soyuzivka estate of the Ukrainian National Association.

My advice: book your reservations today.

Young UNA'ers



Brian C. Hawrylcw, son of Mark and Ellen Hawrylcw of Foxboro, Mass., is a new member of UNA Branch 253. He was enrolled by his grandparents Joseph and Carolyn Hawrylcw.



Zachary T. Hawrylcw, son of Sean and Jennifer Hawrylcw of Amesbury, Mass., is a new member of UNA Branch 253. He was enrolled by his grandmother Sally A. Hawrylcw.



Do you know why we're so happy?

Our parents and grandparents invested in our future by purchasing an endowment and life insurance policy for each of us from the Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

They purchased prepaid policies on account of the low premium rate for our age group. If you'd like to be smiling like us, please have your parents or grandparents call the UNA at 1-800-253-9862. They will be happy to assist you!

**Do you have a young UNA'er,
or potential young UNA'er in your family?**

Call the UNA Home Office, 973-292-9800, to find out how to enroll.

**Visit the websites
of the UNA's publications:**

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

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The state of the state

On January 23 President Viktor Yushchenko delivered an address to the nation on the occasion of the first anniversary of his inauguration. He focused, of course, on the achievements of the first year of his administration. He told the people of Ukraine: "Together we have proved that the Ukrainian nation is capable of building a modern, independent and democratic state." He underscored that the nation is united by "a sense of national dignity," adding, "Today we say: Yes, I am a citizen of Ukraine and I am proud of it. This is the main achievement of the first year of my presidency."

The president also underlined that Ukraine has proved it can protect its national interests, that the shadow economy has been reduced, that national budget revenues grew by 50 percent, and that Ukraine cares about the welfare of all of its people. Other successes cited by Mr. Yushchenko were in the realms of freedom of speech, "where the word 'temnyk' has gone for good; and in foreign policy, where Ukraine has proven to be a reliable partner and has earned respect around the world.

Mr. Yushchenko acknowledged that Ukraine "has lost time" due to the infighting among former partners of the Orange Revolution. Quoting philosopher Hryhorii Skovoroda, he said, "The greatest loss is the loss of time." He pledged that he would not allow "destructive steps" to slow down the country's development. "We need to be a strong and united team, and drop our personal ambitions for the sake of the future" – a future that includes reform in five spheres: health, education, rural areas, energy and the judicial system.

The president's address came less than two weeks after the Verkhovna Rada took the controversial move of sacking the Cabinet of Ministers, ostensibly over the gas deal regarding Russian gas supplies. As many commentators have noted, it is not even clear that this Parliament had the right to dismiss the entire Cabinet since the new constitutional reform that went into effect January 1 apparently applies not to the sitting Parliament but to the body that is to be elected in March. What makes matters worse is that President Yushchenko cannot challenge the Verkhovna Rada's action in the 18-member Constitutional Court because the Parliament has neither nominated its share of the judges needed to complete its composition, nor has it sworn in the nominees already tapped.

In this milieu, the president proposed a plan "to stabilize the sociopolitical situation in Ukraine." He said it was necessary to introduce a moratorium on decisions or actions by the executive or legislative branches of authority to destabilize the country. What is needed right now, he said, is for all to work together to ensure free elections of a new Parliament, in which the parliamentary majority will name the new government. Next, he said, the Parliament must act to establish a functioning Constitutional Court. As well, the president said he would establish a joint working group whose goal will be to harmonize the work of the president, Cabinet and Parliament, especially in relation to political reform.

Finally, the president appealed to the citizens: "I know that our strength is in unity. And we can make Ukraine strong and prosperous."

The sad truth, however, is what the president himself admitted: that Ukraine has "lost time." Indeed, the latest polls (see story on page 1), show this rather dramatically, with 60 percent of the people of Ukraine saying that Ukraine is headed in the wrong direction. The good news is that a majority of the people still plan to vote in the parliamentary elections and consider it to be important for citizens to cast their ballots. With the new constitutional reforms in effect for these elections, the composition of the new team that President Yushchenko says is needed to implement reform is very much in the hands of the voters who will elect new national deputies on March 26.

Jan.
30
2005

Turning the pages back...

One year ago, in our issue dated January 30, 2005, we reported that, the day after he was sworn in, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine nominated the fiery 44-year-old politician Yulia Tymoshenko as acting prime minister. "I'm up to

the task of the prime minister's job," Ms. Tymoshenko told the media on January 25.

Mr. Yushchenko's office announced the decision while the president was in Moscow on his first trip abroad. "Tymoshenko, of all the candidates that were proposed, was the most acceptable," President Yushchenko said after a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, "I hope that Yulia and her Cabinet will be successful."

(Continued on page 8)

Immediate job opening at The Ukrainian Weekly

Editorial staff member based at our home office in Parsippany, N.J.

Journalism or related experience required. Bilingual (English/Ukrainian) skills a must. Photography skills a plus. Position requires knowledge of Ukrainian community in the diaspora (primarily North America) and current events in Ukraine. Position involves: writing, reporting, interviewing, rewrites, copy editing, proof-reading, translation and more. Applicants must have a willingness to work on diverse assignments.

Send résumé and clippings, plus a cover letter explaining your interest in the position, to: Editor-in-Chief, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ. For info call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3049.

COMMENTARY

What's next for Ukraine?

by Alexander J. Motyl

I recently saw a film by the Polish director Krzysztof Zanussi. Filmed in 1980, "Kontrakt" begins with a young man and woman in Warsaw who decide to get married. Her father is a party functionary; he is a corrupt doctor who's parlayed bribes into a country villa. After the would-be bride bolts from the church, the film shifts to the villa, where the Communist jet set carouses in a manner reminiscent of Fellini's "La Dolce Vita." At the end, the jilted groom sets the villa on fire.

The film's message must have been obvious to a Polish audience. How could they not recognize the corruption that permeated Polish life, the vast differences in wealth between the nomenklatura and the rest of the population, the choice between collaboration and non-involvement faced by honest Poles, and the disgust that life in Poland inspired in all, even in the Communists?

Mr. Zanussi's timing was perfect. The film presaged the emergence of Solidarity in late 1980 and the hope in renewal that it embodied for millions of Poles. It may be worth remembering, however, that Solidarity was crushed in late 1981—indeed, exactly 25 years ago—and that a period of depression ensued in Poland that lasted until the demise of communism in 1989.

Back in the 1980s, Ukraine had no Solidarity. Instead, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was being actively misruled by the Scherbytsky regime. Dissidents were hounded; corruption, popular demoralization, and economic decay were rampant; and the future looked bleak—until Mikhail Gorbachev came along and, by introducing glasnost and perestroika, unintentionally unleashed forces that led to the USSR's collapse. When Ukraine became independent in 1991, most of its population was either stunned or surprised by so unexpected a development. I dare say, so too were most émigré Ukrainians.

The last 15 years have been difficult for Ukraine. In some ways, it still resembles Soviet Ukraine. One doesn't have to be an expert to appreciate that corruption is still rampant, that the political elites are mercenary and that the economy hasn't exactly taken off. Worst of all, life in Ukraine is still extremely hard for the vast majority of its population.

Then and now, Poland and Ukraine

This is where Mr. Zanussi's film comes in. Ukraine today is eerily reminiscent of Poland back in the 1980s. The chronology is different, of course, because Ukraine's version of Solidarity—the Orange Revolution—came after the collapse of communism and not before. But the overall characteristics of both countries—Poland then and Ukraine now—are remarkably similar.

We all know of the bad similarities. Both countries were rife with official corruption. Let's not forget that the corruption we see now in Ukraine is nothing compared to the outright thievery that the Polish and Ukrainian Communist Party nomenklaturas engaged in for decades. In both countries, agriculture was inefficient and heavy industry produced pollution while wasting scarce financial and natural resources in value-destroying operations. In both countries, the popula-

Alexander J. Motyl, Ph.D., is professor of political science at Rutgers University—Newark.

tions had to scramble to make a living. And just as Poles then traveled to Western Europe to engage in illegal labor and petty commerce, Ukrainians today are following in their footsteps.

But the good similarities are also striking. Poland then and Ukraine now possess states—something Ukraine lacked even in 1991. Poland then and Ukraine now possess empowered populations—something else Ukraine lacked in 1991. Poland then and Ukraine now are relatively open to and integrated into the world—in complete contrast to Ukraine in 1991.

Best of all, however, may be the dissimilarities. Ukraine now has several features that Poland then lacked. First, Ukraine now has a far more developed market economy than Poland had. Second, Ukraine now has a far freer media than Poland had. Third, Ukraine now has a far more vibrant civil society than Poland had. Fourth, Ukraine is a strategic concern, if not quite partner, of both the United States and the European Union. And fifth, while Poland had to contend with a Soviet superpower, Ukraine has as its neighbor a crummy authoritarian state, Russia.

Add up all these similarities and dissimilarities and Ukraine today begins to look like Poland at around 1989. That's not bad for a country that was ruled by a totalitarian empire until just 15 years ago.

Naturally, this conclusion is of small consolation to Ukraine's long-suffering population, who want to be like today's Poland and not like yesterday's Poland. A good part of this impatience stems from the extreme disappointment felt by Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad after many of the expectations raised by the Orange Revolution remained unfulfilled.

Unfortunately, that disappointment was inevitable. Mass upheavals always generate the belief that everything will change at once, whereas the reality is always rather more prosaic—a few things change a bit, and slowly. But as anticlimactic as it strikes us, slow change is the only kind of change worth having. Rapid, comprehensive and fundamental change—the kind that transforms a society overnight—is always coercive, always bloody, and never works.

Naturally, the choice before Ukraine now, as before Poland then, is not something or everything. The real choice is between accomplishing the possible and hoping for the impossible.

The possible and the impossible

Let's start with the impossibilities. It was, and still is, impossible for Ukraine to become the Switzerland of the east. That will not happen for generations, so we'd better get used to it. It was, and still is, impossible for Ukraine's regional and income inequalities to be overcome anytime soon. Wealthy Germany has been investing over \$100 billion in eastern Germany annually, and eastern Germany still suffers from unusually high unemployment and low investment. It was, and still is, impossible for Ukraine to rid itself of the systemic corruption that plagues it. If Italy can't do it after being fully integrated in Europe since World War II, why should Ukraine?

