Party of the Regions, Tymoshenko Bloc top polls in parliamentary elections

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – The Party of the Regions of Ukraine emerged from the March 26 parliamentary elections with the most votes, but it was Yulia Tymoshenko who was crowned the winner.

Defying most expectations, her political bloc, placed second in voting, steam-rollering over the Our Ukraine bloc and handing her rival and former boss Viktor Yushchenko an embarrassing defeat.

In giving her the majority of their votes, Ukraine’s Orange electorate passed the revolution’s torch to Ms. Tymoshenko, seizing it away from Mr. Yushchenko who disappointed many when he fired her in September 2005 and signed a pact with Viktor Yanukovych soon after.

When it became clear that her bloc would finish a strong second, Ms. Tymoshenko called upon the Ukrainian president on March 27 to recreate the Orange coalition in the Verkhovna Rada, with the intent that she’d be at the helm as prime minister once again.

“Either we, for the last 10 years, fought for the result that oligarchs and clans would not simultaneously be the political power in Ukraine, and today we have a victory in that struggle, or we return to the same road that was personified by [former President Leonid] Kuchma,” Ms. Tymoshenko said, referring to the possibility that an Our Ukraine-Party of the Regions coalition would be formed.

About 22 percent of the electorate, or 5.6 million voters, cast their ballots for the Tymoshenko Bloc, according to the Central Election Commission’s (CEC) final results posted on March 30.

So, while the Our Ukraine bloc kept all the symbols and slogans of the Orange Revolution, it was Ms. Tymoshenko who managed to hold onto the hearts and minds of those who stood by Kyiv’s Independence Square, known as the maidan.

The Tymoshenko Bloc won 13 of Ukraine’s 24 oblasts, conquering 11 oblasts that Our Ukraine had won in the 2002 parliamentary elections. The bloc also won in the Poltava Oblast, which gave the most votes to Socialist Party of Ukraine in 2002, and the Khovrada Oblast, which the Communist Party of Ukraine had previously won.

The Tymoshenko Bloc even won the Sumy Oblast, where Mr. Yushchenko was born and raised, winning 33 percent of the vote compared to 19 percent for Our Ukraine.

In five oblasts that typically vote for pro-Russian parties or blocs, the Tymoshenko Bloc placed second, despite the presence of prominent nationalists such as Levko Lukianenko and Andrii Shkil in her party’s leadership.

In the Kherson Oblast for example, the bloc won 17 percent of the vote. It won 15 percent of the vote in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, where Ms. Tymoshenko grew up.

While Ms. Tymoshenko enlarged her political sphere of influence, the Party of the Regions secured a plurality in every single one of its oblasts from the 2004 presidential elections, as well as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

As widely expected, the Party of the Regions crowned the winner.

(Continued on page 11)

International observers say elections were free and fair

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Ukraine’s 2006 parliamentary elections were the most free and fair since the nation gained independence nearly 15 years ago, international observers said.

Instead of dealing with fraud and violence, problems were limited to those of a technical nature, such as polling stations that opened late, voter lists that had incorrect or missing names and long lines to vote, they said.

“The citizens of Ukraine have freed themselves of their fear,” said U.S. Federal Judge Bohdan Futey, who visited eight polling stations in Chernihiv and Kyiv.

Having Ukrainian elections since 1990, he noted that the Orange Revolution had created the conditions for Ukraine’s first truly democratic elections.

“There’s no more fear, and they approached these elections very realistically and calmly,” Judge Futey said. “Without fear, they’ll have success.”

The successful parliamentary elections were a critical step for Ukraine in demonstrating it is a country that holds democratic values and is capable of upholding Western standards of democracy, observers said.

(Continued on page 27)

An election day snapshot: balloting in Chernyaki Oblast

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV Press Bureau

TALNE, Ukraine – The Chernyaki Oblast was a wild card in the 2006 parliamentary election.

Our Ukraine had won it in the 2002 elections, but Oleksander Moroz and his Socialist Party of Ukraine were always popular among its rural inhabitants, which make up 46 percent of the oblast’s population.

In the town of Talne, with a population of more than 16,000, the wide spectrum of political views in Ukraine’s heartland oblast was apparent.

The Ukrainian Weekly’s Kyiv Press Bureau interviewed 12 voters who named seven different parties they were supporting. Some were less known, while others were notorious.

“I will vote for the Communists,” said

Valentyna Vitkivska, 54. “During Soviet times, we didn’t live too badly. I educat- ed myself. I obtained a free apartment and a free education.”

