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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXVI

No. 17

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Forty-eight vie for Kyiv mayor; Chernovetskyi front-runner

by **Illya M. Labunka**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – As the democratic coalition forces failed to unite behind a single candidate for the post of mayor of Ukraine’s capital city, the number of hopefuls wishing to be Kyiv’s next top politician continues to increase.

At last count, on April 18 the Kyiv Territorial Election Commission officially registered 48 candidates for the pre-term mayoral elections scheduled for May 25.

In a campaign that is increasingly viewed as a pre-cursor to the presidential elections in 2009, the list of the top five contenders includes a former mayor, a banker, a boxer and a current vice-prime minister.

According to the latest polls, the incumbent, Leonid Chernovetskyi, a former banker, holds an 8 percent lead over his closest rival, the former heavyweight-boxing champion Vitali Klitschko.

According to Serhiy Taran, head of the Socio-Vymir Center for Sociological and Political Research which conducted a survey on April 9-April 13, if the pre-term mayoral elections were held in mid-April, Mr. Chernovetskyi would receive 30 percent of the electoral vote. Vitali Klitschko, as Mr. Chernovetskyi’s greatest political threat, would receive 22 percent of the ballots. Current Vice-Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc would receive 12 percent of the electorate, while Kyiv’s former mayor and Mr. Chernovetskyi’s predecessor,



Cutty Sark Co.

Kyiv mayoral race front-runner Leonid Chernovetskyi.

Leah Omelchenko, would garner 11 percent of the votes, followed by 8 percent for Mykola Katerynychuk.

Both Mr. Katerynychuk and Mr. Omelchenko are currently national deputies in the Verkhovna Rada and members of the Our Ukraine – People’s Self Defense bloc (OU-PSD). Yet, as a result of their decision to run for mayor of Kyiv, both candidates have formed their own eponymous blocs for the mayoral campaign and are self-nominees.

Former Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko said he is running for mayor of Kyiv again because he wants to

(Continued on page 4)

Ukraine launches nationwide standardized admission testing

by **Illya M. Labunka**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukrainian high school seniors eager to be considered for admission to institutions of higher learning took part in the first phase of Ukraine’s largest-ever nationwide independent standardized testing program on April 22. Of the 512,591 students who managed to register by the March 1 deadline for the newly initiated Ukrainian version of the U.S. College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Examination program, approximately 460,282 individuals throughout Ukraine tested their knowledge of the Ukrainian language and Ukrainian literature.

Ukraine’s Ministry of Education engaged over 20,000 teachers at 1,888 nationwide testing stations during the three-hour examination procedure as part of the government’s sweeping policy aimed at eradicating corruption in the higher education admission process. Approximately 6,000 volunteers representing 80 civic organizations acted as independent proctors throughout the country during the examination.

“Virtually the entire world has adopted the standardized testing model. Ukraine is the only former Soviet country which stubbornly follows the old system of admission. Ukraine’s choice of European integration necessitates its society to undergo the current catharsis,” said Minister of Education and former Rector of Lviv University Ivan Vakarchuk.

The current testing session will continue until June 4. Anyone unable to participate

in the examination process during the first session will have the opportunity to take the standardized tests during the second session of examination, scheduled to run on June 26-July 4.

Although the tests in language and literature are mandatory for all examinees, during each testing session every student also has the opportunity to choose one or two (depending on a specific university’s requirements) additional subjects out of a total of 10 required for examination. The additional subjects range from the traditional sciences, which include biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics, to the humanities, consisting of Ukrainian history, world history, world literature, economics and law.

The grading process will be supervised by the recently government-established Independent Testing Information Center (ITIC), which operates nine regional affiliates throughout the country. In the fall of 2008 the Ukrainian government is scheduled to relinquish its administration of the ITIC, at which time various civic organizations will assume management and supervision of the institution.

For the time being, the grading system for standardized testing is based on a two-tiered spectrum, namely the traditional domestic academic 12-point scale, and the Western-type 100-point scale, ranging from 100 points to 200 points. Each examinee must chalk up at least four to five points according to the 12-point bar, or a required

(Continued on page 5)

“Natalka Poltavka” comes to Ukrainian American Cultural Center of N.J.



Roma Hadzewycz

On stage at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey at the conclusion of “Natalka Poltavka” (from left) are: Oleksander Formanchuk (who played the role of Mykola), Pavlo Piskun (Petro), Tetyana Mikhina (Natalka), Oleh Skrypka (matchmaker), Larysa Rusnak (Natalka’s mother) and Petro Panchuk (mayor).

by **Roma Hadzewycz**

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Ukraine’s acclaimed Ivan Franko Theater of Kyiv brought the musical drama “Natalka Poltavka” to the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACC-NJ) on Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13.

The performance – the North American premiere of this new production of the beloved play by Ivan Kotliarevsky (1769-1838) – was presented by the Arts, Culture and Education Committee of the UACCNJ. “Natalka Poltavka” was performed to a sold-out auditorium on Sunday afternoon and to near-capacity audiences on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The production featured Ukrainian rock star Oleh Skrypka as the matchmaker and award-winning soloist Tetyana Mikhina as Natalka. Other principal roles were played by Pavlo Piskun (Petro),

(Continued on page 10)

ANALYSIS

Can the ruling coalition hold together?

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The ruling coalition of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc and President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense is on the verge of breaking apart. Mr. Yushchenko's team not only criticizes Ms. Tymoshenko's economic policy but also publicly accuses her of fostering corruption. Ms. Tymoshenko, for her part, has been torpedoing Mr. Yushchenko's efforts to strengthen the presidential rule.

The situation is similar to the crisis of September 2005, when President Yushchenko fired Ms. Tymoshenko from the post of prime minister, but there is one fundamental difference. In line with the constitutional amendments that came into force in 2006, the president cannot dismiss the prime minister. This is within the jurisdiction of Parliament, where Mr. Yushchenko is very far from commanding a majority.

The Tymoshenko government has increased social spending, and it plans to use privatization proceedings to keep Ms. Tymoshenko's election promise to repay savings in the defunct Soviet State Savings Bank through the Ukrainian state savings bank, Oshchadbank.

Mr. Yushchenko's team maintains that this policy is populist and will unbalance the economy, but this policy increases Ms. Tymoshenko's popularity ahead of next year's presidential election race in which she is expected to challenge President Yushchenko. Opinion polls conducted in March and April showed

that 23 percent to 25 percent of Ukrainians are ready to vote for Ms. Tymoshenko in a presidential election, while support for Mr. Yushchenko is under 10 percent.

The president has urged the prime minister to amend the 2008 state budget as it was based on the expectation that inflation would be around 10 percent annually, but it reached 9.7 percent just in the period from January to March. Ms. Tymoshenko said that she saw no point in amending the budget for the time being. On March 19 the Tymoshenko Cabinet ruled to privatize four regional power-generating companies. The Presidential Secretariat warned that the decision could lead to the bankruptcy of the state-run Energy Company of Ukraine, which manages the four companies. Ms. Tymoshenko ignored the warning, and Mr. Yushchenko issued a decree on April 11 canceling the privatization decision, saying that it "threatened the state's economic security."

President Yushchenko accused Prime Minister Tymoshenko on March 28 of failing to settle the debt for Russian gas. He estimated the debt to Gazprom at \$2 billion, and warned Ms. Tymoshenko of an imminent "gas war." Ms. Tymoshenko calmly replied that the debt was lower, at some \$900 million, and she pledged to continue talks with Russia.

Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko also disagreed over the early mayoral election in Kyiv. Mr. Yushchenko was against the election, but in March

(Continued on page 21)

Putin's "near abroad" is "NATO's East"

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor
April 10

At his press conference following his address to the session of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC), Russian President Vladimir Putin engaged in a lengthy indictment of NATO policies across the board (www.kremlin.ru, Interfax, April 4, 5). Predictably criticizing the alliance's open door to former Soviet-controlled countries, he gave a new focus to an old argument: "We view the arrival at our borders of a military bloc, whose membership commitments include Article 5, as a direct threat to our country's security." To object specifically to the alliance's bedrock defensive clause as a "threat" implies that Russia prefers to see its neighbors undefended.

The Russian president said that the U.S. "bases" in Romania and Bulgaria and the planned elements of an anti-missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic were an "infrastructure on Russia's borders." While geographically false, the assertion is politically significant, implying a Russian claim to a say in these countries or compensation through trade-offs elsewhere.

Mr. Putin criticized the NATO air policing mission in the Baltic states, which consists of only four to five interceptor planes rotating at a Lithuanian base, but he called it merely an "irritation," thus hinting that Russia could live with the present size of the mission but would object to an increase beyond this minimalist size.

At the news conference, Mr. Putin continued the polemics against the Baltic

states, particularly Latvia, that he had started in the closed-door meeting. Repeating Moscow's familiar, unsubstantiated charges against Latvian and Estonian citizenship policies, he criticized NATO for accepting such "undemocratic" countries in the alliance.

Mr. Putin seemed stung by Latvian President Valdis Zatlers' response to him in the closed-door NRC meeting. Mr. Zatlers, departing from the common practice of not taking issue with Mr. Putin, rebutted the latter's inaccurate accusations during the meeting. In his debut at a NATO summit, the recently elected Latvian president also turned out to be one of the most eloquent supporters of Membership Action Plans (MAPs) for Georgia and Ukraine (Diena, Neatkariga Rita Avize, April 7, 8).

Mr. Putin mentioned approvingly the Russian Black Sea Fleet's participation in NATO's Active Endeavor naval patrolling operation in the Mediterranean. Initiated by NATO several years ago for political symbolism, Russian participation remains minimal, redundant and hardly a symbol of improved relations.

Russia, meanwhile, has successfully resisted an extension of Active Endeavor from the Mediterranean into the Black Sea, which NATO and the United States had sought by way of reciprocity. Russia would not have been able to veto the operation's extension into the Black Sea; but NATO member Turkey ultimately did so within the alliance, as part of Ankara's overall rapprochement with Moscow.

No one contradicted Mr. Putin's misrepresentation of the situation with the

(Continued on page 22)

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine complains to U.N. about Russia

KYIV – Ukraine has complained to the United Nations about statements made by Russian officials regarding Ukraine's sovereignty, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on April 22. The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry delivered the statement to the U.N. headquarters in New York. Yuriy Sergeyev, Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations, said that "the stance stated by the Russian Federation might have unforeseen effects on peace and security." Earlier this month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Russia "will do everything to prevent Ukraine and Georgia from being accepted into NATO," while the Russian daily Kommersant reported on April 8 that Russian President Vladimir Putin "actually threatened that Russia will begin tearing away Crimea and eastern Ukraine" from Kyiv's authority if the country is offered NATO. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Tymoshenko for parliamentary republic

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko told journalists in Strasbourg, France, on April 16 that she wants Ukraine to undergo a constitutional reform in order to become a parliamentary republic, Ukrainian media reported. "We must untangle the functions of the executive powers and make Ukraine a traditional parliamentary republic, which is typical of European countries," Interfax-Ukraine quoted her as saying. Ms. Tymoshenko also said that reforming the judiciary and instituting public control over the authorities must become the two other key aspects of the constitutional reform, which she said could be successfully completed by the end of 2008. Speaking to a session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg the same day, the prime minister stressed that Ukraine is determined to conduct all the necessary reforms in order to gain membership in the European Union. She also reiterated that Ukraine can join NATO only after a national referendum. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Ruling on constitutional referendum

KYIV – The Constitutional Court on April 18 ruled that "the people, as the bear-

er of sovereignty and the only source of power in Ukraine, may execute at a national referendum called at the people's initiative its exclusive right to define and change the constitutional system in Ukraine, through adopting a constitution via a procedure defined by the Constitution and the law," Interfax-Ukraine reported. However, the ruling reportedly explains that a new constitution may not be directly approved by a national referendum until the Verkhovna Rada amends the current Constitution of Ukraine regarding the mechanisms and procedures for staging such a referendum. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Move toward parliamentary republic

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko told ICTV on April 20 that after the Easter holiday the Verkhovna Rada will adopt in its first reading constitutional changes with regard to transforming Ukraine into a parliamentary republic. She said there are two forms of government in the world, presidential and parliamentary, and they cannot be mixed. "I come out against the chaos and against two centers of power," she said. "I think that the parliamentary form of government will introduce at last an order similar to that in Germany. There will be a chancellor and there will be an order," Ms. Tymoshenko said. The prime minister said that the presidency will be preserved, as well as nationwide presidential elections. (RFE/RL Newswire)

PRU re-elects Yanukovich

KYIV – The Party of the Regions (PRU), Ukraine's largest opposition party, on April 19 unanimously re-elected Viktor Yanukovich as its chairman, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. According to the party charter approved at the congress, Mr. Yanukovich will also head the political council and its presidium. The congress approved a program that preserves the party's goals: transition to a parliamentary-presidential form of government, a decentralization process ceding as much power as possible to the regions, granting the Russian language official status and military neutrality. In the area of foreign poli-

(Continued on page 14)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.
Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members – \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices.
(ISSN – 0273-9348)

The Weekly: UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510 Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com; e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, April 27, 2008 No. 17, Vol. LXXVI
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U.S. human rights report shows continuing problems for Ukraine

This is the first in a series of installments of the 2007 Human Rights Report on Ukraine by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Compiled by Matthew Dubas.

Part 1

During the year politicians and politically active businessmen were the victims of sometimes fatal attacks that may have been politically motivated, however, business, government and criminal activities were intertwined to such an extent that it was often difficult to determine the motives.

Violent hazing of military conscripts and government monitoring of private communications without judicial oversight continued to be problem areas as well.

The law prohibits the abuse of psychiatry for political and other non-medical reasons and provides safeguards against such abuse, but on a few occasions, according to the Ukrainian American Human Rights Bureau (UAHRB), persons involved in property, inheritance or divorce disputes were wrongfully diagnosed with schizophrenia and confined to psychiatric institutions.

NGOs found widespread violations including failure to inform persons who were voluntarily hospitalized of the overall duration of their stay; failure to inform patients of their diagnosis or what medications they were given; lack of knowledge concerning patients' rights in psychiatric hospitals; humiliation by hospital staff; and violation of patients' rights to free medical assistance.

According to the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association, attitudes toward monitoring abuses in psychiatric facilities differed within the government. For example, while the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy set up a division to monitor mental health facilities during the year, the Ministry of Health did not always cooperate with human rights groups attempting to monitor abuse of psychiatry and maltreatment of patients.

Despite laws to protect the rights of service members and regulations that govern relationships among military personnel, reports continued during the year of hazing violence against conscripts in the armed forces. Senior conscripts frequently beat recruits, forced them to give up money and gifts received from home, and made junior conscripts work in their place, a practice known as "didivshchyna." According to the Association of Soldiers' Mothers, official punishment for committing or condoning hazing was insufficient to deter the practice.

According to NGOs, although prison conditions remained poor, they continued to improve slowly as a result of reforms in the penal system and the establishment of Ministry of Internal Affairs mobile monitoring groups.

Knowledgeable independent experts noted that overcrowding at detention facilities remained a problem, particularly in police temporary holding facilities. Overcrowding and poor conditions in pre-trial detention have exacerbated the problem of tuberculosis (TB) among prisoners. Prison officials stated that mandatory screening of all new inmates for the disease had reduced infection rates and human rights organizations noted placement of X-ray machines in several prison facilities as a positive development. HIV-infected prisoners were frequently not allowed to receive specialized medication.

Arbitrary arrest or detention remained problems in 2007. Human rights organizations reported that, as in 2006, there were long delays for detainees awaiting trial. They cited examples of arrests without court warrants and, in some cases, of cases

where no records were kept on detainees.

Police corruption remained a problem. Authorities made greater efforts to expose police abuses, increasing disciplinary actions against law enforcement officials compared to previous years.

Lengthy pretrial detention remained a problem. While the law provides that pre-trial detention may not last more than two months, in cases involving exceptionally grave offenses a judge of the Supreme Court may extend detention to 18 months.

Human rights organizations reported that police continued using the maximum term of 72 hours for pretrial detention to extract evidence that could be used against the detained person. Often courts extended detention to 10 days to allow police more time to get confessions.

Reports continued of police arbitrarily detaining persons, particularly persons of

legal watchdog organizations noted that the court continued to show independence during the year.

The Constitution includes procedural provisions intended to ensure a fair trial, including the right of suspects or witnesses to refuse to testify against themselves or their relatives; however, these rights were limited by the absence of implementing legislation, which left a largely Soviet-era criminal justice system in place. The defendant is formally presumed innocent, but the system maintains high conviction rates, similar to that of the Soviet era.

