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The Ukrainian Weekly

Kateryna Yushchenko and TNK-BP

KYIV – First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko of Ukraine 3000 International Charity Fund teamed up with oil company TNK-BP in donating nearly $200,000 worth of oncology equipment and medicine to the children’s unit of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences’ Oncology Institute.

At a December 23 ceremony at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Mrs. Yushchenko handed a certificate for the new equipment to Hryhorii Klymnyuk, Ukraine’s chief child oncologist.

“For the first time, authorities, the business sector and charity organizations have turned their attention to the most unfortunate,” Mr. Klymnyuk said.

Among the technology received by the Oncology Institute was a device bought in the U.S. that enables doctors to diagnose cancer within an hour, as well as a fastening device to secure children during laser therapy.

Government hospitals have never had such high-technology equipment, Mr. Klymnyuk said. It helps doctors prescribe necessary treatment in time and therefore avoid various complications, he said.

About 1,000 children in Ukraine are diagnosed with cancer each year, according to official government statistics.

More than 350 children undergo medical treatment at the Oncology Institute annually, or about 70 percent of Ukrainian children being treated for cancer, hospital officials said.

It was the first time that the Ukraine 3000 Fund and TNK-BP teamed up to support a project.

(Continued on page 22)

Verkhovna Rada passes 2006 budget by a single vote

KYIV – By a single vote, the Verkhovna Rada on December 20 passed Ukraine’s 2006 budget, which was amended by a 67 percent increase in government revenue from the prior year, according to Finance Minister Viktor Pryanikov.

The jump in tax income revealed the progress made by the Ukrainian government to collect taxes and import duties, and to ensure that citizens pay their fair share.

It also revealed that businesses have started to slowly report more of their profit.

“There was improved reporting from local companies,” Mr. Dmytrenko said.

“As a result, the tax base increased because businesses paid higher taxes.”

The 2006 budget plans for $25 billion in revenues and about $27 billion in spending, amounting to an estimated $2.6 billion deficit.

Significant amendments are certain, government and private economists said.

The International Monetary Fund recently recommended that Ukraine’s budget deficit not exceed 2.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product, a goal which the government’s economists will try to adhere to.

They have projected the deficit at 2.5 percent of GDP, but that is based on a very optimistic projection that Ukraine’s GDP will grow by 7 percent next year.

The sale of the Kryvorizhstal Steel Company recently did not contribute to the revenue increase because privatizations are not included when accounting for government revenues, Mr. Dmytrenko said.

Instead, it was the Yushchenko government’s decision to eliminate the free economic zones – which offered certain companies special privileges over others – that most significantly improved tax revenues, he said.

Rather than drawing in foreign investment, it was mainly Ukrainian companies that invested in those zones and move their profits from Ukraine to offshore zones in order to avoid taxation, he said.

The Stop Contraband program launched by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko resulted in an 80 percent increase in import duty collection as well, Mr. Dmytrenko said.

Stop Contraband was among the Yushchenko government’s first major initiatives. It was launched in late February in order to stem the flow of illegal imports and exports with the goal of more effective taxation and collection of revenues.

Another noteworthy success of the budget was that for the first time in many years, it was free from the large-scale corruption schemes that former President Leonid Kuchma’s government was notorious for, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

For example, credits with favored companies without collateral have stopped, he said.

Mr. Kuchma’s budgets set aside enormous sums of money for its State Administration of Affairs, a bureaucracy that was directly under the former president’s control.

“The parliament didn’t control that sizable part of the budget, whose sole purpose was for Kuchma to retain power,” said Dr. Sveti Taran, director of the Kyiv-based International Democracy Institute, which is financed by mid-level Ukrainian businesses and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

“Now this sizable part of the budget is absent,” Mr. Taran said.

For example, credits with the 25/26 vote for the budget revealed that President Viktor Yushchenko’s Our Ukraine coalition is just barely forming a parliamentary majority.

The budget was fully opposed by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which is behaving as much of an opponent of Our Ukraine as the Party of Regions and Communist Party.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc’s 37 national deputies abstained or were absent from voting.

(Continued on page 19)
**ANALYSIS**

**Will Russian-Ukrainian gas row go to Swedish arbitration?**

*by Jan Maksymiuk*

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Despite an apparent war of nerves behind the current Russian-Ukrainian disagreement over gas transit across Ukraine in 2006, official Kyiv has been showing a fairly relaxed attitude in public. The rationale is that gas prices next year be increased more than fourfold from the current level of $50 per 1,000 cubic meters.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said earlier this week that Gazprom is taking an “irresponsible approach” in demanding such a price hike. “I cannot comment on the statements of Gazprom officials that the price [for gas in Ukraine] will be increased to $230 for 1,000 cubic meters. Why not $500 or $700? You know, this is not a basis for a political dialogue,” Mr. Yushchenko said on December 20, 2005. “Those people who believe it is possible to do it [introduce new gas prices] starting January 1 – I wouldn’t call them professionals.”

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, who failed to find a way out of the gas impasse in talks with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov in Moscow on December 19, 2005, did not seem to be particularly worried. He told journalists in Kyiv the following day that the new gas price proposed by Moscow was “taken from the top of one’s head” and cannot be discussed seri- ously.

Moreover, Mr. Yekhanurov assured reporters that Moscow is not going to break the existing gas delivery and trans- mit contract with Ukraine. “We have a contract [in force] and all issues connected with any problems, can be settled in the Stockholm court [Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce],” he added.

What contract was Mr. Yekhanurov talking about? And why was he apparently confident that Ukraine could prevail in a potential arbitration case in Stockholm?

Nafizhov Ukrayiny, Ukraine’s gas transport company, announced on December 7, 2005, that it has a document in which Gazprom obliged itself to supply Ukraine with gas in 2005-2009 at $50 per 1,000 cubic meters as payment for Russian gas transit across Ukraine in that period.

Nafizhov specified that the document at issue is a 2004 addendum to the 2002 con- tract with Gazprom on conditions and vol- umes of Russian gas transit across Ukraine in 2002-2003. The addendum, Nafizhov said, explicitly fixes the gas transit tariff at $1.99 per 1.000 cubic meters per 100 kilo- meters and the gas price supplied to Ukraine as payment for transit at $50 per 1,000 cubic meters in 2005-2009.

Gazprom immediately reacted to this Ukrainian assertion with a statement say- ing that Russian gas shipment to and across Ukraine, in accordance with an intergovernmental accord of 2001, is pre- (Continued on page 29)

**Kyiv brings Black Sea Fleet into unresolved gas dispute**

*by Valentines Mite*

RFE/RL Newsline

In the midst of ongoing gas talks, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko suggested on December 20, 2005, that the Kremlin should pay more to base its Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. Russia currently pays $95 million annually to sta- tion the fleet – left over from Soviet times – in the port of Sevastopol.

Many analysts are doubtful that Ukraine playing the Black Sea Fleet card will have much effect. Nikolai Petrov, a political analyst at the Carnegie Center in Moscow, said the Black Sea Fleet has already lost its strategic importance for Russia.

On the one hand, during the 15 years that Ukraine has existed as an independ- ent state, the Black Sea Fleet has on the whole lost its importance as a military- strategic unit,” Mr. Petrov said. “On the other hand, Ukraine has used the fleet as an instrument of pressure many times in the past as a means of pressure on the part of a foreign state.”

Nevertheless, Mr. Yushchenko said that there exists as an independent state, the Black Sea Fleet has on the whole lost its importance as a military- strategic unit,” Mr. Petrov said. “On the other hand, Ukraine has used the fleet as an instrument of pressure many times in the past as a means of pressure on the part of a foreign state.”

One might think along the same lines. Tatjana Stanovaya, who heads the analytical department at the Center for Political Technologies, a Moscow-based think tank, said strategic considerations play a secondary role in the Black Sea Fleet.

“In this case, the psychological angle is of utmost importance. If Russia is forced to move the fleet out, it will be a serious blow to Russia’s image, it will discredit Russian foreign policy and it will be considered to be a serious set back for President Vladimir Putin’s policy in Russia,” Ms. Stanovaya said.

However, Mr. Petrov said that the Ukrainian side will probably be reluctant to put the Sevastopol base issue on the table. “Kyiv cannot link these two prob- lems [gas and the base] in the negotia- tions with Gazprom,” she said. “Only Yushchenko can link these topics in negotiations with Putin. So far, the [gas] negotiations haven’t reached such a high level.”

Some analysts have said that, in addi- tion to raising the Black Sea Fleet issue, Ukraine could take advantage of other Russian vulnerabilities – such as its mili- tary’s reliance on two early warning radar stations, located in the Ukrainian cities of Mukachiv and Sevastopol.

The two countries also have a high level of military dependency – some- thing that Ukraine could use as leverage. The Russian military still relies on the Ukrainian defense industry for spare parts and for the maintenance of equipment designed and manufactured in Ukraine during Soviet times. Such equip- ment includes intercontinental ballistic missiles and Antonov planes. Ukraine also supplies air-to-air missiles to Russia, gas-turbine engines for some warships, and engines for almost all Russian-made helicopters. But Mr. Petrov, the Carnegie Center analyst, thinks it is unlikely that Ukraine will exert such pressure – as it could be seen as a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P. O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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(Continued on page 29)
ONE YEAR AFTER: Residents of Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, reflect on Orange Revolution

by Yana Sedova

Kyiv Press Bureau

“One Year After” is a four-part series examining the lives of Ukrainians one year after the Orange Revolution. The third part features Yevhen Nystchuk, 34, a Kyiv resident, husband and parent of one son.

KYIV – Yevhen Nystchuk felt terrified those few days after the first round of voting during last year’s presidential election, when the Central Election Commission (CEC) had awarded Viktor Yushchenko far more votes than Viktor Yankovych.

“I went into this panic,” Mr. Nystchuk said. “And it wasn’t only me.”

That moment, the professional actor began thinking about whether he would be able to continue his career in the theaters of Ukraine, especially after having worked for the Yushchenko campaign as an event and concert organizer.

“At that point, we thought (the elections) will certainly be falsified,” he said.

“Everyone was convinced of this. But then came the thought: Will the people rise up or not?”

Even then, Mr. Nystchuk had no idea that he would eventually be on stage at the very heart of Ukraine – Independence Square – and become the irreplaceable actor.