It was very common for family mem- bers or married couples to be split in their political leanings.

Kin Horholver, 68, said he chose the Socialist Party because he trusts Mr. Moroz, who isn’t beholden to business interests.

His wife, Raisa Horholver, 65, voted for the Tymoshenko Bloc because she believes the prime former minister is an educated, thoughtful woman who did a lot for Ukraine during her months in office, particularly for its children.

“Ms. Tymoshenko endured a lot and had many obstacles in her job,” Mrs. Horholver said. “I admire this woman for

(Continued on page 27)
Has the Orange Revolution received a new lease on life?

by Jan Maksymuk
RFE/RL Newsline
March 24

In addition to determining a new legislative majority over those of its predecessors, Ukraine’s March 26 parliamentary elections will effectively set in motion a constitutional reform transforming the country from a presidential to a parliamentary republic. The results of the elections were also expected to clarify whether President Viktor Yushchenko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will be able to agree on a renewed coalition accord with Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party – could together account for more than 226 parliamentary seats, enough to allow them to form a new Cabinet. Such a Cabinet could depend on the support of between 229 and 257 deputies in Parliament.

President Yushchenko has signaled that he is primarily inclined to seek another coalition with Ms. Tymoshenko, whom he formed as prime minister in September 2005. “Tomorrow we will start consultations with the political forces that formed the previous administration and the same forces that won the Orange Revolution,” he said after casting his ballot in Kyiv on March 26. “We will begin talks tomorrow morning, and this president retains the opportunity to agree on a political strategy in the negotiations process – and the early message is that we are looking to lay the foundation for the negotiations process.”

After the polls closed, Ms. Tymoshenko went a step further, asserting that her bloc has essentially agreed on a renewed coalition accord with Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party, and is determined based on the party leadership of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych, with no suggestion as to what to do with lawmaking. On Tuesday Ms. Tymoshenko as saying, “We should not lose a single minute. We need to make a decision immediately and form the government in order not to disillusion people again.” President Yushchenko has not yet responded publicly to Ms. Tymoshenko’s proposal.

(Continued on page 19)

An endgame for Ukraine’s Orange Revolution?

by Jan Maksymuk
RFE/RL Newsline
March 24

The March 26 parliamentary elections in Ukraine were won by Viktor Yanukovych’s Party of the Regions with 27 to 31 percent of the vote, according to three different exit polls. But these polls also indicate that the major players in the Orange Revolution – the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the eponymous political bloc, called on by its candidate for prime minister, with no preliminary talks. Since there are no officials on the coalition. President Yushchenko will be able to step up the transformation of the country from a presidential to a parliamentary republic. The results of the elections were given caucus but vote against it.

The new Verkhovna Rada will have wider powers than those Parliament is barred from quitting the caucus of the party from which they were elected. The clause is potentially very controversial, as it does not include the caucus of the party from which they formally remain in a given caucus but vote against it.

The new Verkhovna Rada will have wider powers than its predecessor as a result of the constitutional reform that was passed on December 8, 2004. That reform was seen as a compromise between the camp led by Mr. Yushchenko and that by his presidential rival Viktor Yanukovych to overcome an electoral impasse at the peak of the Orange Revolution.

Under the constitutional reform, a majority in Parliament, rather than the president, will appoint the prime minister and most of the Cabinet members. The president retains the right to appoint the foreign affairs minister, the defense minister, the procurator general, the head of the Security Service of Ukraine and all ombudsmen.

Moreover, Parliament, rather than the president, will have a decisive say in dismissing the prime minister or any other Cabinet member. On the other hand, under the constitutional reform, the president has the right to dissolve Parliament if it fails to form a majority within 30 days after its first sitting, or to form a new Cabinet within 60 days after

Yushchenko vows to work for coalition

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in a television interview on March 27 that he will actively participate in forging a new governing coalition after the March 26 parliamentary elections, with about 15 percent, according to the polls. These predicted results suggest that the political forces that made up the 2004 Orange Revolution – the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party – could together account for more than 226 parliamentary seats, enough to allow them to form a new Cabinet. Such a Cabinet could depend on the support of between 229 and 257 deputies in Parliament.

President Yushchenko has signaled that he is primarily inclined to seek another coalition with Ms. Tymoshenko, whom he formed as prime minister in September 2005. “Tomorrow we will start consultations with the political forces that formed the previous administration and the same forces that won the Orange Revolution,” he said after casting his ballot in Kyiv on March 26. “We will begin talks tomorrow morning, and this president retains the opportunity to agree on a political strategy in the negotiations process – and the early message is that we are looking to lay the foundation for the negotiations process.”