The law provides for broad use of juries, but a system of juries had not been implemented and juries were not used during the year. Most cases were decided by judges who sit singly, although the law requires that two judges and three public assessors (lay judges or professional jurors

local officials. Continued dependence by some media on government resources may have inhibited investigative and critical reporting.

According to the national media watchdog NGO Institute for Mass Information (IMI), at least 22 journalists were subjected to physical attacks or intimidation by year's end. The majority of these cases, however, did not appear to be centrally organized and were often attributed to local politicians or organized criminal groups.

Both the independently- and government-owned media continued to demonstrate a tendency toward self-censorship on matters that the government deemed sensitive. Although private newspapers were free to function on a purely commercial basis, they often depended on political patrons who could facilitate financial support from the State Press Support Fund and received close scrutiny from government officials, particularly at the local level.

Libel is considered a civil offense and the use or threat of civil libel suits continued to inhibit freedom of the press during the year. Courts may freeze the accounts of a publication pending appeal of a libel conviction, a step that could ruin many publications. Government entities and public figures, in particular, continued to use the threat of civil suits based on alleged damage to a "person's honor and integrity" to influence or intimidate the press. Media watchdog groups continued to express concern over extremely high monetary damages that were demanded, and sometimes awarded, by courts for alleged libel.

The government did not restrict access to the Internet, but there was monitoring by law enforcement bodies.

The government did not restrict academic freedom, but academic freedom was an underdeveloped and poorly understood concept. Most major universities were state-owned; while university rectors had a degree of autonomy, curriculum and degree standards were tightly controlled by the Ministry of Education. Administrators of universities and academic and research institute directors could silence colleagues by denying the ability to publish, withholding pay and housing benefits, and directly terminating them.

Since there is no national law governing freedom of assembly, the Code of Administrative Justice and case law governed assemblies. Moreover, local authorities often referred to a Soviet-era resolution on freedom of assembly that was more restrictive than the current Constitution.

The Constitution requires that demonstrators inform authorities of a planned demonstration in advance. The Soviet-era resolution, which local governments sometimes used to define "advance notice," stipulates that organizations must apply for permission at least 10 days before a planned event or demonstration. In practice unlicensed demonstrations were common and generally occurred without police interference, fines or detention, although there were several exceptions.

The government generally respected the right of freedom of association, but in practice, some restrictions remained. Registration requirements for organizations were extensive, but there were no reports that the government used them during the year to disband existing legitimate organizations or prevent new ones from being formed.

The law places restrictions on organizations that advocate violence or racial and religious hatred, or that threaten public order or health. On March 28, 2007, the

The judiciary lacked independence. There were indications that suspects often bribed court officials to drop charges before cases went to trial or to lessen or commute sentences.

non-Slavic appearance, for extensive document checks and vehicle inspections.

In cases of amnesty, as of December 2006 President Yushchenko had pardoned 962 persons, including women, elderly men, persons with disabilities and persons with several children. On June 6, 2007, the president signed the Law on Amnesty that established criteria for amnesty, including the severity of crime committed, illness, old age and the length of time already served.

Serious corruption and inefficiency in all branches of government and the military services also continued. The judiciary lacked independence. There were indications that suspects often bribed court officials to drop charges before cases went to trial or to lessen or commute sentences.

Except for the Supreme Court, Constitutional Court and highly specialized courts, the courts were funded through the State Judicial Administration (SJA), which was also responsible for staffing courts. The ministries of justice and education were responsible for training judges. The judiciary's lack of adequate staff and funds contributed to inefficiency and corruption and increased its dependence on the executive branch. According to the SJA, only 60 percent of actual court expenses were covered by the national budget in 2006, forcing the courts to either curtail activities or seek funds from other authorities, thereby undermining their independence.

Failure to enforce court decisions in civil cases also undermined the authority and independence of the judicial system. The State Executive Service is responsible for enforcing most civil decisions, and the number of cases referred to it continued to grow. Existing provisions permitting criminal punishment for noncompliance with court decisions were rarely used. The chairs of the Supreme Court, the regional courts and the Kyiv municipal court (or their deputies) have the authority to suspend court decisions, which provided additional opportunities for outside interference, manipulation and corruption.

During the year there were reports of pressure on Constitutional Court judges, in particular after the April presidential decree to dissolve the Parliament, as well as of a number of corruption allegations involving its judges.

Human rights groups, the media and

with some legal training) must hear cases that involve the possibility of a life prison sentence, the maximum penalty in the country's criminal justice system.

By law a trial must begin no later than three weeks after criminal charges have been filed with the court; however, this requirement rarely was met by the overburdened court system.

While the law specifies that a defendant may speak with a lawyer in private, human rights groups reported that officials occasionally denied this client-attorney privilege. Often free legal counsel was not available, although this is required by law. To protect defendants, investigative files must contain signed documents attesting that defendants have been informed of the charges against them, of their right to an attorney at public expense, and of their right not to give evidence against themselves or their relatives. However, officials sometimes verbally and physically abused defendants to obtain their signatures. As defendants increasingly became aware of their rights, they insisted on observance of these procedures; however, many remained unaware of these safeguards.

The law provides that the names and addresses of victims and witnesses may be kept confidential if they request protection. However, criminal groups routinely used intimidation to induce victims and witnesses to withdraw or change their testimony. The law requires that a special police unit protect judges, witnesses, defendants and their relatives, but human rights organizations claimed that this system still did not function effectively.

Non-enforcement of court judgments remained a problem. During the year the European Courts Human Rights (ECHR) supported three such applications against the government.

The judiciary suffered from corruption. Judges have immunity from prosecution and cannot be detained or arrested without the consent of Parliament.

In practice, authorities did not respect the right of citizen's privacy, including arbitrary intrusive surveillance and searches without a court-issued warrant, as the necessary implementing legislation had not been enacted.

There were no reports that the central authorities attempted to direct media content; however, there were reports of intimidation of journalists, including by

(Continued on page 4)



Vitali Klitschko



Oleksander Turchynov



Oleksander Omelchenko



Mykola Katerynchuk

Forty-eight vie...

(Continued from page 1)

devise a fair utility rates system and solve the traffic problem. Utility costs skyrocketed over the last two years under Chernovetsky's reign. Omelchenko claims Kyiv's woes are partially due to Chernovetsky's nepotism, which, according to the former mayor, is directly linked to the Presidential Secretariat.

Mr. Turchynov will be representing the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc as its only official mayoral candidate. Mr. Klitschko also has created his own political campaign bloc and has been joined by National Rukh of Ukraine leader and former Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk.

Each mayoral candidate has established a political campaign bloc in the hope that his bloc will gain as many seats as possible in the City Council, as Kyiv's registered voters will also be voting for a new municipal administration in May.

According to Iryna Bekeshkina of the Democratic Initiatives Foundation and Oleksander Vyshniak of the Ukrainian Sociology Service, over the last four months only Mayor Chernovetsky's ratings have changed, in fact, improving, significantly. In November of 2007 only 14.5 percent of the voters were ready to cast their ballots for the current mayor.

"If the coalition forces do not manage to put forward a single candidate and the cur-

rent top five candidates continue their campaign to the end, then Chernovetskyi would win in the first round of elections," said Ms. Bekeshkina.

If a second round of elections were to be held, Mr. Vyshniak is convinced that Mr. Klitschko would trounce every candidate, including Mr. Chernovetskyi. At present, Mr. Chernovetskyi's most stalwart and loyal supporters include pensioners who have and continue to receive various perks from the current mayor. Mr. Klitschko, on the other hand, enjoys the greatest support among middle-aged, employed voters who are actually less active in the electoral process.

According to political analyst Vadym Karasiov, one of the main differences between Mr. Chernovetskyi and Mr. Klitschko is the notion that Mr. Chernovetskyi has bigger plans and ambitions beyond the mayoral seat, so much so that, were he to win re-election he might consider using his position as a springboard for the 2009 presidential elections.

On the other hand, Mr. Klitschko is fully committed to making Kyiv a world-class city on the level of such cities as New York and Berlin, added Mr. Karasiov.

At the same time, Mr. Klitschko's biggest threat appears to be a candidate who claims to also have at one time engaged in the sport of boxing, namely Mr. Katerynchuk. For Mr. Katerynchuk, the mayoral elections are an opportunity to finally fulfill the goal of political self-determination. As a result of such ambitions, political experts agree that

Mr. Katerynchuk will be an obstacle to Mr. Klitschko's mayoral aspirations. According to Mr. Katerynchuk himself, four out of five people who will vote for him could have cast their votes in favor of Mr. Klitschko.

At one point, Mr. Katerynchuk held negotiations with Mr. Klitschko in order to form a single campaign bloc. He offered to withdraw his candidacy if Mr. Klitschko agreed to accept seven of Mr. Katerynchuk's fellow bloc members on his electoral list. Mr. Klitschko turned down the offer, refusing to bend to any compromise. As a result, each candidate has since accused the other of being the cause for the possible re-election of Mr. Chernovetskyi.

Meanwhile, Mr. Turchynov's chances, with a rating of 12 percent, seem rather slim, as poor timing may be his downfall. For one thing, according to fellow YTB colleague Pavlo Movchan, "there just isn't enough time to develop a solid campaign around Turchynov."

In addition, Ms. Tymoshenko was offered the possibility to consider the candidacy of Mr. Klitschko on a single campaign list, but Ms. Tymoshenko refused the offer and both democratic forces decided to go it alone. As a result, Prime Minister Tymoshenko's personal choice for the mayoral race has come under criticism.

Furthermore, as inflation continues to creep up, the YTB's ratings, although still enjoying respectable figures, are no longer as high as they were in December 2007

when the prime minister took office. And although the YTB's No. 1 goal in the election – which takes precedence even over the mayoral position – is to gain a majority of seats (61) on the Kyiv City Council, as well as the secretarial chair in the council, it is doubtful that the prime minister's party will gain the necessary 50 percent plus one vote to solidify a majority.

According to Volodymyr Fesenko, head of the Penta Center for Political Research, although timing may not have been a favorable factor for the bloc at the moment, the YTB still has a chance to pick up momentum in the nearest future as the campaign gets closer and closer to election day.

When asked how she plans to promote Mr. Turchynov's campaign, the prime minister responded by stating that in her opinion there is no need to give the residents of Kyiv any additional information. "They know me and Mr. Turchynov very well, and our entire team. Our aim is very simple: we will propose the best that our team has to offer," added Ms. Tymoshenko.

According to Kost Bondarenko, director of the Horshenin Institute of Government Management, based on a telephone survey conducted on April 11-15, approximately 76.3 percent of Kyiv's residents plan to vote in the upcoming pre-term mayoral elections.

The amount of taxpayer money needed to organize the upcoming elections will be approximately \$3.3 million according to Andrii Mahera, deputy head of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine.

U.S. human rights...

(Continued from page 3)

Bakhchisarai District Court upheld an administrative appeal by the district prosecutor to suspend activities of the Eurasia Youth Union for three months for violating the law on holding public rallies. The organization was known for organizing anti-Ukrainian rallies and advocating the return of the Russian empire.

There were restrictive conditions for the formation of political parties, including the requirement to collect 10,000 signatures in no less than two-thirds of the country's provinces (oblasts), the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol. The requirement made it nearly impossible for groups concentrated in one region such as the Crimean Tatars to form a political party.

Some minority and nontraditional religions experienced difficulties in registration and in buying and leasing property. There is no formal state religion; however, local authorities at times favored the religious majority in a particular region.

Restitution of communal property confiscated during the Soviet era remained a problem and was complicated by intra-communal competition.

There were a number of acts of anti-Semitism, several of them involved physical attacks. Anti-Semitic articles appeared frequently in small publications and irreg-

ular newsletters, although such articles rarely appeared in the national press.

The government cooperated with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in providing protections to asylum seekers, stateless persons and other persons of concern.

The government provided temporary protection for up to one year to persons who may not qualify as refugees under the 1951 convention and the 1967 protocol. In practice, however, the lack of a clearly defined asylum authority after the reorganization of the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration into the State Committee of Nationalities and Religion (SCNR) in November 2006 impeded the granting of asylum and refugee status.

Unlike in the previous year, the government provided some protection against refoulement, the return of persons to a country when there is reason to believe they feared persecution. However, human rights groups noted the current Law on Refugees does not provide for protection for war refugees, victims of indiscriminate violence, and failed asylum seekers who could face the threat of torture, or loss of life or freedom, if deported. Informed observers reported that the government may have repatriated Chechen refugees to Russia. Some government officials expressed the view that Chechens did not fall under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.

The UNHCR noted that asylum seekers often lacked registration documents during the review of their cases and the appeal process because of an overly complicated and burdensome system of registration. This left them without documents and vulnerable to frequent stops by police, detention and fines. Refugees and asylum seekers, who frequently came from Africa and Asia, were the victims of a growing number of xenophobic attacks.

Human rights organizations noted that, although the Law on Refugees has some provisions for asylum seekers, there was no state migration policy and at year's end five government agencies were responsible for migration, including the SCNR, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the State Border Guard Service (SBGS). This situation resulted in refusals to grant refugee status at various stages of the process, and corruption. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) expressed concern about the lack of transparency in the process of returning migrants to their country of origin.

The government generally cooperated with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations in assisting refugees and asylum seekers. Some NGOs expressed concern that Chechens held at the Chop temporary accommodation facility were often deported directly to Russia with insufficient time to apply for asylum.

According to several NGOs, the process for registering asylum seekers was overly complicated and often left them without registration documents. Under the law authorities may quickly reject asylum applications from individuals without formal registration as asylum seekers; the law requires the government to conduct refugee status interviews within 15 days of the application.

Asylum seekers in detention centers were sometimes unable to apply for refugee status and had limited access to legal and other assistance. Refugees received minimal material assistance. There were no Ukrainian language classes for refugees and asylum seekers and no procedures to facilitate their employment.

According to the European Council on Refugees and Exiles and local partner NGOs, there are currently 3,000 stateless persons who came as refugees in the early 1990s fleeing the conflict in Georgia.

A presidential decree of June 2006 established mechanisms allowing any foreign national residing legally in the country to register their child born in Ukraine as a Ukrainian citizen within three months of submission of an application; this gives children of asylum seekers and refugees from Georgia the opportunity to gain citizenship without being included in immigration quotas.

Melanne Verveer receives Ukraine's Princess Olha Award

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON — Melanne Verveer, co-founder and chairman of the board of Vital Voices Global Partnership, received Ukraine's Princess Olha Award on April 16 during a special ceremony and reception in her honor at the Embassy of Ukraine.

Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, who presented the award on behalf of President Viktor Yushchenko, cited Ms. Verveer's work at Vital Voices, which, he said, "plays an especially important role in the world in promoting the equality of women, helping the empowerment of women, combatting such things as trafficking of women and promoting many other very noble causes."

Addressing a small gathering of officials, diplomats, friends and colleagues of Ms. Verveer, Ambassador Shamshur also praised the third-generation Ukrainian American for never having forgotten Ukraine and for doing much in her present and former positions to promote its well-being. "(She) made sure that people in power in Washington understand Ukraine and help Ukraine to solidify its independence, promote reforms and democratic change in Ukraine — which was very important."

Among those present were two visiting Ukrainian government officials: Minister of Justice Mykola Onishchuk and Deputy Minister of Energy Volodymyr Makukha.

Ambassador Shamshur also noted her work in helping the victims of the Chernobyl disaster through the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF), in which she serves on the board of directors.

Vital Voices Global Partnership is an international nonprofit organization that supports emerging women leaders in building democracies with strong economies. It

focuses on expanding women's participation in politics and civil society, increasing women's entrepreneurship and fighting human rights abuses, particularly the trafficking of women and children. It provides international leadership training in collaboration with Georgetown University, which enables women leaders to more effectively contribute to the development of their societies.

Earlier, Ms. Verveer served as assistant to the president and chief of staff to the first lady in the Clinton administration.

Accepting the award, Ms. Verveer paid respect to her grandparents, who came to the United States more than 100 years ago. "They and my parents raised me to value my heritage, to cherish my heritage and to always care about Ukraine and the Ukrainian people," she said. "And there were some very, very hard times for Ukraine."

"That's a huge part of who I am, and why this is especially meaningful to me," she said. "I think I was very privileged to be in the U.S. government when Ukraine was newly independent and the U.S. was in a position to help."

"And we did," she added, in the areas of economics, democratic reform, health care and other social needs, as well as in eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

And talking with women leaders from Ukraine 10 years ago in the first Vital Voices conferences, she learned about human trafficking from Ukrainian women, she said. "It was, really, the intercession of the Ukrainian women that ultimately inspired our country to do what we've done around the world on this global scourge."