“I guess it’s hard for them to accept the reality of Ukraine’s complete independence,” he continued. “I am convinced that Russia and Ukraine should have good relations. They are very close and the Revolution convinced him that Ukraine as a mature and independent European country, not a province.

“Ukraine is a young country, so it needs to be free and strong,” he said.

Organized with the National Institute of Mass Information, the project arranged month-long internships at leading Ukrainian newspapers, radio and television stations for journalism students from different regions of Ukraine.

In between the speeches and songs, he calmed a tense crowd that was often in fear for what their own government might do against them.

The Revolution convinced him that Ukraine had finally identified itself as an independent country, a notion he felt had not fully developed until then.

As an actor, however, he felt that the revolution was only a small step in changing what is a poorly supported and sparsely-financed arts scene in Kyiv, particularly with regard to film and theater.

The role Mr. Nystchuk had played at the revolutionary stage brought him popularity among common people, but did little to help him as a film and theater actor. At present Mr. Nystchuk survives mostly due to hosting concerts and festivities throughout Ukraine.

The project helped enhance regional cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova on integrated water resources management and discussed outstanding transboundary issues in the Dniester river basin.

Supported by the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the project, “Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River,” was implemented with the help of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Environmental officials of different levels, local authorities, representatives of the civil society and foreign donors that participated in the project, discussed the next steps in achieving sustainable development of the river basin.

“The project helped enhance regional cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova on integrated water resources management and discuss outstanding transboundary issues in the Dniester river basin,” said Raul Dussba of the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. “It also served as a forum for environmental agencies working in the field.”

Under the project, a diagnostic study of the river basin was produced by national and international experts, which incorporated a number of recommendations for boosting environmental cooperation in the region.

The Dniester (as it is known in Ukrainian), one of the major rivers in Eastern Europe and an important source of drinking water, is facing serious environmental problems. The river is shared between Ukraine and Moldova, including the conflict-ridden Transdniestrian region, which makes it difficult to achieve a coherent approach to solving the existing problems and improve river management, noted a press release from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

OSCE helps implement Dniester River basin project

OSCE awards top Ukrainian journalism students

OSCE coordinator presents assessment of Ukrainian adoption mechanism

KYIV – Strengthening Ukraine’s adoption system was the focus of a seminar held on December 12, 2005, in Kyiv by the Office of the OSCE Project Coordinator and the Ukrainian Family, Youth and Sports Ministry, at which the findings of an assessment were presented.

Senior Ukrainian state officials and experts reviewed the assessment and made policy recommendations on protecting families, officials, and the adoption system itself. Allegations of trafficking and exploitation of Ukrainian children through illegal adoption schemes, as well as issues surrounding the 1993 Hague Convention on child protection, were also discussed.

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This report assists Ukrainian authorities in identifying the issues that need to be addressed in child welfare and protection policy, in order for the national adoption system to comply with international children’s rights and protection standards,” said Cordula Thone, senior program officer for the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. “It proposes legislative and other initiatives to that end.”

The assessment, which was carried out by experts from the Geneva-based International Social Services, had examined the current Ukrainian legislation and practices for domestic and international adoption.

OSCE helps implement Dniester River basin project

OSCE awards top Ukrainian journalism students

Creative Agency
Art Veles became the single event management company that took on the task of organizing Mr. Yushchenko’s campaign during the 2002 parliamentary elections.

Art Veles alone was responsible for his 2004 presidential campaign, and it is now organizing the meetings and forums for

(Continued on page 10)
Hollywood Trident Foundation marks fifth year of activity

by Andrij J. Semotnik

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. – The Hollywood Trident Foundation met on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at the UCLA Faculty Center to celebrate its fifth anniversary. The meeting included the foundation’s regular members and two UCLA professors, Roman Korocev and Dr. Paul Micciche, who joined in the lively discussion.

With a brief film, both moving and touching, put together by Halja Kuchmij and Orest Sushko about the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus and the bandura. Mr. Sushko indicated that many of us were well into their project. There were some of the circumstances involved in the filmed interviews. It is clear this film will have a major impact on the Ukrainian community and Ukraine. The foundation was pleased to see the progress being made on the film, particularly since the foundation supported the project from its inception.

The meeting then heard a report from Peter Borisov, the foundation’s president, about his work in Ukraine with the Ukrainian government aimed at encouraging the Ukrainian film and television industry. Mr. Borisov reported that all television programs will soon be required to have proper Ukrainian dubbing (not Ukrainian subtitles) and that over the next few years, all new films coming into Ukraine will be required to be dubbed into Ukrainian for theatrical distribution. Mr. Borisov added that there are good people in the Ukrainian government to work with and that meaningful progress is being made.

Mr. Andrij Semotnik, the foundation’s executive director, then briefed the meeting on the activities of the foundation over the last five years. Apart from meetings mobilizing people of Ukrainian origin or interest in the entertainment industry in Hollywood, the foundation also presented Oles Yanchuk’s film, “The Undefeated” at UCLA’s film theater; put on a Dovzhenko Film School; awarded a scholarship to a student for studies at the Los Angeles Film School; subtitled Oles Sanin’s film, “Mamay” for theatrical distribution. Mr. Borisov also played it at workshops in upstate New York and also had it played at workshops in upstate New York and New Haven, Conn. The show’s Los Angeles run earned him effusive praise: one reviewer called it “never less than compelling,” and another noted that “the actor has everything in his arsenal to create a believable stage character.”

Ms. Smindak reported that Mr. Spencer had begun his career as an actor on “The Patty Duke Show”; appeared in the highly rated NBC movie “The Tangled Web”; and starred in Joseph Wambaugh’s “A Jury of One.” Numerous guest-starring appearances included NBC’s “Law & Order” and “Miami Vice,” as well as “Spenser: For Hire,” “Early Edition” and “Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman.”

He appeared in films with Kevin Spacey, Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro, Nicholas Cage, Sean Connery, and a host of others. His comedy work included the films “Forget Paris” with Billy Crystal, “Green Card” with Gerard Depardieu and Andie McDowell, and “Albino Alligator” with Matt Dillon and Paul Giamatti.

In theater work Mr. Spencer won an Obie Award for his performance in “A Still Life,” a New York University, was the only child of Mildred Smindak and John Spencer, the founder’s chief of staff and, in more recent episodes, a stage, screen and television, who played the president’s chief of staff. Mr. Spencer’s work on “The West Wing” as Tommy Smindak, one of its original producers, in a joint statement reported by the Associated Press.

The measure further resolved that a copy of the resolution be sent to Board of Education Member Alex Balaban, an Ukrainian-American, and Ukraine’s Mission to the United Nations.

The resolution was read on the local public access channel on cable television by former Joseph Delorio, and the reading was broadcast several times.

The resolution was passed by the governing body of the Borough of Roselle Park in recognition of the fact that “Ukrainian Americans form an integral part of the ethnographic map of Roselle Park and contribute to its rich cultural diversity.”

It is hereby resolved that the Borough of Roselle Park shall do all in its power to encourage the construction of a monument to be erected in the Borough in the Borough Green, Roselle Park, New Jersey, to commemorate the victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, and does hereby further resolve that the Borough of Roselle Park shall do all in its power to encourage the construction of a monument to be erected in the Borough in the Borough Green, Roselle Park, New Jersey, to commemorate the victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

CUBIT. Y. L. I. – John Spencer, actor, director, stage, screen and television, who played the president’s chief of staff and, in more recent episodes, a chapter candidate for vice-president on the award-winning television drama “The West Wing,” died on December 13, 2005, from a heart attack. He was 58.

Mr. Spencer, who was of Ukrainian ancestry on his mother’s side, told The Ukrainian Weekly’s correspondent Helen Smindak back in May 2001, “Yes, I’m half Ukrainian.”

“Her mother’s maiden name was Birczawska – I have no idea where the family came from in Ukraine – and my father’s Irish. I think there may have been some Czech (ancestry) in my father’s family – on his father’s side – but I only found that out in the last six-seven years,” he told Mrs. Smindak, who reported on the arts in her “Dentline New York” column for The Weekly.

Mr. Spencer was then appearing as the hard-talking, recovering junkie trumpet player Martin Glimmer in the Broadway play “Glimmer, Glimmer and Shine!” - a performance for which he received dozens of complimentary reviews from critics.

The New York Times theater critic Ben Brantley wrote: “Mr. Spencer had the most to work with and he brings beautiful pace and variety to the long retrospective monologues.” The Daily News review said: “Spencer, his eyes often lit with a loopy fire, at times gave an instrument for his many caustic lines, makes us believe Martin is a man too strong for life to break.”

John Spencer, a courageous and compassionate actor, a true friend and model to all, has passed away. He was 58 years old. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his love of work, his kindness, and his genuine compassion for others.

Mr. Spencer’s words on “The West Wing” as Leo McGarry, a tough-talking politician, won him four Emmy nominations and, in 2002, the Emmy for best supporting actor in a drama series. As he received his Emmy, Mr. Spencer paid tribute to the show’s writers and declared that “the prize for me is doing the thing I love.”

Mr. Spencer, who attended the Professional Children’s School in New York City, Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and New York University, was the only child of Mildred Smindak and John Spencer of Totowa, N.J.

Mr. Spencer was a member of “The West Wing” cast since the show’s inception. During the most recent, seventh, season of “The West Wing,” his character became the running mate to the Democratic presidential candidate Matt Santos (played by Jimmy Smits).

With Mr. Spencer’s sudden death, the NBC show is now faced with a dilemma of altering its plot lines. It was a case of life imitating art, as McGarry had suffered a heart attack on “The West Wing” and was forced to give up his job as chief of staff. Spencer was an uncommonly brief film man, an exceptional role model and a brilliant actor,” said Aaron Sorkin, who created the series, and Tommy Schlamme, one of its original producers, in a joint statement reported by the Associated Press.

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It is hereby resolved that the Borough of Roselle Park shall do all in its power to encourage the construction of a monument to be erected in the Borough in the Borough Green, Roselle Park, New Jersey, to commemorate the victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. This resolution noted that 2005 marked the 72nd anniversary of the Famine-Genocide, “which resulted in the deaths of at least 6 million Ukrainians. Moreover, the victims were identified and officially denied by Russian Communist authorities.” It also pointed out that “at the height of the Famine, Ukrainian villages were dying at the rate of 25,000 per day” and referred to the trailblazing work of the United Nations. The resolution noted that 2005 marked the 72nd anniversary of the Famine-Genocide, “which resulted in the deaths of at least 6 million Ukrainians. Moreover, the victims were identified and officially denied by Russian Communist authorities.” It also pointed out that “at the height of the Famine, Ukrainian villages were dying at the rate of 25,000 per day” and referred to the trailblazing work of the United Nations.

