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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Myroslav Medvid sees his 1985 ordeal as a positive life-changing experience

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The name Myroslav Medvid provokes thoughts of geopolitical intrigue, U.S. bureaucratic bungling and a young sailor, doped and forced to return to a land he had attempted to flee.

In 1985 the Medvid affair transfixed the Ukrainian American community and much of America. His plight caused anger, demonstrations and, finally, tears. Like a geopolitical volleyball, his case was bumped around at the highest echelons of the U.S. government until the captains of the game decided that he should go away, for his appearance was a prickly thorn for superpower politics and summitry. And thus he was sent back to the Soviet grain ship from which he had escaped near New Orleans to an uncertain and perhaps dark future in the Soviet Union, the land that Ronald Reagan, the U.S. president at the time, had dubbed the "evil empire."

Today Myroslav Medvid is alive and well and living in Ukraine, a man changed by the years — but most dramatically by his tribulations in the United States. He is a parish priest of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church with a wife and children living in the city of Chervonohrad, about an hour's drive north of Lviv.

With the 15th anniversary of his ordeal nearing and, not coincidentally, while another asylum debacle, the Elian Gonzalez case, lingers in U.S. courts, the Rev. Medvid agreed to *The Weekly's* requests for his first exclusive interview with a Western publication.

The mild-mannered 40-year-old priest with sparkling blue eyes and an easy laugh said he felt no bitterness, neither toward the U.S. officials who sent him packing in 1985, nor towards the Soviet henchmen who intimidated and roughed him up during and after his return. In retrospect, he was thankful, he explained, because what he suffered had turned him to God and religion.

During a one-hour interview in and around the office of *The Weekly's* Kyiv Press Bureau, he said: "I am thankful to everybody, from both sides. I pray for them daily. What I lived through was my first step to the Lord." He then added, "I would like to meet the person who decided that I must be returned to tell him that I forgive him."

The young priest regards what happened to him in New Orleans as the moment that changed his life. He said he likens his travails to the biblical parable of the wayward son, who returns to his father's home after a long and difficult time seeking his own fortune.



Myroslav Medvid, today a priest of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

Before New Orleans he was hardly a spiritual person, even though his grandmother tried to instill in him a Catholic base. He was a member of the Communist Youth League, but a disaffected one, who belonged because that was the only path to opportunity for a person with any ambition whatsoever. As he explained during the interview, even then he held strong Ukrainian nationalist beliefs, at heart a dissident, but had learned to conceal them.

After he was returned to the Soviet grain ship by local border authorities of the Immigration and Naturalization Service — who either did not understand that he was seeking political asylum or simply wanted to be rid of a difficult situation — and during a long, probably drug-induced slumber he began having unusual dreams and at least one apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He would not give details of his dreams or of the vision, but said only that they made him reconsider the life he wanted to lead.

Still haunted by ordeal

Although the ex-merchant marine maintained that his life today is normal, his actions and statements at times made it clear that what he endured haunts him still. At moments during the interview, the bitterness he maintained he does not bear would ooze from a wound that seems not fully healed. In reply to a question on whether he met with U.S. officials aboard the Soviet grain ship, the Marshal Koniev, after he was returned there, the Rev. Medvid explained that

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Clinton to address Kyivans

Chornobyl shutdown high on agenda of bilateral meetings in Kyiv

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — U.S. President Bill Clinton will speak to an expected 100,000 Kyivans on Mykhailivsky Square on June 5 as the highlight of his one-day visit to Ukraine, the U.S. Embassy announced on May 29.

The U.S. president's trip to Kyiv will be the final leg of a four-nation tour of Europe, which began on May 31 with a stop in Lisbon, Portugal, and continues with visits to Berlin and Moscow. Originally Mr. Clinton was to spend two days in Kyiv, but his stay was shortened to make time for an unexpected trip to Tokyo.

In Kyiv, Mr. Clinton will meet with President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko to discuss the shutdown of the Chornobyl nuclear energy complex, intellectual property rights and Ukraine's extensive illegal music and video pirating industries, as well as to appraise the state of economic reforms currently under way in the country, said U.S. Ambassador Steven Pifer.

The main focus of the visit, however, is to address the Ukrainian nation and lay out Mr. Clinton's vision on Ukraine's future. Ambassador Pifer said that a concert of Ukrainian popular and traditional music would precede the public event.

Ambassador Pifer said that in his meetings with Ukraine's president Mr. Clinton is planning to outline a U.S. government plan on the Chornobyl closure that would provide the ability for Ukraine to complete reactors at the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi nuclear power facilities, energy to offset power which will be lost when Chornobyl goes off line. One element of the plan is to develop a new agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for credits needed to finish the reactor projects.

Mr. Pifer also said that the United States is preparing to make a substantial contribu-

tion during the international donor conference scheduled for Berlin on July 5, during which Kyiv is hoping to raise some \$350 million in international grants. The Ukrainian government has established that it needs some \$750 million to reconstruct the sarcophagus over the reactor that went into a partial meltdown in April 1986. The current covering, which was hastily built by Soviet official in the days after the accident, is quickly deteriorating.

In addition, Ambassador Pifer urged Ukraine to announce a specific date for the closure of Chornobyl. He explained that the sooner Ukraine sets it, the easier it will be to raise funds for the sarcophagus.

Lazarenko indicted by U.S.

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — As *The Weekly* was going to press, Reuters reported that Pavlo Lazarenko, who is indicted with embezzlement in Ukraine and money laundering in Switzerland, now faces U.S. charges. A federal grand jury has accused the former prime minister of Ukraine, who is seeking U.S. political asylum, of laundering \$114 million he stole while in office.

Mr. Lazarenko is being held in federal prison pending resolution of a Swiss extradition request. The U.S. Attorney's Office for Northern California announced that Mr. Lazarenko was indicted on one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, seven counts of money laundering and 23 counts of transportation of stolen property.

The Associated Press reported that defense lawyer Joseph Russoniello denied that Mr. Lazarenko extorted money, adding: "There is a serious question about whether information coming from the government of the [sic] Ukraine against Mr. Lazarenko was ... the product of a political vendetta."

The indictments were made on May 18 and unsealed on June 1 in San Francisco.

Ukraine's ambassador attends U.N. meeting, visits with Ukrainian American community

by Irene Jarosewich

NEW YORK — Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko was at the United Nations on May 23-24 to attend a meeting of the recently established United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). The body is mandated to develop a strategy for the disarmament of Iraq, as an advisory group to the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Gryshchenko, who has extensive experience in arms control and disarmament, having worked on U.S.-Soviet arms control treaties and representing Ukraine's positions on arms control and disarmament, was appointed by U.N. Secretary-General

Kofi Annan to serve as one of 15 UNMOVIC commissioners.

While in New York, Ambassador Gryshchenko also met with the Ukrainian American community on the evening of May 23 at the Ukrainian Institute of America — his first meeting with the community here since his appointment to Washington in February. He noted that other than Washington, and a brief meeting in Philadelphia with Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, he hasn't had the opportunity to visit many cities or communities, though his plans for

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ANALYSIS

Putin's Chechnya problem

by David R. Marples

Russia's new president, Vladimir Putin, has already revealed himself as intransigent on the issue of Chechnya, rejecting several overtures from Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov for a unilateral ceasefire. Media-Most's NTV is currently under fire for its unpatriotic depiction of the war. Why does Russia cling to this tiny region? Why is it so important to the Russian government?

The Western attitude – particularly that of the United States – is somewhat hypocritical. Russia's tactics in the second Chechen war were modeled partly on NATO actions in Kosovo. The Chechens have had more success since the active operations ended and they could return to more common tactics of ambushing convoys and resorting to guerrilla raids. The Chechens, to be frank, are hardly freedom fighters. They are led by warlords who would likely be fighting each other but for the Russian presence. The Chechen people are pawns in a bigger game.

Chechnya has been part of Russia for 140 years, longer for example than Canada has existed, though a fragment of time compared to the ancestral claims of the Chechens themselves. But superficial observations provide less evidence of a territorial mentality on the part of the Russian government than the issue of security. The Caucasus enclave is linked

David Marples is a professor of history at the University of Alberta.

Tyhytko resigns post to run for Parliament*Eastern Economist*

KYIV – Minister of the Economy Serhii Tyhytko went public with his resignation from the Cabinet of Ministers on May 26. Speaking in Pavlohrad, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, he said he is running in the Verkhovna Rada by-election on June 25. Mr. Tyhytko is officially on a leave of absence, leaving First Vice Minister of the Economy Viktor Kalnyk in charge of the ministry.

Mr. Tyhytko explained that the relationship between the government and the Verkhovna Rada prompted him to want to become a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada. "I'm absolutely certain that no matter how intelligent and strong people are in a government, it cannot work effectively until there are better relations with the Parliament's majority," he said. "Today most of the issues are decided in consultations between the president and the parliamentary majority. This is not normal."

He promised at a voters' meeting in Pavlohrad that if elected he would try to implement the concept of a coalition government. The by-elections are being held in 10 electoral districts to fill vacant Verkhovna Rada seats. The Central Election Committee announced that 159 candidates are running; 60 candidates were nominated by political parties and 99 are independents.

Batkivshchyna and the Revival of the Regions nominated six candidates each; the Communists and the Kostenko-chaired Rukh, five each; the Agrarians, Socialists and Udovenko-led Rukh, three each.

CEC Chair Mykhailo Riabets also confirmed Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will not run in the 99th electoral district.

to terrorism in Russia – particularly in Moscow – to drug smuggling, gun running, and gang warfare in Russian cities. Chechnya could also spark a new separatism in the Russian Federation that would see other, more valuable parts seeking greater autonomy or independence.

President Putin's memory is probably more short-term. In January 1921 the Chechens, Muslims of the Sunni following, became part of the new state of Soviet Russia as Chechen-Ingushetia. There was nothing voluntary about this process and many Chechens openly welcomed the German invasion of the former Soviet Union in June 1941. As the Germans approached the republic, this agitation increased, prompting the vindictive Stalin to label all Chechens and Ingushi as ipso facto collaborators and subsequently order the deportations of 1944-1945.

Nikita Khrushchev restored the autonomous republic in 1957, and surviving Chechens or their offspring gradually returned to their homeland. But the Soviet marriage was never a happy one and thus Russians slowly moved into the towns at the behest of the Soviet authorities. By 1989 the population was declared to be 1.27 million, of which Chechens comprised 715,000 and Russians 269,000. In urban areas – including the capital, Grozny – the proportion of Russians was often close to 50 percent.

In November 1990 the Chechens and Ingushi declared state sovereignty of their common republic, and Russian president Boris Yeltsin magnanimously assured them that more autonomy would be forthcoming. The Chechens, however, went further, declaring independence on November 2, 1991, some seven weeks prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union. By the following spring a constitution had been published. The actions were so sudden and rapid that they probably took the Russian government by surprise.

The war of 1994-1996 seems inexplicable now in terms of Russian tactics. The Russian ground forces were ill-trained, often young conscripts who all too easily were demoralized and fell into Chechen ambushes. The war was a stark reminder of the general decline of the Russian military, a modern-day Finnish campaign, except that on this occasion Russia suffered its most humiliating defeat.

This defeat, rather than the immorality of the Chechen leaders, the Caspian oil pipeline that passes through Chechnya, or even anti-regionalism on the part of Moscow, may have been the spark for the latest war. Many influential Russians felt that Russia was no longer taken seriously as a military power by 1996. But until NATO's Kosovo campaign, Russia had no leeway or excuse to undertake a new campaign. The indiscriminate and shocking assault on the Serbs convinced Russia that it could undertake a similar operation without strong international repercussions.

President Putin, like other politicians, is concerned primarily with image. He is often seen in military uniform, he has flown to the battle zone. His image now reflects that of the nation: Russia's strength is reflected in its military standing.

Thus, the Chechens have been anathematized as rebels and terrorists (some are, most are not). The war will end not in a compromise but only with an unconditional surrender. All forces in society, from the Cabinet to Vladimir Gusinsky's NTV, must support such an ending and Mr. Putin's success and even survival as Russian leader is dependent upon it.

NEWSBRIEFS**Kwasniewski for Ukraine's integration**

WARSAW – President Aleksander Kwasniewski said on May 26 that Poland will support Ukraine's integration into Europe, the PAP and Interfax news services reported. "Europe will be free only if Ukraine becomes a member of the European structures, if it is allowed into European markets," Interfax quoted him as saying. Mr. Kwasniewski met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in Rzeszow at a Polish-Ukrainian economic forum where they discussed ways to boost bilateral trade and investment as well as joint plans to construct an Odesa-Brody-Gdansk gas pipeline. Mr. Kwasniewski denied reports that Poland supports a project to construct the Yamal-Slovakia pipeline via Polish territory and bypassing Ukraine, Ukrainian Television reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma: no reason to disband Rada

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma told a forum of businessmen in Kyiv on May 30 that there are "no political, legal, economic or other reasons" to hold early parliamentary elections in Ukraine, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma said some political forces unhappy with the political stability in Ukraine are trying to campaign for early elections. He noted, however, that it is premature to predict that the pro-government parliamentary majority has already acquired "a stable and permanent character." (RFE/RL Newsline)

President warns of overestimating growth

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said he is "resolutely opposed" to exaggerating the impact of the 10 percent industrial-production growth in Ukraine in the first quarter of this year. In his opinion, Ukraine's production sector is "very inert" and this year's growth has resulted not only from "recent decisions and measures" but also from "all the past work." He warned that "the growth impetus has not become stable yet, it may exhaust itself very soon." Mr. Kuchma also expressed his concern that economic improvement has not translated into higher wages for average Ukrainians or into a reduction of the existing wage and pension arrears. He said that as of May 10 the government's wage backlog totaled \$6.4 billion hrv (\$1.2 billion U.S.). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarus, Ukraine criticize Russia

BREST – Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and his Ukrainian counterpart, Leonid Kuchma, met in Brest on May 27 and agreed to sign accords on mutual debts and border

issues, Belapan and Interfax reported. No details of the accords have been made known. President Kuchma said after the meeting that Russia is pursuing its own political interests in the Commonwealth of Independent States while failing to promote genuine economic integration. "All the CIS countries have ratified the free trade accord, only Russia is undecided. What customs union can we speak of?" Belarusian Television quoted Mr. Kuchma as saying. "This is the main problem, a stumbling block. ... He [Kuchma] is right," Mr. Lukashenka responded. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Crimean Parliament sacks Cabinet

SYMFEROPOL – The 100-seat Crimean Parliament on May 24 voted 68-20 to dismiss the peninsula's government, led by Prime Minister Serhii Kunitsyn, Interfax reported. An adopted resolution says the performance of the Crimean Cabinet has been unsatisfactory this year. Crimean Parliament Chairman Leonid Hrach will now submit Mr. Kunitsyn's dismissal for Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's approval. The election of a new Crimean prime minister is subject to Kyiv's approval. Messrs. Hrach and Kunitsyn have repeatedly tried to oust each other, forcing President Kuchma to mediate on each occasion. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv reacts to Crimean developments

KYIV – Ukraine's First Vice Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov on May 25 said the Crimean legislature's ouster of the Crimean Cabinet will destabilize the situation on the peninsula, Interfax reported. "The economy is improving and positive trends are increasing, so the tension that took place [in Crimea] is quite absurd," Mr. Yekhanurov commented. The chief of the presidential administration, Volodymyr Lytvyn, said the same day that President Leonid Kuchma has every reason "to cancel" the ouster of Serhii Kunitsyn's Cabinet. Mr. Kunitsyn said the legislature dismissed him to protect patrons in the peninsula's energy sector from an anti-corruption drive he had launched. The Associated Press reported that he noted there "were no economic arguments" against his government, adding that it had spurred industrial growth early this year and reduced its debt to public sector workers. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Minsk upset by Helm's pledge

MIENSK – The Foreign Affairs Ministry of Belarus said on May 27 that

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Human rights in retreat under Putin's watch, witnesses testify before Helsinki Commission

by Ben Anderson

WASHINGTON – Human rights in Russia are in retreat under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, according to witnesses who testified on May 23 at a hearing before the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

CSCE Chairman Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) and other members of the Helsinki Commission heard testimony from Igor Malashenko, first vice-chairman of the Board of Directors of Media-Most and president of NTV in Moscow.