Ms. Verveer said there are many memories she cherishes from those years, the



Melanne Verveer (center) with the Princess Olha medal she received from Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (left) now affixed to her lapel, holds a Slava Gerulak statuette she received from Nadia Matkiwsky (right) of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund.

most memorable among them accompanying President Bill Clinton to Ukraine in 1995 — the first-ever official visit of an American president to a democratic and free Ukraine.

"I will never forget standing with the American delegation in front of Mariinsky Palace and the band playing the American national anthem and then the Ukrainian national anthem, 'Shche ne vmerla Ukrayina,'" the anthem she sang so many times as a child.

"And I thought of my parents and I wished they were alive, because they would have been so proud of that moment," Ms. Verveer said.

"There I was, the granddaughter of four people — my paternal and maternal grand-

parents came from Ukraine, and they had to immigrate to the United States in search of a better life — and their granddaughter returned with the president of the United States."

"It was an especially meaningful moment that I know they would have been proud of. And I think they would be proud of this afternoon, too," she added.

The last speaker at the ceremony was Nadia Matkiwsky, the co-founder and executive director of CCRDF, who praised Ms. Verveer for her role in helping the children victims of Chernobyl. She presented Ms. Verveer with a small statue by Slava Gerulak of a woman with her arms open, which, she said, reflects the approach to others of "this phenomenal woman."

Ukraine launches...

(Continued from page 1)

minimum of 124 points based on the Western-type bar, otherwise the hopeful student becomes ineligible for university admission.

Every institution of higher learning in Ukraine must follow the same newly accepted standards for admission. Only those institutions specializing exclusively in the study of foreign languages, creative arts and sports are afforded the exception to the rule.

Standardized testing has been undergoing its introductory process in Ukraine since 2002 when the Renaissance Foundation initiated experimental examinations on the high school level. Following President Viktor Yushchenko's election in December 2004, standardized testing picked up momentum in 2005, gradually being introduced throughout the country on a phase-by-phase basis as Ukraine's Ministry of Education continues to follow the path of Euro-Atlantic integration based on the European Union's (EU) Bologna Educational Reform Program.

In 2007 the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv were chosen as pre-cursors to the current nationwide examination program, as students only in these cities were required to undergo standardized testing. Ukraine hopes to reach the level of the Bologna reform requirements by 2010 in order to become an integral member of a so-called single higher education zone on the European continent.

As part of the overall globalization process, Ukrainian education must adopt European standards, otherwise Ukraine will find itself on the periphery of worldwide integration. Such were the sentiments expressed by Vasyl Kremen, former education minister and current president of the

Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, during a recent international conference in Kyiv devoted to the implementation of Western educational standards in post-Soviet countries.

Not all colleges and universities in Ukraine are overly enthusiastic about the standardized testing format. Traditional and more prestigious institutions of higher learning such as National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv are more interested in maintaining the status quo as newly introduced reforms tend to undermine their long-standing and imbedded, if not outdated, methods of admission.

In an apparent move to send a clear signal of his desire for the educational reform process to continue, on April 10 President Viktor Yushchenko fired Viktor Skopenko, the longtime rector of National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv, replacing the ousted rector with Volodymyr Lytvyn, head of the eponymous bloc in Parliament. Mr. Lytvyn, a published historian, will serve as the university's top official on an interim basis until appropriate elections to choose a new rector will take place. Mr. Skopenko, notorious throughout his long academic career for his resistance to change, served as rector of Ukraine's leading university for 23 years.

On the other hand, of the approximately 900 institutions of higher learning, those established after Ukraine's declaration of independence stand the most to gain from standardized testing. Because of their novelty, many of the recently established universities on the territory of Ukraine are less known and therefore not as prestigious; standardized testing can only work to the advantage of such institutions as "more stringent" admissions requirements will now raise the reputation and overall ratings of such schools, according to educational reform experts.

Holodomor historian receives Ukraine award

WASHINGTON — Cheryl A. Madden, a professor of history at the Community College of Rhode Island, has received the Order of Princess Olha for her research and for raising public awareness of the Holodomor, the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

The national award was announced by Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko on November 29, 2007, and presented to Prof. Madden on February 20 at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington by Dr. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S.

Prof. Madden, who has no Ukrainian roots, first became interested in the study of the Holodomor while a student at the University of Rhode Island. In 2003 she attended a conference on "Food as a Political Weapon" in Denver, where she met Holodomor survivors and also lectured on the subject to

high-school teachers. That same year she was awarded a Yuriy Kuziv Grant from the Shevchenko Scientific Society in America (NTSh) for the objective of compiling and annotating an English-language bibliography on the Holodomor up to 2003 (www.shevchenko.org/famine). She is presently updating the bibliography at the request of NTSh. Prof. Madden was also a recipient of the Michael P. Metcalf Fellowship, which



At the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, Cheryl Madden speaks after receiving the Order of Princess Olha from Ukraine's Ambassador Oleh Shamshur.

sponsored her research trip to Ukraine.

Prof. Madden's expertise in the Holodomor field has gained her international recognition. In 2003 she was invited to serve as guest editor of the history journal *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* Holodomor Commemorative Edition. In 2007, on the invitation of Ukrainian-Canadian Congress, she spoke at a Holodomor commemorative event in Montreal.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Chornobyl at 22

It is difficult to comprehend that only 22 years ago, at 1:23 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, 1986, the worst nuclear catastrophe in the history of mankind took place in the town of Chornobyl, a two-hour drive from Ukraine's capital, Kyiv.

The vast health concerns, including the sharp increases in thyroid cancer cases and other associated illnesses, demonstrate the far-reaching power of radiation exposure, which has affected not only Ukrainians, but Belarusians and Russians as well.

Just as the Soviet Union was reluctant to offer assistance or even acknowledge a problem, its successor, the Russian Federation, has followed suit on addressing many of these environmental and health concerns.

Belarus' authoritarian regime has further isolated it from democracies in Europe and overseas, and, by President Alyksandr Lukashenka propagating this policy of isolation, has prevented aid and assistance from reaching those in need.

Despite these efforts by Russia and Belarus, the European Parliament made an appeal in a statement – following a special meeting this year held on April 17, at the suggestion of prominent Belarusian researchers and scholars who reside outside of Belarus – that noted the need to launch independent funding channels to sponsor the rehabilitation of the radioactively contaminated areas in Belarus. The statement further urged the Belarusian government to offer social safeguards, necessary medical assistance to people who have been affected by the Chornobyl accident, and provide clear information about the disaster and its effects.

Sadly, the growing number of victims of Chornobyl in Russia and Belarus are virtually cut off from this readily available assistance. Most upsetting is the denial by these governments of the extent of the latent health consequences that result from radiation exposure or the arbitrary fluctuations in what these same governments deem as "safe" levels of contamination or exposure.

Ukraine has better diplomatic relations with the West, and thereby has a better chance of NGOs coming to the country and providing assistance on the ground in the form of medical equipment, training of medical staff in the latest techniques and other forms of aid.

In light of the planet's ongoing environmental turmoil, Ukraine is taking initiative regarding the radioactive fuel that remains at Chornobyl. On April 23 President Viktor Yushchenko opened the first of Ukraine's three units of the Vektor complex, constructed by the German firm RWE NUKEM GmbH and with assistance by the European Commission. The facility is scheduled to be completed within the next five to 10 years and will handle decontamination, recycling and disposal of up to 75,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste from areas tainted by the disaster as well as waste from other parts of Ukraine.

Other developments include the launch of preparations for the construction of a new steel dome over the old sarcophagus by a consortium including France's Bouygues and Vinci construction companies. The old sarcophagus, constructed by the "liquidators" who were the first line of containment on the scene of the accident, has been in serious disrepair since its construction, leaking radiation into the environment.

As we commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the Chornobyl accident, it is evident that Ukraine is on the right path toward addressing Chornobyl-related issues, but history is already repeating itself by Russia denying aid to those in need. Unfortunately, Belarus appears to be following big brother's lead and making the same error.

April
30
1978

Turning the pages back...

Thirty years ago, on April 23, 1978, over 5,000 people attended the blessing of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, the first Ukrainian house of worship in Manhattan that was built and paid for by Ukrainians. (Earlier churches were either borrowed or bought from other congregations.)

The blessing ceremony was officiated by Archbishop-Metropolitan Joseph Schmondiuk, along with Bishops Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy, Jaroslav Gabro of the Chicago Eparchy and Neil Savaryn of the Edmonton Eparchy.

Some 1,000 faithful were able to attend the inaugural liturgy inside the church, while the remaining throngs listened to the service through loudspeakers on Seventh Street.

In his greeting to his flock, Patriarch Josyf Slipyj wrote: "The land on which the old church stands is sacred because it has been blessed by the tears and prayers of the pioneers." He also reminded the faithful to remain loyal to the "language and heritage of their Church."

In his Ukrainian-language sermon, Metropolitan Schmondiuk said, "St. George Church is a Mecca for the Ukrainian community and religious life."

The new church was designed by Ukrainian architect Apollinaire Osadca, at a cost of \$3 million. According to a building committee spokesman, the church was almost entirely paid for and donations were received for interior decorations including stained-glass windows and the iconostasis.

The property where the old church structure was located is adjacent to the new one and dates to the mid-19th century.

The first divine liturgy celebrated by Ukrainian Catholics in New York took place on April 19, 1890, using the basement of St. Brigid Roman Catholic Church on Seventh Street and Avenue A. Fifteen years later Ukrainian Catholics bought the Colgate chapel at 332 E. 20th St., with the first liturgy being celebrated on August 20, 1905.

Ukrainian Catholics finally moved into the old structure on East Seventh Street on October 22, 1911.

Patrolman Patrick Victor, who was on duty at the time, commented on the Ukrainian community: "These people are tight and religious. It is a pleasure to serve them today." "It's nice to see them stick together," he added.

Source: "5,000 witness blessing of St. George Church – Ceremonies mindful of contributions of pioneers," by Ihor Dlaboha, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 30, 1978.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kuropas represents community poorly

Dear Editor:

Myron B. Kuropas has done it again. I lost count long ago of the number of his articles that reveal ethnic prejudices and continue to wonder, along with others who have written in their complaints over the years, how long *The Ukrainian Weekly* will keep printing his social antipathies.

This time his dislikes seem to be turned against Roma people, one or more of whom apparently pinched his wallet while he was journeying to Fatima for spring break. His words: "Gypsies were on the tram. You can guess the rest. A gypsy now has my Ukrainian wallet..." Later, Myron B. Kuropas advises us to run fast if we should ever encounter a "gypsy" with a Ukrainian billfold. Not funny.

Even if the word "gypsy," written in lower case, technically means "vagabond" and not "Gypsy," as a reaching defense of *The Weekly's* bad boy columnist might argue, it still hails from "Gypsy" (today known as Roma) and evokes a particular ethnic group.

You know, I'm sort of glad that Dr. Kuropas got robbed, although I'm sorry it was apparently by a Roma. (I was once cheated by a person I know for sure was a Ukrainian.) Personal setbacks often provide good opportunities for reflection, and in this case our roving spring-breaker might have opportunity to consider whether or not Jesus would run on sight from "gypsies." Not my Jesus, and not my Gandhi either. He might also think about whether or not his "gypsy" has had equal opportunity in life to become, say, a newspaper columnist or a university adjunct faculty member, or to have any other respectable occupation.

I could write off Dr. Kuropas as a dinosaur-eccentric, as I and others often do after reading his lowlights, but he enjoys prime space in our community's newspaper and disproportionate visibility as a Ukrainian American spokesperson at various social and political functions. He may, of course, express his thoughts freely, but, by the same token, I am free to think that he often represents our community poorly.

Yes, he occasionally writes something that is very interesting and correct, directly on the mark, especially when writing about Ukrainian American history, his expertise. But just as often, as he has done on March 30 with ignorant, stereotypical and gratuitous jibes against the presumed ethnic group of his wallet thief, he makes our community and our

We welcome your opinion

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

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

Please note: THE LENGTH OF LETTERS CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS.

newspaper look bigoted.

It's simple: if you are not bigoted and don't want people to think that you are bigoted, or if you don't want your own ethnic community to be accused of harboring bigotry, then write in a way that doesn't look bigoted. Myron B. Kuropas is a Ph.D. specialist in ethnic history and knows full well the origins and implications of the word "gypsy." In his calculated usage of that particular word, he has added more smoke to the smoke that keeps swirling about him, making this reader and others, I am sure, think once again that this is smoke from flames of intolerance and can cover us all.

Roman Cybriwsky
Philadelphia

Why support NATO entry for Ukraine?

Dear Editor:

The elusive prospect of NATO membership for Ukraine has recently received a great deal of notice and commentary in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. The denial of a Membership Action Plan for Ukraine at the NATO alliance's summit in Bucharest was both predictable and predicted months beforehand (as in my letter in the February 24 issue). The mainstream media explained it, post factum, mostly as a sop to Moscow.

In my view, at least equally important was a widespread – and recognized in Europe – negative perception of NATO in Ukraine. It is not difficult to understand why. Bluntly, NATO is now less of a shield against Russia than an intended tool of the Bush administration's neo-colonialism in the Third World (Afghanistan is one example) with its disastrous fallout – the most painful for the West being \$100 for a barrel of oil. I say "intended" because most of Europe's original NATO members have no desire to be dragged into American adventures cooked under the Bush presidency – which former White House National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski described as "catastrophic."

Why then is the Ukrainian diaspora in America so vehement in cheering Ukraine's leaders' bid for NATO membership? In my view, the diaspora activist contact with Ukraine is much less active than meets the eye – it is negligible.

The present diaspora generation's Zeitgeist has been shaped by World War II refugee parents whose own political genesis was influenced by orientation on one or another foreign power. Although such a psychology of dependency was blasted away when Stepan Bandera openly defied Nazi Germany, independence is a living experience, not just cheerleading from across the ocean.

President George W. Bush's recent visit to Kyiv showed once again his surreal perception of the world outside Texas. His foreign policy continues to flounder, as it has from day one. No one seems to be quite sure, including Mr. Bush, against whom the projected missile shield in central-eastern Europe is intended. But experienced old hands apparently understand that the project is an extension of the Bush administration's obsession with anti-ballistic missile defense, which is fundamentally technically flawed, and has already become an embarrassing boondoggle in the U.S.A.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, N.J.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

A pysanka mystery almost solved

For those of us who are benignly obsessed with pysanky and everything about them, much importance is in the details. Seeking out and collecting the many publications, from both sides of the ocean, about pysanky is just another wicked pleasure for us pysanka nuts.

I have always wondered about that first book on pysanky from Soviet Ukraine that reached North America, Erast Biniashovsky's "Ukrayinski Pysanky" released by Mystetsvo publishers in Kyiv in 1968. The edition was so limited that few books remained in Ukraine, with most being shipped out to the "cooperative" bookstores in North America. Anyone who knew his or her pysanky saw right away that the pysanky in the little red book (with the "tsyhanski dorohy – gypsy roads" jacket) were from the Elyjiw/Plast pysanka stamp sheet published in Canada so much earlier, in 1959.

I wanted to find out the story of the Plast stamps and the book, and called Zenon Elyjiw in Rochester, N.Y.

The idea for the pysanka stamps was from Stepan Gela in Toronto who also funded the project. Zenon's Elyjiw's brother Yaroslav drew the black and white illustrations of the regional pysanky. Artist Myron Lev-Levytsky then redrew them. Zenon Elyjiw refined the details, added the colors, designed the whole sheet and prepared it for printing. There were 45 stamps on the sheet.

Of these 45, 30 pysanky are in the Biniashovsky book, in the same order as on the stamp sheet. Nowhere in the book is there any acknowledgement of the source, although in 1968 in those Soviet times, maybe it was safer not to mention such a source. It was Yaroslav Elyjiw who had sent Biniashovsky the stamp sheet.

Zenon Elyjiw later met Mr. Biniashovsky after the first pysanka conference in Kyiv. He had Mr. Biniashovsky's book, which the latter autographed. But at no point did Mr. Biniashovsky acknowledge to Mr. Elyjiw anything about the origin of the designs. Mr. Biniashovsky, a medical doctor and a folk art collector, passed away in 1996.