Of course, attaining these impossibilities is precisely what Ukraine's population wants—immediately. But it can't be done, not even if the entire Ukrainian government were to be replaced with incorruptible Harvard MBAs. You just

(Continued on page 14)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ukraine should have kept some nukes

Dear Editor:

On January 13, President Viktor Yushchenko stated that Ukraine should produce its own nuclear fuel; this was interpreted as a direct response to the Russian "gas war" and was widely seen as a move toward a more energy-independent Ukraine.

This was a very smart move, but it could still be only a half measure. If Ukraine's present friends such as the United States, the European Union and NATO cannot guarantee the sovereignty of Ukraine, development of nuclear fuel should go all the way to the production of nuclear weapons. Here is why.

After the break-up of the Soviet Union Ukraine became the third largest nuclear power in the world. Partly due to the international pressure, partly due to the stupidity of the president of the country at the time – Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine became free of nuclear weapons in the mid-1990s and that created a serious breach in the country's security and its ability to use nuclear warheads as a deterrent to unfriendly states such as Russia.

Yes, there was no need to keep the whole arsenal of 1,920 nukes (<http://www.ukrweekly.com/Archive/1993/039303.shtml>), since it would have been too costly, but a handful of them should have been left intact as a "friendly" reminder to any country looking to destabilize Ukraine's sovereignty, economy as well as political stability. It also would have helped to preserve the integrity of Ukraine's borders, especially the Crimean peninsula, from the Russian desire to annex it by perhaps using that large Russian fleet still based in Sevastopol.

Just one week after Mr. Yushchenko's statement on the possibility of independent enrichment of uranium for peaceful purposes, French President Jacques Chirac came out and said that France is ready to use nuclear weapons against any state that sponsors a terrorist attack against French interests. The question that we as Ukrainians must now answer for ourselves, our children and our history is this: Is Ukraine less important than France?

P.S. By the way, let us recall the words of the French national anthem "La Marseillaise." I highly recommend the refrain: "To arms, citizens. Form your battalions." Then there is also another part of the anthem that I personally am very fond of which says, "What! These foreign cohorts would make laws in our courts!"

Alex Kozhushchenko
Wilmington, Del.

Some thoughts on Christmastide

Dear Editor:

Between the December 25, 2005, issue of The Ukrainian Weekly coming in the first week of January, and preparation for celebrating Christmas according to both the Gregorian and Julian calendars, this response to Myron B. Kuropas' "Christmas: past, present, future" is somewhat late but, I hope, still timely as we end Christmastide today with the celebration of the Epiphany.

Like Dr. Kuropas, I celebrated two Christmases when growing up. Unlike him, I still do! In those "old days" we, too, sang Christmas carols in school and had a Christmas program followed by a party with cookies made by our mothers and we exchanged grab-bag gifts. We even had a Christmas tree in our classroom, dressed

by decorations made by our little hands.

Things have changed as Dr. Kuropas noted. He joins Gibson (I might add, Falwell, Robertson, etc.) in lamenting these changes via Gibson's book "The War on Christmas..."

He notes that "wannabe constitutional lawyers ... are declaring unconstitutional normal and traditional Christmas representations such as Christmas trees, Santa Claus, treetop stars ..." and so on.

This reminded me of the old saying that "the more things change, the more they remain the same." The religious right (Gibson, Falwell, Robertson, Kuropas, etc.) is correct in saying that Christmas in America was not always as it is now. Up until the 19th century, the churches that today are the great champions of Christmas, those descended from the Puritans and Baptists said that Christmas was the work of the devil, was completely unbiblical, was an invention of the anti-Christ. And they hated Christmas so much that for 21 years, in the late 1600s, in New England Christmas was banned as a holy day and it was a crime to celebrate Christmas. The church beat the ACLU, if this is indeed the purpose of that organization.

As Christians (East and West), we must not romanticize the "good old days" (for perhaps they really were not!) and remember that although Jesus was born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling cloths, he grew up. And we are told by St. Paul to "grow up ... into Christ" and to "mature in the faith." One outstanding theme of Jesus and of the prophets is to advocate for and care for the poor, the friendless, children and widows. This is part of our vocation.

It would seem that a part of an authentic celebration of Christmas would be for us to go to the Salvation Army or a homeless shelter, tap a person standing in line with a soup bowl and say "come to my home for Sviat Vechir, there is room for you at our table. And come as you are." This, I think, would be one of the finest gifts we could give to Jesus for his birthday, and the finest to ourselves as well for the invited who would probably not be in a position to return the favor.

If the religious right, the left and those in between would put as much effort into caring for those Jesus loved, instead of fighting/supporting all of these Christmas externals, and care for the poor and marginalized which we are commanded to do, then perhaps those on the outside looking in would marvel and say once again "look how they love one another." We will then have "grown-up," "matured in Christ" knowing that Jesus is not born in the town square, not in the homeroom, not in the Christmas program (all of which are nice) but more importantly, "born in us this day."

Father Michael Fill
Philadelphia

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.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



The empire strikes back, again and again

Early New Year's Day with the continent in deep freeze, the Russian energy monopoly, Gazprom, ordered the shutoff of Ukraine's share of natural gas flowing through the giant pipelines that supply much of Europe. Making its demand in the dead of winter, Russia gave Ukraine 10 days to comply. With tension building in the waning hours of 2005, President Vladimir Putin put his personal stamp on the crisis, appearing dramatically on live television with a final pitch. Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko did his own live broadcast, assuring Ukrainians he would neither accept Gazprom's coercion nor allow anyone in his country to freeze. As it happened, people in Central and Western Europe were the first to suffer from the cold.

Sitting in our cozy family room near the cold shores of Lake Erie, my wife and I watched it all unfold on television – the second winter in a row that a crisis in Ukraine led the evening news. And just as with the Orange Revolution a year before, President Putin lost the public relations battle. You could tell Ukraine was winning when the energy commissioner for the European Union, Andris Piebalgs, appeared on TV wearing an orange tie. It didn't matter what he said; the tie said it all: "Russia – back off and start acting like a civilized country!"

And so, with a face-saving agreement, Mr. Putin did back off, roundly condemned in the global press for "imperial over-reach" and lampooned for "shooting himself in the foot." Still, if Mr. Putin was weakened by the crisis he himself provoked, then so was Mr. Yushchenko, whose political opponents are using the energy crisis to angle for tactical advantage in the coming parliamentary election.

It wasn't supposed to be like this. It's more than 14 years that Ukraine has been independent and over a decade since Kyiv agreed to destroy the third-largest nuclear arsenal in the world, arguably making the greatest contribution to global security of any nation in history.

The geo-strategic significance of that 1994 decision becomes more apparent each day that the United States, Russia, the European Union, China and the International Atomic Energy Agency struggle unsuccessfully to stop nuclear programs in North Korea and Iran. Should either country or both join the exclusive "nuclear club," the result would be enormously destabilizing.

Iran and North Korea insist, of course, that they're developing a civilian nuclear program; in Iran's case, preparing for the day when its oil fields are depleted. Never mind that the same technology used to enrich nuclear fuel for civilian power plants can be applied to nuclear bombs.

In an effort to convince Iran to abandon its nuclear program, the U.S., playing "bad cop," threatens U.N. Security Council action, while "good cop" Russia offers to provide the enriched uranium Iran would need to run a civilian nuclear energy program.

I have no affection for Iran or North Korea, and I applaud efforts to try to stop them from developing nuclear arms. That said, I'm deeply troubled by Russia's role in this crisis and question whether that country has any credibility at all, given how it's repeatedly provoked crises

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with Ukraine, something that directly contravenes its international obligations.

Indeed, in 1994, when Ukraine agreed to dismantle its nuclear weapons, Russia, the United States and Great Britain co-signed the Budapest Memorandum, forbidding economic coercion aimed at subverting Ukraine's sovereignty or any attacks or threats that might jeopardize Ukraine's territorial integrity or political independence. Included is Russia's agreement to supply Ukraine with enriched uranium for the four operating nuclear generating plants that supply half the country's electricity production. Now Moscow is offering Iran a similar arrangement.

Well, the Budapest Memorandum notwithstanding, ever since Mr. Putin assumed power in 2000, Russia has been working to undermine Ukraine's independence. Notoriously, this has included open interference in Ukraine's presidential election; encroachments on Ukrainian territory in the Kerch Straits and in the Crimea; and, of course, the most recent demand for a devastating price increase, which President Putin's economic adviser Andrei Illarionov blasted as a "political neo-imperialist move" and then resigned in protest. "Energy weapons are being used against neighbors," he said.

No one should be surprised, I suppose, when Russia violates a treaty. Lenin violated the 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk guaranteeing Ukraine's independence during the era of the Central Rada. Stalin's Terror and Famine-Genocide in the 1930s violated the constitutional principles that established and were supposed to govern the Soviet Union. In 1948 the Kremlin violated post-World War II agreements with the Allies when it imposed the Berlin Blockade; Brezhnev and his successors violated the Helsinki Accords in the 1970s and 1980s.

To their credit, the United States and European countries have been honoring the international commitment to Ukraine with their pivotal role in setting up an independent banking system, a viable currency and, of course, during the Orange Revolution and the gas crisis. Now, given Russia's unequivocal campaign to reincorporate Ukraine into its empire, it's imperative that the West step up its support for Ukraine, including assistance in achieving energy independence through development of domestic fossil fuels, nuclear fuel enrichment, bio-energy and other renewables. That's one of the primary goals President Yushchenko set in his national address on the energy crisis.

As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council with historic links to Iran and North Korea, Russia has potential leverage in the dispute over their nuclear programs. Regardless of that, the West, having provided guarantees on Ukraine's independence and sovereignty, must be firm in rejecting any effort to link the current nuclear crisis with Russia's imperial ambitions in Ukraine. Ultimately, nothing will have been gained if Russia helps in the short term with Iran and North Korea, while evading its long-term obligations under the Budapest Memorandum. Proud of its status as a member of the G-8, Russia insists on being treated like a normal country. Fair enough. In return, the U.S. and the European Union should insist its president act like a normal leader.

The Bilaniuk Collection: a resource for Eastern Christian studies

by Rosemary O'Hearn

OTTAWA – The Very Rev. Prof. Dr. Petro B.T. Bilaniuk was an accomplished Ukrainian Catholic theologian and an avid book collector. After his death in 1998, his extensive library was donated in memoriam to the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa and was recently integrated into the university's Jean-Léon Allie Library.