After the polls closed, Ms. Tymoshenko went a step further, asserting that her bloc has essentially agreed on a renewed coalition accord with Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party, and is determined based on the party leadership of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych, with no suggestion as to what to do with lawmaking. On Tuesday Ms. Tymoshenko as saying, “We should not lose a single minute. We need to make a decision immediately and form the government in order not to disillusion people again.” President Yushchenko has not yet responded publicly to Ms. Tymoshenko’s proposal.

(Continued on page 21)
Voters in Kyiv and Lviv, concerned about local issues, elect new mayors

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Cities dear to the Ukrainian diaspora, Lviv and Kyiv, have new mayors. In the capital city, Praveks Bank President Leonid Chernovetskyi won a decisive victory over newcomer Vitalii Klitschko and incumbent Oleksander Omelchenko, who was stung by a real estate debacle in March that hurt his campaign.

In Lviv, media mogul Andrii Sadovy triumphed in a race to fill the mayor’s post vacated by Lubomyr Buniak, who was forced to resign by the City Council in September for his incompetent and combative conduct as the city’s leader.

Residents have high expectations that the new mayors will solve problems that are significant yet distinct for both cities. Among Lviv’s most serious crises is its deteriorating and neglected infrastructure. The city’s sewage system is woefully inadequate, while historic churches, monuments and buildings are wearing away without any upkeep from the city.

When running for mayor in 2002, Mr. Buniak based his campaign on promising one of Ukraine’s largest banks, which means that he believes the Holy Spirit is active today and can offer extraordinary abilities accessed through prayer.

Correction
Due to editing errors on Zenon Zawada’s story “Ukrainian Catholics mark 60th anniversary of Soviets’ attempted liquidation of their Church (March 26), the story was incorrectly datelined Lviv, while it should have been datelined Kyiv. In addition, the photo credit should have been given to Petro Didula.
ANALYSIS: Ukraine’s free elections and its kamikaze president

by Taras Kuzio

Ukraine held its fourth parliamentary elections on March 26 in an atmosphere totally different from that of earlier elections. President Viktor Yushchenko can be credited with ensuring that these elections were free and fair; elections since it became an independent state. President Yushchenko failed to understand that his support would collapse. Our Ukraine’s public support slumped after it signed a strategically futile memorandum with the Party of the Regions in late September 2005 – a memorandum that President Yushchenko himself discarded in January.

Mr. Yanukovych is not a reformed leader and his Party of the Regions followed the Communists in sending greetings to President Lukashenka on his “victory.” (Mr. Yushchenko and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed the Western position, refusing to recognize the Belarus elections.)

Throughout the elections, the Party of the Regions continued to denounce the legitimacy of the Orange Revolution as an “illegal coup” and continued to denigrate its supporters as “Orangemen.” The Party of the Regions is in favor of economic reform because it is dominated by oligarchs and businessmen. Yet, it voted against World Trade Organization legislation in 2005. The Party of the Regions is opposed to NATO membership, is for full membership in the CIS Single Economic Space, and supports the elevation of Ukraine to a second state language.

The second reason that the Orange coalition will happen. First, an alliance between Mr. Yushchenko and Yanukovych would send a signal to the West and Eastern Europe that a future Orange coalition and Yanukovych has been energetic in campaign for Orange coalition and has warned against the dangers inherent in a coalition with Mr. Yushchenko.

Two factors explain why an Orange coalition will happen. First, an alliance with the Party of the Regions would be political suicide for President Yushchenko. It would be seen as a betrayal of the Orange Revolution and Mr. Yushchenko’s support would collapse. Our Ukraine’s public support slumped after it signed a strategically futile memorandum with the Party of the Regions in late September 2005 – a memorandum that President Yushchenko himself discarded in January.

Mr. Yanukovych is not a reformed leader and his Party of the Regions followed the Communists in sending greetings to President Lukashenka on his “victory.” (Mr. Yushchenko and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed the Western position, refusing to recognize the Belarus elections.)

Mr. Yanukovych has never acknowledged his defeat in 2004 and he still believes he won the election but was defeated by then President Kuchma. Throughout the elections, the Party of the Regions continued to denounce the legitimacy of the Orange Revolution as an “illegal coup” and continued to denigrate its supporters as “Orangemen.”