Mr. Malashenko's offices were the subject of a Russian government raid, following an attack by armed government security agents on the Media-Most headquarters in Moscow. On May 11, armed government security agents had attacked the headquarters of Media-Most corporation and its subsidiary, the NTV television station, seizing what a security service spokesman claimed were illegally acquired tapes and transcripts of private conversations. NTV had criticized some members of President Putin's administration, as well as the government's conduct in the continuing war in Chechnya.

The raid sparked questions about Mr. Putin's commitment to protecting human rights, in particular the right to free speech, in a country struggling to build a democratic society.

"They carted away documents, tapes, computer discs and equipment. Russian officials issued contradictory and unsatisfactory justifications for this raid. Whatever the rationale, however, it is clear that the forces involved in the operation were clearly disproportionate to any declared purpose," Mr. Malashenko testified.

Chairman Smith expressed alarm over the Media-Most raid: "There is growing concern ... that Russia's development in the area of human rights is taking a turn for the worse under recently-elected President Putin."

CSCE Co-Chairman Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.) expressed grave concern with recent actions taken by the authorities against independent media as well as the conduct of Russian forces in the ongoing war in Chechnya.

Turning to the economic dimension, Sen. Campbell noted that the remedy for Russia's ailing economy will require President Putin to quickly get a handle on rampant corruption and continuing capital flight. "Following such a path, however, would put the Russian president on a collision course with Russia's modern-day robber barons, including some of the individuals instrumental in his rise to power," he said.

"When I was in Russia last year as the co-chairman of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I met with American companies and heard first hand about the problems they were facing with corruption, crime and bureaucracy." "Russia's new leadership needs to address these problems to foster a more conducive climate for foreign investment," Sen. Campbell added.

Ranking Member Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) expressed outrage that the Russian defense minister had hosted the Serbian defense minister, who was recently indicted for war crimes by the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal.

Helsinki Commission Member Sen. Tim

Hutchinson (R-Ark.) also participated in the hearing, inquiring about in the alleged human rights abuses under President Putin's watch.

Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.) called the raid against Media-Most "a step in the wrong direction," adding that it "seriously jeopardize the hope of democracy in Russia."

Former National Security Agency Director Lt. Gen. William E. Odom (Ret.) also testified before the commission. He emphasized that the United States should not treat Russia as a major power, nor should the United States try to solve Russia's problems through "ventriloquism." Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) also was on hand to deliver a statement before the commission, stressing the critical role of a free press in a truly democratic society.

As a result of his reporting from besieged Grozny last year, Radio Liberty journalist Andrei Babitsky remains in Moscow under investigation for allegedly "participating in an armed formation." Mr. Babitsky was recently awarded the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's prize for journalism.

Dr. Sarah Mendelson, assistant professor of international politics at Tufts University, said the treatment of Mr. Babitsky and the FSB raid on Media-Most should be seen as "part of a larger pattern of harassment that has grown steadily worse over the last year and a half."

Georgi Derluguian, professor of sociology at Northwestern University testified that President Putin faces an "uphill battle" to refurbish Russia's status as a world power.

"The political change in Russia since Mr. Putin's appointment last August amounts to a successful coup carried out by formally constitutional means," Mr. Derluguian said. "In the spirit of KGB culture, Mr. Putin gives every signal of being pragmatic and professionally loyal to the idea of the Russian state rather than any ideology. He now faces the uphill battle to consolidate the new regime and use its levers to restore Russia as a respectable world power."

Human Rights Watch Deputy Director Rachel Denber testified that in Grozny "the graffiti on the walls reads 'Welcome to Hell: Part Two.' The bombing campaign has turned many parts of Chechnya to a wasteland. She noted that "even the most experienced war reporters we have spoken to told us they have never seen anything in their careers like the destruction of the capital, Grozny."

Prof. Denber also described summary executions of civilians, including the death of three generations of one family shot to death in the yard of their own home.

In written testimony submitted to the commission, Mr. Babitsky said Chechens are often refused their civil rights because of their ethnicity.

"On the entire territory of Russia, the Chechens today are deprived of their civil rights simply because of their ethnic membership," Mr. Babitsky said. "No serious positive changes in this situation can take place as long as the authorities and public opinion conceive the Chechen nation as a threat to the existence of Russia."

The prepared statements of witnesses appear on the Helsinki Commission's website <http://www.house.gov/csce/>.

Ukraine's ambassador to United States meets with Pennsylvania congressman

by Natalka Gawdiak

WASHINGTON – The Action Ukraine Coalition organized a meeting between Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko and Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), chairman of the Research and Development Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee during which Rep. Weldon the ambassador informed of his plans to visit to Ukraine this summer.

Rep. Weldon emphasized the strategic relationship between the United States and Ukraine and his willingness to work with the Embassy on issues of concern to Ukraine. He emphasized the fact that Ukraine has a tremendous asset in the United States in the active involvement of the Ukrainian American community in general and of the Action Ukraine Coalition in particular, in influencing Congress on behalf of Ukraine.

Ambassador Gryshchenko took the opportunity to review a number of items that Ukraine feels need immediate action and asked for the assistance of Rep. Weldon in addressing these concerns. The congressman directed Michael Barbera, his senior legislative assistant to review the issues and advise him of the necessary action he could take.

Rep. Weldon advised the ambassador that he would establish a working group to develop a "mini-Marshall Plan" for Ukraine

and invited the Embassy of Ukraine to participate in the working group. He also asked Action Ukraine Coalition representatives to participate.

Both Ambassador Gryshchenko and Action Ukraine Coalition representatives expressed their thanks for the commitment Rep. Weldon has made and for his willingness to continue as an outspoken leader on behalf of Ukraine in the Congress and for his role with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

Action Ukraine Coalition is a coalition of Ukrainian American organizations formed in 1998 to further knowledge about Ukraine in the U.S. Congress and to garner support among members of Congress for assistance on Ukrainian issues; its members include the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, the Ukrainian American Federation (Philadelphia), and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

Also attending the meeting between Rep. Weldon and Ambassador Gryshchenko were: former member of Congress Charles Dougherty; Embassy of Ukraine First Secretary Tetiana Zhmachenko; John Kun, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation; Ukrainian American Federation executives Vera N. Andryczyk and Zenia Chernyk; and Ukrainian American Coordinating Council Washington Chapter Chairman Stephan Maksymiuk.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Slavutych begins beer exports to U.S.

ZAPORIZHIA – The Slavutych Brewery began exports of its products to the United States in small quantities, stated Ihor Tovkach, assistant chair of the brewery's board. He added that Slavutych beer is sold in 12 states of the United States and by the end of the year the brand will be available in all 50 states. Slavutych's current market share in Ukraine is about 15 percent. (Eastern Economist)

Foreign capital in Ukrainian banks

KYIV – Total foreign investment in the Ukrainian banking sector as of May 15 was \$175.9 million (U.S.) stated Valerii Shapovalov, first vice-chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. Twenty-eight banks operating with foreign capital have been registered and capital was directly invested into 24 of them. Mr. Shapovalov divided the banks into three categories: nine have 100 percent of the foreign capital totaling \$120.9 million, with Citibank Ukraine leading the group with \$24.5 million; six have foreign capital making up 65 to 97 percent of its holdings; and in nine others foreign capital accounts for 17.5 to 50 percent. (Eastern Economist)

German military rejects AN-70

KYIV – Germany will not purchase the Ukrainian-Russian AN-70, which was being considered as a possible new military-transport aircraft for the German Air Force, said Defense Minister Rudolph Scharping. He added that preference will be given to the European model A400M. The decision was affected by Britain's choice of the A400M, which is produced by European consortium Airbus Industry. However, Minister Scharping said that cooperation with Ukraine and Russia is possible during the construction of the new military aircraft. The approximate cost of a A400M is \$80 million (U.S.). Ukrainian, European and U.S. aircraft were also considered in the tender. (Eastern Economist)

Rus' grain harvester assembly begins

ODESA – The automotive assembly works have begun assembling Rus' grain harvesters manufactured by the Tahanrih harvester plant. According to Odesa Mayor Ruslan Bodelan, "KZS-3 harvesters are compact and have excellent performance with minimal grain losses." He said that joint production of the harvesters was conditional on the conversion of several local plants, although he did not say why the Odesa works and other machine-building enterprises would not cooperate with domestic harvester manufacturers. He added that the "municipality is going to bring in 50,000 tons of grain, thereby influencing price setting policy for bread in the city." (Eastern Economist)

West interested in NATO standard arms

KYIV – The United States is interested in Ukraine's capabilities to produce weapons complying with NATO standards, in particular the 120-millimeter tank gun, said the general manager of Ukraine's Armored Machinery concern, Yuriy Myrhorodskyi. Efforts are under way to acquaint U.S. military experts with armament production at the Kharkiv-based Malyshev plant and plans for modernization of T-84 and T-72 tanks. Domestic tank manufacturers have recently expanded contacts with their Western counterparts. Talks are going on with France on the joint design of a new tank and armored personnel carrier. A contract was signed last year between the Kharkiv-based Morozov design office and a leading Swiss company on the joint production of a tank gun prototype that meets NATO standards. (Eastern Economist)

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Senate candidate James Florio speaks on international affairs

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. – James Florio, former New Jersey governor and congressman, addressed the International Affairs Forum of the School of Diplomacy and International Relations of Seton Hall University here on May 14.

He pointed out that in shaping foreign policy and decision-making the U.S. government first and foremost measures its own benefits. The geopolitical picture, the waging of wars, the timing of decisions is very relative and very fluid. Thus there is one set of rules for Russia and China, and a different set for, say, East Timor, Bosnia, Kosovo and Chechnya.

He expounded his views on how America's influence can help shape Russia's political and economic attitudes, which have a direct bearing on the Baltic states and Ukraine and other independent countries formerly a part of the USSR. He also addressed Turkish-Greek Cypriot problems.

Among those present in the audience from the Ukrainian American community were: the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J.; Alexander Kuzma, Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF); Walter Bodnar, League of Ukrainian Voters (LUV); Roman Pyndus; and Bozhena Olshaniwsky, Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU).

The program was opened by Marilyn DiGiacobbe, associate dean for external affairs. The introduction of Mr. Florio was by Dean Clay Constantinou, retired U.S. ambassador. Ms. DiGiacobbe is well known to the Ukrainian American community from her service under President Bill Clinton in the White House Office of Public Liaison. While there she organized and coordinated many meetings and discussions between representatives of the U.S. government and

ethnic groups. In April of this year Ms. DiGiacobbe organized and hosted a program at Seton Hall on Chernobyl and its effects.

Best known to Ukrainian Americans as the initiator of the Ukrainian Famine bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Florio is vying for the Democratic Party nomination for the U.S. Senate against newcomer Jon Corzine in the June 6 primary.

In response to a question regarding Russia's war and disregard for human rights in Chechnya, Mr. Florio agreed that the United States should apply more pressure to peacefully resolve the conflict and admitted that if this were a country other than Russia the U.S. response might be different.

Questions were also put forth by representatives regarding Turkish, Greek and Estonian concerns.

In addition to practicing law and being one of the advisors to President Clinton, Mr. Florio teaches at Rutgers University and is a prolific public speaker. Having a history of public service since 1969, Mr. Florio served three terms in the New Jersey General Assembly, then served 16 years from 1974 to 1990 as congressman from the 1st Congressional District of New Jersey and four years (1990-1994) as the governor of the state of New Jersey.

While serving as a congressman, Mr. Florio was in the forefront of support for Ukrainian issues. He spoke out in defense of political prisoners and human rights in Ukraine and as the main sponsor in the House of Representative of the Ukraine Famine Bill (HR 4459), which established the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine.

While serving as New Jersey governor, Mr. Florio developed and raised the Ethnic Advisory Council to a meaningful level that was instrumental in many cooperative efforts with the state's ethnic groups.



James Florio and his wife, Lucinda, speak with Maria Polanskyj, president of the New Jersey Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Michigan veterans to host 2000 convention of UAV

by Stephen M. Wichar

WARREN, Mich. – Under the of Michigan's Ukrainian American Veterans Posts 36 and 101 based here, the next annual UAV convention will rally its national membership for a maximum turnout on September 29-October 1. UAV officials are also poised to launch a stepped-up campaign to obtain a federal national charter. For many years, this has been an elusive and difficult target.

On November 18, 1999, Minority Whip Rep. David E. Bonior (D-Mich.) introduced a bill, HR 3463, amending Title C of the U.S. Code, granting the UAV a federal charter. Mr. Bonior cited Ukrainian ancestry as a primary reason for becoming the chief sponsor of this bill. He is also a long-time member of Post 101 and believes in the project. Rep. Sander Levin, (D-Mich.), from the 12th Congressional District, which includes Warren, where Post 101 is based, became an immediate ally to this bill. Fifteen additional members of Congress have joined the UAV "Federal Charter Team."

Although the Ukrainian American Veterans meet all the requirements as a national organization and are recognized by other military entities, the acquisition of a charter would enable the UAV to broaden its charitable and military activities across America and abroad. In addition, the UAV would improve access to the Department of

Veterans Administration and to information about various services and benefits for veterans.

The pursuit of a charter will be both challenging and laborious, and the UAV needs help. Rep. Bonior affirmed that "the most influential person in a Congressional District is the constituent." A simple letter asking for help on a legitimate issue will be read and answered. Another 200 members of Congress need to be enlisted for support before HR 3463 can become reality. Thus, the UAV is very much aware that it cannot obtain the charter without the help of the Ukrainian community. Ukrainians can effectively lobby their legislators by calling or writing and asking for their support of HR 3463.

Due to the urgency and complexity of federal chartering, the UAV's focus will be on mustering influential political and civic allies as soon as possible.

In connection with this project, it is equally important to promote a continuity and organizational growth among Ukrainian veterans. For 52 years, Ukrainians in America have carried the banner of military service via annual conventions. The year 2000 will mark the 53rd anniversary of this organization. This event will be historically significant also as the first convention in the 21st century and the new millennium.

Hosts of the 53rd anniversary will be

(Continued on page 15)

The Ukrainian Weekly

Wedding Announcements

will appear in our July 16, 2000 issue.

This past spring we introduced a new section –
The Ukrainian Weekly Wedding Announcements.

We're very excited about this new section, since not only are weddings wonderful events in each of our lives, but we look forward to helping you share your joy with others in our community.

This section will be published four times a year.