The measure further resolved that a copy of the resolution be sent to Board of Education Member Alex Balaban, an Ukrainian-American, and Ukraine’s Mission to the United Nations.

The resolution was read on the local public access channel on cable television by former Joseph Delorio, and the reading was broadcast several times.
KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Nineteen teachers from schools of Ukrainian studies in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Connecticut attended the annual teachers’ seminar held at the Ukrainian National Association’s Soyuzivka estate on July 24 through August 6, 2005. Courses encompassed Ukrainian history, language, literature and culture; instructors during the seminar included Dr. Eugene Fedorenko, president of the Educational Council and organizer of its teachers’ seminars – Mykola Francuzenko, George Gajecky and Ihor Mirchuk.

The teachers’ seminar, already in its 21st year, provides both for the training of new teachers and the upgrading of teachers’ qualifications.

One of the participants of the seminar, Halyna Pliaka of Parma, Ohio, noted that although the teachers spent the majority of their time attending lectures, “we were pleasantly surprised by Soyuzivka – the forests and the mountains, which reminded us of our Carpathians ... we felt very much at ease among all this nature.”

The courses were held with the financial assistance of the Ukrainian National Association as well as Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian Self Reliance Federal Credit Union (Philadelphia), The Heritage Foundation (Chicago), Ukrainian Free University Foundation, SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union, Self Reliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and Self Reliance (New Jersey) Federal Credit Union.

– translated by George Gajecky
Turning the pages back...

The United States – both the Bush administration and members of Congress – hailed the December 26, 2004, presidential election in Ukraine as a historic event, congratulated the Ukrainian people for their accomplishment and acknowledged America’s responsibility to help them achieve their dreams and aspirations, help them improve their economy, and to help them improve their relations with us and with the rest of the world,” he said.

Though high-ranking Ukrainian officials – including Prime Minister Yury Yekhanurov – have traveled to Moscow to negotiate a deal, a tense standoff has nonetheless developed.

Meanwhile, the European Union has reason to be concerned. About half the natural gas consumed there comes from Gazprom, and most of that is shipped in pipelines through Ukraine. Russia has threatened to cut off the gas supply to Ukraine if a deal is not reached by January 1.

The move by Gazprom appears to be another attempt by Mr. Putin to influence countries that have long since left Russia’s sphere of influence. Some analysts have suggested that it is punishment for Ukraine’s electing a reform-minded leader to help them achieve their dreams and aspirations, help them improve their economy, and to help them improve their relations with us and with the rest of the world,” he said.

But what is clear is that Gazprom wants to charge Ukraine much more than it did in the previous year, while charging neighboring Belarus – whose President has always stood tough against Mr. Putin. On December 29, 2005, Belarus ceded control to Gazprom of a transit pipeline that crosses Belarus into Europe. Two days earlier, Gazprom reached an agreement to sell gas to Belarus for $46.68 per 1,000 cubic meters – just 20 per cent of what it wants to charge Ukraine.

In its discussions with Russia, Ukraine has rightly agreed to pay market rates, but in phased increases over a period of time, rather than at all once. Russia expressed interest in a Russian-Ukrainian natural gas consortium that would give it co-ownership of Ukraine’s pipelines. However, Prime Minister Yekhanurov rightly rejected the offer during negotiations in Moscow.

Mr. Putin has also suggested that some Russian landowners had to be bought off. On December 27, 2005, Andrei Illarionov, a senior economic adviser to President Putin, resigned, saying Russia had used its energy reserves not merely as an instrument of foreign policy, but as “a weapon.”

Russia, it appears, hopes that by raising prices and tightening the gas supply during the winter it can bring a pro-Kremlin coalition to power in the coming Verkhovna Rada elections.

“I think that the Russians find it hard to reconcile themselves with the idea of Ukraine as a mature and independent European country, not a province,” Dr. Brzezinski said. “But changes will take place, just like they happened between Russia and Poland. As a result, Russia and Ukraine should have good relations. They are very close and interconnected, yet these relations must be based on respect and recognition of mutual independence.”

As Ukrainian-Russian officials continue to negotiate the terms of an agreement, Mr. Putin must take these words to heart. If Ukraine and Russia are to live as neighbors, they must respect and recognize each other’s mutual independence.

(Continued on page 19)
Diplomats issue cordial wishes

Christmas and New Year greetings from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Ambassador Volodymyr Kuchinsky, to the Ukrainian diaspora.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, and from the personally, please accept our most cordial wishes of a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2006.

As we begin another year, I want to take this occasion to wish you all good health, happiness, prosperity and well-being to everybody Ukrainian household in the United States.

Saying goodbye to 2005, each of us will obviously try to keep only the best memories of the passing year, while at the same time pinning hopes and aspirations on the year to come.

On behalf of Ukraine’s diplomats in the United Nations, I wholeheartedly wish to you, Dear Friends, that the New Year may multiply your personal joys for you to forget the recollections of your good intentions and long-cherished dreams.

I sincerely thank you for the valuable assistance you have always rendered to us. For us, this is an important expression of the trust and support for the efforts that Ukraine, newly reborn in the wake of the Orange Revolution, is now applying for its international integration.

I am confident that our traditionally close and fruitful cooperation will further facilitate the success of our common endeavor.

In accordance with our ancient tradition, we wish you all the best, all that is good and joy for many years to come.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The real meaning of nationalism

Dear Editor:

A letter to the editor in the December 11, 2005, issue of The Weekly suggests that the editors avoid using the term “nationalists” because it “has largely a pejorative connotation in the West and is often employed in scapegoating Ukrainians.”

The pejorative connotation is employed only by those who do not know (or do not want to know) the real meaning of nationalism.

Webster’s Dictionary defines nationalism as “loyalty and devotion to a nation.”

Lee Ivankiw
Philadelphia

Un-Christian behavior on display

Dear Editor:

Michael Kozak in his letter, “Moscow still uses the Church as a Tool” (October 23), aptly described how Moscow Patriarchate followers attacked Cardinal Lubomyr Husar and his faithful during the historic August 21 divine liturgy celebrated Kyiv Patriarchate churches in those areas still zooming in on him.

This un-Christian behavior extends not only to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, but also to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. Both of these Churches celebrate the beautiful liturgy in Ukrainian and also uphold Ukrainian cultural traditions. All this is anathema to Moscow, which can hardly become the Third Rome if this continues and it loses the hold on Ukrainian property that was strengthened under the Communist regime.

Their have been reports in southern Ukraine and in Crimea of Ukrainian Orthodox priests of the Kyiv Patriarchate being beaten up by followers of the Moscow Patriarchate for trying to establish Kyiv Patriarchate churches in those areas. In the northeastern oblast of Sumy, Kyiv Patriarchate churches have had their windows broken and are even spat upon by toothless old ladies professing to be followers of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Truly, the Moscow Patriarchate is doing a marvellous job of misinforming, more fittingly of the Communist KGB than Christianity.

Recently, the Kyiv Patriarchate Bishop Mefodii Sribnak in Sumy printed a small prayer book in Ukrainian. The prayers are prefixed with a justification that prayer in one’s native tongue is acceptable and not only to be used at bazaars and for lowly daily needs. In these highly Russified areas, the Moscow Church has brainwashed people that even prayer should be in Russian.

Unfortunately, even in North America, many Ukrainians don’t seem to be aware of what is at stake. Under the guise of canonicity, some feel that the Moscow Church is more acceptable than the Kyiv Church as Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople has not accepted the canonicity of the Kyiv Church, although it preceded that of Moscow.

It is time for Ukrainians in Canada and the United States to actively support our Christian brothers and sisters, both Catholic and Orthodox, in Ukraine. Both Churches have been violently suppressed and persecuted, and produced many martyrs under the Communist regime. Their biggest transgression was to be Ukrainian and today the Moscow Patriarchate still holds them accountable and, therefore, showers their Churches with abuse, hatred and persecution.

Halyna Wawryshyn
Toronto

We welcome your opinion

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

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Please include your full name, address and telephone number. Your letter will be acknowledged via staff@ukrweekly.com.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be provided for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

New Year’s reflections

2005 was a good year for Ukraine. Predictably, President Viktor Yushchenko dominated, collecting many awards in the year’s prize magazine named him the leader of the most significant people of 2004; in April, he received the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award; in September, the Ukraine Liberty Award in New York. In October, Britain’s Queen Elizabeth presented him with the first Chatham House Prize; in November, the European Union (EU) recognized him as European Citizen of the Year; he was a finalist for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Confirming that ours is an era when distance has been annihilated, I saw Mr. Yushchenko several times in 2005. I was at a conference in Parma, Ohio, in January when he took the oath as president of Ukraine, his voice resounding at the Rada in Kyiv and then at a nano-second later, it boomed from speakers mounted on either side of a big-screen television on the balcony.

With my wife, children, friends and nearby a thousand others, I saw eight heads of state in attendance, as well as Secretary of State Colin Powell, Vanunu, Chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer of the NATO, Lady Katerna Chumachenko-Yushchenko, etc. Every now and then, the camera pecked discreetly at one of our guests – President Leonid Kuchma, sitting silently, his face pale, eyes sad as death.

In December, I was in Washington and saw Mr. Yushchenko address a Joint Session of Congress. In 216 years, only 93 foreigners have done so, including the Marquis de Lafayette, Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Lech Walesa, Yitzak Rabin.

Mr. Yushchenko’s leading political supporters rose to their feet to welcome Ukraine’s president. Understandably: they know how hard it is to build a crowd and as politicians who worry about their re-election every moment of the day, they’re aware of how rare political courage really is. They were honoring a fellow politician who had raised aiPhone, including his own father. Yushchenko was there, including his own father. Yushchenko

Unfortunately, even in North America, many Ukrainians don’t seem to be aware of what is at stake. Under the guise of canonicity, some feel that the Moscow Church is more acceptable than the Kyiv Church as Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople has not accepted the canonicity of the Kyiv Church, although it preceded that of Moscow.

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Andrew Fedynsky’s e-mail address is: fedynsky@interax.net

which he will be measured, not the personal honors he and others have won.