The second reason that the Orange coalition will happen is that such an alliance between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovych would send a signal to the EU and NATO that the Orange Revolution is in retreat. The EU already is in its attitudes toward Ukraine and the Orange Alliance with the Party of the Regions would give Ukraine the support it needs to make its case.

The third reason is that the Orange coalition will be restored is that such an alliance between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovych would send a signal to the EU and NATO that the Orange Revolution is in retreat. The EU already is in its attitudes toward Ukraine and the Orange Alliance with the Party of the Regions would give Ukraine the support it needs to make its case.
UWC: elections legitimate, fair

Below is the statement of the Ukrainian World Congress regarding the parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The statement was released on March 27.

International observers from the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), totalling 221 people from seven countries (the Russian Federation, at 150 observers) were dispersed across 19 regions (oblasts) of Ukraine prior to and on the day of the elections where they actively participated in observing the election process.

A total of 34,000 electoral districts, UWC observers visited over 3,000 (i.e. 10 percent). On the basis of information received by the UWC mission coordinator, the following determinations have been made:

- the elections proceeded according to detailed, transparent, non-partisan electoral legislation;
- the elections were transparent, democratic, fair and honest; and
- the major breaches of the law were noted.

The 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine were conducted in a free, open and transparent manner.

International observers from the UCCA have registered insignificant technical problems, mainly, misspellings or other minor inconsistencies in the voter lists and the lack of space, which interfered with the voters’ ability to cast their votes with secrecy. It is necessary to note the following organizational issues:

- Some members of the electoral commissions did not possess sufficient legal knowledge.
- Polling stations were not adequately equipped.
- There were inefficiencies in the UCCA’s technical problems, mainly, misspellings or other minor inconsistencies in the voter lists and the lack of space, which interfered with the voters’ ability to cast their votes with secrecy. It is necessary to note the following organizational issues:

The UCCA has registered insignificant technical problems, mainly, misspellings or other minor inconsistencies in the voter lists and the lack of space, which interfered with the voters’ ability to cast their votes with secrecy. It is necessary to note the following organizational issues:

- Some members of the electoral commissions did not possess sufficient legal knowledge.
- Polling stations were not adequately equipped.
- There were inefficiencies in the UCCA’s technical systems.

In addition, UCCA observers, who have a long-time experience of observing parliamentary and presidential elections (1994, 1998, 1999, 2002, and 2004), underscored that the pre-electoral campaign and the atmosphere in Ukraine on the whole were democratic. All political forces had equal access to the media, and there was no evidence of government interference, as opposed to the previous campaigns.

In order to minimize the time needed to count the votes as well as to simplify the voting process for the Ukrainian electorate, the UCCA proposed that parliamentary and local elections be held separately. The UCCA’s call was also endorsed by the authorities, including professionals familiar with the electoral legislation and elections procedures of electoral commissions.

The UCCA expressed sincere gratitude to the Central Elections Commission (CEC) of Ukraine headed by Yaroslav Davydovych, for overall cooperation and the chance to observe the elections. This allowed the UCCA to be a valuable factor in establishing Ukraine’s democracy yet again.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America also congratulated the people of Ukraine, noting that it “joins them in celebrating a new victory of democracy.”

Voters’ committees issue statement

Following is the full text of the preliminary statement of the Ukraine Observer Mission.

Canadian monitors praise conduct of elections

WINNIPEG – Canadian election observers monitoring Ukraine’s parliamentary elections on March 26 called the hotline to provide or request information. The voting for parliamentary and local elections took place and was conducted under free and transparent conditions.

The organization also reported that election day was peaceful, despite over-crowding observed in 30 percent of the polling stations. The observers added that the elections were conducted in a free, open and transparent manner.

Mr. Grod said it will take at least another day until final results are known. The observers have to check the election results to verify that they were free and fair. They have to check the election results to verify that they were free and fair. The observers have to check the election results to verify that they were free and fair. The observers have to check the election results to verify that they were free and fair. The observers have to check the election results to verify that they were free and fair.

Unlike Canada’s first-past-the-post method of elections, Ukraine has adopted a mixed-member proportional representation system under which elected candidates are select-

Mr. Gucht said.

“It shows that Ukraine has already made considerable progress. However, these positive dynamics should be pursued in order to further strengthen democracy and the rule of law in the country,” he concluded.