For a wedding announcement to be included in the July 16 issue, all information must be received in our offices by July 6.

Along with wedding announcements, we will include greetings from friends, family members, bridesmaids and ushers – from all those who wish to share in the excitement of a new marriage.

We hope you will announce your wedding in The Ukrainian Weekly, or send a greeting to your favorite newlyweds.

Rates for announcements and greetings:

One-column wedding announcement: \$100

Two-column wedding announcement: \$200

Wedding greeting: \$75

For further information or to request a brochure, please call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3065 (Irene) or ext. 3040 (Maria). Visit www.ukrweekly.com to view a wedding announcement sample page.



Newly installed officers of Post 101 of the Ukrainian American Veterans.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA slates annual celebration of Father's Day at Soyuzivka

by Andre Worobec

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Prolisok Girls' Choir of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), New York City Branch, and the Lisova Pisnia and duo will perform a program of songs for the afternoon concert at Soyuzivka on Father's Day, June 18.

Prolisok has been in existence since 1994, appearing at Ukrainian and other cul-

tural festivals in New York City and the tri-state area.

The singers, who range in age from 10 to 19, have a repertoire of traditional and modern Ukrainian songs. They are led by Andrij Stasiw, musical director, a well-known pianist and conductor who has been performing nationally and internationally as a soloist and with ensembles. The choir manager is Ivanka Zajac.

The duo consists of bandurist Alla

Kutsevych and singer Liudmyla Hrabovska. Ms. Kutsevych graduated from Lviv's Mykola Lysenko Musical Institute and has performed in Europe, Canada and the United States for the past three and half years. Ms. Hrabovska graduated from the music faculty at the Rivne Pedagogical Institute and has been performing in concerts in the United States during the past four years. The duo's repertoire consists of Ukrainian traditional and

ritual songs, as well as romances and contemporary numbers.

As in previous years, Ukrainian National Association members and the public are welcome to attend this annual celebration of Father's Day. UNA branches and districts are encouraged to organize bus trips and take advantage of the off-season rates at Soyuzivka.

For further information and reservations, call Soyuzivka at (914) 626-5611.



The Lisova Pisnia duo: bandurist Alla Kutsevych and vocalist Liudmyla Hrabovska.



The Prolisok Girls' Choir of the Ukrainian American Youth Association with musical director Andrij Stasiw.

UNA unveils program offering members additional insurance coverage

by Martha Lysko
UNA National Secretary

If you are already a member of the UNA we offer a guaranteed issue of additional minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,000 life insurance added to your current policy coverage. If you presently own any UNA Whole Life, 20-Payment Life, P-65 or DP-65 you are guaranteed additional insurance. UNA cannot deny

you coverage. This offer is not open to members with term insurance, endowment plans, or Universal Life policies.

All members who are underinsured or worried about getting insurance at their age, and all who need additional protection, should take advantage of this new offering. By purchasing a one-time pour-in rider you can increase your existing insurance without any evidence

of insurability.

All social members who previously could not get additional insurance due to their age should now add a minimum of \$1,000 to their present coverage. This additional rider will make them fully active members. There is no need to be a social member when you can have membership that counts.

Here is how it works.

The UNA will issue the following amounts of the pour-in-rider:

- Ages 0 – 35, \$1,000 to \$5,000;
- Ages 36-70, \$1,000 to \$2,500;
- Ages 71-90, \$1,000.

The rates for the pour-in rider appear in the chart below.

For more information call the UNA Home Office at (973) 292-9800.

THE RATES FOR THE POUR-IN RIDER ARE LISTED AS FOLLOWS							
Issue age	Premium per \$1,000	Issue age	Premium per \$1,000	Issue age	Premium per \$1,000	Issue age	Premium per \$1,000
0	63						
1	63	26	145	51	349	76	696
2	64	27	150	52	361	77	710
3	66	28	155	53	373	78	724
4	68	29	161	54	385	79	738
5	70	30	167	55	397	80	752
6	73	31	173	56	409	81	765
7	75	32	179	57	422	82	778
8	78	33	186	58	435	83	791
9	81	34	193	59	448	84	803
10	84	35	200	60	462	85	815
11	87	36	208	61	475	86	826
12	90	37	215	62	489	87	837
13	93	38	223	63	504	88	848
14	96	39	232	64	518	89	858
15	100	40	240	65	533	90	868
16	103	41	249	66	547		
17	107	42	258	67	562		
18	110	43	267	68	576		
19	114	44	276	69	591		
20	118	45	286	70	606		
21	122	46	296	71	622		
22	126	47	306	72	637		
23	130	48	316	73	652		
24	135	49	327	74	667		
25	140	50	338	75	682		

Complete the following questionnaire and return it to the UNA Home Office:

Ukrainian National Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 280, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054
Tel: (973) 292-9800

Name _____ Br. _____ Policy # _____

Age _____ Amount applied for \$ _____

Address _____

Tel: _____ SS# _____

Beneficiary (name) _____

Address _____

This offer is valid from June 1, 2000, to September 30, 2000. If your completed form and check are received by the deadline you will receive a 4 percent discount on the rate quoted on the left.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our Soyuzivka

Lately there has been much news about the ongoing resurgence of the Catskills region of New York state. The news media have been focusing on all the area has to offer, whether that is its natural beauty, such as scenic mountains and valleys, or tourist attractions, like trails for the growing sport of mountain biking and lush golf courses.

Located in this very region is our Soyuzivka. As the resort's manager is proud to point out: Soyuzivka is the Ukrainian American community's very own jewel in the Catskill Mountains (or more precisely the Shawangunk mountain range).

For years, Soyuzivka, resort of the Ukrainian National Association, was billed among our community as "a bit of Ukraine in the United States." The resort enjoyed great popularity and its rooms were filled throughout the summer – with weekends drawing great crowds for the evening entertainment programs and dances. During the off-season Soyuzivka did a brisk business in hosting conferences, reunions, weddings and other special affairs.

It was, simply put, THE place to be.

But then something in our community changed. Perhaps it was the opportunity and ability to travel far and wide, even to Ukraine; perhaps it was the need to search for something new and different. Whatever the reasons, Soyuzivka was not attracting the business it once did. Today Soyuzivka is not self-supporting. As a result, the UNA General Assembly decided at its 1999 annual meeting to support and to seek funding for Soyuzivka's continued development.

But the real solution is no mystery: Soyuzivka needs more guests. Without guests, there is no need for this unique resort. Do we want to lose this beautiful center of our community life? And with it a huge portion of our community activities for Ukrainians of all ages? What would we do without Soyuzivka?

Soyuzivka today remains a Ukrainian cultural center, located in close proximity to major Ukrainian communities. It showcases the best performers and spotlights the most interesting artists – both from the Western diaspora and Ukraine. It continues to host myriad camps, from day camps for preschoolers to tennis camps, as well as Ukrainian folk dance workshops and seminars for teachers of schools of Ukrainian studies. It still is the venue of choice for weddings – there's just nothing like a Soyuzivka wedding! And, it accommodates conferences and events of all kinds, from intimate family gatherings to Plast's annual "Orlykiada" competition for youths, not to mention corporate functions of all kinds.

Today there is even more reason to visit the resort. A quick look at the Catskills Region Travel Guide – which bills the area as "where the Catskills meet the Hudson" – reveals that the area framed by the Catskill Mountains and the Hudson River has much to offer: from antiquing and arts and crafts to wineries and farmers' markets; from bicycling and rock climbing to skiing, archery, horseback riding, canoeing and fishing; from diverse museums to historic sites.

So, enough said. Isn't it time you came home to Soyuzivka?

(For further information call Soyuzivka at (914) 626-5641; fax (914) 626-4638; e-mail sqss@aol.com; or check out the resort's website at www.soyuzivka.com. Additional information about the area around Soyuzivka may be found in the Ulster County Travel Guide, 1-800-DIAL-UCO; and on the tourism website at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/>.)

June
9
1996

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago, The Ukrainian Weekly reported that Ukraine's budget crisis had affected its preparations for the Olympic Games – an issue that also affects Ukraine's participation in this year's summer Olympics in Sydney (as reported last week).

Roman Woronowycz of The Ukrainian Weekly's editorial staff filed a story in 1996 relating that Ukraine's Minister of Sports Valeriy Borzov expressed concern that because of underfunding the Ukrainian Olympic team would not adequately be prepared for the Centennial Olympic Games scheduled to begin in Atlanta on July 19.

The financial crisis came to a head the week of May 12, 1996, with a presidential decree greatly restricting government expenditures in an effort to clear a \$1 billion backlog of wage payments.

"The absence of stable financing threatens our athletes' preparations for the Games," Minister Borzov told Reuters. "They are supposed to be competing in tournaments and maintaining their condition, but we cannot afford to take part." He said the proposed squad of 239 was encountering problems with training, equipment and logistics.

Volodymyr Lytvyn, assistant chief of staff in the president's administration, explained that currently only 20 percent of the Olympic budget was available. He announced also that the scheduled trip by Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma to Atlanta had been canceled due to the budget crunch. President Kuchma was to have visited the athletes and taken part in official ceremonies. Mr. Lytvyn said efforts were being made to reduce the number of officials attending the Olympics to ensure that coaches are able to accompany their athletes.

Ukraine had several hopes for the gold medal among its more than 200 Olympians, including world pole vault champion Sergey Bubka, women's world record holder in the long jump Inessa Kravets, world gymnastics champion Lilia Pidkopayeva, weightlifter Timur Taimazov and world champion rhythmic gymnast Kateryna Serebrianska. Of the foursome, only Bubka failed to win a medal, having withdrawn due to an injury. But other heroes emerged as well: among them wrestler Viacheslav Oliinyk, boxer Volodymyr Klichko and gymnast Rustam Sharipov.

Once the Games were over, Ukraine had earned 23 medals, nine of them gold, taking 10th place in medal totals to finish ahead of countries such as Britain, Canada, Brazil and Poland.

Source: "Budget crisis affects Ukraine's Olympic effort" by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 9, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 23; and "Summer Olympics: Ukraine debuts" in "1996: The Year in Review," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 29, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 52.

Reconstructed historic cathedral is blessed

Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – After nearly four years of reconstruction, the grand Golden-Domed Cathedral of St. Michael (Mykhailivsky Sobor) officially opened on May 28 with a ceremonial blessing by Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

The church, once a religious center of the Orthodox world, was ordered razed by Stalin after it was looted by Communist Party cadres in 1936, part of the Soviet dictator's systemic destruction of religious sites throughout the Soviet Union.

The restoration of the sobor was ordered by an executive decree issued in

1996 by President Leonid Kuchma.

The ceremonial blessing took place as part of the annual Kyiv Days held on May 27-28. Thousands of onlookers waited patiently on Mykhailivsky Square, which connects Mykhailivsky Sobor with the equally historic St. Sophia Sobor via a promenade, while the ceremony took place. Afterwards they were allowed into the new church to view its dazzling interior, which includes new and historic mosaics and icons.

President Kuchma, Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliushch were on hand for the ceremony and presented Patriarch Filaret with an icon, courtesy of the government.



President Leonid Kuchma presents an icon to Patriarch Filaret as Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliushch (left) and Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko (right) look on.



Clergy of the UOC-KP take part in a procession around the reconstructed Golden-Domed Cathedral of St. Michael as part of the blessing ceremony.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for Volume I of Weekly's book

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the book you sent me, The Ukrainian Weekly 2000 (Vol. I). As an original reader from issue No. 1, I wonder how many such readers you still have. I remember the first issue was hidden inside a kind of funny-looking daily paper.

How did someone born in the United States learn to read Ukrainian in the 1920s? There were no Saturday schools in the 1920s and early 1930s. There were church schools that ran 5-7 p.m. daily and Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon. One year with the Basilian Sisters was enough to teach you to read because you already knew English from the public schools. Unfortunately our school was mostly known as a Slavic school.

It's The Weekly that taught me we were Ukrainians. When the Depression hit, the parish couldn't afford the nuns, so it then became hit-and-miss teaching by men of the parish until after the second world war, when they opened parochial schools (1950).

Anyway, when I grew up, I subscribed to The Weekly (\$2 per year). I carried the subscription with me in the Navy from 1943 to 1946. You also sent me the Svoboda free while I was in the service.

Now I'm an old man in a wheelchair with the second world war, Korea and Vietnam behind me. I enjoy reading both papers. Thank you.

Andrew Simock
Las Vegas, Nev.

Kuropas not voice of our community

Dear Editor:

I would like to express to the readers of The Ukrainian Weekly, whether they are Ukrainians, Ukrainian Americans, members of Congress, or others, that many Ukrainian Americans strongly disagree with many of Myron Kuropas' statements. It is unfortunate that The Weekly devotes so much space for his opinions, and I encourage those that agree to respond.

Simply put, he is not the voice of the entire Ukrainian American community.

Tatiana M. Terleckyj
Washington

Thanks to Hodiak for his observations

Dear Editor:

It warmed my heart to read Bohdan Hodiak's letter to the editor (May 14) regarding the Elian Gonzalez case and particularly the privileges extended to Cubans by the U.S. immigration authorities. It was an eye opener. Thanks to Mr. Hodiak for his astute observation and study of the Cuban political arena in his hometown of Miami.

What perturbs me most is how the nation's finest make a personal situation a political one. Elian is a child in need of his father's love, yet article upon article in newspapers stresses the point of the country's political situation, that of it being Communist and Castro's supposedly cruel control of his people. But, I ask, what connection has little Elian with

Castro and the government?

His interest goes no further than knowing that he is protected by the love of his father, friends and other members of the family, be it in Cuba or elsewhere. Love is a very potent ingredient for all of us, let alone to young boys and girls. I wonder how many parents would permit their own child or children to be taken away by relatives or the government if such a situation should arise. Needless to say, they would fight tooth and nail to get their children back.

And finally, does one not give thought to the fact that, by the time Elian reaches adulthood and is on his own, Castro might no longer be the dictator and the country might relinquish communism for a more democratic government?

Mary E. Pressey
Flushing, N.Y.

Long live columnist Myron Kuropas

Dear Editor:

I am writing in reference to the letter by Ray Wihak "Not everyone agrees with Kuropas" (May 7). Commentaries in The Weekly are written not only by Dr. Kuropas but also by Andrew Fedynsky and Orysia Paszczak Tracz.

As for me, I say: Long live Dr. Myron Kuropas and every member of this beautiful family.

What Mr. Wihak suggests is a sinful life for women, for persons who should seek medical advice, help and treatment. God forbid that our young people take his advice regarding diversity of views.

Lydia Odezynsky
Philadelphia

More on Matlock's take on Russia

Dear Editor:

This is in reference to the May 7 letter by Z. Lew Melnyk about the anti-Ukrainian views of Jack F. Matlock. In it Dr. Melnyk writes about Ambassador Matlock's statement that: "Russia has never attacked anybody."

This, of course, is a great distortion of Russia's history. In addition to the convincing arguments of Dr. Melnyk, I would like to call your attention to an article by Richard Pipes, Baird Professor of History at Harvard University, titled "Can The Soviet Union Reform?" (Foreign Affairs, fall 1984). Dr. Pipes wrote that "it requires only a slightly deeper acquaintance with the history of Russia to realize that country has engaged in aggression against its neighbors far more often and more persistently than its neighbors have ever acted against it."