"Svit Ukrayinskoyi Pysanky" (Kyiv: Kondor, 2005), a book about Mr. Biniashovsky's life and work, also does not mention the Plast stamps. It does say

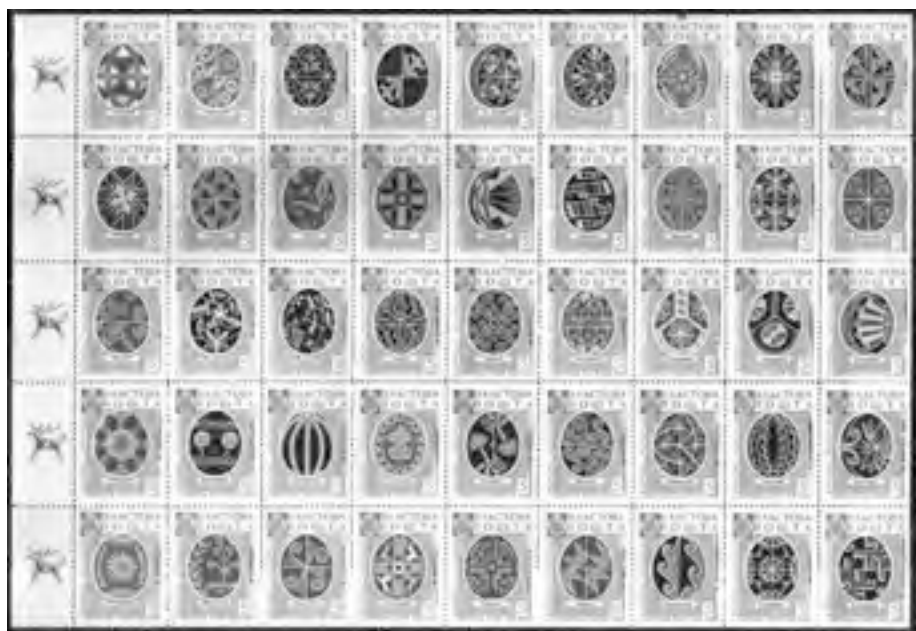


Biniashovsky pysanky.

what a sensation his "Ukrayinski Pysanky" book was. These were water-color interpretations by Mr. Biniashovsky, according to the authors. Surely over the years it should have become known to the authors – his friends – what the source of the pysanka illustrations was. I find this both baffling and appalling. But, is it possible that circumstances were such that no one in Ukraine, in Mr. Biniashovsky's circle, knew about the stamp sheet?

Zenon Elyjiw continues his interest in pysanky. He mentioned that in his own book, "Sixty Score of Pysanky" (Rochester, N.Y., 1994), one-third or 400 of the pysanky in the book were written by him. He has a manuscript ready for another book on pysanky, but his health has hindered this project for the time being.

The two books mentioned, as well as the stamp sheet, are rarities now. If you have them, don't let go. Most of the story of the stamp sheet and the Biniashovsky book has been cleared up. Maybe one day we will learn why the Elyjiw/Plast sheet connection got lost and never materialized in the Biniashovsky biography.



The Elyjiw/Plast pysanka stamp sheet.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



What Vlad told George

I met a fly the other day – a talking fly. As luck would have it, it was the fly on the wall in the room in Sochi where Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President George W. Bush recently met for a heart-to-heart exchange of ideas. The fly produced a transcript of the talks and passed it on to me. I share it with my readers.

President Putin: Mr. President, please understand. We Russians do not favor Ukraine's entrance into NATO. We believe that such a move would de-stabilize the present situation in Europe and lead to further misunderstandings between our two great nations. We can tolerate missile sites in Poland and the Czech Republic as long as we can monitor them. But Ukraine in NATO? Never.

President Bush: How would NATO membership for Ukraine, and Georgia for that matter, de-stabilize Europe? Ukraine is a democracy. The Ukrainian people have worked very hard to maintain their sovereignty. They deserve to join other European democracies. During my tenure as the president of the United States I have supported democracies the world over, especially new democracies like Ukraine. I will continue to push for Ukraine's NATO membership.

President Putin: That would be a mistake. Ukraine is too weak to survive much longer. Let me explain. Ukraine is not really a nation, Mr. President. The Ukrainian people speak a Russian dialect. Most Ukrainians attend Russian Orthodox churches. Your own historians have written that Kyiv, Ukraine's capital city, is the mother of all the Russias. Ukrainian culture is really Russian. Their most famous writers, Nikolai Gogol, for example, wrote in Russian. They have been called "Little Russians" for centuries. Russian armies, moreover, have protected Ukraine from its enemies. In 1654 the great Ukrainian Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky concluded the Treaty of Pereyaslav in order to protect Ukraine from the Poles and Tatars. The treaty placed Ukraine under Russian rule in perpetuity. In 1709 Charles XII of Sweden invaded Ukraine hoping to wrest it from Russia. Thanks to the Czar Peter's smashing Russian victory, Ukraine was saved. Ukrainians and Russians will celebrate the 300th anniversary of this great event next year.

President Bush: But wasn't Ukraine recognized as a separate republic within the Soviet Union? Didn't Stalin insist on a separate United Nations seat for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic?

President Putin: That was a gift to Ukraine from a benevolent Russian people in recognition of Ukrainian suffering during the Great War. Another Russian gift was the Crimea. It was transferred to Ukrainian control in 1954 by order of Nikita Khrushchev to honor the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Pereyaslav.

President Bush: I still believe that the Ukrainian people cherish their independence. Ukrainian Americans in my administration have told me that, despite Russian interference, the 2004 Orange Revolution expressed the true sentiments of the Ukrainian people.

President Putin (laughing): Please, Mr. President, I am not naïve. You know full well that the Orange Revolution was organized by the CIA to thwart the will of the people and to embarrass Russia. And

what has happened to this "glorious revolution"? It is falling apart. Ukraine's leaders are corrupt, fighting over crumbs, supported only by greedy oligarchs, not the people.

President Bush: Russia also has greedy oligarchs and other criminals.

President Putin: Yes, of course. But we are taking care of them. Many have been arrested and are being punished for their crimes against the people. Unlike Ukrainians, who seem to thrive on anarchy, the Russian people support law and order. We have stability in Russia.

President Bush: Ukrainian Americans have informed me that Russia is returning to Soviet-like rule, where freedom of the press is curtailed, democracy is a vanishing ideal and an imperial Russia is the goal.

President Putin: Don't listen to Ukrainian Americans. They are nationalists who collaborated with the Nazis. They are out of touch with Ukraine today. Ukrainian nationalism is anti-Semitic, an ideology of hate invented by the Germans and fomented by a powerless minority in America. Ukrainians here believe Ukrainians in the United States are a joke, a caricature, providing comic relief and nothing more. Listen to your father. He is a wise man. I still remember his words to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine in 1991: "Americans will not support those who seek independence in order to replace a far-off tyranny with a local despotism. They will not aid those who promote a suicidal nationalism based upon ethnic hatred." Ukraine and the United States did not heed your father's words and look what happened. Local despots have triumphed and the Ukrainian people have suffered. Today, Ukrainians view NATO as another despotic regime.

President Bush: I did see some anti-NATO protesters in Kyiv carrying Soviet-era flags. They are hardly representative.

President Putin: Let's be honest, Mr. President. As you know, I have said that the collapse of the Soviet Union was one of the great tragedies of world history. People within the USSR lived in fraternal friendship. They shared human and material resources. Soviet Ukrainians had jobs, lifetime pensions, educational opportunities and free medical care. Do they have that now? Are Ukrainians better off today than they were under Soviet rule?

President Bush: All new democracies struggle in the beginning. Ukrainians have made enormous strides towards putting their democratic house in order. Their economy is thriving. More Ukrainian youth speak Ukrainian today than ever before. The press is free. Freedom of religion exists. And Ukrainians have accomplished all this in a few short years – 17 to be exact. What more can we ask for? NATO will review Ukraine's membership again in December. The United States will support it.

President Putin: Think about your legacy, Mr. President. Do you want to be remembered for supporting lost causes?

President Bush: No. I want to be remembered for supporting freedom and democracy.

At that, the two leaders shook hands and left the room. The fly also left.

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

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NEWS AND VIEWS

An election "race" full of bait

by Marko Suprun

What would happen to an advertisement that portrayed a jovial candidate standing in front of a map of Israel while klezmer music played merrily in the background and then turned ominous and ridiculed that candidate for their support of Israel? It would be labeled anti-Semitic and pulled off the air.

What would you think if the ad showed the same candidate except this time in front of a map of Ukraine? Would you be less offended?

You might think exploiting ethnic stereotypes is a harmless way to make fun of your Indian neighbor's chutney or the fukakta way Second Avenue Deli is now on "toidy tird and tird." The point is that if you're easily offended by ethnic jokes, you shouldn't take yourself so seriously. Right?

Well, when you dismiss someone solely based on his or her ethnicity, you have just become a racist. Nazi Germany perfected the use of ethnic stereotypes as a political weapon to score points during an election. Soviet Russia proved to be just as adept at exploiting stereotypes to pit one group against another.

This is why the latest attack ad sponsored by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) against Bob Schaffer is disturbing. The ad attacks Mr. Schaffer for supporting Ukraine. A female voice-over butchers a simple Ukrainian phrase while happily playing what sounds like a mariachi tune in the background. It places a Schaffer quote out of context and forebodes that as senator he'd represent the interests of a foreign government and not those of Coloradans.

It seems like campaign advisors have an unwritten rule that says if you want to score political points in this election cycle, associate your target with Mexican Americans. Or maybe there's an ethnic stereotype pecking order that says if you demean Ukrainians you have to associate them with Mexicans, otherwise why the mariachi tune? Either way, it's hard to not walk away thinking that the ad is a 21st century version of Nazi posters that portrayed Jews with exaggerated noses and dangerous to the future of the Third Reich.

I first met Bob Schaffer at a conference in Washington in November 2001. The conference was the second in a series of Washington roundtables dedicated to exploring and strengthening U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral relations. The conference was supposed to have been hosted in September of 2001, but 19 hijackers saw that life for America would be very different after Tuesday, September 11.

At the conference, I had the opportunity to ask the then congressman from Colorado if there were any mechanisms that Congress could use to gain the support of Ukraine in this new war and also ask his Ukrainian counterpart if they would be willing to render such assistance. As a New Yorker, I had to know that we were doing all that could be done in this real world dystopia.

Congressman Schaffer said most programs facilitate and nurture dialogue between members of Parliament in Ukraine and members of Congress in the U.S. Some programs were more direct, like the assistance the FBI was offering to the Ukrainians while they set up a similar bureau there. Congressman Schaffer was sure then that America's work with Ukraine would be an important part of our strategy in this new world of transnational terrorism.

Marko Suprun is a writer and documentarian living in New York. He holds a master's degree in comparative politics from Columbia University.

His Ukrainian counterpart was even more candid and explained that much of the opium that was used to support the then Taliban regime was trafficked through Ukraine on its way to Europe. He said that many of the inter-parliamentary programs that the U.S. had with Ukraine allowed him and his colleagues to exchange information about matters that impact the security of both countries without violating their professional oaths of office.

I remember returning to New York lamenting the fact that our state did not have a Bob Schaffer. Here was a man who actually kept to his word and would not run for office beyond a self-imposed five-term limit. He came across as someone who looked at a person's character and did not dismiss them over their ethnic background. Too often, I encountered people in and out of government who would dismiss Ukraine as geopolitically unimportant and stereotype Ukrainians as merry boozers with cute girls and danceable ethnic music. To them, Ukraine was nothing more than a party stop on the train to Moscow.

A few years later, I heard a speech at St. Patrick's Cathedral delivered by the senior senator from New York, Charles Schumer. The memorial service at St. Patrick's is held every year on the third Sunday of November to honor the memory of millions of Ukrainians who were starved to death by a deliberate policy of the Soviet Union to "teach Ukrainians a lesson" and break their independent spirit. Ukrainians call this the Holodomor, which means torture and death by starvation. My father survived, but his two younger brothers died.

When a government embarks upon a strategy that results in the deaths of millions of people, it is called genocide. Yet, for years Ukrainians were told that the horror they survived was not genocidal. The suffering of millions was dismissed for decades. At St. Patrick's that day, Sen. Schumer called the Holodomor genocide. Here was another politician who would not dismiss Ukrainians as insignificant. At least that's what I used to think.

I called the DSCC to let them know the ad is insulting. As a New Yorker, I thought I might have an impact if I called the DSCC directly because Sen. Schumer is at its helm and is my senator. I was wrong.

An excessively dismissive Beltway insider couldn't (or wouldn't) tell me who developed the attack ad. She said she would pass along my concerns, but given her tone, I suspect she'll just pass them into the trash.

The bottom line here is that the people of Colorado have a lot to be proud of in the person of Bob Schaffer. He represented the interests of Colorado honorably during his time in Congress. He also found time to help a country that was finding its own way in the world, having survived the collapse of the world's worst totalitarian system. The willingness to help others in need is a defining character of an American regardless of ethnicity.

After his congressional term expired, Mr. Schaffer went to Ukraine as an election monitor during the presidential election of 2004, an event that would later be called the Orange Revolution. If it were not for Sen. Lugar and Bob Schaffer, those who wanted to steal the election just might have gotten away with it.

Unlike the junior senator from New York who may or may not have ducked "sniper fire," Bob Schaffer actually has experience of being in a revolution and defending a people's right to express their voice. If Bob Schaffer was willing and able to do what was the right thing then, it's clear to me that he will do the right thing as the senator from Colorado.

Kyiv Mohyla Academy epicenter of Holodomor documentation

by Serhiy Kvit

The Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, has become the subject of intense study and research intended to uncover the facts, expose the truth and fill the gaps, denials, intentional cover-ups and inaccuracies promulgated by the Soviet state. The Holodomor is finally exposed for what it was – a genocide, a human tragedy of global proportions.

Ukrainians in their native country had to wait until the 1980s to raise the subject of the Famine-Genocide. After Ukraine gained its independence, the government's national and foreign policy included this defining event – the darkest time of the nation's history. Much needs to be done to properly document and study the Holodomor both in Ukraine and abroad. It is important to present the evidence accurately, objectively and with well-researched academic documentation. This is a responsibility and obligation which the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy assumed with a sense of moral duty toward the Ukrainian nation.

Kyiv Mohyla Academy has sponsored continuous programs of Holodomor studies and events including research papers, archival materials, forums and conferences, book publications, articles, public hearings, documentation of eyewitness testimony, exhibits, photographs and art objects. Faculty and students of Kyiv Mohyla Academy are taking part in all these various forms of study (for details see <http://www.ukma.kiev.ua>).

The James Mace Collection

Kyiv Mohyla Academy is privileged to be the recipient of the valuable documentary legacy of the late Prof. James Mace, who dedicated his life to research the Holodomor and made Ukraine his adopted country. Prof. Mace lived in Kyiv and became one of Kyiv Mohyla Academy's most beloved and respected faculty members during the last years of his life. His archives, documents and research work are the single most comprehensive collection of

Serhiy Kvit is president of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. The article above was translated and edited from the Ukrainian text.

evidence on the Holodomor.


The archive of James Mace is a legacy of significant historical and documentary importance. It includes hundreds of publications, numerous dissertations, surveys, U.S. Congressional hearings about the Holodomor and Ukraine, and much more. This unique collection is being preserved, catalogued and safeguarded for posterity to serve researchers and students and as historical evidence. In 2007 a roundtable titled "Current Ukraine as a Post-Genocide Nation: Symptoms and Solutions," was dedicated to the memory of James Mace and an exhibit of books and publications from the James Mace Collection titled "Holodomor – Crime Against Humanity," was held in 2007 at the Kyiv Mohyla Research Library.

Publications

The current leading researcher on the Holodomor in Ukraine is Kyiv Mohyla Prof. Yuriy Mytsyk. Prof. Mytsyk edited four books of eyewitness accounts titled "Ukrainian Holocaust 1932-33, Testimony of Those Who Survived," published by Kyiv Mohyla Academy. These testimonies were collected over the last decade by the university's faculty and students, who traveled to villages to gather personal eyewitness interviews. These publications would not have been possible without the generosity of the Fund of Ukrainian Studies (USA), the Kovalsky East European Research Program, the Marusia Onyshchuk and Ivanka Charuk Memorial Fund of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, the Pavlo Hlushnyts Fund of the Ukrainian Canadian Research Documentation Center (Toronto), Rise Company, the journal "Siverianskyj Litopys," the parishioners of Blahovishchenskyi Khram of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, and the Kyiv Mohyla International Charitable Foundation Renaissance.

The 1,128-page book "Holodomor 1932-1933 in Ukraine: Documents and Materials," edited by Prof. Ruslan Pyrih and published by the Kyiv Mohyla Publishing House is one of the most significant contri-

(Continued on page 16)



**Дотації на Острозьку Академію
в пам'ять
д-р Тараса Закидальського**

Родина щиро дякує всім, родині і друзям,
хто зложив даток
на Острозьку Академію в Україні
в імені Тараса Закидальського
після його смерті 8-го листопада 2007 року.

Збірка, яку перевели
Приятелі Острозької Академії в Канаді
принесла \$14,825 на потреби Академії

В імені родини:
Оксана
з дітьми Орестом і Данилом,
невісткою Анею і
внуком Тарасиком

"Natalka Poltavka"...

