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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

National deputies support Greek-Catholic Patriarchate

Religious Information Service of Ukraine

KYIV – More than 150 national deputies of Ukraine signed a letter to Pope John Paul II, asking him to grant the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) the status of a patriarchate. News of the move was reported on March 4 by the UNIAN news service.

According to Oleksa Hudyma, national deputy and member of the Our Ukraine bloc who initiated the collection of signatures, “the atmosphere during the collection of signatures was extremely friendly, both towards the Greek-Catholic Church and those national deputies who contributed the most to this endeavor.”

Among those who signed the letter were mostly national deputies who are members of Viktor Yushchenko’s Our Ukraine faction. In addition, National Deputies Mustafa Jemilev and Refat Chubarov, head and deputy of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatars, as well as National Deputy Yevhen Chervonenko, president of the Confederation of Jewish Communities in Ukraine, also signed the letter to the pontiff.

According to the press service of the Ukrainian National Party, Mr. Hudyma informed Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the UGCC, that more than 150 signatures were collected in the Verkhovna Rada in support of the establishment of the UGCC patriarchate.

Thousands rally in Kyiv for freedom of the press

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – National Deputy Yulia Tymoshenko exhorted thousands of Ukrainians on March 9 to rise in massive civil disobedience in response to efforts by state authorities to shackle press freedoms by closing down mass media outlets that do not toe the government political line.

Fellow lawmaker Viktor Yushchenko told the throng of 10,000 to 15,000 who had gathered to commemorate the 190th birthday of Ukraine’s national bard, Taras Shevchenko, that the Ukrainian political leadership was slowly achieving its aim of a controlled and cowering press.

“It is a shame that leading these columns were journalists whose mouths were taped shut,” stated Mr. Yushchenko.

He was referring to dozens of journalists who led the demonstrators and carried signs that read: “Keep Your Hands Off the Independent Media” and “Kuchma Out!” – the latter now a traditional chant at any anti-government rally.

The demonstration and rally began at St. Michael’s Square, where supporters of Oleksander Moroz and his Socialist Party gathered before proceeding down Volodymyrska Street, picking up columns of protesters from the Our Ukraine bloc, which Mr. Yushchenko leads, and the Tymoshenko Bloc, and then moving to Shevchenko Park for a rally.

Mass protest by the opposition has become an annual tradition on this day over the last three years as thousands have marched through the downtown streets of Kyiv calling for democracy and free speech in the country and the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma.

In 2001 the protests ended in violence, and tear gas was used to disperse the crowd after state militia and protesters battled near the Presidential Administration Building. Thousands of demonstrators had roamed the city center throughout the day confronting and combating police. Dozens of police and civilians were injured.

While the demonstrations have remained peaceful for the last two years, this year they took on renewed urgency after a second recent effort by government representatives to limit Radio Liberty (RL) broadcasts to Ukraine.

On March 3 Ukrainian government representatives unexpectedly and without a court order removed the transmitting equipment of Radio Kontyent, claiming the radio station had been transmitting without a proper license. The move came only five days after Radio Liberty, a U.S.-financed, private radio broadcasting, had moved to that radio station.

Earlier, Radio Dovira, another Kyiv radio station, had canceled its relationship with RL, blaming the broadcaster for failing to make format changes as had been demanded by Radio Dovira owners. RL officials have said they were never told what changes the station wanted.

(Continued on page 3)

Life of “Dmytre Z.” emerges thanks to exhibit, and some journalistic sleuthing

by Yaro Bihun

“Vichnaya pamiat...”

When the last refrain of this simple, mournful funeral dirge we sing dies away into silence at the gravesite of a family member or friend, most eyes are filled with tears or, at the least, are misty. The coffin is lowered into the ground; we shower it with handfuls of dirt or flowers; linger for a while; and then regroup at the tryzna reception, where we recall his or her life and what they meant to us. We mark their passing again on the 40th day and, afterwards, on the anniversary or on the Sunday following Easter – until we have other, more pressing matters to attend to, move away, or simply forget.

Rarely do we consider the meaning of “vichnaya pamiat,” as we repeat the two words in our lament, beseeching God to grant the departed “eternal memory.” God, in turn, responds in kind, rarely granting our request – most of the departed are remembered, but none forever, at least not in this world. The reality is that few among us know the names of our great-grandparents, and even fewer pause to remember them every now and then.

I thought about the meaning of “vichnaya pamiat” as January drew to a close, when, browsing the Internet for Ukraine-

related news, I chanced upon an article in the Village Voice by Jennifer Gonnerman about an exhibit that opened January 17 at the New York State Museum in Albany. The exhibit, “Lost Cases, Recovered Lives: Suitcases From a State Hospital Attic,” profiles the lives of 12 former patients of the Willard Psychiatric Center, a century-old, state-run institution that was taken out of commission in 1995. It was located halfway down the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, about 50 miles southwest of Syracuse, N.Y. As the title suggests, the exhibit is based on the contents of patients’ trunks and suitcases that had been stored and long-forgotten in the attic of one of the Willard buildings, and augmented with several years of research conducted by a team that worked with the museum’s curator, Craig Williams.

Among the 12 patients, all now dead and identified in the exhibit and in the newspaper article only by their first names and last-name initials, was “Dmytre Z.,” a post-World War II Ukrainian immigrant who, along with his wife, Sophia, came to Syracuse in 1949. They were well on their way in the pursuit of their “America dream” when, two years later, their dream took a tragic turn when Sophia died.

It was a fascinating and heartbreaking story, but for me it left a number of ques-



Frank Speziale

Dmytro Zacharuk was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in Norwich, N.Y., in 2000. The small, metal temporary marker, with his first name spelled “Dymetro,” still identifies his grave today.



New York State Museum

The Willard Psychiatric Center, near Seneca Lake, was built in 1869. Before it was closed in 1995, more than 50,000 patients were treated there, including Dmytro Zacharuk of Syracuse, whose life story is part of an exhibit at the New York State Museum in Albany.

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ANALYSIS

Kuchmagate – Act III

by **Taras Kuzio**
RFE/RL Newsline

The series of scandals collectively known as Kuchmagate first erupted in November 2000 when Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz released excerpts from audio recordings made in President Leonid Kuchma's office by presidential security service officer Mykola Melnychenko.

In September 2002, Kuchmagate II began when the U.S. government announced that the FBI had confirmed that the Melnychenko tapes revealed that President Kuchma authorized the sale of Kolchuha radar systems to Iraq in July 2000.

Kuchmagate III began a day before President Kuchma's February 19 visit to Germany, where he met with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

One day before Mr. Kuchma arrived in Germany, Valeriy Kravchenko, an officer of the Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SBU) assigned to the Ukrainian Embassy in Berlin, visited the offices of Deutsche Welle and gave an interview in which he claimed he had refused to obey orders sent by SBU headquarters demanding that he follow national deputies, especially from the opposition, and even government ministers when they visited Germany.

Gen. Kravchenko said the latest orders he received demanded that he monitor preparations for an upcoming Our Ukraine forum in Kyiv that was being assisted by people in Germany. He said he refused to obey these purported orders because, under the 2001 law on intelligence, the SBU has no right to meddle in politics or spy on the opposition.

Dr. Taras Kuzio is a resident fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto.

Verkhovna Rada moves proportional election law

by **Jan Maksymiuk**

RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report

The Verkhovna Rada voted 262-7 on March 5 to adopt in its first reading a bill postulating a fully proportional party-list system for parliamentary elections. The document – referred to in the Ukrainian media as the Rudkovskiy-Kliuchkovskiy bill after the names of its main authors, Mykola Rudkovskiy of the Socialist Party and Yurii Kliuchkovskiy from Our Ukraine – calls for the election of 450 lawmakers in 225 constituencies from the lists of those parties and blocs that win at least 3 percent of the national vote, instead of the existing 4 percent voting threshold.

The adoption of a purely proportional system is a sine qua non for the Communist Party and the Socialist Party to support constitutional reforms that are being promoted by the presidential administration.

It is noteworthy that essentially the same bill was put to a vote in the Verkhovna Rada in February 2003, when it was supported by 217 deputies (nine votes shy of the required majority for approval) from Our Ukraine, the

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

President Kuchma oversees control over the “power ministries” and, therefore, was likely aware of these “illegal” orders, according to Gen. Kravchenko.

Gen. Kravchenko told Deutsche Welle he complained to SBU headquarters, but was informed by his superiors that “it was none of my business and that I must obey the orders from the center.” He said he ignored the orders, and after he was replaced on February 16 by another SBU officer he decided to go public.

Gen. Kravchenko showed the orders to Deutsche Welle, which said they appeared to be official SBU documents. He has offered the documents to the Ukrainian Procurator General's Office and the Verkhovna Rada's human rights ombudsman. National Deputy Mykola Tomenko of the Our Ukraine bloc brought some of the documents to Ukraine on February 26, after he met with Gen. Kravchenko in Germany the day before.

In his Deutsche Welle interview, Gen. Kravchenko said responsibility for the orders lies with SBU Chairman Ihor Smeshko and the head of the SBU directorate on intelligence, Oleh Syniatskyi. SBU Chairman Smeshko is reportedly aligned with the Social Democratic Party-United led by Viktor Medvedchuk.

The SBU and President Kuchma were obviously taken off guard by Gen. Kravchenko breaking ranks with the SBU and publicizing these purported orders. President Kuchma, who has been isolated in the West since the previous Kuchmagate episodes and who may have been hoping to use the Berlin visit to present a reformed image of himself, was visibly angered when the issue dominated his press conference with Chancellor Schroeder at the end of his visit.

The SBU has issued a statement claiming that Gen. Kravchenko's allegations are

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Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Social Democratic Party-United, that is, from the parties that easily cleared the 4 percent voting threshold in the March 2002 parliamentary ballot in the nationwide constituency, in which 225 parliamentary mandates were contested under a proportional party-list system.

This time, Our Ukraine and the Tymoshenko Bloc did not take part in the vote. Even one of the authors of the bill, Our Ukraine's Mr. Kliuchkovskiy, did not support it.

Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko explained that his bloc – which won more than 100 parliamentary seats in 2002, primarily owing to a proportional election system applied to the half of the contested mandates – did not participate in the vote because it cannot accept the lowering of a threshold for parties and blocs to make it into the Verkhovna Rada.

“The issue of the threshold is of principal importance,” Mr. Yushchenko said. According to him, the vote on the proportional election law was a “ticket to a coup” that will eventually lead – through the subsequent adoption of a constitutional reform bill – to the installation of an “emperor” in the post of prime minister. Yushchenko also argued that lower-

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NEWSBRIEFS**Rally for press freedom held**

KYIV – An estimated crowd of 5,000-7,000 people gathered near a statue to Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko in Kyiv on March 9, the 190th anniversary of the poet's birth, to protest authorities' perceived attacks on freedom of expression in Ukraine, local and international news agencies reported. The rally, under the slogan “Freedom to the Word,” was organized by Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Socialist Party and a number of media representatives. “The authorities persecute freedom of speech even more impudently than the Okhrana [tsarist secret police] persecuted the publication of Shevchenko's works,” the Ukrainska Pravda website (<http://www2.pravda.com.ua>) quoted from a resolution adopted by the rally. Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko told the rally that current efforts at constitutional reform represent a “coup d'état” intended to install incumbent President Leonid Kuchma as Ukraine's prime minister after the 2004 presidential election. “Ukraine is living under a criminal authority,” Mr. Yushchenko added. Ms. Tymoshenko called on demonstrators to be ready for a “serious civic uprising” in the event that the pro-Kuchma camp pushes its constitutional reforms through. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Will opposition field one candidate?

KYIV – Our Ukraine leader Yushchenko told the same March 9 rally in Kyiv that his bloc has reached “complete understanding” with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc regarding joint actions by opposition parties in the 2004 presidential election, Interfax reported. “Three weeks ago we proposed a political manifesto, which gives an answer to how the three political forces [Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party] should prepare for the October presidential election with a single platform and a single candidate,” Mr. Yushchenko said. “I am telling you now that we have reached complete understanding with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc within the framework of this document. I hope the Socialist Party will give the same reply.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Independent wins by-election

KYIV – Ukraine's Central Election Commission announced on March 8 that Oleksander Vasyliiev, head of the State Tax Administration in Donetsk Oblast, won election to the Verkhovna Rada in a Donetsk Oblast constituency (No. 61) on March 7, UNIAN reported. Mr. Vasyliiev, who ran as an independent, won nearly 79 percent of the vote, far outpacing 24 other candidates. The election was organized in connection with the departure of lawmak-

er Hennadii Vasiliev, who was elected in March 2002 but appointed prosecutor-general in November 2003. The Committee of Ukrainian Voters, a non-governmental group that monitors election campaigns in the country, said there were numerous violations of the law during the 2002 election in constituency No. 61. In particular, the committee charged that Mr. Vasyliiev had abused his official position to promote his candidacy and held meetings with voters at their workplace during the workday. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada backs proportional elections...

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada voted 262-7 on March 5 to adopt in its first reading a bill postulating a fully proportional party-list system for parliamentary elections, Ukrainian news media reported. The bill calls for the election of 450 lawmakers in 225 constituencies from the lists of those parties that win at least 3 percent of the national vote, instead of the existing 4 percent voting threshold. The adoption of a purely proportional system is a sine qua non for the Communist Party and the Socialist Party to support constitutional reforms that are being promoted by the presidential administration and the pro-government parliamentary majority. (RFE/RL Newsline)

...to the chagrin of two opposition blocs

KYIV – The Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc parliamentary caucuses, which oppose presidentially backed constitutional reforms, did not take part in the March 5 vote, the UkrainskaPravda website reported. Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko called the electoral bill a “ticket to a coup,” suggesting that the aim of the constitutional reforms currently under debate is to shift presidential prerogatives to the prime minister and allow the pro-government coalition to remain in power after the 2004 presidential election. “The law on the proportional election [system] that was adopted today is a banal bribe that was offered to opposition forces to ensure their support for the anti-constitutional mutiny,” Yulia Tymoshenko charged. “The law gives power to the [oligarchic] clans.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

President sacks energy minister

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma dismissed Energy and Fuel Minister Serhii Yermilov on March 5, saying an inappropriate price policy on the coal market is one of the reasons behind the sacking,

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Thousands rally...

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ed to see.

Other Western media organizations, including Voice of America, the BBC and Deutsche Welle had also used Radio Kontyent for their transmissions. They, too, went off the air on March 3.

The opposition demonstrations also followed the death in a car crash of the director of a Poltava regional radio station, which occurred the same day that Radio Kontyent's transmissions were pulled. Yuri Chechyk of Yuta Radio had been on his way to Kyiv for talks with Radio Liberty executives on providing them with airtime on his radio station when his car and an oncoming vehicle collided outside Kyiv. The driver of the other vehicle lost a leg in the incident, and a second passenger was hospitalized.

Many in the opposition movement, while acknowledging that there was no concrete evidence suggesting that Mr. Chechyk's death was planned, cited a pattern of "death by automobile accident" of several political and press representatives over the years, including prominent Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil. They are demanding an independent investigation.

The two incidents provoked a string of harsh criticisms from various Western governments and non-governmental organizations over the last week.

The U.S. Department of State harshly criticized the closing of Radio Kontyent in a statement released on March 4.

"The shutdown of Radio Kontyent and silencing of Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe, VOA and other international news broadcasters is an assault on democracy and is a serious concern in an election year in Ukraine when the need for news from many sources is greatest," said Richard Boucher, spokesman for the U.S. State Department.

The statement called for the "Ukrainian leadership to act immediately to allow Radio Kontyent to resume broadcasting and to refrain from erecting further obstacles to the rebroadcast of international radio broadcasts in

Ukraine."

Reporters Without Borders, the international media watch dog and human rights group, on March 5 called on Ukrainian authorities to allow broadcasts by Radio Kontyent until the licensing matter was brought before the European Court of Human Rights.

Then, on March 8, the U.S. Department of State released a second statement, this one issued by Adam Ereli, deputy spokesman of the department's Bureau of Public Affairs, in which he called for an official investigation into Mr. Chechyk's death.

On March 10 the Ukrainian Service of the BBC reported that the European Union was preparing a statement critical of the manner in which the press is treated in Ukraine. The report stated that the EU was awaiting approval of the wording from the 15 member-states and the 10 additional countries that would join in May.

On March 9 Markian Lubkivskiy, spokesman for Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that Ukrainian government officials were still studying the statements issued by the United States.

"Knowing that the U.S. has concerns on a wide range of sensitive issues, the Foreign Ministry has decided to react calmly to the statements," Mr. Lubkivskiy said. He explained that Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko had met with U.S. Ambassador John Herbst to discuss the two matters.

