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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Long-promised children's hospital turns into public relations mess



Official Website of Ukraine's President
Kateryna Yushchenko



Andrii Myroshnichenko

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – What might have started out as a well-meaning project has become a public relations mess for First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko.

After raising funds from the nation's oligarchs and leading Ukraine's first telethon marathon – which involved all the major television networks – for the Children's Hospital of the Future, not a brick has been laid despite Ms. Yushchenko's assurances that it would be treating patients by March 2009.

"We want to build it in three years with money from Ukrainian and foreign corporations," Ms. Yushchenko told a press briefing in early March 2006, as reported by the daily newspaper Den (Day). The hospital is one of many projects of the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Fund.

That same year her timeframe was confirmed by Andrii Myroshnichenko, who monitors the project's fund-raising, "Ideally, the building, equipment, personnel and the first rooms of the all divisions will be ready in three years."

Ever since Ms. Yushchenko participated in the capsule-burying ceremony on March 16, 2006, to launch the ambitious \$120 million project, critics had doubted the hospital would ever be built, arguing that such projects take a minimum of 10 years and

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It's Tymoshenko vs Yekhanurov in latest government scandal

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Ukrainian government was wracked by its latest scandal after Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko accused Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov of money laundering and fraud, demanding his dismissal at the May 20 Cabinet of Ministers meeting.

Under Mr. Yekhanurov's direction, the ministry allegedly bought food and fuel at double their market prices from fake intermediary enterprises, then pocketed the difference. He also forged documents to misappropriate real estate, the prime minister alleged, based on Control Review Administration documents.

"I will personally establish control so that the guilty face the most radical punishment," Ms. Tymoshenko thundered in front of television cameras. "The morality and spirituality which the members of the Orange team promised is degraded, defamed and discredited. And, unfortunately, this is all occurring under the largest cover."

Ms. Tymoshenko's government has been besieged by conflict and controversy, currently lacking ministers of the finance and foreign affairs after their dismissals.

National deputies have prepared bills to dismiss Industrial Policy Minister Volodymyr Novytskyi, Health Minister Vasyi Kniazevych and First Vice Minister



UNIAN/Oleksander Yurchenko

Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov

for Humanitarian Affairs Ivan Vasiunyk. After Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko was recently accused of drunkenly brawling with German police at Frankfurt international airport, the prime minister placed him on temporary administrative leave on May 18, before restoring him to his post at the May 27 Cabinet of Ministers meeting.

It's no coincidence that Ms. Tymoshenko made her accusations and dismissal demands at the weekly Wednesday meeting of the Cabinet, where the television cameras of all the major networks are present.

Observers believe her attack against Mr. Yekhanurov, a close ally of President Viktor Yushchenko, was retaliation for the campaign to dismiss Mr. Lutsenko and shift the media's camera lens away from her own ally to the president's colleague.

Ms. Tymoshenko needs Mr. Lutsenko as her internal affairs minister so that they can have authority over the nation's 300,000-plus police force during the presidential election.

"There are real scandals, such as in Frankfurt, and there imagined scandals which are used by the government's leadership for certain reasons," said Vadym Karasiov, director of the Kyiv-based Institute of Global Strategy and advisor to the Presidential Secretariat. "In a situation of pre-catastrophic economic conditions, it's necessary to find guilty persons."

President Yushchenko refused Ms. Tymoshenko's request to dismiss his defense minister, accusing her of "political attempts to usurp more power and create chaos, because that's the best environment to conduct an election campaign."

Upon being accused by the prime minister, the flustered defense minister retorted, "I want to say that ... they've begun to demand all the documents at the Defense Ministry ... I very much plead with you, I understand your emotions and

(Continued on page 17)

Selfreliance UAFCU donates \$10,000 to digital archives project

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, which is based in Chicago and has branches in other locations in Illinois, Indiana and New Jersey, has donated \$10,000 to support the ambitious project to digitize the archives of the Ukrainian National Association's two newspapers, The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

The presentation was made by Michael R. Kos, chairman of the board, and Bohdan Watral, president/CEO, during the Chicago-based credit union's annual meeting with the New Jersey community held on Saturday, May 16, at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany.

The two newspapers' editor-in-chief, Roma Hadzewycz, gratefully accepted the donation, thanking Selfreliance UAFCU for its multi-faceted support of countless Ukrainian organizations and projects, many of whose representatives were present at the annual meeting that day. Ms. Hadzewycz underscored that the credit union's generous donation would help make it possible for community

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Paul Hadzewycz

At the annual meeting of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, representatives of the credit union are seen with the editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, Roma Hadzewycz. In the photo (from left) are: Yaroslav Zaviysky, Walter Kovbasniuk, Michael R. Kos, Michael Szpyhulsky, Bohdan Watral, Daria Twardowsky Vincent, Orest Ciapka, Ms. Hadzewycz, Ihor Laszok, Andrew Hrechak and Michael Dziman.

ANALYSIS

Medvedev forms commission to protect Russian history

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has recently made public comments about “the falsifiers of history” attacking the country and its heritage. This was a serious political statement of strategic importance – not merely a rhetorical proclamation, made just before the World War II Victory Day military parade on May 9: “We will not allow anyone to undermine the sacrifice of our people” (Eurasia Daily Monitor, May 13).

Mr. Medvedev’s statement was followed by the creation of a special presidential inter-departmental commission “to counteract attempts to falsify history that undermine the interests of Russia.” The presidential order to set up this “historic truth” commission was signed on May 15 and published on the Kremlin website on May 19, together with a list of its members (www.kremlin.ru, May 19).

The state-controlled television (Rossiya TV, NTV and First Channel) immediately lavished praise on “the timely move” to save Russian history from the “falsifiers” – namely the authorities in the Ukrainian, Georgian and Baltic republics.

However, the more independent press was much more critical, pointing out that in the 28-member commission there are only three professional historians, and even these are not independent researchers, but government-appointed directors of two official historical research institutions and the chief of the official Russian government archive. Instead of appointing independent historians, the commission has been filled with

high-ranking bureaucrats as well as a number of pro-Kremlin spin-doctors and nationalistic lawmakers.

Two commission members – Sergey Markov and Konstantin Zatulin – have been banned from entering Ukraine for allegedly promoting the transfer of Crimea to Russia. Mr. Zatulin has been accused of being one of the organizers of the mass distribution of Russian passports in Abkhazia and South Ossetia that was used as a justification of the Russian invasion last August. Fear has been expressed that the commission may punish liberal historians or dissidents (Kommersant, Vedomosti, Nezavisimaya Gazeta, May 20).

“There are only three historians there, and even they are not recognized among professionals,” prominent historian Roy Medvedev told Kommersant. “I am afraid that the commission will be used for witch-hunts and the settling of scores,” the military historian Alexei Isayev commented to Kommersant. “If we are going back to those [Soviet] years, then hopes for Medvedev the liberal, in whose name the commission is being established, are somewhat unjustified,” Alexei Malashenko, an analyst with the Carnegie Center in Moscow, warned in Nezavisimaya Gazeta.

These fears, though justified and genuine, might be somewhat misplaced. The Russian authorities already possess sufficient legal power under the existing “anti-terrorist” and “anti-extremist” laws to punish dissidents. In addition, the Duma is reported to be rushing through amendments to the Penal Code to make the “falsification of history” a crim-

(Continued on page 22)

“Falsifiers of history” targeted by the Kremlin

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor

In a special video posting on his official Kremlin blog, President Dmitry Medvedev emphasized that the World War II Victory Day on May 9 is an “all-Russian celebration, uniting the entire nation.” But it is not all positive.

Around half of Mr. Medvedev’s video address was spent on renouncing “the falsifiers of history, who are becoming increasingly vicious, ugly and aggressive.” Mr. Medvedev announced, “We must defend historic truth, though it is not easy and sometimes revolting. We cannot close our eyes to the terrible truth of the war, but we will not allow anyone to undermine the sacrifice of our people” (www.kremlin.ru, May 7).

Moscow has recently accused the authorities in the Baltic republics and Ukraine of rehabilitating World War II-era nationalistic

Nazi collaborators. But Mr. Medvedev’s statement was vague on who in particular are the villains. The ruling United Russia party has introduced legislation into the State Duma that will make it a criminal offense to “question the Soviet victory” in World War II, punishable with a large fine and a prison sentence.

Liberal commentators on radio “Ekho Mosky” believe this legislation may be used not only against someone in the Baltic or in Ukraine, who are beyond Russian jurisdiction, but to punish liberal historians or dissidents, who question or investigate Communist crimes (www.echo.msk.ru, May 8).

The “anti-falsification” legislation may be used to brand political opponents of the present regime as traitors.

Recent opinion polls show that the Russian public has a unique opinion of World War II. A poll by VtSIOM showed that 77 percent of Russians believe the Red Army liberated the East European nations from Nazi occupation, and then allowed them to freely live and develop. Only 11 percent believe that the Soviet Union imposed pro-Communist regimes and undermined the independence of the former Warsaw Pact nations. A sizable majority (60 percent) agree that anyone, who publicly opposes the “Soviet victory and sacrifice,” is a felon (Interfax, May 9).

This pro-Communist public nostalgia and the staunch survival of Soviet myths denying the occupation of Eastern Europe by the Red Army after World War II, is cultivated

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NEWSBRIEFS

Experts expect 8% drop in GDP

KYIV – Ukraine’s gross domestic product (GDP) will decrease by 8 percent in 2009 as compared to the previous year, said the executive director of the International Bleyzer Foundation, Oleh Ustenko. Speaking at a roundtable during the last week of May, he noted that this is related to a drop in export volumes, restriction of consumer crediting and reduction of the population’s incomes, as well as enterprises’ profits. As a result of a drop in the GDP and the aggregate demand, inflation in 2009 will be lower as compared to 2008, and will be about 15 percent. Experts of the Bleyzer Foundation forecast that the government’s external debt will make up 28 percent of the GDP in 2009, and the private sector’s foreign debt will be 58 percent. In addition, the state budget deficit is forecast at 4 percent of the GDP. Earlier, President Viktor Yushchenko had stated that he expects the GDP drop to be 20 percent in the first quarter of 2009. He said the GDP fell by 14 percent during the fourth quarter of 2008. At the same time, the president noted that the index of the economy’s basic indicators dropped by 29.9 percent in the first quarter of 2009. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn urges PRU and YTB to unite

KYIV – Everything should be done to unite Ukraine’s largest political parties, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) and the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said on the ICTV channel on May 26. He described this task as difficult, but expressed confidence that, first and foremost, this would help create a system of counterbalances, and, secondly, it would not give an absolute majority to any of the parties. Mr. Lytvyn said that he could run for the presidency “if a mutual understanding is not reached and if a plan of political truce is not realized.” (Ukrinform)

Criminal proceedings on Holodomor

KYIV – The main aim of instituting criminal proceedings on genocide in Ukraine in 1932-1933 should be to establish legal proof of the crime against humanity made by the court, said Dr. Ihor Yuhnovskyy,

author of one of the appeals on the basis of which the Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SBU) instituted criminal proceedings. Dr. Yuhnovskyy, who is chairman of the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, said on May 26: “We want the Ukrainian court to confirm that the Holodomor of 1932-1933 was a crime against humanity and that a terror-regime reigned in Ukraine at that time.” He added that today the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory possesses hundreds of thousands of pieces of evidences about the criminal actions of the Communist authorities, a part of which have already been handed over to the SBU. At the same time, Dr. Yuhnovskyy noted that the present criminal case will most probably not concern any concrete persons. “We will not be able to do it, since thousands of persons were involved in those events and some of them became victims of that regime,” he explained. On May 25 the SBU instituted a case on the basis of the genocide of the Ukrainian people in 1932-1933. The Holodomor was recognized as genocide of the Ukrainian people by the Parliaments of 14 countries and the Vatican. (Ukrinform)

Kravchuk: proceedings can intensify split

KYIV – Ukrainian ex-President Leonid Kravchuk said on May 26 that he believes the Security Service of Ukraine’s institution of criminal proceedings on the genocide of the Ukrainian people in 1932-1933 is untimely. “I support it [investigation into genocide], but I believe that it is untimely today,” he said on air at Channel 5. The politician expressed anxiety that the investigation could intensify a split in the society. “Those people who did it – are no longer among us, a part of very important documents is absent as well, and the moods in society are such that this can only intensify the split,” Mr. Kravchuk noted. (Ukrinform)

Foreigners’ registration discussed

KYIV – The chief of Kyiv’s police wants the Foreign Affairs Ministry to drastically shorten the time given to foreigners to register after arriving in Ukraine, RFE/RL’s

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Correction

In “Yushchenko waffles on elections as the end of his term approaches” (April 12), the Kyiv Press Bureau reported that President Viktor Yushchenko had retained the prerogative to hold pre-term parliamentary elections ever since he issued a September 2008 presidential decree. In fact, Mr. Yushchenko issued his decree to hold pre-term parliamentary elections on October 9, 2008. On October 20, 2008, the president issued another decree canceling the October 9 decree.

NEWS ANALYSIS

EU-Russia summit demonstrates signs of strategic division, not partnership

by Ahto Lobjakas
RFE/RL

The EU-Russia summit, which concluded on May 22 in the far-eastern Russian city of Khabarovsk, served to expose the depth of the disagreement that increasingly bedevils the relationship between the two sides.

Emerging from the summit, European Union and Russian leaders appeared to differ on all major issues currently facing them – from security to energy and trade.

The bulk of the post-summit press conference was spent on mutual recriminations – voiced discreetly by the EU, less so on the part of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Predictably, the tensions were highest, when it came to the two sides' influence in the former Soviet Union.

Russia, which still considers the region its backyard, sees the issue as a zero-sum game. The EU believes it can share influence with Russia in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the South Caucasus countries – all participants in the bloc's Eastern Partnership, launched earlier in May.

Vaclav Klaus, president of the Czech Republic, who chaired the EU delegation, said every effort was made to disabuse the Russian leadership of the notion the EU is seeking to roll back its influence.

"We tried to tell, [to assure] President Medvedev that the idea of the Eastern Partnership is strictly 'for' something, to achieve something positive, that the idea

of the Eastern Partnership was not against somebody, definitely not against Russia. So I hope we reassured President Medvedev that this is our strong position," Mr. Klaus said.

President Medvedev, however, was having none of that. In what appeared to be a calculated insult, he suggested the EU itself did not know yet why it needs the Eastern Partnership.

If its aims were limited to facilitating economic cooperation, the Russian president said, he would have no objections. But Mr. Medvedev went on to highlight divisions within the EU – and flatly reject Mr. Klaus's attempts to assuage Russian concerns.

"But, frankly speaking, what embarrasses me is the fact that some states view this partnership as a partnership against Russia," Mr. Medvedev said. "I don't mean, of course, the EU leadership and our partners that sit at this table. I am talking about other states, but we don't want the Eastern Partnership to turn into a partnership against Russia."

Mr. Medvedev also tried to press his advantage at the summit by urging the EU to back his plans for a new "security architecture" for Europe. At the press conference he sharply attacked NATO – which includes as members most EU member-states.

"We have partnership relations, for example, with the North Atlantic bloc. But, despite what seems to be a special form of relations, this form turned out to

be weak when these relations were put to the test," Mr. Medvedev said. "And the ongoing attempts now to rebuild ties between Russia and NATO are encountering quite serious difficulties."

EU member-states and the United States have agreed to give Mr. Medvedev's plans a hearing at a meeting of foreign ministers' of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Corfu, Greece, in late June. But diplomats say they are not likely to consent to a radical revamp of the OSCE, as Russia has previously suggested.

The failure of the EU-Russia summit to register unity on a single major issue was most palpable in Mr. Medvedev's rejection of all responsibility for the disruptions in Ukrainian and European gas supplies in January, at the height of winter.

"The Russian Federation has not given, and will not give, any assurances. What for? There are no problems on our side," Mr. Medvedev said. "Everything is fine with us – both regarding gas and the fulfillment of our obligations. Let those who must pay for the gas make assurances. And here there is an opportunity for cooperation [with the EU]."

The Russian president's comments appear to explicitly torpedo the only EU ambition of note it associated with the summit – that of setting up an upgraded "early warning mechanism" to avoid just such disruptions.

Shrugging off any responsibility for

the crisis, Mr. Medvedev advised the EU to invest in relieving some of the Ukrainian debt he said the country owes Moscow.

The EU has been pressing Russia in vain for years to join the Energy Charter, which would oblige Moscow to put its energy trade on a transparent, market-based footing.

Russia has refused, with Mr. Medvedev advocating at the Khabarovsk summit a new accord that would strengthen its position as the dominant supplier of gas and oil to Europe.

EU officials on May 22 also warned Russia it cannot expect to sign a new partnership agreement before it joins the World Trade Organization (WTO). The agreement, currently being negotiated by the two sides, would contain a free trade accord which EU officials say presupposes Russian WTO membership.

Russia, for its part, has shown scant regard for the EU's warnings, sharply increasing import tariffs on a vast range of EU goods earlier this year and threatening further tariff increases on exports of timber.

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UKRAINE'S ECONOMIC CRISIS: Interview with economist Oleh Soskin

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

In order to provide an in-depth analysis of the economic crisis in Ukraine, *The Ukrainian Weekly* spoke with three economists that are independent of the present-day Ukrainian financial establishment, which is widely accused of corruption and mismanagement. Following is the first interview in the series.

KYIV – The May 8 decision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to extend to the Ukrainian government the \$2.8 billion second tranche of a \$16.4 billion loan is a crime against the Ukrainian people in the view of Dr. Oleh Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation, a Kyiv-based think tank.

He's been among the lone voices amidst a sea of media reports and establishment economists touting the IMF loan, even after at least half of the \$4.5 billion first tranche was spent for unknown aims with little tangible benefit to the Ukrainian economy.

A strong supporter of Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration, who is currently conducting lectures and launching information centers throughout the nation's universities on the advantages of NATO membership, Dr. Soskin at the same time doesn't blindly approve of all Western policies toward Ukraine.

While the citizens of Iceland and Latvia forced out their prime ministers and other officials responsible for the collapse, in Dr. Soskin's view the IMF instead rewarded what he characterized as the corrupt administration of President Viktor Yushchenko, which was responsible for the hryvnia's devaluation.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's accusation against the president and National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) offi-

cialists that they allegedly borrowed government and IMF money to speculate on the dollar and ruin the hryvnia, is entirely true, Dr. Soskin said. But in the current lawless society, no one will likely be prosecuted.

"There is a criminal group in the National Bank leadership which is linked to criminal groups in certain banks," he said. "These criminal groups need to be exposed because they robbed us – Rodovid, Nadra, Bank Kyiv, PromInvest and all the others."

Dr. Soskin has been on the Ukrainian political scene since 1992, serving as an economic advisor to President Leonid Kravchuk.

After training in the U.S. in 1994, including at the Brookings Institution in Washington, he launched the somewhat awkwardly named Institute of Society Transformation, which is financed by Western and Ukrainian sources.

In 1996 he launched the Ukrainian National Conservative Party and still hopes a "national liberal-conservative" political force will emerge. He served as an economic advisor to President Leonid Kuchma in the late 1990s.