(Continued from page 1)

Oleksander Formanchuk (Mykola), Petro Panchuk (mayor) and Larysa Rusnak (Natalka's mother). The cast was somewhat altered for the Sunday matinee, with the lead roles played by Oksana Batko-Nyshchuk (Natalka), Dmytro Chernov (Petro), Volodymyr Nikolaienko (match-maker) and Nataliya Yaroshenko (Natalka's mother).

The music for this updated production of "Natalka Poltavka" is by renowned Ukrainian composer Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912) and Mr. Skrypka. According to the program booklet, this version of the Kotliarevsky classic stays close to the author's original text, but with an updated script. The production has been performed to great critical acclaim throughout Ukraine and abroad.

Thirty-four members of the Ivan Franko Theater, including the theater's own orchestra directed by Volodymyr Gdanskyi, traveled to the U.S. for the "Natalka Poltavka" presentation. Artistic Director Bohdan Stupka, Ukraine's most famous actor and a former minister of culture, was unable to make the trip due to his film schedule.

Dignitaries present at the gala premiere on Saturday evening, April 12, included Archbishop Stefan Soroka, metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States; and several of Ukraine's diplomats in this country, including Ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev, New York Consul General Mykola Kyrychenko and Minister-Counselor Olexandr Aleksandrovych of the Embassy of Ukraine, who attended with their spouses. Also present were U.S. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) and Mayor Ronald Francioli of Hanover Township, which encompasses Whippany, where the UACCNJ is located.

The Ukrainian National Association, which sponsored bus transportation for the drama troupe once it arrived in the U.S., was represented by two executive officers, President Stefan Kaczaraj and Treasurer Roma Lisovich. The UNA's Ukrainian heritage center, Soyuzivka, catered the elegant champagne reception held on opening night.

Major sponsors of the Whippany performances included Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, which is based in Chicago and has branches in Illinois, New Jersey and Indiana, and The Heritage Foundation, based in Chicago. Also notable was the assistance offered by Delta Airlines, which provided transportation to and from Ukraine at a substantial discount.

The audience for the three shows included Ukrainians who had traveled from as far away as Toronto and Chicago, and two busloads of people arrived from New York City and Albany, N.Y., for the Sunday matinee performance.

The total number of guests who traveled to Whippany for the weekend's performances, including a special Friday night music program presented by Mr. Skrypka, founder of the group Vopli Vidopliassova (known as VV), was about 1,500.

In addition, close to 150 students saw a rehearsal of "Natalka Poltavka" on Saturday morning, April 12, in lieu of attending Ukrainian studies classes. (The cost of \$10 per student was covered by the Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies of Morris County and the School of Ukrainian Studies of Passaic for their respective students.)

Logistical challenges

More than a year in the planning, bringing Kyiv's Ivan Franko Theater to the United States was a huge logistical challenge, as well as a risky financial undertaking.

The troupe of 34 people (actors, musi-

Skrypka draws all ages for benefit show at UACCNJ

by Matthew Dubas

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Over 300 people came to the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) here on April 11 to see and hear a performance by Oleh Skrypka, Ukraine's legendary rock star and front man of the Ukrainian rock group Vopli Vidopliassova (VV).

The event, which was presented by the Ukrainian Athletic Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch, was a fund-raiser to offset costs associated with sending their athletes to compete in the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad and Youth Rally on July fourth weekend at the Ukrainian American Sport Center-Tryzub in Horsham, Pa.

With a tight schedule of just four weeks of planning, the organizing committee, chaired by Dan Lewycky, executed a successful event that attracted fourth-graders and American-born Ukrainians, ranging from the very young to octogenarians.

The opening performance by the Cheres Carpathian Folk Ensemble, led by Andriy Milavsky, entertained the audience with folk and classical melodies from across the Carpathian Mountains including a Bukovynian wedding tune and Czardasz by Monti.

When Oleh Skrypka took the stage, he transformed the mood from a cabaret atmosphere to a discotheque, complete with a several-thousand-watt



Yarko Twardowsky

Oleh Skrypka plays to his fans during an intimate performance at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

sound system, a sophisticated lighting system, lasers and a fog machine.

Mr. Skrypka's high-energy persona inspired guests to move to the dance floor as he took the role of DJ, spinning his music, singing his original songs and those he performs with VV. During the last half of his performance, Mr. Skrypka engaged the audience in an intimate sing-a-long as he played folk melodies and selections from his repertoire on the bayan.

After performing continuously for nearly 90 minutes, Mr. Skrypka recovered backstage and emerged refreshed,

selflessly signing autographs and posing for pictures with his adoring fans.

Mr. Skrypka also toured the home office of Chornomorska Sitch – the oldest Ukrainian sports organization in America – where he viewed their extensive trophy collection, and was gifted books by Omelan Twardowsky, president of Chornomorska Sitch's executive board, that chronicled the history of the organization.

Mr. Skrypka then retreated to the Cultural Center's Social Club, where he casually mingled with fans and enjoyed a well-deserved beer.

cians, technical staff), plus 1,500 tons of cargo – (stage sets – custom built for the UACCNJ's stage, costumes and musical instruments) had to be transported from Ukraine.

The cost of airfare for so many people and shipment of cargo was a substantial financial burden, with organizers at the UACCNJ hoping these costs would be covered by tickets sales and sponsorships.

Speaking with The Weekly in the days immediately after the show, Dr. Marta Lopatynsky, chairperson of the Arts, Culture and Education (ACE) Committee of the UACCNJ, and Nadia Matkiwsky, event chairperson, noted that many people had been asking why the theater troupe was coming only to Whippany. The reason: no one else wanted to take the financial risk involved. Indeed, key members of the committee that organized this unprecedented artistic endeavor assumed personal financial responsibility.

And, "we started at a budget of zero," Dr. Lopatynsky recalled.

The first advertisements for the U.S. performances of "Natalka Poltavka" appeared in January, although work had begun months earlier. According to Mmes. Matkiwsky and Lopatynsky, there were many "non-believers" who thought bringing this production to the U.S. was a mammoth endeavor that could not succeed. These non-believers, the two community activists underscored, were ultimately proved wrong.

Describing their relationship through the months of planning and work, Dr. Lopatynsky noted, "I believed, but Nadia knew how." Mrs. Matkiwsky, in turn, said Dr. Lopatynsky was the visionary who foresaw how such an undertaking could put the UACCNJ on the map.

Mrs. Matkiwsky recalled that she had seen "Natalka Poltavka" twice in Kyiv and wanted to bring the show to the U.S. "I

knew it would attract younger generations, that this was like bringing Ukraine's Broadway to the U.S.," she explained.

Scores of community members were activated by the undertaking, which involved seeing to all sorts of details, from advertising, ticket sales and seating, to setting up dressing rooms, housing the guests from Ukraine and planning the opening-night gala.

As the event approached, Dr. Lopatynsky related, "We were gratified to see so many volunteers come through – from the youngest ushers to older community members. It was a labor of love for all of them. There were so many volunteers who just pitched in when needed. And the host families were wonderful."

Asked if they would do all this again, Dr. Lopatynsky responded: "Absolutely, in a heartbeat."

"We have built bridges to Ukraine, and we have exposed our community and our center to people who have never set foot in the center," she continued. "This is a new renaissance for us."

Dr. Lopatynsky also pointed out that the visitors from Ukraine at first thought the people working on the production were paid employees of the UACCNJ. "Then they realized that we were all volunteers and they understood what this project meant," the ACE Committee chair proudly asserted.

Mrs. Matkiwsky commented: "The hromada (community) understood the importance of this monumental project. And we proved that everything is possible – we moved mountains with a great committee."

Close to 75 people worked as volunteers on this special undertaking. And, "whoever volunteered realized the caliber of this event and stepped up to the plate," Mrs. Matkiwsky noted. "The kids [who served as ushers at the shows] were proud to be part of the event and they felt they were really contributing."

Mrs. Matkiwsky also reserved special praise for chefs Ihor Telepko and Steve



Lev Khmelkovsky

Minister-Counselor Olexandr Aleksandrovych of the Embassy of Ukraine addresses the audience and cast at the conclusion of the presentation on opening night.

(Continued on page 11)

REVIEW: Nataalka Poltavka's new bouquet satisfies

by Adrian Brittan

Pouring old wine into new bottles can produce unexpected results. The full flavor may disappear... Unscrupulous Parisian waiters have at times even been known to decant a notable Bordeaux in a back room only to bring back a sparkling new crystal harboring a different and humdrum vintage. Attempts to update classics risk similar uncertainties. Recently I attended two such disappointing productions: "Ukradene Shchastia" (Plundered Happiness) at the Kurbas Theater in Kharkiv and a kitschy "Nataalka Poltavka" at the Zankovetsky Theater in Lviv. Happily, last week's Whippany, N.J., performance of the same Kotliarevsky-Lysenko operetta by the touring Ivan Franko Theater from Kyiv was more successful. It turned out to be for the most part an affectionate, merry romp performed with style and assurance.

The Ivan Franko Theater ensemble (Bohdan Stupka, artistic director) opted for a middle of the road approach. Sets, costumes and most of the text remained firmly grounded in tradition while the musical numbers were treated to a major overhaul by headliner Oleh Skrypka. Born in Tajikistan, this multitalented entertainer in 2007 won second place on the popular Ukrainian television version of "Dancing with the Stars." He is a gifted comedic actor and many of his facial and body gestures recalled the best of Steve Martin's over-the-top zaniness.

The success of this entertaining production rested principally on the inspired lunacy of Mr. Skrypka in the role of the matchmaker and Petro Panchuk as the mayor. Mr. Panchuk displayed his versatility by sere-

nading the young lovers with an impressive jazzy trumpet solo in the final scene. Each obviously had a grand time provoking the other throughout the many comic moments in Kotliarevsky's 1819 satirical play. Their infectious verve and energy were supported by the rest of the cast with fast-paced timing and consistency of style. Dramatic turns throughout the spoken sections were deftly controlled. The interruption of the comic mood was simply and sincerely expressed when Nataalka (Tetyana Mikhina) and Petro (Pavlo Piskun) were finally reunited, whereas the cutting humor of the famous scene regarding a Kharkiv theater-piece and inept "Moskali" also found the right resonance.

Two nine-foot high roosters had been painted in folk style on a white curtain which opened to reveal an idyllic peasant hut in a sunny countryside. An added touch was the drinking well where Mykola (Oleksander Formanchuk) dunked his head and sprinkled water on the girls by shaking his hair.

Maintaining traditional visuals and most of the authentic text avoided the confusions of the tortured "concepts" prevalent in many current "Eurotrash" opera stagings in Germany and other countries where notoriety and scandal are welcome. (The mannered Zankovetsky production of "Nataalka" only resulted in a muddle with their incoherent symbolic sets, rock guitars in the band, and vaudevillian interpolations. Kharkiv's "Ukradene Shchastia" reached a new level of incongruity by substituting "O khto, khto Mykolaya liubyt" in place of Ivan Franko's chilling, melodramatic original choruses!) By contrast, this Kyiv presentation kept its heart in the right place and remained more true to the



Lev Khmelkovsky

The mayor joins the hands of Nataalka and her beloved Petro.

spirit of the original.

Mr. Skrypka was credited with the musical arrangements of Lysenko's 1889 classical score. The small band consisted of flute, trumpet, trombone (used often for comic effect), tuba, violin, cello, bass, accordion and percussion. His revisions resulted in a pastiche of waltzes, tangos and other Latin American dance beats, blues and heavy rock. Along the way Mr. Skrypka interpolated references to "Shchedryk" and the waltz "Byla mene maty" (My mother beat me) but unfortunately left out Lysenko's sprightly "Oy pid vyshneuy." One notable ensemble highlighted the entire troupe playing drums on stage like "troisty" musicians with Mr. Skrypka on accordion and Mr. Panchuk doing his acrobatic thing on trumpet. By contrast, the mayor's aria scored for flute, tambourine and drum in the style of a Renaissance dance would not have been out of place in Zeffirelli's "Romeo and Juliet."

In songs like "Did rudyy, baba ruda" (Gramps is redhaired, grandma's redhaired), the new hard-rock rhythmic clothes had a clever fit, and their outrageousness added a bizarre layer of hilarity. In other numbers like the opening soprano solo "Viyut vitry," the flowing charm of the original was reduced to the pedestrian phrases of a simplified, chopped up vocal line. As a result, this hypnotic tune was converted into a non-descript rock ballad. The languid beauty of Lysenko's inspired melody vanished under an accelerating but unmemorable pop waltz.

Judging by the increase of inattentive talking among some members of this audience specifically during even such "updated" singing numbers, the implications for more people revisiting the original music are not encouraging. Is the intent merely to

entertain a newer generation not familiar with this operetta by clothing it in the current musical fashion? Or is the aim to create a unique fusion with a convincing new point of view? These are the choices.

In the ensemble "U susida khata bila" (My neighbor has a white house) a girls trio accompanied with "oo-wahs," like in the '50s rock ballads. Any moment they seemed on the verge of morphing into a "Little Shop of Horrors" style. This might not have been a bad idea, if only the arranger had followed it through with full conviction. Furthermore, the uneasy balance between conservative visual elements and hip musical revision raises other questions. When pouring Lysenko and Kotliarevsky into a new mold, why keep one element traditional? Why not update sets and costumes at the same time while pushing the new music to its implications?

Fine wines leave a sediment as they age in the original bottle. But that sediment won't kill you; in fact it's quite harmless. (It's not the equivalent of encountering a dead mouse at the bottom of your Coke.) Deciding how much sediment and flavor to retain is at the very heart of making any adaptation and modernization. The crucial elements are always respect for the spirit of the original and good taste. In fact, a stronger case might even be made for going all the way, trusting the energy and power of the new creation to be convincing.

These thoughts were meant to touch on some wider issues. All things considered, this was a professional, cohesive and bubbly performance. It was good to see a noble vintage like "Nataalka Poltavka" still has body and bouquet enough to satisfy and entertain contemporary audiences.



Lev Khmelkovsky

Nataalka and her mother accept the proposal of the matchmaker.

"Nataalka Poltavka"...

(Continued from page 10)

Woch of the UACCNJ who prepared several meals a day and fed the entire theater crew.

Kudos and farewells

At the conclusion of the opening night performance, the Ivan Franko Theater and the audience were addressed by Mr. Aleksandrovykh of the Embassy of Ukraine, who congratulated all on the evening's very obvious success.

In turn, Mrs. Matkiwsky and Dr. Lopatynsky thanked the troupe for a unique experience and welcomed them to the UACCNJ.

Mykhailo Zakharevych, general director of the theater, relayed greetings from Kyiv to the diaspora, emphasizing the role played by the diaspora in the decades-long struggle for the independence of Ukraine and in preserving Ukrainian culture abroad.

Similarly, after the last performance on Sunday evening, plenty of thank-yous and congratulations were exchanged. The chairman of the board of directors of the UACCNJ, Victor Hatala, took to the stage to thank both the organizers of the event and the performers for their presentation of "Nataalka Poltavka."

Choirmaster Anatolyj Navrotsky spoke on behalf of the troupe, underlining that this experience "surpassed all expectations" and noting that "today, Ukraine is both you and us."

An emotional farewell dinner was held that evening at the UACCNJ for the cast, support staff, host families and event organizers.

On Monday morning, April 14, departing members of the Ivan Franko Theater were blessed by the Rt. Rev. Mitrat Roman Mirchuk, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church of Whippany. Also present were the host families and the chief organizers of the event.



Lev Khmelkovsky

Ukraine's Consul General in New York, Mykola Kyrychenko (second from left) and his wife, Olena (left), with Ukrainian National Association Treasurer Roma Lisovich and UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj on opening night at the UACCNJ.

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Washington's first "pysanka weekend" attracts specialists, collectors

by Olenka and Jurij Dobczansky

WASHINGTON – Sixty pysanka specialists, lobbyists and collectors from across North America gathered at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine on March 8 for the first Pysanka Symposium in the United States. Five presenters shared their stories of creating, documenting, collecting and preserving the pysanka and its legacy. A very receptive audience joined in a lively exchange of ideas on the ancient art and living tradition of pysanka writing.

The Pysanka Symposium began with welcoming remarks by Jurij Dobczansky, who conceived and spearheaded the event. "Our goal in organizing this symposium was to provide a forum for pysanka specialists, writers and connoisseurs. We wanted to share our collective knowledge and experience and document it in an accessible way. Pysanka writers today creatively reconstruct traditional patterns into individual works of art leading some to declare it is no longer a 'folk art.' The explosion of information about the pysanka challenges us to ensure that the essence of traditional pysanka writing doesn't become obscured," he said.

Dr. Andrew Sorokowski, known to readers of *The Ukrainian Weekly* through his column "CrossCurrents," introduced the speakers and served as moderator of the symposium. In introducing Helen Badulak of Reading, Pa., Dr. Sorokowski noted that she represented the creation phase of pysanky.