At the official opening of the collection on January 17, the widow of the late Rev. Bilaniuk, Marie Therese Bilaniuk, Ph.D., remarked, "I was so happy when my (late) husband promised his books to the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute!" Having lived in a house weighed so heavily with books that the floors sagged, she remembers suggesting that they buy a second home and leave the first house for the books.

The donated collection represents a lifetime of systematic book purchases, consuming an average of 25 percent of Father Bilaniuk's family budget. As Father Andriy Chirovsky noted in his taped presentation from Arizona, "He was cognizant that he was building a library not just for himself, but for the Ukrainian Church. Students studying at the institute, as well as visiting scholars, can now benefit from the time, effort and money that Prof. Bilaniuk put into developing this collection."

While St. Paul University has the largest theological library in Canada, it began to develop its holdings in Eastern



The Bilaniuk family (from left): Miroslawa, Nykolai, Marie Therese, Boris, Olexa, Ksenia and Joseph Bilaniuk.

Christian Studies only in the early 1990s when the institute moved to Ottawa.

Chief Librarian André Paris noted that "as soon as the Sheptytsky Institute approached the library with the idea of this donation, the library seized on the opportunity, understanding the value of the collection and its importance for

Eastern Christian Studies."

The collection contains over 1,000 entries of books, multi-volume editions, periodicals, pamphlets, music and art publications in the field of Eastern Slavic Christendom. There are materials on moral theology, philosophy, Christian art and architecture, biography, old Ukrainian literature, medieval Slavic Christianity, Byzantine history and general history of Ukraine.

Prof. Bilaniuk was born on August 4, 1932, in Zalischyky, Halychyna (about 40 miles east of Kolomyia). He emigrated to Canada in 1949. After earning a number of degrees, including two doctorates, he joined the Faculty of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto in 1962. Prof. Bilaniuk was soon recognized

as a leading authority on the theology, history and culture of the Eastern Christian Churches, and a pioneer of Ukrainian theological scholarship. He authored over 160 articles and 13 books.

Over 70 people attended the official collection opening. The master of ceremonies, the institute's acting director, Father Andrew T. Onuferko, thanked the Bilaniuk family on behalf of the institute and university community. Vice-Rector for Academics, Denis Hurtubise emphasized the value of the collection for the university's Eastern Christian Studies Programs.

The Akord Ukrainian Men's Choir of Ottawa provided a musical interlude, performing a select number of tradition Ukrainian Christmas carols. The evening concluded with a reception.

OBSERVATIONS: Music at the Institute

by Walter Prochorenko

I can't imagine a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than to listen to a concert by young musicians from various New York universities in the acoustically superb second-floor meeting room at the Ukrainian Institute of American on 79th Street. After a brisk walk in New York's Central Park on a balmy January day, the coziness of the historical building, the compactness of the premises where the concert was held and the wonderful music made for an exceptional experience.

I'm by no means a music critic, a musician, or an expert on music. My own experiences with music consisted of scaring away domestic animals and rodents in our Belgian village neighborhood when in my youth I started to play my accordion. But my passion has always been classical music – I adore it.

The concert at the institute was performed by a group called Musiciens sans Frontières under the direction of George Stelluto. The 16 string instrumentalists in the group come from various music schools and universities in New York and their claim to fame is that they also have or will participate in music programs in various countries around the world – hence the name, which translates as Musicians without Borders.

Dr. Walter Prochorenko is currently director of publications at the Ukrainian National Association. His previous experience consists of over 30 years as a multinational entrepreneur, wealth management advisor and business consultant in international business. Part of his business experience consisted of establishing and running several successful development businesses in Ukraine for a period of over eight and a half years. Dr. Prochorenko obtained his Ph.D. in international business and wrote his dissertation on the economic and political situation of Ukraine since independence.

Some of the participants have already initiated programs in such faraway places as Moldova, Romania, Brazil, the Philippines and Ukraine. Their philosophy and goal is to bring classical musical culture to everyone but also to learn from the local music of the people of the various lands.

The concert itself consisted of three pieces: "Rounds" by American composer David Diamond, a vivacious and uplifting work; Symphony No. 3 by Ivan Karabyts of Ukraine, which was a U.S. premiere; and William Shuman's Symphony No. 5, which is a complex piece illustrating Shuman's well-known schizophrenic style.

The Karabyts symphony would have been suitable for a good Dracula movie score. It was at the same time mournful, haunting and angry. Music Director Stelluto also pointed out that at times the symphony displayed glimpses of hope and happiness, but these quickly gave in to the general theme of hopelessness. This was somewhat reminiscent of Ukraine's own situation since gaining independence.

It was exhilarating to listen to such great music, and hear every note and nuance without the aid of any electronic gadget. But what made it even more so was to "see" the music played, and to see the young musicians' enthusiasm and love for their art.

The only sad part was to look around the audience and see the sparsely attended event. The room could have accommodated twice or even three times the number of listeners. Similar events in Kyiv, or even at a Polish concert of this type in New York, would have brought in 10 to 20 times the audience. Perhaps the i-Pod culture has really overtaken the social needs for such musical events. I would hate to think this is the case. How can we reach out and get Ukrainians to support such events?

Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 1)

to acquaint the American public about the truly genocidal policies of Joseph Stalin – among them, the building of a monument in Washington; a Ukrainian Genocide curriculum in U.S. public high schools; traveling exhibits; and, the revocation of The New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize."

According to The Ukrainian Weekly's sources, the community representatives present at the meeting included: Stefan Kaczaraj, president of the Ukrainian National Association, who also serves as chairman of the UCCA National Council; Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council; Iryna Kurowyckyj, president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America; Larissa Kyj, chairperson of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee

and UCCA executive vice-president; Judge Bohdan Futej; Ihor Kotlarchuk of The Washington Group; and Serhiy Zhykharev of the Ukrainian National Information Service, the Washington office of the UCCA.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation was represented by Nadia McConnell, president, and Vera Andrushkiw, director of the Community Partnerships Project, and Markian Bilynskij, vice-president of field operations in Ukraine.

Present on behalf of the Ukrainian Federation of America were Dr. Zenia Chernyk and Vera Andryczyk, as well as Roman Kuzyk, advisor to the federation's Safe Blood for Ukraine project.

Also in attendance, as reported by UNIS, was the Rev. Volodymyr Steliac, pastor of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, and, according to the Ukrinform news service, a representative of the Ukrainian American Bar Association.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Ms. Tymoshenko was the most visible of Mr. Yushchenko's allies in the Orange Revolution. Side-by-side with Mr. Yushchenko, and more than anyone else, Ms. Tymoshenko was the political face of the mass movement dubbed the Orange Revolution when tens of thousands of opposition supporters flooded the streets of Kyiv following the fraud-marred presidential runoff of November 21, 2004, wrote correspondent Olga Nuzhinskaya in The Weekly. "I strongly helped the revolution ... I

managed to demonstrate that politicians sometimes serve the people, not themselves," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

The charismatic Ms. Tymoshenko, who was considered to be the most radical person among Mr. Yushchenko's allies, was someone that almost no one felt neutral about. Nonetheless, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said repeatedly that lawmakers would support any candidate proposed by Mr. Yushchenko.

Source: "Tymoshenko tapped as prime minister," by Olga Nuzhinskaya, The Ukrainian Weekly, January 30, 2005, Vol. LXXIII, No. 5.

Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky – savior of Jews during World War II

by Taras Hunczak

“When I call Andrey Sheptytskyi a saint, I am not exaggerating.”

– Rabbi David Kahane, *“Righteous of the Nations of the World”* (*“Gerechter der Völker der Erde,” Die Zeit, December 27, 1985*).

To understand the humanitarian role of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky during World War II, we have to place it in its historical context. Indeed, the problems facing the charismatic leader of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church challenged his principles and his ability to confront the criminal regimes of both communism and fascism.

The Communists, who espoused a policy of atheism and dictatorship, introduced a system of rule the likes of which the people of western Ukraine never experienced in their life. In the short time of their rule (September 1939 to June 22, 1941) jails were filled with innocent people while thousands were exiled to Siberia.

When the German Army advanced and the Red Army retreated from western Ukraine, the people discovered that jails were filled with corpses of young Ukrainians murdered by the NKVD. The attitude of the Ukrainian people, under the influence of the stereotype “Jew-Communist” or “Judeo-Bolshevism,” which was based on a significant Jewish participation in the echelons of the Communist power structure, particularly in the secret police – the Cheka, GPU and NKVD¹ and which was further reinforced by the Nazi policy of anti-Semitism, exploded in some towns and cities into acts of violence against the Jewish people. Thus, a tragedy of the Ukrainian people turned into a tragedy of the Jewish people.

In the city of Lviv, some 20,000 Ukrainians disappeared during Soviet rule and 5,000 were murdered in jails.² The relatives of the murdered prisoners, who came to rescue the innocent victims of Communist persecution, discovered only their corpses. In this moment of despair they “... using violence drove together about 1,000 Jews and delivered them to the GPU [really the NKVD] jail occupied by the Wehrmacht.”³ These innocent Jews – the guilty most likely fled with the retreating Soviet army – were forced to carry out of jails the corpses of the victims of Communist persecution, the great majority of whom were Ukrainians.

The Ereignismeldung report further on describes the role played by the Germans in the mass murder of the Jewish people, saying that “the security police drove together and executed about 7,000 Jews as a reprisal for the inhuman atrocities.”⁴ Similar criminal acts against the Jewish people were perpetrated by the Nazis, often with the participation of some Ukrainians, in other towns of western Ukraine.⁵

This was the tragic reality of the Jewish and the Ukrainian people.

Unfortunately, some writers are not satisfied with the grim, well-documented reality; they add to this tragic story a groundless fabrication for which there is no documentary evidence whatsoever. To such fabrications belongs the tale that there were pogroms, particularly in Lviv, known as “Petliura Days” allegedly “in memory of Petliura to which thousands of Jews fell victim.”⁶

As we can see from this short discussion, myth and reality became intertwined, creating a basis for tragedy. The problem was best analyzed by Zvi Gitelman, who stated: “The first is selective historical memory, which ... appears to be the basis of a collective myth that is developed and transmitted across generations. This myth forms the basis for stereotypical images that nationalities develop about themselves and about others. It is not historical fact that shapes peoples’ attitudes toward each other, but interpretation of fact⁷ ...”