During a December 2008 visit to Odesa Pedagogical University to open a Euro-Atlantic Cooperation Center, Dr. Soskin was assaulted by a pro-Russian journalist from a local television network financed by Igor Markov, a millionaire who has allegedly funded and participated in violent attacks against Ukrainian activists.

Meeting with *The Weekly* late in the evening of May 12, Dr. Soskin entered his institute in central Kyiv looking exhausted. Immediately his assistants greeted him with stacks of paper, among them the latest economic reports obtained from the institute's sources within the Ukrainian bureaucracy.



Zenon Zawada

Since the Orange Revolution, Ukraine's leaders have done nothing to reform the economy and instead have made it worse, in the view of Dr. Oleh Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation in Kyiv.

(Ms. Tymoshenko has banned certain statistics from being published, particularly the critical gross domestic product, GDP, figure.)

Dressed in a lightweight, olive-colored suit, Dr. Soskin sat at a table and began sipping coffee that his female assistant had placed before him, alongside Roshen chocolates and cookies that he began munching, one after another. He began the interview with *The Weekly* after spending ten minutes reviewing his materials.

What can we say about Yulia Tymoshenko's approach to resolving the financial crisis?

She's simply conducting herself like a

Chornobyl engineer, who blew up the nuclear power plant in 1986. She is slamming these buttons, switching everything off, knocking out the entire safety system – this is a catastrophe. This is an internal default. If not for the IMF, there would have been an internal default. The IMF practically committed a crime against us in the present day. If it didn't offer the second tranche, the situation would have been quite different.

So you think there are economists today who simply toe the establishment line?

These are so-called "virtual economists," who don't understand anything at

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THE EURO 2012: A look at Ukraine's potential host cities

by Yuriy Borysov

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – If Kharkiv was to gain the right to host the Euro 2012 many expected it would be at the expense of Lviv, which officials said has done the worst job in preparing for the soccer championship.

Thus, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) surprised Ukrainian soccer fans when it announced on May 13 that it was dropping Dnipropetrovsk, the country's third-largest city, which seemed firmly on track for the Euro 2012 – particularly after being the first to unveil a modern soccer stadium in September.

Being ahead of the game meant missing out on its rules. Ukrainian soccer authorities revealed at a May 18 press conference that Dnipropetrovsk billionaire Igor Kolomoisky and his football executives built the Dnipro Arena without considering UEFA requirements.

"When the (Dnipropetrovsk) stadium was designed and building of the site began, no one thought about EURO 2012," said Rostyslav Karandeyev, vice minister for family, youth and sports.

"Some of the problems were apparent – an insufficient number of seats in the stadium and inadequate free space outside the bounds of the arena bowl, which didn't provide for the required number of free zones," he explained.

With their decision, UEFA officials indicated they are still giving Lviv a chance to get its act together and join three other Ukrainian cities – Kyiv, Kharkiv and Donetsk – and four Polish cities in hosting Euro 2012, the tournament held every four years to determine which European countries have the best soccer teams.

As their desperate bid to keep the tournament, FC Dnipro executives offered to increase the capacity of Dnipropetrovsk's Dnipro Arena from 27,500 seats to the 30,000 required by UEFA, but its executive committee declined, stating that the renovation would reduce the stadium's quality and comfort.

Additionally, Party of Regions Vice-Chair Volodymyr Yatsuba, also former chair of the Dnipropetrovsk State Oblast Administration, acknowledged that the poor financial and physical condition of the city's airport posed problems.

In particular, the city government never resolved who would build a necessary airport runway or the fate of the nearly bankrupt state enterprise that owned the airport. The question was whether to renovate the airport with state funds or sell it to the Privat banking group led by Mr. Kolomoisky.

"At the moment, the Dnipropetrovsk airport has an entirely indistinguishable form of ownership," Mr. Karandeyev said. "The airport was not fully transferred to the creditor company, which would have had the funds for its construction. Therefore, there was no basis to provide state guarantees to UEFA for airport construction."

As a result, UEFA officials were concerned about the airport's timely renovation.

Not everyone was understanding. The UEFA decision was political, in the view of Dnipropetrovsk State Oblast Administration Chair Viktor Bondar.

"Dnipropetrovshchyna took the most realistic steps on this path of anyone during last two years of preparation for Euro 2012," he said. "When other regions were just planning work, we built new sites. So let's speak frankly – there was quite a bit of politics in the decision."

Although Odesa hoped to be among the Euro 2012 hosts, city authorities

failed to convince UEFA officials that they could finance construction of the necessary sites, Mr. Karandeyev said.

Their financing plan, which failed to re-assure UEFA officials, involved borrowing money from Imeksbank, controlled by Party of Regions National Deputy Leonid Klimov, which in turn borrowed money from international institutions, he said.

They were also unconvinced that the soccer stadium would be built in time.

"But the stadium wasn't the main problem," Mr. Karandeyev said. "In UEFA's evaluation, the majority of sites are positive. The majority of concerns were reserved for infrastructure sites. Questions arose regarding airport and hotel preparation, which led to the UEFA's negative conclusion."

Only Kyiv is guaranteed that it will host the quarterfinals and semifinals, while Donetsk is limited only to the first-round group tournaments.

Ukraine's capital would host the final match only if the hotel and transportation infrastructure, including the airport, meet UEFA standards, which will be determined during a November 30 visit of UEFA officials, the executive committee stated.

The same requirements and deadline apply to Lviv, Donetsk and Kharkiv, which stand to lose their host city status if they aren't able to prove they can meet UEFA standards.

"We could have lost three or even four cities, and UEFA has given us a clear understanding that the decision made in Bucharest is to a large degree an advance, considering only Kyiv can host Euro 2012 today," Mr. Karandeyev said.

As a result, all the cities have an enormous amount of work to do in preparing for the world's second-most prestigious soccer tournament behind the World Cup.

Lviv remains the worst prepared among the selected host cities, said Andrii Kapustin, an expert with the Euro 2012 Public Control Committee, a non-governmental organization financed by membership fees.

He estimated the city's chances for hosting the tournament at 52 percent, boosted mainly by its attractiveness as a tourist destination. The stadium is only 5 percent ready and airport renovation is problematic, he said.

Lviv's airport is entirely state-owned, giving local authorities the advantage over Dnipropetrovsk in convincing UEFA of their ability to renovate it in time, Mr. Karandeyev said.

He also pointed out Lviv's obstacles. While Kharkiv and Donetsk have so-called strategic investors, namely billionaires Oleksander Yaroslavskiy and Rinat Akhmetov, Lviv is dependant on government funds during a severe economic crisis, Mr. Kapustin said. The Cabinet of Ministers has yet to provide an allocated \$147 million to build a new runway, he added.

"There's practically no work being done at the Lviv airport presently," Mr. Kapustin said. "The UEFA gave the Lviv airport the highest level of risk and its experts are afraid the airport won't be ready."

In its official statement, the UEFA executive committee also expressed concern about Lviv's transportation infrastructure and reported that the city doesn't have enough hotels, particularly at the five-star level.

Meanwhile, among Kharkiv's biggest problems is its stadium, which is 80 percent ready yet doesn't meet numerous UEFA requirements, Mr. Kapustin said. For example, it's impossible to evacuate the stadium in eight minutes and fill it in one hour (because of entrance turnstiles).



Yevhen Chervonenko, first-vice chair at the Kyiv City State Administration.



Andrii Kapustin of the Euro 2012 Public Control Committee.

In general, UEFA views believes it's easier to build a new stadium than renovate an older one. Since Kharkiv is pursuing the first option, UEFA is closely monitoring its progress, especially since the stadium is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

Meanwhile, the 50,000-seat Donbas Arena will not only meet all UEFA requirements but also qualify for its five-star Elite category. Mr. Akhmetov invested more than \$400 million into the stadium and park complex, which will be unveiled at an August 29 official ceremony.

Yet even Mr. Akhmetov's millions aren't enough to improve Donetsk's hotel, airport and transportation infrastructure, which doesn't meet UEFA standards.

UEFA President Michel Platini wrote an open letter to Donetsk City Council Chair (Mayor) Oleksander Lukianchenko requesting a written guarantee by July 31 that the city will secure and implement the necessary financing to renovate the airport.

Similar demands were also made to the Donbas cities of Luhansk and Mariupol, which offered their airports as auxiliaries.

In the same letter, Mr. Platini complained of the lack of hotels in Donetsk, explaining that UEFA has signed only a few contracts with hotels, the majority of which are located beyond the city center, with the rest to be built through 2011.

Cities must offer a minimum of 2,945 rooms for each day of Euro 2012, including 1,420 rooms in five-star hotels, 1,315 rooms in four-star hotels and 210 rooms

in three-star hotels.

Even if Donetsk gains UEFA approval on November 30, the city will only host the group tournaments (before the quarterfinals), the executive committee decided.

The capital city is best prepared for Euro 2012, being the first among the Polish and Ukrainian candidate cities to create an open-air fan zone, equipped with a plasma screen for watching matches, said Yevhen Chervonenko, first-vice chair at the Kyiv City State Administration.

Still, construction of the new stadium at the site of the former Olympic stadium remains among the key problems because its plan and cost accounting aren't yet confirmed, he said.

To improve transportation, the city government will launch a municipal taxi service and build new terminals at Boryspil and Zhuliany airports.

This year alone, five hotels offering 500 rooms will be opened, while 18 hotels offering 3,860 beds are under construction.

By the end of 2011, Kyiv will have 18 five-star, 33 four-star and 32 three-star hotels offering 18,000 rooms, in full conformity with UEFA standards, Mr. Chervonenko said.

When asked whether he thinks all four Ukrainian cities will get to host Euro 2012, Mr. Karandeyev offered restrained optimism, carefully stating, "I have the premonition that all the four cities will host Euro 2012, but we must give clearer guarantees to UEFA."

Selfreliance UAFCU...

(Continued from page 1)

members, scholars and researchers to have unprecedented access to the newspapers' archives.

She told the gathering about the significance of the digital archives project, which will allow visitors to the newspapers' websites to view stories laid out on pages just as they appeared in the printed versions of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. Eventually, all issues of Svoboda, which began publication in 1893, and of The Weekly, founded in 1933, will be available online.

In addition, the Svoboda website will include the annual Almanacs of the Ukrainian National Association (UNA), and issues of the children's magazine Veselka.

The Weekly's website, meanwhile, includes its book publications, including the two-volume "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," comprising the most significant stories published between 1933 and 2000,

and the compilation of articles chronicling Ukraine's drive toward independence and the first 10 years of its independence titled "Ukraine Lives!"

A letter accompanying the credit union's donation stated: "The Selfreliance Foundation of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union has allocated a donation of \$10,000 toward the... project of archiving the entire print run of both Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly so they are available online for historians as well as others readers."

The letter, signed by Oresta Fedyniak, foundation chair, and Victor Wojtychiw, secretary-treasurer, added, "The New Jersey offices of SUAFCU in particular are proud of their longstanding relationship with the UNA and delighted to sponsor this important initiative."

Previous donors to the Svoboda/The Ukrainian Weekly digitization project are: the Shevchenko Scientific Society, U.S.A., Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and the Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Savings Bank.

Shevchenko Scientific Society re-elects President Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – The Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S.A. held its 19th general meeting at the society's New York headquarters on May 16. Dr. Orest Popovych was re-elected as the scholarly society's president by a unanimous vote cast by 83 members.

Prior to the meeting, morning sessions were conducted by four scholarly sections: mathematics-physics-technology (Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, director), which featured a lecture by Dr. Roman Samulyak on "High-Performance Computing in Modern Science and Engineering"; philology (Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, director), and the social science section (Prof. Martha B. Trofimenko, director) and the history-philosophy section (Dr. Taras Hunczak, director), which conferred jointly.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society's (NTSh) general meeting was opened in the afternoon by President Popovych, who extended a special welcome to Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky, a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, former president of NTSh in the U.S. and now the acting president of the NTSh World Council. Dr. Popovych also recognized Ukraine's former ambassador to the United Nations, Valery Kuchynsky, who is now a corresponding member of NTSh.

The NTSh president read the names of the society's 24 members who had departed in the last three years, calling upon the assembly to rise and honor them with a moment of silence. Dr. Popovych then read the names of the 65 new members recruited to join NTSh in the same time period, remarking with satisfaction that many of them are recent immigrants from Ukraine as well as young scholars.

Dr. Rudnytsky read a greeting to the assembly from Dr. Oleh Kupchynsky, the president of NTSh in Ukraine.

The assembly elected a presidium for the meeting comprising of Dr. Rudnytsky, chairman, with Drs. Andrushkiw and Hunczak, vice-chairmen, and Christine Karpevych, recording secretary. Also elected were the Nominating, Verification and Resolutions committees. The minutes of the 18th general meeting of NTSh were accepted unanimously.

All present received a 99-page book containing the reports of NTSh officers as well as the society's chapters in Philadelphia and Washington on their activities in the three-year period starting on May 20, 2006. The authors of the reports had the option of presenting addenda or highlights at the meeting, but only three availed themselves of that opportunity.

Dr. Popovych offered the following accomplishments of the NTSh governing board as the highlights of his three-year tenure: the publication of the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian diaspora, Volume 1, United States of America, Book 1; the publication of the society's "Activities and Press Reports 2000-2008," a 640-page compilation of English-language articles about NTSh and its members as well as a registry of the academic programs for the public which were hosted by NTSh in the same time period; the introduction of Ukrainian-language computer programming by Microsoft for use in Ukraine, as a result of many years of pressure initiated by NTSh; the establishment of full-year post-doctoral fellowships in Ukrainian studies at \$35,000 each, of which six have been awarded to date; the \$100,000 grant for the publication of an English-language translation of one volume of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus"; the \$15,000 grant to Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly for their project to digitize the archives of both newspapers; the co-sponsorship (in the amount of \$2,500) of the annual competition for young mathematicians in Ukraine.



Participants of the general meeting of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S.A.; seated third from left is the newly re-elected president, Dr. Orest Popovych.

In thanking the board members who made these accomplishments possible, Dr. Popovych singled out two NTSh employees, Dr. Vasyl Lopukh, director of administration, and Prof. Vasyl Makhno, both of whom double as board members, as the two pillars of the society. All of the resolutions of the 18th general meeting, including those calling for support of Ukrainian studies in America and in Ukraine, have been fulfilled, concluded Dr. Popovych.

Dr. Daria Dykyj, vice-president and CFO, presented an addendum to her report. Dr. Roman Procyk, vice-president and learned secretary, made some critical comments regarding the board's performance.

After a discussion of the reports, the audience heard a very thorough review of the board's performance by the Auditing Committee, which was read by its chair, Dr. Onyshkevych. Despite some critical comments, the outgoing board was granted a vote of confidence by the Auditing Committee.

Dr. Roman Voronka, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a single slate of candidates for the new governing board: Dr. Popovych, president; Dr. Andrushkiw, first vice-president; George Grabowicz, vice-president and learned secretary; Dr. Dykyj, vice-president; Ruslana Rossi, CPA, vice-president and CFO; Christine Karpevych and Dr. Serhiy Levkov, recording secretaries.

Also nominated were committee chairs: Bylaws – Dr. Adrian Dolynsky; chapters – Dr. Halyna Hryn; library and archives – Tatiana Keis; press – Dr. Lopukh; publications – Prof. Makhno; scholarships/grants – Dr. Alexander Motyl; membership – Dr. Wolodymyr Petryshyn; finances – Ms. Rossi; law advisory – Dr. Andriy V.R. Szul; information technology – Dr. Volodymyr Vasilaky; institutional liaison – Dr. Myroslava T. Znayenko; auditing board – Dr. Marta

Bohachevsky-Chomiak; delegate to the NTSh World Council – Dr. Anna Procyk.

Nominated as members-at-large were: Drs. Albert Kipa, Serhiy Levkov, Askold Melnyczuk, Procyk and Yuri Shevchuk.

The above slate was elected unanimously via a show of hands.

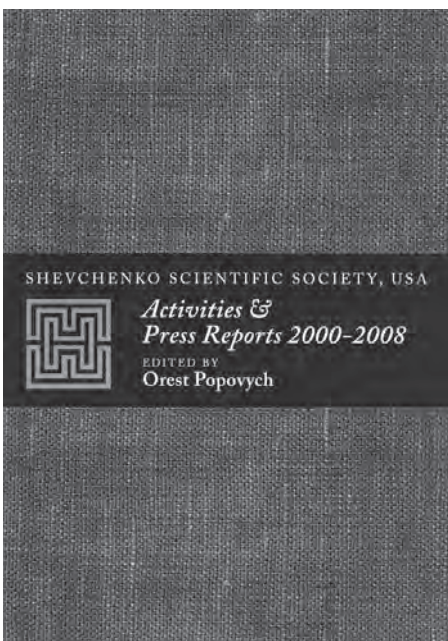
In his acceptance speech, Dr. Popovych thanked NTSh members for their renewed trust and support, which he said will encourage the board members to expend even more efforts on behalf of the society. He thanked all the committees and individuals for their enormous work in preparing and so successfully running the general meeting, including the election process. Dr. Popovych then introduced the new members of the governing board, welcoming each of them individually.

As to the board's plans for the future, Dr. Popovych first emphasized that under his stewardship all of the resolutions and promises made three years ago have been realized. In addition to the society's customary support for Ukrainian scholarship and higher education here and in Ukraine, as well as the continued service to the Ukrainian American community via the society's programs for the public, NTSh is now proposing some new objectives as well: to publish the second and eventually the third book of the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora; to organize the NTSh archives, for which a professional archivist has been hired; to organize a more systematic grass-roots fund-raising campaign for the society; and to seek professional financial planning for the society's funds.

Resolutions formulated by a committee chaired by Dr. Andrushkiw were adopted unanimously by the assembly.

– NTSh Press Group

BOOK NOTES: Activities of the Shevchenko Society, 2000-2008



"*Shevchenko Scientific Society, U.S.A. Activities and Press Reports 2000-2008*," edited by Orest Popovych. New York: Shevchenko Scientific Society, U.S.A., 2009. ISBN: 0-88054-146-6. 640 pp. \$25.

"Shevchenko Scientific Society, U.S.A. Activities and Press Reports 2000-2008," is a newly released 640-page compilation of English-language articles about NTSh (the society's Ukrainian-based acronym) and its members as well as a registry of academic programs open to the public that were hosted by society in the period under review.

The book was compiled, as noted in the foreword by Dr. Orest Popovych, president of the Shevchenko Society since 2006, partially in answer to the question posed last year by a person attending a Ukrainian American community event: "What is it that you people actually do at

the Shevchenko Scientific Society?" As well, it is intended to create a record of NTSh activities in the United States in order to preserve it for posterity.

Included are 142 articles and press releases that were published about the society's work beginning in the summer of 2000 through 2008 (presented chronologically) and a register of the 239 weekly academic programs held by the society.