A year into a five-year term, there can be no doubt that Yushchenko is making good progress. Reversing last year’s rigged “privatization” that delivered Kryvorizhstal to steelman, Viktor Yushchenko concluded the bid at $800 million, President Yushchenko conducted a televised auction that brought in $4.8 billion from Minat, the world’s largest steel company. Now plans are under way to privatize Uktelecom, the country’s largest telecom company. Mr. Yushchenko also eliminated more than 4,000 regulations that restricted business registration, climbed down on tax evasion, increased tax revenues, balanced the budget and paid off Ukraine’s deficit. Freedom House reports that 2005 was a good year, although it significant progress in press freedoms, civil society, and judicial reform. Visa requirements for visitors from the United States were eliminated. Working to reclaim Ukraine’s history, he honored the veterans of UPD and the Red Army, publicly mourned the victims of the Orange Revolution, while condemning the communist rule which implemented the Fanon-Genevois. At the commencement of Khachaturyan’s liberation, he lit a candle for the victims and noted that many Ukrainians had been among those, sharing his own father’s fate.

Europe took note of all this. In October, NATO conducted four-day maneuvers in Ukraine. On the same day, Interior Minister Victor Dmytrenko, announced that the EU recognizes Ukraine’s transition to NATO’s Membership Action Plan has been successful. In Kyiv, Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that the EU recognizes Ukraine as a Market Economy and supports her entry into the World Trade Organization.

There were also grave problems in 2005. In a government crisis, Mr. Yushchenko dismissed the popular Yulia Tymoshenko. He had to address embarrassing questions about his son’s shady business deals. Most ominously, an increasingly dictatorial Russia continues to meddle in Ukraine’s internal affairs, seeking to sabotage her nascent democracy. These Kremlin policies are an affront and challenge to the whole world and it’s why Ukraine will continue to be in the news – every step toward democracy or away, anywhere, is measured against the Orange Revolution.

Today, energy issues dominate in Ukraine. In March, there will be parliamentary elections. In June, Ukraine meets Spain in the World Cup soccer tournament. The world is sure to focus on those. Throughout 2006, Mr. Yushchenko will remain the center of things, which is good. He’s a courageous, decisive leader who thinks on his feet and grows with every challenge. Here’s a player no
"Still the River Flows" gives ancient winter solstice rituals meaning in the present day

by Laryssa Chreptowski Reifel

CHICAGO – Have the egg cartons and mattresses arrived yet? Stranger questions about modern art have been posted. On December 1-2, 2005, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago opened an exhibit titled “Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and the Orange Revolution.”

The exhibit presented the selected works of a group of 15 young artists who participated in the demonstrations on Kyiv’s Independence Square during the Orange Revolution. The Center for Contemporary Art (CCA) in Kyiv is located directly on the square where the first demonstrations began. The Center opened its doors to students and artists, transforming its gallery space into a collective studio for the production of new art. This union of artists, ideas and physical site became known as the Revolutionary Experimental Space, or in Ukrainian, “Revolutsiinyi Experimentalnyi Prostranstuvannia.”

Each artist’s work either interprets the events of the revolution, or induces one to contemplate serious questions about the revolution itself, the political process in Ukraine, and Ukraine’s evolution as a democratic entity. For example, one piece titled “Victory” by Artur Belorozov, is a compilation of egg cartons that hang on the wall.

Though egg cartons might not seem particularly consequential to the casual observer, they were critical to the revolution. The demonstrators stood on egg cartons to keep their feet off the cold ground during their vigil. This increased their endurance to remain outside during the revolution. The different types of egg cartons used in the piece symbolize the synthesis of a diverse group of people united in the cause for democracy.

Other works in the exhibition are not as obviously tied to the “street,” as it were. There are pieces that offer both realism and abstraction, historical references and ironic commentary. The installation of the exhibit by co-curators Nicholas Sawicki of UIMA and Yulia Vaganova, acting director of the CCA, (who came from Kyiv to attend the installation and opening of the exhibit), is particularly compelling as it takes the viewer through a riveting emotional experience. Following a brief explanation of the Revolutionary Experimental Space, the viewer is instantly brought into the spirit of the exhibit as he begins with a particularly colorful piece called “Dobryi Den,” “Oh Lord, May it be so!”

The next performance was by acclaimed Ukrainian singer Mariana Sadovska. Sadovska involved the audience in a soulful performance of two traditional koliada songs from central Ukraine.

When Mr. Ueno began to design the art installation, his first step was the exploration of the koliada rituals. He set out to discover why they were performed, but found no complete authoritative explanation. The river appeared to be central to the rituals that concluded with the blessing of the water. Mr. Ueno, therefore, made the river image central to the exhibition.

Mr. Khantaev’s photographs, which follow the chronology of the ritual, are pasted against a flowing background of white paper supported by birch branches. The image of the river is also important in Ms. Odezymska’s videos, serving as a foundation and connective tissue in the story of the koliadnyk in Kyivorivnia. The video footage of the performing koliadnyky played in opposite parts of the room creates the impression, through the use of echoes, that the viewer is experiencing the rituals firsthand.

The words to a winter song about that village of Kryvorivnia wind around the room. They anchor the installation in the place where the winter solstice and Christmas rituals remain central to the lives of the people. The Yara Arts Group effectively combined visual media and text to re-create the feeling and emotion associated with these rituals.

The exhibit “Still the River Flows” continues Wednesday to Sundays 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through January 29, as part of the exhibition “The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art” developed by Lubow Woynets, curator of the museum’s folk art collection. To find out more about The Ukrainian Museum in New York City, log on to www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

// End of article //

(Continued from page 19)

“The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago opens exhibit on Orange Revolution.”

by Olena Jennings

NEW YORK – At The Ukrainian Museum on Sunday, December 11, 2005, Yara Arts Group presented the art installation “Still the River Flows” along with a short performance for the opening. “Still the River Flows” provides a window into the significance that ancient winter solstice and Christmas rituals have in the modern day.

The title has a dual meaning. “Still” has both the sense of the frozen river and “still to this day.” The installation by Olena Jennings with a particularly colorful piece called “Dobryi Den,” “Oh Lord, May it be so!”

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PARSI PANNY, N.J. - The urn with the ashes of painter and graphic artist Jacques Hnizdovsky (1915-1985) - one of the foremost woodcut artists in America - was transferred from New York to Ukraine for reburial, in accordance with the last wishes of the artist whose creative legacy forms a valuable part of the permanent collections of leading American museums and institutions, and, since 1990, the museums of Ukraine.

The urn was transferred from the columbarium of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City to Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv, where reburial took place on November 5, 2005. Both New York's renowned Gothic cathedral and Lviv's historic cemetery have a unique place in the architectural, social and cultural history of their respective cities.

The site of the Hnizdovsky reburial is the main section of Lviv's landmark cemetery - the burial place of prominent Ukrainian civic and cultural figures - diagonally across from the burial place of Ukraine's renowned writer Ivan Franko (1856-1916).

A black granite gravestone at the site carries the inscription: "Yakiv Hnizdovsky, graphic artist - painter, 1915-1985." Above the inscription is an oval bas-relief, depicting the artist at work on a woodcut, and is based on the 1981 work titled "Self-Portrait."

Ottifacating at the reburial was Bishop Ihor Vozniak, then acting administrator of the Archeparchy of Lviv, and currently the newly appointed archbishop of the Lviv Archeparchy.

Present at the reburial were Stephanie Hnizdovsky, the artist's widow, and daughter Mira Hnizdovsky; some 30 members of the late artist's extended family, as well as Ukrainian National Deputies and representatives of Ukrainian culture.

The process of reburial began three years ago at the request of Mrs. Hnizdovsky and her daughter. Helping in the effort to transfer the artist's remains to Ukraine, a process that involved lengthy bureaucratic procedures and diplomatic negotiations, were U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst, representing the United States of America, and Viktoriia Hubka, director of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), Kyiv Bureau.

The solemn occasion of the reburial was followed later on in the day with the opening of a commemorative art exhibition of Jacques Hnizdovsky's work at the National Museum of Lviv (now known as the Andrey Sheptytsky National Museum of Lviv). The exhibition, which opened on November 5, was slated to run through November 27, 2005, was extended until the end of December, to accommodate the very high viewership. A total of 50 works were on exhibit, comprising works from the collection of the National Museum of Lviv as well as works on loan from the National Fine Arts Museum of Ukraine in Kyiv and the Ternopil Regional Museum.

An exhibition catalogue titled "Jacques Hnizdovsky" and subtitled, "Commemorative exhibition held on the occasion of the reburial of the artist in his ancestral homeland and on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the day of his birth," came out as a publication of the National Museum of Lviv, the United States Embassy in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA).

The project organizers, insitution and private collections, and the significance of the work of Jacques Hnizdovsky for Ukrainian culture. Iryna Rotemus, curator of the National Museum of Lviv, congratulated the Jewish and Ukrainian peoples on the 90th anniversary of the day of his birth, and expressed wishes for successful development of Ukraine's artistic heritage.

Among family members and friends, official representatives and guests speaking at the reburial ceremony of the late Jacques Hnizdovsky held November 5, 2005, at Lviv's Lychakiv Cemetery as well as at the opening of the Jacques Hnizdovsky commemorative art exhibition held at the National Museum of Lviv, were the following:

Official representatives at the reburial ceremony at Lychakiv Cemetery from the side of Ukrainian culture included National Deputy Mykola Zhulynsky, vice-chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Culture and National Deputy Mykhailo Zhulynsky, both of whom addressed the gathering and extended commemorative greetings from the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.

Among speakers at the opening of the commemorative art exhibition of Jacques Hnizdovsky's work at the National Museum of Lviv was Ihor Kalynets, a member of the 1960s generation of Ukrainian poets, spoke of his work. Jacob Hnizdovsky (1915-1985).
Residents of Kyiv...
(Continued from page 3)

Our Ukraine People’s Union in the run up to the 2006 parliamentary elections.

From its very start 10 years ago, the event management and public relations firm was a pro-Ukrainian project that helped launch arts festivals and concerts that were non-commercial.

The agency’s small team of about 10 professionals, which Mr. Nyshchuk has worked with for many years, became the moving force that has tried to draw attention to Ukrainian culture.