Metropolitan Sheptytsky, who initially welcomed the victorious German army and thanked them for deliverance from Communist tyranny, was soon shocked by the bloody pogroms and mass executions of the Jewish people. Indeed, as a teacher of morality and civil order, the Metropolitan felt that the prevalent violence and disregard of the principles of civility would undermine the very basis of social ethics.

Describing the situation to Pope Pius XII in 1941 regarding the mass murder of the Jews, Sheptytsky wrote: “It is as if a pack of rabid and raging wolves has thrown itself on these people.”

In another letter, addressed to Cardinal Tisserant in 1943, Sheptytsky wrote: “All of Volyn and parts of western Ukraine are overflowing with gangs of a unique political character. Some gangs are Polish, others Ukrainian and still others Communist. Beyond them are the true criminals, among whom are people of various nationalities – Germans, Jews, Ukrainians, Poles and Russians.”⁸

Sheptytsky was obviously concerned with the absence



Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky

of all moral principles in the mass executions of the Jewish people in the process of which some members of the Ukrainian militia also participated. In February 1942 the Metropolitan addressed his concern in his letter to SS Reichsfuehrer Heinrich Himmler protesting the Nazi genocide against the Jewish people and the use of Ukrainian auxiliary police in such criminal activity. Himmler responded, advising “the Metropolitan not to interfere in affairs which did not concern him.”⁹

The Germans retaliated for Sheptytsky’s letter by terminating the activities of the Ukrainian National Council of which Sheptytsky was honorary chairman.¹⁰ That, however, did not deter the metropolitan from pursuing his course of saving lives. “In his pastoral letter ‘On Christian Mercy’ (June 1942), he linked the Christian duty of fraternal love with the sanctity of human life ...”¹¹

A much more powerful statement of Sheptytsky in defense of life, condemning various forms of murder, assassination and the policy of extermination, was made in his pastoral letter “Thou Shalt Not Kill.”¹² The epistle, issued in November 1942, was to be read in all the churches, threatening with divine punishment all individuals who “shed innocent blood and make themselves outcasts of human society by disregarding the sanctity of man.”¹³

Besides his pastoral letters to his faithful, Metropolitan Sheptytsky decided to use the administrative structure of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church to save as many Jews as possible. One should keep in mind the fact that saving Jews was very dangerous – the penalty for what the Germans called Judenbeguenstigung (favoring Jews) was death by execution. Yet the metropolitan was willing to risk nuns and monks, priests and laymen in order to live by God’s rule “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”

Sheptytsky’s closest collaborators in the conspiratorial work of saving the Jews were: the protoihumen of the Studite monks and superior of all Ukrainian monasteries, Klymentii, who was Sheptytskyi’s brother; Ihumena Josepha, who was mother superior of all convents; and Father Marko Stek, who provided false documents to Jews and organized their escort to the monasteries or convents.

According to Rabbi David Kahane, who was saved by Sheptytsky, more than 240 Ukrainian priests risked their lives hiding or helping Jews.¹⁴ Besides 200 children who were hidden in monasteries and convents, Sheptytsky saved, in his own residence, 15 Jews, among them Kurt Lewin, his brother Isaac Lewin and Rabbi Kahane, who later became the chief rabbi of the Israeli Air Force.

Years later, Philip Friedman would properly refer to these noble individuals, and others like them, as “Their Brothers’ Keepers.”¹⁵

For the small group of these fortunate children and grown-ups, the war was over when the German army retreated from Lviv in the summer of 1944. Then the children were placed with Jewish families and Metropolitan Sheptytsky provided food, clothing and blankets for the children and the survivors, who organized a Jewish Committee.¹⁶

Sheptytsky was, indeed, as stated by Rabbi Kahane, “one of the greatest humanitarians in the history of mankind [and] certainly the best friend the Jews ever had.”¹⁷ In an interview with David Mills on May 31,

1968, Kurt Lewin said that seeing a man like Sheptytsky “it’s like touching the stars and being inspired by it ... It’s a ray of humanity at its best, a ray of religion and faith at its strongest.”¹⁸

On the basis of the evidence provided by the individuals saved by Metropolitan Sheptytsky one must honestly conclude that he was truly one of the Righteous among the Nations of the World.

We should also be aware, however, that there were numerous heroic individuals who were willing to risk their lives to save Jews. Among them we find Mayor Senytsia of Kremenchuk who, together with Father Romansky, a Ukrainian Orthodox priest, was able to save Jews by having them baptized in order to be able to provide them with false documents.¹⁹ In Sambir, western Ukraine, Oleksander Kryvoiaza helped save 58 Jews,²⁰ while in

(Continued on page 17)

1 Leonard Schapiro, “The role of the Jews in the Russian Revolutionary Movement,” *Slavonic and East European Review* 40 (December 1961), pp. 164-165. The author wrote that “Jews abounded at the lower levels of the Party machinery – particularly in the Cheka and its successors, the GPU, the OGPU and the NKVD ...” New research in the archives of Russia and Ukraine revealed that Jews in the 1920s and 1930s occupied high positions in the secret service in Ukraine, exceeding in number all the other nationality groups put together. See Taras Hunczak, “Problems of Historiography: History and Its Sources,” *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*. Vol. XXV, Number 1/2, Spring 2001, pp. 129-142.

2 See “Trials of War Criminals before the Nuremberg Military Tribunals,” 4:518-21.

3 See *Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD Ereignismeldung UdSSR*. Nr. 24, 16 July 1941, p. 12.

4 *Ibid.*

5 For details see Taras Hunczak, “Ukrainian-Jewish Relations during the Soviet and Nazi Occupations” in Yury Boshyk, ed., *Ukraine During World War II: History and Its Aftermath*. Edmonton: 1986, pp. 39-57.

6 See Aharon Weiss, “Jewish-Ukrainian Relations in Western Ukraine During the Holocaust” in Peter J. Potichnyj and Howard Aster, eds., *Ukrainian-Jewish Relations in Historical Perspective*. Edmonton: 1988, p. 413.

7 Zvi Gitelman, “Contemporary Soviet Jewish Perceptions of Ukrainians: Some Empirical Observations” in Peter J. Potichnyj and Howard Aster, p. 440.

8 Myroslav Marynovych, “Called and Chosen: Several Portraits of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky” in *The Ukrainian Quarterly*, Volume LX, Number 3-4, pp. 211, 213.

9 Kurt I. Lewin, “Metropolitan Andreas Sheptytsky and the Jewish Community in Galicia” in the *Annals of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.*, Vol. VII, No. 1, 2 (1959), p. 1661.

10 Kost Pankivskiy, “Roky Nimetskoi Okupatsii.” *New York*: 1965, pp. 29-30.

11 Andrii Kravchuk “Christian Social Ethics in Ukraine,” *Edmonton*: 1997, p. 240.

12 Sheptytsky’s pastoral letter “Ne Ubyi” was published in *Lvivski Arkhieparkhialni Vidomosti* 55, No. 11 (November 1942), pp. 177-183. A copy of the original translation of the letter into German “Du Sollst Nicht Toeten,” probably by the German Security Service, is in my personal archive.

13 *Ibid.*, pp. 222-231.

14 Leo Heiman, “They Saved Jews: Ukrainian Patriots Defied Nazis” in *The Ukrainian Quarterly*, Winter 1961, pp. 320-332. Most of the article is the dramatic story of Rabbi David Kahane. Rabbi Kahane tells also about the Jewish children: “We organized 200 Jewish children, including the sons of Rabbi Hamaydessa, Rabbi Lewin, and my own daughter. All children were smuggled to one or another monastery, concealed in the crypt, given false certificates of baptism, Ukrainian-sounding names, and dispersed throughout convent schools and orphanages in and around Lviv. All of them survived the Nazi occupation and the war.”

15 See Philip Friedman, “Their Brothers’ Keepers,” *Holocaust Library*, New York: 1978, pp. 130-136. See also Shimon Redlich “Sheptytsky and the Jews During World War II” in Paul Robert Magocsi, ed., *Morality and Reality: The Life and Times of Andrei Sheptytsky*. Edmonton: 1989, pp. 143-162. For other testimonies see “Mytropolyt Andrei,” *Ukrainskyi Samostiynyk*, June 1966, pp. 24-36; also Osyp Kravcheniuk, “Veleten zi Sviatoiorskoi Hory,” *Yorkton, Saskatchewan*: 1963, pp. 97-104.

16 Kurt I. Lewin, “Metropolitan Andreas Sheptytsky ...” *op.cit.*, p. 1666.

17 Heiman, “They Saved Jews,” p. 325. To help the Jewish people Sheptytsky appealed even to laymen he knew well. I am referring to the request (July 14, 1941) the metropolitan made to Prof. Ivan T. Rudnytsky, a prominent lawyer in Lviv, to help Samuel Markus. Personal archive of Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky, Philadelphia.

18 The tapes of the interview are in my personal archives.

19 For his subversion of the German policy, Senytsia was executed. See *Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD*, Berlin, den 6. Maerz 1942. *Ereignismeldung UdSSR* Nr. 177, 3. Bundesarchiv, Koblenz R58/221.

20 See Philip Friedman, “Ukrainian-Jewish Relations during the Nazi Occupation,” *YIVO Annual of Jewish Social Studies* 12 (1958-1959), p. 289.

Eighty-three youths attend Plast's 51st annual ski camp

by Adriana Kuzyszyn

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. – From Christmas Day until New Year's Eve 2005, 83 "yunachky" and "yunaky" – Plast youths age 11-17 – took part in the 51st annual ski camp. Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's Burlaky Fraternity organized and ran the camp with the help of eight administrators and 28 counselors.

Thirteen Plast (branches), 11 states and Canada were represented among the campers, counselors and administrators. Andrew Halarewycz, "komendant" (camp commander), and his colleagues

worked hard to ensure the week's success and participants' enthusiasm.

The camp was centered around five days of skiing and snowboarding at Gore Mountain in North Creek, N.Y. Despite mediocre conditions and temperamental weather, most campers eagerly took part in the mandatory morning lessons and skiing/snowboarding during free time in the afternoon.

The hourlong bus trip back to the Landmark Inn in Glens Falls, N.Y., gave campers and counselors a chance to recover from the daily 6:30 a.m. wake up call and full day of winter sport activity.