The compilation contains several noteworthy scholarly articles, such as Dr. James E. Mace's "Is the Ukrainian Genocide a Myth?" (2003); Dr. Margaret Siriol Colley's "Gareth Jones: A Voice Crying in the Wilderness" (2003); Judge Bohdan Futey's "Rule of Law in Ukraine: A Step Forward or Backward" (2004); Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych's "Chornobyl in Ukrainian Literature 1986-1989 and Glasnost" (2006); and Dr. Serhii Plokhii's "Ukraine's Quest for

Europe: Borders, Culture, Identities" (2007).

Biographical information about the major contributing writers to the book is included, as is an index.

Though it is not a history of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, it is a historical record of its activities during a very fruitful period. A great number of the articles were previously published in The Ukrainian Weekly and on the society's website (www.shevchenko.org), and some in other English-language Ukrainian community newspapers and in the journal The Ukrainian Quarterly.

The book is edited by Dr. Popovych; cover design is by Hilary Zarycky. The book's publication was supported by the Ivan Romaniuk Fund.

To purchase the book, readers may contact NTSh at 212-254-5130 or info@shevchenko.org.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The Baloha era

The era of Viktor Baloha at the head of the Presidential Secretariat has come to an end, and it's worth examining what President Viktor Yushchenko had when he appointed the Zakarpattia businessman, and what he's left with.

When Mr. Baloha replaced Oleh Rybachuk in September 2006, President Yushchenko's approval rating was about 20 percent.

Recent polls indicate it's dropped to between 2 and 3 percent.

In the September 2007 parliamentary election, the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc won 14 percent of the vote.

Since then, the People's Self-Defense party led by Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko has ditched Mr. Yushchenko and allied itself with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. The Our Ukraine bloc has imploded, and the Our Ukraine People's Union party couldn't even qualify for the Kyiv City Council, let alone the Verkhovna Rada.

Before Mr. Baloha arrived on the scene, the president had an entire network of support, including People's Self-Defense financier David Zhvania (godfather to Mr. Yushchenko's youngest son), his millionaire business partner Mykola Martynenko, former Defense Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko and former Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

Since then, Mr. Zhvania has alleged the president made up his entire poisoning story, which was caused by something he ate, and the Presidential Secretariat has attempted to deport him to his native Georgia. The Our Ukraine parliamentary faction has split into three groups, with Mr. Martynenko leading the largest one, which is loyal to Ms. Tymoshenko. Messrs. Yatsenyuk and Grytsenko have each formed their own political movements and are competing for the presidency.

On top of all this, a group of 10 national deputies loyal to Mr. Baloha used the Presidential Secretariat as a source of "adminresurs" (government resources) to launch the Single Center party. Not only did Mr. Baloha destroy the Our Ukraine bloc, but he created a political party that is competing with the Our Ukraine People's Union.

Reviewing Mr. Baloha's report card, it's clear that he hammered the final nails into the coffin of Mr. Yushchenko's political career. His vicious, relentless battles with Ms. Tymoshenko ruined any remaining hope that something could be salvaged from the Orange Revolution. As political scientist Dr. Taras Kuzio pointed out during his recent visit to Kyiv, we all recognized this – except the president himself.

In the 32 months he has been in office, it never was clear whether Mr. Yushchenko or Mr. Baloha was in charge. Following a March 2008 meeting between national deputies of the People's Self-Defense and the president, Mr. Zhvania famously reported Mr. Yushchenko's words, "You poorly understand the tendencies and processes taking place in Parliament. You are supposed to listen to Baloha. Baloha is me."

Though he ruined the president's political career, Mr. Baloha was also the only man able to somehow save it. Yet, the president reportedly rejected his proposals to compete for the Rada jointly in pre-term elections. It was the latest baffling move of the "kamikaze president," a term coined by Dr. Kuzio in the early years of the Yushchenko presidency. Now pundits all agree that Mr. Yushchenko has little to no hope of reviving his career in politics with Vira Ulianchenko at the helm of the Presidential Secretariat.

With Mr. Baloha gone, the battles are ongoing between the Presidential Secretariat and the Cabinet of Ministers. The president wants to fire the internal affairs minister; the prime minister wants to fire the defense minister. It certainly appears the president wanted Mr. Baloha to wage war with the prime minister.

"When I heard Yushchenko say, 'Baloha is me,' then I knew things were going to end badly," President Leonid Kravchuk recently told Channel 5.

We just didn't think it could get this bad.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA

KYIV PRESS BUREAU



The tragedy of the Yushchenko presidency

Every Friday night, Ukrainians are treated to two television talk shows where they can view their so-called leaders accuse and deny, lob nasty insults, and spin their political rhetoric, which often proves hollow.

Watching President Viktor Yushchenko perform on the Inter network's "Svoboda" program on May 22, it appeared he will stick to a presidential campaign strategy similar to that used in 2004. (The program can be viewed at: http://intersvoboda.com/uk/Vipusk_22_05_09/video.)

The problem of establishing and developing the Ukrainian language is far from resolved, he said. The Famine-Genocide of 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians must be remembered, its organizers must be identified and justice must be pursued.

"This is the history of our grandfathers and ancestors," he said with firm resolve, like a modern-day William Wallace. "Bitter, possibly. When we speak of Ukraine's history, by the way, like any other history, what is a national history composed of? A national history always is the history of struggle for your own independence, no matter how much we might not remember those people who fought and fight so that Ukraine could become a state."

Hearing such words, you want to reach out and embrace the man, and that was the diaspora's reaction in 2004.

We overlooked his past life as an "honest Communist" (his own words) and his direct involvement in Ukraine's corrupt banking sector as early as January 1993, when he already chaired the board of directors at the National Bank of Ukraine.

The tragedy of his presidency is that the one man who seems to care about Ukrainian culture and language has done absolutely nothing to deal with the essential issues that Ukrainians are most concerned about: corruption, rule of law, wages and economic mobility.

Many wonder whether President Yushchenko has failed to address these matters out of sheer incompetence, or if he never intended to clean things up in the first place. The evidence points to the latter, in my view.

Four months ago, I listed the most serious crimes President Yushchenko has been accused of. But I neglected to mention the biggest crime of all, which is undeniable. It was President Yushchenko and his close associate Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov who set up the RosUkrEnergo natural gas intermediary in January 2006, resulting in disastrous consequences ever since.

Ms. Tymoshenko is confident the billions siphoned from RosUkrEnergo profits have gone into bank accounts belonging to President Yushchenko and his entourage, among others, to finance his political activities. It is an accusation he fervently denies.

It has made a former nobody, Dmytro Firtash, an overnight billionaire, now financing the Inter television network's political attacks against Ms. Tymoshenko and its promotion of Arseniy Yatsenyuk's presidential candidacy, and causing the biggest rift ever in the opposition Party of Regions of Ukraine.

This alleged money-laundering scheme has done immense damage to Ukraine's

economy and international image, giving the Russian Federation adequate pretenses to portray Ukraine as hopelessly corrupt, as it pursues its ultimate quest to build circumventing pipelines.

All this warring and corruption have directly impacted millions of Europeans, who have endured interruptions in their natural gas supplies in the dead of winter.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise that, returning to the government as defense minister, Mr. Yekhanurov again stands accused of corruption – buying food and fuel at double their market prices from fake enterprises, as well as misappropriating real estate, according to government documents and investigations.

Mind you, Mr. Yekhanurov was the State Property Fund chair for three years under former President Leonid Kuchma. Does the public believe "his hands stole nothing," to paraphrase Mr. Yushchenko's famous words?

Now, with the rise of Vira Ulianchenko to lead the Presidential Secretariat, the Yushchenko syndicate has come full circle.

Launching her career in the Communist Party, Ms. Ulianchenko was involved in one of Ukraine's biggest corruption scandals during the early Kuchma years. Inheriting one of the world's largest fleets from the Soviet era, the Blasco shipping company, where Ms. Ulianchenko served as the general director, sold all its ships to foreigners in just a few years.

While the firm's director Pavlo Kudiukin was sentenced to a 10-year prison term (sitting out five years), Ms. Ulianchenko fled to the U.S. in 1994 under the pretext of giving birth to her first daughter. She remained for five years before returning to Kyiv and joining the Our Ukraine movement in 2002.

Skeptics believe Ms. Ulianchenko escaped prosecution with the help of Kateryna Yushchenko, who helped integrate her into the Yushchenko political machine upon her return, allegations which Ms. Ulianchenko has denied.

Upon her appointment, she made her approach to dealing with the nations' oligarchs clear, in a complete betrayal of the Orange ideals she allegedly professed just a few years earlier.

"I would not want, in the country where I live, for a part of the people who earn money, support labor collectives, perform work, make production, fill the budget, for these people to be called bandits, for these people to be called criminals," she said on May 25, less than a week after she became Presidential Secretariat chair. "I offer the oligarchs another system of cooperation."

Given her unapologetic penchant for Prada and her "newfound" sympathy for the nation's oligarchs, it's safe to presume that Ms. Ulianchenko has benefited from "alternate sources of income."

And let's not forget Volodymyr Stelmakh, Mr. Yushchenko's old buddy with whom he arrived at the National Bank of Ukraine in the winter of 1993.

In an interview with The Weekly published this week, Dr. Oleh Soskin describes how Mr. Stelmakh participated in the currency speculation schemes in October and November that destroyed the hryvnia's value and decimated the

(Continued on page 22)

June
2
2007

Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, on June 2, 2007, the Yulia Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine blocs held congresses in response to the May 27, 2007, compromise reached by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, Verkhovna Rada Chair Oleksander Moroz and

President Viktor Yushchenko.

Leaders of the congresses announced that 169 deputies voluntarily surrendered their mandates and the Tymoshenko Bloc confiscated an additional 26 mandates from deputies who said the surrender violated faction discipline.

The move was to satisfy the compromise clause that called for one-third of the deputies' corps to resign, thereby dissolving Parliament. Messrs. Yanukovich and Moroz maintained that the Parliament was still legitimate.

The opposition leaders were confident that Mr. Moroz had more than the necessary 151 letters from deputies surrendering their mandates, but Mr. Moroz claimed that the deputies themselves did not sign their own mandates. Other deputies wrote that they planned on recalling their letters, he claimed.

Mr. Moroz also wanted the Constitutional Court and the Central Election Commission to review the legality of the decisions reached by faction leaders at their congresses. It was suspected that Mr. Moroz violated the compromise reached days earlier by dragging out the dissolution of Parliament because his faction would not gain enough votes to return to Parliament in the next election.

President Yushchenko issued a presidential decree on June 5, 2007, that established the pre-term election date of September 30, 2007, in accordance with the date agreed

(Continued on page 23)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Joseph Terelya and U.S. Congress

Dear Editor:

The Weekly article on the passing of the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church activist Joseph Terelya (May 17) rekindled memories of some remarkable efforts by the U.S. Congress to press for religious liberties in Soviet Ukraine, especially the legalization of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (UCC).

Joseph Terelya's eloquent testimony, referred to in the article, at a hearing before the U.S. Helsinki Commission in October 1987 helped to kick off a two-year period of congressional activity focused on the plight of Ukrainian believers. These congressional efforts were actively and effectively supported and encouraged by the Ukrainian American community, in particular the U.S. Ukrainian Millennium Committee.

One such initiative was a resolution, introduced by Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Dennis DeConcini and Rep. William Lipinski commemorating the Millennium of Christianity in Kyivan Rus' and deploring the Soviet government's suppression of religious freedoms in Ukraine, especially the banned Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches.

In 1988, in an unusual step, deputies of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet sent a typically dissembling Soviet statement to the Congress protesting this resolution as gross interference in Ukraine's "internal affairs." Then-Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Steny Hoyer (currently the House majority leader) and Sen. DeConcini responded with a detailed, substantive rebuttal to the Ukrainian deputies. The resolution passed overwhelmingly despite Soviet protests. Later that year, in an unprecedented move, a large Helsinki Commission delegation that included Rep. Hoyer and Rep. Christopher Smith, met in Moscow with underground Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Pavlo Vasylyk.

In fall 1989, in addition to several joint letters signed by over 100 members of Congress to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expressing support for immediate legalization of the UCC, nearly 200 senators and representatives sent individual letters concerning the Church. Bishop Basil Losten, working with Nadia and Bob McConnell, Irene Jarosewich and others, was instrumental in making this letter campaign happen. To have such a large number of individual letters on any subject to a foreign leader was virtually unheard of in the annals of congressional history.

In his testimony before the Helsinki Commission, Mr. Terelya spoke of the brutal suppression of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, stating that "our Church continues to live and our people hope that someday we will have our day in the sun." A mere two years later – 20 years ago this year – in September 1989, 150,000 Ukrainian Catholics staged protests in Lviv to demand the legalization of their Church, 43 years after it was liquidated by Joseph Stalin. A few short months later Soviet authorities relented.

There were many actors involved in the effort to legalize the UCC, including the Reagan administration, Pope John Paul II, and, first and foremost, the courageous and long-suffering Ukrainian Catholic clergy and laity in Ukraine, among them Mr. Terelya. But there is no doubt that the efforts of the U.S. Congress, with the strong support of committed Ukrainian American community

activists, caught the Kremlin's attention and were a contributing factor in righting this horrible wrong and helping to allow the Church to finally have its "day in the sun."

Orest Deychakiwsky
Washington

The letter-writer is policy advisor at the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Wheeling-dealing in Ukraine

Dear Editor:

Disappointment by Ukraine's apparent failure to live up to expectations in the years of independence seems to be the underlying message in Roman Kupchinsky's commentary "Is Ukraine a Failed State?" (May 3). It is tempting to agree with his take of that country's floundering. But in a letter responding to Mr. Kupchinsky, Prof. Alexander Motyl (May 17) offered a more relaxed view of Ukraine's recent itinerary.

Having said this, I must note that Mr. Kupchinsky's commentary has avoided any notions of relativity. It is apparent that his growing up "in a romantic bubble" (as he put it) of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in the U.S.A. was very distant from the socioeconomic underbelly in Ukraine or in Manhattan. Take, for instance, his dismay over Ukrainian girls in prostitution in Kyiv. Why, that show has been flourishing in the high civilization of Amsterdam, Brussels and Bremen forever, as well as in Las Vegas and New York City.

I could also go into the debate on oligarchs, but suffice it to mention that the rise of the oligarchs in Ukraine (and Russia) was fueled by tunneled Western money (as well as by pilfering of local banks) that has largely bypassed ethnic Ukrainian hands. It is not surprising that the resulting power structures mostly offered only lip service (if that) to Ukrainian aspirations.

The wheeling-dealing in Ukraine (and in Russia until Vladimir Putin turned the screws) are a mirror image of the Dodge City legacy imported to Ukraine, rather than a unique relic of post-Soviet mentality. This legacy is the same one that produced the latest sequel in the unbridled, unregulated financial system that led to the Wall Street meltdown that is dragging the entire planet into economic debacle.

This catastrophe weighs more on Ukraine than its lack of political culture or ethnic conflict.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, N.J.

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.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Ridna Pisia, Chumaky and Vasyl

I sought him out on the Internet, and found him. After corresponding for a while by e-mail, we finally met in Kyiv a few summers ago. He told me at which metro station I should exit, and as the subway doors opened, there he was. Even though I had never seen him before, I knew this was Vasyl. How could I not? There he was in a fine raw linen embroidered shirt and arms full of books.

A few years ago, I had picked up a CD called "Pyty Chy Ne Pyty" (To Drink or Not to Drink), and was fascinated by the performers and the concept. It was recorded at a concert in Kyiv, with songs on both the camaraderie and fun of drinking, as well as its down side. The performers included the Chumaky Choir, the trio Zoloti Kliuchi, Nina Matvienko, the septet Ridna Pisia, the trio Troyan and Olha. Immediately I was impressed by the quality and clarity of the singing.

I had heard Zoloti Kliuchi and Ms. Matvienko many times before, and am a big fan. But the other performers were just as excellent. And the Chumaky sang so purely, clearly and perfectly. Ukrainian singing is beautiful most of the time anyway, but to hear it at this level was really a pleasure.

So I tried to find out more about the Chumaky and whether they had recorded more albums. I could only hope. I did what would have been impossible a few years ago – I searched the web. Eventually, I did find listings for the director of the choir, Vasyl [Vassil] Trylis, and managed to contact him via e-mail. We corresponded for a while and then arranged to meet in Kyiv.

And what a privilege and honor it was. Ruggedly and elegantly handsome, in his 70s, very energetic and youthful, this man is devoted to his homeland and its culture, especially as expressed in song. He has written numerous articles on folk songs and singing (see below). Mr. Trylis is especially adamant about the sincere, spontaneous and natural Ukrainian folk singing – as opposed to the conservatory-trained academic singing. The latter may be lovely, but it is not genuine, and so often it lacks the soul of the natural Ukrainian singing, he says. The singers he leads, both Chumaky and Ridna Pisia, sure have that soul.

His background is in science and engineering, along with interests in many other fields. He has a Ph.D. and a 30-year career in radio measurements, and has translated into Ukrainian or Russian about 40 books, including works by J.S. Mill, F. Capra, J. Campbell, Evelyn Underhill, Mircea Eliade.

From the subway we traveled by bus directly to a rehearsal of Ridna Pisia. We sat in the meeting hall of a community center in Puscha Vodytsia (on the side of the highway where the ordinary folks live, not the other, oligarchs' side, it was explained with a meaningful smile), and I listened. The members of the septet are: Hanna Benko, Valentyna Orel, Maria Mischenko, Halyna Onyschenko, Kateryna Levenko, Oksana Hordiyets, and Zinaida Salatova-Mykhailiuk. Ms. Mishchenko is from Belarus, and the group includes her country's lyrical songs in its repertoire.

The women have remarkable voices, from a brilliant clear soprano to an alto that could have been a basso. They sang such a variety of songs, from sad women's laments to lyrical romances that were just

unbelievably beautiful. Darynka, Ms. Levenko's little granddaughter, played in the room and, I'm sure, was learning the songs by osmosis.

During a break, they told me about themselves and asked about me. Somehow, after I told them how I learned so many songs from my Mama, we got on the topic of "povstanski pisni" – songs of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) of World War II. And they asked me to sing a few. Gulp. In front of them! With great trepidation, I sang "Zirvalasia Khurtovyna" and "Idy Vid Mene, Ty Moya Kokhana." Being from central Ukraine, the women were not familiar with UPA songs at all, because the UPA did not have the same presence there as in western Ukraine.

As I sang, for those few minutes I was back in the late 1950s at the SUM (Ukrainian American Youth Association) camp in Ellenville, N.Y., singing on a grassy hill with sisters Larisa and Valia Mykulenko, and Lesia Falatiuk. They were older than I by a few years, but were kind enough to take this 13-year-old under their wing. I looked up to them, and thought each was so beautiful. From them I learned many of the UPA and other songs, such as "Voloshky" and "Z Dalekykh, Syvykh Apenin" (from Rimini, Italy, where the veterans of the Galicia Division were interned).

When I finished singing for Ridna Pisia and Vasyl they, in turn, sang a song that we in the West would not have known until the Soviet Union fell apart. "Soloveyu Kanareyu" is a hauntingly simple song about someone having a conversation with a nightingale/canary (not a mutant, just a lyrical device). "Nightingale/canary, why are you sad? How can I not be sad – I am locked in a cage. I will take the key off the hook and will let the canary go. And I will go listen to him sing. I live in a foreign land, without father and family. There is no father, no family, no dear Ukraine."