The shutdown of Radio Kontyent, which had long been in disfavor with government authorities over its oppositionist political stance, follows a pattern that has emerged in Ukraine over the last months. Several large media outlets have been forcefully shutdown or threatened with closure, including the country's largest newspaper, Silski Visti, which was closed after it printed what a Kyiv court decided were anti-Semitic materials. Meanwhile, Channel 5 Television, opened less than a year ago and owned by one of Mr. Yushchenko's closest advisors, National Deputy Petro Poroshenko, has said that its broadcast signal had been tampered with in the past and that it is under the close scrutiny of Ukraine's tax police.

FOR THE RECORD: State Department on the shutdown of Radio Kontyent

Following is State Department spokesman Richard Boucher's comment on March 4 regarding the shutdown of Radio Kontyent.

The United States views with grave concern recent attempts by Ukrainian authorities to limit public access to independent news and information. The shutdown of Radio Kontyent and silencing of Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe (RL/RFE), VOA, and other international broadcasters is an assault on democracy and is a serious concern in an election year in Ukraine when the need for news from many sources is greatest. The shut-

down of Radio Kontyent, which had agreed to broadcast RL/RFE, comes several weeks after Radio Dovira terminated its rebroadcast of RL/RFE.

We call on the Ukrainian leadership to act immediately to allow Radio Kontyent to resume broadcasting and to refrain from erecting further obstacles to the rebroadcast of international radio broadcasts in Ukraine. Ukrainian authorities must cease their ongoing campaign against independent media, which directly contradicts Ukraine's stated desire to democratize and move closer to the Euro-Atlantic community.

Quotable notes

"President [Leonid] Kuchma made clear to me during our nearly two-hour meeting last month that he sees the Bush administration as giving little thought, good or bad, to Ukraine, except to repeat what it hears from Russia. The suspicion within the political opposition is that Ukraine's contribution to the coalition in Iraq was intended to buy amnesty from the United States. This cannot be true, but the perception discourages government opponents."

— Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. secretary of state in 1997-2001, writing in the March 8 issue of *The New York Times*, as cited by RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report.

Serhii Sholokh: "I fear that the closure of Kontyent is not the last action against freedom in Ukraine"

by Vasyl Pawlowsky

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — On March 3 Radio Kontyent, 100.9 FM, which re-broadcast programming of BBC, VOA, Deutsche Welle, Radio Polonia, and had taken on the re-broadcasting of Radio Liberty on February 28, was shut down when Ukrchastotnahliad, Ukraine's State Agency for Radio Frequencies issued an order to close down the station.

Radio Kontyent's director Serhii Sholokh had told *The Ukrainian Weekly* a week before fleeing Ukraine that he had already agreed to start re-broadcasting Radio Liberty, but added, "It will happen when I am already out of the country." In fact, Mr. Sholokh left Ukraine for Poland on February 29, a source close to the director told *The Weekly*.

According to local reports, Mr. Sholokh had met with his former lawyer Maria Sambur of the Center for Crisis Journalism, and Valeriy Vorotnik, a journalist and director of the Internet publication Antenna from Cherkassy, who had become a consultant to National Deputy Nestor Shufrych of the Social Democratic Party-United. Previously Mr. Vorotnik and his publication had a great deal of trouble from the authorities, though these problems subsided once he started consulting for Mr. Shufrych.

The same source told *The Weekly* that he thought it odd there was such a meeting, as he saw Mr. Sholokh on February 25, and did not recognize the third person sitting with him as being Mr. Vorotnik, and suspected that there may have been another meeting.

Local reports claim that Mr. Vorotnik and Ms. Sambur had tried to assist Mr. Sholokh, though the later's mistrust of the two meant he would not take that step of cooperating with them. According to local reports, they claimed Mr. Sholokh would not answer their calls after the meeting on February 25. Neither could be contacted for comment.

Mr. Sholokh told *The Weekly* he had good reason to distrust both these people, who he believed had sold out to forces close to the regime. Mr. Vorotnik found protection with the SDPU, while Mr. Sambur, who had worked with the Institute of Mass Information (IMI), a journalist's rights group, was the first to make public the letters of a former police officer who claimed to have known who killed Heorhii Gongadze. However, Ms. Sambur had left out one little detail: the words regarding the president's role in the killing of Gongadze had been removed. She was subsequently fired from her position at IMI.

Mr. Sholokh had told *The Weekly*'s source that he refused to meet with them anywhere other than at a place that was known and frequented by many Kyiv journalists, as he felt he would be safer there and feared possible arrest if he were to have met them at another venue.

The *Weekly* contacted Mr. Sholokh on March 9 by e-mail as he agreed to clarify a number of things regarding his last few days in Ukraine. Following is information from that exchange.

As you know, Radio Kontyent was closed down on March 3. In your opinion, what were the reasons for this?

First of all this is a demonstration of strength and impunity and a way of testing the West's reaction, so further repressive activities can be carried out. Secondly, it was the actual [act of] getting all the undesirable programming that

is not under their control off the airwaves all at once. My decision to re-broadcast [Radio] Liberty was the last straw. I fear that the closure of Kontyent is not the last action against freedom in Ukraine.

They planned to use Kontyent for themselves and their own means, but when they understood that they couldn't get me they carried out their pogrom. They planned to lock me up in jail, and "convince" me while I was locked up to cooperate with them.

Some of the local media have been reporting that you met with Maria Sambur and Valerii Vorotnik on February 25. The *Weekly*'s source told us they did not recognize Mr. Vorotnik as the person who was sitting with you both. Was there a second meeting?

No, that was the same meeting, the fact that Vorotnik was not recognized is that he has been feeding at the trough.

Some people have stated it is very clear why Kontyent was closed; you were operating without a license. But the problem is much more complicated, and what can you do now in order to solve the problem?

The question regarding our broadcasting license is under investigation by the European Court of Human Rights, and until that examination is complete Radio Kontyent had all the right to continue broadcasting.

But in Ukraine rules and laws don't exist. I cannot consider Mykola Veresen's opinion piece in *Dzerkalo Tyzhnia* as the way it transpired. I obeyed all the laws, and I paid incredible taxes. [Veresen, in his article places the blame for Kontyent's closure on Sholokh himself — ed.] Just last December I paid over 25,000 hryvnia in taxes, but in this country there is a war going on against everything that is democratic. It is not a country in which the rule of law is followed, and these are wars without rules.

The only way to solve the problem is through continuous pressure by international organizations and Western governments.

You probably heard about Hryhorii Chechyk's death — the director of UTA Radio and Television in Poltava died in a car crash on March 3. Now that you are abroad, do you feel safer than when you were still in Ukraine?

I am not going to discount the idea that Chechyk took my place. The regime needed a sacrificial victim in order to frighten other directors from contacting Liberty. I fled, and they chose someone else. Yes, I feel safer here. However, there were people who claimed to be from the Ukrainian Embassy who tried to contact me, and I have been told that the SBU [Security Service of Ukraine] knew where I was. It was necessary for me to leave for another country and change my telephone.

Of course we have been following the situation regarding the closure of Kontyent and the reaction in the West. Can you comment on this?

I believe that the regime signed its own death sentence, because Radio Kontyent's audience is not simple listeners — it is almost an army of a million elite individuals. Some time will go by and we will be once again broadcast, and not just in Kyiv.

The reaction of the West so far is correct. However, the West must demand real actions from Ukraine, and not limit itself to declarations. The regime long ago began ignoring all declarations, because not once were there any real sanctions.

Canada-Ukraine internship program expands reach to Ukrainian diaspora

KYIV – The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Internship Program is expanding to include university students from the Ukrainian diasporas of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The announcement, made on February 11 at the Embassy of Canada in Kyiv by CUPP Director Ihor Bardyn, was greeted with enthusiasm by over 100 CUPP alumni who gathered to organize the CUPP Alumni Organization.

In 2004 CUPP will bring to the Canadian Parliament 52 Ukrainian university students, one representative from each of the three diasporas and four Canadian university students.

CUPP was established in 1991 to mark the centennial of Ukrainian group immigration to Canada and the renewal of Ukraine's independence. The purpose of CUPP was to give Ukraine's students an opportunity to observe how a democratic government and market economy functions in an open society. To date over 300 university students have come to Canada to complete an internship in the Canadian Parliament.

During an interview with a Kyiv University newspaper, Mr. Bardyn commented that he was impressed with the English and Ukrainian language fluency of the candidates from Georgia and Azerbaijan, as well as the patriotism of these students. Asked why he focused on patriotism, Mr. Bardyn stated, "Patriotism and respect for language is something that will not harm Ukraine

and Ukrainians, even if it emanates from Georgia."

Following the Kyiv meeting, CUPP graduates in Western Europe held a mini-reunion on February 14 at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich. Rector Leo Rudnytzky addressed the CUPP graduates who are currently completing internships or working at the Council of Europe, the World Health Organization, the European Commission and universities in Bonn, Offenburg, Geneva, Bologna, London and Stockholm, about the history of the Ukrainian Free University and its future challenges.

The Western European CUPP alumni undertook to prepare a proposal for submission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE) to assist that body in preparing the instruction manual for election observers who will travel to Ukraine in the fall.

As well, the Western European alumni wholeheartedly endorsed the adoption of the proposed charter for the registration of the CUPP Alumni Organization. The charter provides for membership in the organization of CUPP alumni and CUPP scholars, whose tuition costs for graduate studies at Oxford, Cambridge, Amsterdam, Johns Hopkins, Columbia and Toronto universities was made available by the CUPP program. The charter also provides for membership in the organization by any Ukrainian university

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OBITUARY

Myroslaw Prokop, writer-editor and nationalist leader, 90

NEW YORK – Myroslaw Prokop, a longstanding member of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences (known its Ukrainian acronym as UVAN), passed away on December 7, 2003.

He was born in Peremyshyl in May 1913, where he also completed his gymnasium (secondary school) studies in 1930. He then studied at the Law School of Lviv University during 1930-1933.

Because of his membership in the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), he was arrested in October 1933 and sentenced to a seven year prison term. He was released in 1937 under the terms of an amnesty.

He resumed his legal studies in Lviv (1937-1938). After this, he took up government policy studies, first in Berlin (1939-1941) and then at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich (1947-1949). He received a doctor of law degree from the UFU on July 4, 1949.

Between 1941 and 1944 Mr. Prokop took part in the anti-Nazi resistance in Ukraine. In 1942 he became a member of OUN's leadership. In 1944 he joined the presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council (UHUR) and eventually the council's representation abroad.

Mr. Prokop spent many years as an activist and writer-publicist. In Lviv during 1937-1938, he edited the journal

Studentsky Visnyk (Student News). In 1939-1941 he edited the Ukrainska Presova Sluzhba (Ukrainian Press Service). From 1942 to 1944 he edited Ideya i Chyn (Idea and Deed), the official newspaper of the OUN.

From 1957 to 1973 he edited the monthly journal Digest of the Soviet Ukrainian Press. In 1967 he worked as the co-editor of the Suchasnist journal,

(Continued on page 27)



Myroslaw Prokop

Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

A special yearlong feature focusing on the history of the Ukrainian National Association.

With the beginning of the 20th century, the UNA and the Ukrainian American community were coming of age spiritually at the same time that the Ukrainian nation back home was engaged in a struggle for freedom and political independence.

An appeal titled "To Action, Brothers" and published in the October 18, 1900, issue of Svoboda, noted: "As everyone knows, the life of our people in

(Continued on page 19)



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Svoboda Press releases 2004 UNA Almanac

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Svoboda Press has released the 2004 Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association, which is dedicated first and foremost to the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the largest and oldest Ukrainian fraternal organization.

The volume's first section is devoted to the Ukrainian National Association and includes an article by UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj, as well as anniversary greetings from New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey and the editorial staffs of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

Other sections of the 2004 UNA Almanac are devoted to the 350th anniversary of the Pereiaslav Treaty; the 190th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine's greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko; the 90th anniversary of the beginning of World War I; and the 65th anniversary of the independent state of Carpathian Ukraine.

Other chapters of the Ukrainian-language publication focus on "Unforgettable People, Unforgettable Events," with authors writing about such notables as poet-revolutionary Oleh Olzhych (1907-1944), poet Volodymyr Sosiura (1898-1965), opera diva Solomiia Krushelnytska (1872-1952) and Galileo, as well as the Stalin-era mass graves in the Bykivnia forest, located on the outskirts of Kyiv.

There are chapters also devoted to economics, the United States, health, travelogues and other diverse topics.

The almanac's editor is Petro Chasto, a member of the editorial staff of Svoboda, which is headed by Editor-in-



Chief Irene Jarosewich.

The cover was designed by Stepan Slutsky. It features the UNA emblem and the front page headline from Svoboda of March 1, 1894, announcing the establishment of the Ukrainian National Association: "Sovershyshasia" – "It has come to be."

Copies of the new 272-page almanac have already been mailed to all current subscribers of Svoboda in the United States and Canada. Readers who wish to order copies of the almanac, may call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3042. The price is \$15.

Proceeds from the sale of the almanac benefit the Svoboda Press Fund.

IN MEMORIAM

Olga Liteplo

July 11, 1921 – March 2, 2004

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association regrets to announce to members of the UNA General Assembly, members of UNA Branch 361 and to the UNA membership at large that Olga Liteplo, secretary of Branch 361 since 1992, died on Tuesday, March 2, 2004.

The Executive Committee and the entire UNA membership wish to express their sincerest sympathy to her husband, Sam, sons Merrill and his wife Maya, Ronald and his wife Nadia, Paul and his wife Emilia and their families. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 6, 2004, at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City. Mrs. Liteplo was buried at the Holy Spirit Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N.Y. Mrs. Liteplo will be remembered for her long years of service and dedication to the UNA.



Vichna Yiyi Pamiat!

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Assault on the media and Ukraine's future

"Whenever people are well-informed they can be trusted with their own government."
— Thomas Jefferson

We needn't remind our readers that this year, 2004, is a critical year for Ukraine as in October the country's voters are to elect a president. That, of course, is why the pressure on Ukraine's media – as well as outside sources of information that target Ukraine's citizens – has been ratcheted up.

Pressure on the news media, unfortunately, is nothing new in Ukraine. First came the "temnyky" – the almost polite (in retrospect) directives of what should be covered on the news and how. These first appeared in the second half of 2001 as the political atmosphere heated up in advance of the parliamentary elections of 2002. The temnyky worked quite well along with so-called "administrative resources" – the materials and power at the disposal of the authorities, whether it was finances, or manpower, or physical accommodations, to guarantee that the authorities' chosen candidates received special consideration, while those in disfavor would find it difficult to campaign and get their message across to the electorate.

Next came the more overt pressure to cover the news as the Kuchma regime and its supporters want it to be covered. Such pressure was exerted by various entities, such as state tax authorities, and by such means as tax audits, freezing of bank accounts, confiscations of newspapers' print runs, license revocations and libel suits, as well as that old stand-by, outright harassment and intimidation of journalists.

Now Ukraine has entered a period during which the media outlets that do not toe the Kuchma administration's line are simply shut down. Brazen is perhaps the best description of this approach. It's a quick and simple solution that yields immediate results. That's what happened most recently when Ukrainian authorities seized the transmission equipment of Radio Kontyent, forcing it off the air – and along with it the broadcasts of the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Voice of America and Radio Liberty, independent sources of information on which the regime's pressure had no influence. Radio Kontyent, it should be noted, had already been under the watchful eyes of authorities due to its pro-opposition stance. Its decision to carry the broadcasts of Radio Liberty, freshly pushed off the air at Radio Dovira, thanks to new management that supports the Kuchma machine, seemed to be the last straw.

To be sure, on top of all this there are also the murders of journalists under strange circumstances by unknown assailants – cases that never seem to get solved, as well as the growing number of deaths via vehicular accidents that seem to strike most often at those less than favorably disposed toward the regime. The most recent victim of such an accident (or not) was Yuri Chechyk of Yuta Radio, who was on his way from Poltava for talks with Radio Liberty executives concerning affiliation opportunities.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with one of our freelancers in Ukraine, the director of Radio Kontyent, Serhii Sholokh, said of the authorities: "They planned to lock me up in jail, and 'convince' me while I was locked up to cooperate with them." Of Mr. Chechyk's death, he said: "The regime needed a sacrificial victim, in order to frighten other directors from contacting [Radio] Liberty." (It must be noted that Mr. Sholokh was speaking from an undisclosed location as he has fled Ukraine.) As for the West's reactions to the latest examples of the Kuchma administration's assault on press freedoms, Mr. Sholokh underscored: "The reaction of the West so far is correct, however, the West must demand real actions from Ukraine, and not limit themselves to declarations. The regime long ago began ignoring all declarations, because not once were there any real sanctions."

Clearly, then, without strong and unambiguous reaction from the West, the Kuchma regime will simply continue its efforts to ensure that the people of Ukraine are not well-informed and, therefore, are not able to make the right decisions regarding the kind of government and leaders they want to lead Ukraine.

March
15
1998

Turning the pages back...

Six years ago, The Weekly reported on a special program held by the Embassy of Ukraine to the United States and the Ukrainian American community to honor the memory of Ivan Svitlychnyi, the literary historian, critic and poet who was at the

center of the 1960s "Shestydesiatnyky" national revival movement in Ukraine.