Ms. Badulak spoke about the life of a pysanka artist and displayed a selection of her exquisite work. The winner of numerous awards and distinctions including Master of Pysanka by the International Egg Art Guild, Ms. Badulak conducted a Pysanka Master Class on Sunday with her daughter Nina Badulak-McDaniel.

The second speaker, Orysia Paszczak Tracz, is a writer whose column, "The things we do ...," also is familiar to readers of *The Ukrainian Weekly*. A researcher, lecturer and translator based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, she spoke about the traditions rooted in pagan and Christian rituals, as well as several modern-day interpretations of pysanky in North America.

Ms. Tracz noted that, like so many other Ukrainian traditions in both North America and Ukraine, the pysanka has evolved into a symbol of Ukrainian identity. She illustrated her talk "From the sublime to the ridiculous" with numerous examples – the ridiculous represented by a set of golf balls with pysanka motifs.

These two speakers set the stage for the main issues discussed at the conference: the role of the pysanka as a traditional ritual object versus the pysanka as a personal expression of an artist's creativity. Should an egg, exquisitely decorated in the reverse batik method but devoid of traditional symbolism, still be called a pysanka? Or does it merely become a decorated egg? Does there have to be a connection to Ukraine or to the traditional Ukrainian Easter basket for an egg to be called a pysanka? Can another object, such as a golf ball or a Christmas tree ornament with traditional pysanka motifs, be called a pysanka? What about whimsically designed eggs that employ traditional and non-traditional patterns and motifs?

After a brief refreshment break, during which intense conversations continued, Dr. Sorokowski introduced Joan Brander from Richmond, British Columbia. Ms. Brander is a pysanka artist, instructor and the founder of Baba's Beeswax, a popular website devoted to the pysanka.

She presented her book "About the



Mike Lent

A view of some of the pysanky in the collection of Luba Chornodolsky (by Olenka Kuzminsky and Maria Hawrych).

Pysanka – it is written! A bibliography." Her colorfully illustrated guide includes over 200 books, audio-visuals and articles in Ukrainian, English, German, French, Portuguese, Italian, Polish and Japanese. Ms. Brander also displayed books, clippings and photographs of her work in teaching and popularizing the pysanka on Canada's Pacific Coast.

Dr. Andriy Hornjatkevyc said his illustrated talk centered on the collection and preservation aspects of pysanky. A linguist by profession, Dr. Hornjatkevyc's interest in pysanky comes from his father, Damian's, collection, which he preserved and whose recording in electronic format by the Ukrainian Folklore Chairs at the University of Alberta he facilitated. He described how his father collected pysanky and embroidery in western Ukraine and safeguarded them during the second world war. He managed to bring the collections with him when he immigrated to the United States, despite customs officials damaging some in an effort to determine whether they were real eggs.

Dr. Hornjatkevyc demonstrated how his father's pysanka collection can now be viewed online from any angle rotating them 360 degrees (<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/uvp/pages/media/edpysanky/images/dh1/dh1.htm>). In addition, Dr. Hornjatkevyc announced that he had brought both collections from Edmonton, in order to give them a permanent home at The Ukrainian Museum in New York immediately after the symposium.

The last speaker was Lubow Wolynetz, the representative of the Ukrainian Museum who facilitated Dr. Hornjatkevyc's donation. A librarian by profession, she is presently a professor and museum curator of the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, Conn., as well as the folk art curator of The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

Ms. Wolynetz focused on the preservation of pysanky for posterity based on more than 20 years' experience organizing The Ukrainian Museum's annual pysanka exhibit. In her illustrated presentation she traced the evolution of the very popular exhibit and the ways in which the museum strives to make each year's exhibit unique by featuring the pysanka's link to other elements of Ukrainian culture – Easter "pasky" (breads) or embroidered "rushnyky" (ritual cloths), for example.

Additional features

Besides the program of speakers, the Pysanka Symposium featured a three-part exhibit designed and created by Larysa Kurylas and Olenka Dobczanska.

The display case titled "Passing on the Pysanka Legacy" chronicled 25 years of

pysanka workshops conducted by Mr. Dobczansky at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in the form of photographs, flyers, press clippings and related publications.

"Paths to the Pysanka" presented pysanky from eight pysanka-writers and collectors: Luba Chornodolsky, Jurij Dobczansky, Olha Kurylas, Lesia Mandzia, Ihor Masnyk, Nadia O'Shea, Ihor Slabicky and Sofika Zielyk.

The exhibit and the accompanying booklet underscored the fact that everyone who has written, collected or inherited pysanky has a unique story to tell. Some are hooked the minute they see a pysanka emerging from beneath the blackened beeswax. Some are intrigued by the challenge of creating the "perfect pysanka." Some cherish pysanky as gifts that bring memories of friends or loved ones. For others, pysanky evoke a cherished family tradition spanning several generations.

The third exhibit, "Tools for the Pysanka," focused on the absolute simplicity of tools and techniques required for pysanka-writing. It highlighted the development of the electric kistka by Wasyl Ohar of Detroit. This "New World" innovation has significantly changed the way pysanky are written today. The electric kistka is now widely used even in the "Old World."

A map, "Pysanky of Ukraine," based on information and illustrations from Vira Manko's book "The Ukrainian Folk Pysanka" was displayed at the entrance. It gives an impressionistic portrait of the

regional variations in decorative patterns. These exhibits are on display through May 19.

At the conclusion of the symposium the main participants and members of the organizing committee enjoyed a dinner next door at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, hosted by the seminary's rector, The Rev. Robert Hitchens.

Mr. Dobczansky again thanked the speakers and members of the organizing committee, including: Zenowia Choma and Norm Thompson, who produced the handsome program booklet; Christine Paclawsky, who assisted with announcements and media publicity; Oksana Sorokowski, who managed the book sale table; and all the community organizations that financially supported the symposium. Conversations continued late into the evening. Among the many ideas voiced that evening was the need for another such event to explore those aspects not fully discussed at the symposium.

Sunday events

The symposium was followed on Sunday by two hands-on pysanka-decorating workshops, held in conjunction with the annual Easter Bazaar at the Holy Family Parish.

Thirteen pysanka-writers attended the Pysanka Master Class with Ms. Badulak, and the 25th annual Pysanka Workshop for pysanka-writers of all ages and levels with Mr. Dobczansky attracted a total of 63 participants.

Overall, participants of the symposium, the workshop and the master class were very positive about their experience. The Ukrainian Service of the Voice of America recorded several interviews with participants and presenters, which were included in a special broadcast to Ukraine on March 19. (The full Ukrainian-language text and a video clip may be viewed at <https://author.voanews.com/ukrainian/2008-03-19-voa8.cfm>.)

Mr. Dobczansky observed at the outset: "Often it is asked why we invest so much time and effort into decorating a fragile eggshell. Were you to ask the over 800 individuals who have participated in our workshops you would probably hear 800 reasons. But above all, you would readily sense an excitement and joy in learning this craft and its traditions. Yes, it appears the eggshell is indeed fragile, but the legacy of the pysanka is quite strong."



Larysa Kurylas

At the Pysanka Symposium (from left) are: Andrew Sorokowski, Lubow Wolynetz, Andriy Hornjatkevyc, Joan Brander, Orysia Paszczak Tracz, Jurij Dobczansky and Helen Badulak.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

cy, the PRU wants to preserve Ukraine's course toward full-fledged membership in the European Union and to develop strategic partnerships with Russia, the United States, neighboring countries and member-states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Coalition partners trade accusations

KYIV – The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) has demanded that Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko cancel all the legal acts “blocking” the work of the coalition government, Interfax-Ukraine reported on April 16, quoting YTB parliamentary caucus leader Ivan Kyrylenko. In particular, Mr. Kyrylenko said that the president and “his entourage” have blocked “all the anti-corruption programs” of the Cabinet of Ministers. “The tone that the YTB deems it acceptable to use in its assessments of the work of the Ukrainian president is impermissible for civilized politicians in general,” the pro-presidential Our Ukraine People's Union party said in a statement later the same day. “Accusing the president of suspending individual orders by the government is something that cannot stand up to any criticism. The acts that are being referred to, first of all, are illegal and, second, no approval has been sought for them from the coalition partners,” the statement added. The YTB leads the current government in coalition with the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc, of which Our Ukraine is a component. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yulia: president blocks initiatives

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on April 21 told the German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung that President Viktor Yushchenko has effectively blocked “by decree” around 20 government initiatives aimed at boosting transparency and fighting corruption. “I think the reason is that the president is thinking hard about the... [2009] presidential election and sees me as a competitor,” Ms. Tymoshenko said. “But this competition should not stop transparency and reforms in my country.” Mr. Yushchenko earlier this month issued a decree to cancel the sale of four regional electricity producers, claiming that the sale of key state-owned enterprises is unconstitutional. “Personally, I think the ban on strategic privatizations is

ruining the investment climate in Ukraine,” Ms. Tymoshenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

OU-PSD hurls accusations at the YTB

KYIV – Viacheslav Kyrylenko, the leader of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD), has said that the recent actions of the grouping's coalition partner, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), “pose a real threat to the territorial integrity and the state independence of Ukraine, which can be defended only by effective presidential power at the current stage of the country's development,” UNIAN reported on April 21. Mr. Kyrylenko was apparently commenting on the YTB's plans to introduce constitutional change that would transform Ukraine into a parliamentary republic. “Today the YTB, the Party of the Regions and the Communists want to seize authority from the president and transfer it to the factions of Parliament and a kind of ‘chancellor’ who would be appointed by the factions. In practice, that would mean creating a system of collective impunity and absolute power for the parliamentary-oligarchic clans,” Mr. Kyrylenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Odesa boasts many diplomatic missions

ODESA – The number of consulates in the Black Sea port city of Odesa will increase by another four foreign diplomatic missions, said the representative of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry to Odesa, Konstantyn Rzhepyshevskyi. He said the Consulate General of Armenia will shortly start operations there and that the Armenian diaspora has already prepared a building for it at the Gagarin plateau, where the Armenian Cultural Center is located. Similar talks are under way with diplomats from Italy, Germany and Austria. Odesa – a leader in the number of diplomatic representations in Ukraine – has consulates general of Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Romania, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Poland and China. Honorary consulates general of Kazakhstan, the Republic of South Africa, Latvia and Pakistan also operate in Odesa. Israel and Italy have envoys of their countries' embassies in Ukraine in the city. The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) also is headquartered in Odesa. (Ukrinform)

(Continued on page 19)



With deep sorrow we share with family and friends,
that on April 10, 2008

Taras Shepelavy

born in Buchach, Ukraine
passed away at the age of 75.

Funeral services were held on April 14 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Watervliet, NY.

Taras is survived by:

wife	Julianne
son	Danylo with wife Roxanne and their daughters Daria and Natalia
sisters	Anna Makuch with her sons Ivan, Ihor and Roman and their families Olha Bertsch with husband Elmer and their children Yuri and Tatiana
sister-in-law	Christina Shepelavey with her son Adrian and daughter Anya and their families
mother-in-law	Mary Decyk Nowadly
nephew	Bohdan Horbaczuk and his family



Помяни Ії Господи у царстві Твоїм.

Ділимося сумною вісткою, що у середу, 23 квітня, 2008 р. відійшла у вічність після важкої недуги,

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брат- Андрій з дружиною Богданою та сином Назаром
ближча і дальша родина в Америці та Україні.

Панахида відбудеться у вівторок, 29 квітня о год. 7:30 веч. у похоронному заведенні П. Яреми у Нью-Йорку. Похоронні відправи в церкві св. Юра, 30 квітня о год. 9:30 ранку а відтак на цвинтар св. Андрія, С. Бавнд Брук, Н.Дж.

Просимо ласкаво згадати покійну Ганусю у своїх молитвах.

Замість квітів на могилу просимо складати датки на церкву св. Івана Хрестителя в Гантері. St John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, P.O. Box 284, Hunter, NY, 12442.



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св. п.

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Patricia Lupichuk

age 75, passed away on March 24, 2008, at Independence Court. She was born on July 21, 1932, in Jasionka, Ukraine, a daughter of the late John and Julia Bybel.

She was an active member of the Ukrainian American community. she was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church where she participated in the Baking Group and cleaning the church. She enjoyed baking, gardening and sewing.

Patricia was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Michael Lupichuk, on November 23, 1997. She was also preceded in death by her brother Andrew Bybel. She is survived by three sons: Andrei Lupichuk with wife Christina of Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca.; William Lupichuk with wife Natalka of Arlington, Va.; and Michael Lupichuk with wife Kimberly of Erie, Pa.; twin grandsons David and Matthew Lupichuk of Erie, Pa.; brother, Stephen Bybel of Yonkers, NY; sister, Maria Iwanicki of Arlington, Va.; and sister, Anna Lenko of Ukraine.

Funeral liturgy was held in Sts. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church followed by burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to Sts. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 3415 Wallace Street, Erie, Pa., 16504.



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Ukrainian Society of Boston College elects officers

by Deanna Rakowsky

NEWTON, Mass. – The recently founded Ukrainian Society of Boston College is concluding its first school year as an official club. Elections of officers for the next school year were held on Wednesday, April 2.

The club's founder and this past year's president, Deanna Rakowsky, ran unopposed and was re-elected. Also re-elected were Laryssa Kramarchuk, vice-president, and Christopher Rusyniak, treasurer.

Because the current secretary of the club, Erin Lytwyn, will be studying abroad for a full year in Spain and Ecuador, rising sophomore Andrea Dzwynik assumed the role. Natalia Ivanytsky, class of 2010, obtained the position of publicity manager.

After the elections were completed, club members discussed upcoming club events over pizza and refreshments. Among these events was an April 19 conference titled "Unlocking the Economic Potential of Eastern Europe: Sustainable Development in Ukraine." The event is sponsored by the Ukrainian Society of Boston College with support given by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. The moderator for the event will be Andriy Tsintisruk, a Boston College graduate student studying political science.

Other upcoming events for the Ukrainian Society of Boston College include a Ukrainian food workshop and an end-of-the-school year liturgy.

With all of its successes the 2007-2008 school year, members of the Ukrainian Society expect that next year will be no different. Its members are already working to add an elementary Ukrainian and Ukrainian history and culture class to the Boston College curriculum. The Ukrainian Society also hopes to recruit more members during the 2008-2009 school year and to build upon its foundation of celebrating Ukrainian culture and tradition.

Kyiv Mohyla...

(Continued from page 9)

contributions to the documentation of the Holodomor. This book was selected as one of the best 10 books published in Ukraine in 2007. It is the most complete collection of documents of the Soviet central and local government and party offices and archives, including trial, militia and police documents, as well as correspondence of Stalin, Kaganovych, Molotov and others. Some 200 copies of the book were distributed to Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for dissemination to Ukrainian embassies and consulates scattered throughout the world. A formal presentation of the book took place in Moscow at the Embassy of Ukraine in the Russian Federation.

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, further plans for 2008 include the publication of the following books at Kyiv Mohyla Publishing House: six volumes of the series "Ukrainian Holocaust: Testimony of Those Who Survived," the translation into English of the book "Holodomor 1932-1933 in Ukraine: Documents and Materials," four volumes of the translations of U.S. Congressional Hearings "Great Famine of Ukraine 1932-33" and "Holodomor 32-33: Chronical of events – Diary of the Holodomor."

Student participation

Student participation in Holodomor studies is a university priority. All programs, activities and publications at the university include the active participation of students. In 2007, under the direction of Oleksandr Zhyhun, the award-winning Kyiv Mohyla Student Choir Pochayna with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine performed the premiere of "Requiem Thirty-Three," a

symphonic work composed in 2004. The choral ensemble went on tour throughout Ukraine and also performed in Moscow. The organization Prosvita, the Kyiv Mohyla International Charitable Foundation Renaissance and the Association of Researchers of Holodomor generously financed the production of 5,000 compact discs of the performance, which were distributed throughout Ukraine and other countries. In 2008 the Student Capella Pochayna plans a concert tour to perform "Requiem Thirty-Three" throughout Ukraine, in St. Petersburg, Russia, and in Canada.

Conferences and seminars

In January 2008 the Kyiv Mohyla School of Law presented a roundtable on the legal foundations for the recognition of the Holodomor as genocide against the Ukrainian nation. This project included not only documentation and analysis, but also oral testimony which has not yet been documented.

Numerous international organizations, universities and individual researchers have routinely selected Kyiv Mohyla Academy as the venue and host of presentations on the Holodomor. In March 2004 BBC-Ukraine presented its CD production of "Tomb Without a Cross," which includes radio programs about the reasons, circumstances and consequences of the Holodomor, with rare photographs and testimony of witnesses.