Art Veles director Taras Hrymalyuk, who coordinated the Orange Revolution’s one-year anniversary events, believes that Ukrainian culture today simply lacks boldness, professional management and strong financing.

The agency began with a few musical festivals, among them, the annual festi-
val “Kyivska Rus’,” which traces the evolution of Ukrainian music evolved through the epochs of history.

The last festival, celebrating Ukraine’s various folk traditions, took place on December 15, 2005, at the Taras Shevchenko National Opera Theater of Ukraine in Kyiv.

“Nationally conscious people have joined up here [at Art Veles] to be pas-
tionate about what’s happening in Ukraine and in Ukrainian culture,” said Serhiy Kharynovych, who began working with Art Veles as a concert host; he also oversees advertisements and public relations issues.

Unlike Mr. Nyshchuk, Mr. Kharynovych has a skeptical view of the team that won the presidential elections. He admitted that if someone else had cam-
paign instead of Mr. Yushchenko, but with the same election agenda, Ukrainians would have supported that candidate all the same.

“Yushchenko is not a rock star for whom everyone went to the edge for,” Mr. Kharynovych said. “The people who went to the Maidan demonstrated that is rock, [Ukrainian] folk and authen-
tic,” Mr. Nyshchuk said. “It was part of the election campaign, and it was heard on the maiden. People began to love Ukrainian performers and Ukrainian music.

“Singers such as Svitoslav Yakarchuk are able to make Ukrainian fashionable, Mr. Kharynovych said.

“Young people see that it’s cool,” Mr. Kharynovych said. “I don’t see any changes.”

When an order was issued early in the government of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko requiring everyone to speak Ukrainian on the radio, quite a number of Mr. Kharynovych’s disc jock-
ey colleagues quickly began learning Ukrainian because they did not want to lose their jobs.

None of them complained or went out on strike to protest, Mr. Kharynovych said.

However, the sudden rash of patriot-
ism soon began to evaporate.

Initiatives aimed at supporting the Ukrainian language in the nation’s media eventually became reduced to mere rec-
ommendations after the Tymoshenko Cabinet was fired. Among those who were fired was Mykola Tomenko, the vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs who authored the radio initiative.

Following the revolution, radio sta-
tions began playing more Ukrainian music and television networks showed more Ukrainian programs. But that also began to lose momentum.

“In Ukraine, no one supports the Ukrainian language on the national government level,” Mr. Kharynovych said. “Tartak has done more for Ukrainian propaganda than several ministers put together.”

Ukrainian ghetto in Ukraine

Quite a number of musicians cam-
paign for this or another candidate in the 2004 parliamentary elections.

Tayisa Povalii, Natalka Mohylevska and even several Russian singers cam-
paign for Mr. Yanukovych.

It was the Ukrainian-language artists who supported Mr. Yushchenko, most of whom are rock musicians.

“If representatives of another culture arrived to support the [opposing candidate], then others who supported Viktor Yushchenko tried to ensure live music that is rock, [Ukrainian] folk and authen-
tic, ” Mr. Nyshchuk said. “It was part of the election campaign, and it was heard on the maiden. People began to love Ukrainian performers and Ukrainian music.

Singers such as Svitoslav Yakarchuk

“Singers like Taras Petrynenko and

Maria Burnaka can’t even dream to per-
form a solo concert in Kyiv’s Ukraine Palace,” Mr. Nyshchuk said. The rental fee for Ukraine Palace is between $10,000-$11,000 per day.

Its administrators do not recall a single event in which a Ukrainian singer in Ukraine’s most prestigious concert hall.

Instead, Russian singers such as Filip Kirkorov perform there at least once a year.

The situation with Ukrainian cine-
matography is even worse. Mostly sec-
drate television series are filmed at Kyiv’s Dovzhenko film studio. The stu-
dio is among the leading studios in the former Soviet Union.

Only during his first- and second-year at the Karpenko Kary Institute of Theater in Kyiv was Mr. Nyshchuk able to act in two films – Volodymyr Savelievs’s “Izhoi” and Mykhailo Hlivo’s “Fuchzhou.”

These were the last years before the collapse of Ukrainian cinematography. Two film projects that invited Mr. Nyshchuk to act this year were not even launched because of a lack of financing.

Sometimes Ukrainian actors get invi-
tations to star in a Russian production, but these, at best, are merely secondary roles.

“All the main heroes are Russian,” Mr. Nyshchuk said. “But the back-up roles – policemen, guards – for these they turn to our actors. And some, unfor-
unately, agree because they have to feed their families. This is a sad state of affairs.”

Mr. Nyshchuk is sure that the rebirth of national cinematography could become a major influence on Ukrainian society and could help form its values.

“Ideological films should exist,” Mr. Nyshchuk said. “For example, about a Ukrainian doctor, who suddenly doesn’t take any bribes. At one point, ideological films were an entire science.”

A Jobless Actor

Fifteen years ago, Mr. Nyshchuk passed the first round of exams at the Shchepkinsky School of Theater in Moscow, which for many decades has enjoyed a prestigious reputation as one of the former Soviet Union’s best drama schools.

Faced with the decision to pursue a second round of exams, Mr. Nyshchuk instead decided to remain in Ukraine and study at the Karpenko Kary Institute of Theater in Kyiv.

His parents preferred that he study in Ukraine instead of testing his fate in what was suddenly a foreign country.

(Continued on page 11)
Residents of Kyiv...

(Continued from page 10)

“Television network seeking people who are proficient in Ukrainian.”

From a certain point of view, this is fine,” Mr. Nyshchuk said. “But imagine a country, for example, France, where...
Chmyr receives prestigious National Presidential Award

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian baritone Oleh Chmyr received the “National Presidential Award” via a decree signed by President Viktor Yushchenko on November 30, 2005. The honor was in recognition of his “significant contribution to international art and culture.” An awards ceremony is slated to be held at the Marinskiy Palace in Kyiv.

Mr. Chmyr, who immigrated to the United States in 1994, is currently a leading soloist with the New Jersey State Opera and teaches voice at County College of Morris in New Jersey. In 2000 his CD titled “European Vocal Miniatures” featuring art songs by Western European as well as Ukrainian, Polish and Russian composers, was released on the occasion of his solo, eponymously titled, concert debut at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall.

Mr. Chmyr returns to Ukraine frequently with concert appearances. He has performed regularly at the Ukrainian Independence Day concerts in Kyiv between 2003 and 2005 and he is also a frequent guest on Ukrainian radio and television in performances as well as interviews.

From discussions with each other and among government officials, each task force prepared an action plan and recommendations for distribution to U.S. and Ukrainian government officials. The dialogue also afforded the unique opportunity for participants to identify practical technical assistance needed to support the policy recommendations. All task force action plans are available on the foundation’s website at www.usukraine.org/dialogue.shtml.

The Information and Media Task Force, co-chaired by former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer and former Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak, addressed issues in U.S.-Ukraine energy dialogue and outlined the short-term and long-term priorities for Ukraine, including market integration and the function and role of the U.S. National Security Council in foreign policy decision-making. The dialogue participants also welcomed the beginning of the transition period for Ukraine, including market integration and the role of the U.S. National Security Council in foreign policy decision-making. The dialogue participants also welcomed the beginning of the transition period for Ukraine, including market integration and the role of the U.S. National Security Council in foreign policy decision-making.

The task force emphasized that the Verkhovna Rada needs to pass legislation to enhance property rights protections, strengthen the rule of law, reduce the tax burden, increase integration into the global economy, and complete WTO accession. The dialogue participants also noted that Ukraine needs to continue to improve its legal framework to achieve a pro-market economy status and for Ukraine’s graduation from the Jackson-Vanik amendment. The task force identified five crucial issues for discussion, including: insufficient media independence, effectively in the fight against crime; the political will to implement a public broadcasting system; the current difficulties faced by journalists due to an ambiguous legal framework; and a search for legitimacy among the public; and the lack of coordination of technical assistance coming from the international community.

The three primary recommendations of the task force included the following: first, there is a need to assist the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine (NTRBCU) in developing policies on digital broadcasting and the licensing of cable operators, but also in building capacity to adequately conduct their regulatory mandate. Second, by using press centers and journalists, programs could target more closely civil servants by teaching them better work with the media, as well as with journalists, to help increase standards of professionalism. Although public broadcasting will remain at the center of the debate, it will probably not be adequately addressed by the legislature until after the elections. For this reason, the task force decided that in the short run, public broadcasting must be treated as a mechanism to attain a more transparent and responsible media, rather than a goal in itself. The task force met with Rector Volodymyr Rizun of the Kyiv Institute of Journalism, as well as Vitalii Shevchenko of NTRBCU. It was established that this dialogue must continue with the Parliamentary Committee on Media Freedom and Information in order to achieve a consensus. For questions or more information about Policy Dialogue call (202) 347-4264. All participant lists are available on the website at www.usukraine.org/dialogue.shtml.

U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue Conference held in the Ukrainian capital

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

From November 13-17, 2005, the U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue hosted U.S. and Ukrainian former and current government officials, business and media leaders and representatives of nongovernmental organizations at a working session in Kyiv. Policy Dialogue seeks to facilitate democratic reform in Ukraine and the restoration of a meaningful strategic partnership between the two countries by bringing together policy makers and practitioners in practical dialogue.

The project is managed by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and American and Ukrainian institutional partners and individual experts, including the Razumkov Center for Ukrainian Economic and Political Studies, the International Center for Policy and Management; Anatoliy Kinakh, secretary to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; Oleh Rybachuk, chair of the presidential secretariat; Anatoliy Kinakh, secretary National Security and Defense Council, and many others.

Throughout the week, task forces also had the opportunity to meet with other high-level Ukrainian policy makers, including Volodymyr Lytvyn, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; Oleh Rybachuk, chair of the presidential secretariat; Anatoliy Kinakh, secretary National Security and Defense Council, and many others.

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The Politics and Governance Task Force, co-chaired by former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller, and Vitalii Shevchenko of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, focused on the primary challenges facing the new government in Ukraine. Included were discussions on the election process, the lack of transparency in governmental processes and politics, the lack of political accountability to the public, the misallocation of administrative resources, and the need for civil service reform. Particular attention was given to the implications of the upcoming parliamentary and local government elections in Ukraine.

The task force concluded that the process and outcome of the upcoming elections will determine whether there will be a genuine democratic restructuring of U.S.-Ukraine relations and government. The task force emphasized the need for coordination of the U.S. and Ukrainian elections as well as the independent election monitoring of both events.