Our Washington correspondent, Yaro Bihun, filed a report on the event. Leading the remembrance was Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, who focused on the meaning and importance of the movement of the young writers and artists of that period who came to be known as the Shestydesiatnyky and of Mr. Svitlychnyi's role in it. Ivan Svitlychnyi's sister, Nadia Svitlychna, recalled the human, personal side of her brother and his circle of friends.

The evening was unique in that it did not coincide with any anniversary or particular date relating to the poet, who died in 1992, noted Mr. Bihun. "And it is fitting that we need not frame our love and respect for Ivan Svitlychnyi in the context of an anniversary," Ambassador Shcherbak said. "In today's murky, politicized atmosphere, without faith and direction, we have a spiritual need to connect with the source of our rebirth and yearn for a symbol of faith, morality and selflessness."

Svitlychnyi was arrested in 1965, during the KGB's first wave of arrests of the Shestydesiatnyky, and again in January 1972, during the massive crackdown against the Ukrainian intelligentsia, and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and five years of exile. Ambassador Shcherbak said that, even by Soviet standards, Svitlychnyi's trial and conviction were dubious. He was punished not for anything he did, but simply for being a leading Ukrainian intellectual, the "soul" and hub of the Shestydesiatnyky in Kyiv.

"It was the Shestydesiatnyky who laid the groundwork for the rebirth of Ukraine that came in the 1980s and 1990s," continued the ambassador. "Without them, the historic break that followed would have been impossible."

Source: " 'Soul of Shestydesiatnyky' Ivan Svitlychnyi remembered in D.C.," by Yaro Bihun. *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 15, 1998, Vol. LXVI, No. 11.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Russians go to the polls, but Putin cannot lose

by Bohdan Klid

On March 14 Russians choose a president in an election which the incumbent, Vladimir Putin – with 70-80 percent approval ratings – cannot lose. These astronomical ratings reflect his masterful ability to exploit the Russian people's yearning for order, which many Russians believe would come with a leader who rules with a strong hand (in colloquial Russian, khoziayin; literally, master), and nostalgia for empire, following the chaos, wild capitalism and loss of territory following the Soviet Union's collapse.

Mr. Putin was first elected president in March 2000 at the height of Russia's second war to crush Chechen independence. Following a series of apartment bombings in September 1999 – blamed on the Chechens – Mr. Putin, who was then prime minister, launched what he called an anti-terrorist operation. While the bombings provided a pretext, the aim of the second military campaign was to reverse the settlement following Russia's defeat in the first war (1994-1996), when Chechnya gained de facto independence.

The failed first war was symptomatic of the presidency of Boris Yeltsin, during which post-Soviet Russia lost its status as superpower and rival to the United States. Little Chechnya rubbed salt on to wounded Russian pride when it defeated the much better armed and far more numerous Russian army.

The Yeltsin administration also oversaw the collapse of the Russian economy. The remedy his administration prescribed for Russia's ailing, state-run industries was "shock therapy." In practice, this consisted of the rapid, and mostly rigged, privatization of state assets, which resulted in the instant enrichment of a small group of insiders, christened "oligarchs," who further looted state assets in 1996 in what became known as the loans for shares scandal. Another result of shock therapy was the liberalization of prices and hyperinflation, which wiped out the savings of the Russian populace and led to the collapse of their already low living standards.

Although Mr. Putin became president with the blessings of Mr. Yeltsin and allied oligarchs, his previous career in the KGB and its successor, the FSB, indicated support from this murky and blood-stained organization as well. Soon after assuming office, President Putin began re-establishing centralized control over Russia's regions – given autonomy under Yeltsin – symbolized by the appointment of former KGB and military officers to key government posts. Russia's Parliament, the Duma, has now been transformed into a rubber-stamp body. In parliamentary elections held last December, the Unity Party, which was created to support President Putin, gained a majority. Two of the largest opposition parties in the new Parliament are ultranationalist, adding shrill voices to the choir of Putin sycophants. Russia's president has also moved against the more independent-minded oligarchs: two have been driven into exile, while a third, the oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, is in jail awaiting trial.

Mr. Putin's campaign against the oligarchs has been popular, but also highly

Dr. Bohdan Klid is a research scholar and assistant director at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, based in Edmonton at the University of Alberta.

selective. While he has gone after those tycoons who supported opposition political parties or owned media outlets critical of his regime, privately, Mr. Putin has advised the oligarchs that they can keep their assets as long as they stay out of politics (and, implicitly, support the president).

Inasmuch as major privatizations under President Yeltsin were largely fraudulent, and most Russian companies kept two sets of books to avoid paying ruinous taxes, they were breaking the law. However, the selective use of state power against businessmen who are also political opponents of the regime is what one researcher has aptly called the tactics of a blackmail state, not actions based on the rule of law.

Since becoming president, Mr. Putin has often said that he aims to restore Russia's greatness and power. In practice this has meant, first of all, regaining Chechnya. In the still ongoing second campaign perhaps as many as 100,000 Chechen civilians have been killed (80,000-100,000 died in the first war), and at least several thousand Russian soldiers and much treasure have been squandered.

Mr. Putin's greater aim, however, is to re-establish control over the republics of the former Soviet Union which gained independence upon the empire's collapse. In a recent speech he lamented the Soviet Union's demise as "a national tragedy" which in his view benefited only the "nationalists and elites" of the newly independent countries, like Georgia and Ukraine.

Mr. Putin's words and actions have resulted in astronomical approval ratings. To the people of Russia, many of whom lived miserably under Soviet rule but became further pauperized under President Yeltsin, his assault against some of the oligarchs is popular, and has given them a sense of satisfaction and revenge. Yet, most Russians today are still poor, while government and business practices remain corrupt.

By promising to restore Russia's greatness, President Putin has applied balm to the Russian people's bruised hubris over lost empire. In a highly symbolic act, he has partially rehabilitated Joseph Stalin, whose criminal and genocidal policies resulted in the deaths of many millions. For Mr. Putin and most Russians, however, Stalin is fondly remembered for his leadership during World War II and expansion of Soviet territory to its greatest size ever. Under Stalin, as well, there was order.

While President Putin is not Stalin reincarnated, he has brought back strong-man, authoritarian rule to Russia, albeit with a veneer of democracy. Although he projects the image of a modern, Western-oriented leader, he governs more in the Soviet tradition, without, however, the utopian ideology and its baggage. In today's Russia, Vladimir Putin is its master.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Suitable models for our community

Dear Editor:

Recently Dr. Osyp Moroz in a letter to the editor of Svoboda, your sister publication, expressed his concern about the future of the Ukrainian community in the United States. He proposes to call a "congress" for the construction of one central institution that would represent all existing organizations in the Ukrainian community which would assure the future of its longevity, and at the same time be a good example of a democratic process so much needed in Ukraine.

He proposes that the organizers of such an event should consist of the open-minded people, preferably younger delegates, because for them the future is more important than the past. Well, it looks good at the first glance, but it is our past – our ethnic roots that unite us and divide us. Without the knowledge and appreciation of the past there is no future. We must learn from past failures and achievements. He recommends that we take The Washington Group (TWG) organization as a model. Very good!

In addition, I suggest that we should also consider the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) organization as an additional model. The UAV in its constitution states, among other things, the following as its objectives: "...to aid the Ukrainian people in promoting the growth of democracy in Ukraine..., to maintain the Ukrainian identity in a status of high esteem and respect in these, our United States."

UAV membership consists of individuals of various religions and political preferences, and includes all those who served in World War I to those who serve now in Iraq, from privates to generals. What unites us is our past and present, and our hope for a better future.

Dmytro Bodnarczuk
Albuquerque, N.M.

The letter-writer is past national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans.

Time for diaspora to think and react

Dear Editor:

Why do we have to wait until something or someone of note outside of the Ukrainian community addresses issues which cause us to react? Are we, as a group, in a somnambulistic trance that precludes us from acting in a rational, purposeful way? I am referring to the Holodomor issue which is everpresent in our subconsciousness and which we regard historically as the most horrendous crime against humanity in general and the people of Ukraine in particular.

Until now there have been no statements of apology or asking of forgiveness from the perpetrators: neither the Soviets nor Russians nor Jews who were instrumental in the implementation of the Holodomor. Even, the pope, who apologizes to all for everything, failed to apologize to Ukrainians for the Vatican's silence during the Holodomor.

We sporadically remember this horrific event (e.g., on the 50th or 70th anniversaries) and go to churches, march on Fifth Avenue in New York, hold conferences and symposia that are poorly attended; then we go back to sleep for another decade or two.

Ukraine, which is barely waking up from brutal repressions of 70 years of Russian Soviet domination can be excused from rational thinking or acting, but what is the excuse of the political Third Wave immigrants of our diaspora?

Recent events have given us the impetus and opportunity to react, such as:

- The New York Times Pulitzer Prize scandal of 2003, which we utilized for protests against Walter Duranty's 1933 award for his lies about the Holodomor;

- "The Passion of The Christ" movie and Mel Gibson's mention of the Holodomor in an interview with Peggy Noonan in Reader's Digest and the reaction of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

We read about it in the American press, saw it on television and became indignant for a week or two. Then we receded back into slumber.

We do not react sufficiently to a continuous barrage of lies and insults directed against us such as: genetic anti-Semitism, collaboration with Nazis, reduction of the 1932-1933 Holodomor to a "natural agricultural disaster," past and recent "pogroms" in Ukraine, blocking and opposition by Jewish organizations in New Jersey of studies of the 1932-1933 Holodomor to be included in the New Jersey schools curricula, the current efforts of representatives of Russian government in the United States to block the passage of the Senate Resolution 202 which states that the 1932-1933 Holodomor was a genocide, etc.

We desperately need to stimulate work in this field on a serious professional basis, such as the writing of books, the contribution of articles and letters to newspapers and members of our government, the production of videos and films for educational purposes, teaching about the Holodomor in schools, and so on.

We cannot permit these serious events in our history to be relegated to a "footnote" in the discussions of issues that are vital to us in the United States, Canada and Ukraine.

It is time for the diaspora to wake-up, think, reflect and react!

Bozhena Olshaniwsky
Newark, N.J.

The letter-writer is president of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine.

Sports Illustrated misidentifies Klitschko

Dear Editor:

Sports Illustrated's, February 16, 2004, issue carried a story on the retirement of Lennox Lewis, in which they referred to Vitali Klitschko as "the Russian." I wrote to them pointing out their error and canceling my SI and Time subscriptions and switching from Time-Warner cable to Direct TV.

She wrote back advising me that they had referred my complaint to their research department. To date, to the best of my knowledge, no correction has been published. I urge other Ukrainians to cancel/switch Time Inc. and Time-Warner subscriptions.

Askold S. Lozynskyj
New York, N.Y.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (not handwritten) and double-spaced. Letters may be mailed or faxed; they may also be sent via e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer MUST be given for verification purposes.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Back to square one

Ukrainian Catholics have been waiting for a very long time for the Vatican to recognize the establishment of a Ukrainian Patriarchate in Kyiv. Unfortunately, the Vatican is – my pastor will never forgive me for writing this – "playing politics."

When Ukraine was under Soviet rule, the Vatican informed us that a patriarchate was not possible because Ukraine was not an independent nation. There was no "homeland" for Ukrainian Catholics.

When Ukraine finally became an independent nation, the Vatican informed us that we couldn't have a patriarch because our bishops were not in agreement on who should be the patriarch. Two bishops were reportedly coerced by a Vatican hierarchy to oppose Cardinal Josyf Slipyj's election. Pope Paul VI offered to make Cardinal Slipyj an "honorary patriarch" but the cardinal refused, saying that the title was not for him personally but for the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Now that our Ukrainian Catholic bishops have agreed that Cardinal Lubomyr Husar should be the patriarch, the Vatican is telling us that the Orthodox world is opposed, specifically Russian Patriarch Aleksei and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

On February 22, Pope John Paul II said that pontiffs have a "singular ministry" of "confirming and guiding the Church in the unity of faith." This "indispensable mission," the pope said, comes from God and he has been called to "render this particular service to the entire Christian people."

I, too, yearn for Christian unity, but I know it won't happen in my lifetime, especially between Catholics and the Russian Orthodox Church. While America is involved in the Middle East, Vladimir Putin is resurrecting the old Russian Empire and the Russian Orthodox Church is an integral part of his strategy. Both the old Russian empire and the Soviet empire were dependent on three essential elements: Orthodoxy – religious or Marxist; autocracy; and "narodnichestvo" – a kind of mystic Russian oneness similar in concept to the German Volk. Patriarch Alexei views the lands of "Mother Russia" – which include Belarus, Ukraine and Russia – as "canonical lands" not to be sullied by Catholicism, especially Ukrainian Catholicism. I want to believe that a Polish pope understands this but is being constrained by others around him.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, traveled to Moscow recently to meet with Russian Patriarch Aleksei. Discussed, of course, was the Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate, which Cardinal Kasper made clear would never be sanctioned by the pope. This satisfied Patriarch Aleksei only temporarily. He then expressed his anger over the establishment of Catholic convents, churches and orphanages on sacred Russian soil. The Russian patriarch wants them removed and all proselytization in Russia, Catholic and Protestant, to cease.

These demands by the Moscow Patriarchate are not surprising. If the Vatican folds again, more objections to unity will be forthcoming. Patriarch Aleksei believes that it is Moscow, not Rome, that is the true center of Christianity. Moscow declared itself the third and final Rome after the fall of Constantinople. Once the Vatican accepts this view, Christian unity will be achieved.

So, dear reader, we Ukrainians are back to square one. What do we do now?

A number of options are open to us. We

could do what some of our pioneer priests and laity did in the United States in 1905. Upset with the abuse married clergy were experiencing from Roman Catholic prelates and priests, they convened a conference under the banner "Away with Rome." This got Rome's attention. A Ukrainian Catholic bishop was sent here in 1907, thanks in large measure to the political pressure put on Rome by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

Accepting this option might mean severing all ties with Rome and recognizing Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Filaret as the true patriarch, a dream nurtured by some Ukrainian Orthodox. Few Ukrainian Catholics, however, support this idea.

A better option was recently suggested by Father Robert Taft, S.J., of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, who told Ukraine's prelates to take two steps. "First, publicly declare the patriarchate. Second, request Roman recognition, but even if it doesn't come, refuse all mail that doesn't come addressed to the patriarchate. Don't pretend, but really do it. The secretary of state sends a letter addressed to the archbishop? We don't have any archbishop, we've got a patriarch. Send it back unopened, 'addressee unknown.' You gotta love those Jesuits!

Father Taft has a wonderful plan, except for one problem. Ukrainian bishops outside of Ukraine may be united, but Ukraine's bishops may not be. Some resent the so-called "American" presence in Ukraine (priests trained in the United States) and the "Brazilian presence" (mainly Redemptorists who are establishing themselves throughout Ukraine). Like many Ukrainian-born priests, especially those who served in the underground Church, Ukrainian bishops aren't accustomed to the kind of Church discipline and order that exists in the United States and Brazil. Some even grumble about Patriarch Husar, "the American," often behind his back, occasionally publicly. Expecting Ukrainian unity on anything, let alone religious matters, is always a risky proposition.

So what's left? Our patriarch has a suggestion: prayer and fasting. What better way to commemorate Lent? We should pray and fast for the pope and for Cardinal Kasper who apparently has great influence over the pope. We can emulate our Catholic brothers and sisters in Ukraine. One they have over us is prayer. They pray more. They attend church more. We can learn from them.

We should also pray for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which also needs to unite in order to better serve the Ukrainian people.

Finally, we can respond as the Body of Christ. As the catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "lay Christians are entrusted by God with the apostolate by virtue of their Baptism and Confirmation; they have the right and duty individually or grouped in associations, to work so that the divine message of salvation may be known and accepted by all men throughout the earth." No Church has a more authentic right to spread the Good News throughout the world than the martyred Church of Ukraine.

As usual, the Stamford Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy has a game plan. Involved with this initiative is Roma Hayda, who plans to inaugurate her idea soon, very soon.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is: mbkuropas@compuserve.com.

NEWS AND VIEWS: The Bush administration and Ukraine

by Ihor Gawdiak

In a recent op-ed piece in The New York Times, Secretary of State Colin Powell indicated that the Bush administration's first foreign policy resolution in 2004 is "to expand freedom," and to "support [its] consolidation in many new but fragile democracies. Surely the administration's list would include Ukraine, a country that is vital to the strategic interests of the United States and Europe. This former Soviet republic of 48 million, once the world's third largest nuclear power, now stands at a most critical crossroads, but judging by the recent actions of a crucial U.S. government agency, the U.S. is about to make a big foreign policy mistake.