A bustling evening schedule included informative lectures presented by Bohdan Zarowsky, interactive games that stimulated individual participation, and the presentation of skits prepared by most campers. These activities gave the campers the opportunity to acquire points for their respective rooms; they actively competed in a weeklong race to see who could amass the most points.

On December 29, Jurij Ferencevych, the main organizer of the yearly ski camps, was recognized for his upcoming birthday and continuous dedication and hard work. Fellow members of the

Burlaky Fraternity presented him with gifts and kind words as a tribute to all that he has done and continues to do for the camp. An enthusiastic version of "Mnohaya Lita" gave both campers and counselors an opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation toward Mr. Ferencevych.

The final night, December 30, was a busy one for all involved. The campers were given the responsibility of choosing which of their peers would hold the honorary "Snowflake" and "Snowman" titles. After the 10 nominees answered various questions as best they could, Lana Denysyk of Morris Plains, N.J., and Zorian Lasowsky of Germantown, Wis., were chosen to be the elected representatives of Ski Camp 2005.

Following the appointments, the counselors presented the camp with a comedic skit created by Alexa Milanytch based upon the traditional Ukrainian Christmastime "vertep." The presentation gave the counselors the opportunity to entertain the campers while showing off their many talents. The skit concluded with the arrival of St. Nicholas, who distributed gifts to those who earned them. The evening ended with a spirited "vechirka" (dance), during which participants celebrated the bittersweet end to yet another successful camp.

Ironically, the coldest day of the camp was the last one, New Year's Eve. Everyone scrambled to pack up their belongings and clean up their rooms as quickly as possible. As campers looked through the photo and address books they received and started saying their good-byes, the staff of the Landmark Inn made sure that the rooms at least to some extent resembled their original state. As "zakryttia" (closing ceremonies) concluded, friends were reluctant to go home and promised to keep in touch.

Despite a few injuries, rain and a minor blackout, campers and counselors very much enjoyed the days spent at the Landmark Inn and Gore Mountain. The dedication of the Burlaky Fraternity and the enthusiasm of the participants continue to make this unique camp a success and ensure its popularity for years to come.



A commemorative photo from the 2005 ski camp shows all the participants and counselors and staff.

Poll shows...

(Continued from page 1)

the east and 70 percent of citizens in the south think Ukraine is headed in the wrong direction, compared to 37 percent in the west and 56 percent in the center.

The results also indicate an overall pessimism in Ukrainians' views toward politicians and their leadership. Sixty-two percent believe that elected officials act primarily in their own interests, while only 9 percent believe they act principally in the public's interest. Similarly, 42 percent think political parties and politicians do not offer clear proposals to address the country's main problems. However, in contrast to

last year's poll the picture is slightly more promising. Last year's poll showed 67 percent of the population believing that elected officials act in their own interests and only 6 percent in the public's.

As seen in the previous annual survey, Ukrainians once again rated economic concerns as the most pressing issues facing the country. When asked about the importance of 12 key issues, the largest number of respondents – 96 percent – listed the rise in prices of basic products as either "very important" or "rather important" (compared to 95 percent last year).

The issues of poverty and unemployment also topped the list of concerns with 95 percent of respondents indicating they found them important (97 percent and 96 percent, respectively, last year). This is in contrast to terrorism, which was important to only 51 percent of the population (57 percent last year) and the state of freedom of speech at 59 percent (58 percent last year).

A primary focus of the poll, whose results were released in mid-January, was gauging the level of awareness of Ukrainian citizens about the recent changes in the election law in order to inform voter education efforts. Of particular concern is that almost half, 48 percent, of Ukrainians were completely unaware of the new election law, including the fundamental change from a mixed system to

a party list system. Overall, the analysis showed that citizens unaware about their rights and voting procedures are more likely to be resident in the east (67.2 percent), under age 29 (67.8 percent) or over age 60 (66.1 percent), female (64.2 percent) rather than male (58.5 percent), and without higher education (the level of awareness increases with the level of education). Village and city dwellers are aware of their rights and voting procedures at roughly equal levels.

The poll also asked respondents for their opinions about changes in the law. Results show that of those that knew about the changes, a slight majority, 53 percent, agreed with the changes, while only 25 percent disagreed. Support for each change varied:

- 79 percent agree with permitting NGOs to observe elections.
- 60 percent agree with the introduction of sanctions, up to the temporary closing, against biased media, whereas 25 percent disagree.
- 40 percent agree with limiting the right of police to be present at the polling station, while 46 percent disagree.
- 48 percent agree with being able to make changes in the voter list up to two days before the election and not on election day, while 29 percent disagree and 23 percent don't have an opinion.
- 39 percent support the change from a

mixed system, to a party list system, while 22 percent disagree and 38 percent don't have an opinion.

Finally, a positive finding reveals that although a majority of Ukrainians were dissatisfied with Ukraine's progress and its political leadership over the past year, a majority still plan to vote in the upcoming elections and believe that it is important for citizens to participate in elections.

According to Freedom House's executive director, Jennifer Windsor, "Recent events in Ukraine confirm that the transition to a more democratic society is extremely difficult and that the campaign for the parliamentary elections will be highly charged and competitive. The poll findings underscore the importance of further engaging citizens and ensuring they understand and remain committed to the ongoing democratization process."

Freedom House, through the Citizen Participation in Election in Ukraine (CPEU) project, supports activities to inform voters about the new election law. CPEU funds numerous initiatives in Ukraine's regions to educate voters, broadcast public service announcements and conduct election observation. The project is supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The complete findings of the poll can be found at Freedom House's website, www.freedomhouse.org.

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Winter mountaineering camp heads to the Rockies in Alberta

by Deanna Yurchak

CALGARY, Alberta – Plast's ninth annual winter mountaineering camp, Zymovyi Mandrivnyi Tabir (ZMT), had a change of venue this year. Instead of heading to its usual locale at the Adirondack Loj near Lake Placid, on N.Y., December 26, 2005, campers met at Calgary airport and traveled the last leg of their trip together to the Castle Junction Youth Hostel in Banff National Park.

Situated in the heart of the Canadian Rockies, Banff National Park extends over 2,564 square miles of mountains, valleys, rivers and glaciers and is Canada's premier national park.

This year's ZMT numbered 22 campers from the U.S. and Canada between the ages of 16 and 40, and was headed by longtime ZMT participant and avid alpinist Andriy Kolos from Toronto.

As its leaders became more experienced and better trained in winter sports, the program evolved to include challenging activities like ice climbing, mountaineering and, most recently, telemark skiing, a Nordic style of free heel downhill skiing.

On the first day of camp, ZMT participants traveled to see the statue of the Ukrainian Canadian internee at the site of the Castle Mountain Internment Camp in what is now Banff National Park. This statue was installed in 1995 as a memorial to the hundreds of Ukrainian internees who lived and worked there in 1915-1917.

As in previous years, the highlight of ZMT's five-day winter sport program was ice climbing. According to William Liteplo of Boston, "You really have to push yourself mentally, as well as physically." He also noted that in the past few years the camp has accumulated more sophisticated gear,

which allowed it to offer more technical climbing opportunities. After his first multi-pitch climbing experience at ZMT 9, Mr. Liteplo added, "It's amazing to observe your own learning process with each climb."

Most rewarding for Marko Maryniak, of Fernie, Alberta, was seeing old friends, meeting new ones and observing the beauty of nature. Mr. Maryniak, who teaches outdoor education courses professionally, believes that wilderness offers youth not only an opportunity to learn technical outdoor skills, but also goes a long way to foster group and individual development. For him the trip was "a reaffirmation that nature is the great equalizer, and that as a



A winter mountaineering camp participant enjoys the awesome view.

group one can learn things that one can't individually."

Instructors at this year's ZMT had the unique opportunity to teach backcountry skiing and avalanche safety in actual avalanche terrain. Participants dug snow pits, analyzed snow for stability and practiced the use of avalanche beacons. Mr. Kolos stated, "At ZMT, even beginners to winter backcountry travel are trained to assess terrain and weather, so that everyone is responsible for providing input into group decisions. Those with more experience help those who are just learning."

Constantine Voyevodka of Reno, Nev., observed that ZMT is successful because participants can learn, practice and teach outdoor leadership in areas where it has not been taught in Plast's conventional curriculum. "This camp allows Plast to expand its expertise, keeping more young folks interested and in the fold," he said.

On December 31, the last day of camp, all 22 participants headed up Sulphur Mountain. The hike was a moderate climb until the final summit, which involved a steep ascent up a rocky peak. This last group challenge was one that Mr. Kolos enjoyed most. He was impressed by everyone's motivation and

said that he was proud of the cooperation among the group members as they helped each other reach the top.

Mr. Liteplo added, "The final hike was incredibly rewarding, and the views from the top ridge were outstanding."

The day ended with ZMT participants soaking in Banff's outdoor Hot Springs and then huddled around a bonfire near the youth hostel, bringing in the new year and singing carols until dawn.

When asked about the venue of next year's ZMT, Mr. Kolos answered, "We are always on the lookout for new locales to stimulate learning experience for both instructors and campers." He stated that the organizers of ZMT are constantly assessing the program's strengths and weaknesses in order to create activities that will lead to further self-awareness and growth.

Although he is thrilled with this year's outcome, he supports a change of locale for next year. According to him, the camp will be alternating between eastern and western North America, and perhaps travel abroad. Possible locations for future ZMTs include: Vermont, the Adirondacks, Alaska, the Sierra Nevada, Chamonix, Norway, and the Carpathian Mountains.



An ice climber rappels down the face of a cliff.

He began planning for this camp, the ninth ZMT, last summer, scouting out hiking trails, park regulations and local areas of interest. According to Mr. Kolos, it had been his longtime ambition to bring ZMT to a more challenging location, believing that it would benefit the camp's participants, especially since most of them were repeat veterans of the program.

"One learns more from one's surroundings when one is stimulated, and a change of location did just that," he said. He also noted that the new site made ZMT more accessible to Plast members living in the western U.S. and Canada.

"The new location afforded uniquely spectacular scenery," said Tania Voyevodka of Reno, Nev. "It was the best of any camps that I have attended, with better opportunities to teach backcountry skiing and avalanche instruction than is generally possible in the Adirondacks."