In February 2008, the Italian Institute of Culture in Ukraine sponsored the presentation of its newly published "Letters from Kharkiv: Famine in Ukraine and Kavkaz" – a chronicle of reports of Italian diplomats who served in the USSR in 1932-1933. This important collection was gathered and presented by Prof. Andre Graziosi. The event

was hosted by Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

The latest university event related to the Holodomor included public hearings titled "Holodomor – Genocide 1932-33, Politics and Memory," which took place on March 5, co-sponsored by the Academy with the Fulbright Program and the Kennan Institute. This controversial and highly charged program included lectures by renown researchers about the geopolitical aspect of the Holodomor, the methods for gathering evidence and an insightful discussion about genocide and the effects of such an event on the national cultural memory and the collective social consciousness of Ukraine.

Responsibility to future generations

It is not a coincidence that Kyiv Mohyla Academy has become the epicenter of so many key events related to this crime. The university's administration and faculty fully understand the importance and responsibility of exposing the true facts about the Holodomor to the world, to Ukraine's government and to the Ukrainian nation.

The significance of studying and archiving evidence is of great consequence. Without this work and the insistence on it the Holodomor may become a forgotten tragedy and be used as a political argument. The Holodomor must never be forgotten. It must become part of our collective memory.

Those who deny this tragic event or prefer to forget doom future generations to the repetition of such incomprehensible acts. The memory of the Holodomor is part of the common historical experience of all Ukrainians, and it also shapes our common future. We have a duty to ourselves, to the victims and to the next generations to document the truth, denounce the horror and never to forget.

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\$725 Non member

Intensive ten day instruction and competitive play directed by George Sawchak. Limited to 45 participants.

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Five hours of fun-filled outdoor activities.

Session 1: June 23-June 27

Session 2: June 30-July 4

Tabir Ptashat

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Day camp program designed to instill a love for our Ukrainian Heritage through song, dance, arts and crafts

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Vigorous two week dance training for intermediate and advanced dancers, culminating with performances on stage at our festival.

June 29-July 13

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Week: July 13-19

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Week 1: July 13-July 19

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39th Annual Ukrainian "SITCH" Sports Camp, run by the Ukrainian Sitch Sports School.

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Contact Marika Bokalo at (908) 851-0617.

Session 1: July 20-July 26

Session 2: July 27-August 2

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

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Each camp ends with a grand recital!

Session 1: July 20-August 2

Session 2: August 3-16



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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Flashback: Federko's first fame in St. Louis

What's your version of an impressive home-ice debut for a 20-year-old NHL rookie? Maybe 10 to 12 minutes of ice time, a hit or two, not letting your man score a goal? If you're lucky, maybe assisting on a linemate's goal, earning your first ever professional point? If you're really lucky, seeing almost 20 minutes of ice, a shift on special teams and, gulp, scoring a goal in your first ever home game?

For 20-year-old Ukrainian Bernie Federko it was so much more. He scored a hat trick in his first ever game on St. Louis ice. To prove how young and innocent he was, as soon as the game ended, Federko made a beeline for the closest pay phone so he could call his family to share his scoring heroics. After showering and changing, Federko returned to his hotel room and sat around astonished, not certain if he had just scored three goals or was living a dream. If it was a dream, when would he wake up?

Well, it certainly was no dream, but in looking at his impressive NHL career, it can be said Federko may have been living a dream for some 14 years. During this time he would score a total of 369 goals and assist on 761 others for 1,130 points. This kind of production earned him the honor of having his jersey retired in St. Louis and being inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Proving hockey is still in his blood, Federko is still employed by the Blues hockey club as their television analyst.

His phenomenal 14-year NHL career gained this Ukrainian Canadian legendary status in St. Louis and mythical adoration

in his homeland. He played in exactly 1,000 NHL games, but the very first one in the old St. Louis Arena is one of those he'll never forget.

Let's say it was the night when a rookie center, living in a hotel room because he hadn't had time to find a place to live, made himself a home in St. Louis. Only two nights prior, in a road match-up vs. Boston, Federko tallied his first NHL goal. In his next game the thrill of his first ever tally was quickly eclipsed by his hat trick at home. The analogy was made by Federko himself, it was kind of like putting the icing on top of a cake, when there was no cake yet.

His recollections of the evening in question continue to be splendid. He claims he can still recall the exceptional odor of the old Arena, and how Blues fans rewarded him with exuberant cheering. "Our building was so loud," Federko said in an interview with Doug Ward, correspondent for NHL.com. "The noise just seemed to come right down on top of the ice."

The young No. 24 certainly gave the hometown fans lots of reasons to applaud. "I ended up scoring the hat trick by getting the winner with a couple of minutes left in the game," Federko said.

These were not uncharted waters for the 30-year-old novice. He had notched 30 goals in only 39 games for the Central Hockey League's (the top minor league level at the time) Kansas City team prior to his recall to St. Louis. Before going pro, Federko managed a 72-goal season in the

Canadian juniors. So he had documented a penchant for scoring. One might say the expectations were rather high for the young man.

The goal-scoring exhibition in the first home game seemed to justify those expectations. It was the night a native of Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, was adopted by a hockey-mad city in middle America.

"The electricity and the response from the fans is something that I don't think I'll ever forget," Federko told NHL.com.

Fast forward 31 years to find Federko's No. 24 jersey retired and hanging from the rafters of the new Scottrade Center. Fans young and old still recognize him on a daily basis, what with his television job covering the team. They still request a few minutes of his time, and continue asking for autographs or photo.

"It's really amazing," Federko, now 51, marvelled. "I've been in St. Louis 30 years now, and it's an everyday occurrence that someone asks me for an autograph or wants to take a picture. You'd think after all these years it wouldn't happen any more, but it still goes on. That's very humbling."

The continued respect and adulation he receives from strangers is usually of a personal nature, when a fan or a family of fans felt they shared a particular moment with Federko the player. Many of the reminiscing Blues supporters describe special memories they experienced at the old Arena which was destroyed in early 1999.

"So many people have come to me and said, 'I went to a game and saw you play when I was 3 years old or when I was 5 years.' Going to games was such a big part

of their lives, so it's very flattering when they look back on time spent with their father, or with their family, and they associate you with it as well."

Ever humble, notably opposite from today's ego-driven, self-centered professional athlete, Federko comes across as just another rich historical asset of St. Louis' past.

"When someone goes out of their way to want to say hello or have you sign something, it's pretty neat," Federko said. "It's hard to explain how good it makes you feel."

To this very day he has not gotten used to or tired of looking up at his No. 24 hanging from the rafters at Scottrade Center.

"It's still very humbling for me, for my wife and for my kids," he said in his interview with NHL.com. "Every time you walk in the building, you see your number up in the rafters, and you know no one will ever wear it again."

In 2002 came the announcement that Federko was to be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, 12 years after retiring following the 1989-1990 season, which he played in Detroit.

"I've had a lot of exciting moments in my life," Federko said, "especially with the boys being born. But as far as what you do for a living, it really almost stops your heart when you get the call (from the Hall of Fame). It's the greatest honor that you can get."

Federko enjoyed an illustrious career. The only thing missing on the back of his hockey card was a Stanley Cup champi-

(Continued on page 21)



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Yushchenko honors Brzezinski

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on March 28 awarded Zbigniew Brzezinski, chief advisor and board member of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, with the Order of Yaroslav the Wise, third degree. The award was presented for “outstanding public activity and development of relations between Ukraine and the United States.” (Ukrinform)

Plawiuk honored by president

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on April 11 decorated Mykola Plawiuk, president of the Ukrainian National Republic in exile in 1988-1992, with the Order of Yaroslav the Wise, first degree. Mr. Plawiuk was recognized for selfless service to the Ukrainian people and outstanding personal services in renewal of Ukraine’s independence. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn to head Kyiv University

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko decreed the appointment of Volodymyr Lytvyn, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and leader of the Lytvyn Bloc’s parliamentary faction, as acting rector of the National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv. At the same time, the president declared the decree by his predecessor dated January 12, 2000, “On Appointment of Viktor Skopenko as rector of the Kyiv Taras Shevchenko State University,” void. Mr. Lytvyn will be the acting rector of the country’s leading university until a new head of the higher educational establishment is elected. The Education and Science Ministry was instructed to organize the election in compliance with the law

“On Higher Education.” Mr. Lytvyn holds the modern history of Ukraine chair in the history department and is chairman of the university’s Supervisory Council. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine to send personnel to Iraq

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on April 11 issued a decree to send 15 Ukrainian soldiers and armed forces employees to participate in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The document notes that the decision was made taking into account Ukraine’s obligations as a U.N. member and is based on a proposal of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine and in accordance with the Law “On Ukraine’s Participation in Peacekeeping Operations.” The president’s decree said that development of Ukraine’s long-term cooperation with Iraq will contribute to strengthening international peace and security and will meet Ukraine’s international interests. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine loses 4 M people in six years

KYIV – Government financing of medicine grew fourfold in six years, and the consumption of medications tripled, but the mortality rate in Ukraine increased, reported experts from the United Nations. According to the experts, the reason is ineffective distribution of budget funds, as well as the absence of a health protection system. Medicine has not changed in the past 17 years; the old model, which was created back in the Soviet times, is working. One out of eight Ukrainians feels sick, according to public opinion polls, reported the newspaper Delo. In the past 10 years the Ukrainian nation lost 4 million people, predominantly males. A third of Ukrainians who fell ill last year suffered blood system violations. (Ukrinform)

“Folk!” to be screened at UACCNJ

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Roxy Toporowych’s film “Folk!” opens the door to the underground world of Ukrainian folk dancing in present-day New York City. Her film will be screened on Friday, May 2, here at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

The filmmaker guides the audience through a fun-filled whirlwind of Ukrainian culture, Ukrainian American life and her one true obsession: folk dancing.

After a journey through folk dance history, Ms. Toporowych meets legendary choreographer Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, and joins her dance com-

pany as they prepare for a sold-out performance in New York City.

As tragedy strikes, the company struggles to pull the show together. With tensions high and bodies out of shape, the film follows the dancers through an uphill battle of body and mind, as everyone pursues the passion to “Folk!”

The Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey is located at 60-C North Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. Tickets are \$20 and will be available at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, call 973-590-8026 or log on to uaccnj.org. Seating is limited.

Ukrainian astronaut pens book

KYIV – The first astronaut of independent Ukraine, Leonid Kadenyuk, has written a book describing his flight into space. During a press conference on “Astronautics through the Years and Generations” at Ukrinform on April 7, Mr. Kadenyuk said, “I am from the generation whose childhood coincided with the space era.” He said his dream to travel into space was born on April 12, 1961, the day when Yuri Gagarin performed his first flight. It took over 30 years for the dream to come true, and “this dream helped me receive necessary knowledge,” Mr. Kadenyuk noted. He described his book as filled with memories about the feelings of a man traveling in space. Mr. Kadenyuk was in space November 19 through December 5, 1997, as a member of the U.S. space shuttle Columbia (mission STS-87). (Ukrinform)

Decree restricts alcohol, tobacco ads

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko

on April 7 signed a decree “On Amendments to Some Legal Acts of Ukraine about Advertising,” which defines some types of advertising and regulates advertisements for certain goods. In particular, the decree notes that advertisements for alcoholic beverages and tobacco should not contain images of popular people, as well as “direct or indirect approval of smoking, consumption of alcohol, beer and beer-based drinks.” (Ukrinform)

A statue to Natalka Poltavka

POLTAVA – A monument to Natalka Poltavka, the heroine of the play of the same name by classicist Ivan Kotliarevsky (1769-1838), will be erected in Poltava by the year 2010. Poltava’s mayor backed the initiative of the city’s artistic intelligentsia to erect the monument. This will be a simple sculpture, but a whole composition depicting the main characters of the play. “Natalka Poltavka” was released in 1838 and is popular in theaters through today. (Ukrinform)



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Can the ruling...

(Continued from page 2)

Parliament backed Ms. Tymoshenko, scheduling the election for the end of May. Mr. Yushchenko suggested fielding a single candidate from the coalition, but Ms. Tymoshenko refused, unilaterally nominating her right-hand man, First Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov.

The Yushchenko team moved to strong statements in April, essentially burning its bridges. On April 10 the chief of the Presidential Secretariat, Viktor Baloha, accused Ms. Tymoshenko of "creating a large-scale land trade scam" by setting up a single body to conduct land auctions across Ukraine. Mr. Baloha alleged that Ms. Tymoshenko wanted to install a friend of Bohdan Hubsykyi, "YTB's notorious landowner," at the helm of the body. He suggested that Ms. Tymoshenko "simply wants to head this mafia." Ms. Tymoshenko rejected the accusations, saying that the body was needed in order to ensure transparency in land auctions.

Mr. Yushchenko accused Ms. Tymoshenko on April 3 of betraying the coalition by hiring people who had served the old regime. He named Viktor Medvedchuk, who managed the office of Mr. Yushchenko's predecessor, Leonid Kuchma, and Oleksandr Zadorozhnyi, who was President Kuchma's representative in Parliament. Mr. Zadorozhnyi advises Ms. Tymoshenko on constitutional matters, while Mr. Medvedchuk, the Presidential Secretariat claimed, is drafting a new constitution for her.

President Yushchenko suspects that Prime Minister Tymoshenko joined forces with the team of Mr. Medvedchuk and the opposition Party of the Regions in order to block his plan to reverse the

2004-2006 constitutional reform. Mr. Yushchenko wants to restore strong presidential powers. Ms. Tymoshenko, however, has signaled that her party is in favor of a parliamentary form of government. The PRU and the YTB have agreed to set up a commission in Parliament in order to draft constitutional amendments.

On April 14 United Center (UC), a small party linked to Mr. Baloha, issued a statement accusing the YTB of conspiring with the PRU to provoke an early parliamentary election. Mr. Yushchenko's legal advisor, Ihor Pukshyn, accused the YTB on the same day of political corruption. He quoted unnamed YTB deputies as alleging that positions on the YTB list for the 2007 early Parliament election were sold "for millions of dollars."

On April 12-14 the teams of Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko exchanged strong statements, accusing each other of conspiring to break up the coalition. On April 14 the leading members of the two parties gathered for an urgent meeting to find ways to save the coalition.

OU-PSD representatives insisted that the YTB should stop its joint work with the PRU on a constitutional commission. The YTB insisted that Mr. Yushchenko fire Mr. Baloha. The YTB backed down on April 15, saying that it was suspending the plan to set up the constitutional commission. Mr. Baloha on April 15 urged dismissal of the ministers of finance and economy. He blamed them for high inflation. Both represent the YTB in the Cabinet.

Sources: *Segodnya*, March 25; *Interfax-Ukraine*, March 20, 28, April 3, 9; *UTI TV*, March 20, 28; *Channel 5*, April 10, 14; *www.president.gov.ua*, April 8-11; *Gazeta po-Kievski*, April 11; *Ukrainska Pravda*, April 14.

Flashback...

(Continued from page 18)

onship, yet that did not detract from his accomplishments.

"We all play for the Stanley Cup, but unfortunately, we can't all get to that level because it takes so many factors," Federko said. "It's really the hardest trophy in the world to win. The game is so physical, and there are so many variables. Unfortunately, I was not able to be part of a team that won a Stanley Cup."

Federko does feel good about the playoff runs his Blues teams generated in their quest for Lord Stanley's Cup. The down-and-dirty grinding and mucking with his teammates, supported by loyal legions of Blues fans make for some powerful memories. He recalled one 1986 playoff game at the Arena in particular and claims it as his favorite.

"It's what is referred to in St. Louis as the Monday Night Miracle," Federko said. "It was May 12, 1986. We were down three goals with 10 minutes left in Game 6 against Calgary. We ended up coming back and tying the game in the last minute, and then winning in overtime. People stood for an hour and a half after the game. No one left the building because they were so excited. The fact the building is no longer there only adds to it."

One of Federko's patented on-ice moves was setting himself up with the puck behind the opponent's net, waiting for one of his wingers to get an open shot in the slot of the goal area. Hockey pundits credit Federko for actually popularizing what eventually would be titled "Wayne Gretzky's office." (Note the significance of two Ukrainian superstar centers mentioned here in one breath.) The thing is, Federko was practicing the behind-the-net set-up before Gretzky ever saw the NHL. As a matter of fact, Federko came up with the

creative strategy back in his Saskatoon junior days of the mid-1970s.

"When I started playing in the NHL, I used it there, too, and it worked because you could use the net as protection," Federko said. The lack of communication between the two defensemen in front of the net sometimes meant that you'd get both of them coming after you and so there would be two guys open in front of the net.

"You were almost like a quarterback picking out a receiver. Or, you could pick out an area in the slot, and, if you knew your winger well enough, you knew he was going there and that it would be a good scoring chance," Federko explained.