Just how fragile the situation is in Ukraine was clearly explained last month in a Washington Post editorial which cautioned that the country's president, Leonid Kuchma, "appears to be looking for ways to curtail Ukraine's democracy so that he can prolong his own hold on power when his term expires this year." Linking Mr. Kuchma to "corruption," "strong-arm tactics," "serious human right violations" and running an "economy warped by clans of oligarchs," the Post further wrote that his aim is to "neutralize the country's most popular leader, Viktor Yushchenko, who, polls say, would win the next presidential election if it were fairly held."

As the Post concluded in its editorial, "[f]reedom could be consolidated this year in Ukraine or slip away," and that the outcome very much depends on the actions of this administration.

The U.S. Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) oversees all of the U.S. government's non-military international broadcasting activities. On February 3 it became known that the BBG decided to implement an earlier decision to cut U.S. international radio broadcasts to Central and Eastern Europe. However, it is difficult to understand why the BBG chose at this critical time to reduce broadcasts to Ukraine, where they are considered by many to be a much-needed counterbalance to the country's mostly government-controlled media.

Last February when the cuts were originally announced, BBG Chairman Ken Tomlinson wrote that broadcasts will be eliminated or curtailed to "democracies of Eastern Europe where free speech is practiced

and where the process of joining the NATO alliance is under way." Unfortunately, this statement alone raises the question to what extent Mr. Tomlinson and other BBG members are familiar with the situation in Ukraine. Although Ukraine has voiced its intention of joining NATO, its record on free speech is dismal indeed.

Apparently, the BBG has either not read or does not believe our own State Department's Annual Human Rights Report or any of the countless other resources that describe Ukraine's severely restricted media environment and that rate President Kuchma among the top 10 enemies of the press. The BBG also either doubts or has chosen to ignore the urgings of Ukraine's opposition leader, Mr. Yushchenko, who during a visit to Washington last February pleaded with administration officials to leave U.S. government radio broadcasts to Ukraine intact.

One of the U.S. government's broadcast services affected by the cuts is the Voice of America (VOA). VOA director David Jackson sent a (BBG-inspired?) memo that calls for reducing VOA Ukrainian broadcasts by half, beginning March 1, 2004. The service is to "retool its programming and expand its multimedia capabilities," presumably to include television and the Internet.

While catch words like "retool" and "multimedia" might have an attractive ring to them, Mr. Jackson and apparently the BBG have ceased to take into account the fact that in a country where the average monthly salary is still around \$60, few people have access to the Internet.

Similarly, in order to get television programming on the air in Ukraine, the U.S. must depend on Ukrainian State TV or channels owned by oligarchs aligned with President Kuchma. Given this reality, it is therefore highly unlikely that the U.S. will get any TV program on the air in Ukraine that, even if balanced, could in any way be critical of the country's government.

And what would be the point of VOA doing a TV program if it could not include any opposition voices or a healthy debate of Ukraine's problems? Whom would our efforts – funded by U.S. taxpayers – be serving? As

(Continued on page 27)

UWC statement

An appeal to our brothers and sisters in Christ

Below is the text of an appeal from the Ukrainian World Congress (release date: March 2).

Recent events surrounding the creation of the Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate are a cause for grave concern. The salient facts are as follows: The Vatican prepared and forwarded to the Moscow Patriarch a memorandum on the problem of creating a Catholic Patriarchate in Ukraine. The Vatican's representative then met with a representative of the Moscow Patriarchate to discuss this matter. In the meantime, Moscow circulated this document among the autocephalous Orthodox Churches. Patriarchs and primates from Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Georgia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Albania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and America expressed a negative opinion (if not violent opposition) on the subject.

The central question that needs to be asked is: why was this issue presented by the Holy See to the Moscow Patriarchate? The response often given is that, in the spirit of Christian ecumenism, the Vatican seeks the opinion of Moscow regarding the creation of a Catholic Patriarchate in Ukraine. This response has been reiterated off the record by many of the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs since the Ukrainian Bishops' Synod of 2002 when the Patriarchate was formally declared subject to ratification by the Vatican.

The Ukrainian World Congress believes that the Moscow Patriarchate is an outspoken enemy of Ukrainian Christians and the Ukrainian state. We cannot accept attempts by the Holy See to accommodate this quasi-religious, politically motivated structure, in particular, by disregarding the ecclesiastical needs and the merited aspirations of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Holy See's approach seems to us as either naive or disingenuous.

The reactions of the other Orthodox Churches, while not surprising, are disquieting. In particular, in view of the special relationship that exists between many Ukrainian Orthodox Christians and the Constantinople Patriarchate, we would have expected Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to have eschewed voicing an opinion, merely stating that this is an internal matter of the Ukrainian people. Furthermore, our friends, patriarchs and primates from Georgia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and America should have responded similarly.

At this time, we feel it important for Ukrainians worldwide to manifest unity and purpose. The Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy should again intervene with the Holy See and continue with greater urgency to manifest its disappointment with the Holy See's treatment of Ukrainian Catholics. Ukrainian faithful of all denominations should intervene with the ecumenical patriarch to disavow his intrusion into this matter. Finally, Ukrainian Christians in Georgia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and America should manifest their sorrow over the responses of the Orthodox Patriarchs in their countries.

In a spirit of solidarity, Ukrainian Christians must stand together on this issue. Historically, we have been divided and oppressed by foreign regimes. Even today our Churches are beset with foreigners and enemies deciding our fate. We need to manifest fealty for our Ukrainian Christian brothers and sisters by standing firm and united.

For the Ukrainian World Congress:
Askold S. Lozynskiy, President
Victor Pedenko, Secretary General

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: January 2004

Amount	Name	City
\$250.00	Anna Harmarty	Chatham, N.J.
\$145.00	Bohdan Krainyk	Pond Eddy, N.Y.
\$100.00	Mary Giza	Tamarac, Fla.
	Daniel Kashimer	Brooklyn, N.Y.
	Jaroslav and Iryna Kurowyckyj (in lieu of Christmas greeting)	New York, N.Y.
\$60.00	Yuriy and Ola Oliynyk	Carmichael, Calif.
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\$50.00	Pearl Dent	Danbury, Conn.
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TOTAL: \$2,065.00

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WEEKLY PRESS FUND: A SPECIAL REPORT

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Philadelphia, Pa.

Jaroslav Pikolyckyj

La Jolla, Calif.

Total \$75.00

... AND A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

These donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund were received during the months of January along with payments for "Ukraine Lives."

Double Exposure

by Khristina Lew

A winter's tale

It has all the makings of summer camp – a song, a motto, an awards ceremony, a guy playing the guitar – but the motto is “Ski Hee,” the guy is a 45-year-old photographer, and the place is Sugarloaf Mountain in Maine.

ULKUS – “Ukrayinskyi Leshchetarskyi Klub in Sugarloaf” (Ukrainian Ski Club in Sugarloaf) – is a weeklong annual ski trip organized by Roman Iwasiwka of Naples, Fla. (If you got married at Soyuzivka in the past 20 years, Roman was probably your photographer.) The trip began as a family outing of the Iwasiwkas and the Kurowyckys in the early 1990s. This year the group topped 95, with participants ranging in age from 11 months to 80-plus.

The trip is organized by one man – “by sheer will he pulls it together,” says Dr. Taras Odulak, an ULKUS member for three years. There are no organizational squabbles, no internal politics. ULKUS is a trip for Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike, and was created by Roman, “Batko ULKUS,” for his son Petroosh. “When I was growing up on Seventh Street [in New York City] we couldn’t afford to go skiing. I wanted my son to have that opportunity. I wanted to inspire a generation of kids to love skiing,” he said.

This year 36 kids hit the slopes –

many on skis for the first time. The smallest ones, like my son, Hryts, spent the day in sleds, being dragged back and forth at the bottom of the mountain.

ULKUS has evolved into an institution, and its spirit, says Motria Shuhan, an ULKUS member for five years, “is

generated by Roman Iwasiwka.” With the help of his wife, Tita, and sons, Petroosh and Marchyk, Roman recorded the ULKUS song. Andriy, “Vuyko ULKUS,” Tytla, burned it onto CDs and mailed to everyone so they had something to listen to on the long ride North. (Sugarloaf Mountain is a stone’s throw from the border of Canada – from New York the trip takes eight hours.)

Gogo, “Dido ULKUS,” Slupchynskyj, a veteran skier and a fixture of Ukrainian ski camps and ski races, designed ULKUS’s T-shirts and buttons. Jerry Kurowyckyj, co-founder of ULKUS, signed each of the awards presented to all the children, including the ones that have yet to get on skis – theirs reads “Best Future Skier.” People chip in because

they love the trip.

Groups of ULKUS members ski throughout the day, break for lunch at the mountain’s pub, and regroup in the afternoon for more skiing, sometimes with the same group, sometimes with a new one. The entire mountain is connected by walkie talkies. Some evenings have planned activities, like a welcoming party and the awards ceremony, and some have impromptu gatherings. This year nine former members of Plast New York’s 21st Kurin held a reunion in the mountain’s hot tubs.

This was my first ULKUS experience, and I loved it – because it’s great skiing, because it brings families together, because it informally gathers Ukrainians of all ages for the love of skiing. Can you tell that I’ll be going back next year?



Participants of the 2004 ski trip organized by ULKUS – “Ukrayinskyi Leshchetarskyi Klub in Sugarloaf” (Ukrainian Ski Club in Sugarloaf).



The Organizing Committee for

FOCUS 2

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TENNIS CAMP kicks off the summer with 2 weeks of intensive tennis instruction for boys and girls ages 12-18. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, expert lessons and a life time of memories are included!

June 20 - July 2, 2004

\$540 UNA Members, \$590 Non UNA Members

\$120 Instructors Fee/ Per Student

EXPLORATION DAY CAMP a new day camp for boys and girls ages 7-10, with 6 hours of supervised day fun!

Week One: June 28 - July 2, 2004

Week Two: July 5 - July 9, 2004

\$100.00 Per Week/Per Child OR \$25.00 Per Day/Per Child

ADVENTURE CAMP is a brand new sleepover camp for 13-16 year olds and will focus on the outdoors. Like the kozaks of old, daily life will include outdoor, overnight campsites with cooking & fireside storytelling. Will include wilderness survival skills, a kayak river trip, hiking, rock climbing lessons and more!

Week One: July 17 - July 24, 2004

Summer Camps 2004

Week Two: July 24- July 31, 2004

\$425 UNA Members, \$475 Non UNA Members

DISCOVERY CAMP a new sleepover program modeled after the Adventure Camp but geared for 8-12 year olds. This camp offers exposure to Ukrainian heritage & outdoor instruction. Daily life is filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, organized sports & games, bonfires, song and much more. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, and a life time of memories are included!

Week One: July 10- July 17, 2004

Week Two: July 17- July 24, 2004

Week Three: July 24- July 31, 2004

\$375- UNA Members, \$425- Non UNA Members

CHIMNEY YOUTH DAY CAMP a returning favorite for boys and girls ages 4-7. Kids will be exposed to Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games. Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.

Week One: July 18 - July 23, 2004

Week Two: July 25 - July 30, 2004

\$135 Per Camper

\$175 Per Camper If Not Overnight Guest

SCUBA DIVING COURSE this one week course will complete your academic, confined water and open water requirements for PADI open water certification. For all ages 12 and older! Classes are given by George Hanushevsky, scuba-diver instructor. Space is limited so sign up now!

July 25- July 30, 2004 (Revised dates)

\$400 for Course

\$120 Deposit Required

DANCE CAMP- this sleepover camp has been a Soyuzivka favorite for over 25 years. Taught by Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, an internationally recognized dancer and choreographer, and offers instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced students ages 8-16. Attendance is limited to 60 students. Room, board, 24-hour supervision, expert lessons and loads of fun are included.

August 8- August 21, 2004

\$610- UNA Members, \$660- Non UNA Members

\$250 Instructors Fee Per Student

\$75 Deposit Required to Register Child into a Camp.

For more information & for camp applications

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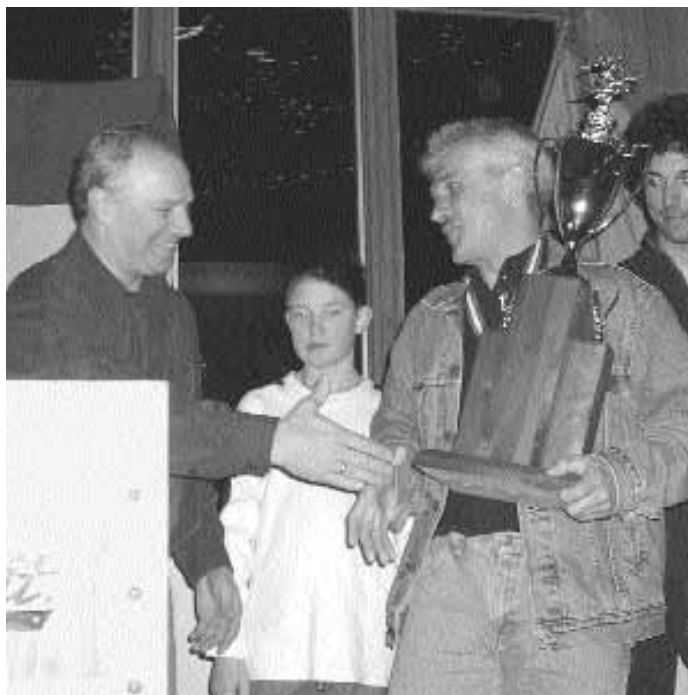
KLK holds 50th anniversary ski races in upstate New York

WINDHAM, N.Y. – The Carpathian Ski Club held its 50th anniversary ski races here at Ski Windham on Saturday, February 28, with racing in age groups ranging from 6 and under to 55 and over. Indeed, the annual ski races have now evolved into a true family event with kids and adults of all ages participating, as youngsters cheer on their parents and siblings, and parents root for their children.

Ninety-nine competitors signed up for the jubilee races – the vast majority of them skiers, although there was a sprinkling of snowboarders among the participants. It was the third year that snowboarders competed in separate categories.

Known by its Ukrainian acronym as KLK, the club held its first races in the United States in 1954 at Whiteface, near Lake Placid, N.Y. KLK was founded in Ukraine in 1924 and then transported to Europe and the United States, where it grew and flourished; it was re-established in Ukraine in 1989.

The races at Windham took place on a



Yuriy Kucher (right) accepts the traveling trophy for the fastest time posted by a male skier from Juri Kobziar.



KLK President Erko Palydowycz presents the trophy for fastest female skier to his granddaughter, Tania Ripnick.

KLK 2004 race results

SKIING

Girls age 6 and under

Adriana Terleckyj, 51.61
 Andreyka Pencak, 55.93
 Laryssa Terleckyj, 61.10

Girls 7-8

Christine Lenchur, 42.63
 Katerine Lenchur, 43.76
 Larysa Iwaskiw, 48.59

Girls 9-10

Natalia Hryhorowych, 34.65
 Katya Palydowycz, 35.66
 Sofia Sydoriak, 42.49
 Ivanka Temnycky, 43.20
 Ivanka Misilo, 50.87
 Christina Temnycky, 59.59

Girls 11-12

Tania Prymak, 31.58
 Maria Sydoriak, 43.79
 Sofia Zacharczuk, 44.59
 Alexandra Fylopov, 50.81

Girls 13-14

Tania Hryhorowych, 33.69
 Larissa Kobziar, 34.42
 Melanie Siokalo, 35.99
 Orysia Kucher, 38.19

Girls 15-17

Tania Ripnick, 26.62
 Roxanna Kobziar, 31.31
 Andrea Fylypovych, 37.24
 Natalia Temnycky, 41.89

Women 19-30

Melanie Doll, 34.05
 Wanda Vena, 36.49
 Dianna Shmerykowskyj, 38.98

Women 31-44

Natalia Fedun-Wojcickij, 38.12
 Ruth Lenchur, 41.09
 Roma Temnycky, 48.34

Women 45+

Zoriana Siokalo, 35.18
 Roma Hadzewycz, 41.79
 Darka Temnycky, 43.18

Boys 6 and under

Peter Lenchur, 46.22
 Oliver Chernyk, 47.73
 Ronin Kmeta, 57.76

Boys 7-8

Adrian Temnycky, 45.22
 Paul Temnycky, 49.79

Boys 9-10

Adrian Iwaskiw, 40.99
 Luka Zacharczuk, 41.45

Boys 11-12

Erko Palydowycz, 33.32
 Alex Hryhorowych, 33.95
 Nicholas Siokalo, 36.08
 Mark Kochan, 38.50
 Paul Hadzewycz, 40.39
 Mark Temnycky, 43.31

Boys 13-15

Marc Kostrubiak, 30.80
 Dan Paslawsky, 31.41

Boys 16-17

Adrian Kostrubiak, 30.20
 Adrian Rybak, 30.47
 Andrew Hrubec, 34.25
 Nick Stasiuk, 50.94

Men 18-21

Markian Hadzewycz, 34.09
 Darian Fedash, 35.26
 Yura Onyshkiv, 43.78

Men 22-35

Damien Vena, 28.88
 Askold Sandursky, 31.10
 Roman Dolinsky, 32.29

Men 36-45

Peter Strutynsky, 29.35
 Yuriy Kucher, 29.50
 Peter Lenchur, 31.50

Men 46-55

George Temnycky, 30.17
 Peter Siokalo, 32.33
 Volodymyr Temnycky, 33.79

Men over 55

Orest Dubynyak, 33.55
 Eugene Stakhiv, 35.68
 Andrei Kachala, 37.83

SNOWBOARDING

Boys 11-12

Julian Chernyk, 41.46

Boys 16-17

Greg Homick, 43.51
 Danylo Peleschuk, 44.63

NASTAR-sanctioned course, specially reserved that morning for the Ukrainian skiers. (NASTAR is the acronym for the National Standard Race, the largest public recreational grass roots ski program in the world.) In the afternoon, KLK race participants and their families had the opportunity to enjoy a gloriously sunny day on the slopes.