This song was sung in the Solovetski Islands labor/prison camp (Solovky) on the shores of the White Sea in the far Arctic, where so many prominent members of the Ukrainian intelligentsia were imprisoned and perished in the 1930s and earlier. This was a dangerous song to sing, because of its allegorical lyrics.

Their rehearsal continued. Afterwards, as we headed into the night to wait for the bus back into the city, we continued singing at the bus stop and in the bus. It was a moment I treasure.

I am very happy to learn that the Chumaky are back after a hiatus. And Mr. Trylis also has a new singing group, one made up of students. He is also a docent at the M. Boichuk Institute of Decorative and Folk Art, where he teaches Ukrainian studies to children. "They like it," he writes. Regrettably, there are no new CDs for any of his groups, because this is expensive, and they have no funding. If there is a demand for their music, hopefully someone will support their recordings.

One of the members of Ridna Pisia, Ms. Mykhailiuk, said her late husband, Valentyn, composed and published Bahriane Namysto: Pisni, Romansy. (Kyiv: Muzychna Ukraina, 1999. 109 pp.) This collection includes songs about Chernobyl. Ms. Mykhailiuk said that the songs are available to anyone who wishes to perform

(Continued on page 22)

FOR THE RECORD: 130th anniversary of Symon Petliura's birth

Following is the text of a statement on the anniversary of Symon Petliura's birth that was issued by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on May 20.

During the month of May the Ukrainian world community commemorates the 130th anniversary of Symon Petliura's birth. As a publicist, writer, journalist, Ukrainian politician and statesman, Symon Petliura was a leader of Ukraine's fight for independence following the Russian Revolution of 1917. The entire period of Ukrainian struggle for independence is

indisputably linked with Petliura. He has come to symbolize a renewed spirit of hope and inspiration for a country free from domination and oppression.

Born on May 10, 1879, in Poltava, Ukraine, of Kozak extraction, Symon Petliura rose to become the head of the Ukrainian State during its short-lived independence. As a publicist, writer and journalist, Petliura's articles had a significant impact on shaping Ukraine's national awareness in the early 20th century. Writing under an estimated 120 non-diplomatic pen names, Petliura penned over 15,000 arti-

cles, many addressing the problems of Ukrainian self-awareness and cultural development. His prolific writing in both the Ukrainian and Russian languages helped shape the mindset of the Ukrainian population.

As a politician and statesman, Petliura was elected to various positions in the newly formed Ukrainian Republic. From being elected as the supreme commander of the army of the Ukrainian National Republic, despite of having no formal military training, to serving as the leading figure in the Directorate, to finally, president of the

Directory of the Ukrainian National Republic.

Following the loss of Ukraine's short-lived independence, Petliura settled in 1924 in Paris, where he continued to write, founding the weekly Tryzub and directing the affairs of the Ukrainian government-in exile. His ultimate demise was on May 25, 1926, at the hands of a GPU agent. He is buried in Montparnasse Cemetery in Paris. His life has personified and given impetus to others to continue Ukraine's long-fought struggle for independence.

Long-promised...

(Continued from page 1)

advising Ukrainians not to contribute.

The three-year delay in simply getting the land for the hospital drew suspicions of corruption and accusations of a public relations stunt from the media and critics of the president and first lady.

Only in February of this year did the hospital's organizers find land for the project, abandoning their original idea of building it at the elite Feofania medical complex on Kyiv's outskirts and instead gaining the Kyiv City Council's approval to build on 27.5 acres in the city's Holosiyivskyi Park, a national park.

"Maybe [I'm] wrong, but the issue of obtaining land for construction could have been resolved long ago in March 2006, obtaining all the permits and clarifying all the hospital's parameters when the capsule was ceremoniously placed at the center site, and in December that year when it was presented to the nation," Serhii Hrabovskyi, a prominent journalist, wrote in February.

In explaining the delay in construction,

Mr. Myroshnichenko, the supervisory council chairman of the Children's Hospital of the Future Charity Fund, said the Feofania territory consisted of ancient trees which couldn't be cut, leading organizers to decide in the summer of 2008 to look for another location.

To secure the site at Holosiyivskyi Park the fund collected 317 necessary signatures within the Kyiv bureaucracy, he said.

"Of course, this effort took an exceptional amount of time, but not because someone held up the process (although that did happen), but simply because there haven't been any analogues," Mr. Myroshnichenko said in a response to critics, published on March 3 in Ukrayinska Pravda.

That the first lady is leading the project "doesn't automatically solve all problems, since no one ever solved them in Ukraine in practice on such a scale," he wrote. "In addition, Kateryna Yushchenko never believed in applying any administrative pressure."

Oleh Rybachuk, the former chair of the Presidential Secretariat said he can't believe it took two years for a presidential

project to find available land.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hrabovskyi speculated that the Children's Hospital project could be "traditional Soviet bungling, banal money-laundering or a pre-election PR hit" aimed at raising support for the Our Ukraine bloc, particularly since it was launched just prior to the 2006 parliamentary election.

The bigger scandal involves fund-raising. Although Mr. Myroshnichenko reported in February 2007 that 253 million hrv were raised (\$50.6 million U.S. at the time), he acknowledged in February this year that only 100 million hrv (\$13 million) are available now.

Already 15 million hrv (\$2 million) have been spent on planning work, he reported.

The gap in funds is a result of Ukrainian oligarchs developing doubts about the project.

Billionaire Serhii Taruta, a member of the hospital's supervisory council, has withheld \$15 million because he's dissatisfied with the project's development and transparency.

"I have many numerous complaints on many aspects," he told Ukrayinska Pravda in February. "We earmarked \$15 million for the hospital, but we didn't transfer anything because we didn't fully receive all the necessary specifications for equipment."

Meanwhile, billionaire Victor Pinchuk reduced his donation from \$10 million to \$28,000, reported Tyzhden, a weekly magazine. He decided, instead, to give the money to a charity called "Warm a Child with Love" that is led by Vitalina Yushchenko, a daughter of President Viktor Yushchenko.

In all, the oligarchs have withheld \$30 million in promised funds, Tyzhden reported.

Even the Ukrainian government has ducked support. While the national budget earmarked 42 million hrv (\$8.4 million at the time) for the hospital, the 2009 budget allocated nothing.

Making matters worse, the fund was required by law to keep all the funds it raised in hryvn, which have fallen more than 60 percent in value against the U.S. dollar since the fund-raising effort began.

"From one angle, the hrv is losing value," Mr. Myroshnichenko figured. "But from another angle, the value of construction labor and materials is declining even more."

Ms. Yushchenko has not publicly responded to the criticisms and accusations, leaving Mr. Myroshnichenko to do all the explaining.

He has acknowledged it was a mistake to set unrealistic deadlines as well as raise funds through a telethon, which succeeded in raising \$28 million through text-message donations, but also resulted in tax complications.

"It seems like a sincere effort by the first lady to engage in a humanitarian project," said Ivan Lozowy, a Kyiv lawyer and political observer. "I wouldn't be surprised if it got mired in Ukraine's deep corruption."

Following the controversy, the board of trustees of the Children's Hospital of the Future met on April 22 and agreed to prepare the construction site, inform the public about the hospital's progress more actively and expand its sources of donations.

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Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation's orphan support tops \$1 million

by Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – Donations of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation earmarked to help orphans and abandoned children in Ukraine recently topped the \$1 million mark. Since 2005, an anonymous Roman Catholic donor of non-Ukrainian descent has been giving annual donations for this specific purpose. The donations, delivered via the UCEF's "Ginger Fund," so named after the donor, have helped some 50 organizations in Ukraine, mostly Ukrainian and Roman Catholic, but also some Orthodox.

Major beneficiaries of the UCEF's orphan fund have been institutions such as an orphanage in Petryky, Ternopil Oblast, run by Caritas Ukraine and nuns of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, and a new institution also run by the SSMI in Zolochiv, Lviv Oblast.

"Caritas has had to suspend some programs because of the economic situation. We've had to let staff go. But we can't close the orphanage in Petryky," said Natalia Mysula, assistant director of Caritas-Ternopil, which has benefited from the UCEF's continuous support since 2006.

According to Sister Lubov Starzhynska, past provincial superior in Lviv of the SSMI, the considerable gift from the UCEF allowed the sisters to "finish repair work on the house in Zolochiv for orphan children who in these days need guardianship and Christian education, family affection and love."

Though the SSMI had hoped state funds would be enough to allow them to operate what is called a "family-type" orphanage in Zolochiv, the nuns have recently asked for and received help from the UCEF to offset operating costs, as well.

According to state statistics, there are more than 60,000 disadvantaged children in some 500 state-run institutions throughout Ukraine, not counting the smaller homes run by the Church that the UCEF supports.

The UCEF's orphan fund has also sup-

ported a program of the Patriarchal Curia of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to coordinate the Church's various ministries for orphans.

The UCEF has also supported programs for street children run by the Ukrainian Catholic organization Caritas Ukraine in places such as Kyiv and Khmelnytskyi. Recently the UCEF has begun supporting a new effort in Zaporizhia run by enthusiastic graduates of Holy Spirit Seminary and the Ukrainian Catholic University.

"Every time you visit, your heart can't stop aching," said Nazar Krayivskyi, a 2004 graduate of Holy Spirit Seminary and UCU who has made mission trips to Zaporizhia. "You encounter homeless children almost everywhere here." This situation brought the native of Khodoriv, Lviv Oblast, back east to try to help.

There are an estimated 200,000 homeless children in Ukraine, and Mr. Krayivskyj said that Zaporizhia has the dubious honor of being the country's leader in this plight. With help from the UCEF's Ginger Fund, he has opened the Rays of Light center, to work to improve the lot of homeless children. Rays of Light also tries to help children in state-run orphanages receive a better education through informal tutoring conducted by Mr. Krayivskyj's volunteers, mostly local college students and the faithful of Orthodox and Catholic Churches.

Disabled children, abandoned by their families in state-run institutions, have also benefited from the UCEF's orphan fund. Ukrainian Youth for Christ in Novyi Rozdil, Lviv Oblast, has started a week-day workshop for the disabled in their area.

Before the workshop opened, recounted Vasyl Vasylyshyn, local head of Ukrainian Youth for Christ, "these young people with disabilities spent all day in government institutions with little activity, or on the street. Now they feel that they belong to a community. They can creatively realize themselves through work, interaction with one another, friendship and prayer. And in this way we



The Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation since 2005 has given more than \$1 million to support orphans and abandoned children in Ukraine. The girls at an orphanage in the Lviv region run by the Miles Jesu sisters (seen in photo), for example, have received major support every year since 2006.

foster in them the sense of their own dignity and the value of their lives."

Roman Catholic projects also receive support from the UCEF, in places like Berdiansk, Fastiv (Kyiv region), Stryi, and Lviv. And Orthodox projects have been supported in the Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv regions.

Some projects that the UCEF supports are full-time, ongoing programs such as the aforementioned orphanages and outreach efforts to street children. Other UCEF-supported projects are more recently established, for example, support for a program started by a Ukrainian Catholic parish in a village in the Vinnytsia region that gives the children of alcoholic parents a place to go after school, or seasonal, such as a Christmas project for orphans in Symferopol, Crimea, in which the local Ukrainian Women's League prepared their own recipes for the Christmas Eve dinner. "There are only three ladies there, but those three are a whole army," commented Taras

Semenyuk, a 2008 graduate of Holy Spirit Seminary and UCU who helped organize this year's Christmas dinner.

The Ukrainian Catholic University is the administrator of the Ginger Fund in Ukraine for the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

Further information about UCU (in English and Ukrainian) is available on the university's website at www.ucu.edu.ua. Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, which is the largest supporter of UCU's annual operating budget.

The UCEF in the U.S. may be contacted in writing at 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; by phoning 773-235-8462; e-mailing ucef@ucef.org; or browsing its website, www.ucef.org. The UCEF in Canada may be contacted in writing at 263 Bering Ave., Toronto, ON M8Z 3A5; by phoning 416-239-2495; or emailing info@ucef.ca.

Leadership program at UCU galvanizes laity in Ukraine

by Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – Co-organizing a meeting of youth with the Ukrainian Catholic archbishop of Lviv at St. George Cathedral on April 12, Palm Sunday according to the Julian calendar, was only the most recent of many activities of the Lay Leadership Center of the Ukrainian Catholic University. Not surprisingly, the meeting was geared to the center's target audience the laity, but clergy and religious have also benefited from many of the center's training programs.

"The meeting, coinciding with the celebration of World Youth Day in Rome, gathered the most active youth from throughout the Archeparchy of Lviv," explained Olenka Karnaukh, the center's assistant director. "There were some 100 people, youth and clergy, from various districts. It was a meeting of youth with Lviv Archbishop Ihor Vozniak. The assignment of the Lay Leadership Center was to coordinate the meeting and moderate the discussion."

"We tried to prepare the youth not to focus only on limited local concerns. For example, 'we don't have a priest,' or 'we need premises.' We tried, really, to train them how to act at a meeting with a bishop. And then the Lviv Archeparchy Commission on Youth Matters was responsible for organizing a prayer service," added Ms. Karnaukh. "At the end, the archbishop appended a small cross to each participant, blessing them for further apostolic activi-

ties."

The Lay Leadership Center was founded at the Ukrainian Catholic University in 2003 "to activate the work of laity in the church according to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council," explained Olenka Zarichynska, the center's founder and director.

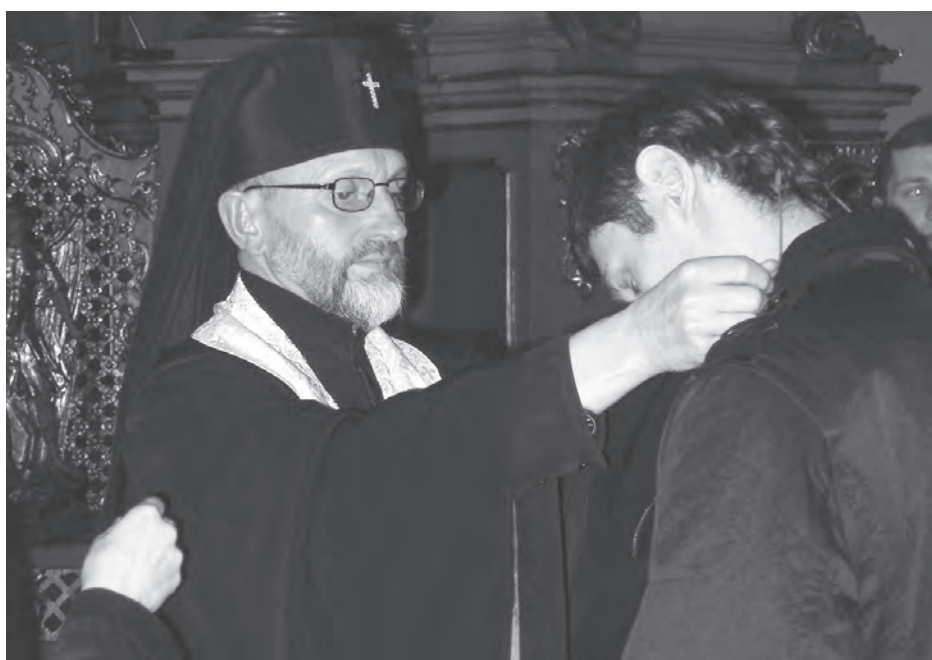
"Our center has not set as its goal to change the world," admitted Mrs. Zarichynska. "But we want to change people, in order to improve the world together. ... If we learn how to work together, to be kinder, more understanding, more tolerant, then we won't be afraid to take the initiative, to be involved and active. And we become the seed that bears fruit a hundredfold."

The center has now trained some 150 youths age 18-30

through its Summer Leadership School. This, in turn, led to a special program focusing on leadership training for orphans, which will be expanded in 2009 thanks to funding from the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

"Orphans suffer from a low level of education," noted Ms. Karnaukh. "They aren't ready for life in the real world. They don't know the basics of religion and faith. They also don't have habits of effective leadership."

"It's practically impossible to overcome these problems acting independently. But nearly all programs for orphans exclusively



Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop of Lviv Ihor Vozniak appends a cross to one of the dozens of youth who came to St. George Cathedral for a meeting co-organized by the Lay Leadership Center of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

focus on charitable aid. To help young people develop their habits of communication, working in a team, overcoming conflict situations, we offer the 'Choose your future!' program. So, together with people of almost their own age from various Christian organizations, children living in institutions can discover their potential and develop it,"

explained Ms. Karnaukh.

Using an innovative approach, the center starts with a meeting with administrators of the orphanages, talking about how staff can help the children profit from the training they will receive. Then it works with young

(Continued on page 22)

Community College of Rhode Island remembers the Holodomor

by Vsevolod Petriv

WARWICK, R.I. – In the past six months the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) has hosted two events in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, one at the beginning of April of this year and the other last November.

On Tuesday, April 7, David Eliet, local playwright and director, presented two 20 minute films, “Holodomor” and “Congregation Vienna.” Over 60 students attended the screening. Many of the attendees had never heard of the Holodomor.

The films complemented each other.

“Holodomor” is about the man-made Famine of 1932-1933 when 7 million to 10 million were starved to death as Stalin and the Communist Party sought to break the back of Ukrainian nationalism. The film was produced at the Kirovohrad Social-Pedagogical Institute in Ukraine and features actors from The Little Globe Theatre in Kirovohrad. The film has been permanently archived in the Kirovohrad City archives and by the Rhode Island Film Collaborative.

“Congregation Vienna” is a visual poem that tells the story of Jewish Vienna prior to the Holocaust by traveling through the ruins of the Old Jewish Cemetery. The stones bear silent witness to a once-thriving and vibrant community. This film was made possible in part by a grant from The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Mr. Eliet is the founder of The Perishable Theatre in Providence, R.I. and was one of the founders of the Trinity Rep Conservatory, now the Brown/Trinity Consortium. He has won several awards for his work, including a Kennedy Center New Visions/New Voices Award, an Edward F. Albee Playwriting Fellowship, an Alden B. Dow Creativity Fellowship and a Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Fellowship. He was a Fulbright scholar in 2005-2007 in Kirovohrad, where he taught, directed and filmed. His plays have been published and produced both in this country and abroad.

This was the second time the film “Holodomor” was screened on campus. The first screening was part of a group show at CCRI’s Knight Campus Art Gallery that opened on November 10, 2008. The show combined art, film and history and was titled “Holodomor: Remembering the Ukrainian Genocide 1932-1933.”

The exhibit was the creation of Erika Namaka, gallery director and curator, who sought to both honor her Ukrainian heritage

by commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor and to bring attention to the gallery. Ms. Namaka, who holds her B.A. in art history and dance from Rhode Island College and is completing her master’s degree in museum studies at Seton Hall University, solicited local artists, CCRI faculty, students and local Ukrainian churches and organizations for contributions to the event.

The exhibit was open to the public from November 10 through December 5, 2008, and featured a diverse art works in various media. A set of 34 factual posters that told the story of the Holodomor hung on one wall inside the gallery.