This annual winter mountaineering camp was the brainchild of Nicholas Sawicki and Dorian Yurchuk who, after many winters of recreational hiking and skiing with friends in the Adirondacks, endeavored to share their passion for outdoor winter activities by organizing a camp for Plast teens.

At its inception in 1997 the camp initially offered only hiking, camping, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.



ZMT campers, wearing their official camp hats, pose against the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Our Ukraine issues appeal

KYIV – The pro-presidential electoral bloc Our Ukraine has appealed to political forces that supported Viktor Yushchenko's presidential bid during the Orange Revolution in 2004 to sign a coalition agreement before the March 26 parliamentary elections, Interfax-Ukraine reported on January 25. "Our potential coalition partners should recognize the president as the leader of an orange coalition," Roman Zvarych from Our Ukraine told the agency. Mr. Zvarych also said Our Ukraine makes the formation of such an "orange coalition" contingent on its partners' readiness to annul the dismissal of Prime Minister Yekhanurov's Cabinet by the Verkhovna Rada on January 10. Our Ukraine reportedly made its coalition offer to the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Socialist Party, the Kostenko-Pliusch Ukrainian People's Bloc, and the electoral bloc formed by the Pora youth organization with the Reforms and Order Party. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko meets with U.S. official

KYIV – On Monday, January 23, President Viktor Yushchenko met in Kyiv with visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Daniel Fried. The parties discussed Ukrainian-American cooperation in the energy sector and energy-saving. According to President Yushchenko, U.S. technical assistance is very important in drawing out Ukraine's energy-saving strategies. The meeting also dealt with bipartite trade-economic cooperation. U.S. delegation members reassured Ukrainian officials of the United States' active work toward signing the bipartite protocol Ukraine needs to join the World Trade Organization. (Ukrinform)

Yekhanurov meets with Fried

KYIV – Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried discussed gas supplies to Ukraine and the country's accession to the World Trade Organization while meeting in Kyiv. The Cabinet's press service told Ukrinform on January 24 that the prime minister said agreements with Russia ensured uninterrupted gas supplies in winter and gradual transition to market pricing in payments for fuels. Mr. Yekhanurov also stressed that Ukraine has managed not only to defend its interests, but also to prove its image of a reliable transition for Europe. Speaking about joining the WTO, the Ukrainian prime minister stated the United States is Ukraine's key partner in negotiations on the matter and aired his hope that a bipartite protocol on reciprocal access to markets of goods and services will be signed shortly. Ukraine hopes to join the WTO by July. (Ukrinform)

President offers stabilization plan

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on January 23 proposed what he called a "plan for stabilizing the social and political situation in Ukraine," Ukrainian and international media reported. Mr. Yushchenko was delivering a televised address to the nation to mark the first anniversary of his inauguration. "I consider it necessary to introduce a moratorium on all decisions or actions by the legislature and executive that could lead to instability in Ukraine," Mr. Yushchenko said. He stressed that both branches of power should create all necessary conditions for holding fair parliamentary elections in March. At the same time, President Yushchenko called on the current Verkhovna Rada to appoint new

judges to the Constitutional Court, a move blocked by lawmakers for months. "I recognize that from January 1, according to the Verkhovna Rada's decision, a new Constitution is in place. But I do not consider it ideal," the president noted. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko pledges national reforms

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko pledged in his January 23 address to the nation to introduce "national reforms" in the health, education and agricultural sectors, as well as in the judiciary. Mr. Yushchenko also stressed that Ukraine's foreign policy priorities remain unchanged, adding that European Union membership is the main strategic goal for Ukraine. "I hope that a new Parliament will invigorate work for bringing Ukrainian legislation in line with European norms and standards. This will accelerate Ukraine's advance toward the EU and NATO," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

3.7 million at Christmas services

KYIV – Nearly 33,000 people participated in Christmas services in Kyiv on January 7. Kievpress.info also reported that services were celebrated in 56 churches. In addition, according to information from Ukraine's police, services were celebrated in over 12,000 religious buildings all over Ukraine. Nearly 3.7 million people participated. The regions with the highest attendance were Rivne (932,000 people), Ivano-Frankivsk (390,000), Dnipropetrovsk (300,000), and Lviv (290,000). (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

President urges pre-election stability

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on January 22 appealed to political rivals to ensure stability in the country in the ongoing campaign for the March 26 parliamentary elections, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. Mr. Yushchenko was speaking on Unity Day, the anniversary of the union of eastern and western Ukrainian lands in 1919. "Elections are a sacred matter," President Yushchenko said. "Not for you, but for the voters. The best compliment a politician could possibly pay to his nation is to ensure that our election takes place in political stability." The president said he wants the Verkhovna Rada to back down on its dismissal of Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov's Cabinet earlier this month over a controversial gas deal with Russia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

GDP expected to be 2.4 percent

KYIV – According to Minister of the Economy Arsenii Yatseniuk, Ukraine's GDP in 2006 is expected at 2005's rate, that is, 2.4 percent. This is but a tentative forecast, the minister noted on January 23. It will hold true if the mean weighted price for gas fluctuates between \$110 (U.S.) and \$115 per thousand cubic meters. Mr. Yatseniuk said the Economy Ministry's calculations suggest that the Ukrainian economy will be able to normally function if the price for natural gas is raised to \$140 of \$150 per thousand cubic meters, but only if this increase is gradual. He said three years would be the optimal period for Ukrainian industries to adapt to higher prices. In forming the 2006 national budget the government proceeded on a 7 percent growth in GDP and 8.7 percent inflation. In January of this year the World Bank worsened its forecast of Ukraine's GDP growth in 2006 from 3.5 percent / 5.5 percent to 1.5 percent / 3.5 percent, largely because of the steep rise in gas prices. In 2004 Ukraine's GDP grew by 12.1 percent from the previous year. (Ukrinform)



With deep sorrow we announce the passing on January 10, 2006, of

Zenon V. Holubec

born February 4, 1927, in Lviv, Ukraine.

A funeral mass was held on January 16, 2006, at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, NJ, followed by burial at St. Andrew's Cemetery in S. Bound Brook, NJ.

He leaves behind: son Roman, daughter Diana with husband Richard McArthur, daughter Ulana, brother Bohdan with family, and family and friends near and dear.



Ділимося сумною вісткою з друзями і громадою що в середу 18-го січня 2006 р. по довгій недужі відійшов у Божу вічність наш батько, дідо і прадід

бл. п. Василь Коцюбайло

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Покійний народився в Україні в селі Майнич, Львівська область, в 1913 році. Приїхав до Америки в 1938 році і поселився у місті Філядельфії де проживав аж до своєї смерті.

Похоронні відправи відбулися в неділю 22-го і в понеділок 23-го січня в похоронному заведенні Михайла Насевича у Філядельфії і в церкві Благовіщення Пречистої Диви Марії у Мелроз Парк, ПА.

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родина	Галини і Богдана Кутків Андрія Стаховича

і дальша родина в Америці і в Україні.

Вічна йому пам'ять.



With deep sorrow we announce that on Friday, November 18, 2005, our beloved husband, father and grandfather

SLAVKO STICESEN

entered into eternal rest.

He is survived by:

Wife	Stefania Sticesen
Son	Eugene Sticesen with wife Nadia
Daughter	Vera Mathieu
Daughter	Anna Later with husband Stewart
Grandchildren	Marianne Later, Natalie Sticesen with husband, Stephanie Sticesen with husband Michael, Patrick Mathieu, Tanya Mathieu, Peter Sticesen, Albina Ciesla with husband Greg

and extended family in the United States, Canada and Ukraine

Viewing took place on Monday, November 21, 2005, from 6-8 p.m. at the Bacon Funeral Home, Willimantic, CT

A Panakhyda service was held Tuesday, November 22, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. in the Bacon Funeral Home, followed by a procession to St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Willimantic, CT for a Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. with interment at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Windham, CT

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Ділимося сумною вісткою, що в понеділок, 23 січня 2006 р., заосмотрений найсвятішими тайнами, відійшов у вічність наш найдорожчий і незабутній БАТЬКО, ДІДО, ПРАДІДО та БРАТ

бл. п.

д-р РОМАН БАРАНОВСЬКИЙ

нар. в Галичі, 12 червня 1905 р.
ветеринарний лікар, найстарший член Пластового куреня „Лісових Чортів“ та журналіст-поет.

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сестра	– ЛЮБА КОРОЛЬ з чоловіком СТЕФАНОМ та родиною
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Вічна йому пам'ять!



Ділимося болючою вісткою з родиною, приятелями і знайомими, що 19-го січня 2006 р. упокоїлася в Бозі наша найдорожча МАМА, БАБЦЯ і ПРАБАБЦЯ

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нар. 10-го квітня 1914 р. у Львові.

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У важкому смутку залишені:

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та ближча і дальша родина в США та Україні.

Вічна її пам'ять!

What's next...

(Continued from page 6)

can't transform a country that was systematically plundered and ruined by communism for over 70 years into a thriving market democracy in 15 years.

So what can be done, and has Ukraine done it? Has Ukraine accomplished the possible?

Ukraine has successfully dismantled the totalitarian institutions of communism and constructed more or less functional democratic institutions rooted in a Constitution accepted by all political players. Ukraine has dismantled the centrally planned economy and replaced it with more or less functional market relations. Ukraine's media, vibrant though cowed until 2004, have become fully free since, and getting them back under government control will be no easy task. Ukraine's populace, increasingly self-confident in the early 2000s, broke free during the Orange Revolution and is now almost deliriously empowered.

In sum, Ukraine has caught up with Poland in 1989, and that's great news. And there is no reason to think that

Ukraine's steady progress will not continue in the foreseeable future. Viktor Yushchenko will remain president for four more years. He may be wishy-washy, but he is a democrat. Democracy and the market remain the goals of the people and the government. The economy is likely to resume growing. Political, social, and economic institutions will grow stronger every day they exist and are used. New, completely post-Soviet, and completely modern generations will increasingly assume positions of responsibility in Ukraine.

With a little luck, in 10 or 15 years, Ukraine just might resemble Poland today.

Two buts that aren't

What could go wrong? As long as Ukraine stays the course, the answer is: not much. But let's consider two possibilities that occupy people's minds.