That evening, approximately 180 people – athletes of all ages, their families and friends, as well as supporters of KLK who had traveled from near and far, including such cities as Reno, Nev., and Ternopil,

Ukraine – attended the awards banquet held at nearby Hunter Mountain Ski Lodge. After KLK President Erko Palydowycz welcomed one and all to the anniversary dinner, a short overview of KLK history was provided by George Popel, who noted that many past winners of KLK races were present at the festive evening.

Special guests at the KLK festivities included several “old-timers” who came to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ski racing, including George Kupchynsky and Roman

(Continued on page 13)



The youngest skiers receive medals for their achievements from Orest Fedash.



Happy winners in the group of girls age 9-10.



U.S.-UKRAINE FOUNDATION'S COMMUNITY CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN FOR UKRAINE 2004

Your participation is requested to join the Community Challenge Campaign for Ukraine 2004!

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation will be a 2004 work award recipient from the U.S. State Department for the State Department Exchange Program, an organized group that will re-engage the energy and U.S. policymaking focus needed to free civil society from the ongoing, deep-seated imperial administration and provide policy implementation. "Ukraine's Voice of the Future," A Non-Partisan, Non-Profit Education Project on the Local Level in Ukraine. The Foundation will increase voter interest and participation in Ukraine's 2004 presidential election.

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KLK holds...

(Continued from page 11)

Hawrylak, two KLK stalwarts who were presented special jubilee awards in recognition of their contributions to the sports club. Two other designated recipients of the awards, Orest Slupchynskyj and Wolodymyr Hnatkiwsky, were unable to attend.

Also among those in attendance were VIP guests from the Embassy of Ukraine who traveled to upstate New York from Washington specially for the KLK races. Yurii Panasiuk and Serhii Svyryba are both deputy chiefs of the Trade and Economic Mission at the Embassy.

Another special guest was a representative of KLK in Lviv, Orest Dubyniak, who briefly addressed the gathering, extending greetings from KLK activists in Ukraine and presenting honorary membership in KLK Ukraine to the sports club's U.S. president, Mr. Palydowycz. In turn, Mr. Dubyniak received a special award from KLK U.S.A, recognizing his work for the club.

Irenaeus Isajiw, vice-president of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, extended congratulations on behalf of the umbrella organization, of which KLK is a member.

Trophies were awarded for first place in each age group; while second- and third-place finishers received medals. Special traveling trophies, which are passed on from year to year to each successive winner (no repeat winners are allowed), were presented for the fastest time posted among men and women competitors. This year's winners of the highly coveted trophies were Yuriy Kucher, who turned in a race time of 29.50, and Tania Ripnick, who came in with 26.62.

Top skiers also received gold, silver and bronze medals awarded by NASTAR based on the course time posted by pacesetters, as well as the gender and age of each racer.

KLK President Palydowycz and officers Orest Fedash and Vira Popel conducted the evening's program, assisted by other KLK leaders and activists who were called on to present awards.



Top finishers in the group of boys age 16-17 after being congratulated by the representative of KLK Ukraine who attended the 2004 races.



Girls in the age 13-14 group with awards presenter Irene Kupchynsky.



KLK President Erko Palydowycz (second from left) with KLK activists (from left) Orest Dubyniak (KLK-Ukraine), Roman Hawrylak and George Kupchynsky.

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THE WORLD, CLOSER TO HOME

Life of "Dmytre Z." ...

(Continued from page 1)

tions unanswered, the first among them: Who was "Dmytre" – or, more accurately, Dmytro – Z.?

This is his story, so that we, too, can remember him.

The initial "Z" stands for Zacharuk. The Rev. Ivan Kaszczak, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse, checked the church records and

found that a Sophia Zacharuk, born in 1923, died there in November of 1951 and was buried in the parish cemetery.

An Internet search of Social Security death records confirmed that a Dmytro Zacharuk, was born in 1916 and died in 2000 – the dates noted in the exhibit. Additional phone calls to the New York State Museum's press office, exhibit curator Craig Williams, and various sources in Norwich, N.Y., where he was buried, as well as Internet searches, filled in most of the remaining gaps in the story.

Dmytro Zacharuk was born on October 28, 1916, in the heart of Hutsulshyna in the Carpathian Mountains – in Utoropy, the oldest village in the region. It lies within 10 miles of Kolomyia, which is located to the north, and such Hutsul jewels as Kosmach, Sheshory and Kosiv to the south.

His father, a poor farmer, died when Dmytro was 2, and after a few years of primary schooling, Dmytro worked the poor mountainous land as well. During World War II he was rounded up and sent to a German slave labor camp. Following the war, he passed the time in the Hellbrunn displaced persons camp in Augsburg, where he met and married Sophia. He was in his early 30s; she – in her mid-20s.

In 1949 the Zacharuks emigrated to the United States, settling down in Syracuse, with its large Ukrainian com-



New York State Museum

Sophia and Dmytro Zacharuk in a 1940s wedding portrait taken while they were at the Hellbrunn DP camp in Austria.

(Continued on page 21)



Lisa Rinzler/New York State Museum

The attic of one of the Williard Psychiatric Center's buildings, where hundreds of old trunks and suitcases of former patients were recently discovered. The owners of 12 of these suitcases are the subject of the exhibit "Lost Cases, Recovered Lives: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic," at the New York State Museum in Albany.



New York State Museum

Dmytro Zacharuk at work during an art therapy session at the Willard Psychiatric Center. The painting is of a Hutsul church in his native village of Utoropy.

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COMMENTARY: Kyiv conference on "Ukraine in Europe and the World"

by Marta Farion

KYIV – After more than a decade of Ukrainian independence, and in the shadow of Ukraine's upcoming presidential election, 17 European experts in politics, economics and social issues and three Americans – former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller and current U.S. Ambassador John Herbst – convened in Kyiv on February 20-21 to assess Ukraine's future relationship with its European neighbors and the larger democratic world.

This was to be the first time that Ukraine's opposition forces gathered at the same forum to discuss their differences through dialogue rather than confrontation, an approach that has long been missing in the political culture of the country.

The conference, titled "Ukraine in Europe and the World," was co-sponsored and backed financially by a collection of European and American think tanks and NGOs, including the Adenauer Fund of Germany, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Center for International Relations of Poland, the Euro-Atlantic Institute of Ukraine, the Kyiv Mohyla Academy of Ukraine and others from France, the Czech Republic and Romania, and was billed as another round of discussions about Ukraine's staggering path toward European integration.

The conference's not so subtle subtext was that this year's presidential election would constitute the nation's choice point about its own future – to take the train going East or the train going West, a choice between going backward or going forward.

Secretary Albright's opening address set the discussion's agenda in bold language. "Democracy is not a gift. It has to be built by millions of people, and each person must take responsibility for leadership with wisdom, respect for the rule of law and free and fair elections," she said. "The people of Ukraine must make a full commitment to democracy. Ukrainians must stand on the shoulders of the dissidents, the non-people of the past, and not accept the theft of liberty," she warned.

The conference provided the Ukrainian government with its most recent report card, delivered openly and unvarnished by diplomatic ambiguities. Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine's former minister of foreign affairs and now the chairman of the Euro-Atlantic Institute, presided over the proceedings. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, president of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, opened with the question

Marta Farion, attorney and chair of the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Committee, attended the international conference held in Kyiv on February 20-21 titled "Ukraine in Europe and the World."



Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright with Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

"Why, after 13 years of Ukrainian independence, are there more problems now than then? He noted, "New people will someday write the history of this period, and they will have to write about our brutal reality."

Along these lines, Anders Aslund, professor and economic advisor to the Ukrainian government, said, "Ukraine is now a repressive state. The main election question is corruption." Ivan Pliusch, national deputy and former chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, said, "Let us not kid ourselves and our guests. We all know that ministers are already selected and appointed before elections. Deals are made before elections, and we know who the producer of this show is." And Anatolii Grytsenko of the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies in Ukraine, observed, "Elections in the times of Gorbachev were cleaner than elections in Ukraine now. Ten years ago, there was more freedom of the press than now."

Opposition leader and member of Parliament Yulia Tymoshenko spent considerable time in discussions with Secretary Madeleine Albright and former speaker of Parliament Ivan Pliusch.

Many conference participants noted Ukraine's recent crackdown on the press, and Tom Dine of Radio Liberty talked openly about his recent experiences: "Kuchma attacked Radio Liberty and the mass media. He got his knee into our body, but this is a general media problem. Any independent voice in Ukraine is under attack, but we are going to fight to be on the air. We are looking for new partners."

Most of the conference's discussion, however, focused on which positive and affirmative steps will be required by Ukraine to be fully accepted by and integrated within the community of democratic nations. Advice to Ukraine was freely given. For one thing, the importance of political dialogue was emphasized. Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski stated in his written message, "Dialogue is fruitful only when all parties participate and the media and the press are not closed. It is not enough to listen – what is needed is to hear." And Viktor Yushchenko, former prime minister, head of the Our Ukraine faction and presidential candidate said, "Perhaps this conference is a first step toward having the political elite come together in a joint conversation on its own land and not somewhere else. A political dialogue in our country is a first brick in building a democratic political system."

Anatolii Grytsenko added, "The current situation is the fault of the government, the fault of the opposition and the fault of the people. We are all guilty of neglecting democracy." And Sasha Vondra of the Czech Republic observed, "It is not what the world can do for Ukraine. The question is what can Ukraine do for itself?" Dr. Briukhovetsky pointed to the significant role to be played by Ukraine's younger generation, reciting Hemmingway's observation that "man is not made for defeat; man can be destroyed, but not defeated," and he called for the nurturing of the intellect of the young generation to lead Ukraine to a better future.

A parallel theme in much of the conference's discussion centered on the role of Europe in facilitating Ukraine's march toward democracy. Pavol Demes of Slovakia and the Transatlantic Center for Central and Eastern Europe noted, "Europe should open up its borders. There should be no iron curtain on European borders." And Hennadii Udovenko, national deputy and former Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs, said: "People say the Berlin Wall is down, that there are no more walls. That is not true. There is a curtain, a wall around Europe. Europe needs to open its borders to Ukrainians."

Former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Miller noted, "When our countries (Ukraine and the United States) were engaged through numerous visits of the president, the secretary of state, the ministers, and other government officials, there was much more success in relations. There is very limited exchange between our countries now. We in the West have not done our work in engagement fully." Dr. Aslund added, "The West's media should pay more attention to Ukraine. There is no full-time correspondent of the major media in Kyiv, and this must change."

A related event that resulted from the conference was the visit of various European leaders and Secretary Albright to the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, where they participated in an open discussion with students, scholars and alumni in a free debate and exchange of ideas. Secretary Albright noted that she had followed NUKMA through the years. She continued, "I am very concerned about what is going on in Ukraine for those who want democracy. Democracy is not an event, it is a process."

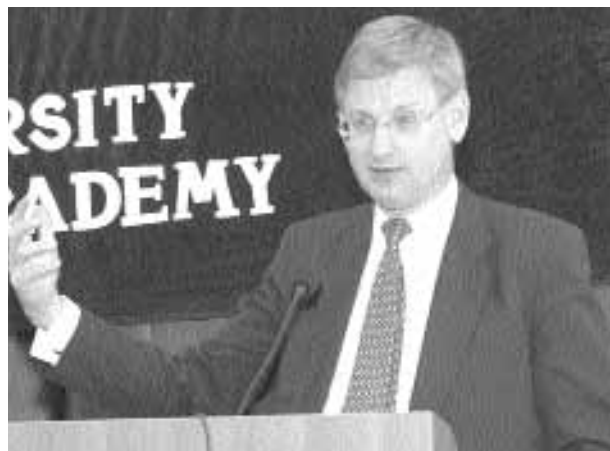
Secretary Albright commented: "there are problems in the United States also, but we have a system of checks and balances. But in Ukraine the system is not checked and it is not balanced. The future of Ukraine is in your hands, to help Ukraine join the community of democracies. The issues about joining the EU are not simple. There are requirements and great consequences. That is why it is important for young Ukrainian people to shine a light and speak out. Make sure that the process this election year is an open one."

The conference was well-organized and professionally managed, but it was not without moments of genuine Ukrainian intrigue, surprise and humor. For one thing, the Ukrainian government was a reluctant and tepid participant, and conference organizers were not notified until hours before its convening that government officials would participate. Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, Justice Minister Oleksander Lavrynovych and Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn

(Continued on page 19)



Alexander Vondra, former deputy foreign minister of the Czech Republic.



Carl Bildt, former prime minister of Sweden.



Pavol Demes, former foreign minister of Slovakia.

INTERVIEW: Prof. Nancy Kollmann on Ukrainian studies at Stanford U.

Last year, *The Ukrainian Weekly* reported that Stanford University had inaugurated a drive to expand teaching and research in the field of Ukrainian studies. The renowned university, which has been teaching undergraduate and graduate students in East European and Russian studies since the 1920s and has a strong commitment to international studies, boasts significant resources in Ukrainian studies.

In February through June 2003, Stanford presented a series of distinguished lecturers to kick off its program-building effort for Ukrainian studies. Sponsored by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES), the "Ukraine: Emerging Nation" series featured political scientists, historians and public figures speaking on various aspects of Ukraine's current development. The response to the series was good, and attendance was high and included a broad mix of members of the community, faculty and students.

This year Stanford University is embarking on a serious fund-raising effort to support the expansion of Ukrainian studies. Roma Hadzewycz of *The Weekly* interviewed Nancy Shields Kollmann, a professor in the department of history at Stanford University and a fellow at the Stanford Institute for International Studies, about new developments at the university regarding Ukrainian studies.

Prof. Kollmann received her Ph. D. in 1980 from Harvard University, where she specialized in early modern East European and Russian history and had the opportunity to work with scholars at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute such as Omeljan Pritsak, Ihor Sevcenko, Edward Keenan, Richard Pipes and Wiktor Weintraub.

She has been the recipient of numerous national grants, including research fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for Humanities, American Philosophical Society and the Fulbright Scholars Program. Her research and publications focus on the political and social history of Muscovite Russia, including her most recent book, "By Honor Bound: State and Society in Early Modern Russia" (1999).

At Stanford Prof. Kollmann regularly teaches a survey course on early modern Eastern Europe, in which Ukrainian history plays a central role. She also trains graduate students in Ukrainian and East European history.

For the last three periodic reviews of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, in 1993, 1998 and 2002, she has been a member of the Committee to Oversee HURI, chairing the committee for the last two reviews.

What has taken place at Stanford in regard to the Ukrainian studies program since the lecture series that kicked off the program-building efforts?

This winter and spring we have initiated our third lecture series on contemporary Ukraine, with a monthly lecture through May. We sponsored a public symposium on the Ukrainian Famine last autumn, with featured guest Robert Conquest. This year our outreach program for high school teachers – a daylong symposium on "Stalinism" – included significant attention to the Famine in Ukraine. We continue to offer courses that include Ukrainian materials, such as Prof. Amir Weiner's survey course on "The Soviet Union in the 20th Century" and my lecture course on "Early Modern Eastern Europe."

To backtrack a bit, whose initiative

was it to work toward establishing Ukrainian studies at your university? And when did this initiative move from the discussion and planning stage to the current fund-raising and implementation stage?

The initiative came simultaneously from members of the community who have been active in encouraging more Ukrainian activities. Here at Stanford more directly the initiative has been led by myself and Prof. Amir Weiner, whose research focuses on Ukraine in the 20th century. Both of us have been involved in Ukrainian studies since our graduate school days, and found that we now have at Stanford a small, but dedicated, cohort of scholars who are interested in Ukraine and would support such an initiative in their teaching, research and mentoring of students.

This broader group of faculty includes Prof. Michael McFaul of political science, Associate Director of CREES Mary Dakin, Senior Research Fellows Robert Conquest and John Dunlop of the Hoover Institution, Prof. Norman Naimark of the history department, Prof. Coit Blacker of Stanford Institute for International Affairs.

We moved into the fund-raising mode this academic year.