To substantiate the above, the author cites the following. "In 1898 the Russian Imperial General Staff completed a study of Russian warfare through the ages. The editor, in the concluding volume, assured readers that they could be proud of their past and face the uncertain future with confidence: of 38 military campaigns that Russia had waged in the preceding 200 years, 36 had been 'offensive' and only two defensive. N.N. Sukhotin, 'Voyna v Istorii Russkogo Mira,' St. Petersburg, 1898, pp. 13-14."

Michael Senkiw
Inverness, Fla.

Another website to consider visiting

Dear Editor:

We were interested to read details about the recent conferences at Yale and Columbia in the April 30 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly. Please allow me to add the website of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa to the list of Ukrainian studies websites that were published with the article: <http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/grad-etudesup/ukr>

The University of Ottawa within its Department of Slavic Studies was one of the first universities in North America to offer Ukrainian courses in the 1950s under Prof. Constantine Bida. The Chair of Ukrainian Studies was launched in late 1995, on the basis of a \$1.2 million endowment by the Iwachniuk, Bida, Sosnowsky and University of Ottawa funds. It is one of the newest Ukrainian studies programs in North America, focusing on contemporary Ukraine in the disciplines of the social sciences. The activities of the chair include research, conferences, public lectures and publications.

The chair is under the jurisdiction of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Its board consists of: the three deans of the university's faculties of graduate and post-doctoral studies, arts, and social sciences; chair executive director, Dr. Theofil I. Kis; and directors Dr. Irena

Makaryk, Dr. Natalie Mychajlyszyn and Dr. Roman Weretelnik.

To date, two very successful "Towards a New Ukraine" conferences have been held - the first, about Ukraine's first five years of independence; the second, about Ukraine's prospects for the next five years. Proceedings of both conferences were published and are available from the chair.

Our third conference, "Towards a New Ukraine III: Geopolitical Imperatives of Ukraine: Regional Contexts" will be held at the University of Ottawa on October 27-28. Noted scholars from Canada, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom, will present papers on the present state and future prospects of Ukraine's relations with Russia, Poland, and Germany; Ukraine's foreign and security policy; Europe's policy towards Ukraine; Ukraine's "European choice" policy; Ukraine's position between East and West; and Ukraine's strategic partnership (or problem?) with the West.

We also recently established a two-year post-doctoral position, for which we are taking applications.

For more information, please check out our website (as cited above), or send us a fax at (613) 562-5351, phone us at (613) 562-5800 ext.3692, or send an e-mail ukrain@uottawa.ca.

Irena Bell
Ottawa

The writer is coordinator of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa.

The Ukrainian Weekly 2000

Throughout its history, The Ukrainian Weekly has been a chronicler of the times, a reflection of our society, a purveyor of information, a leader of public opinion.

To mark the end of this millennium and the beginning of a new one, the editors of The Ukrainian Weekly have prepared "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," a two-volume collection of the best and most significant stories that have appeared in the newspaper since its founding through 1999.

Volume I, now available, covers events from 1933 through the 1960s.

All subscribers to The Weekly should have received their copies in the mail. To order additional copies of this unique book, please use the clip-out form below.

"The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" is sure to become a resource for researchers, and a keepsake for readers. A great gift idea!



THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY 2000

VOLUME I

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Myroslav Medvid...

(Continued from page 1)

the interview took place off ship and then abruptly and acerbically added: "Just tell Mr. Sell that I did see my father and mother."

He then explained that Mr. Sell was the name, as he understood it, of the U.S. State Department representative who escorted him back to the Soviet ship after the interview. During their walk the official told him in Russian that he should be thankful he was being returned because at least now he would see his parents again.

Today in a Ukraine free of Soviet domination, a country ostensibly free and democratic, the Rev. Medvid is still leery of eavesdroppers and hidden microphones. He requested that the interview take place outdoors, was selective about where he wanted to talk and requested that a tape recorder not be used. About halfway through the discussion he pointed out a young man sitting with a girl and wondered aloud whether he might be a secret service agent.

He was reluctant to give details of what he experienced on those days and nights on the Marshal Koniev as it waited in the Gulf of Mexico for permission to leave port while the INS, the U.S. Congress and President Reagan decided what to do with

the Soviet seaman who jumped ship in U.S. waters.

"It still is difficult to talk about this," said the Rev. Medvid.

Fifteen years ago he was a young, and perhaps naive, Soviet sailor, who thought that if he could get to U.S. shores he could attain political asylum in the land of refuge and freedom.

He had believed the biggest obstacles to escape from an oppressive Soviet system were the KGB handlers who watched every step he and his fellow sailors took when they were in a foreign port – not U.S. bureaucratic bungling and geopolitical intrigues between the two superpowers.

He said he often thought about how he might escape to another country and had planned his flight to U.S. shores. He could not have known that he would be returned because of a glaring mistake by a lower-level government representative and a superpower summit in Helsinki.

Jumping ship in the gulf

Myroslav Medvid's ordeal began on the night of October 24 when he jumped into the dark waters of the Gulf of Mexico and swam to the U.S. shore near the city of New Orleans. There he walked a distance before coming upon a Louisiana couple. He wrote the word "Policia" on a piece of paper and

then drew an arrow to the words "Novi Orlean." The couple escorted the sailor to the New Orleans police, who turned him over to the harbor police, who in turn gave him to the border patrol of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

INS officials contacted an official Justice Department interpreter, Irene Padoch, who spoke with Mr. Medvid and informed the authorities that the sailor twice requested political asylum during their conversation. They, in turn, told Mrs. Padoch to relay to the sailor that no harm would come to him. Within an hour Mr. Medvid was escorted back to the Marshal Koniev, kicking and screaming all the while. At the ship, Mr. Medvid again dived into the water and swam to shore, where Soviet and U.S. officials grabbed him as he bit and kicked them. After being handcuffed, he began to pound his head against the rocks.

The next day a U.S. State Department delegation held an on-shore interview with him. The sailor was hesitant to talk with them, as well as with Mrs. Padoch when she contacted him later. It was the last time that Mr. Medvid was seen.

The affair quickly rose to the top of the bureaucratic ladder and became a White House issue within days, not less so because President Reagan was scheduled to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Helsinki after the New Year. While U.S. officials pondered how to diplomatically resolve the imbroglio, Seaman Medvid was going through his own hell on board the ship.

Sixteen days after his flight to freedom the Marshal Koniev raised anchor and left United States waters, disregarding a subpoena issued to the ship's captain and an order barring the ship's departure, both issued by the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee.

Because Soviet authorities refused to discuss the matter further, and because Mr. Medvid was hounded by KGB agents for years after his return, what happened to the young sailor remained a mystery.

Did Mr. Medvid voluntarily sign papers that stated he wanted to return to the Soviet Union, or did KGB officials on board the ship have an impostor do it? Did he try to jump overboard a second time? Was he drugged by KGB officers upon his return? How did the wounds on his left arm appear?

The Rev. Medvid maintains that he remembers very little of what happened to him once he returned to the ship, and that even details of how he got there are sketchy.

To this day he does not know whether he was drugged, even though U.S. psychiatrists concluded after meeting with him a day after his return that he was probably under the influence of halidol and thiorazine, two strong mind-altering drugs.

He stated unequivocally that there was no second Medvid, an alleged impostor who was brought out to talk to U.S. authorities and who signed papers stating that he willingly wanted to return to the Soviet Union.

"I was the so-called impostor, there was no one else. It was me that the people were referring to. This I know without a doubt," said the Rev. Medvid.

As for signing a statement that he wanted to return to the USSR, he did so willingly. He explained that his mental state after his ordeal was such that he saw no other recourse. "I understood what was going on and why," said the Rev. Medvid. "There were no physical threats."

A severe depression overcame Mr. Medvid as he awaited his fate aboard ship. The cut and bandaged left arm that U.S. officials described after meeting with him was the result of a self-inflicted wound from a shard of glass he obtained by breaking the lamp in his cabin. He admitted the goal was to end his life.

"You understand what kind of state I was in at that moment," said the Rev. Medvid.

It was during the journey home, which took the ship to Cuba, Scandinavia and

Estonia before arriving in Soviet Union, that Mr. Medvid had time to ponder his future and make a decision on the course of the rest of his life – although he was not sure that he had any reason to make any plans.

After returning to Ukraine and his home village of Silets, located in the Sokal raion of the Lviv Oblast, his problems did not go away. Mr. Medvid was not arrested, probably only because of the high profile his case had taken, which made Soviet officials leery of drawing even more attention to him.

However, local KGB agents kept in contact with him for years, even as he began his seminary studies first in Odesa and later in Kyiv. He was summoned by the KGB more than 50 times, he said. Their objective was straightforward and simple: they wanted him to work as an informant.

Turning to the Church

The Rev. Medvid explained that their hounding only gave him more impetus to join the Church. "I wanted show them that I was not one of them, but a person of nature, a man of God, of the Church, of Slipyj and Sheptytsky," said the Rev. Medvid.

He contacted people in his home village and in Lviv, who advised him on how to proceed in his decision to become a priest, including suggestions that he should study at a seminary of the Russian Orthodox Church, the only confession recognized by the Moscow-based Soviet government.

"There were many who belonged to the ROC in Halychyna but were strong believers and supporters of the underground Greek-Catholic Church," explained the Rev. Medvid. "These were people like Stepan Khmara and the late Vyacheslav Chornovil, who had a great deal of influence on me."

With the help of his parish priest, the Rev. Mykhailo Nyzhko, he began theological studies at an Odesa seminary of the ROC. There he encountered more problems when he continued to refuse overtures by the KGB to work with them. He was transferred to the Kyiv Theological Seminary, and the KGB followed.

"I had conversations with the so-called spiritual advisor of the seminary, who told me that I would not last long if I didn't cooperate," recalled the Rev. Medvid.

In 1988 he decided to study in the underground seminary of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, after conferring with leaders of the budding democratic movement in western Ukraine, including Mr. Khmara, who had become a close confidant, Mr. Chornovil and the Horyn brothers.

They turned to Bishop Filemon Kurchaba, who cleared the way for the former sailor's enrollment. He entered the underground seminary to complete his studies in February 1990 and was ordained a priest of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church on December 30, 1990.

Nearly 10 years into his priesthood and 15 years after his ordeal, the Rev. Medvid reflected on how his life had changed and how the wayward son had returned home. "I know how to console people, how to administer a parish. Then I didn't even know how to sing a liturgy," he explained.

He said that in retrospect he could be proud of what he had done, even though it had caused him great grief. "I made my own protest. I made my statement on what I thought of that regime," he underscored.

And, finally, he said he has no great desire to see the United States again, but that he dearly wants to celebrate liturgy with those who gave him so much psychological support and comfort during his travails in New Orleans.

"They probably saved my life," he explained, referring to the Ukrainian Americans who protested and demonstrated against his return to the USSR in the face of an intransigent U.S. government. Then a tear welled up in his eye.

The Medvid case

Following is the account of the Medvid incident published in the "1985: The Year in Review" issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly* (December 29, 1985).

The most heartrending event for the Ukrainian community that fought so hard for the freedom of a young Ukrainian sailor was the ill-fated defection attempt of Ukrainian seaman Myroslav Medvid. The handling of the Medvid case caused outrage not only from U.S. citizens and members of Congress, but also cast doubt worldwide as to the direction the U.S. government was taking in regard to defectors. Many critics contend the United States had failed to live up to the words attributed to the Statue of Liberty, the "Mother of Exiles": "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ..." And Ukrainian Americans nationwide loudly voiced their displeasure through demonstrations, telephone networks and letter-writing.

Rep. Fred Eckert, a Republican from New York, perhaps best expressed the feelings of the American people after Mr. Medvid was forcibly returned to Soviet custody. In a commentary published in *The Wall Street Journal* op-ed page on November 21, he wrote: "Somewhere out on the high seas the Marshal Koniev

is carrying Ukrainian seaman Myroslav Medvid to the hell that awaits him back in the Soviet Union. The ship is also carrying away a full load of American grain. And pieces of Americas reputation, pride and honor."

Mr. Medvid had tried to defect from the Soviet Union by jumping from his Soviet freighter and swimming to the Louisiana shore near Belle Chase on the night of October 24. At about 7:30 p.m., Mr. Medvid ran into Joseph and Wayne Wyman.

On a piece of paper he wrote the word "Policia" and drew an arrow pointing to the words "Novi Orlean."

After the Wymans dropped Mr. Medvid off at the police station, the police, in turn, took him to the harbor police, who, took him to the Border Patrol of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Once at the INS offices in New Orleans, at around 11:45 p.m., the Border Patrol contacted a Justice Department interpreter in New York, Irene Padoch, in order to ascertain what Mr. Medvid wanted. It was during this conversation that the fate of Mr. Medvid was sealed. Although Mrs. Padoch stressed twice during this hourlong con-

(Continued on page 9)



A group of Ukrainian Americans demonstrating in November 1985 in front of the White House in support of Myroslav Medvid.

Ukraine's ambassador...

(Continued from page 1)

this summer include a visit to the Midwest.

Ambassador Gryshchenko expressed his support and thanks to Ukrainian Americans, stating that he understands that good relations with Ukrainian American communities and organizations are essential to Ukraine's good relations with the United States "since you influence the politics of this country" with regard to Ukraine.

The success of the recent referendum and the re-election of President Leonid Kuchma are positive signs that there is real change under way in Ukraine, he stated, giving as further examples the recent presidential decree to dissolve collective farms, the success of Prime

Minister Viktor Yuschenko during his visit to the United States in assuaging skeptics of Ukraine's ability to maintain the course with regard to economic reform, and consistent reductions in the size of the government. "Despite our problems," the ambassador stated, "we can't ignore the progress that has been made."

On the other hand, according to Ambassador Gryshchenko, persistent claims that Ukraine is on the verge of joining a "Slavic union" with Belarus and Russia simply must be ignored. "We're heading West," he said, "but we need to be smart and not fight, as this will only cause us harm. However, let me assure you, we are not planning to join any Slavic union. The strategic plan is foreign policy development towards

Europe – this won't be quick ... As for this constant discussion of a Slavic union – there are many Slavic countries, Slovakia, Poland – not just Belarus and Russia – why isn't there discussion of unions centering around these countries?"

He also noted that the slow but steady approach to increasing the use of the Ukrainian language is seen as the most successful method "to put Ukrainian into its proper place." He offered Canada as an example where in the 1960s no Anglophone Canadian spoke French, whereas now they do. "It is a process that takes time," he said.

Within regard to U.S. foreign aid for Ukraine, Ambassador Gryshchenko explained that the funding from the United States goes to projects that the U.S. Congress believes Ukraine needs, and not necessarily to the programs that the government of Ukraine would choose. He pointed out that though it is popular to claim that Ukraine is the third largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, the difference between \$176 million, the amount authorized for Ukraine, and the approximately \$3.5 billion given to each of the first two countries, makes the claim a bit disingenuous.

Walter Baranetsky, chairman of the institute's board of directors, introduced Ambassador Gryshchenko, who was also greeted by representatives from the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.



Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko (left) with Ukraine's Acting Consul General in New York Serhiy Pohoreltzev at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

Thousands in Lviv mourn slain songwriter Ihor Bilozir

LIVIV – Tens of thousands of Lviv residents participated in the funeral on May 30 of popular composer/songwriter Ihor Bilozir, reported RFE/RL Newsline.