Mr. Grod noted.
FOR THE RECORD: Members of the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition

On March 8, the House of Representatives approved HR 1053 to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The Senate followed suit the next day. President George W. Bush signed the bill into law on March 23.

For the historical record, the Ukrainian Weekly is publishing the complete list of members of the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition, an ad hoc group whose goal was the lifting of Jackson-Vanik restrictions and the granting of permanent normal trade relations to Ukraine.

Membership List, March 2006

Ambassador Steven Pifer and Ambassador William Miller, Co-Chairmen

ABEA Ltd.

ACDI/VOCA

Adams and Reese LLP

AES Corp.

Affiliated Appraisers

American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine

American Jewish Committee

American Jewish Congress

American International Group (AIG)

American Ukrainian Medical Foundation

American University in Ukraine

Andrew J. Futy & Associates

Agora View Dental Clinic, Mount Prospect, Ill.

Aspect Energy LLC

Association for the Democratization of Ukraine

Association of American University of Ukrainian Descent (DOUD)

Atlantic Group Ltd.

“Awarening” Independent Film Studio A W and Sons Inc.

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz

Berdual Reapers

B’nai B’rith International

Boeing

Boulevard Agrotechnica Machina (BAM) America

Borough of Roselle Park, N.J.

BRAMA Inc.

Breakthrough to People Network Inc.

Breeze Ventures Management

BSI Group

Bucket Orbis Care International

Canada-Ukraine Foundation

Cape Point Capital Inc.

Case New Holland LLC

Cardinal Resources PLC

Cargill Inc.

Center for US-Ukrainian Relations, New York

Chadbourne & Parke

Chadbourne & Parke

Chadbourne & Parke

Chicago Kyiv Sister Cities Committee

Chopivsky Family Foundation

Coca-Cola Co.

Conlan & Associates

Council of Ukrainian-American Organizations of Greater Hartford

Crestway Manor Aptis Ltd.

Customs, Trade & Risk Management Services Ltd.

David D. Sweeney & Sons International Ltd.

Democrats Abroad – Ukraine Chapter

Diasporic Enterprises

Dr. James Mace Holodomor

Genocide Memorial Fund

Duke Group Holding Corp.

Dai-Repsi Group

Dai-Repsi Group

Dai-Repsi Group

Dai-Repsi Group

DeVito Worldwide

ECData Inc.

Energy Alliance

Excelsio Communications

Exquisite Elixir Inc.

Eye Center of Delaware

Festive Designs by Katya, Chicago

“Freedom” Ukrainian-American Publishing House

GN Associates

Gold Coast Construction

Gold Coast Properties Inc.

Gondage Foundation

Gordon C. James Public Relations

Gropnet Color Inc.

Gropnet Nertal Technologies Inc.

GroTech Inc.

Hamala South Travel

Heller & Rosenberg Law Firm

Heritage Foundation of 1st Security

Federal Savings Bank, Chicago

Hollywood Trident Foundation

Holodomor Survivors Inc.

Inco Americas

Independent Voters for Equal Education and Opportunity

International Republican Institute

International Ukrainian Genocide–Holodomor Committee

Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities Committee

ISTIL (Ukraine)

ISTIL Group Inc.

Ivan Bahalynsky Foundation, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs

John A. Wood, Associates Inc.

John Deere

John Wood Ministries Inc.

Kalib Lewin Law Firm

Kiev-Atlantic Ukraine

Kolzab Society Ltd.

Kraft Foods Inc.

Kristal Realty Investments

Kvazar-Micro Corp.

Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America

Largo Asset Management LLC

Larry M. Walker Ministries Inc.

L. B. Lyons & Co.

Lemberg Unternehmensberatung GmbH

Light of Crime Foundation

Lithuanian-American Community Inc.

LPL Financial Services Inc.

MCCOR & Gas International

Maple Investments

Media Finance Management LLC

Medical Relief Charity Fund

Melitopol Tractor Hydro Units Plant

Meta

Ministering to Ministers Foundation Inc.

MJ Asset Management LLC

Money Handling Systems Inc.

NAS Global Trade Ltd.

National Conference on Soviet Jewry

National Tribune

Nealon and Associates PC

New Millennium Strategies

New Roots Restoration

North Winnipeg Credit Union Limited

Winnipeg

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Ozda, Ghindik, Stetsiv & Farion

Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine Inc.

Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine

Paco Linko International

Parents Targeting Achievement

Parents Targeting Opportunity

Perehid Media Limited

Perehid Outdoor

Perehid Business Publishing

Piedmont Trading Inc.