What does the Ukrainian studies program at Stanford envision as its focus? Will it be teaching or research? Will it focus on undergraduates or graduates, or perhaps both?

Our focus will be on teaching and research; we are particularly interested in broadening the curriculum by including Ukrainian topics in undergraduate courses across the curriculum, in fields such as history, culture and literature, political science, economics and sociology. We hope to do this initially by sponsoring visiting professors, and in the long run by endowing a chair.

We are also quite committed to the idea of training graduate students in Ukrainian studies in the fields of history or political science. We have internationally recognized faculty, as well as library and archival resources, and there is a need for well-trained scholars as the current senior generation of Ukrainianists at American and Canadian universities looks towards retirement.

How do you envision the establishment of the program? Is there some sort of phased-in approach that is being considered?

Yes, we hope at first to raise expendable funds to inaugurate some programs, such as visiting professorships and graduate fellowships. Then, we hope to turn to the longer task of establishing an endowment to make sure that Ukrainian studies becomes a permanent part of Stanford's curriculum and activities. Such an endowment would include funds for programs, guest teachers and ultimately perhaps a chair.

How will the Ukrainian studies program at Stanford differ from those at, say Harvard, where the Ukrainian Research Institute is an established presence, and at Columbia, where Ukrainian studies are now being heavily promoted? How would it be similar?

We would be similar inasmuch as we will all be offering coursework at the graduate and undergraduate levels and training students. However, we at Stanford really want to focus on the training of a strong generation of scholars in Ukrainian studies, and in the expo-

sure of broad numbers of undergraduates to Ukrainian studies by integrating Ukraine in courses across the curriculum.

We would like to see, for example, Ukrainian topics represented in courses on contemporary politics, social change and culture in departments such as sociology, anthropology, political science and Slavic languages and literatures.

We will try not to duplicate the efforts of other centers of Ukrainian studies. We do not have ambitions to develop a publications program, for example, since Harvard does that so well. Similarly, we will not aspire to create a Summer School, since the Harvard Ukrainian Summer School does an excellent job. We will not focus as much on post-doctoral grants as Harvard does, with its recent Shklar Fellowships, but we hope to invite scholars from Ukraine and elsewhere as postdoctoral scholars to some extent.

We will probably not be as active in public outreach as Columbia can be, given that it is located on the Eastern Seaboard, in New York, on the flight path for any scholar or public figure headed to Washington or other East Coast locations.

But, of course, we hope to offer a lively program of lectures and conferences, for specialists and for the general public, on a wide range of Ukrainian topics.

How would your program be different, or similar to, programs at Canadian universities?

We will always be smaller in scale – Stanford is small as major research universities go – and we will dedicate ourselves to training, mentoring and supporting the research of students and scholars of Ukraine. We are not aspiring to have the sort of broad-based program that is so successful at the University of Alberta, for example. There they sponsor an active publications program, outreach to Canadian public schools, graduate training and cultural activities.

What areas of study will it encompass? Will there be a Ukrainian studies major and/or minor?

Since Stanford is a small university that has not historically attracted large numbers of Ukrainian heritage students, and since Ukrainian studies is not well known to the average undergraduate – at least not yet – we will not rush to create a major or minor in Ukrainian studies. That would require the kind of depth in permanent faculty positions that only a few schools, such as Alberta and Harvard, currently offer. But we have current strength in history and political science, and would work to create visiting positions so that Ukrainian studies would be taught in departments such as Slavic languages and literatures, cultural anthropology, economics and sociology. We also intend that students could earn our interdisciplinary M.A. in Russian, East European and Eurasian studies with a focus on Ukraine.

How will the program fit in with the university's existing Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian studies?

The program will fit in well. CREES is an umbrella organization that oversees a wide range of activities across the broad range of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union (FSU). Among the free-standing programs that our staff oversees are an interdisciplinary M.A. program in Russian, East European and Eurasian studies, outreach programs for K-14 teachers, a Video Lending Library,



Prof. Nancy Kollmann

administration of federal fellowships for academic year study at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels and summer language grants, an endowed lectureship in post-Soviet studies, etc.

The current public lectures and symposia in Ukrainian studies that we do offer are sponsored by CREES as part of our commitment to broad representation of the East European and FSU area. A Ukrainian studies program would complement and enrich our array of current activities.

How will the program make use of the resources that already exist at Stanford, for example the Hoover Institution?

Our resources are incredible. For research, Green Library is a world-class collection of books and current journals, and the Hoover Institution's archives are very rich. Students at the undergraduate and graduate levels will be able to use these wonderful collections in their coursework with Stanford professors on Ukrainian themes. Our students will benefit from consultations with affiliated research scholars in such institutions as Stanford Institute for International Studies as well as the Hoover, the Graduate Schools of Business or Law, or wherever there are affiliated scholars.

What other types of institutional support for the development of the Ukrainian studies program do you have, or expect to have at Stanford? Are there any notable scholars, university officials who are prime supporters of this endeavor? What faculty strengths can be utilized by the program?

I have mentioned the faculty who are interested in this field and are actively working with us. Other institutional support comes from CREES, which can offer matching funds to support Ukrainian initiatives from its endowment (The Wayne S. Vucinich Fund for Russian and East European Studies) and from its federal funds.

CREES is a "National Resource Center" in area studies of the Department of Education, and receives annually a grant of almost \$300,000 for fellowships and program development. Ukraine is one of the many fields to which we dedicate our Title VI Federal funds.

CREES also works with departments on an ad hoc basis to gather funding for sponsorship of events such as public lectures and visiting professors. Our current visiting professor in economics, Prof. Roy Gardner of Indiana University, a specialist on the economy of contemporary Ukraine, is jointly sponsored by

(Continued on page 18)

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Prof. Nancy Kollmann...

(Continued from page 17)

CREEES and the department of economics, for example.

We are interested also in how the symposium on the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine was received? Was it widely attended? Did the university media and local news media cover it?

The Famine symposium was very well received; well over 100 people attended the event, and they included many students and faculty, as well as members of the community. The event was covered in the Stanford media and on our website.

Has the Ukrainian community of California joined the effort to promote Ukrainian studies at Stanford? How have local activists become involved?

We have been gratified by the interest shown by members of the northern California Ukrainian community. We have a strong working group composed of local individuals who have been active in Ukrainian affairs for decades, and we are very grateful for their dedication and expertise.

Tell us what arguments you use to make the point that this effort should be supported by the Ukrainian community at large? And, why it should be supported by the scholarly community as a whole, and Stanford in particular?

The Ukrainian community at large should support our effort since our primary goal is to produce a generation of scholars who will move out to teach and work in areas associated with Ukraine throughout America, and the world.

It is time now to produce that generation since the very senior Ukrainianists in America – the endowed professors at Harvard for example (Flier, Szporluk and Grabowicz) – are approaching retirement, and the first wave of graduate students produced in America by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute are actually now eminent senior scholars and within two decades of retirement. This includes eminent scholars such as Magosci, Subtelny, Sysyn and Kohut. So the time is ripe to produce scholars for universities, not in huge numbers but a select few trained at a very high level.

Graduates of Stanford with undergraduate and advanced degrees can also move into careers in government, journalism, policy studies and the like, and

by exposing them to Ukrainian studies in a range of disciplines we will expand exponentially the awareness in the broader world of Ukraine and its importance in the European sphere and in global processes.

The scholarly community should support this initiative since Ukraine offers a challenging case of post-Soviet cultural, political, social and economic transition, one that provides useful data for global understanding of these processes.

Stanford should support such a program since the university has a long tradition in East European and Slavic studies, going back to the work of Herbert Hoover in the 1920s and the founding of his institution, really an archive and library, dedicated to the study of contemporary European "war, revolution and peace."

What is your primary focus during 2004? Do you have certain financial goals that you would like to attain in order to support your Ukrainian studies program?

Our goal in 2004 is fund-raising, which we are launching in March. We have already received two generous grants from philanthropic institutions interested in Ukrainian studies on the national level – one to underwrite the lecture series and the other to bring a post-doctoral fellow or teacher from Ukraine to Stanford.

We also have the promise of a matching grant (1:1) for all that we raise this year. So we look forward to building a fund for programmatic development; our goal is \$250,000.

Do you have any final comments on your hopes for the program? Where do you see the program 10 years down the line?

A decade from now I would like to see us having trained several successful Ph.D. and M.A students, who would be out in the real world teaching Ukrainian issues or working in government, NGOs, journalism and the like.

I would like us to have sufficient funds to support a CREEES staff member dedicated to Ukrainian studies, who would be organizing an active calendar of events.

I would like us to have hosted visiting professors in several departments for courses in Ukrainian studies, and I would hope that we, with the support of an increasingly national Ukrainian community, would be working towards building a permanent endowment for teaching and programs in Ukrainian studies.

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Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

(Continued from page 4)

the old country is extremely difficult in every respect. In the three states in which they live, the Ukrainian people are oppressed as much by the governments as by their 'good neighbors.' Our leaders are doing everything in their power to improve the lot of the Ukrainian people, but at last they have arrived at the conclusion that half-hearted means will bring no results and that the only possible way out of their misery is for the Ukrainian people to unite into one sovereign, independent state with a democratic system of government. ... What is our reaction to this as Ukrainian Americans: Are we to remain indifferent? The answer is no! As part of the great Ukrainian people we must also do our share in attaining this great objective, for even though we now live in a free land we must not forget the Mother who fed us, nor the brothers who now live in slavery."

The appeal went on to propose the establishment of a national fund in America "to support our people's struggle for independence." The UNA, it was noted, should support this idea and "each member should contribute at least a penny a month to this cause."

"Brothers! There are more than 200,000 of us now in America, and if only one-tenth of us – or 20,000 persons – contributed one cent a month we would collect \$200 a month or \$2,400 a year. Just think how much good could be done with that money! ... We can, we should, we must have an independent Ukrainian state, where neither the German nor the Russian nor the Pole nor the Hungarian, but the Ukrainian will be master in his own home," the appeal exhorted its readers.

And thus, from the beginning of the 20th century the UNA pursued the clearly defined goal of Ukrainian national revival and independent statehood.

Source: "Ukrainian National Association: Its Past and Present, (1894-1964)," by Anthony Dragan (translated from the original Ukrainian by Zenon Snylyk). Jersey City, N.J.: Svoboda Press, 1964. The border featured in this special feature is reproduced from a UNA membership certificate dating to 1919.

Kyiv conference...

(Continued from page 16)

Gryshchenko attended.

Of the three, Prime Minister Yanukovich produced the most controversy when he warned the conference against "criticizing and blackening everything done thus far" and complained that the political competition in Ukraine had been "perverted" by the opposition, whose sole purpose was "to paralyze the government's work."

Perhaps in a statement that could be interpreted as an opening toward political reconciliation, Mr. Yanukovich stressed the importance of the gathering as a step to improve mutual understanding. "We need to understand which are the roads for our country's transformation. What is it that unites us, that we have in common? We have a mutual concern about Ukraine's destiny and a pain and regret over lost opportunities. We are all aware of the significance of this year's election. These elections will be a deciding factor in the development of democracy in Ukraine. Will Ukraine rise up to European democratic traditions or will it return to totalitarian rule?"

Such words may be a sign of willingness to work toward common goals. But Mr. Yanukovich's closing reference to "a great French reformer and democrat Napoleon Bonaparte who said 'It is imperative to be strong,'" drew laughter throughout the conference hall, as well comments that the prime minister's interests would be best served if he replaced his speech writer.

As the prime minister immediately left the building, his closing remark provided Mr. Yushchenko with an opportunity to begin his presentation saying that "Since we established here a tradition of quoting French reformers, I will quote Charles DeGaulle who said 'I hate the opposition, but the opposition is also France.' Well, we are the opposition, and we are also Ukraine."

The conference's intrigue centered on the opening night reception. Conference participants received two invitations to the

dinner, the second of which was a last-minute correction of the first. The first invitation was to a gala dinner in the Hall of Columns in the City Administration Building, with the participation of Kyiv's Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko. But hours before that event, a second round of invitations was distributed, which instead directed conference participants to another dinner at the Rus' Hotel. Later, the talk on the Khreschatyk, the capital's main thoroughfare, was that the government had leaned on Mayor Omelchenko to withdraw his hospitality. Apparently the mayor was on an official visit abroad.

And that was perhaps the ultimate irony of the entire week – that the serious problems and issues facing Ukraine would finally have to be discussed and debated by non-Ukrainians from other countries, whose interest in Ukraine's future would force the country's political leaders to finally come together, however briefly, at a roundtable for the first time and try to begin a new political tradition of discussion, compromise and consensus.

Canada-Ukraine...

(Continued from page 4)

student who completes an internship in any of the Parliaments of Western Europe or North America, or at an NGO.

A second mini-reunion will take place in Washington, for North America CUPP alumni who are currently completing internships at the World Bank in Washington or post-graduate studies at the universities of Southern California, California, Duke, Toronto, Calgary and Ottawa.

Among the 52 Ukrainian students who are coming to Canada in the spring and fall of 2004 are three representatives of the Tatar community of Crimea who are students at Vernadsky Tavrida University in Symferopol and the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine's capital.

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Life of "Dmytre Z." ...

(Continued from page 15)

munity. Things were looking up. He worked in the home-building trade; she worked as a nurse; and they were planning to get a home of their own.

In gratitude to the United States for giving them and other immigrants a chance at a new life, Mr. Zacharuk built a wooden replica of his village church in 1950 and brought it to Washington to present it to President Harry S. Truman. His large, 3- to 4-foot-high replica remained on display at the Displaced Persons Commission headquarters in Washington for a number of years.

Then, in 1951, their world was turned upside-down. Sophia Zacharuk died during a miscarriage, and shortly thereafter Dmytro began showing signs of mental instability. He claimed that he was being persecuted, just as Jesus Christ had been, and on a subsequent visit to Washington he claimed to be married to President Truman's daughter, Margaret. He was detained by the Secret Service, returned to Syracuse, where he was committed to the Syracuse Psychiatric Hospital and, in 1953, transferred to Willard.

For his first 10 years there, the staff at Willard apparently had a difficult time communicating with him, and their attempts at treating him did not produce results. In 1963, however, when they brought him into an art therapy class and placed a paintbrush in his hand, Mr. Zacharuk was transformed. They were amazed at the change it brought about in him. Painting became a great release for him, they said, and he was prolific, oftentimes producing a painting a day.

Mr. Zacharuk was released from Willard, after 24 years, in 1977 and transferred to a nearby country home. Ten years later he was transferred again, to Preston Manor in Norwich, N.Y., some 50 miles southeast of Syracuse. When his condition worsened in 1996 he was sent across the Pennsylvania border to the Ellen Memorial Healthcare Center in Honesdale, northeast of Scranton, and that is where he died on March 15, 2000.

For some reason, he was returned to Norwich for burial at Mount Hope Cemetery. No one I spoke to could tell me why, but circumstantial evidence suggests that for Mr. Zacharuk, Preston Manor had become his second home. His mural of the institution adorns its entry hall, and the staff still remembers him with fondness, according to Frank Speziale, a local photographer who helped me on this story.

Mr. Zacharuk gave away most of his paintings to staff members of the various

institutions he lived in. A few remained at the Willard museum and are now on display at the New York State Museum exhibit in Albany, along with the other contents of his suitcase – photographs, books, letters, postcards, mementos and the like.

I didn't tell Mr. Speziale the story about Mr. Zacharuk when I asked him to photograph his gravesite and the mural for this story. But, not unlike my first feelings when I saw the Village Voice article, he sensed something about his subject.

"As I photograph the site, I begin to feel for this man," he wrote as he e-mailed me the first photographs. "I do not know why. It seems to have come alive. ... I know I should not get involved with my subjects, (but) who was Dymetro that lived so close to me?" he asked. (The small, metal "temporary" marker on the gravesite says "Dymetro Zacharuk. 1916-2000.")

According to the Fahy Funeral Home in Norwich, which handled the funeral arrangements, there was no family involvement during the arrangements and the funeral, and the county covered the costs.

The only evidence of family is found in letters from the late 1950s written to him and the administrators of Willard by Mr. Zacharuk's brother and two sisters from Utoropy. It is not known if they have been notified about his death.

When the Rev. Kaszczak asked his parishioners about Dmytro and Sophia Zacharuk, no one could recall them. It was, after all, some 50 years ago, and even then, they were part of the community for only a couple of years.

The Rev. Kaszczak will conduct a panakhyda memorial service at St. John's in Syracuse on Monday, March 15, the fourth anniversary of Dmytro Zacharuk's death.

Frank Speziale said he would place some flowers on his grave on that day in Norwich.

If you happen to be driving by Norwich, stop by Mount Hope Cemetery and look in on Dmytro Zacharuk. (The cemetery is located just south of town on the city limits. The gravesite is in section 40, plot 326, just to the left of a large stone marker for Clarence Dollaway.) You may well be the first Ukrainian American to do so. Tell him we remember him, albeit belatedly, and his wife, Sophia, as well.