Earlier that day some 3,000 angry protesters had marched through the city, chanting "Down with the Russians," to protest Mr. Bilozir's death, which resulted from a savage beating several weeks earlier by a group of Russian-speaking young men.

An RFE/RL Newsline newsbrief noted that Mr. Bilozir was fatally injured by Russian-speaking attackers who did not like the fact that he was singing Ukrainian songs with friends in a cafe. One of the attackers turned out to be the son of a senior police officer in Lviv.

The protesters in Lviv demanded that the authorities "de-Russify Ukraine" and sack all Russian-speaking servicemen from the city's police force.

The Kyiv-based daily newspaper Den reported on May 30 that Mr. Bilozir, 44, had died overnight on May 27-28 in the Lviv City Hospital, where he had been since the attack on the night of May 8-9.

Den noted that Mr. Bilozir and a group of his friends had been at the Tsarska Kava cafe, where they started singing some of his songs. This apparently drew the ire of another group in the cafe. Members of that group later found Mr. Bilozir and his friends in a square across from the oblast procuracy building and proceeded to beat the songwriter. He was taken unconscious to the hospital.

Mr. Bilozir, who was recognized as a national artist of Ukraine, was the leader of the Vatra musical ensemble, one of the most popular ensembles in Ukraine during the 1980s. He was also a pianist and pedagogue.

Last year Mr. Bilozir appeared in concert at Soyuzivka during the Labor Day weekend festivities and performed many songs from Vatra's repertoire, leading off with the nostalgic "Svitlytsia," which has become a modern-day classic. He also sang and played his own works, among them his first song, written at age 14, "Pershyi Snih" (First Snow), and his latest work, "Divchyna z Pisen" (Girl of Songs).

Lviv authorities declared May 30 as an official day of mourning. Community leaders have described the situation in Lviv as tense.

The Medvid case

(Continued from page 8)

versation that Mr. Medvid was seeking political asylum, and although the guards told Mrs. Padoch that no harm would come to the sailor and that they would get in touch with her the next day, within an hour after she got off the phone, Mr. Medvid was on his way back to the Marshal Koniev. For unknown reasons, the two INS Border Patrol officers told employees of Universal Shipping Agencies, a private shipping company, to return Mr. Medvid to Soviet custody. The two men hired a launch and set off for the Marshal Koniev.

Raymond Guthrie, the launch pilot, said of Mr. Medvid later, "I felt sorry for the seaman. He was kicking and screaming. He didn't want to go back." Mr. Medvid ran his fingers across his throat, a gesture which indicated he was afraid he would be harmed if returned to the Soviets.

When the launch came to the side of the Marshal Koniev, a Soviet officer talked to Mr. Medvid. The seaman became even more frightened, observers said, and he once again dove into the water and swam to shore.

In his commentary, Rep. Eckert wrote: "Soviet officers and the two U.S. shipping-company employees grabbed him. Mr. Medvid screamed, kicked, punched and bit, but he couldn't get free. They handcuffed him, with handcuffs that had been turned over to these private citizens – and, it turns out, to Soviet authorities, too – by the U.S. Border Patrol. Mr. Medvid then began to bang his head against rocks along the shore. He was overpowered again. Finally, he was returned to the Marshal Koniev."

Around 4 p.m. on October 25, after U.S. officials in Washington had allegedly been alerted to the Medvid case, the U.S. Border Patrol began watching the ship at the request of the State Department. Last visual contact of Mr. Medvid was made by a U.S. authority around 6:30 p.m. At 10:30 p.m.,

that same day, State Department officials arrived on the Marshal Koniev. Negotiations continued between the Soviets and U.S. officials on Saturday, October 26.

On that day, a series of medical and psychiatric exams were taken of Mr. Medvid. The final analysis was that Mr. Medvid had been injected with two of the strongest mind altering drugs used by the Soviet authorities, halidol and thorazine, according to the ship's doctor. It appeared to the American psychiatrist that Mr. Medvid had been threatened with violence to his parents if he did not return to the Soviet Union, and he was suffering substantial wounds to his left arm which was bandaged from the wrist to the armpit. However, blood or urine tests – standard procedures in any physical examination – were not taken by American doctors.

It also appeared that Mr. Medvid was hesitant to talk to authorities, according to the Russian translator who had been assigned to interpret discussions between Mr. Medvid and U.S. authorities. When later speaking on the phone with Mrs. Padoch, the interpreter said Mr. Medvid was reluctant to answer questions posed to him.

On October 29 Mr. Medvid signed a statement in Russian and English which stated he wished to return to the Soviet Union of his own free will.

On November 6 the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, known as the Helsinki Commission, called on President Ronald Reagan to take immediate action to determine if Mr. Medvid was seeking political asylum in the United States. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R.-N.Y.), chairman of the commission, said: "We cannot stand by and let the human rights of this individual be violated. Allowing the Soviet ship to leave U.S. waters without determining exactly what Mr. Medvid was seeking when he jumped into the Mississippi River in search of American authorities would be regrettable."

On November 7 the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy held hearings on the U.S. government's handling of the Medvid case. The government contended that the case was closed in light of Mr. Medvid's document stating he wanted to return to the Soviet Union. Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R.-N.H.) however, insisted that Mr. Medvid be interviewed in an atmosphere free of Soviet coercion.

Alan C. Nelson, director of the INS, also testified and defended his agency. He stated that although human error had initially caused Mr. Medvid to be returned to the Marshal Koniev (he said the border patrol had misunderstood Mr. Medvid's desire for political asylum), he was proud of how the INS subsequently had handled the situation. To which New York Democratic Rep. Gary Ackerman replied, "As proud as you are of the case's handling, the Senate, the House and the American people are ashamed."

The Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee held its own hearing two days later.

On November 8, in an 11th hour attempt to save Mr. Medvid, Sen. Jesse Helms (R.-N.C.), the powerful chairman of the Agriculture Committee, issued a subpoena to the Marshal Koniev to have Mr. Medvid appear before the committee. The ship's captain received orders not to do anything and wait for Soviet authorities. The subpoena was not honored, and the next day the Marshal Koniev was allowed to sail out of U.S. waters with the Ukrainian seaman on board.

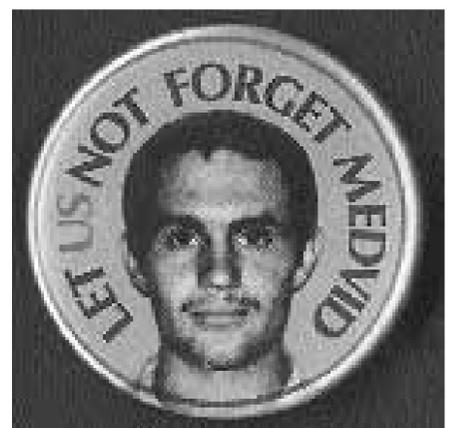
While the U.S. Congress was doing its part on behalf of the young sailor, the Ukrainian American community turned to legal means to try and prevent the departure of the Soviet grain freighter with Mr. Medvid aboard. The case was taken to the Supreme Court by attorney Andrew Fylypovych, but the highest court of the

land, like the lower courts, refused to issue an order barring the ship's departure. Many of the Ukrainian American demonstrators gathered in Louisiana to stage protest actions openly wept as the ship set sail on November 9.

On December 6, Sen. Humphrey introduced a resolution that would create a seven-member Senate panel to investigate all aspects of asylum procedures. As of last count, the bill had 60 co-sponsors. It is expected to be voted on in the Senate early in 1986.

Meanwhile, new information indicated that there may actually have been two Medvids: one that jumped ship and another who was interviewed by U.S. authorities several days later.

One of the hopes which has been expressed for the Humphrey resolution is that the legislative branch of the U.S. government will investigate what really happened in the Medvid case and why so many blatant violations of government policy were made. While it may be too late to save Myroslav Medvid, observers say a thorough review of procedures and an independent investigation into the entire Medvid incident may prevent tragedy in other asylum cases.



A button issued in 1985 to keep the Medvid case in the spotlight.

UMANA Foundation facilitates delivery of dialysis machines

CHICAGO – The Foundation of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA Foundation) on May 16 finalized the delivery of four kidney dialysis machines, donated by the Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago to the consul general of Ukraine in Chicago, Borys M. Bazylevski, for urgent use in Kyiv.

In January of this year Consul General Bazylevski had issued an appeal to the community for renal dialysis machines desperately needed at the Center of Clinical Toxicology at the Ukrainian Children's Hospital in the capital of Ukraine.

The UMANA Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable, scientific and educational arm of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, began a search for possible donors of dialysis machines from among the medical establishment in Chicago.

The staff of the dialysis unit of Illinois Masonic Medical Center, a large teaching hospital on the city's north side, responded with enthusiasm, suggesting that since their unit was being upgraded, there was the possibility of obtaining the replaced machines for humanitarian aid. Pat Hammel, director of purchasing, shepherded the process in the early stages, referring the foundation to Bulcsu Balla,

manager of clinical engineering. Preliminary evaluation and measurement of the donated material was done, and the delivery scheduled.

On May 16, the president and CEO of Illinois Masonic, Dr. Bruce Campbell, met with Consul General Bazylevski in the Clinical Engineering Department to personally deliver the donated dialysis machines. Dr. George Hrycelak, president of the UMANA Foundation, facilitated the turnover, expressing the foundation's gratitude to Illinois Masonic Medical Center for its assistance.

Consul Bazylevski sincerely and emotionally thanked Dr. Campbell on behalf of future patients whose lives will be immensely impacted by this act of kindness. The machines were then successfully transported to storage in preparation for shipment.

The UMANA Foundation is a non-profit organization, whose goal is to foster improvement in the health care of Ukrainians worldwide. The foundation serves as a repository of health care information, encouraging health care education, scientific discourse and publication of scientific medical journals. To support the work of the foundation, send donations to: UMANA Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622.



Accepting donated dialysis machines from Illinois Masonic Medical Center are (from left) Dr. George Hrycelak, president of the UMANA Foundation; Borys M. Bazylevski, consul general of Ukraine in Chicago; Bulcsu Balla, manager, clinical engineering, at Illinois Masonic Medical Center; and Dr. Bruce Campbell, president and CEO of IMMC.

Connecticut corporation donates medical equipment to the CCRF

WALLINGFORD, Conn. – Connecticut-based Novamatrix Medical Systems Corp. announced the donation of three pulse oxymeters to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund at a special press conference on April 24. The medical equipment will help expand the fund's successes in combating infant mortality in Ukraine.

The goodwill gesture was timed to coincide with the opening of the CCRF's Connecticut office, as well as with the commemoration of the 14th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Among the special guests attending the press conference were U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), the highest-ranking woman in Congress, and novelist Irene Zabytko whose novel about Chernobyl, "The Sky Unwashed," has received wide acclaim from literary critics.

Rep. DeLauro praised the CCRF as "the most effective private voluntary organization serving the Chernobyl victims in Ukraine." Ms. DeLauro thanked the CCRF and especially its New Haven Chapter for keeping the memory of Chernobyl alive. "To most of the world, Chernobyl is long past and nearly forgotten," said Rep. DeLauro, "for the people in Ukraine, it's an ongoing daily nightmare."

The congresswoman expressed deep concern for the plight of families struggling to cope with their children's cancer and

birth defects. "The infant mortality rate in Ukraine today is three times the rate of other European countries. Birth defects have nearly doubled and oncological illnesses have tripled," she said.

Ms. DeLauro praised Novamatrix for donating pulse oxymeters to the CCRF and noted "your contributions have helped the CCRF to reduce the infant mortality rate in some Ukrainian hospitals by more than half."

William J. LaCourciere, president and chief executive officer of Novamatrix, welcomed the congresswoman and representatives of the CCRF, saying that he has been humbled by the energy and dedication that the CCRF has shown in helping the victims of the Chernobyl tragedy and added: "This company is proud to be a small part of your mission."

Following the press conference, the congresswoman joined Mr. LaCourciere and local activists of the CCRF for a tour of the Novamatrix manufacturing facility, where Engineering Director Joel Maynard explained the critical role that pulse oxymeters have played in monitoring the pulse rates and oxygen levels in infants suffering from respiratory complications.

The CCRF has placed Novamatrix pulse oxymeters in hospitals in Lutsk, Poltava

(Continued on page 12)



CCRF directors meet with U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro to show their appreciation for Novamatrix Medical Systems and its support of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. From left are: Alex Kuzma, Irene Zabytko, Orest Dubno, Rep. DeLauro, Novamatrix President Bill LaCourciere and International Sales Director Patrick Shannon.

The Ukrainian Weekly introduces a new special section

Congratulations, Graduates!

Every year tens of thousands of students throughout North America receive undergraduate and graduate degrees at colleges and universities, cresting a pinnacle of personal achievement.

This year The Ukrainian Weekly introduces a new special section – Congratulations, Graduates! – where readers of The Ukrainian Weekly can place a note congratulating family members and dear friends on their recent achievements. This new, once-a-year, section will be published for the first time on July 2, 2000.

To place an ad congratulating a recent graduate, please send us the following by June 23:

- your note of congratulations, in Ukrainian or English, which should be no more than 50 words, including names;
- in English, the full name of the graduate, the degree completed and date received, list of awards and honors given the graduate, name and location of college or university;
- photo of the graduate (optional);
- payment for the ad;
- your daytime phone number.

The ad sizes for the greeting are a 1/8 page horizontal, for \$100, or a 1/4 page for \$180.

Please make checks payable to The Ukrainian Weekly and mail along with above information to:
The Ukrainian Weekly - Congratulations Graduates!
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

For further information, please call
(973) 292-9800 ext. 3065 (Irene) or ext. 3040 (Maria)
or visit www.ukrweekly.com

Heartlink team expands its mission to include children of Ukraine

by Dr. Michael J. Kozak

MINNEAPOLIS – During the past 30 years this city has served as the headquarters of the international medical charity, Children’s HeartLink, an organization dedicated to the treatment and prevention of heart diseases in children around the world. It works in partnership with hospitals in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Israel. Lately, Children’s HeartLink initiated its charitable activities in Ukraine.

Last year, in July, Claudia Liebrecht, president of the organization, and John C. Cushing, director of program services, visited medical centers in Kyiv and Lviv.

They determined that there was a greater need for enhanced cardiac services for children in Lviv.

Meetings were held with the cardiac team from the Lviv Cardiovascular Surgery Center, including Ukrainian cardiologists, Drs. Demetri Bablyak, Yuri Ivaniv and pediatric cardiac surgeon, Mykola Konyk. Ms. Liebrecht and Mr. Cushing also met with Borys Kryvko, head of Lviv Regional Hospital, who encouraged HeartLink to work with the hospital cardiac program. After a year of preparation the HeartLink team was ready to work with Lviv’s cardiovascular specialists to perform surgeries and catheterizations on needy children with heart disease and to provide training, funding and supplies.

In April of this year, a team from the United States headed by Dr. Don Watson, a pediatric cardiac surgeon at the University of Tennessee-Memphis, arrived in Lviv. The team also included a cardiologist, anesthesiologist, perfusionist, operating room nurse, intensive care nurses and biomedical technicians. Ms. Liebrecht and Denise McCabe, program coordinator, also accompanied the team.

The American team assisted in diagnosis, treatment and post-operative care and provided education and training for the Ukrainian medical team. The American team also donated up-to-date medical equipment, a large quantity of surgical supplies and toys and t-shirts for children.