The task force also recommended that the task force called upon the leaders of political parties to sign the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Election Campaigns. The foreign policy and National Security Task Force, co-chaired by former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer and former Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak, addressed issues in U.S.-Ukraine energy dialogue and outlined the short-term and long-term priorities for Ukraine, including market integration and the function and role of the U.S. National Security Council in foreign policy decision-making. The dialogue participants also welcomed the beginning of the transition period for Ukraine, including market integration and the function and role of the U.S. National Security Council in foreign policy decision-making.

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Christmas and
New Year's greetings
to:
the Ukrainian nation, to Ukrainians in the diaspora, to the hierarchy of the
Ukrainian Churches in Ukraine and in the world, to the Executive of the
Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (r) and its president Andriy
Haidamakha, all fellow organizations of the World Confederation of
Ukrainian Nationalist Organizations, the Ukrainian World Congress, the
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the executives of all the ODFFU
branches, all of our members and their families, and all Ukrainian-American
communities and patriotic supporters of the OUN Fund.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Khrystos rodyvsia! Slavim Joho!

President - Michael Koziupa  General Secretary - Osip Roshka
MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006

to my family
friends and patients

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May your holiday celebrations be warm and wonderful, and give you memories that keep well into 2006! And thank you, dear readers, for your many kind words and continuous support of our efforts at The Ukrainian Weekly.

Roma Hadzewycz
Andrew Nynka
Zenon Zawada
Ika Koznarska Casanova
Awilda Rolon
Larissa Oprysko

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Українська Кредитова Спілка „Будучність“

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cooparative family
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our community
for a
joyous Christmas
and
prosperous
New Year

Merry Christmas!
Happy Holidays!
MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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during this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

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Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

Incidentally, the votes of two deputies from the One Ukraine faction helped eke the budget through. One Ukraine (Yevtyna Ukraina) is a pro-Yushchenko parliamentary faction.

Deputies Viacheslav Dubytskyi and Orest Klympush, both One Ukraine deputies, broke with party lines.

In the March 2006 parliamentary elections, seats will be awarded to a party or bloc proportionate to how many votes it earns. The party or bloc will then assign seats based on their already-announced electoral lists.

If not for Messrs. Dubytskyi and Klympush, the budget could have derailed, a failure that would have played right into the hands of Russian President Putin.

Opposition parties, such as the Party of Regions and the Communist Party, want to destabilize the government, Mr. Taran said.

“It’s very sad that the passing of a budget becomes part of the parliamentary campaign,” he said. “And it’s very sad that opposition forces are ready to sacrifice a nation’s future for their own position during elections.”

Under the Yushchenko government, fiscal policy has improved, Mr. Taran said.

While Mr. Kuchma’s goal with the budget was to maintain his autocratic power, Mr. Yushchenko’s economists have been formulating the budget in reaction to everyday problems in the Ukrainian economy, he said.

However, a budgetary or economic strategy for Ukraine is still lacking, Mr. Taran said.

“The situation presents a paradox: despite the fact that the Orange Revolution’s leaders managed to destroy Kuchma’s regime, they had absolutely nothing to offer the nation afterwards,” he said.

“That is why the budget isn’t sound. It’s more reflexive, since theirs is no vision of economic development for the future year,” Mr. Taran said.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Susan Davis (D) of California, Donald Payne (D) of New Jersey and Charles Taylor (R) of North Carolina, who shared their views at a press conference before returning home on December 27, 2004.

Rep. Kolbe, who chaired the House Subcommittee on Appropriations, expressed his admiration and congratulations to the Ukrainian people, as well as the Ukrainian and international press for their role in the process.

“The message that we will take back to our colleagues in Washington is that we have witnessed a tremendous demonstration by the Ukrainian people in support of freedom and of democracy,” Mr. Kolbe said. “We will look forward to working with and supporting the new government of Ukraine, whoever the president that is sworn in might be.”

On the other side of Capitol Hill, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton wrote a commentary on the developments in Ukraine, published in the December 27, 2004, issue of the Financial Times (London). In her piece, she drew some lessons about democracy from what was going on in Ukraine.

“Democracy does not end with a constitution or the right to vote,” she wrote. “The Ukrainian people have experienced both victories and struggles since they voted for independence 13 years ago. But, as we learned in our own country for more than 200 years, maintaining democracy is a never-ending struggle that we must face up to every day.”

In deep sorrow:

passed into Eternity on December 24, 2005, in Baltimore, Md. at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, N.Y. on

nephew - Roman Hoshowsky
niece - Lida Hoshowsky
son - George with wife Oksana and children Alexander
son - Igor with wife Anne and daughter Alexandra
of almost 30 years, Mary (née Ward), children Anne and Anthony
Memorials may be directed to Loyola Hospice, 2160 S. First Ave.,

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY      SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2006
20 No. 1

With deep sorrow we inform family and friends that on
Sunday, December 25, 2005, passed away, at the age of 56,
son, father and grandfather

Maria Nesterczuk
née Mycak

passed into Eternity on December 24, 2005, in Baltimore, Md.
She was born on May 30, 1916, in Busowysko, Ukraine.
Panakhlya was held on December 28, 2005, in the Thomas
Quinn Funeral Home in Astoria, N.Y. Funeral mass was held at
Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, N.Y. on
December 29, 2005, followed by interment at Mt. Hope
Cemetery, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

In deep sorrow:
son - Igor with wife Anne and daughter Alexandra
son - George with wife Oksana and children Alexander
and Andrew
grandson - Christopher with wife Claudine and son Maddox
sister - Ivanna Soluk
nephew - George Soluk and family
nephew - John Soluk and family
niece - Olena Hubickyj-Cabot and family
niece - Lida Hoshowsky
nephew - Roman Hoshowsky

and extended family in England, France and Ukraine

Eternal Memory!

In deep sorrow we publish this delayed announcement that our dearly beloved family member

Roman M. Wirschuk, D.D.S.

born June 10, 1934, passed into Eternity on August 4, 2005, in his
home after a long and difficult illness. He was attended by his wife
of almost 30 years, Mary (née Ward), children Anne and Anthony
(Kristin) and 6 grandchildren.

Family, friends and relatives gathered for visitation on Sunday,
August 7, 2005, and prayers at the funeral home on Monday,
August 8, 2005, followed by Mass at St. John the Baptist Church
and Interment at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, Ill.

40th day and ongoing memorials are observed by family in Illinois
and relatives in New Jersey and in his hometown of Striy, Ukraine.
Memorials may be directed to Loyola Hospice, 2160 S. First Ave.,
Maywood, Ill. 60153 or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital,
501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, Tenn. 38105. Information and online
guestbook at hultgreffh.com or call 630-668-0027.

Eternal Memory!
Orthodox Church in America.

Following the service, Archimandrite Andriy spoke to the hierarchs, clergy and faithful present expressing his deep spiritual gratitude to them and to the Lord with the words: “In the life of every individual there occur moments when the Providence of God most clearly reveals to them that ‘the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way’ (Psalm 37:23). Standing before you today, I should speak about the fear and nervousness, which fill my soul when I contemplate my future episcopal service for which I am unworthy. I ask for your profound prayers for me in that unworthiness.”

On December 13, 2005, the Chicago cathedral was crowded with clergy and faithful, who gathered to participate in the divine liturgy and the consecration of the new bishop. The service was presided over by Metropolitan Constantine, concelebrating with: Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., Archbishop Yuri of the UOC of Canada, Metropolitan Nicholas of the Carpatho-Rusyn Church, Archbishop Job of the Romanian Orthodox Church (Bucharest Patriarchate), Archbishop Yurij of the UOC of the United States, Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Metropolitan Iakovos, as well as Archbishop Peter of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Greek Orthodox clergy of various Orthodox jurisdictions.

Also present in the cathedral were clergy from the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Chicago, Iakovos, as well as Archbishop Peter of the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, who arrived later in the service.

In particular, among the clergy participating in the Liturgy were the Very Rev. Bobdan Matwijczuk, administrator of the Church in Great Britain of England and the Rev. Vitalij Derewianka of Belgium, both representing the Western European Eparchy.

Prior to presenting the newly consecrated bishop with his episcopal staff, Metropolitan Constantine stated: “The flock entrusted to you in Great Britain and Western Europe, a flock which is composed of sons and daughters of post-World War II and post-Soviet waves of immigration, awaits you and is hopeful that in all things you will be a living icon of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ the Son of God. Who invites us to personal holiness. Be, for these people, a good shepherd, a living icon of Christ, a channel of Grace and Truth.”

In thanking Metropolitan Constantine for his guiding words and after presenting him with an icon of the Pochaiv Mother of God, Bishop Andriy delivered his first address to the clergy and faithful. He said: “Today, when the Holy Church gloriously honors the memory of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle – the apostle of our Ukraine – a new page in the life of every individual there occurs when the Providence of God most clearly reveals to them that ‘the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way’ (Psalm 37:23). Standing before you today, I should speak about the fear and nervousness, which fill my soul when I contemplate my future episcopal service for which I am unworthy. I ask for your profound prayers for me in that unworthiness.”

At the banquet in cathedral’s parish hall, on behalf of St. Volodymyr Cathedral parish board of administration, parishioners and quests, the newly consecrated bishop was greeted by Volodymyr Pawelchak, an editor of the Chas i Podii weekly newspaper.

Bishop Andriy was further greeted by parishioners of local parish communities from the Chicago area, the consul general of Ukraine in Chicago, Oleh Shevchenko, the president of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, Bobdan Watral; and the president of the cathedral choir Boian, Yaroslav Vorozhbyt.

The banquet concluded with a performance by vocal duo of Oksana Savchuk and Ivan Kavaciuk, who carry the title, “Folk Artists of Ukraine.” Following the concert, all in attendance sang for Bishop Andriy a traditional Ukrainian “Mnohaya Lita” – God grant you many years.

A unique publication about the events that took place during the 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine. The book features the Ukrainian people standing up for honest and transparent elections as well as combating the fraudulent acts of the vote by the government. Abundant in illustrations, it conveys the spirit of Independence Square in Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, during the peaceful Orange Revolution. “Yes, Ukrainians Win Laughing” became possible thanks to the financial support by Alex, Halyna, George and Nina Woskob and the Ivan Bahriany Foundation. The project was administered and coordinated by Oleh Chornohuz and Yuri Zadoya, respectively.