The original poster set was produced by Ukrainian artists in Kyiv, sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory and the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Fund. These posters have been exhibited internationally at various venues and locally at the Massachusetts State House.

The posters were provided for this show by the Greater Boston Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Holodomor, which is sponsored by the Boston Branch of The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The primary contact person from the committee who worked with Ms. Namaka was Oksana Iwaszczenko, who responded to the curator’s solicitation for the exhibit. In addition, Mr. Eliet’s film “Holodomor” played continuously within the gallery and was featured at the show’s opening.

The opening was a three-part event held on Monday, November 10, 2008, and was attended by more than 115 people. The first two portions took place in one of CCRI’s auditoriums and featured a presentation by CCRI Prof. Cheryl Madden, who delivered a clear and concise history of the Holodomor based on her extensive research. This was followed by a screening of “Holodomor” with comments and background about the films production. The third portion was a reception at the gallery hosted by Ms. Namaka.

Prof. Cheryl Madden, who teaches the history of Western civilization at CCRI, was recently awarded the Order of Princess Olha by President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine for her annotated bibliography of English-language sources on the Holodomor. Ukraine’s first lady, Kateryna Yushchenko, personally presented the award to Prof. Madden last February at a ceremony in Washington.

Prof. Madden is a lifetime resident of



A visitor to the Knight Campus Art Gallery views an exhibition of Famine-related art during “Holodomor: Remembering the Ukrainian Genocide 1932-1933,” a multimedia exhibition of art, film and history.



The “Holodomor: Remembering the Ukrainian Genocide 1932-1933” exhibition postcard features some of the art work on display at the Knight Campus Art Gallery.

Rhode Island with no Ukrainian roots. She came upon the story of the Holodomor when she went to Ukraine in 1999, under a Metcalf grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, to do research for a novel she was writing. When she returned home she began to research the Famine of 1932 and 1933.

After a second trip to Ukraine in 2002, Prof. Madden published the annotated bibliography of materials titled “The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933: Holodomor.” This bibliography can be found online at <http://shevchenko.org/famine/>. Prof. Madden has been quite active working to raise awareness about the Holodomor both by participating in Holodomor-related commemorations and by writing in various academic journals.

Both events were covered by school and local newspapers. Asked about the exhibition, Ms. Namaka stated, “I wanted to open up a venue for the local community to commemorate the 75th anniversary of this historical event. I knew Massachusetts and Connecticut had venues, but the Knight Campus Art Gallery exhibition is the only one I know of in Rhode Island.”

Ivanna Hanushevsky, a North Providence resident of Ukrainian descent, visited the show. “I am so impressed that the community college would go through so much trouble and offer this to the public. I am very much interested in history, and I thought this was so well done. I think it is wonderful that so many came. They must have learned an awful lot,” she observed.



Greater Boston Holodomor Committee members (from left) Maria Sax, Oksana Iwaszczenko, Patricia Libby, Paul Rabchenuk (chairman) with Prof. Cheryl Madden, Gallery director Erika Namaka and film producer David Eliet at the opening of the exhibit “Holodomor: Remembering the Ukrainian Genocide 1932-1933” at the Knight Campus Art Gallery at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Kent State University hosts photo exhibit on Holodomor

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Kent State University held the photograph exhibit “Holodomor, The History of Genocide by Famine,” from April 24 through May 8. As part of the exhibit, on May 1 Prof. Roman Serbyn presented “Photographic Evidence of the Ukrainian Genocidal Famine, 1932-1933.”

The exhibit and presentation were in conjunction with the university’s 10th annual Symposium on Democracy, founded in 2000 to honor the memories of the four students killed during a Vietnam War protest on campus on May 4, 1970.

A series of 100 posters was produced by the League of Ukrainian Canadians in cooperation with the Museum of Soviet Occupation of the Kyiv Memorial Society in Ukraine. The poster series is a traveling exhibit that is making its way to various universities, churches and venues across the United States and to various points worldwide.

Dr. Michael Kalinski, professor of exercise physiology at Kent State, commented that Ukraine’s Great Famine is one of the greatest tragedies in human history that has yet to be fully known to the world. Dr. Kalinski helped to bring the exhibit to the university.

“The Ukrainian genocide is not well known because it was covered up by the Soviets until 1991 when Ukraine became independent,” Dr. Kalinski said. “Since then, many archives have been opened and the truth about what happened came out.”

“My own grandfather, a Ukrainian priest, died in 1932 in the midst of famine,” Dr. Kalinski revealed. He said his grandmother dared not tell him of his grandfather’s death for fear of being imprisoned herself for 25 years.

Dr. Kalinski is a recent Fulbright Scholar who immigrated to the United States from Ukraine in 1991 and has been on staff at Kent State since 1998.

FILM REVIEW: "The English Surgeon" and Ukraine

by Irene Zabytko

Fifteen years ago, English neurosurgeon Henry Marsh was invited to deliver a medical procedures lecture in Kyiv, where he was appalled by the barbaric conditions of the hospital he visited, rebuffed by officious doctors who turned down his offers to help, and overwhelmed by the hordes of, as he put it, "impossible cases" of desperate patients seeking his expertise. Despite it all, Dr. Marsh returned year after year and grew "to love this country as much as my own."

His last journey to Kyiv is chronicled in the marvelous award-winning BBC documentary, "The English Surgeon," and we understand why he is so drawn to Ukraine. Much of it has to do with his Ukrainian friend and colleague, Dr. Igor (Ihor) Kalinets, a compassionate and motivated man who was the lone neurosurgeon to encourage Dr. Marsh to return to Kyiv and help the numerous patients waiting for days in a cramped hospital corridor for a diagnosis. From Dr. Marsh, Dr. Kalinets learned Western surgical techniques and the two men developed a close friendship and respect that is evident beyond their original mentor-ally

Irene Zabytko is a fiction writer and filmmaker of the Chernobyl documentaries "Epiphany at Chernobyl" and the forthcoming "Life in the Dead Zone" (www.lifeinthedeadzone.com)

relationship.

Still, Dr. Marsh has to always adapt to Ukraine's limited resources. One of the most fascinating scenes is of the two men scouring a local bazaar where Dr. Kalinets buys a chainsaw for a delicate brain surgery operation they will be performing together. The patient, Marian Dolishny, is a young unassuming man from a poor village outside of Lviv with a brain tumor who bravely and perhaps naively agrees to the condition that he must be awake throughout the entire operation. The chainsaw slashing through his head while conscious is a testament to his trust in the physicians' skills.

Marian's surgical ordeal is grueling to witness, but he is one of the lucky ones whose life was saved in time, unlike the countless others who tend to wait too long before blindness and death set in. Even so, Dr. Marsh always tries to give them hope as in the case of a young beautiful woman in her 20s whose prognosis is fatal. Both Drs. Marsh and Kalinets refuse to directly tell the patient her fate, and the pain on their faces is more wrenching than the graphic scenes in the operating room.

Perhaps the most difficult portion of the film is Dr. Marsh's obsessive need to seek out the family of a girl named Katia whose operation resulted in her tragic death. Was the visit worth it? Did it cause more grief for the family? Absolution for Dr. Marsh? It's hard to fathom from the film, but it does illustrate the complex

flaws beneath good intentions. Dr. Marsh is human after all, and not always the savior he is expected to be.

Geoffrey Smith, the film's director, has created a magnificent and poignant film that is sensitive and compelling. The outdoor shots of Kyiv in the cruelest winter months, juxtaposed with the wooden village church where Marian worships before taking off for Kyiv, are all hauntingly stunning. More remarkable are the close-ups of the Ukrainians who await their turn to consult with Dr. Marsh – stoic, polite and respectful despite their

pains and needs.

"The English Surgeon" has won several major film awards, including best international documentary from the prestigious SilverDocs Film Festival (Silver Springs, Md.), and an audience award from the Docudays Film Festival in Kyiv. Currently, it is making the film festival circuit throughout the world, but because of its acclaim will most likely be released as a DVD soon.

At any rate, this is one of those amazing and provocative films that will resonate with all.

"The English Surgeon" wins yet another documentary award



Dr. Henry Marsh and director Geoffrey Smith at the IFC Center in New York City before the special presentation screening of "The English Surgeon"

by Christina Kotlar

NEW YORK – Starting with its world premiere at Hot Docs International Documentary Film Festival in Toronto, "The English Surgeon" won the award for Best International Feature. The film garnered another Best International Documentary Award at SilverDocs, highly regarded as the pre-eminent documentary film festival in the United States, which is held in Silver Spring, Md. (A special presentation screening was arranged for the 2008 Kino-Q Ukrainian Film Festival at Soyuzivka by this writer, Festival Director Christina Kotlar, before the film's U.S. premiere at SilverDocs.)

After being accepted as an official selection at another 60 or more film festivals – winning awards and the hearts of audiences all over the world – filmmaker Geoffrey Smith and brain surgeon Henry

Marsh attended the Cinema Eye Honors for outstanding nonfiction filmmaking in New York City on March 29. Their film was nominated in two categories: Outstanding International Feature and Outstanding Musical Composition.

Their mission continues with personal appearances at film screenings currently at select theaters in the U.S. (check the website www.theenglishsurgeon.com) for dates as a way of raising money for a neurosurgical clinic in Ukraine.

Readers can listen in on the conversation with Mr. Smith and Dr. Marsh on a "Film Festival reViews" (www.filmfestivalreviews.com) podcast, Episode 60, "An English Surgeon Is Like A Kozak." As well, they can read more on the film review blog at eyeindiefilms.blogspot.com.

"The English Surgeon" will be screened at Cinema Village in New York City beginning on July 24.

CONCERT NOTES: Two Solomias at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Va.

by Chrystyna Kinal

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The Washington area is truly international, offering many opportunities for young Ukrainians to hone their musical skills. Violinist Solomia Gorokhivska and soprano Solomia Dutkevych, recent recipients of graduate degrees from Kyiv institutions of higher learning, performed at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Va., on March 29.

The concert, which featured violin and soprano solos, together with vocal duets of Ukrainian folk songs, was organized by The Washington Group (TWG) Cultural Fund. The finale, the song "Taka Yiyi Dolia" ("Such is her fate"), to words

by Taras Shevchenko, ended the concert on a heartwarming and poignant note.

The two Solomias are co-chairs of the Washington Ukrainian Choir. The choir has performed at the Embassy of Ukraine in the Embassy's open house in May and sings regularly at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Silver Spring, Md.

Ms. Dutkevych also has been singing solos at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in Washington since her recent arrival. The choir is now enrolling young singers.

The warmth of the local Washington public and the TWG Cultural Fund have provided fertile ground for the flowering of young musical talent from Ukraine.



Solomia Gorokhivska and Solomia Dutkevych join pianist Teddy Karnizan in a curtain call at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Va., on March 29.

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A standing ovation for Holodomor documentary “Okradena Zemlya”

by Bohdana Hawryluk

MONTREAL – Over 300 people attended the Montreal Premiere of the Ukrainian-language film “Okradena Zemlya,” a newly released documentary on the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Soviet Ukraine.

Held on May 20 at the Ukrainian Youth Center, the premiere was opened by Orest Humennyj on behalf of the Ukrainian Youth Association, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). Mr. Humennyj introduced the film’s producer and director, Yuriy Luhovy, and noted that the documentary project was sparked when the filmmaker noticed no new Canadian documentary on the Famine-Genocide was being planned by the community in Canada in marking the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.

Mr. Luhovy gave a background of how the film was made under difficult conditions and how intensely the entire film crew worked during the shoot in eastern Ukraine. He thanked the many Ukrainian organizations that contributed to the making of the documentary.

He added that it was exactly one year to the day that he first flew to the former famine-stricken areas of Ukraine to begin work on “Okradena Zemlya.” The Montreal community’s start-up funds permitted the film project to begin in May, with pre-production done earlier, in February 2008.

From the moment “Okradena Zemlya” began, silence permeated the room. The story of the Famine-Genocide unfolded, weaving through the various political events based on recently uncovered documents on the subject and culminating with the Holodomor in its inescapable tragic result, including the aftermath. Tension grew as the film progressed, uncovering a deliberate plan to curtail any effort of Ukrainians to secure independence for their country from Stalin’s grip.

As the credits were rolling over the film score’s music, silence continued. Slowly the clapping started, growing into a prolonged standing ovation. The faces in the audience showed the emotional effect the film’s story had on them and an appreciation for the film. Among the audience were survivors of the Holodomor.

Mr. Humennyj then congratulated Mr. Luhovy on the moving and powerful documentary, one that he emphasized is much-needed for schools and the general public to understand the Famine as a genocide. He called it a “chef d’oeuvre,” achieved by the filmmaker’s sensitivity to and ability to grasp the subject, combined with his 35

years of experience in filmmaking. With over 40 hours of material, the editing of material to fit a 75-minute documentary length required difficult choices.

Mr. Luhovy was called to speak following the film. He thanked many of those who helped in making the documentary and asked those present to stand-up, including Andriy Mazepa, graphic design; camerawoman Adriana Luhovy; cameraman Istan Rozumnyj, who just arrived from Kyiv; Luba Demko, transcriptions; Oksana Rozumna, as co-writer; Artem Luhovy and Bohdan Paska, technical support; Dr. Hennadij Boriak of Kyiv, represented by his sister Lilli Boriak; assistance Serhij Savchenko and Pavlo Showhaniuk of “Zustrich,” who provided assistance; Marika Putko, president of the UCC; and Simon Kouklevsky of “Ukrainian Time Radio.”

He particularly thanked the late Prof. Yarema Kelebay and Evhen Czolij for standing by the project from its pre-production stage in February 2008, as well as Canadian consultant Prof. Jaroslav Rozumnyj. Mr. Luhovy acknowledged the work of narrator Bohdan Beniuk and composer Roman Luhovy.

He then asked the survivors and children of Famine survivors to stand up. Among the survivors were Mychailo Hayduk, Anna Lencko, Tetiana Sydorenko, Tetiana Oboroniv and Vira Wusata.

Closing remarks were given by Mr. Czolij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, who emphasized the importance of this new documentary, made at a time when efforts are still continuing to re-write and distort historical truth. He congratulated Mr. Luhovy for his determination to do the documentary and called for continued support to help cover production expenses and to help make an English-language documentary as quickly as possible.

A reception followed, during which it was further evident how touched people were after seeing “Okradena Zemlya.” Many commented on the amazing archival film footage, photos and documents used.

Prof. Roman Serbyn stated, “It is the best documentary recently made on the Holodomor,” and Valentina Hayduk, daughter of Famine survivor, mentioned how the film increased her historical understanding of the tragedy, despite growing up with first-hand accounts about details of the unimaginable.

To arrange for a film showing “Okradena Zemlya” or to financially support the making of the English-language version, readers may call 514-481-5871, e-mail mmlinc@hotmail.com or write to Mr. Luhovy at 2330 Ave. Beaconsfield, Montreal, Quebec H4A 2G8.

A Toronto premiere of “Okradena Zemlya” will be held on Sunday, June 14, at 3:30 p.m. at Ukrainian Cultural Center, 85 Christie St.

Bohdana Hawryluk is the cultural chairperson of the Montreal branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.



Adriana Luhovy

Producer/director Yuriy Luhovy (left) with Evhen Czolij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, who delivered closing remarks at the Montreal premiere of Mr. Luhovy’s new documentary “Okradena Zemlya.”



Adriana Luhovy

Filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy (right) with scout-locator Volodymyr Bandura at the cross marking Famine-Genocide victims in Lubiazhe, Kharkiv Oblast.



Film director Yuriy Luhovy prepares Famine survivors in the Kharkiv Oblast for an interview.



Organizers of Montreal Premiere (from left): Marika Putko, president of the UCC Montreal; filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy; Bohdana Hawryluk, UCC cultural chairperson; and Marika Farmus, UCC executive member.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Ukrainian Service reported on May 26. Vitalii Yarema, chief of the Internal Affairs Ministry's General Department, told journalists that the current regulation giving foreigners 90 days to register at their local police station is too lenient. He says the term should be shortened to three days, as it used to be before Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko issued a decree a few years ago increasing the time allowed to 90 days. (RFE/RL)

History not for score-settling

KYIV – Russian historian Leonid Mlechin called on Russian authorities not to turn history into a means of score-settling and policy with Ukraine, Ukrinform's correspondent in Russia reported on May 19. Commenting on the air at "Echo of Moscow" radio on the dissatisfaction of Russia with regard to Ukraine's intention to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava, Mr. Mlechin said it should be accepted that historical figures in different societies and different states are differently appreciated. "We do not have conflict with Sweden because of the Battle of Poltava. If anybody marks the Battle of Poltava, our MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] does not make any statements. And with Finland the MFA has no conflicts for a long time, and they have a different view on 'the winter battle' of 1940," the historian said. Against this background, the situation with Ukraine seems to be the exact opposite. In addition to differences regarding the role of Hetman Ivan Mazepa, there are concerns about the Holodomor. "The issue is really difficult – was this a genocide or not. The issue is for historians. And it started out to be completely denied, as if nothing happened at all. And the people did not die, and everything was good. Well, be careful with this! This is a tragic and monstrous date. The people died, they died here and they died there. Don't pay off today's political scores in the historical and cultural sphere," the expert cautioned. Answering a question about the reasons for a serious imbalance in views of Russians and Ukrainians toward each other (according to surveys, 62 percent of Russians say they negatively view Ukraine, and 91 percent of the Ukrainians view Russia positively), Mr. Mlechin said he believes that such data are the result of state propaganda in Russia. "Ukraine has its problems, but it does not have one problem. There is complete freedom of speech and a normal discussion in society. Therefore, the people are not indoctrinated," he commented. (Ukrinform)

NATO position unchanged on Ukraine

KYIV – NATO's position on Ukraine's and Georgia's membership in the alliance remains unchanged, NATO spokesman James Appathurai said in Brussels on May

20. He was commenting on the alliance's reaction to a recent statement made by former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder who said that NATO should end all talks on membership prospects for both countries. "There's no government among member-states of the North Atlantic alliance sharing this point of view. NATO's position on the membership of Georgia and Ukraine, adopted during the alliance's summit in Bucharest, remains unchanged," Mr. Appathurai said. (Ukrinform)

Help for modernization of GTS

KYIV – Austrian, American, Polish and Swiss companies are interested in modernizing the Ukrainian gas transit system (GTS), the Ukrainian president's commissioner for international energy security, Bohdan Sokolovskyi, said at a press conference on May 20. He said that, at present, the drafting of the rules outlining the mechanism for the participation of interested companies in tenders is a top priority for the Ukrainian government. "Ukraine's major task is to draft and announce as soon as possible rules for the participation in tenders to implement certain projects [on the modernization of Ukraine's gas transit system]. As far as we know, the government is working [in this direction]," Mr. Sokolovskyi said. Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said earlier that Russia would not join the Ukraine-European Union declaration on modernizing the Ukrainian GTS. "This is a bilateral document, and we don't see any point in joining it," he said. Mr. Shmatko also said that Russia could participate in the modernization of Ukraine's gas transit system and partially finance it. "We're ready to partially finance this activity," he said. However, he added that Russia does not agree to the cost of the system's modernization earlier announced by Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and estimated it to be around 10 billion to 12 billion euros. "I heard the Ukrainian prime minister assess [this project] at 5 billion to 6 billion euros. According to our estimates, this sum should be doubled," Mr. Shmatko said. (Ukrinform)