Fourteen children received corrective heart operations and catheterization, and 45 were evaluated.

Ms. Liebrecht noted “It was a pleasure to meet and work with the Ukrainian people and to see the great potential for their cardiac program. Our goal in Lviv, as with the other programs we work with around the world, is to provide additional tools that will allow their cardiac program to grow and treat more children. We hope our assistance with surgeries, donated supplies and training will do this.” She added that very soon a large container of equipment of medical supplies would be shipped to Lviv’s Cardiovascular Surgery Center.

Dr. Watson stated “Given the rudimentary facilities and lack of disposable supplies – a continuing, dominant desperate need – the Ukrainian health care providers do an incredible job treating critically ill patients. ... Currently, the thrust of surgical treatment for cardiovascular disease is focused on adults. The major purpose of this trip was to evaluate the feasibility of HeartLink helping to further develop pediatric programs. Opportunities for this abound and Ukrainian health care providers have two critical characteristics that make this possible: hard work and dedication to children.”

Future HeartLink missions to Lviv will depend on funds raised to support this new project. To make a donation or to learn more about Children’s HeartLink, call (612) 928-4860, ext. 16, 5075 Arcadia Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55436-2306, or visit www.childrensheartlink.org.

Canadian ambassador commends work of Help Us Help the Children



Canadian Ambassador Derek Fraser (left) in Kyiv with (from left) Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, Maryna Krysa of Pryiateli Ditei and Ruslana Wrzesnewskij of Help Up Help the Children.

KYIV – The ambassador of Canada to Ukraine, Derek R. T. Fraser, on April 14 visited the warehouse where humanitarian goods for distribution to Ukrainian orphanages is being organized by the Ukrainian Charitable Fund Pryiateli Ditei and Help Us Help the Children, a project of the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund.

During April and May volunteers from “Pryiateli Ditei” and Help Us Help The Children are visiting 150 orphanages throughout Ukraine. They will distribute medicine, toys, over 6,000 pairs of boots and shoes, and other materials that help improve the quality of life for 25,000 Ukrainian children, and aid in their overall development. The materials will be delivered on six routes, covering over 16,000 kilometres in all 25 oblasts. The total value of the humanitarian aid to be distributed is \$500,000 Canadian).

“The work of Pryiateli Ditei and Help Us Help the Children over the past several years has been an excellent example of the spirit of cooperation between Canada and Ukraine,” said Ambassador Fraser. “These organizations have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for orphaned children in Ukraine,” he added.

Pryiateli Diteo was co-founded by the then National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Victor Yushchenko, who remains a strong supporter. Help Us Help The Children has been working in Ukraine since 1993, and since then has distributed over \$9 million (Canadian) in humanitarian aid to over 30,000 Ukrainian orphans. As well, Pryiateli Ditei and Help Us Help the Children have organized summer camps, train-the-trainer programs and orphanage

(Continued on page 12)



Dr. Don Watson (left) and a Ukrainian colleague visit patient Andrii Polovii at the Lviv Cardiovascular Surgery Center.

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Chilean journalist and Berrigan brothers to receive Stus Award

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

NORTH CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The annual Vasyl Stus Freedom-to-Write Award will be awarded to 33-year-old Chilean investigative journalist and writer Alejandra Marcela Matus Acuna, as well as to Daniel and Phillip Berrigan, two brothers who rose to prominence in the 1960s, leading non-violent resistance to the Vietnam War.

The award, named in honor of Ukrainian poet and dissident Vasyl Stus (1938-1985), is being presented by New England Freedom-to-Write Committee on June 4 at the Bunting Institute, Radcliffe College, at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Matus is being recognized as a writer who has struggled in the face of oppression to make her voice heard. Well-known for her investigative reporting on politics and the judiciary, Ms. Matus is author of the book "Libro Negro de la Justicia Chilena" (Black Book of Chilean Justice), an investigative report and critical analysis of the judicial system.

The book, published in April 1999, documents abuses of power within the Chilean Supreme Court and its lack of independence, with particular focus on the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990) and the period of Chile's return to democracy (1990-1999).

The book created controversy in Chile when, nine years into Chile's transition to democracy, a Supreme Court justice ordered all copies of the publication confiscated within 24 hours of its release.

While the book is still banned in Chile, the government was not able to stop its posting on the Internet by a Chilean daily that avoided censorship by

using a server in the United States.

Ms. Matus was charged under the "contempt of authority" law, which makes it a crime of national security to criticize figures of public authority. Ms. Matus currently lives in exile in the United States, where she was granted political asylum.

The legal action taken against Ms. Matus has elicited both national and international condemnation, and her book and the ensuing controversy surrounding it has led to an open debate in Chile regarding censorship and freedom of the press.

Ms. Matus is a recipient, with fellow journalist Francisco Artaza, of the Ortega y Gasset Prize in 1996 for their investigation into the 1976 car-bomb killing of Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier in Washington. She was recently awarded the Human Rights Watch's Hellman/Hamett Grant.

A second award will be given to Daniel and Philip Berrigan "whose writings over the course of their lives have shown what it means for people to honor the dictates of conscience."

An influential Roman Catholic figure, Daniel Berrigan S.J. is well-known for his anti-war activities and civil disobedience. A writer, he has published over 40 books of poetry, prose and drama. Philip Berrigan is author of "Fighting the Lamb's War."

The Berrigan brothers have continued their combination of anti-war writing and direct action until this day. Philip Berrigan is at present serving a 30-month sentence in Maryland for his non-violent protests against the United States' use of depleted uranium shells in recent wars

against Iraq and Yugoslavia.

Daniel Berrigan will read from his selected poems, "And the Risen Bread, 1957-1997," and discuss the relationship between poetry and politics at the evening program.

* * *

The Ukrainian dissident poet Vasyl Stus, in whose name the award was established in 1998, died in 1985 in Soviet strict-regime concentration camp No. 389/36-1 in the Perm region of the Russian SFSR.

Stus was expelled from the Institute of Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1965 because of his protests against the secret arrests and closed trials that were becoming prevalent in Soviet Ukraine. He was arrested in 1972 and sentenced to five years of strict-regime labor camp followed by three years of exile.

Rearrested in 1980 for having joined the Ukrainian Helsinki Group while in exile, he was sentenced to 10 years of strict-regime labor camp and five years of exile.

A man of uncompromising principles, Stus refused to kowtow to the regime and was subjected to constant persecutions, which finally were responsible for his death.

After facing repeated refusals and bureaucratic impediments, family and friends received permission to transfer his body to Ukraine from Perm. On November 19, 1989, a procession of over 30,000 mourners attended the interment of Stus and two other dissidents, Oleksa Tykhy and Yurii Lytvyn, at the Baikove Cemetery in Kyiv. The event became a manifestation of national solidarity and an expression of censure of the repressive Soviet regime.

Although he continued to write while he was incarcerated, the KGB systematically confiscated and destroyed his work. Some poems survived and were smuggled out to the West, where Stus's poetry appeared in several collections: "Zymovi Dereva" (Winter Trees, 1970), "Svicha v Svichadi" (A Candle in a Mirror, 1977) and the posthumous "Pamlimpsesty: Virshi 1971-1979 Rokiv" (Palimpsests: Poems of 1971-1979).

The first collection to appear in Ukraine was an underground samvydav



Vasyl Stus in a 1978 photo.

collection, "Povernennia" (The Return), which appeared in 1990. Final "acceptance" came also in 1990, with the publication of the first official edition of his poetry, "Doroha Boliu" (The Road of Pain).

In 1992 two collections were published in Ukraine: "Vikna v Pozaprostir" (Windows into Beyond-Space), containing his poetry, articles, letters, and diary excerpts, and "Zolotokosa Krasunia" (The Golden-Braided Beauty), containing Stus's poetry found in the KGB archives.

Traditional in form, Stus's poetry began as "lyricism of actuality," in the manner in which the poets of the 1970s responded to the realities of the day. Content prevailed over form, message over myth, and the satire found in the poetry of the 1960s often turned to scorn, anger and abuse. The poetry written behind bars, however, is more serene; it expresses a longing, philosophical contemplation of life, nature, man the prisoner, and man the jailer, and reveals Stus's attempt to come to some synthesis with respect to the contradictions of the human experience.

(Source: D.H. Struk, *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. V, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1993.*)

Plast plans special presentation to mark 50th anniversary in U.S.

CLIFTON, N.J. – The Plast National Council of the U.S.A. is proud to announce that in conjunction with its 50th anniversary festivities it will host a special event on Sunday, October 8, titled "The Golden Flame." The show is part of a campaign to join with the Ukrainian community at large in celebrating a half-century of Ukrainian scouting in the United States and will be held at Clifton High School in Clifton, N.J.

Organizers of the program, Zenia Brozyna, Oksana Korduba and Adia Fedash, report that this unique event will be presented as a montage of music, dance, humor, drama and video technology intertwined through a seven-act story line. The plot behind the "Flame" involves a young scout (plastun) named Levko. One night, while reminiscing about past scouting adventures, Levko is visited by the Plast Spirit, who enchants him into a magical dream.

In the course of the Spirit's wizardry, Levko and the Spirit witness various touchstone events in Plast's 88-year history – most notably moments spanning the last 50 years of Plast's activity in this country.

The tone of "The Golden Flame" will be enriched by the composition of its cast and crew. All of the performers slated to take part are either members of Plast or long-time supporters of the organization. The lead roles are scheduled to be performed by youths and young adults from the East Coast.

The show will be directed by renowned theater director Lidia

Krushelnitsky, who has mentored scores of young plastuny through her Ukrainian Stage Ensemble group. The distinguished choreographer Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky will arrange the dance sequences that will be performed by members of her various dance schools.

This event is part of a continuing series of 50th anniversary celebrations sponsored by Plast's National Council of the U.S.A. headed by Borys Pawluk and the Anniversary Organizational Committee chaired by Halyna Kutko. To date, Plast U.S.A. under these auspices has produced and distributed commemorative audio cassettes and CDs featuring popular Plast songs and a 50-minute video titled "The Never-Changing Face of Plast." A highly anticipated book covering the history of Plast in the United States (1949-1999) is due to be published at the end of this year under the stewardship of Olha Kuzmowycz, editor-in-chief.

Producers of "The Golden Flame" hope that through this event, Plast will be able to express its respect and gratitude to the Ukrainian community for its many years of support and cooperation.

Indeed, as the Anniversary Program Committee's chairman, Ms. Brozyna, stated, "We want to take our 50th anniversary celebrations to the Ukrainian 'hromada,' and share with everyone this special moment in our organization's history. We encourage young and old alike, to come and join us on October 8 at our commemorative presentation of 'The Golden Flame.'"

Connecticut corporation...

(Continued from page 10)

and Vinnytsia. The newly donated units will be used to establish a new neonatal intensive care unit in the city of Rivne, which serves a region heavily contaminated by radioactive fallout from Chernobyl.

Orest Dubno, a member of the CCRF's board of directors and a former revenue commissioner for the state of Connecticut, thanked Novamatrix for its generous support. CCRF Executive Director Alex Kuzma thanked Mr. LaCourciere and International Sales Director Patrick Shannon for making the donation possible. He also thanked all the engineers and

workers at Novamatrix who have produced such high-quality instruments that are greatly prized by Ukrainian doctors who serve Chernobyl victims. Mr. Kuzma also praised Novamatrix's European partners, Bob Sklar and Volodymyr Mitin of NZ Techno, for providing free on-site service and training for Ukrainian hospitals.

The announcement of CCRF's partnership with Novamatrix received extensive coverage in the New Haven Register and the Wallingford Voice.

To support the CCRF's campaign to combat infant mortality in Ukraine, donors may send tax-deductible contributions to: CCRF, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

Canadian ambassador...

(Continued from page 11)

directors' conferences, and administer a sponsorships/scholarships program for orphaned children. Help Us Help the Children consists of a dedicated core of activists, primarily volunteers, who have committed significant time and energy toward achieving the mission of the organization.

Help Us Help the Children relies on

donations from governmental, commercial, religious and private donations for its work. In particular, the contributions of the government of Canada, the foundation Dopomoha Ukraini, Ukrainian churches, Coca-Cola, women's organizations in Canada, and Ukrainian and foreign banks are acknowledged by the organization. Help Us Help the Children also works closely with the International Women's Club of Kyiv and the International Renaissance Foundation.



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

An Iwo Jima Ukrainian connection

Almost all Americans are familiar with the image of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima: if they didn't encounter the picture in a book or magazine, they may have seen the John Wayne movie "The Sands of Iwo Jima" in which the event is recreated. Most Ukrainian Americans, however, do not realize that one of their own was among the group of men who helped raise that banner (Figure 1). This celebrated event has now been reproduced twice on U.S. stamps and so this individual is the only person of Ukrainian descent to be doubly honored by the United States Postal Service (USPS).

His name was Michael Strank (biography below) and he was one of six men who raised the American flag atop a rugged mountain on Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945, during the bitter battle against the Japanese for control of that Pacific Ocean island.

Background on the Iwo Jima Operation

Iwo Jima is an eight-square-mile island of sulfuric sand and volcanic ash situated some 700 miles south of Tokyo. The Japanese installed radar stations on the island along with two airstrips that enabled them to intercept U.S. planes on bombing runs to Japan.

Tokyo knew that the Allies were interested in taking the island and so they installed a strong garrison of 21,000 troops. The island was turned into a fortress with 1,500 pillboxes and blockhouses, trenches and hundreds of connecting tunnels. The main volcanic peak, Mount Suribachi, was also honeycombed with bunkers. The soldiers serving on the island knew it would be a fight to the death with no hope of rescue by the Japanese Imperial Fleet. They were prepared to make any attempt to take the island as costly as possible.

U.S. Marines landed on February 19, 1945, after three days of continuous naval bombardment. The summit of Mount Suribachi was taken four days later, but it took almost a month to completely occupy the remainder of the island. The first American flag raised on the heights was a small one and not easily visible. A larger ensign was found and its planting is what was captured on the famous photograph.

The battle for Iwo Jima turned out to be one of the bloodiest of in the Pacific theater. Some 6,800 U.S. Marines and

sailors were killed and more than 18,000 wounded. Of the 21,000 Japanese, only 200 were taken prisoner, the remainder died fighting.

Commemorations

A photograph of the flag-raising was selected soon after as the official symbol of the Seventh War Loan Drive. The poster bearing this photo was acclaimed the greatest of the war and given the widest possible display. Vying closely in importance was the issuance on July 11, 1945, of a green, 3-cent commemorative postage stamp depicting the famous event (Figure 2). The stamp was the result of widespread popular demand, culminating in a resolution signed by 12 United States senators.

In 1946, by unanimous vote of Congress, a statue of the famous flag-raising was authorized. It was not until November 10, 1954, however, that the completed statue, officially named the Marine Corps War Memorial, was dedicated on a knoll at the north end of Arlington National Cemetery overlooking the Potomac River and Washington (Figure 3).

From 1991 to 1995 the USPS issued an annual commemorative sheetlet marking the 50th anniversary of events from World War II. Each of these five sheetlets depicted 10 significant occurrences and the one from 1995 included the capture of Iwo Jima (Figure 4). This 32-cent stamp, released on September 2, 1995, as well as all of the World War II commemorative series issues, were produced in a horizontal format and in full color.