Plant Ukrainian Scouting Organization

Poltava Confectionery

Pro Trade Group

Pro-W International

Raymond Linensmeyer & Associates

Rescue Inc.

Renaissance Consulting

Richard W. Murphy Consulting Group

Ring Publishing

RUBIK Subject Movement to aid Democracy in Ukraine, Chicago

Russian-Ukrainian Legal Group PA

Russia & Vecchi LLC, Moscow

Salams Law Firm

Sevastopol Shipyard

Shevchenko Scientific Society

Silk and Goldado

Sivka Venture Inc.

Smaglalbeyner Earning Markets Private Equity Investment Group

Sigufer & Co. LLC

Skuraybe Group LLC

Society for Fostering Jewish Ukrainian Relations

Softline

Solid Team LLC

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP

St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Bloomingdale, Ill.

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral – BMV Sodality, Chicago

St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainians Catholics Inc., U.S.A.

Stutsvan

Sweet Analysis Services Inc.

Techinvest

TEREX Corp.

Town of Ithaca, New York

The Action Ukraine Report (AUR)

The Bleyzer Foundation

The International Medical Education Foundation Inc.

The PBN Company

The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

The Ukrainian Museum

The Washington Group

Theatrical Resource LLC

UBCTV

UkriAgroAssets LLC

UkrAgroIndustries

Ukraine-United States Business Council

Ukrainian Academic and Professional Association

Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A.

Ukrainian American Bar Association

Ukrainian American Chamber of Commerce

Ukrainian American Civil Liberties Association

Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida

Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

Ukrainian-American Environmental Association

Ukrainian-American Freedom Association

Ukrainian-American Senior Citizens Association

Ukrainian American Soccer Association Inc.

Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub

Ukrainian Youth Association (SBU)

Ukrainian Association in Austria

Ukrainian Citizens International Association

Ukrainian Community Action Network, Chicago

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Illinois Branch

Ukrainian Cossack Brotherhood, Chicago

Ukrainian Credit Union Development Committee

Ukrainian Dance Cultural Center, Fairfax, Va.

Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute

Ukrainian Development Company LLC

Ukrainian Education and Cultural Center

Ukrainian Engineering’s Society of America Inc., Philadelphia

Ukrainian Federal Credit Union

Ukrainian Federation of America

Ukrainian Fraternal Association

Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation, Chicago

Ukrainian Gold Cross Inc.

Ukrainian Holodomor Exhibition Committee

Ukrainian Human Rights Committee

Ukrainian Institute of America

Ukrainian Museum-Archives, Cleveland

Ukrainian National Credit Union Association

Ukrainian National Organization

Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago

Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Inc.


Ukrainian Selfreliance New England

Ukrainian Federal Credit Union

Ukrainian Wave Radio Program, Chicago

UKRUSA International Ltd.

United Software Corp.

United Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater New York

United Ukrainian Americans of Greater Cleveland (UZIO)

Usability Matrix Corp.

U.S. Baltic Foundation

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF)

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

Vantage Enterprises LLC

Venable LLP

VISO Corp.

Volia Cable

Volia Software Inc.

Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

Westinghouse

Wilton S. Triff Photography

WJ Group of Agricultural Companies

WJ Hopper & Co. Ltd.

World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations

World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations, Financial Committee

World League of Ukrainian Political Organizations

www.ArtUkraine.com Information Service

Zaporizhya Meat Processing

Zen Architects

With the President George W. Bush during the signing ceremony (from left) are: Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and Reps. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Candice Miller (R-Mich.) (hidden), Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) and Michael Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.).
National Fraternal Congress unveils “Fraternalists in Action” program

OAK BROOK, Ill. – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCa) on Jan. 17 unveiled its new fraternal recognition program, “Fraternalists in Action,” that will highlight the many contributions of the NFCA’s member-societies and their members to local communities throughout the country.

This public awareness program was approved by the NFCA board of directors at its March 6, meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz. The NFCA Fraternalists in Action Program consists of two parts: weekly/monthly recognition of individual fraternal achievement and involvement of elected officials in lodge activities.

The first part of the program will serve to recognize and highlight fraternal efforts and individual achievements on a weekly basis for entire year and then again every month in Washington. The NFCA’s recognition program will seek to put a face on fraternalism by recognizing five different “Fraternal MVPs” (Most Valuable Participants) each week for their fraternal accomplishments.