Presidential awards for Shakhtar team

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on May 26 presented state awards to the playing and coaching staff of FC Shakhtar Donetsk, which won the UEFA Cup in a final match against Germany's Werder Bremen. The president presented the Order of Merit (second degree) to the club's chief coach, Mircea Lucescu, as well as orders of courage (second degree) and victory medals to the team's players. Among 19 soccer players who received the orders are team captain Darijo Srna and goalkeeper Andrii Piatov. Speaking at the awards ceremony, Mr. Yushchenko thanked Shakhtar for its victory in the UEFA Cup final, and described it as brilliant. He said that not only

(Continued on page 15)



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko shows off a Shakhtar Donetsk jersey with his name on it received from club president Rinat Akhmetov (center), as coach Mircea Lucescu and Presidential Secretariat chief Vira Ulianchenko look on. The UEFA Cup trophy is seen in the foreground during a reception at the presidential administration.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

the whole of Ukraine, but also millions of people abroad had supported the club. The president personally thanked Shakhtar President Rinat Akhmetov, Mr. Lucescu, and all team members for their decisive contribution to the victory, and added that this victory was not merely a sporting event. Mr. Yushchenko said that such achievements increase Ukraine's popularity around the world. "We have entered the European league forever after the victory on May 20," he said. After the ceremony, Mr. Akhmetov presented a Shakhtar T-shirt with No. 20 to the president, while the latter, in turn, signed a soccer ball. Shakhtar defeated Werder Bremen 2-1 in overtime of the UEFA Cup final in Istanbul on May 20. (Ukrinform)

Czech Consulate coming to Zhytomyr

KYIV – The Czech Republic is planning to open a consulate in Zhytomyr, Czech Ambassador to Ukraine Jaroslav Basta said during his working visit to the city on May 20. The diplomat, accompanied by a group of Czech businessmen, met with Zhytomyr State Oblast Administration Chair Yurii Zabela. Czech trade representatives were interested in investment issues during their meeting. Particular attention was paid to agriculture, particularly the growing and reprocessing of rapeseed, as well as the construction of small hydroelectric power plants and an incinerator plant. Mr. Zabela said that last year's trade between the region and the Czech Republic had totaled \$16.4 million (U.S.), which is nearly two times more than in 2007. In the first quarter of this year, the trade totaled \$1.6 million. Exports to the Czech Republic totaled \$1.2 million, while imports amounted to \$440,900. (Ukrinform)

President against Yekhanurov's dismissal

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has said that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's demand for the dismissal of Defense Minister Yurii Yekhanurov is groundless. He made this comment in Istanbul on May 20. Mr. Yushchenko described accusations of corrupt schemes against the minister as an attempt to conceal the true intention of destabilizing the country's political situation. He said that he did not see any circumstances in the minister's or ministry's activities that could result in Mr. Yekhanurov's dismissal. "Moreover, I want to say that over the last three years the ministry has started working stably under financing which nobody, including the

prime minister, wants to mention," the president said. He also described the prime minister's demand as a political campaign. "This is a political campaign and a political move aimed at destabilizing the situation and depriving the government system of control," Mr. Yushchenko said, adding that the posts of first vice prime minister, foreign affairs minister and finance minister remain vacant. Mr. Yushchenko said that, under the current situation, the Parliament would find it difficult to reach agreement on a new candidate for defense minister. (Ukrinform)

Ecumenical patriarch may open Kyiv office

KYIV – The ecumenical patriarch might open an office in Kyiv. This question was discussed at a meeting between Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I in Istanbul on May 20. The office could be in the form of a churchyard or cultural and information center. Mr. Yushchenko called for the deepening of an inter-Church dialogue and preparations for convening an all-Orthodox council, and stressed the need to hold, in conjunction with that council, a meeting of representatives of local Orthodox Churches. Mr. Yushchenko said that Ukraine remains interested in uniting Ukraine's Orthodox Churches in one Church. He expressed confidence that efforts by the ecumenical patriarch and his authority in the Orthodox world are one of the significant elements in unification processes. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine 134th in corruption rating

KYIV – Transparency International has rated Ukraine 134th in the spread of corruption among 180 countries. This was disclosed during the May 20 high-level seminar at the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine on the topic of fighting corruption. The seminar was convened with the support of Transparency International, Great Britain and the NATO office in Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, Croatia sign memorandum

KYIV – Ukraine and Croatia signed a memorandum of mutual understanding in the sphere of European integration, the press service of the Ukrainian Embassy in Croatia reported on May 26. The memorandum provides for a wide spectrum of bilateral cooperation, in particular, the exchange of experience in European integration processes, organization of bipartite consultations and exchange of groups of specialists in various fields. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine may supply aircraft to Libya

KYIV – Ukraine is ready to supply new An-148 and modernized An-124 aircraft to Libya, said the head of the Antonov Design Bureau, Dmytro Kiva, during an official visit by the Ukrainian delegation headed by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to Libya. "We're ready to supply An-148 aircraft. We'll talk about the modernization of An-124 aircraft, An-26 already used by Libya, and An-74, which is interesting for Libya in its various modifications," Mr. Kiva noted on May 26. He also said that Ukraine had currently supplied one of the three An-74 aircraft to Libya ordered by the country four years ago. He forecast that the other two aircraft would be supplied this year. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, Libya to jointly build refinery

KYIV – Ukraine and Libya will jointly build a new oil refinery that will process about 10 million tons of oil annually, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko told the government's meeting on May 27. During her official visit to Libya, she said that agreements were reached on diversification of Ukraine's energy resources, in particular, about the supply of 600,000 tons of oil by Libya to be refined at the Kremenchuk Oil Refinery. (Ukrinform)

Public supports smoking ban

KYIV – According to a survey carried out by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, 87 percent of Ukrainians support the adoption of a law fully banning smoking in public spaces, including at all workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and pubs. The Coalition for Tobacco-Free Ukraine reported that Ukrainians also supported clauses banning smoking at hospitals and clinics (97 percent), offices and other workplaces (90 percent), shops and theaters (96 per-

cent), restaurants (79 percent), and pubs (75 percent). A vast majority of respondents think that the effect of tobacco smoke is a serious (67 percent) or moderate (23 percent) threat to health. The Ukrainian Parliament has already passed in its first reading a bill on the legal responsibility of owners of catering institutions to provide at least 50 percent of smoke-free space. (Ukrinform)

Decree orders new bill on draft

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on May 27 issued a decree ordering the government to draft by November 1 a bill on amending the regulations of the armed forces in connection with a delayed switch to a professional army. In December 2005 the president had approved a state program for developing the Ukrainian army in 2006-2011, which foresaw the creation of a professional army by the end of 2010. In early September 2008, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko forecast a switch to a professional army by January 1, 2009. (Ukrinform)

New Boryspil terminal is top priority

KYIV – Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Ivan Vasiunyk and Japanese Ambassador to Ukraine Tadashi Izawa discussed the implementation of a project on the construction of Terminal D at Kyiv's Boryspil Airport, it was reported on May 27. This project is being financed under a loan issued by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and under state guarantees of Ukraine, according to the website of the Ukrainian government. Mr. Vasiunyk briefed the ambassador on the importance of the construction project to Ukraine. "It is one of the necessary conditions for the Euro 2012 final match to be held in Kyiv. This project is a top priority for the government and for me," Mr. Vasiunyk said. (Ukrinform)



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сестрінок - Володимир Шумський з дружиною Ядвигою та синами
племінники - Володимир Василькевич з дружиною Зютою та дітьми
- Зенон Василькевич з дружиною Ніною та дітьми
- Теодозія (Василькевич) Репник з дітьми
- Зіновій Мельник з дружиною Оксаною та дітьми
пасерби - Віктор Децик з дружиною Бетсі та дочкою Марійкою
- Юліян Децик
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Twin Cities welcome Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper

by Zenon Stepchuk

MINNEAPOLIS – The Twin Cities had another opportunity to meet and greet its native astronaut, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper on May 3. This event, sponsored by the Minneapolis branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, was organized by a committee consisting of Christine Jermihov, branch leader, and members George Bazarko, Ulana and Zenon Stepchuk, and Dmytro and Helen Tataryn.

The extended Ukrainian community of the Twin Cities is very proud of Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper's accomplishments and is grateful that Heide has not forgotten her home town, visiting and sharing her experiences after both U.S. Space shuttle missions on which she flew – STS-115 in 2006 (Atlantis) and STS-126 in 2008 (Endeavour).

Greeting her on this occasion were representatives of Ukrainian organizations – Bohdan Kuchvasky from the Ukrainian American Youth Association, Olexander Poletz, from the Association of American Youth of Ukrainian Descent (ODUM), Dmytro Tataryn from St. Constantine's School of Ukrainian Studies, the Very Rev. Canon Michael Stelmach from St. Constantine Parish, and Ms. Jermihov from Plast.

Adelheid Stefanyshyn, Heide's mother, and Paul, her brother, were in the large audience. A contingent of Plast members – Ihor Gawrachynsky, Oles Gawrachynsky, Lubomyr and Oksana Shulakewych, and Marusia Gawrachynsky, all from Winnipeg, Manitoba, drove to Minneapolis to meet the Ukrainian American astronaut who grew up in Plast.

Two special ceremonies made this event very memorable. The Plast Fraternity Chota Krylatykh named Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper an honorary member in recognition of her accomplishments in astronautics, space walking and active promotion of the United States, Ukraine and Plast. On behalf of the executive of Chota Krylatykh, Mr. Shulakewych presented her with a framed certificate, its patch and neckerchief. The new honorary member was welcomed with

the Plast greeting "Skob."

The second ceremony was the unveiling of a permanent gallery of photographs and posters of the astronaut's two space flights to honor her contributions and to inspire younger generations. Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper told the children and youths present in the audience: "You can achieve your wildest dreams through a good education and perseverance."

The Minneapolis branch of Plast and St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church jointly created this gallery, which will be on permanent display in St. Constantine's hall.

In her remarks, the honored guest emphasized that she has fond memories of Plast Ukrainian scouting, St. Constantine's, the School of Ukrainian Studies, the parish youth dance group and choir, and the influence these organizations – and especially her parents – had on her life.

Her father, she said, taught her to have faith in God, study and work hard, persevere in whatever she does, and never to forget her roots. Her mother selflessly drove all five Stefanyshyn children to church, choir and dance practices, Plast meetings and Ukrainian school every Saturday (her only regret was that she did not sit in class with them to learn Ukrainian).

Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper emphasized that the ability to speak Ukrainian served her very well at NASA, and she encouraged the children to learn the language. The organizations in which she actively participated, the astronaut noted, provided opportunities to learn, to develop high moral and ethical standards, and to forge lifelong friendships.

The astronaut also talked about her latest space flight, STS -126, which launched on November 14, 2008. This flight delivered supplies and equipment, as well as a replacement astronaut for the International Space Station (ISS). During the 16-day flight Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper completed three EVAs (space walks) outside the ISS to repair and lubricate solar rotary joints (these allow the solar arrays to face the sun while the ISS circles around the Earth), and to install additional equipment both inside and outside the ISS. As a result, the solar arrays are



The Ukrainian American astronaut with members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization: (from left) Ihor Gawrachynsky, Yurko Bazarko, Marusia Gawrachynsky, Oles Gawrachynsky, Khrystyna Cybriwska-Jermihov, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, Katria Hucal, Zenko Stepchuk, Myroslava Hrenchyshyn, Ulana Stepchuk, Oksana Shulakewych, Lubomyr Shulakewych and Dmytro Tataryn.

working at full capacity, and the ISS can now accommodate three additional astronauts.

In her two flights, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper logged over 27 days in space, and 33 hours and 42 minutes outside the ISS during five EVAs. Her talk was supplemented with video clips and slides that portrayed not only the launch, work inside and outside the ISS, but also humorous vignettes about life on the ISS and the Shuttle.

A very special moment occurred when the astronaut showed a picture of a Plast patch and Ukrainian flag in the Shuttle during the flight – a moment made even more memorable when she presented the flag to St. Constantine's School of Ukrainian Studies. "Let this flag show that you can fulfill your dreams, knowing who you are and where you came from, no matter where you go," she told the children. Dmytro Tataryn, school director, graciously accepted this priceless gift.

Plast members all around the world were

thrilled and filled with pride when the astronaut took the Plast emblem with her on STS-115, and were extremely grateful to her for taking "rozviduvach" and "orliatko" badges (which indicate scout ranks) on her second flight.

Following the presentation, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper answered questions from the large number of children in the audience and from adults. It was particularly interesting to watch the children as they listened very intently and hung on to every word this special visitor spoke to them.

In answer to one question from the audience, the astronaut stated that she has been reassigned back to the Navy, and will be serving in the Sea Systems Command in Washington. This was part of her long-term plan to return to the U.S. Navy after her service as a NASA astronaut.

People in the audience lingered long after all the formalities ended to speak to the guest of honor individually, receive autographed photos and be photographed with her.



Ihor Gawrachynsky Lubomyr Shulakewych presents a neckerchief of the Chota Krylatykh Plast fraternity and a certificate of honorary membership to Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper as Zenko Stepchuk looks on.



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Literary populism is topic of 10th annual Struk Memorial Lecture

TORONTO – The 10th annual Danylo Husar Struk Memorial Lecture was held on May 15 on the University of Toronto campus. The event consisted of a lecture by Tamara Hundorova titled “Ukrainian Literary Populism Unveiled: The Question of Popular Literature” and a reception at which a brief tribute to Danylo H. Struk was presented.

The Struk Memorial Lecture is an annual event sponsored by the Danylo Husar Struk Program in Ukrainian Literature of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS). It was instituted at the Toronto office of CIUS in 1999, shortly after the sudden and unexpected death of Dr. Struk, professor of Ukrainian literature at the department of Slavic languages and literatures of the University of Toronto and assistant director of CIUS, where he was the editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine. The program and lecture honor his memory and his dedication to the study of Ukrainian literature.

The first memorial lecture was delivered by Marko Pavlyshyn of Monash University in 2000. Over the years, such prominent scholars as George Grabowicz of Harvard University, Oleh Ilyntzkyj of the University of Alberta, Myroslav Shkandrij of the University of Manitoba, Vitaly Chernetsky of Miami University (Ohio), Taras Koznarsky and Maxim Tarnawsky (both from the University of Toronto) have delivered this prestigious lecture.

This year’s lecture, the 10th, marked a decade of the lecture’s existence and was, appropriately, delivered by one of the leading figures in Ukrainian literary scholarship, Prof. Hundorova, director of the division of literary theory at the Institute of Literature of the Academy of Science in Ukraine and a member of the faculty of Kyiv’s Taras Shevchenko University. She traveled to Toronto from Cambridge, Mass., where she is currently the Petro Jacyk Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Ukrainian Research Institute of Harvard University.

In her lecture, Prof. Hundorova attempted to reconstruct the concept of literary populism as a constructivist idea and an intellectual project by tracing the evolution of its development. This history of the idea of populism also leads to an analysis of the national, social, cultural and political self-perception that determined the nature of the populist identity.

Since populism, or more accurately, “narodnytstvo,” insofar as the word “populism” in English has its own peculiar understanding, can have a variety of meanings in different contexts.

Prof. Hundorova focused on three essential arguments: 1) populism is not an organic phenomenon but a construction of the Ukrainian elite; 2) the essential notion of the populist project is popular culture; 3) the populist movement was an attempt at cultural and social modernization and thus played a peculiar role in the development of aesthetic modernism in the beginning of the 20th century.

Therefore, the role of populism in Ukrainian literary and cultural development is best understood as a deliberate and expansive embrace of popular culture rather than a rejection of culturally and socially sophisticated culture.

After the lecture the audience was invited to a reception. The reception included a brief tribute to Dr. Struk. After a brief personal recollection about Dr. Struk by Prof. Tarnawsky, the director of the Struk Program, Frank Sysyn, director of the CIUS Toronto office, spoke about Dr. Struk’s role in shaping the CIUS and its Toronto office, and in particular about his dedicated work on the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, one of the major projects of Ukrainian scholarship in the diaspora.

A video tribute to Dr. Struk was played for the audience and then Prof. Tarnawsky spoke about Struk’s literary scholarship and announced the creation of a website featuring all 37 of Prof. Struk’s literary essays, in



Prof. Tamara Hundorova of Kyiv’s Taras Shevchenko University.

English, Ukrainian and French. The website is the first step in a larger project to publish these essays, and those of other diaspora scholars of Ukrainian literature. These projects will become possible as a result of the new funding available for the Struk Program, which was the subject of the final presentation by the president of the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies (CFUS), Olga Kuplowska.

Ms. Kuplowska announced that the Struk fund, initiated by the foundation together with family and friends shortly after Dr. Struk’s death, was being transferred to the University of Alberta to take advantage of the University’s Matching Funds Program. Currently valued at approximately \$85,000, the fund capital would be doubled under this program. The annual interest from this fund would be used for the exclusive support of the CIUS Struk

Program in Ukrainian Literature.

Members of the audience were encouraged to support the fund with donations to increase the total that would then be doubled by the University of Alberta. Donation cards were distributed at the reception and were met with a generous response from the audience.

Donations from supporters are still welcome for the next two months and can be made directly to the CFUS office at 620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2H4; by telephone, 416-766-96301 via e-mail, admin@cfus.ca

Those who were unable to attend may listen to the lecture, which is available on the Struk Program website: (<http://www.utoronto.ca/elul/Struk-mem/mem-lect-archive.htm>.) The video tribute to Dr. Struk is available on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeSdUgYKRc>).

It's Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 1)

that the mass media are here. You need to present all this. But please, restrain yourself. Let him [Editor’s note: Control Review Administration Chair Mykola Syvulskyi] report on this, and then you can further put on an act afterwards.”

To which the prime minister banged her fist on the table, responding, “You’ll be putting on an act when you report to the law enforcement authorities.”

Mr. Yekhanurov declined to comment on the accusations that day, but offered an emotional, at times rambling, defense on a Friday evening talk show, declaring, “In principle, the Defense Ministry doesn’t buy anything. We buy and sell nothing. We pay for the services of companies which serve our soldiers.”

For the first time since independence, 210 Sevastopol apartments and 52 Crimean apartments were given to officers, he said, rattling off random arguments.

Responding to the accusations of fraud, the defense minister said soldiers don’t even eat the kovbasa over which the price falsification allegedly occurred.

Then on May 26, Mr. Yekhanurov demanded Mr. Syvulskyi’s resignation for spreading falsified information and a personal apology from the prime minister.

“It’s well-known the better defense is attacking,” commented Volodymyr Fesenko, the board chairman of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research in Kyiv. I think that Yekhanurov was advised, possibly by the Presidential Secretariat, on how to better act in this situation. The classic example is this

‘attack defense,’ which was evidenced in the Lutsenko affair, by the way.”