First, let's imagine that the Party of the Regions does exceptionally well in the March 2006 parliamentary elections and that, miraculously, Viktor Yanukovich becomes prime minister. Would that spell Ukraine's end? Hardly. As odious as Mr. Yanukovich is, his becoming prime min-

ister would force him to play politics according to Ukraine's increasingly consolidated democratic rules of the game. And remember that Mr. Yanukovich is no Vladimir Putin; indeed, he's not even a Leonid Kuchma – which is to say that his chances of re-establishing or establishing authoritarian rule are virtually nil.

Would he elevate Russian to a state language? That's what he says he'll do, but like other Ukrainian politicians in the past he'll be hard-pressed to pursue a course that makes for an excellent campaign slogan and a divisive policy.

Will he kowtow to Russia? When even Belarus's slavishly pro-Russian president, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, jealously guards his own prerogatives, so, too, will Mr. Yanukovich.

Will he renationalize the economy? No way. Mr. Yanukovich's future economic policy, beholden as it is to the eastern oligarchs, is likely to mirror their interests, and those are decidedly pro-market and pro-Western. Ukraine's robber barons know full well that their economic fortune lies in the West – after all, why are they buying villas on the Riviera and not in Murmansk? – and that Ukraine's transformation into an appendage of Russia would also subordinate them to Russia's economic interests and priorities.

Ukraine has changed too much – it is too free, too democratic, and too pro-Western – for Mr. Yanukovich to be able to turn back the clock.

Second, there's Russia, whose heavy breathing has become especially nettlesome in the recent extortionate behavior of Gazprom toward Ukraine. Understandably, Ukrainians are obsessed with Russia, but they tend to forget that it's in awful shape and in no condition to

be more than a constant thorn in Ukraine's side. We tend to see a big and mighty Russia, but the reality is very different. President Putin, who must rank as one of Russia's most incompetent leaders, has successfully transformed Russia into an authoritarian state that is extraordinarily dependent on energy for its economic development. As we know from history, such petro-states are dreadfully corrupt and always fragile.

Notwithstanding the re-emergence in Russia of a scary xenophobia, nationalism, and imperialism, Russia is what the Maoists used to call a "paper tiger." Worst of all for Russia, Gazprom's and Putin's chest-beating will succeed only in creating resentment and anger in their non-Russian neighbors, thereby consolidating non-Russian identity, promoting anti-Russian alliances, and isolating Russia.

In lieu of a conclusion

Although Ukraine's future is likely to be upbeat, there's no doubt that it would benefit immensely from a little more of the "vision thing." One wishes that Yushchenko – or for that matter Tymoshenko – had been just a tad more forceful in pursuing reform. One wishes that the president and next prime minister would do more to deregulate the economy, clean the bureaucracy, and fix the government. Indeed, one wishes that Ukraine would become Switzerland – tomorrow.

Well, we can wish for many things with the new year. But, before we exhort Ukraine to pursue the best and only the best, let's not forget that, in politics as in life, the good and the good enough usually is best.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

A captain passes

Ukrainian Paul Shmyr, an early star in the fledgling World Hockey Association and an unsung leader, died after a battle with throat cancer at age 58. The Cudworth, Saskatchewan, native played parts of three seasons with Chicago in the late 1960s before leaving the NHL for the upstart rival WHA.

He went on to win top defenseman honors in 1976 and was voted a first-team all-star three times in stints with Cleveland, San Diego and Edmonton. Shmyr served as captain for six-WHA seasons, including 1978-1979 in Edmonton, when a youngster named Wayne Gretzky broke into pro hockey.

After the NHL absorbed four WHA teams, Shmyr went on to play three more seasons with Minnesota and Hartford before retiring at age 36 in 1982.

"He's street-wise in the game, a tough player and a great team man," former Minnesota GM Lou Nanne said after acquiring Shmyr in 1979.

"Paul was a terrific teammate and pound for pound, probably one of the toughest guys to play hockey," former teammate Al Hamilton told the Edmonton Sun. "He had a zest for life, which carried right through to his courageous bout with cancer over the last 10 years."

Shmyr demonstrated a most unusual demeanor after being swapped to lowly expansion California by the Blackhawks in 1971. The Golden Seals directed him to catch a plane and join his new team. But he ignored every communication attempt, not even bothering to return pages or calls.

He wanted his new car in his new locale, so ignoring all inquiries about his whereabouts, he made the three-day trip by land. The Seals' management speculated he had retired - or he was perhaps drowning his sorrows in Las Vegas. But Shmyr finally arrived in the sunshine state out west and became invaluable to the Seals' defense corps.

Predators carve new role for Tootoo in Milwaukee

At some point in his career, Jordin Tootoo (his mother is Ukrainian, his father is of Inuit heritage) won't be just a whirling, driving dynamo, sent onto the ice for the sole purpose of banging bodies and creating a spark for his teammates.

At least that's what the Nashville Predators believe and hope. Oh, they truly loved what Tootoo provided the fourth line in that role during his 2003-2004 rookie season. But they want him to take advantage of the new NHL rules by learning a new role with the American League's Milwaukee Admirals.

The numbers suggest Tootoo has been an above average student. In 18 AHL games, he has scored six goals and assisted on four others for a total of 10 points. And he has cut down on his customary penalty box time with a scant 48 minutes.

Yet statistics don't tell the entire developmental story, according to Milwaukee Admirals coach Claude Noel.

"I think he has come along very well," Noel told Kevin Oklobzija of The Hockey News' AHL West beat. "He plays so hard and plays with a lot of courage. He has a great attitude and I like his progress. He's begun to get rewarded on the scoresheet, he's made good plays."

Tootoo is learning a 5-foot-9 player can't spend his 12 to 15 minutes plowing

into opponents who are 30 and 40 pounds heavier. He is channelling his speed and energy more into creative offensive forays, less into just banging away at opposing fourth-line intimidators.

"We're going to have to find the answer to that," Noel said. "If you're in a seven- to eight-minute role on the ice in the NHL, you can. But you're probably not going to be able to play that role as a 14-minute player in the NHL."

"And that's the role we want him to learn. We want him to go from that seven- to eight-minute player who's an energy guy to a third line or second line right winger."

At a glance: Tootoo's career

Right wing. Shoots right. 5'9", 194 lbs. Born, Churchill, Manitoba, February 2, 1983. Nashville's sixth choice, 98th overall, in 2001 Entry Draft.

1997-1998	Spruce Grove	AMBHL
1998-1999	OCN Blizzard	MJHL
1999-2000	Brandon	WHL
2000-2001	Brandon	WHL
2001-2002	Brandon	WHL
2002-2003	Brandon	WHL
2003-2004	NASHVILLE	NHL
2004-2005	Milwaukee	AHL
	WHL East First All-Star Team (2003).	

Devils give Matvichuk four-year deal

Back in the summer of 2004, the strong possibility of a lockout and a rising payroll which had GM Lou Lamoriello promising eventual cuts did not stop the Devils from the rare pursuit of a top free agent.

Lamoriello, who vowed he wouldn't give players from outside the organization long-term contracts like those he gave John Madden and Jay Pandolfo "and will not even consider it," changed his mind and signed free agent defenseman Richard Matvichuk to a four-year, \$8.4 million contract.

Matvichuk, then 31 years old, accepted less money than the \$2.2 million he earned with Dallas in 2003-2004 for the security of a multi-year deal. His four-year contract calls for \$1.8 million per

season with \$300,000 in bonus clauses.

"There were other teams, probably five or six offers," Matvichuk told Rich Chere of the Newark Star-Ledger. In 75 games his final season in Dallas, Matvichuk tallied 20 assists and 21 points. "With the term of the deal and New Jersey's commitment to winning, I felt it was the right place. I'm very happy with the deal," the Ukrainian told Chere.

"I have a four-year deal in place," Matvichuk said. "Look around the league ... guys are signing for one year, two years. There is a lot of uncertainty."

Lukowich assumes leadership role

It didn't take long for defenseman Brad Lukowich to emerge as one of the new outspoken leaders of this year's New York Islanders.

Imported to the club because he won Stanley Cup rings with Dallas and Tampa Bay, Lukowich lambasted his new teammates following an early-season loss to Philadelphia. He aptly said the Flyers "kicked the living snot out of us," in a quote given to Peter Botte of the New York Daily News. Lukowich went on to call out the team's stars to pick up their

(Continued on page 17)

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Political cartoons			
Historical and geographical information about Ukraine			
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- Administration of UNA Publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly

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Chervona Kalyna Fraternity of Plast meets at general assembly

by Yuriy Strutynsky

EAST HANOVER, N.J. – The 23rd general assembly of the Chervona Kalyna fraternity of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization took place here at the Ramada Inn with 36 members from U.S. and four delegates from the fraternity's unit in Ukraine participating.

During the conference, members discussed the activities of the fraternity over the last two years, such as: organizing annual sports camps and hiking camps ("Zahrava") in Ukraine, the participation of members in running summer camps and "Sviato Vesny" in the United States, and helping the Supreme Plast Command and the National Plast Command, as well as Plast periodicals.

The fraternity paid tribute to its deceased members – especially the 21 who died fighting for the freedom of Ukraine.

Also discussed was the preparation of the next Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball, which will be held on February 25 at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel in East Rutherford, N.J. This event is very popular with the Ukrainian community, especially its young people. The next ball will be very special because it marks the 50th anniversary of the presentation of debutantes at the ball.

Toward the end of the conference, the fraternity members elected a new general command of the Chervona Kalyna Fraternity: Ihor Sochan, "otaman"; Petro Matiashkek, judge; Oleh Kuzyszyn, "kantsler"; Andriy Kosovych, treasurer;



Members of the Chervona Kalyna Fraternity at their general assembly.

and Yuriy Strutynsky, "pechatnyk."

The general command includes also the otamans (leaders) of the 5th "kurin," (unit) Roman Sawycky, and the 23rd kurin, Yuriy Nehrebtetsky.

Before the closing of the conference there was a swearing-in ceremony of the otaman. The general assembly ended with the singing of the hymns of Plast and the Chervona Kalyna Fraternity.

Metropolitan...