A biography of Sgt. Michael Strank

Sgt. Michael Strank, though only 25, was the eldest and highest ranking of the six flag-raisers. He was also the only one of this renowned group in the regular Marine Corps. It is fitting indeed that he should have taken part in the famous flag-raising, for he was an ardent lover of America's emblem. When stationed at New River, N.C., with the 1st Marine Division, he would always make it a point to come to attention and salute the flag when it was being lowered for the day.

Michael Strank was born on November 10, 1919, to Vasil and Martha Strank, in Conemaugh, Pa. His parents were Ukrainian (Rusyn-Lemko) immi-



Figure 3: The Marine Corps War Memorial modeled after the famous Iwo Jima photograph. The main inscription on its base reads: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."



Figure 5: The north side view of the Marine Corps War Memorial. Sgt. Michael Strank is depicted on the far right looking upward.



Figure 1: A detail of the famous photograph of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima. Sgt. Michael Strank is third from the left (partially obscured) under the upraised hands of another soldier.



Figure 2: Widespread public demand enabled the 1945 Iwo Jima stamp to be issued less than five months after the event took place.

grants from the Priashiv (Presov) region of Czecho-Slovakia (now in eastern Slovakia). He attended the Franklin Borough, Pa., schools and graduated from high school in 1937. His favorite sports were football and basketball. Following graduation, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps at Adamana, Calif. After 18 months he returned to Pennsylvania and became a highway worker for the state.

On October 6, 1939, Strank signed up at Pittsburgh for a four-year enlistment with the regular Marine Corps. After completing his recruit training at Parris Island, S.C., he was transferred to Headquarters Company, Post Troops, at the same base, where he was promoted to private first class on July 15, 1940. A short time later, he was qualified as "marksman." On January 18, 1941, he sailed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; he served there until April 8, when his company returned to the States. Arriving at Charleston, S.C., on April 11, the company proceeded to Parris Island. In

September, the division moved to Camp Lejeune, one of the Marines' largest bases, in the vicinity of New River.

Pfc. Michael Strank was promoted to corporal on April 23, 1941, and on January 26, 1942, soon after the United States entered World War II, he was promoted again to the rank of sergeant and was made a platoon sergeant shortly thereafter. From early in April of 1942 to

(Continued on page 18)



Figure 4: The 1995 Iwo Jima stamp commemorated the 50th anniversary of the historic flag-raising.

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

it is upset by Sen. Jesse Helms' pledge to sponsor legislation to provide direct U.S. financial support to democratic forces and civil society in Belarus, the Belapan news service reported. Mr. Helms, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, promised such a move at a May 24 meeting in Washington with a Belarusian opposition delegation. The delegation consisted of Vintsuk Viachorka, head of the Belarusian Popular Front; Anatol Liabedzka, head of the United Civic Party; Pavel Zhuk, chief editor of Nasha Svaboda, an independent newspaper; and Zmitser Bandarenka, a leader of the Charter-97 human rights group. The ministry warned the United States that the pledged support constitutes interference in the internal affairs of Belarus. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Teachers demand overdue wages

KYIV – Some 2,500 teachers on May 26 picketed the government building to demand that the government pay their overdue wages, and for it to increase salaries and budget spending on education, Interfax reported. According to Leonid Sachkov, head of the Trade Union of Education Workers, the wage backlog in the sector now totals 140 million hrv (\$25.8 million). Mr. Sachkov said the average monthly wage of a teacher is 138 hrv (\$25). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian troops to be reduced

KYIV – Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council has set target figures for reducing the number of army troops, Interfax reported on May 29. The council announced that Ukraine's armed forces will total 400,000 by December 31 of this year and 375,000 by December 31, 2005. Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk said the reductions are intended to bring the Ukrainian army closer to European models. He added that army units will be made more mobile, multi-functional and efficient in combat. The numerical strength of Ukraine's army in 1997 was 476,000 troops. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Envoy comments on Chernobyl closure

KYIV – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Stephen Pifer said on May 29 that Ukraine could improve its chances to raise funds to shore up the sarcophagus over Chernobyl's destroyed reactor if Kyiv announces a date to close the entire nuclear power plant, Reuters reported. "There have already been about \$400 million raised to build a new sarcophagus over the destroyed reactor. We still need about \$350 million and I expect that my government will shortly be announcing a fairly sizable contribution," Ambassador Pifer noted. He said Chernobyl will be one of the issues on the agenda during U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Ukraine on June 5. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Crimean Communists re-elect leader

SYMFEROPOL – Crimean Communists on May 29 re-elected Crimean Parliament Chairman Leonid Hrach as first secretary of the Crimean Republican Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, Interfax reported. They also adopted a resolution obliging Crimean Communists "to expose the anti-popular essence of Ukraine's regime, free all spheres of life from oligarchic domination, replace today's 'democracy' with genuine people's democracy and gradually return social guarantees to the working people." The Crimean branch of Ukraine's Communist Party, which Mr. Hrach has led for nine years, has 8,600 members. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lithuanian cardinal dead at 80

VILNIUS – After a long illness, Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius died on May 28 at the age of 80. President Valdas Adamkus said the cardinal "can undoubtedly be considered the 20th century's model of morals, service to God, truth and humanness," the BNS press service reported. Pope John Paul II called Cardinal Sladkevicius a "diligent servant of God" in his tribute to the only Lithuanian cardinal in the last few centuries. Cardinal Sladkevicius was first ordained in 1944 and faced continuous repression and pressure from Soviet authorities, even after his elevation to cardinal 12 years ago. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poll shows media preferences

KYIV – According to a poll carried out by GfK-USM for the Institute for Politics, residents of Kyiv have the most trust in the newspapers Argumenty i Fakty, cited by 59 percent of respondents, and Khreschatyk, 52 percent. The least trusted are Viechernie Vesti, 2 percent, and Kievskie Vedomosti, 1 percent. The poll showed that the most influential newspaper is Fakty, cited by 65 percent of respondents, RIO with 40 percent and Kievskie Vedomosti with 32 percent. Eleven percent of those polled do not read newspapers at all and 37 percent were attracted to Russian publications. The most popular TV channels were Inter, cited by 82 percent of respondents, and Studio 1+1, 77 percent. The third was Novyi Kanal with 49 percent. The leader among Kyiv's radio stations was Russkoie Radio with 26 percent. The experts stated that the trust in radio in Kyiv is higher than that in newspapers, but much lower than that in television. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine to destroy all strategic bombers

KYIV – Defense Ministry official Volodymyr Shapovalov told Interfax on May 25 that Ukraine will dismantle its last 15 Soviet-era strategic bombers and 354 cruise missiles by the end of 2001. Mr. Shapovalov added that Kyiv will also destroy five TU-95 aircraft that Russia had sent to Ukraine for repairs but failed to pay for that service. According to Mr. Shapovalov, Ukraine will sign an agreement with two U.S. companies in May on destroying 46 SS-24 intercontinental missiles and their launching complexes by the end of 2005. "The U.S. government guarantees sponsorship of all work until the end regardless of their duration," Mr. Shapovalov noted. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lazarenko hearing postponed again

KYIV – The next hearing of the political asylum case of Ukraine's ex-Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko was postponed to July 24, stated Mr. Lazarenko's lawyer, Maryna Dolgopola. She added that another delay in the case proves the lack of evidence to support Mr. Lazarenko's extradition. Ms. Dolgopola stressed that the hearing postponement was not on Mr. Lazarenko's initiative. She added that Ukraine's Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko "made false claims in stating that his office has solid proof" in the Lazarenko case. (Eastern Economist)

Yuschenko in Kaniv for memorial

KANIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko on May 21 attended a memorial service commemorating the 139th anniversary of the relocation of the ashes of Ukrainian national poet Taras Shevchenko from St. Petersburg to Kaniv. He also participated in a ceremony consecrating the site of a monument to Kozak leader Ivan Pidkova. The monument will be unveiled on October 14 and will be the first of the Kozak Hall of Fame to be built on the initiative of Lviv citizens and Shevchenko National Reserve employees. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation names executive and associate directors

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF) has named Maria Salemi its first executive director and Borys Bodnaruk an associate director. UCEF is an international non-profit organization helping to rebuild the Catholic Church and Catholic educational institutions in Ukraine.

“The dramatic success of our first three years, particularly in having raised more than \$1 million in 1999, has led to a need for more executive staff,” says Jeffrey Wills, UCEF president. “I am pleased to have these two talented individuals here to move our mission forward.”

As executive director, Ms. Salemi will direct overall operations of the foundation, including administrative and management initiatives, donor relations, communications and public relations programs. She brings nearly 25 years of experience in these areas in both the nonprofit and for profit sectors. Most recently she served as director of external relations for the National Equity Fund, a non-profit low-income housing organization and, previously, she served as director of communications for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

“Working with Ukrainian and Roman Catholics to develop religious and educational opportunities is a privilege and a challenge. I am pleased to be part of these efforts,” says Ms. Salemi.

As associate director, Mr. Bodnaruk will maintain and develop relations with

donors, manage UCEF volunteer programs and oversee Ukrainian language programs. As a Ukrainian-American, Mr. Bodnaruk adds fluency in the Ukrainian language and a knowledge of Ukrainian customs and culture. From 1997 through 1999 he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Dobrotvir, Ukraine, where he specialized in English and business education. There he co-founded a Rotary Club, operated community development projects and created a small business development center.

“I have been blessed to be able to continue my commitment to Ukraine, this time by involving others in assisting Ukraine from the United States,” reflected Mr. Bodnaruk.

The Catholic Church in Ukraine operated underground from 1946 until the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, when Ukraine achieved independence. Helping to rebuild this country’s religious and educational infrastructures, UCEF was founded in 1997 to teach Americans about the needs of Catholic education in Ukraine. UCEF operates several international programs to: develop Ukrainian Catholic seminarians; educate students in a Catholic school setting; provide cultural exchange opportunities; and develop educational and public awareness resources.

For more information about UCEF, contact Ms. Salemi, executive director, UCEF, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL, 60622; telephone, (773) 235-8462.

Michigan veterans...

(Continued from page 4)

Michigan Posts 36 and 101. Veterans from 22 other UAV posts in America will send their delegates to Warren, for convention deliberations. The convention committee will serve under the command of Senior Vice-Commander Oleh Karanec of Post 101. Other members of the committee include Oleh Cieply, vice-chairman and also Post 101 Commander; Victoria Maksimowich, secretary; Mike Ogrodnik, financial officer; Stephen M. Wichar Sr., Michigan state commander and public relations/publicity officer; Roman Maximowich and Roman Petraszczuk, convention journal publication; Myroslaw Pryjma, Stefan Fedenko and Myron Skorupa, banquet; Michael Shumylo, reservations/registration; Nikola Lapajenko, military affairs; and Irene Pryjma; ladies auxiliary.

The highlight of this weekend will be a gala military banquet and ball. In an innovative arrangement, the speakers will present a double keynote address on a “Medical

Mission to Ukraine.” This will be delivered by Col. Askhold Mosijczuk, M.D., Medical Corps, U.S.A. Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington; and Maj. Roman G. Golash, USAR, 801st Combat Support Hospital, Sheridan Reserve Center. Both speakers are members of the Ukrainian American Military Association (UAMA), which is affiliated as a support organization to the Ukrainian American Veterans.

The Zoloti Dzvony (Golden Bells) song ensemble under the baton of Olga Dubrivny-Solovey, will host the Friday hospitality night and render the national anthems at the convention banquet. The installation of national officers for 2000-2001 will include special ceremonies, preceded by the U.S. Army Honor Guard. The banquet hall will be bedecked with a circle of regulation state flags, and the military ball will feature the popular Country Club Orchestra of Silven Kolytk.

The Ukrainian American Veterans will also honor Ukrainians who served – many of them paying the supreme sacrifice – in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.



The UAV 53rd Convention Committee: (from left) Roman Maximowich, Myroslaw Pryjma, Stefan Fedenko, Stephen Wichar, Oleh Karanec, Chairman Oleh Cieply, Myron Skorupa, Mike Ogrodnik and Roman Petraszczuk.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Playoffs a memorable time for Bossy

Mike Bossy loved this time of the hockey season. Especially when his team was playing well.

"Going into the playoffs, it was a great feeling when the team was playing its best," said the retired Hall of Famer who helped the New York Islanders win four straight Stanley Cups (1980-1983). "When the team was playing well, you always felt comfortable doing the things you did best."

And what Mike Bossy did best was score goals. He had 573 goals in 752 NHL games for a goals-per-game average of .762 - second-best in league history behind only Mario Lemieux's .823.

Perhaps even more remarkable is his 85 goals in 129 playoff games, an average of .658 per game, also second only to Lemieux (.787). And, Bossy's three-season playoff total of 51 goals from 1980-81 through 1982-1983 is the most ever by an NHLer.

Bossy, now 43 and living in his hometown of Montreal, takes pride in how often he scored at the most difficult time of the season.

"It's tougher to score in the sense you're playing the same team night after night for between four and seven games," Bossy said. "Defensive systems get a little tighter, individual checking gets a little tighter."

Bossy's career was a masterpiece - a paint-by-numbers masterpiece, that is. His career wasn't terribly lengthy - only 10 seasons before chronic back woes forced him into retirement - but the numbers he put up were truly memorable.

Note the following:

- an NHL-record 53 goals in his rookie season with the Islanders;
- an NHL-record 50-plus goals in each of his first nine seasons in the league;
- league-leading goal totals of 69 and 68 in 1978-1979 and 1980-1981;
- 50 goals in 50 games (1980-1981).

The one number that seems odd in Bossy's career, given all he accomplished, is No. 15. That's where he was picked in the 1977 draft despite putting up big numbers in the Quebec Junior League. Seems NHL clubs were worried about his ability to check, which is a little like worrying if a super model can cook.

"I met a guy recently who shook my hand and said to me, 'I just shook hands with the softest hands ever in the NHL,'" Bossy said. "I said to him, 'Well, you just shook my hand, how did it feel?' He said, 'Pretty hard, actually.' I said to him, 'Hard, but supple.' That's what my hands are."

Bossy dabbled in the media as a radio talk show host after retiring in 1987, but didn't relish the notion of getting up at 4:30 a.m. the rest of his life.

He recently opened a restaurant in Montreal called Mike Bossy's and he's also the director of public relations for Humpty Dumpty potato chips. And, along with Bobby Orr and Canadian women's star Cassie Campbell, Bossy runs hockey clinics sponsored by General Motors, under the banner of Chevrolet Safe and Fun.

(Bossy quotes thanks to The Hockey News' senior writer Mike Brophy.)

(Continued on page 17)



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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 16)

Ukrainian Lightning strikes

The Tampa Bay Lightning signed 25-year-old goaltender Dieter Kochan, who had been playing with Binghamton of the United Hockey League. Kochan made his NHL debut against Dallas on March 28. Kochan, Vancouver's fourth-round draft choice in the 1993 entry draft, allowed three goals on six shots in less than seven minutes before being pulled. He returned to the game in the second period and stopped 11 of 12 shots in a 4-2 loss. Kochan had a 29-11-3 record, 2.59 goals against average and .922 save percentage for Binghamton this past regular season. In call-ups to Grand Rapids and Orlando of the International Hockey League and Springfield of the American Hockey League, he was 6-1-1 with a 1.32 GAA and a .948 SP. Kochan is the 21st player to graduate from the UHL to the NHL, but the first to go directly from the one league to the other. ... By playing Kochan, the Lightning had used six goalies and 52 players this past season. Only the 1991-1992 Boston Bruins, who used 55 players, were believed to have dressed more skaters in a single season.