The Dzerkalo Tyzhnia (Weekly Mirror) newspaper published detailed information about the Defense Ministry’s alleged corruption in its May 16 issue, days before Ms. Tymoshenko made her accusations against Mr. Yekhanurov.

The reporter, Dmytro Mendeleyev, based his information on the Control-Revision Administration’s findings throughout the last three years and denied involvement in any political attack on the defense minister.

Responding to Mr. Yekhanurov’s claims of falsified documents, he said his documents were dated from the prior year, when the lands were largely stolen, food supply concerns surfaced and authorities grew concerned about the expenditures on high-priced fuel.

“Soldiers are tormented by the lack of apartments in Perevalne on the Crimean peninsula, and with the stroke of a pen officials placed on auction the Zoranyi Hotel in Symferopol,” Mr. Mendeleyev wrote in his response.

“The 70 families of young lieutenants could have been accommodated. On 96 hectares [240 acres] in Chornomorsk generously given away by Mr. Yekhanurov, 96 buildings of 100 apartments each can be built,” he added.

The defense minister challenged his accusers to forward the documents to the Procurator General’s Office for prosecution.

The prime minister said she would ask the Verkhovna Rada to vote on Mr. Yekhanurov’s dismissal. She also called on Parliament and the Internal Affairs Ministry to form a special investigative group on the matter.

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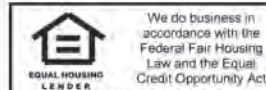
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Interview...

(Continued from page 3)

all. They live in the government's orbit. [First Vice Minister for Euro-Integration Hryhoriy Nemyria is there among others, who practically say what these ministers of the economy are telling them today. The current government doesn't have a finance minister. What can we say when the key figure is absent? And the economy minister is an elementary geography teacher.

So who is Bohdan Danylyshyn and can we assume that he leads the development of economic policy in the government? If he doesn't lead the policy-making, then who does?

[Dr. Soskin asks his assistant to bring Danylyshyn's biography.] This is a person who never had anything to do with being a macroeconomist. He worked in RVPS – the Council to Learn Productive Forces, which was led by a Communist. He was always there.

So does he determine economic policy?

He knows nothing about this. He has regalia. Look, even [opposition leader Viktor] Yanukovich was a professor and doctor here. [Former prime minister Pavlo] Lazarenko was a doctor of economic studies.

So how do Tymoshenko and these top politicians choose their ministers?

In my opinion, the main portion of ministers is people who are chosen to execute certain money-laundering schemes. Therefore, their profession doesn't matter. What matters is that they can carry out these schemes. That's all.

Does former Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk have legitimate knowledge of economics or finances?

Pynzenyk has knowledge, but it's artificial and detached from the processes. He is a representative of a certain school. He learned certain rules and knows that, for example, everyone is supposed to pay the value-added tax. He knows that money can be borrowed through bonds or fiscal operations, such as raising the tax burden, the so-called total taxation of everyone, regardless of whether it's a small business or a large corporation. He knows that you can have 2 or 3 percent GDP and gain revenue from privatization. He knows certain norms.

He was a template minister. He worked with templates that he learned in various economic institutions in European countries and the U.S. But he himself was not a creative and independent macroeconomist, financier. And when these recipes stopped working, he understood that he had to flee [Editor's Note: Mr. Pynzenyk quit his post in January, and the prime minister has yet to replace him.] He knew that you couldn't put together recipes the way that Yulia [Tymoshenko] did this year. And when he saw what she did – that this would be a crash even with his understanding of things – he quickly fled.

Regarding Danylyshyn, he finished the Ternopil State Pedagogical Institute. Our information indicates he taught geography on the elementary level, after which he ended up in his institutions, reaching the doctorate in economic studies in 2004.

Can we say that Pynzenyk's political career is finished?

Politically, certainly. [Editor's note: Mr. Pynzenyk is chair of the Reforms and Order Party, which belongs to the Tymoshenko Bloc.] I think he completely gave himself up to Tymoshenko, then left, never able to achieve on his own. He practically hid in a bush and that's all. That memorandum – he never said it was his memorandum – is not his. He didn't have a precisely argued political position against

“We are borrowing from the IMF a sum larger than our national debt, which was \$15.6 billion before the IMF loan. We are borrowing \$16.5 billion. Therefore we are more than doubling our national debt. We'll have a \$32-\$33 billion government debt by the end of this year. We'll need to pay it off at an average annual [interest] rate of 8 percent, which is about \$2.5 billion this year alone. We'll have to pay back about 20 billion hrv [\$2.7 billion] presently just for this year's debt.”

– economist Oleh Soskin

Tymoshenko. Most importantly, he didn't say or openly tell everyone – when he was a minister, not afterwards – that what Tymoshenko is doing will lead the country to failure. He said this in the memorandum, but not to everyone. And afterwards, he didn't say whether the memorandum was his or not. [Editors note: Before Mr. Pynzenyk officially resigned, a memorandum was released on January 27 warning of economic collapse.]

What do the first quarter economic data prove?

They show that the gross domestic product is falling, that all the indicators are falling, that the trade balance is falling, and that the money supply is imitating all this. Today \$24 billion in reserves are left in the National Bank of Ukraine, losing \$1.2 billion every month. What are you doing with this money? And why are you printing hryvni? In April, the money supply rose to 150.7 billion hrv from 147.1 billion in March, increasing the hryvnia's supply in circulation by 3.6 billion. On what basis? Did anything improve during the month? No, things got worse. On what basis were these 3.6 billion printed?

What about the government's reserves?

They were \$37.3 billion in October, then \$32.7 billion in November. Then came the IMF loan, but the money was so quickly spent that it didn't last a month. They were \$31.5 billion in December, and the gold-currency reserves [Editor's note: also known as international exchange reserves] fell to \$28.8 billion in January. February was \$26.5 billion. They spent \$2.5 billion in gold-currency reserves. March was \$25.4 billion and April \$24.5 billion. Therefore, we lost another billion in a month. In 2008 the government had \$43 billion in gold-currency reserves. Now we are left with \$24.5 billion. They spent almost \$20 billion. And now they will get another \$3 billion [from the IMF].

That's a drop in the bucket?

It's a drop. It will last three weeks, maximum four.

Have IMF loans helped the Ukrainian economy in the past?

No, they never helped. Take the largest loan in 1998, when the IMF loaned money during the financial crisis in Ukraine. A financial pyramid was built, and Ukraine lost a great deal. The hryvnia fell by 3.5 times. A dollar was 1.8 hrv in October 1998 and five hrv per \$1 by January 1999. That was during the presidential election for Kuchma's second term. Yushchenko was head of the National Bank then. Together they enabled a complete theft at the expense of an artificial devaluation and inflation.

What happened to that loan? Was it paid?

The IMF loan? It was returned because those were good times and the economy

stabilized itself. They issued eurobonds [Editor's note: international bonds denominated in a foreign currency] and paid with them. Then they restructured. That sum, however, was less than now. That was \$6 billion. The current loan is \$16.5 billion.

That there is a debt is not necessarily great danger in it of itself?

Well, we already have a large debt. We are borrowing from the IMF a sum larger than our national debt, which was \$15.6 billion before the IMF loan. We are borrowing \$16.5 billion. Therefore, we are more than doubling our national debt. We'll have a \$32-\$33 billion government debt by the end of this year. We'll need to pay it off at an average annual [interest] rate of 8 percent, which is about \$2.5 billion this year alone. We'll have to pay back about 20 billion hrv [\$2.7 billion] presently just for this year's debt.

So this can increase the likelihood of a default?

Yes, and the IMF loan will have to be returned in two years. This is a floating interest rate.

So when Western economists support the IMF loans, are they really acting like IMF agents?

According to the template. Like Pynzenyk. In standard fashion.

Therefore everyone believes that this is the way it's supposed to be done?

That's the way everyone is treated. You have a flu, you need to be cured in such a way. But we don't have the flu. We have the HIV infection. The HIV infection is not treated like the flu. It's treated in another way. And they want to cure us in the way a person who has simple cold symptoms is cured. These treatments don't suit us. We don't need them because they don't implement reforms.

Structural reforms?

Yes. Pension reform, small business reform, local self-governance, health, higher education. No reforms are being enacted, but the IMF is giving money. Fiscal and budget reforms aren't being implemented, yet the IMF is giving money. Why are they giving money to those who don't implement reforms? Banking reform isn't being implemented – wasn't the money in the banks stolen? It was stolen. This is an artificial default. Ukraine's banking system went into artificial paralyzation practically.

For example, there are many social payments which ...

... aren't necessary.

But no one wants to be that politician who says ...

... that this must stop. Social reforms are absolutely necessary. I believe the IMF gave the loan because the U.S., which is the controlling shareholder in the IMF, was forced to do this because a large portion of the National Bank of Ukraine's \$24 billion

in international exchange reserves is invested in the securities issued by the American Federal Reserve system and in other U.S. securities. That's why the National Bank stated, “We are forced to demand additional payments from you, as a state with these debt obligations, because we need this money.”

For the U.S., it would be a very unpleasant situation if they are told, “Why the increase (of payments), to return money for its own securities?” And so they took another path. They said, ‘Okay. We will give you money, even a larger sum, but with such a mechanism that you won't have to sell our securities.’ That's the only way I can explain what is taking place right now. All other explanations can be classified as a criminal corrupt conspiracy between certain IMF officials and the president, the Presidential Secretariat and the government of Ukraine. It can't be explained otherwise.

By the way, there are critics in the U.S. of the IMF giving the U.S. government loans.

This is the same. This is being done because this mechanism is easier, softer let's say, in which you receive this money to catch your breath. But reforms are being done in America. The IMF gave Iceland money, right? Iceland dismissed its National Bank chair and the government and held elections. Lithuania did the same. The Czech Republic and Hungary – all to whom the IMF gives begin to conduct reforms. They reduce expenditures. They liquidate the budget deficit. They conduct small business reform. They don't waste this money. But here they are wasted.

So what's the IMF's main mistake here? Virtually, it gave money to those who don't implement reforms, who created this crisis, and who are responsible for all this and don't want to realize their mistakes and begin to implement reforms. They don't want to – that's the main thing. Tymoshenko didn't reduce the deficit and didn't review the budget.

But maybe the difference is the Russia factor?

Well, there is the Russia factor. It was always there. When was it not there? It's there, and so what? What can Russia give? Russia itself doesn't have money.

So fiscal discipline is more important than geopolitics?

Absolutely. Russia estimated \$71 per Russian barrel of oil for budget revenue. Its current price is \$45 to 48. They are facing enormous revenue shortfalls in their oil sector. They don't have money to give us today. Tymoshenko asked for \$5 billion from them. They can't give us \$5 billion in real, live money. The one thing they can do is give us \$5 billion in natural gas for a price of \$360 per 1,000 cubic meters, like credit at a 10 to 15 percent annual rate. That's robbery. That's complete robbery. But they can't give real, live money.

(Continued on page 19)

Interview...

(Continued from page 18)

I spoke with observers who said Tymoshenko is re-writing various deficits and revenue shortfalls from the first quarter to the fourth ...

... and is collecting taxes beforehand, and in such a way states that she fulfilled the budget's revenues for the first quarter. That's manipulation. If I'm not mistaken, the 2009 annual budget revenue is 240 billion hrv (\$32 billion). Therefore, she is supposed to raise 20 billion hrv (\$2.7 billion) a month in revenue for the budget. She raised 12 billion hrv (\$1.6 billion) in January, if I'm not mistaken. Therefore he was supposed to raise 60 billion hrv (\$8 billion) in the first quarter, but I think she raised 30 billion (\$4 billion) maximum. But it's believed she overfilled the first quarter budget because she transferred expenditures to the fourth quarter.

So what was the logic behind that?

Presidential elections in October. The Constitutional Court ruling is very bad for her [Editor's note: The Court ruled that the Parliament's decision to hold the presidential vote on October 25 was unconstitutional], and for everyone in theory because the next jihad gas war with Russia will begin in January. Her chances for the presidency will decline.

She was counting on October, following a calm summer, a lull, many tourists, much revenue, agriculture. People are in their gardens, gathering the harvest. That way she could have said, "Look, inflation is not high, everything is stabilizing. I'm great." But January is a catastrophe for her, for Yushchenko and for Yanukovych. It will be a very difficult situation.

So Yushchenko didn't select that date for the nation's benefit?

He only did this for himself to extend his presidency. He's thinking maybe suddenly a chance will emerge. Maybe I can implement a state of emergency.

Did Yushchenko, Tymoshenko or Yanukovych do anything to improve the Ukrainian economy in the last four years? Can you offer any concrete examples?

Nothing.

Zero?

Zero. Yushchenko, Yanukovych and Tymoshenko made conditions worse for small business. That's for sure, even for those who pay a single tax. There was [former President Leonid] Kuchma's decree, which was never canceled, that small businesses with less than 50 employees and annual sales of less than a million hryvni (\$133,000) can pay a single flat tax of 10 percent, a large percentage that included all taxes – value-added, profit, extra charges, deductions. Hundreds of thousands of businesses operate that way.

But in 2008 Tymoshenko came and, under the guise of the battle for value-added tax payments, reduced the net sales ceiling to 300,000 hrv (\$40,000). That's a hit against small business and it was improperly done.

Yanukovych and the Verkhovna Rada required that every eighth employee at a business had to be a disabled person. Well that's not right. The government collects money and it's supposed to create some social enterprises at the local level where the disabled can work. Why did it force that upon businesses as a law? That leads to various artificial and hidden schemes because otherwise you pay a fine if your eighth employee is not disabled.

They introduced no reforms in the pension system, which is why the majority of salaries today are paid in envelopes because entrepreneurs can't pay the 40 percent charge. They introduced a sepa-

rate pension tax for small businesses of 216 hrv (\$28) per person for the State Pension Fund. They increased the profit tax from 13 percent to 15 percent, instead of making it 10 percent. They worsened everything. Everything they did has been for the worse, and worse, and worse. And Yushchenko and Tymoshenko.

What gets in the way of these leaders introducing systematic reforms?

The desire to become billionaires and belong to the caste that rules the entire country. Their desire to enrich themselves by any means, having 1,000 percent profit from every operation. Simply the physical greed for money and the entire time, never surrender positions of power.

Could the economic collapse, which began in October, have been avoided?

They should not have passed a budget with a deficit of 18 billion hrv (\$2.4 billion). When it just began and they knew there would be a world crisis, they should have immediately drafted a deficit-free budget. They should have freed up small business, introduced reform in local self-governance and released money to local communities.

Meaning if there's fiscal discipline, then that system can withstand any crisis.

Calmly, if you don't live in debt. Eighty percent of Ukraine's development was based on debt. Starting in 2006, the government and the National Bank should not have borrowed such amounts of money. They are both responsible, because the National Bank didn't control how many corporations were issuing their bond offerings (debt obligations). Our corporations issued internal obligations, which they took with money. Afterwards they started to take away this money. They had to somehow return the debt, but this money wasn't used to develop their funds.

It was wasted on cars, yachts, land, buildings and all kinds of parasitical needs. This open phase of the crisis arose unexpectedly in 2008, and everyone began withdrawing their money. What to do? There's nothing to return. Then the National Bank did its recapitalization. It began to give the banks money under recapitalization, and they began to play with this money on the markets.

In their own interest?

Their own. The owners.

What was their logic? They thought, "There's a crisis. Let's try and take advantage of it somehow"?

They think this way: as long as we don't suffer as owners, as well as our close entourage and those who are in power, to whom we need to give bribes so they will allow us to engage in these machinations. And that our corporations don't suffer.

In October and November, the National Bank offered refinancing. Let's say it gave Nadra Bank 2 billion hrv (\$267 million). With these 2 billion, Nadra goes on the currency exchange market with its credit and buys dollars. As much as it borrowed this money at an 8 to 10 percent annual rate, it buys the dollar at a more expensive price than it was. It was at five hrv – it buys it at six. They bought dollars, and the National Bank receives hryvni instead of having dollars returned. They tell the National Bank – give us 2 billion hrv more in credit. With these 2 billion, they return to the currency market and buy not at 6 hrv, but 7 hrv per dollar. It's all the same to them because it's still profitable because they borrowed it at 8 to 10 percent annual rates and in this way, the banks extorted dollars, stole them and ruined these banks. The money was laundered, the banks are sitting empty and that's all.

But we must name these bandits who caused the collapse – this is [National Bank Chair Volodymyr] Stelmakh, [First Vice-Chair Anatolii] Shapovalov, [First Vice-Chair Oleksander] Savchenko. They know all this, and so does Yushchenko. But they don't talk about all this intentionally. The owners of these banks also should be named – Rodovid Bank, UkrPromBank, Nadra Bank [Editor note: champion pole vaulter Serhii Bubka controls Rodovid Bank, RosUkrEnergo billionaire Dmytro Firtash owns Nadra Bank, and the owners of UkrPromBank haven't been confirmed, but among them is believed to be Aik Pambukhchian, leader of the Union of Armenians of Ukraine.]

But aren't they thinking about what they will do if people lose their faith in the system?

[Mimicking an oligarch] The people are fools! They deserve it. And I'm doing fine. My money is safe – I transported and hid it. My businesses are working. I saved everything, while millions suffered.

But these bank owners won't have any business for another five or seven years, or maybe longer ...

It's not a problem for them. They hid their money in other places and think: something will happen here, the IMF will give money, someone else will give money, and afterwards we will return our money here through others. We'll buy business here through figureheads and will rule again, not directly but through someone else. But you won't hear about it.

Concluding the interview, with every passing month, people are gradually taking their cash out of banks ...

That has already stopped. The process has stopped because there's no sense to

withdraw when the exchange rate has calmed. The banks that can be offering very nice conditions, plus the situation today has somewhat stabilized itself so far. So there's no flight. The flight from deposits ended in April. Those 13 banks under temporary state administration aren't returning money to their clients, neither to physical or legal entities. At other banks, particularly those that belong to foreign capital, depositors aren't taking their money because they have nice interest rates.

If I'm not mistaken, cash accounts for nearly 35 percent of the money, which is a very high indicator. That's extremely high, because that's money that is not in the banking system. It's a parallel existing system of circulation.

I thought the open phase of the economic collapse would begin in June, but the IMF gave the second tranche. It didn't have the right to give this money. It broke its basic principles.

So it only postpones the collapse?

They say we'll get \$2 billion as part of a third tranche. And then what? It won't solve anything. Every next tranche will be given even harder, because the conditions of its spending will be more opaque. And the economy won't improve because reforms aren't being implemented. As much as reforms aren't occurring and long crisis cycles have launched, then the situation will worsen. And if it worsens on top of election instability, that means virtually parallel forms of other government organs can emerge. On top of all that, worsening relations with Russia ...

So very complicated times are in front of us?

Very complicated. They managed to put off an implosion in June, but they merely moved it to the fall. And it will be bigger then.

The Ukrainian Weekly announces a special section

Congratulations, Graduates!

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

The Ukrainian Weekly's special section – Congratulations, Graduates! – offers readers of The Ukrainian Weekly the opportunity to place a note congratulating family members and dear friends on their recent achievements. This annual section will be published on July 5, 2009.