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

(Continued from page 1)

make a donation.

For the future, the two organizations have initiated a four-year charity project with an annual budget of about $800,000 to treat children with cerebral palsy. The program envisages free medical treatment for children with cerebral palsy from underprivileged families, according to fund officials.

"This is only a start to our future long-term partnership," said Oleksander Horodetsky, president of TNK-BP Ukraine. "We express our hopes that other companies will follow our example."

The fund will seek to work with European and American hospitals, medical organizations and corporations to improve the efficiency of Ukrainian hospitals and the overall health care system in Ukraine. Hospitals face difficulties in treatment because government funding is insufficient and treatment is expensive, Mr. Klymnyuk said.

About 70 percent of all children with cancer-related diseases can be cured, but in Ukraine the amount does not surpass 50 percent because of limited financial resources, Mr. Klymnyuk said.

Sponsors contribute at times to the annual budget of Oncology Institute, but this financial assistance does not amount to more than 10 percent of the money it needs, hospital officials said.

The fund plans to take steps to improve the laws and taxation of charity organizations since "there are lots of problems there," said Andrii Miroshnychenko, Mrs. Yushchenko’s advisor. He also said that all charity investments are taxed, with 50 percent of any donation going to the government budget.

Mrs. Yushchenko’s Ukraine 3000 International Charity Fund, a non-governmental charity organization created in 2001, set as its priority helping children with serious illnesses, those with special needs and those without homes as well as orphans.

The fund’s policy is to “be as transparent as possible,” Mr. Miroshnychenko said. Therefore, it donates equipment instead of money.

Mr. Ferencvez, a personal friend of the artist, shared an interesting insight provided by the artist himself into his work, by reading the text of Hnizdovsky’s address, delivered at an exhibition of his work in 1984 in Washington, in which the artist responds to a query as to why, in his work as a whole, the human figure is almost non-existent and the dominant images are those of plants and animals.

The official part of the exhibition opening ended with Mr. Kozhan reading the text of telegrams sent by Les Taniuk, head of the Parliamentary Committee for Culture and Spirituality; and Natalka Mytsay, director of the Hryhoriy Skovoroda Museum in the village of Skovorodynivka, Zolochiv region, Kharkiv oblast.
SKOKIE, Ill. – The Illinois Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) met Sunday, October 23, 2005, to conduct regular chapter business and hear a presentation by Andrew R. Melnyk, M.D., on “Forensic Genetics – the Science of Human Identification and Genetic Profiling by DNA Analysis.”

George Kuritza, M.D., chapter president, welcomed over 40 members to Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant in Skokie, Ill., holding a brief business meeting before the luncheon presentation. Dr. Kuritza reviewed the activities of the prior year and encouraged all members to actively participate in UMANA branch functions.

He expressed special gratitude to branch member Dr. Peter Blendonohy, a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist at Resurrection Hospital, for his generous and compassionate care of Aleksandr Bakhtiarov. Mr. Bakhtiarov is a Ukrainian soldier severely injured earlier this year in Iraq, who required extensive and aggressive rehabilitative care. UMANA approached Dr. Blendonohy, who graciously volunteered his services and facilitated his stay at Resurrection Hospital on humanitarian grounds. During the several months of his care, Mr. Bakhtiarov progressed well, to the point of being discharged home to Ukraine in the prior week. “Dr. Blendonohy’s dedication is exemplary,” said Dr. Kuritza.

Dr. Kuritza then introduced Dr. Andrew Melnyk, director of the Section of Cytogenetics and assistant director of the Section of Molecular Genetics, Department of Pathology at Resurrection Medical Health Center, in Chicago. Dr. Melnyk reviewed the biochemical and molecular basis of DNA function, explaining the current methods used to extract DNA information, and displayed typical examples of DNA electrophoresis. He then switched emphasis to “the interesting stuff: paternity suites, criminal cases and human identification.”

Dr. Melnyk informed the listeners that the bulk of cases using DNA analysis involve determinations of paternity, either confirming or excluding a man in disputes questioning whose children are whose. These cases tend to be rather straightforward, since adequate samples of DNA are obtainable from the interested parties, and usually not much time has transpired since the events leading to the inquiries.

DNA samples at crime scenes, however, may exist in minute quantities, or may be many years old. Furthermore, the simple presence of DNA is useful only if there are suspects. At that point, DNA evidence can either match or exclude suspects in criminal acts. Dr. Melnyk summarized the case of O.J. Simpson, where, despite what appeared to be strong DNA evidence matching the suspect, the court proceedings came to quite a different conclusion, underscoring the ambivalent nature of this science.

Concluding, Dr. Melnyk presented the cases of the Romanov royal family and Heorhii Gongadze. In each case, DNA evidence was obtained from both the deceased as well as his closest available living relatives, to confirm the identity of the remains. Dr. Melnyk stressed that the confirming nature of these investigations can bring solace and closure to recent as well as historical events, relieving uncertainty and dispelling doubt.

The attendees ended the meeting with a question and answer session; many remained, engaging in collegial discussion.
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Dinner Banquet @ 7 pm
The Ball @ 9 pm

Admission:
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Student Tickets- Banquet & Ball- $65 person
Student Tickets- Ball Only- $25 person

After December 31, 2005:
$10 Additional per ticket for Banquet & Ball
$5 Additional for Ball only

Tickets can be purchased online at www.UESA.org
NOTES ON PEOPLE

Cathedral Honors Choir Director

PARMA, Ohio – On Sunday, November 20, 2005, St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, honored Markian Komichak on the occasion of his 15th anniversary as director of the 40-voice parish choir.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Mr. Komichak moved to Cleveland in 1980 to organize the Kashian Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, which he still teaches. The ensemble is well known for its outstanding performances that represent the Ukrainian community in Greater Cleveland. The ensemble has performed at the White House, in numerous cities across the United States and has been on tour in Ukraine.

In 1990 Mr. Komichak assumed the position of director of the Ukrainian choir at St. Vladimir’s and, in 1995, also began directing its English choir. His love of liturgical music is evident to all and was a driving force when he received his master’s of music degree from Cleveland State University in 1996.

Besides the choice and his work with Kashian for 25 years, Mr. Komichak also teaches three groups of 60 children in the parish’s School of Ukrainian Dance. More recently, he became involved on the diocesan level of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. by compiling various liturgical books for the entire diocese.

In recognition of his dedicated work, a certification of appreciation was presented on behalf of Metropolitan Constantine to Mr. Komichak by the parish clergy, along with a gift from the parish. The presentation was made at the conclusion of the liturgy on November 20.

Roxanne Decyk wins alumni award

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – Roxanne Decyk, daughter of Walter and Tillie Decyk, has been awarded the 2005 University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award.

One of the few female executives to have reached the upper echelons of the corporate world, Ms. Decyk is director international for the Royal Dutch Shell corporate world, Ms. Decyk is director of corporate affairs and oversees global real estate.

In the near future, she is slated to become instrumental in the successful restructuring of the complexities of large corporations.

In the mid-1970s. Not only did she promote a series of literary evenings devoted to Ukrainian writers and poets, but he often introduced and analyzed the works of the visiting writers. A collage of the literary programs in which Prof. Rubchak took part was created by Lialia Kuchma, curator of the art exhibits at the UIMA. A sculpture by Alexandra Kochman was presented to Prof. Rubchak from his friends at the institute. Seen below (from left to right): Vira Bodnaruk, Mariana Rubchak, Prof. Rubchak, Ms. Kochman, George Kolomayets, Luba Markewycz, Konstantin Miltonidis and Oleh Kowenko.

Ruslan Tracz’s photos displayed

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – More than two dozen images of the Orange Revolution hung on display recently in a Winnipeg gallery. Taken by Ruslan Tracz, 23, the collection included color photographs, video and leaflets from both of the candidates contesting the 2004 presidential election in Ukraine.

Mr. Tracz left Canada to cover the election and began working for the Kyiv Post in Kyiv, according to a December 15 article in the Winnipeg Free Press.

“Many eyes in Winnipeg were focused on Kyiv as well, partly because of our city’s large Ukrainian Canadian population, and also because of a then-22-year-old student,” Tracz said.

Poet Bohdan Rubchak honored with gathering

CHICAGO – On September 17, 2005 friends and supporters of poet Bohdan Rubchak held a farewell gathering at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) in Chicago to wish him well in his new home in New Jersey. A recently retired professor of Slavic and comparative literature at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Prof. Rubchak has had a close relationship with the UIMA since the mid-1970s. Not only did he promote a series of literary evenings devoted to Ukrainian writers and poets, but he often introduced and analyzed the works of the visiting writers. A collage of the literary programs in which Prof. Rubchak took part was created by Lialia Kuchma, curator of the art exhibits at the UIMA. A sculpture by Alexandra Kochman was presented to Prof. Rubchak from his friends at the institute.

Cleveland native Roxanne Decyk won the 2005 University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award. She was honored by her alma mater for her dynamic leadership in navigating the complexities of large corporations and for her impressive rise to the corporate elite.

NOTES ON PEOPLE
Yushchenko stays calm over gas dispute

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko expressed his certainty on December 21, 2005, that Kyiv and Moscow will break a deadlock in talks over gas prices for 2006 and find a mutually acceptable compromise. Interfax-Ukraine reported. “If we fail to reach an agreement, it will be because of an attitude on one side or the other,” Mr. Yushchenko said to journalists during a visit to Kherson Oblast. “I’m confident that the problem will be resolved so that nobody will suffer.”

Gazprom is demanding a price of $220-230 per 1,000 cubic meters, which is roughly the market price in Europe. Ukraine, for its part, is seeking to increase transit fees for Russian natural gas transported via its territory to $3.50 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers, up from the current $1.09 (see “RFE/RL Newsline,” December 7, 8, and 13, 2005). (RFE/RL/Newsl ine)

Tymoshenko activists claim “dictatorship”

LVIV – Six managers of the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc’s regional headquarters in Lviv Oblast have left the party ranks, shortly after the bloc’s talk to the bloc’s list of candidates for the 2006 parliamentarian elections and the way the party is run was announced. UNIAN reported. “We have become angry after we saw the bloc’s list of parliamentary candidates. There are practically no representatives of our own parties, syndicates and mass organizations,” Mr. Yezhevsky said.