And let him hear a refrain of "Vichnaya pamiat..."

The exhibit, "Lost Cases, Recovered Lives: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic," will remain on display at the New York State Museum in Albany through September 19.



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що 21 лютого 2004 р. відійшов у вічність на 89-му році життя найдорожчий
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бл. п.

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д-р ОЛЕГ МИРОСЛАВ ВОЛЯНСЬКИЙ гербу „Amicus“

нар. 15 квітня 1914 р. в Коломиї, Україна.

ПАНАХИДА ВІДБУЛАСЯ в п'ятницю, 12 березня о год. 6-й веч. в похоронному заведенні Humiston Funeral Home у Кергонксоні, Н.Й.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбудуться в суботу, 13 березня о год. 10-й ранку в церкві св. Трійці у Кергонксоні, Н.Й.

Тіло Покійного буде поховане на цвинтарі св. Духа у Гемптонбургу, Н.Й.

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внуки – ОЛЕГ, СТЕФАН, ЛЕВ, ІВАН

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нар. 11 серпня 1943 р. у Львові, Україна.

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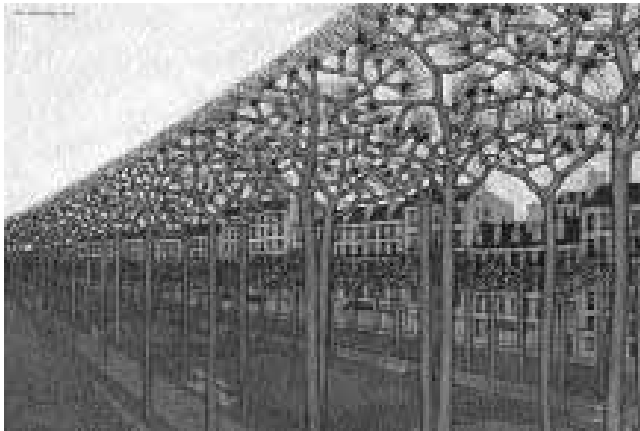
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Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 2)

ing the voting threshold will fragment the legislature even further than it is now, thus making it very problematic to form a viable pro-government coalition consisting of six to eight factions.

Ms. Tymoshenko said her bloc refused to support the proportional election bill for reasons of principal. "The law on the proportional election [system] that was adopted today [March 5] is a banal bribe that was offered to opposition forces to ensure their support for the anticonstitutional mutiny," she charged. "I am stating that we have never accepted bribes and will never vote for laws that are democratic by name but in essence do not leave a stone standing in the people's power. The law on the proportional election [system] gives power to the clans Pretending to be witty and worrying about election innovations while the independent press is being destroyed in this country is the same as worrying about the temperature of tea in a train that is going off the rails."

Could Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc prevent the final adoption of the proportional election bill and thus block constitutional reform as a whole? It seems that the chance to persuade the Socialists, let alone the Communists, into voting against the proportional election bill in its current form has been lost once and for all. But there is still a glimmer of hope that the support for the bill will be dropped by some deputies from the pro-government parliamentary coalition who were elected in 2002 in single-mandate constituencies under a first-past-the-post system. Reportedly, far from all of them are happy with the all-proportional election system, fearing that they may fail to

secure an "electable place" on some party list in 2006.

UNIAN reported on March 5 that nearly 60 deputies elected primarily in single-mandate constituencies have addressed President Leonid Kuchma with an appeal to initiate a referendum to learn the electorate's opinion about an all-proportional election system. They reportedly pledge their support for the constitutional reform promoted by the pro-presidential camp but simultaneously warn that an all-proportional election system will be a "step back under today's circumstances" and will lead to "monopolization of the country's political life." The appeal also warns that a fully proportional election law will deform the representation of regions in the Verkhovna Rada and slacken the accountability of lawmakers to the local electorate.

It is not clear if the signatories of the appeal are sufficiently resolved to vote against the fully proportional election bill in its second reading. If they did so, then of course the passage of the constitutional-reform bill would be thrown into doubt.

Therefore, it is not out of the question that now, when the preliminarily approved election bill is being reviewed by the parliamentary Constitutional Committee, the committee may introduce some "regional modifications" to the fully proportional electoral procedure in order to address the fears of deputies elected in single-mandate constituencies and thus stifle their potential rebellion. That, in its turn, could raise objections on the part of the Communist Party and the Socialist Party, whose ability for compromise on the election bill seems to have been exhausted by their consent to the lowering of the election threshold to 3 percent.



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Opera diva Renata Babak recalled with special program at Embassy



WASHINGTON – Malcolm Leith and Michele Suzanne Lewis accept the warm applause of the audience following their performance of the popular Odarka-Karas duet from Hulak-Artemovsky's opera "Zaporozhets za Dunaiem." Their duet was part of a memorial concert held on February 19 at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington in honor of the internationally known mezzo-soprano Renata Babak. The program featured eight soloists, former students of Ms. Babak, performing operatic arias, duets and art songs, and included reminiscences about the singer by her daughter, Natalia Kouzmina, and the noted discographer, Stefan Maksymjuk. Born in Kyiv, Ms. Babak pursued her early operatic career in the Soviet Union. She defected to the West in 1973 while on tour with the Bolshoi Opera in Milan, Italy. She died in Silver Spring, Md., on December 31, 2003, at the age of 69.

– Yaro Bihun

Pianist Roman Rudnytsky journeys to Southeast Asia

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, Borneo – Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky, who was on a concert tour in Southeast Asia between February 27 and March 13, performed on Sunday, February 29, a short recital for members of the royal family of the Islamic Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam. This took place one day after his regular recital for the Brunei Music Society in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Mr. Rudnytsky received the invitation to do this through a local piano teacher, Ms. Siti Azra, with whom Mr. Rudnytsky has been acquainted for over 20 years during past Brunei recital visits. Ms. Azra, who maintains a thriving piano studio in Bandar Seri Begawan, also teaches the children of the ruling Sultan's brother.

She wanted Mr. Rudnytsky to accompany her to the palace of the Sultan's brother to play for the children: a prince, age 12, and two princesses, age 11 and 13, since she said they are somewhat lazy in their piano practicing. She also wanted him to perform for them so that they would hear "what a piano really can sound like."

This palace of the Sultan's brother stands on the grounds of the main palace of the ruling Sultan – the Istana Nurul Iman – which is the largest residential palace in the world (about 1,700 rooms).

Mr. Rudnytsky and Ms. Azra were ushered into the very large Music Room and this is where the performance took place, on a Kawai grand piano situated there. Mr. Rudnytsky performed Gottschalk's "The Banjo" and Chopin's Etude in C sharp minor, Op. 10, No. 4.

He then spoke to the royal children about the necessity of hard work and discipline in practicing. The children were very attentive and enjoyed the performance and appeared to take these comments to heart.

Ms. Azra explained that it was good for the children to hear these comments from

someone other than their music teacher. She said they had never seen or heard piano playing of this level before.

Mr. Rudnytsky noticed that one note on the Kawai grand was inoperable – it was jammed. Ms. Azra told him that apparently the young prince likes to "bang" and "pound" on the piano and that this likely was the cause.

Afterwards, Mr. Rudnytsky and Ms. Azra were treated to a nice lunch in another room of the palace.



The public is cordially invited and encouraged to attend an event held by the

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Interfax reported. Mr. Yermilov was a staunch supporter of using the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline in accordance with its original design – that is, to transport Caspian oil to Europe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada fails to approve World Bank loan

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 3 fell 24 votes short of endorsing an agreement on a World Bank loan to assist the issuance of deeds to land and the development of a land registry in Ukraine, Interfax reported. The agreement envisages that the World Bank lend \$195 million to Ukraine until 2012. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Broadcaster's closure elicits concern

WASHINGTON – U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher on March 4 criticized Ukrainian authorities' decision to halt FM broadcasts by Radio Kontynent, which retransmitted RFE/RL, BBC, Voice of America and Deutsche Welle programming. "The shutdown yesterday of Radio Kontynent and the silencing of RFE/RL, Voice of America, and other international broadcasters is an assault on democracy," Mr. Boucher said. "It is very serious in an election year in Ukraine, when the need for news from many sources is at its greatest." The move was also condemned by a number of international organizations, including the London-based Association for International Broadcasting, the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders, and the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists. Meanwhile, Ukrainian opposition lawmaker Mykola Tomenko on March 4 submitted a draft resolution that proposed a moratorium on all checks and inspections of mass media during the forthcoming presidential election campaign in Ukraine. The measure was

backed by just 206 deputies, 20 votes short of the number required for approval, Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv, Warsaw at odds over steel mill

KYIV – Ukrainian Economy Minister Mykola Derkach told Polish Ambassador to Ukraine Marek Ziolkowski on March 4 that Ukrainian-Polish cooperation will be placed at risk if Ukraine's Industrial Union of Donbas is discriminated against when the Polish steelworks Huta Czestochowa is privatized, Interfax reported. The Ukrainians lost a tender last month for a state stake in Huta Czestochowa to the Indian-Dutch-British holding LMN and charged that the winner was selected based on political rather than economic considerations. Mr. Derkach added that Poland's rejection of the Ukrainian bid is seen by Kyiv as a "manifestation of 'Ukrainophobia' and discrimination against Ukraine." The Polish daily Rzeczpospolita recently reported that the Ukrainian bid was turned down after Poland's Internal Security Agency warned the government that the Industrial Union of Donbas might be involved in money laundering, the accumulation of capital from an unknown origin and the promotion of Russian interests in Poland. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lazarenko trial gets under way

SAN FRANCISCO – The trial of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko began here on February 19. Mr. Lazarenko is charged with laundering \$114 million – money that he allegedly looted from Ukrainian industries in 1994-1999 – through U.S. banks. First on the agenda was selection of jurors. Next, U.S. District Judge Martin Jenkins was to sift through videotaped depositions by Ukrainian witnesses and consider motions by the defense to narrow the charges against Mr. Lazarenko. (San Francisco Chronicle)

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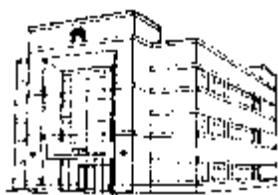
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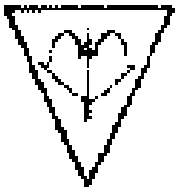
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Kuchmagate...

(Continued from page 2)

“absurd in nature” and denying that the SBU has ever issued any such order or undertaken any actions, “including political meddling, that are banned according to Ukrainian laws.” Mr. Kuchma also ridiculed the idea that the Ukrainian authorities, including the SBU, would attempt to shadow the opposition. “This is absolutely absurd,” the president said at the press conference.

However, it is notable that the Ukrainian authorities denied all of the allegations that surfaced during the first and second acts of Kuchmagate, and those denials were then contradicted by the revival of Soviet-era jamming of Western radio stations that broadcast the allegations. In the wake of the latest scandal, Deutsche Welle's Ukrainian FM rebroadcaster, Radio Kontyent, issued a statement claiming that the station was jammed on February 19 through the use of “methods that were used in Soviet times” when it aired Kravchenko's interview.

Gen. Kravchenko's allegations, if true, would not come as a surprise. Western NGOs working in Ukraine have claimed that they are routinely followed by the SBU. The International Republican Institute told the Kyiv Post in January that its staff believed they were being tailed as they traveled around Ukraine and suspected their telephones were tapped. During elections, Ukrainian drivers and interpreters used by foreign OSCE observers, who are officially invited to Ukraine, are regularly questioned as to whom the observers meet and what they talk about.

Western intelligence services have also noticed that SBU officers working out of embassies abroad have begun to collect information on members of the Ukrainian diaspora who make a habit of criticizing the present leadership in Ukraine.

Since President Kuchma was re-elected in 1999, Ukrainian oppositionists and former diplomats have also complained that they are followed by the SBU and their telephones are tapped. Parliamentary deputies have found listening devices in their offices. When Ukrainian parliamentarians went to Prague to meet Mr. Melnychenko in late

2000, they were followed and upon returning to Ukraine their video interview was destroyed by Customs, even though their official status exempted them from undergoing customs control. Prior to, and during, mass anti-Kuchma demonstrations in 2000-2003 the opposition and student members were regularly approached, warned, and interrogated by the SBU and Interior Ministry.

Gen. Kravchenko told Deutsche Welle that all state institutions are being used to “compromise the opposition and to obtain information about it.” Bohdan Sokolovskiy, a former adviser to the Ukrainian embassies in the United States and Germany, partially confirmed Gen. Kravchenko's allegations in an interview with Ukrainska Pravda. He said that, while serving as a diplomat in those countries, he was followed by individuals he believes were SBU agents. Mr. Sokolovskiy characterized Gen. Kravchenko, whom he knew while serving in Germany as “without doubt a conscientious and patriotically inclined Ukrainian citizen.” After this interview he was released from his duties by the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Ironically, the latest development in the Kuchmagate saga coincides with the purported promulgation on February 18 of an as-yet-unpublished presidential decree that Mr. Kuchma has described as ensuring the “de-KGB-ization” of Ukrainian state structures through the removal of SBU officers. This step, according to the president, will contribute to the process of democratization in Ukraine.

It is, however, widely believed to be routine practice for such decrees to be ignored or even countermanded by secret instructions (such as the “temnyky” through which the presidential administration controls state and private television coverage) or Soviet-style “telephone law.” The scale of the deception can be seen when secret instructions issued by the presidential administration to undermine the opposition or media freedom are leaked. Only after complaints are made are decrees issued to investigate the very same infringements that the leaked instructions ordered.

If Gen. Kravchenko's claims pan out, he has revealed the degree of legal nihilism that pervades the very top of the Ukrainian leadership.

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The Bush administration...

(Continued from page 8)

for the Internet, a better approach for Mr. Jackson and the BBG to take would be to complement, and not supplant, existing VOA radio programming, which remains more widely accessible to Ukrainians.

As Mr. Jackson and presumably the BBG assure us, however, VOA's Ukrainian Service "will be well positioned to provide full multi-media coverage of this year's presidential elections, both in the United States and Ukraine. ..." What does "well-positioned" mean in this context? By the looks of it, it means that the BBG would like to be able to report back to Congress that VOA's Ukrainian Service has gone "multi-media."

However, what the BBG probably won't mention is that in order to be able to experiment with political television and the Internet it will have to decimate VOA Ukrainian radio programming, which happens to be the one vehicle that has proven itself effective in penetrating Ukraine's restricted media environment.

The BBG might counter that VOA is not the only U.S. media outlet that broadcasts to Ukraine. The other one is Radio Liberty (RL), but that service also has sustained some cuts. More unfortunate, however, is that its programming has just been dropped from its FM affiliate network in Ukraine, relegating its presence mostly to shortwave. Coincidentally, the network that carried RL programming on FM in Ukraine had just come under new management. Its new boss is said to be an associate of President Kuchma's chief of staff.

VOA's FM affiliate network in Ukraine, unlike RL's, is somewhat more diversified in that it consists of stations that are not under a central management structure. This might help it survive on FM airwaves a little longer, but as opposition forces in Ukraine point out, efforts to muzzle the country's remaining independent media outlets ahead of the presidential elections in October, have really just begun (the campaign does not start until May). And, if VOA, like RL, ends up getting kicked off FM airwaves in Ukraine, there will all the more reason to strengthen the presence of both broadcasters on shortwave - a medium that has proven it can go far in penetrating the high walls built by regimes afraid of a free and open press. Cutting back on U.S. international radio transmissions like VOA only helps rulers like Mr. Kuchma to keep those walls in place.

The fact that the BBG seems to have somehow missed all of this and that it is currently investing monies and human resources into projects that, unlike radio, will have little or no impact in a restricted media environment like Ukraine's raises some serious questions as to whether an appointed, part-time body of what appears to be a group of domestic media executives with limited foreign policy backgrounds can effectively run the U.S. international broadcasting establishment.

Myroslaw Prokop...

(Continued from page 4)

and in 1973 he became the head of the Prolog Research Institute.

Dr. Prokop was a true Ukrainian patriot whose compassion and comradeship was respected by all. He leaves behind his wife and soul-mate of 57 years, Luba, and two daughters, Chrystyna and Lida. Burial services were held on December 12, 2003, at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J. Donations in memory of Dr. Prokop have been requested for: the Patriarchal Sobor in Kyiv, Litopys UPA or The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

The BBG's own website (www.bbg.gov) notes that one of its members "helped launch Fox News Sunday" and worked as a vice president for a cosmetic, toiletries and fragrance association foundation-such "qualifications," frankly, pretty much speak for themselves.

Under current law the BBG exists an independent body, but its decisions should at least be in line with the administration's New Year's resolutions. If anything, U.S. radio broadcasts to Ukraine should be increased rather than diminished.