The names of these Fraternal MVPs will be submitted by the NFCA’s 76 member-societies. (Because of the diversity of size among the NFCA membership, member-societies will be divided into five different groups based on net assets. Each month, the NFCA will fly five fraternalists, one randomly selected from each group for that month to Washington, to meet and be recognized by their respective members of Congress.

The second part will serve to involve members of Congress, as well as state and local elected officials, in membership-society lodge activities and events. Many member-societies maintain at least a partial calendar of local lodge activities, functions or events. The NFCA will ask its member-societies to share this information that the NFCA can match up events with dates when the member of Congress typically is in his/her state (senators) district (representatives).

Because the NFCA already has the names and contact information of congressional candidates through CAPWiz, it will not be difficult for the NFCA to extend, in the name of a member-society, an invitation to a member of Congress to attend, participate in or speak at a lodge function or event. The NFCA also will be able to follow up on these invitations. While such invitations compete for time on a senator’s or representative’s busy schedule, all it takes is one or two acceptances by that senator or representative to see and understand fraternalism.

NFCA headquarters staff will execute the NFCA Fraternalists in Action program with board oversight and input from fraternal communicators. The NFCA also will coordinate all activities for the program, including coordinating press contacts with the member-societies’ home offices, as well as with congressional offices, drafting and distributing press releases to local and/or national media, posting information on the NFCA website, publishing studies in Fraternal Advantage, arranging for a photographer for photos with the members of Congress, creating a quarterly report/newsletter on the Fraternal MVPs for that quarter, and any other media coordination that is necessary.

“The Fraternalists in Action Program is ongoing, establishes a fraternal presence on Capitol Hill, recognizes fraternal accomplishments, and, best of all, has a negligible impact on the 2006 budget,” said NFCa President and CEO Frederick H. Grubbe. “Every month, five constituent fraternalists will meet with their respective members of Congress (two senators, district representative and home office district representative). Meanwhile, back in the states and individual congressional districts, other members of Congress will be invited to attend fraternal events.

“The message being conveyed is consistent and uniform,” said NFCa Chair of the Board Michael J. Wade. “Thus, the board’s objective of complementing our Washington, D.C., lobbying efforts is accomplished every week with the implementation of the Fraternalists in Action program. It personalizes modern fraternalism for members of Congress by putting a name and a face to what we previously described to them, and it creates public awareness of fraternal benefit societies and individual fraternalists.”

Specific information on the Fraternalists in Action program, including Fraternal MVP qualifications and program requirements, will be sent to all member-societies this month, as well as posted on the NFCA website, www.nfcanet.org.

“The NFCA’s clear, No. 1 priority is to establish a public awareness presence in Washington, D.C., that engages and educates members of Congress and their staff members,” Mr. Wade said. “Therefore, I call on all member-societies to participate in this exciting new program. As we continue to defend our 501(c) (8) tax exemption, we need to keep fraternalism and fraternalists in front of our federal and state legislators.”

Initially, the NFCA intended to hire a public relations firm to help create a fraternal presence in Washington. However, after reviewing a number of proposals with varying programmatic elements, the board concluded that the NFCA should create and administer a national fraternal recognition program versus hiring an outside firm.

“Bringing this program in-house allows the NFCA to develop and control the message on behalf of its member-societies,” Mr. Grubbe said. “Further, it eliminates the expense to educate a public relations firm about fraternalism and fraternal benefit societies. Eliminating the learning curve allows us to implement the program quickly, without any hidden costs or program surprises.”

The 120-year-old NFCA unites 76 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association’s membership represents almost 10 million people in 36,000 local chapters, making it one of the continent’s largest member networks.

Among its members is the Ukrainian National Association.

Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportu-

ities. Combined, the NFCA’s member-societies maintain more than $315 billion of life insurance in force and, in 2004 alone, distributed almost $390 million in charitable and fraternal programs. In addition, the fraternalists volunteered approximately 91.5 million hours toward community-service programs during that same period.

Do you know why we’re so happy?

Our parents and grandparents invested in our future by purchasing an endowment and life insurance policy for each of us from the Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

They purchased prepaid policies on account of the low premium rate for our age group. If you’d like to be smiling like us, please have your parents or grandparents call the UNA at 1-800-253-9862. They will be happy to assist you!
**The Ukrainian Weekly**

**Winners and losers**

The 2006 parliamentary elections had some clear winners, and some clear losers. First among the winners were the people of Ukraine, as the elections, by all accounts, were a huge success and evidence that democracy is on the march. At first glance, of course, it seems that Viktor Yanukovych and his Party of the Regions of Ukraine are the biggest winners. That’s because the party received the most votes and see that Regions led with 32.12 percent. But Mr. Yanukovych actually lost public support, if you consider that during the 2004 presidential election he had the support of 44.20 of the voters in the third round (which he lost to Viktor Yushchenko).