To place an ad congratulating a recent graduate, please send us the following by June 22:

- your note of congratulations, in Ukrainian or English, which should be no more than 50 words, including names;
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- a photo of the graduate (optional);
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The ad sizes for the greeting are a 1/8 page horizontal for \$100 or a 1/4 page ad for \$180.

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BOOK NOTES

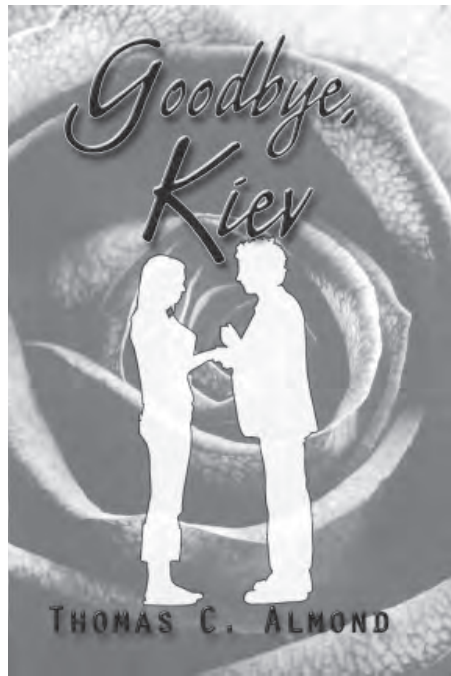
Fictional romance set in Ukraine

"Goodbye, Kiev" by Thomas C. Almond. Baltimore, MD. Publish America, 2008. ISBN: 1-60610-994-4. Softcover, 180 pp. \$18.95.

"Goodbye, Kiev" [sic] is a fictional romance about an American man, Tom, who finds love through an international marriage agency. When his Ukrainian fiancée, Lyubov, mysteriously breaks their engagement, Tom suspects there is more to the story. He goes to Ukraine to uncover the truth behind the break-up, but comes to find that the reasons for the broken engagement are beyond anything he could have imagined.

Mr. Almond is a resident of Oregon and his novel is based on his own experiences with finding love through an international marriage agency. He is currently engaged to a native of Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine.

The book is available on the Internet directly from Publish America (www.PublishAmerica.com), and Amazon.com, and on eBay. The novel may also be purchased directly from the author at <http://thomascalmond.webs.com>



for \$18.95 plus \$2.23 shipping for an unsigned copy, or \$19.95 plus shipping for a signed copy.

A collection of all things related to Andy Warhol

"Warhol-o-rama," by Peter Orcsick, Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-88748-503-9. 102 pp. \$16.95 plus shipping.

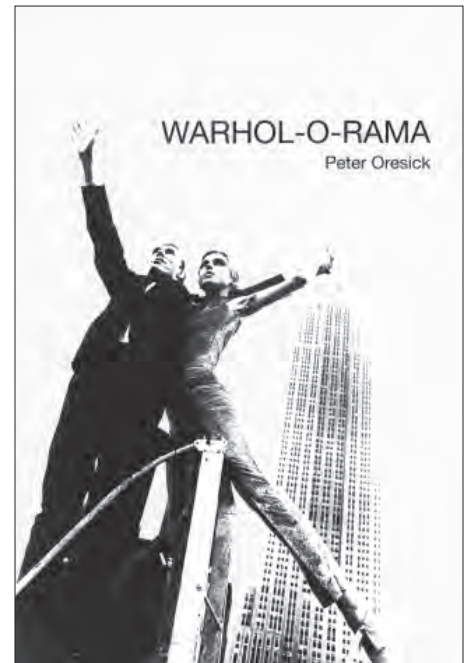
This collection of poetry is a tribute to pop-artist and icon Andy Warhol (1928-1987). It uses poetry to explore Mr. Warhol through the eyes of many groups, including astrologers, philosophers, realtors and presidents. The anthology was released August 8, 2008 – which would have been Warhol's 80th birthday.

The unorthodox collection has been described as capturing the essence of Andy Warhol in poetry. The style and variety of form has been hailed by poetry critic Laurence Lieberman as "ingenious, sparkly, utterly resourceful."

Excerpts of Mr. Orcsick's tributes can be previewed at www.warholorama.com.

Like Andy Warhol, the author is of Carpatho-Rusyn heritage – his paternal ancestors are from the Sanok region of Lemko region. Mr. Orcsick is a member of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ford City, Pa. He coordinates the creative writing program at Chatham University, and teaches publishing at the University of Pittsburgh at Carnegie Mellon University.

Copies of "Warhol-o-rama" can be



obtained by logging on to www.amazon.com or www.bn.com; or by ordering directly from publisher by writing to: Carnegie Mellon University Press, c/o Cornell University Press Services, Box 5625, Ithaca, NY 14850; e-mailing order-book@cupserv.org or 1-800-666-2211.

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Chicago votes for Smokin' Joe's as "Best BBQ Restaurant"

by Matthew Dubas

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Two brothers, Taras and Slavko Grod, had a dream to provide a unique barbecue experience for Chicago's Southside. From this dream came Smokin' Joes BBQ, named "Best BBQ Restaurant" in 2008 by Chicago voters on mychicagofox.com.

What sets this restaurant, which opened in February 2008, apart from the rest is its St. Louis-style spare ribs, cut from the side and belly, rather than the more common baby back ribs. The ribs are first smoked and then grilled individually to order so that each piece is exposed directly to the cooking surface on all sides.

"We spent years sampling the country's best barbecue and experimenting with different techniques of smoking and grilling," explained Slavko Grod. "We kept coming back to the St. Louis-cut

spare ribs because they are larger, meatier and allow us to maximize the signature barbecue flavor by serving each rib separately."

"We grew up on the Southside of Chicago and learned to cook from our mom [Anastasia]. After our dad [Joseph] passed away a few years ago, we decided to come back home," said Slavko Grod, who named the restaurant after their father. "For us, serving up barbecue right here in our hometown is as good as it gets."

Smokin' Joes BBQ is located on 6523 W. 127th St., Palos Heights, Ill. 60463. Outdoor seating is available in the summer and the restaurant provides catering services. For more information readers may visit www.smokinjoes-bbq.com, call 708-489-1800 or e-mail slavko@smokinjoes-bbq.com.



Some of the menu offerings at Smokin' Joe's include homemade coleslaw on a pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, smoked sausage, St. Louis-style ribs and cornbread.

Taras and Slavko Grod live their dream, providing quality barbecue at Smokin' Joe's for Chicago's Southside.

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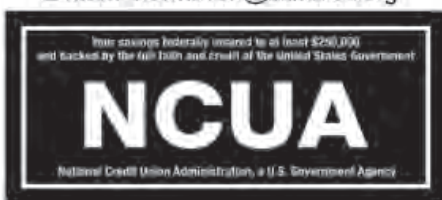
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Falsifiers of history...

(Continued from page 2)

and supported by official Russian propaganda. Not only does the older Soviet-educated population believe the narrative, but the majority of younger people also accept it (Interfax, May 9).

The restoration of Soviet-style massive displays of military might on May 9 on Red Square is a deliberate pragmatic policy by the present regime, hoping to gain more legitimacy by parading itself as a direct successor of Soviet Communist greatness.

The last Soviet military parade on Red Square was in November 1990. In 1995 parades on Red Square resumed, but they were relatively low-key reviews with no tanks or heavy hardware. President Vladimir Putin ordered the resumption of Soviet-style military parades on Red Square in 2008 (Eurasia Daily Monitor, May 7, 2008). This year's show had added magnificence. The number of soldiers on parade increased from 6,952 in 2008 to 8,729 in 2009. The number of aircraft that flew over Red Square increased from 32 to 69 (Interfax, April 15).

During the Cold War foreign military diplomats in Moscow used the annual parades on Red Square to gain a glimpse of new secret Soviet military hardware. However, the present defense intelligence significance of the parade is negligible. New Russian military equipment may be found at international arms shows, where it is easier to examine, than during a swift drive-by. Moreover, the hardware on Red Square is almost entirely old Soviet equipment. This year the authorities boasted the presence of new S-400 anti-aircraft missiles (Interfax, May 9). But only launchers with tubes, slightly longer than the well-known S-300 were on parade, without the more important radars and control-center vehicles.

The Cold War parades were primarily

aimed to impress and deter foreign powers. The present ones are mainly for internal consumption to impress the public and shame the "falsifiers." The most significant manpower increase this year among the units on Red Square was the joint forces military orchestra – from 500 in 2008 to 1,100 in 2009 – ensuring that the martial music would be louder. Another significant change – last week battalion-sized parade columns were goose-stepping on Red Square, Soviet-style 20 men in a row instead of 12 as since 1995 – increasing their echo off the Kremlin walls (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, May 7).

The Victory-Day parades were held not only in Moscow, but also in St. Petersburg and in most other major Russian cities. The army command announced that 26,000 men and some 600 army tanks and guns were planned for parades across Russia (RIA Novosti, May 8). This number does not include men from other armed services and ministries, so the final figure must be much higher. More than 200,000 policemen and 12,000 Interior Ministry troops were mobilized to keep order on May 9 nationwide (RIA Novosti, May 9).

It seems that tens if not hundreds of thousands of people were working hard for several months to produce the May 9 show, at a cost that is virtually impossible to fully establish, since the money came from many different local and federal budgets. A full-scale replica of Red Square was built near Moscow to train the parade troops. According to Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov, the scope of the Soviet-style parade as been somewhat exceeded and "it is expensive, but on this we must not economize" (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, May 7).

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Medvedev forms...

(Continued from page 2)

inal offense. The first reading of the anti-falsification law is planned for June 3 (Vedomosti, May 20).

However, as a body the new "historic truth" commission per se appears to be too powerful and administratively weighted to be exclusively or primarily aimed at silencing the few independent researchers, dissidents and writers in contemporary Russia.

The overall composition of the "historic truth" commission follows the pattern of other commissions that formulate Russian foreign, defense and national-security policies by establishing an inter-departmental consensus – which is the foundation of Russian executive decision-making. The actual composition of such commissions always includes prominent representatives of departments and ministries concerned about particular issues, which might prove an indicator as to any sanction they recommend.

The chairman of the newly established "historic truth" commission is the chief of President Medvedev's administration Sergei Naryshkin, a well-known loyal supporter of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. A number of other prominent presidential administration figures are members of the commission.

The justice and culture ministers are represented by deputies as well as the chiefs of the government departments of education, science and the mass media. Deputy chiefs also represent the Foreign Ministry and the Security Council. The

intelligence community is represented by the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) and the Federal Security Service (FSB). The commission member from the armed forces is the top Russian military commander, Chief of General Staff and First Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Nikolai Makarov. The official task of the commission is to "analyze information about the falsification of historic facts aimed against Russia," to prepare "recommendations on adequate reactions to falsifications that hinder Russian interests and to neutralize their possible negative consequences" (www.kremlin.ru, May 19).

The language is clearly aimed not at dissidents, but at Russia's neighboring states and the presence of such prominent figures as the chief of administration and the Chief of the General Staff might indicate that military action such as the war last August against Georgia is not excluded. Rossiya TV on May 19 accused Georgian authorities of falsifying history by assuming that Georgia was annexed by imperial Russia. According to Moscow, the Georgians gladly volunteered to join the Russian empire.

After the commission makes its recommendations and adequate action is taken to "neutralize" dissidents, the Georgians, Ukrainians and others might face additional pressure to submit to the Kremlin's views.

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Leadership program...

(Continued from page 9)

graduates of previous leadership schools, who will conduct training for the orphans. In addition to the main training session, the most active orphans also participate in a very active retreat at the end.

Also, in 2005 the center started a school of Christian leadership for high school students, "Voice of the Future," in which more than 50 youth participate every year. This is done in collaboration with the university's Catechetical-Pedagogical Institute.

And the center has trained youths from various parts of Ukraine. For example, chaplains and youth involved in student ministries at universities in Uzhhorod, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Lutsk, Kherson and Odesa participated in a session in February. Among the topics covered at that gathering was how to conduct an auction in order to gather funds to put one's ideas into practice – an important lesson in these difficult economic times that have hit Ukraine especially hard.

The center has also offered training sessions in various areas, including the cities of Kherson, Khmelnytskyi and Kyiv, as well as the Kyiv Region.

The energetic and professional approach of the center's workers has caught the attention of clergy and religious, which has led to an expansion of the center's initial mission. For example, at the initiative of Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Bohdan Dziurakh, auxiliary of the Kyiv Archeparchy, center trainers

conducted a session in 2008 in Zhytomyr for 50 priests of the archeparchy, which includes the Kyiv, Vyshhorod, Volyn and Zhytomyr deaneries. The trainers of the center, using various interactive methods, presented "The Art of Church Leadership."

Orthodox believers have participated in the leadership schools as well. And in 2006 center staff were invited to attend the all-Ukrainian convention of Orthodox youth in Kyiv. "There has been an ongoing exchange of experience, in particular since then," noted Mrs. Zarichynska.

Further information about UCU (in English and Ukrainian) is available on the university's website at www.ucu.edu.ua. Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, which is the largest supporter of UCU's annual operating budget. One of the effects of this assistance is to provide scholarships to worthy students, allowing them to get an excellent education that they otherwise might not be able to afford. And the UCEF is operating at an outstanding level of efficiency. For every dollar the UCEF spends, more than 84 cents goes to its charitable programs, ranking the UCEF among the most efficient and effective charities in the nation.

The UCEF may be contacted in writing at 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; by phoning 773-235-8462; e-mailing ucef@ucef.org; or browsing its website, www.ucef.org. The phone number of the UCEF in Canada is (416) 239-2495.

The tragedy...

(Continued from page 6)

savings of millions of Ukrainians. That certainly ranks up there with the creation of RosUkrEnergo.

To this day, neither President Yushchenko nor Mr. Stelmakh has denied the accusations, and the president has refused to dismiss his long-time associate.

Soon after the Orange Revolution, the evidence of the Yushchenko family's wealth came on display. The president's son Andrii was cruising around downtown Kyiv in BMWs worth \$160,000, gabbing on Vertu cell phones worth \$43,500 and drinking \$1,200 bottles of champagne.

My father commented: What's the big deal? He's the president's son. He deserves it.

But the average monthly wage in Ukraine today is \$246, and government wages aren't much higher. Remember, Mr. Yushchenko spent his career working in government banks.

Meanwhile, the current monthly wage of a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada, where Mr. Yushchenko served for four years, is about \$1,700 a month.

I don't steal, Mr. Yushchenko told voters throughout the 2004 campaign, and millions of people believed and placed their faith in him.

Meanwhile, Kateryna Yushchenko is walking around with Chanel bags that cost \$2,950 a pop – more than what the average Ukrainian makes in an entire year.

Construction hasn't even started on the Children's Hospital of the Future, which the first lady said would be functioning by March 2009, fueling speculation that it was a public relations gimmick. After all, who's going to pursue the project once

President Yushchenko leaves office?

"Every day this is delayed, I understand that sick children may die," the first lady reportedly said. Perhaps Andrii should donate one of his cell phones to the cause.

Mr. Yushchenko's political logic seems to be like this: my pals can hatch all the schemes they want, and I'll go on television and talk about the Holodomor and the Ukrainian language. The strategy is an utter failure, as demonstrated by his 3 percent approval rating.

By apparently using these sacred issues as cover for corruption, he is discrediting the Ukrainian language and the legitimacy of the Holodomor among those Ukrainians who aren't yet convinced. And they're the majority.

For all my years of reporting in Ukraine, I'll never forget one particular evening earlier this winter.

A large group of teenage boys was marauding through a supermarket, and the elderly guard suspected one of stealing. Confronting the guard, they all showed him with denials, smirks on their faces.

At one point, one of the boys shouted, "These hands didn't steal anything," drawing the laughter of his colleagues.

Just then, a thug smacked the guard on his head, cutting his skin and sending blood down his cheek.

The teenagers were acting out what they see at the top of Ukrainian society – theft, denials, lies, contempt for authority and violence. Which is why many Ukrainians cringe when they hear Mr. Yushchenko talk about the Ukrainian language or the Holodomor.

For if he was genuinely concerned about the things that are sacred to Ukrainians, then he would have done something to ensure their most basic, essential needs.

Ridnia Pisnia...

(Continued from page 7)

them.

I am in contact with Mr. Trylis and some members of his octet. Meeting them was another magical and memorable moment of my too-short trips to Ukraine.

For more information:

• <http://www.pisni.org.ua/persons/670.html> (about the Chumaky Choir)
• <http://www.pisni.org.ua/persons/712.html>

html (songs from the Ridna Pisnia repertoire);

• <http://www.pisni.org.ua/articles/135.html> and

<http://www.pisni.org.ua/articles/136.html> (My Chumaky, parts 1-2)

• <http://www.pisni.org.ua/articles/140.html> (How to love songs);

• <http://www.pisni.org.ua/articles/141.html> (The folk song as a part of folk medicine).

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at orysia.tracz@gmail.com.

Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|--|---|
| May 30-31 Ukrainian American Veterans Reunion | June 21 UNA Father's Day |
| June 5-7 Wedding weekend | June 21-July 2 Tennis Camp |
| June 13-14 Program to be determined | June 27 Private party |
| June 14-19 UNA Seniors Week | June 27 USCAK Tennis Tournament Weekend |
| June 19-21 Wedding weekend | June 28-July 5 Tabir Ptashat 1st session; Exploration Day Camp 1 |



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 6

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Prof. George Gajeccki (New York) titled "The Social Structure in the Hetmanate in the 17th-18th Centuries." The lecture will be illustrated with slides. The program 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.

Saturday, June 13

NEW YORK: The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and The Ukrainian Museum present "June Wedding: Traditional Ukrainian Wedding Songs" with Nadia Tarnawsky and Ukrainian Women's Voices, an interactive evening of women's polyphonic singing in village style, with co-host Julian Kytasty of the New York Bandura Ensemble, and other special guests, at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. (between Second and Third avenues) in Manhattan at 7 p.m. Admission: \$15 (CTMD/museum member, student and senior discounts available). For

reservations call 212-228-0110. For further information call 212-571-1555, ext. 35.

Sunday, June 21

HORSHAM, Pa.: The popular Father's Day Ukrainian Folk Festival will commence at noon, at Tryzubivka, the Ukrainian American Sport Center, located at County Line and Lower State Roads in Horsham, Pa. A 2 p.m. stage show will feature The Voloshky School of Ukrainian Dance, the Kosiv Orchestra and the Vyshyvanka Women's Vocal Ensemble. A zabava/dance to the tunes of the orchestra will follow. Tryzubivka will also host the U.S. Amateur Soccer Association's National Cups Region I Championship Tournament. From 10 a.m. through 7 p.m. some of the best amateur soccer teams (men's, women's and over 30) in America will compete for the U.S. Open and Amateur Region I National Cups. There will be plenty of Ukrainian homemade foods and baked goods, picnic fare and cool refreshments. Admission: \$5 for adults; children 13 and under, free. For more information call 215-362-5331 or e-mail eluciw@comcast.net; website, www.tryzub.org.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of 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.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published.

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com or Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**

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