UKRAINIAN UTTERINGS: Caps' left-winger Steve Konowalchuk got by on three hours' sleep over a 48-hour period while his wife, Leah, was in labor with the couple's first son, Cole. Sixteen hours after the tot's birth, dad scored the tying goal to send a Caps-Panthers game into overtime. ...Toronto's Dmitri Khristich lost eight teeth and required seven root canals after he was hit in the

mouth by a puck fired by teammate Igor Korolev in a game against Vancouver. The hard-luck forward returned two games later and recorded a goal and an assist against Boston before leaving that game with a groin injury. ...Caps' right-winger Peter Bondra moved past retired Bengt Gustafsson into seventh place for most games played as a Cap at 630. ...Red Wings forward Joey Kocur, who did not play this past regular season following hernia surgery, was not available for the playoffs. The 34-year-old may retire at the end of the Stanley Cup playoffs when his contract expires. ...Devils' defenseman Kenny Daneyko entered the post-season as the only player to appear in all 108 (and counting) of the franchise's playoff games.

1999-2000 Ukrainian NHLers' salaries:

Tkachuk	\$4,300,000
Bondra	\$3,870,362
Zhitnik	\$2,500,000
Leschyshyn	\$1,800,000
Daneyko	\$1,731,137
Matvichuk	\$1,700,000
Tverdovsky	\$1,700,000
Andreychuk	\$1,200,000
Nikolishin	\$1,025,000
Konowalchuk	\$850,000
Khristich	\$840,000
Berehowsky	\$800,000
Belak	\$580,000
Hrkac	\$550,000
Halko	\$450,000
Olczyk	\$400,000
Lukowich	\$350,000

Final Ukrainian scoring leaders:

Player	Team	GP	A	PTS	PIM
Oleg Tverdovsky	Anaheim	82	36	15	30
Keith Tkachuk	Phoenix	50	21	43	82
Steve Konowalchuk	Washington	82	27	43	80
Peter Bondra	Washington	62	17	38	30
Dave Andreychuk	Boston - Colorado	77	16	36	30
Drake Berehowsky	Nashville	79	20	32	87
Dmitri Khristich	Toronto	53	18	30	24
Richard Matvichuk	Dallas	70	21	25	42
Andrei Nikolishin	Washington	76	14	25	28
Glen Metropolit	Washington	30	13	19	4
Tony Hrkac	Anaheim	67	9	13	8
Alexei Zhitnik	Buffalo	74	11	13	95
Steve Halko	Carolina	58	8	8	25
Radoslav Suchy	Phoenix	60	6	95	16
Ken Daneyko	New Jersey	78	6	25	98
Ed Olczyk	Chicago	33	4	16	12
Brad Lukowich	Dallas	60	4	98	50
Zenith Komarniski	Vancouver	18	2	12	8
Vitaly Vishnevski	Anaheim	31	2	50	26
Wade Belak	Calgary	40	2	8	122
Curtis Leschyshyn	Carolina	53	2	26	14
Greg Andrusak	Toronto	9	1	122	4
Mike Maneluk	Philadelphia	1	0	14	4
Lee Sorochan	Calgary	1	0	4	0
Yevgeny Namestnikov	Nashville	2	0	4	2

Schedule of Ukrainian Tennis Tournaments 2000

- July 1-4 – Ukrainian Olympics Tourney, Tryzubivka
- August 5-6 – Doubles, Soyuzivka
- September 2-4 – USCAK Nationals, Soyuzivka
- September 30-October 1 – Fall Tournament, Tryzubivka





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40	\$13.19	\$21.44	\$29.69	\$15.19	\$24.94	\$34.69
45	\$17.19	\$27.00	\$39.69	\$21.19	\$35.44	\$49.69
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Warren high school inducts honor society members



Students at the National Honor Society induction ceremonies of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School.

by Michaeline Weigle

WARREN, Mich. — The Taras Shevchenko Branch of the National Honor Society (NHS), which is based at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School, held its annual induction ceremony of new members on Thursday, March 30 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. The festivities began with a divine liturgy celebrated by the pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Rev. Basil Salkovski, OSBM and associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Rev. Daniel Schaikoski, OSBM. The church was filled to capacity with members of the NHS, members of the honor roll and their parents, faculty and friends.

The Rev. Salkovski said "We begin to harvest the fruits of our labor," as he congratulated the parents and those who participated in the process of educating our youth.

Following the divine liturgy, 22 new members made their pledge in accordance

with the theme "noblesse oblige." NHS members are selected on the basis of scholarship, character, service and leadership and a 3.6 cumulative honors average. NHS officers, President Lee Cole, Vice-president Adriana Karanec, Treasurer Anna Koniuch and Secretary Anne Maziak lit candles representing the flame of knowledge, scholarship, character, leadership and service.

A dinner reception for NHS members, honor roll students, their families and faculty of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School followed. As master of ceremonies, Ms. Cole introduced associate pastor, the Rev. Schaikoski, who offered grace. Senior Marko Melymuka addressed his fellow classmates in Ukrainian.

IC High School Principal Michaeline Weigle offered congratulatory remarks to NHS and honor roll members as did Parents Club President Juli Maziak and School Board Chairman Andrew Haliw.

A closing prayer and greetings from the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church concluded the ceremony.

An Iwo Jima...

(Continued from page 13)

February of 1944, Strank served with various units in many areas of the Pacific. Although his four-year enlistment expired on October 5, 1943, he extended it the following day for two more years. On February 14, 1944, Sgt. Strank returned to the United States and received a 30-day furlough. Upon his return to Camp Elliott, San Diego, he was reassigned to Company "E," Second Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division. After six months of hard training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., the company was transferred to Hilo, Hawaii, for further exercises including amphibious landings. In January of 1945, the company crossed the Pacific visiting several islands enroute, including the Marshalls and the Marianas.

On February 19, 1945, Sgt. Strank was a member of the invasion force that landed on Iwo Jima. After fighting for four days and nights with very little sleep on

that sizzling, barren island, he, along with four other Marines and one of his company's corps men, raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi, the main stronghold of enemy artillery on the southern part of the island (Figure 5).

Following the memorable flag-raising event, Sgt. Strank continued in combat on the northernmost part of the island. On March 1, while fighting under heavy enemy fire, he was mortally wounded in the neck and chest by artillery fire. He was buried in Plot 3, Row 5, Grave 694 in the 5th Marine Division Cemetery, with the last rites of the Catholic Church. The famous Pennsylvania Marine had served 30 months overseas and was serving his third tour of foreign duty when death came.

Sgt. Strank earned the following medals and decorations: Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation with one star (for Iwo Jima), American Defense Service Medal with base clasp (for service in Cuba before the war), the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

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Houston branch of the UNWLA holds 20th annual Easter Bazaar

HOUSTON – Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 118 of Houston held its 20th annual Ukrainian Easter Bazaar on Sunday, April 16, at the Ukrainian parish hall on the grounds of the Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrova) Ukrainian Catholic Church.

When the doors opened to a waiting crowd at 11:30 a.m., the guests were greeted with a bright and colorful spring-time display of Easter bunnies, flowered wreaths, embroidered "rushnyky" (Ukrainian ritual cloths) and a warm aroma of delicious foods and pastries wafting from the kitchen. A cultural and historical display created by the branch's past president, Danuta Peleschak, provided information about the UNWLA and its local branch.

Craft vendors included pysanky artists Daria Byrd, Olga Dub, Elizabeth Goulytch and Olya Holowka, who provided a beautiful assortment of Ukrainian Easter eggs to sell. Hand-made embroidered pillows and other items were for sale at Larissa Streeter's table and also at the tables of UNWLA members, Justyna Uschak and Tatiana Hirka. Anne Crockett brought her silver jewelry to the bazaar this year, and Ms. Myndiuk displayed and sold her colorful assortment of beaded necklaces. A new vendor at the bazaar, Vasyl Goulytch, brought and sold his beautiful hand-carved wooden boxes.

The newly elected president of Branch 118, Martha Noukas, provided a large assortment of pysanky kits, dyes, cassette tapes, greeting cards, recipe books, posters, ceramics and Easter items for sale at the UNWLA booth. Ms. Noukas has been the chairwoman for the Easter

Bazaar for the past several years and has been responsible for the publicity for the event. She had two young assistants, Julianna Villacorta and Olya Seniw, helping her at the UNWLA booth this year.

Branch Vice-President Halya Seniw was in charge of the pastry and paska sales, where she had no less than 10 women helping her with the sale of those goods. Among those helping Ms. Seniw, were Olya Hirka, Christine Villacorta and Nadia Buchai, wife of newly appointed honorary consul of Ukraine for Houston and Texas, Greg Buchai (who was also in attendance at the bazaar). Evgenia Balaban, Anna Douchynksa, Christine Puzyk and Denise Sroka oversaw the kitchen area and made sure that the dinner lines ran smoothly.

Guests were invited to try their hand at the art of pysanky-making. Participants of all ages gathered onto the stage where pysanky demonstrators Maria Bilyk King, Nadia Krebs and Ella Goulytch helped eager students with their kistky, eggs and wax.

Another highlight at the bazaar was the newly completed Ukrainian quilt that was on display. Eighteen members of Branch 118 embroidered pieces for the quilt, which was finished just in time for the bazaar.

The children's craft table was a huge success, keeping Branch Treasurer Vanessa Horodecky busy cutting paper and ribbon, as the children made paper wreaths and pompom bunnies. A coloring contest resulted in extraordinary works of art by children of all ages. Door prizes were given away on the hour and various

(Continued on page 23)



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Bishop Moskal celebrates liturgy at correctional institution

MANSFIELD, Ohio – The Catholic community of the Mansfield Correctional Institution (MANCI) celebrated the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom with Bishop Robert Moskal of the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, Parma, on May 6. This was the first visit and liturgical celebration at the Ohio state close-security prison by a bishop of an Eastern Church.

The Byzantine-rite liturgy was entirely sung, except for the recitation of the Nicene Creed. Msgr. Peter Waslo, vicar general, concelebrated the liturgy, and Msgr. Thomas Sayuk, chancellor, assisted. The Apostolic reading was canted by Oles Cheren.

In his homily Bishop Moskal talked of the "great gift of the Easter Resurrection." He said, "Jesus transforms our lives no matter where we are. The Holy Spirit is conscious of every human being and is prompting motive. We must learn to love each other: to feed the hungry, visit the prisoner and care for the sick. And how do

we know we have eternal life? If we have loved the brethren."

Bishop Moskal told the community that "the first canonized saint is Dismas, the good thief. Hanging on a cross beside Jesus, he was told 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' This is our great joy," said Bishop Moskal, "Christ is risen!"

The prisoners and visitors comprising the community received Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine for this special liturgy.

Along with the Ukrainian clergy and prisoners, visitors celebrating the divine liturgy were the Rev. Lawrence Scharf, Sisters of Notre Dame and parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Monroeville; Deacon Russell Shoemaker of St. Mary of the Snows Parish in Mansfield; and parishioners of Resurrection Parish in Lexington.

Following the liturgy, the community enjoyed a reception hosted by the prisoners. Bishop Moskal remained to field questions about the Byzantine tradition and differences between rites.



Bishop Robert Moskal (second from left), as well as (from left) Msgr. Thomas A. Sayuk, Msgr. Peter D. Waslo and Deacon Russell M. Shoemaker are welcomed at the Mansfield Correctional Institution.

Houston branch...

(Continued from page 21)

prizes were raffled off by UNWLA member Pamela Uschak and her two daughters, Hanna and Mary.

Refreshments were served by Victor Villacorta, his son Adrian and their friend Mannie. The young men in the community helped direct traffic as the guests arrived on the church grounds. Thanks to Walter Puzyk and his sons, there were no parking problems.

The ladies of UNWLA Branch 118 were truly grateful for the many volunteers who helped them prepare for the bazaar. The warm, sunny weather resulted in a huge turnout, with visitors from as far as Dallas and Galveston.

This bazaar has been the main fundraiser for Branch 118 over the years, and has enabled the branch to sponsor two student scholarships, provide medical assistance to a girl in Ukraine that needed help with a spinal defect and to provide assistance to three orphanages in Ukraine.



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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 127

As of June 1, 2000, the secretary's duties of Branch 127 were assumed by Mr. Yuri Darmograj.

We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below:

Mr. Yuri Darmograj
13 Royal Palm Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
(716) 685-1505

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 233

As of June 1, 2000, the secretary's duties of Branch 233 were assumed by Mrs. Julia Kryschal.

We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below:

Mrs. Mrs. Julia Kryschal
3908 Pearl Ave.
Lorain, OH 44055
(440) 277-8440

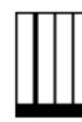
TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 467

Please be advised that Branch 467 has merged with Branch 113 as of June 1, 2000. All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Donald J. Raishart.

Mr. Donald J. Raishart, c/o St. John Branch 113, 315 Dorothy St., Derry, PA 15627
(724) 694-9601

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ALL ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ONE WEEK PRIOR TO PUBLICATION: FRIDAY NOON.

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2. All advertising correspondence should be directed to: Mrs. Maria Oscislowski, Advertising Manager, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; Tel.: (973) 292-9800 (ext. 3040); Fax: (973) 644-9510
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 10
NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society is holding a lecture by Dr. Yaropk Lassowsky, professor of music, Clarion University, on the topic "Pikkardiiska Tertsiia' and Popular Music in Ukraine Today." The presentation will be held in the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 11
HAMPTONBURG, N.Y.: The annual pilgrimage to the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery will begin with divine liturgy celebrated at noon and the parastas at 2 p.m. Panakhydy at individual graves will follow. Bishop Basil H. Losten will officiate at the divine liturgy and the parastas. For more information contact the Chancery Office, (203) 324-7698.

Saturday, June 17
NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society will hold a presentation of the just published book "Pro tse i te" (About This and That: Collected Short Stories and Essays) by Olha Kuzmowycz, editor and columnist (O-KA), Svoboda. The presentation will be done by Dr. Larissa M.L. Onyshkevych, NTSh president, with the author also address-

ing the gathering on the occasion of the book launch. The event will be held in the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 5 p.m.

ADVANCE NOTICE
Monday, June 19
EAST KILDONAN, Manitoba: St. Vladimir's College, an accredited boarding high school of the Ukrainian Catholic Rite in Roblin, Manitoba, will appear, as part of its yearly concert tour, at the Holy Eucharist Parish Center, 460 Munroe Ave., at 7:30 p.m. The concert program will feature religious hymns, Ukrainian folk songs as well as Ukrainian folk dance. For additional information call the college, (204) 937-2173.

Wednesday, June 21
DAUPHIN, Manitoba: St. Vladimir's College, an accredited boarding high school of the Ukrainian Catholic Rite in Roblin, Manitoba, will appear, as part of its yearly concert tour, at the hall of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Resurrection, 801 Jackson St. S., at 7:30 p.m. The concert program will feature religious hymns, Ukrainian folk songs as well as Ukrainian folk dance. For additional information call the college, (204) 937-2173.

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 (\$10 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 \$10 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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