Should anyone still doubt the gravity of the situation in Ukraine, the statements made by Mr. Yushchenko on February 18, are well worth noting: "Ukraine has turned into a lawless and undemocratic state. ... I think that only the people who do not know what the Voice of America is and how important the position of this radio station is for providing objective and timely information to the people of Ukraine can make such [a] decision, ... taking the latest developments at Radio ... into consideration, it becomes clear that this is how independent mass media are [currently] being pressured and persecuted."

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The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation extends its apologies for the unintentional omissions in the caption of the photograph published in December, 2003. The corrected caption is printed below.

From left to right: Member of Board of Directors of Sabre Foundation – Leonard Balduga, Ambassador of the U.S. to Ukraine - John Herbst, President of NaUKMA - Dr. Viacheslav Bnukhovetsky, Director of NaUKMA Library - Ms. Tetiana Jaroshenko, Director of the "Sabre-Light" Foundation - Ms. Olha Isajevich.

We apologize for possible errors or omissions. Please contact the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation to notify us of any corrections.

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The Weekly's collection of materials about the Famine

The Ukrainian Weekly's official website contains the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Located at www.ukrweekly.com, the special section includes a chronology of the Famine years, eyewitness accounts, editorials, media reports, stories about observances of the Famine's 50th anniversary in 1983, scholarly articles, interviews with journalists who reported on the Famine, transcripts of testimony on the Famine commission bill ultimately passed by the U.S. Congress, texts of statements before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, references and other documentation, as well as the full text of The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue on the Great Famine published on March 20, 1983. The section is completely searchable.

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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

A trip to Ukraine: learning about my heritage, and myself

by Roxanna Kobziar

She twirled the wool with her wrinkled hands, straightening and flattening each piece. She reached for another piece from the heap and did the same thing, placing it onto a pile of flattened wool. Two of her granddaughters were working the spindle, while another child took the pile of flattened wool and began to sort through it.

The elderly woman stood up from the chair, stretched her arms, and sat back down. She must have been about 90 years old and nearly blind. However, her eyes were wise and full of knowledge, and her hands were wrinkled and sore. She squinted at the wool which she started to smooth again; her hands shook as she handed it to her granddaughter.

I sat there in silence, as I watched her granddaughter begin to feed the wool through the loom, and manually stitch each intricate knot. I watched the older woman as she calmly and methodically went about her job. I couldn't help thinking that she would have been placed in a nursing home if she had lived in America.

I questioned my own work ethic as I watched the woman, doubting that I would ever work so hard and long on something. Wool weaving was, is, and will continue to be her life, until she is able to pass on her responsibilities to her granddaughters. They are youthful and energetic, carrying out the tasks their

grandmother had assigned them. They know no other life. The Ukrainian people do not have many options.

The woman smiled proudly, as I took a few pictures. I should have asked her more questions, or told her that I have a few rugs like hers at home.

I should have asked her where I could find some perogies [varenyky]. If you don't know how great a perogie tastes, I suggest you drive right down to your local Ukrainian kitchen and try one. Those delicious, dumpling-type morsels were the original reason I agreed to go on a camping trip to Ukraine. I was hoping to eat them everyday.

My grandparents played a key role in my decision to go, talking about "going to see the mother country" and "seeing the land of your ancestors," words that I have been familiar with since I was a child. I contemplated for days whether or not I had made the right choice. I was worried that I would disappoint my family if I didn't see Ukraine in the glorified way that was expected of me.

I kept coming back to one single thought. If I was going to Ukraine, I'd be eating the trademark of Ukrainian food, right? But when I got there, I found no perogies. Apparently Ukrainians are not as fond of perogies as I am, and not only have they failed to construct perogie restaurants in Ukraine, but they have even neglected to incorpo-



An elderly woman weaves wool in Ukraine.

rate them into a menu of an ordinary restaurant. Where in America could you go and not find a hamburger?

My grandparents had instilled in me an idealized vision of Ukraine, and that vision was nurtured over the years by the influences of my Ukrainian school teachers, and even my parents. When I finally arrived, my fears became a certainty when my impression of Ukraine was surely not that glamorous image everyone had hoped I would find.

I met many different people along the way, who taught me so much about who I am as a Ukrainian American. They made me question my priorities in life and who I was going to become when I grew up. My heritage is incredibly full of wonderful traditions, which I still uphold, and plan to continue to do so.

Though the world around her is changing, the elderly woman continues the tradition of rug making. We as Americans have become so influenced and consumed by television that it has taken priority over the real backbone of our country – the traditions and culture that make Americans different from the rest of the world. In Ukraine I had peered into the true Ukrainian lifestyle. I saw the poverty in the cities and the rich gardens of the cottages in the country villages. I saw suffering people, yet

they didn't seem to be unhappy.

And, as I sit here typing on my computer, listening to music, with the TV blaring in the background, I can't help but think that the majority of the Ukrainian population has none of these things. I suppose it doesn't matter to them, the material things are not as important as most Americans would seem to think. Families, love, laughter, friendship, are important. I was really able to see what was significant in life, and what really matters to me.

I left home thinking about perogies. However, I left Ukraine thinking about who I was. Perogies didn't seem to matter anymore.

What did matter? It was me trying to go on with this trip by taking in everything I saw and heard. I felt as if I understood my heritage better, and finally understood why my grandparents taught me to be so proud of who I am. Perhaps I had interpreted that whole idealized view incorrectly – the view was not about the country itself, but more about the values and attitudes of the people.

I may have left Ukraine not eating a true Ukrainian perogie, but I left knowing myself.

Roxanna Kobziar is a senior at Pelham Memorial High School and a member of the New York branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. In the fall she will be attend Lafayette College in Easton, Pa.



Roxanna Kobziar (second from left) and friends during the International Plast Jamboree which brought her to Ukraine during the summer of 2002.

Iskra Dance Ensemble performs at 13th annual International Dinner

by Karen Chelak

LIVINGSTON, N.J. – The Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Whippany, N.J., under the artistic direction of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky performed at the 13th annual International Dinner held at Newark Academy on January 30.

The gymnasium of the school, a private institution for children from the sixth to the 12th grades, was bedecked with flags from all over the world, including that of Ukraine. Iskra opened the entertainment portion of the program with the fast-paced “Bukovyna.” As the dancers entered the gym, people’s mouths dropped at the beauty of the unusual costumes. The headpieces, with their fringe and grass coming out of the top, dazzled the crowd.

After the crowd was entertained with Scottish bagpipes and African drum rhythms, Iskra returned to perform a rousing rendition of the “Hopak” in beautiful costumes from the Poltava region: royal blue velvet korsetky, billowing “sharavary” and brightly beribboned

“vinky.” It was pointed out to the crowd before the dance that the central region of Ukraine, from which the dance originates, was one of the hardest hit by the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, but the dance’s joy and vitality shows that the spirit of the Ukrainian people has survived.

The crowd responded with thunderous and prolonged applause after the performance and many members of the organizing committee asked Iskra to please return next year.

The entire Ukrainian community should be proud of these dancers for helping to enlighten other Americans about the beauty of Ukrainian culture and its unique place in world history.

Participating senior Iskra troupe members were: Nicole Berezny, Anna Chelak, Lara Chelak, Deanna Rakowsky, Katya Syzonenko and Danny Walchuk. Special thanks to guest artists Yarko Dobriansky and Christopher Kovalchick, members of Syzokryli, who performed in the “Hopak.”



Iskra dancers: (front row, from left) Christopher Kovalchick, Daniel Walchuk, Yarko Dobriansky, (back row) Katya Syzonenko, Anna Chelak, Deanna Rakowsky, Nicole Berezny and Lara Chelak.



Iskra’s girls perform at the International Dinner at Newark Academy.

Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna, find the words capitalized in the following text in the grid below.

MARCH is traditionally celebrated by Ukrainians around the globe as the month of Taras SHEVCHENKO. This year’s celebrations are particularly noteworthy as it was 190 years ago that Ukraine’s greatest POET, was born.

Shevchenko was born on March 9, 1814, in MORYNTSI, in the Kyiv region of UKRAINE, which was then under the rule of the Russian EMPIRE. He was born a serf – basically a slave who was owed by a landowner just like property – and grew up in POVERTY.

When his owner noticed Shevchenko’s artistic TALENT he sent him to be an apprentice to an artist in St. Petersburg, Russia. As a result, Shevchenko met other artists and writers, including fellow Ukrainians. His new friends bought him out of serfdom, and Shevchenko was able to enroll in the Academy of FINE ARTS in St. Petersburg.

In 1840 Shevchenko published his first collection of poetry, the KOBZAR. Other works followed, for example, the EPIC poem “Haidamaky” and the BALLAD “Hamalia.”

Shevchenko was able to travel back to Ukraine and these visits had a great influence on him as he saw the suffering of his NATION. He began to write more satirical and politically sensitive works.

In 1846 he joined a SECRET society called the Brotherhood of Ss. Cyril and Methodius and soon thereafter he was arrested by authorities of the Russian tsarist regime. The discovery of his poems, many of which were critical of the TSAR, resulted in him being sentenced to serve military DUTY in a REMOTE area near the Caspian Sea. But worst of all was the tsar’s ORDER that Shevchenko be prevented from writing or painting. Nonetheless, Shevchenko continued to do both, although in secret.

Shevchenko was finally released in 1857, but he was not allowed to return to his native Ukraine. He was allowed to make one visit to Ukraine in 1859, but was once again ARRESTED and sent back to St. Petersburg, where he remained under police watch until he died on March 10, 1861.

Taras Shevchenko INSPIRED his contemporaries and those who came after him with his ideas about an INDEPENDENT Ukraine. He is known as the GREAT awakener of the people of Ukraine as his works raised the national consciousness of his people. That is why, each year in March we remember Shevchenko as the NATIONAL BARD of Ukraine.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE: UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated April 11, please send in your materials by April 2.

Please drop us a line:
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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|--|--|
| March 20, 2004
Grace Church Men's Retreat | April 19-21, 2004
Spring Clergy Days |
| March 27-28, 2004
"Cooking in the Ukrainian Tradition"
– sponsored by Kurin Spartanky.
Open to parents and children
15 and older. | April 21-23, 2004
SUNY New Paltz
– Migrant Special Education
Program |
| March 27-28, 2004
Brooklyn Ukrainian Group
– Spring Cleaning Volunteer
Weekend | May 7-9, 2004
2nd Annual
Cinco De Mayo Festivities |
| April 10, 2004
Easter Celebration and Easter Brunch | May 14, 2004
Ellenville High School Junior Prom |
| April 17, 2004
Wedding – Nancy Medwid
and Jonathan McFall | May 15, 2004
Wedding – Stephan Kowalczuk
and Alex Raut |
| | May 28-31, 2004
Memorial Day Weekend
BBQ & Dance |



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 18

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: The Committee for Aid to Ukraine, Central New Jersey branch, invites the public to a meeting with Prof. Oleksandr Pronkevych, dean of Petro Mohyla Mykolaiv State University of Humanities, who will address the topic "Spiritual Apathy in Ukraine." The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the small Parish Hall, adjacent to St. Andrew's Memorial Church, off Main Street. For information call (908) 534-6683 or (908) 755-8156.

Saturday, March 20

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a roundtable on "Ukrainian-Spanish Relations in Literature." Prof. Oleksandr Pronkevych of the Petro Mohyla Mykolaiv State University of Humanities and a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Michigan, will be the featured speaker on the subject "Spanish Literature and the Formation of the Ukrainian Nation." He will be joined by Dr. Yuriy Tarnawsky and Prof. Vasyl Makhno as the discussants. The roundtable will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

CHICAGO: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (Ukrainian acronym, NTSh), Chicago Branch, invites the public to a conference on the occasion of 130th anniversary of the scholarly organization. The conference will take place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., beginning at 10 a.m. The program will include opening remarks by Dr. Larysa Z. Onyshkevych, president, NTSh-America; and presentations by Drs. Daria Markus, Myron Kuropas, Bohdan Rubchak, Dmytro Shtohryn, Oleksiy Konoval, George Hrycelak and Pavlo Pundy. An exhibit of NTSh publications will be on display. Admission: \$10, (fee includes lunch). To attend, call 1-773-777-0905 by March 13.

CHICAGO: The Chicago Business and Professional Group is sponsoring a presentation by Anne Applebaum titled "The Gulag: What We Know Now and Why It Matters." A columnist and member of the editorial board of The Washington Post, Ms. Applebaum is author of "Gulag: A History," the first up-to-date scholarly study of the central terror institution of the Soviet regime. Ms. Applebaum will discuss the experience of individuals and national groups in the forced labor camps and examine the disturbing question of why the Gulag has remained relatively obscure in the West. The presentation will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 7 p.m. Books will be available for purchase at the event. Refreshments and socializing will follow. Admission: \$10, members; \$15, non-members and guests. For information call (847) 359-3676.

Monday, March 22

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture by Lilianna Hentosh, research associate and deputy director, Institute for Historical Research, Ivan Franko National University, Lviv, and Fulbright Visiting Scholar, HURI, titled "The Vatican and Nation-Building in Eastern Europe, 1914-1922." The lecture will be held in the institute's Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For information contact HURI at (617) 495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Friday, March 26

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago presents the Northwest String Quartet, in an inaugural performance under the direction of Michael Holian. The concert program will feature works by Kos-Anatolskyj, Lysenko, Barvinsky and Mendelssohn as performed by Daria Horodyskyj and Vera Chytra Mucha, violin; Michael Holian, viola; and Jurij Yatsynych, cello. The concert will be held at the museum, 2249 W. Superior St., at 7:15 p.m. For information call (312) 421-8020.

Friday-Saturday, March 26-27

NEW YORK: Columbia University invites

the public to attend the "International Conference on Polish-Ukrainian Relations: Past, Present, Future." The conference will feature scholars and politicians from Poland, Ukraine and North America. Presentations will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday and 12:30 p.m. on Saturday in Room 1501 of the International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. For the schedule see the online calendar www.columbia.edu/cu/sipa/REGIONAL/H, e-mail ms2147@columbia.edu or call (212) 854-4697.

Friday-Sunday, March 26-28

SLOATSBURG, N.Y.: The League of Ukrainian Catholics is sponsoring its 26th annual Lenten Retreat at St. Mary's Villa Retreat Center. The retreat theme is "The Eucharist: Our Lives Being Transformed." The retreat director is the Rev. Dr. Mark Morozowich, Catholic University of America, Washington. The Rev. Morozowich recently completed his doctorate at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome under the direction of the Rev. Robert Taft, S.J. The nominal fee of \$110 covers accommodations from Friday night through Sunday, and meals on Saturday and Sunday. For additional information and/or reservations contact Marion C. Hrubec, 400 Dewey Ave., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663-5902 or call (202) 843-3960. Checks should be made payable to the League of Ukrainian Catholics.

Sunday, March 28

HOLLYWOOD, Calif.: The Ukrainian Arts Studio presents the "Ukrainian Spring Festival" to be held at noon- 5 p.m., at 4315 Melrose Ave. Featured will be pysanky demonstrations, exhibits and sale; a display of Ukrainian regional crafts; and a Ukrainian church architecture photography exhibit. Performing at the festival will be the Chervona Kalyna folk dance ensemble, under the direction of Andriy Bachynsky. There will be live folk instrumental music; traditional Ukrainian fare will be served for lunch. Suggested donations: \$5, adults; \$3, seniors and children. The Ukrainian Arts Studio is a non-profit organization, operating under the auspices of the Los Angeles-based Ukrainian Culture Center Inc., that provides folk arts programs for interested youth. For information contact Linda Mudlo at (310) 505-0286 or mudko@msn.com.

Saturday, March 27

EAST HANOVER, N.J.: The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA), New Jersey Chapter, and the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey invite the public to a presentation by Dr. Karl Zaininger titled "Lecturing in Kyiv on Global Technology Management." The presentation will be held at the Ramada Inn, 130 Route 10 (westbound) starting at 7:30 p.m.; telephone, (973) 386-5622. Dr. Zaininger is president and CEO of Global Technology Management Partnerships, and has extensive experience in management strategies and technology innovation for global enterprises. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Andriy Wowk at (908) 240-4192 or by e-mail at national@uesa.org, or visit the UESA website at www.uesa.org.

ONGOING

Thursdays-Sundays, March 5-21

NEW YORK: La MaMa Experimental Theatre and Yara Arts Group present "The Warrior's Sister" – a new theater piece based a Buryat epic song about the sister of a legendary warrior who puts on his armor when he is killed. This piece is created by director Virlana Tkacz with Sayan and Erzhen Zhambalov; designer is Watoku Ueno; music is by Emilio China, performed by Eunice Wong, Andrew Colteaux Bayarto Endonov, Hettienne Park, Meredith Wright and Victor Zhalsanov. The piece is performed in English in a translation by Ms. Tkacz, Mr. Zhambalov and Wanda Phipps. Tickets: \$15. Performances are Thursday-Sunday at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday at 3 p.m. La MaMa is located at 74 E. Fourth St.; telephone, (212) 475-7710; website, <http://www.brama.com/yara>.