Parking himself behind the net and dishing out primary assists for Blues goals was only one of many valuable qualities Federko showed while accumulating four seasons of 100+ points. Consistency? How about 10 consecutive 50-point campaigns spanning the period from 1978-1979 to 1987-1988. Though to many he made it look effortless, he'll tell you otherwise.

"There really is nothing easy in the NHL," he said. "It's the best league in the world and you have to work at things and practice. It's hard to get there, and it's even harder to stay. I think it's all the practice and the confidence that you get from practicing. But it's still hard work because there is always someone very good who is trying to stop you from doing what you do best."

The rest of the league did not do very fine work in stopping Federko from producing at a high level. He still remembers his first hat trick from 31 years ago, in his very first home game.

"You are playing in front of your home fans for the first time and something like that happens," he said. "I don't think I'll ever forget it."

Nor will St. Louis Blues fans forget No. 24, Bernie Federko.



KOBZARSKA SICH

August 10 – 24, 2008
Kobzarska Sich is a summer musical experience devoted to teaching bandura and Ukrainian choral music.

BANDURA PROGRAMS

Bandura Course
 Over seven hours of daily instruction in: the technique of playing bandura, bandura history, solo and ensemble playing and singing, music lectures, elementary music theory (as needed). This course is designed for teenagers (12 and older) and adults of all ages.
 This two-week program is held August 10 - 24.

Bandura Workshop
 This workshop covers the basics of playing bandura and bandura history. Participants are introduced to ensemble playing and singing, music lectures, elementary music theory (as needed). This workshop is designed for children ages 9 - 11.
 This one-week program is held August 10 - 17.

VOCAL PROGRAMS

Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop
 This workshop provides an opportunity to sing sacred works by Ukrainian master composers and provides practical pointers for church singers, cantors, and conductors alike relative to common areas of church singing. Listening lectures will open up many hidden aspects of sacred music tradition. This course is designed for older teenagers (ages 15 and older) and adults of all ages.
 This 4-day program is held August 14 - 17.

Ukrainian Vocal Music Workshop
 This intensive and enjoyable workshop focuses on the singing and performance of Ukrainian folk music. Participants will take part in various ensembles, private lessons, and be instructed by teachers with extensive backgrounds in Ukrainian vocal music. This course is designed for older teenagers (ages 15 and older) and adults of all ages.
 This one-week program is held August 17 - 24.

Kobzarska Sich is held at All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Camp in Embleton, Pennsylvania.
 Scholarships available. Inquire for requirements and deadlines.

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Putin's...

(Continued from page 2)

Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), which Russia threatens to cast aside. He denied any link between the treaty adapted in 1999 and the commitments in Istanbul in the same year on Russian troop withdrawal from Georgia and Moldova, although all these documents are actually part of the final act of that 1999 conference. Mr. Putin claimed incorrectly that Russian forces had "fully completed" the withdrawal from Georgia, although Russia retains the Gudauta base (in Abkhaz-administered territory), which it was under obligation to vacate as far back as 2001.

Equally incorrectly, he claimed that Russia's obligations in Moldova were limited to scrapping or evacuating heavy weaponry from Transnistria, that it had fully complied in this and that this compliance had been internationally verified. Russia was obligated to withdraw all its forces from Moldova by 2002 (prolonged to 2003), but it retains its "peacekeeping" troops there and has transferred a part of its heavy weaponry to Transnistrian forces. And, it blocks international verification or inspections there.

International ratification of the CFE treaty, which Moscow has long sought, hinges on these issues. At present, however, Russia seeks to renegotiate the whole treaty in order to remove the ceilings on Russian forces in certain flank regions. For this reason, at his Bucharest news conference Mr. Putin tried to de-legitimize the treaty as a "colonial-type document."

At the April 4 NATO-Russia Council meeting and his April 6 meeting with President George W. Bush in Sochi, Mr. Putin hinted that Russia might encourage a dismemberment of Ukraine if it advances toward NATO membership.

In a radio interview Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov said, "Both in Bucharest and in Sochi, Putin recalled how present-day Ukraine, within its current borders, was formed; [he recalled] the contradictions between western Ukraine and its eastern and southeastern regions. He said that what was being done to draw Ukraine into NATO would not facilitate the important task of helping Ukraine maintain its unity" (Ekho Moskvy, April 8).

The Russian president told President Bush at their bilateral meeting on April 6 in Sochi: "In order to improve relations with Russia it is necessary to not pull former Soviet republics into political-military blocs but rather to develop relations with Russia itself, thereby guaranteeing stability in the region" (Russia Television Channel One, April 6). Such a condition implies that Russia seeks informal recognition of its primacy in that area in return for strategic cooperation with NATO and the United States.

The Bush administration and NATO have rejected any such conditions, despite the debilitating effects of their failures in Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and energy security policy. Continuing failures on these issues in the post-Bush era could, however, set the stage for trade-offs to Russia's advantage at the expense of NATO and U.S. goals in Eastern Europe.

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UNA SENIORS' CONFERENCE

Sunday, June 8-13, 2008

SOYUZIVKA

Save this date for the Seniors' Week

Make your reservations for the UNA Seniors' Conference which will be held at SOYUZIVKA cultural centre, beginning Sunday, June 8th, starting with wine and cheese through Friday, June 13th, 2008 including brunch. Registration: Sunday & Monday morning. All inclusive 5 nights, all meals, banquet, taxes and gratuities included, entertainment and special speakers. We encourage participants to wear Ukrainian embroidery during the banquet and to bring artifacts to be auctioned off during our evening auction for the benefit of the Seniors' Club.

UNA members

Single occupancy \$425 – double \$355 pp
Per night – Single \$100 – Double \$82 pp

Non UNA members

Single occupancy \$475- double \$373 pp
Per night – Single \$110 – Double \$90 pp

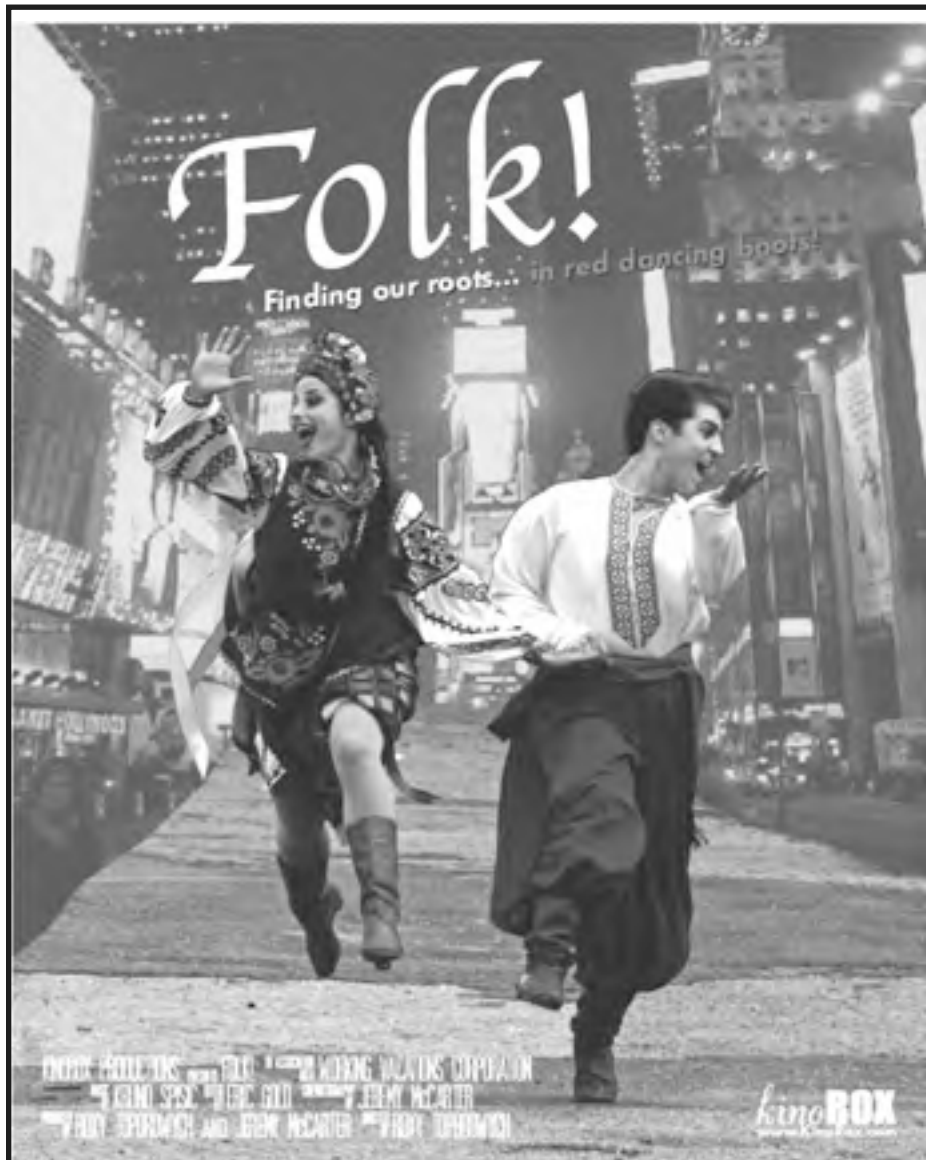
BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT only \$35 pp



Call SOYUZIVKA Tel: 845-626-5641 – Register early.
Limited space available.

Contact local senior clubs and organize a bus from your area.
For further information please call Oksana Trytjak
Tel: 973 292-9800 X 3071

Senior Citizens' Week is:
**FUN, AFFORDABLE AND INTERESTING -
WE WELCOME GUESTS! COME ONE, COME ALL!**



FILM SCREENING
Friday, May 2nd
7:30pm

Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey
Tickets \$20 Info: 973.590.8026



UACCNJ
Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey
60 North Jefferson Road
Whippany, NJ 07981
www.uaccnj.org

OUT AND ABOUT

- Through May 30
New Brunswick, NJ Art exhibit, "The Six Days of Creation" by Christina Saj, New Brunswick Theological Seminary Chapel, 732-247-5241

- May 2
Washington Monthly social, The Washington Group, Leopold's Café, 240-381-0993

- May 2
Whippany, NJ Film screening, "Folk!" by Roxy Toporowych, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-590-8026

- May 2
Brooklyn, NY Concert, featuring Vasyl Popadiuk, Wave4 Entertainment, Exit Club and Lounge, 508-934-9341 or 212-447-0729

- May 3
Whippany, NJ Ping-pong tournament, Chornomorska Sitch, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, boksoc@aol.com or 973-599-1836

- May 3
New York Lecture by Dr. Boris Lushniak, "Pandemic Influenza: Preparing for the Unknown," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130

- May 3
New York Presentation by Mariana Sadowsky and Friends, "Ukrainian Women's Voices," Columbia University, 212-571-1555 ext. 35

- May 3-4
Bound Brook, NJ St. Thomas Sunday "Providna Nedilia" Pilgrimage, Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., 732-356-0090

- May 9
Baltimore, MD Pub night, featuring Svitanok, Ukrainian Sports Club Dnipro, 410-598-4935 or 410-830-9351

- May 10
Perth Amboy, NJ Spring zabava, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 732-826-0767

- May 13
Stanford, CA Lecture by Roman Koropeckyj, "Self-Portraiture and Narrative in Taras Shevchenko," Stanford University, 650-725-5936

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

APARTMENT FOR SALE

Beautiful, spacious, 2-bedroom/ 1 bath apartment in the "Ukrainian Village," South Bound Brook, New Jersey (residents must be 55+). Sunny apartment is located on the second floor for privacy, with wall-to-wall carpeting, A/C, a private balcony and eat-in kitchen. Unit has been recently renovated and has a new electric range. Offered at \$175,000. If interested please call (732) 796-1035 to set up an appointment to view the nicest unit in the "Ukrainian Village."

Host Families Wanted


Frontier Horizon, a US based humanitarian aid organization runs a cultural/educational travel program that brings Ukrainian orphan children to the US twice a year. The children will be the special guests of American host families as they are introduced to the simple pleasures of American life. The trip is planned with a variety of summer activities such as July 4th fireworks, pool parties, museum trips, picnics, and amusement parks.

The children are required to come with Ukrainian/Russian speaking guardians. Often the guardians are more comfortable in Ukrainian speaking homes so Frontier Horizon is constantly looking for Ukrainian families willing to host them.

If your family would like to host a guardian this summer or would like more information on the program please contact KT Bronson at 757-749-3922 or kt.bronson@frontierhorizon.org. If necessary, Frontier Horizon will pay a fee for Room and Board.

National University of
Kyiv Mohyla Academy
Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America
and
United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio


Have the Honor to invite you to a reception
with the new President of Kyiv Mohyla Academy



Dr. Serhiy Kvit, President of NaUKMA
Parma, Ohio
May 2, Friday, 7 p.m.

St Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall
6812 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH 44134

Admission \$10 per person.
Donation to Kyiv Mohyla Academy would be greatly appreciated



PLEASE CONTACT THE KYIV MOHYLA FOUNDATION WITH ANY QUESTIONS
Tel: 773-685-1828, e-mail: mail@kmlfoundation.com
KMF is registered as a 501 (c) (2) nonprofit organization. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

New 13 Month Certificate Special

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3.50% APY

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|---|---|
| May 10 – Private evening affair | July 10 - 13 – Soyuzivka Cultural Festival Weekend |
| May 11 – Mother's Day brunch | July 13 -18 – Heritage Camp session 1 |
| May 24 – Memorial Day weekend
Official Soyuzivka Reopening
Kino-Q film Festival
Friday – Matthew Dubas
Saturday – Zabava with Hrim
Sunday – music by Walter Mosiurak and friend | July 13 - 19 – Discovery / Cultural Camp |
| June 2 - 5 – Stamford Diocese clergy retreat days | July 20 - 25 – Heritage Camp session 2 |
| June 7 – Wedding | July 20 - 26 – Sitch Sports Camp session 1 |
| June 8 - 13 – Seniors' Week | July 20 - August 2 – Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Camp session 1; recital Saturday, August 2 |
| June 14 – Wedding | July 27 – August 2 – Sitch Sports Camp session 2 |
| June 15 – Father's Day luncheon and cultural program | July 27 - 31 – Adoptive Ukrainian Children and Parents Heritage Camp session co-sponsored by Ukrainian Embassy |
| June 21 – Wedding | August 3 – 16 – Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Camp session 2 |
| June 22 - 29 – Tabir Ptashat session 1 | August 9 – Miss Soyuzivka Weekend |
| June 23 - 27 – Exploration Day Camp session 1 | August 16 – Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Camp session 2 recital |
| June 22 - July 3 – Tennis Camp | August 17 - 23 – Joseph's School of Dance (Ballroom Dance Camp) |
| June 29 - July 12 – Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop | August 25 – September 1 – Labor Day Week |
| June 29 - July 6 – Tabir Ptashat session 2 | |
| June 30 - July 4 – Exploration Day Camp session 2 | |



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
 216 Foordmore Road P.O. Box 529
 Kerhonkson, NY 12446
 E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
 Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 3

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Dr. Boris D. Lushniak titled "Pandemic Influenza: Preparing for the Unknown." Dr. Lushniak holds M.D. and M.P.H. degrees and is rear admiral/assistant surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service, and assistant commissioner for counterterrorism policy, Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats, U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The lecture 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.

NEW YORK: The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and the music education department of Columbia Teachers College present "Ukrainian Women's Voices with Mariana Sadowsky and Friends," an interactive evening of women's polyphonic singing in village style, with co-host Julian Kytasty and members of the New York Bandura Ensemble. The concert will be held in Columbia's Milbank Chapel, West 120th Street at Broadway, at 7-9 p.m. Admission is free. For further information call 212-571-1555, ext. 35.

Saturday, May 17

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific

Society invites all of its members to participate in the society's annual meeting with reports, which is scheduled for 2-4 p.m. Preceding the meeting will be sessions of the society's scholarly sections, starting at 1 p.m., following lunch at noon. The meetings and lunch will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets). For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Sunday, May 18

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund Sunday Music Series presents pianist Natalia Shkoda, who will perform works by the Ukrainian composer Viktor Kosenko, Eleven Etudes in the Form of Dances, Op.19, from her new CD released on the Toccata Classics label in the fall of 2006. Op. 19 offers listeners a synthesis of the late-Romantic piano tradition, neo-classical impulses expressed through the use of Baroque forms and dances, and elements of Ukrainian folk music. The concert will be held at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., at 3 p.m., with a reception immediately following the performance. There is a suggested donation of \$20; free admission for students; unreserved seating. For event information call 301-229-2615.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

Listings of no more than 100 words (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail preview@ukrweekly.com.

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