(Continued from page 9)

Zavaliv, Roman Biletsky and his father, Levko, rescued and saved 23 Jews.²¹

These are only three examples of those who were willing to sacrifice their lives to save Jews but, according to Philip Friedman, their number must have been substantial since approximately 100 were executed for concealing or helping Jews.²²

As reported by the German Security Police, besides these heroic individuals, the members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) provided Jews who were working with the them with illegal passports.²³ We find a similar report in the Ereignismeldung UdSSR. Nr. 183. Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD. Berlin, den. Maerz 1942, which reported that without any doubt the Bandera movement provided Jews with forged documents.²⁴ Those were, indeed, challenging days.

²¹ For the story of the reunion of Roman Biletsky with survivors in New York, see "Pidhaietski Zhydy v Niu Yorku Viddiachyls

Ukrainsev za Riatunok," Svoboda, February 24, 1978. For another heroic deed see Petro Pik-Piasetsky, "Iak Ukrainid Lisnyky Riatuvaly Zhydiv," Svoboda, April 9, 1955.

²² Friedman, "Ukrainian-Jewish Relations," p. 288.

²³ Taetigkeits – und Lagebericht Nr. 11 der Einsatzgruppen der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD in der UdSSR (Bericht vom 1.3.-31.3.1942), p. 20. "In Shitomir, Kremenschug und Stalino konte eine Anzahl Banderaanhaenger festgenommen werden, die versucht hatte, die Bevoelkerung fuer eine politische Unabhaengigkeit der Ukraine zu gewinnen. Dabei wurde festgestellt, dass die Banderagruppe ihre Mitglieder und fuer ihre Bewegung arbeitende Juden mit falschen Paessen versah." [In Zhytomyr, Kremenchuk and Stalino we were able to arrest a number of Bandera followers who tried to win over the local population for the independence of Ukraine. At the same time, it was confirmed that the Bandera group provided its followers and Jews who worked for them with false passports.]

²⁴ Ereignismeldung UdSSR Nr. 183. p.189. "Es steht heute einwandfrei-fest, dass die Bandera-Bewegung nicht nur ihre saemtlichen Funktionaere, sondern auch Juden mit falschen Paessen versehen hat." [One can say that undoubtedly the Bandera movement provided not only its functionaries but also Jews with false passports.]

Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 15)

play and work ethic.

Lukowich and holdover right winger Mark Parrish were named alternate captains during training camp. Alexei Yashin was named captain when Michael Peca was traded to Edmonton.

Tkachuk's absence devastates Blues' offense

The St. Louis Blues could definitely not afford to lose power forward Keith Tkachuk, but that's just too bad.

Tkachuk, first thought to have only sore ribs after being buttended by his own stick, ended up with three non-displaced ribs and was kept out until mid-December. He had played in just two of

the Blues' first 20 games.

With the Blues' offense missing its most dangerous weapon, coach Mike Kitchen had to simplify his plan of attack – especially with the abundance of youngsters in his line-up. The Blues' losing streak topped out at 11 games with their early November win over the Blue Jackets. The losing streak was one of the worst in team history.

"It affects your power play, it affects your 5-on-5 play," Kitchen said to beat writer Tom Timmerman of the St. Louis Post Dispatch. "We have to play smarter and eliminate mistakes."

Of course it wouldn't hurt to have Keith Tkachuk back healthy, standing his ground in front of the opponent's crease, banging in rebounds for goals, spearheading the Blues' offensive attack.

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OUT AND ABOUT

February 4
Whippany, NJ

Plast Debutante Ball
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New Britain, CT

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860-716-0334



February 4, New Paltz, NY - The Ukrainian Dancers of Kerhonkson, N.Y., will perform at 7 p.m. at the 14th annual DanceFest at New Paltz High School. Elaine Oprysko and her son Andrew direct the 32-year-old dance troupe, whose festival repertoire will feature "Hony Viter" (Chase the Wind), "Arkan" (a Carpathian Mountain men's circle dance), "Kozachok" and "Hrechanyky." For information about DanceFest, which showcases Hudson Valley dancers and choreographers, call 845-256-9300.

February 11
Troy, NY

Ukrainian Engineers' Winter Ball and presentation of debutantes, 248-646-6933

February 11
Tarrytown, NY

SUM Debutante Ball
845-647-7230

February 25
East Rutherford, NJ

Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball
201-391-2581

February 25
Marian Del Ray, CA

Ball and presentation of debutantes, California Association to Aid Ukraine, 818-774-9378

March 4
Windham-Hunter, NY

Carpathian Ski Club's annual ski/snowboard races
518-263-4866

March 25-April 1
Crested Butte
Ski Resort, CO

Spring Scientific Conference and Ski Vacation,
Ukrainian Medical Association of North America
800-550-4334

ONGOING
New York, NY

"The Tree of Life, The Sun, The Goddess:
Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art,"
The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.

Notice to publishers and authors

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

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

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



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Actress Vera Farmiga featured in January issue of Elle magazine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian American actress Vera Farmiga recently appeared in the January 2006 issue of Elle magazine.

Her recent roles in top independent films have secured her a spot as a legitimate, up-and-coming actress whose acting, according to film directors Anthony Minghella and Wayne Kramer, bears a distinct resemblance to the likes of Meryl Streep and Cate Blanchett.



Vera Farmiga

It was her role in 2004's "Down To The Bone" – an independent film currently in theaters – which solidified her place as a truly serious and capable actress. The strong performance has led to her securing top roles in future productions, such as the upcoming Anthony Minghella film, "Breaking & Entering," in which she plays opposite Jude Law.

Although Ms. Farmiga has enjoyed her taste of Hollywood, she has lost neither her sense of reality nor humor. In her interview with Elle, she admitted her keys to success: "Selfish motivation, ruthless ambition and a lot of insecurity and make-up."

In the next year, Ms. Farmiga will appear in several films, perhaps the most notable among them being "The Departed," a Martin Scorsese film featuring Ms. Farmiga acting alongside Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio.

"Bandits..."

(Continued from page 2)

nominate the prime minister. In many polls, the Tymoshenko Bloc comes ahead of the OUPU.

President Yushchenko has stated on a number of occasions that there will be no "revenge" from supporters of the former Kuchma regime. "Talk of any kind of revenge is not on. Yesterday's forces will remain yesterday's" (Ukrayinska Pravda,

December 26, 2005). Yushchenko also refuses to acknowledge that there is public disappointment in his policies (Financial Times, January 13).

Such confidence and optimism are all the more surprising given the growing lead of the Party of the Regions. President Yushchenko has to take the blame for his election promise of "Bandits to Prison!" turning into "Bandits to Parliament," where they will create the largest faction.

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To order the book, please send \$25 and your requests to: The Ivan Bahriany Foundation, Attn.: DeEtte K. Riley, AW & Sons, 309 East Beaver Ave., State College, PA 16801

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

February 10-12, 2006
Valentine's Day Weekend
Five-Course Dinner

February 17-20, 2006
Family Winter Weekend

February 18, 2006
Pub Night with music featuring
Zukie & Friend

February 24, 2006
KAFAS Banquet, Kerhonkson Accord
First Aid Squad Installation
Banquet

March 10-12, 2006
Plast Kurin "Khmelnynchenky" and
"Chornomortsi" Annual Winter
Rada

March 31 - April 2, 2006
Plast Kurin "Chornomorski Chvyli"
Annual Rada

April 16, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day
Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 22, 2006
Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal
Dinner Banquet

April 23, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day
Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 28, 2006
Ellenville High School Junior Prom

April 28-30, 2006
UNWLA Branch 95 Spa Weekend

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 1

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) jointly with The Orange Circle, are sponsoring a presentation on the "Ukrainian-Russian Gas Crisis: Lessons and Tasks for the International Community," to be held at the UIA, 2 E. 79th St., at 12:30-3 p.m. Featured speakers are Anders Aslund, senior fellow, Institute for International Economics; and Marianna Kozintseva, vice-president, global emerging markets equity strategy, Bear Stearns; with Adrian Karatnycky, president of The Orange Circle, serving as moderator. For additional information call the UIA, (212) 288-8660.

Thursday, February 2

TORONTO: The Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the University of Toronto, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University, will host the second of its three-part film screening and lecture series titled "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Ukrainian Cinema Since Independence" and "The Little Engine That Could: Ukrainian Documentary Cinema." Venue: Innis Townhall, Innis College, University of Toronto, 2 Sussex Ave.; time: 7-10 p.m. The featured documentary films include Hanna Yarovenko's "Kinomania" (2004), and Roman Shyrman's "A Dangerously Free Person" (2004), a film about Sergey Paradzhanov, the most prominent representative of Ukrainian poetic cinema of the 1960s. The films are in Ukrainian with English subtitles. Free admission. For more information call (416) 946 8113 or check the website <http://www.utoronto.ca/jacyk/ukrcinema/index.html>.

Sunday, February 5

CHICAGO: The Classical Music Series of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA), presents Volodymyr Vynnytsky, pianist, in a program of works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Skoryk and Chopin. The concert will be held at the UIMA, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2 p.m. For additional information call (773) 227-5522.

Saturday, February 11

TROY, Mich.: The Detroit Chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) invites the public 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 and dinner: 7:30 p.m., ball: 9:30 p.m. Music for the ball will be provided by the Vorony. Admission: dinner and ball, \$90 per person; students under age 21, dinner and ball, \$75 per person. Tickets for ball only: \$30 per person (21 and over), \$20 (under 21). For ticket and table reservations contact Greg and Oksana Woloszczuk at gwoloszczuk@comcast.net or call (248) 646-6933 before 9 p.m. Dinner tickets should have been purchased by January 28. For hotel reservations call (248) 680-9797. For general information contact Dianna Korduba Sawicky at sawicky@twmi.rr.com.

Sunday, February 12

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group Cultural Fund presents Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano, in a program of works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Skoryk and Chopin. The concert will be held at The Lyceum Theater, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, Va., at 3 p.m. Suggested donation: \$20 per person. For additional information call Marta Zielyk, (202) 244-8836, or Laryssa Courtney, (202) 363-3964. The Lyceum Theater may be reached at (703) 838-4994.

Saturday, February 18

CHICAGO: St. Nicholas Cathedral School invites the public to take part in the celebration of the school's 70th anniversary. Come mingle with friends, faculty and alumni, and dance to the music of Andriy Chuyko. The event begins at 7 p.m.; the school is located at 2200 W. Rice St. (corner of Leavitt and Rice). Admission: \$25, in advance; \$30, at the door; (included in admission fee, hors-d'oeuvres and one drink). For additional information contact Maria Finiak, (773) 384-7243.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$20 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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