Gazprom is demanding a price of $220-$230 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas from Ukraine in 2006, up from $50 for 1,000 cubic meters this year. Kyiv is proposing to phase in a gas price hike over four to five years. (RFE/RL/Newsl ine)

Ukraine says no offer from Moscow on gas

MOSCOW – The acting charge d’affaires at the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow, Leonid Osvyolyuk, said on December 22, 2005, that Kyiv has yet to receive any official proposals from Gazprom on natural-gas prices for 2006, RIA-Novosti reported. “We are expecting official proposals on natural-gas transit tariffs and prices,” Mr. Osvyolyuk said. Gazprom in this week accused Ukraine of delaying the completion of an agreement (see “RFE/RL Newsline,” December 20, 2005). Gazprom has been supplying natural gas to Ukraine under a barter agreement for $5 per 1,000 cubic meters. Gazprom is seeking to raise the price to $220-822 per 1,000 cubic meters, which is roughly the market price in Europe. Ukraine, for its part, is seeking to increase transit fees for Russian natural gas transported via its territory to $3.50 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers, up from the current $1.09 (see “RFE/RL Newsline,” December 7, 8, and 13, 2005). (RFE/RL/Newsl ine)

Ukraine's accession to NATO looks uncertain

KYIV – Former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko outlined the parliamentary election program of his Party of Regions during a convention in Kyiv on December 2, 2005, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Mr. Yushchenko said that his party favors a transition to a federal system that could help balance the level of socioeconomic development across Ukrainian regions. Speaking about foreign political priorities, the former presidential candidate said the Party of Regions is “against haste in joining international organizations.” Mr. Yushchenko also said his party is for granting the Russian language at least two-tenths of the educational system. The convention endorsed the party’s list of candidates for the March 26, parliamentary elections. According to recent polls, the Party of the Regions is the most popular party in Ukraine and can count on some 18 percent of the vote. (RFE/RL/Newsl ine)

SDPU wants votes on NATO, SENS

KYIV The Central Election Commission has agreed to register initiative groups seeking a referendum on Ukraine’s accession to NATO and the Single Economic Space (SES) – a declared community comprising Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, Interfax-Ukraine reported. The commission declared that its puts the nation’s political future at risk. The commission also decided that candidates for the March 26, parliamentary elections could be collected by March 1. In order to hold a referendum in Ukraine, an initiator needs to collect no fewer than 3 million signatures in at least two-tenths of the

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCHES 22, 176

Please be advised that Branch 176 has merged with Branch 22 as of December 18, 2005, with Branch 22 changing as the active Branch. All inquiries and requests for change should be sent to:

Mr. Stefko Kuropas.
105 S. Salem Dr.
Schaumburg, IL 60193
(847) 923-7458

Ukrainian Orthodox Church marks 2,000th anniversary

KYIV – Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP) officials and members of the Orthodox community celebrated the 2,000th anniversary of the Christianization of Ukraine on December 2, 2005, Interfax-Ukraine reported. “The day has come to pay tribute to our grandfathers and grandmothers,” Mr. Osavolyuk said. “The tone of such statements is unacceptable,” Mr. Masorin said, according to a press service, 130

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KYIV – Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP) officials and members of the Orthodox community celebrated the 2,000th anniversary of the Christianization of Ukraine on December 2, 2005, Interfax-Ukraine reported. “The day has come to pay tribute to our grandfathers and grandmothers,” Mr. Osavolyuk said. “The tone of such statements is unacceptable,” Mr. Masorin said, according to a press service, 130
Volodymyr Lytvyn said at a December is believed to be rife, especially along been set up to combat smuggling, which Moldovan border, Ukrainian and interna- operation to monitor the Ukrainian- EU begins monitoring border

KYIV – The European Union on November 30, 2005, officially initiated its operation to monitor the Ukrainian- Moldovan border, Ukrainian and interna- tional media reported. The operation has been set up to combat smuggling, which is believed to be rife, especially along Ukraine’s 400-kilometer-long border with Moldova’s separatist Transdniester region. The operation’s inauguration cere- mony in Odessa was attended by EU High Representative for the Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, European Commissioner for External Affairs and Neighboring Policy Bettina Ferrer- Waldner, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Boris Tarasyuk and Moldovan Foreign Minister Andrei Stratian. The operation consists of some 70 border policemen and customs officers from 16 EU countries and 50 local staffs. It has a budget of 8 million euros ($9.4 million U.S.) and a two-year mandate, which can be extended. The monitors are authorized to make unannounced inspections at any location on the Ukrainian-Moldovan fron- tier. However, they will not operate on Transdniestrian territory. (RFE/RL Newsline

Lytvyn: no waste sites near Chornobyl

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said at a December 19, 2005, press conference while on a working trip to the Zhytomyr region, that no depots will be constructed in the Chornobyl exclusion zone for storing fiss- ile fuel wastes. Mr. Lytvyn said the state must reassure the people who suffered from the Chornobyl nuclear accident about this. Regrettably enough, he added, the president’s utterances about such a storage facility were misconstrued. Those who support such an idea should better use their own backyards for this purpose, Mr. Lytvyn remarked. On December 5, 2005, President Viktor Yushchenko, speaking at a press conference in Crimea, said that proposals about the construction of storage facilities in the Chornobyl zone for other nations’ radioactive wastes should be first discussed at a referendum. Such proposals may be accepted by the people’s consent if these prove economi- cally profitable and environmentally safe. Nevertheless, the president’s utterances were interpreted by some publications as definitively deliberate. On December 15, 2005, the president reaffirmed that no fissile fuel wastes from other nations will be buried in the Chornobyl zone. According to the president, Ukraine’s pressing prob- lem is construction of a storage for keep- ing Ukrainian nukes’ fissile wastes, which must be solved by 2010. This is necessary because Ukraine has no com- plete cycle of manufacture, use of fissile materials, but also those from Ukraine’s other nuclear power plants. (Ukrinform

CEC updates its website

KYIV – The Central Election Commission on December 20, 2005, launched a new chapter devoted to the 2006 parliamentary elections on its offi- cial website (http://www.cvk.gov.ua). The chapter includes, among other data, elec- tion lists of the Communist Party and the Party of Regions as well as an election campaign schedule. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Border police foil trafficking attempt

KYIV – According to information released on December 19, 2005, by the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service, Ukrainian border guards have foiled yet another attempt to illegally transport Ukrainian children abroad. The incident occurred at the Chernovya Mohyla check- point near the Ukrainian-Russian frontier in the Luhan region. A 7-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl on board the Kharkiv-Baku train were accompanied by a Russian woman, who claimed to be their mother. In the process of questioning by the border guards, the children con- fused each other’s names and had diffi- culty giving their “mother’s” name. The border guards also found that the girl’s birth certificate contained the parents’ names, with the mother’s name quite dif- ferent from the Russian woman’s. With a view toward clarifying the situation, the border guards detained the woman togeth- er with the children and turned them over to railroad police at the Chernovya Mohyla railroad terminal. (Ukrinform)

OSCE trains discharged military

KHMELNYTSKYI – Sixty Ukrainian military officers graduated on December 15, 2005, in the city of Khmelnytskyi after completing courses of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which are designed to help them develop new professional skills. “As part of the ongoing reform of the country’s armed forces, some 40,000 persons have been discharged this year alone,” said Ambassador James Schumaker, the OSCE project coordinator in Ukraine. “Those officers who take our courses are eligible for employment assis- tance, both during their 500 hours of class- room time and after graduation.” The retraining of discharged or soon-to-be-dis- charged military personnel is adminis- trated at the request of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, and is part of a joint project between the OSCE Project Coordinator’s Office and the Defense Ministry titled “Assisting in Social Adaptation of Discharged Military Personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.” Mr. Schumaker noted that “more than 400 officers have undergone retraining this year, and about 80 percent of the graduates were able to find employment within three months.”

The retraining takes place in regions con- taining high numbers of disbanded military garrisons, such as Cherniv, Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, Odesa, Sevastopol, Uzhhorod, Vinnytsya, Zhytomyr and Kyiv. In 2006 such retrain- ing is to be extended to other regions of Ukraine. (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

Kuchma tax evasion case sent to STA

KYIV – Police have sent the criminal case alleging tax evasion by the Ukraine fund headed by former President Leonid Kuchma to the State Tax Administration (STA), the tax country’s chairman, Oleksander Kireyev, said in an interview with Channel 5 TV on December 15, 2005. He said it is still too early to talk about the outcome of the investigation of the case because it has only just started. The fund was launched on April 4, 2004, to support talented children. However, police suspect that the source of the revenues into the fund is illegal. Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko told jour- nalists that he suspects the money came from the accounts of offshore companies. (Ukrinform)
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 7
NEW YORK: Rockefeller Center Christmas Caroling. To all nationalities that celebrate the Julian calendar Christmas: join us at the Rockefeller Center Tree on January 7, at 7 p.m. for candlelight caroling. Please bring your own candles.

PARMA, Ohio: On Saturday, January 7, St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 5913 State Road in Parma, on the occasion of Christmas according to the ancient Julian Calendar, will sponsor its 18th annual Christmas radio program for their sick and shut-in parishioners. The entire divine liturgy will be broadcast live from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. over WERE 1300 AM radio. The liturgy will be celebrated by the cathedral clergy. Responses will be sung by the Ukrainian and English choirs of the cathedral. Also, at 7-30 p.m. on Friday, January 6 – Christmas Eve – Great Complies and Matins will be celebrated.

Saturday, January 14
PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) sincerely invites everyone to attend a fun-filled Malanka featuring the popular zabava band Hirim (from New England) in the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center at 7009 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Start time is 9 p.m. Admission is $35 for adults in advance; $40 at the door; $25 for students and seniors. Admission includes a delicious hot catered buffet, champagne will be provided at midnight. For more information and advance tickets, please call Walter at (215) 379-2676, John at (215) 638-4103, or Leo at (215) 969-4101.

Saturday, January 21
CARTERET, N.J.: The St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka, which will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. N.J. Musical performance by Fata Morgana. Tickets are $45 (includes admission, choice of meal, drinks, midnight hors d’oeuvres and a champagne toast). There will also be a cash bar. The St. Demetrius Center is located off of Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. There is also a Holiday Inn off of the exit. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and music starts at 8:30 p.m. For table and ticket reservations, please call Peter Prociuk at (732) 541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Deadline for tickets is January 16.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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