It was Yulia Tymoshenko and the bloc she heads that are the clearest winners of the March 26 balloting. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc defied the expectations of countless observers when it not only claimed 22.27 percent of the vote, but beat the Our Ukraine bloc by more than 8 percentage points. And, one look at the electoral map on page 3 of this issue shows just how broad Ms. Tymoshenko’s support is.

The Yushchenko camp, i.e., the Our Ukraine coalition, came in a disappointing third. While it managed to win just 21.28 percent of the vote and a plurality in only three oblasts (Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia and Lviv), the vote represented a resounding rebuke to the president from a disenfranchised electorate. An even bigger loser, of course was the Communist Party, which managed to get only 3.66 percent of the vote, finishing last in the running among the parties/blocs that passed the 3 percent support required for representation in the Verkhovna Rada. So it was a major defeat. While according to Ukrainyanskaya Pravda, the breakdown of seats in the new Rada is as follows: Party of Regions, 186 seats; Tymoshenko Bloc, 129; Our Ukraine, 89; Socialists, 29; Regions, 21. The majority coalition (226 votes out of 450) are by uniting two of the top three powers. Mr. Yanukovych’s party can be in the majority coalition only if it unites with Our Ukraine, as a Yanukovych-Tymoshenko alliance is out of the question. Likewise, the Tymoshenko bloc can only be in the majority if it unites with Our Ukraine plus the Socialists. However, Our Ukraine can be in the majority if it unites with either Regions or the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialists. Both the Socialists and the Tymoshenko Bloc, it must be noted, have declared their readiness to recreate the Orange coalition.

And yet, there is a hold-up. Mr. Yushchenko has stalled on announcing the re-establishment of Orange unity, despite the fact that key players in his bloc have spoken in favor of the move. Furthermore, he knows that an alliance with Regions, whose principles he does not share, is “to use his own words”—“unacceptable and not understandable to me.” The president need only recall the ill-advised and ill-fated memorandum of understanding he signed with that party in September 2005 only to discard it in January.

According to the latest information from Kyiv, Our Ukraine’s decision on a coalition has been delayed until April 7 when its political council will meet. We say it’s time for Mr. Yushchenko, obviously wounded in the match-up against Ms. Tymoshenko, to swallow his pride and quietly announce a coalition with his Orange colleagues. Any other move, as has been noted by various political analysts, would be political suicide for both Mr. Yushchenko and Our Ukraine. And the mantle of the heir to the Orange Revolution will pass to Ms. Tymoshenko, who will then lead a most vociferous opposition.

Five years ago, our issue dated April 8, 2001, carried an article that revealed the Kuchma regime’s fear of Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She was seen as an agitator disrupting the status quo and was made a target by the regime’s tactics of political repression. Charges of bribery, smuggling and forgery were brought against Ms. Tymoshenko. She denied all charges, claiming they were politically motivated and fabricated.

The Kyiv District Court on March 27 annulled a warrant issued in December 2000 by the Procurator General’s Office for Ms. Tymoshenko’s arrest. The court ruling made by Judge Mykola Zarnymenko, said, “there was not sufficient reason to believe Ms. Tymoshenko would hide from investigators since she attended all required interrogations.”

Upon this decision, the Procurator General’s Office appealed the ruling, and the Kyiv City Court complied on March 31 to place Ms. Tymoshenko under arrest once more. At that time, she was reportedly recovering from a stomach ulcer at a Kyiv clinic scheduled for a panakhyda (requiem service). “I had planned to return to my film activities and was looking forward to finishing ‘Orange Sky’ in early May,” Ms. Tymoshenko wrote to friends from prison. “I had planned to have the premiere in Kyiv on April 22, but I had to pass this date.”

Oleksander Turchynov, head of the parliamentary caucus of Ms. Tymoshenko’s Fatherland Party, cited “informed sources” and told Interfax that the order to re-arrest Ms. Tymoshenko came personally from President Leonid Kuchma. Looking at how these rulings were made and overturned, many saw the invisible hand of corruption and power at work.

Turchynov spoke with the president about Ms. Tymoshenko’s husband, who was in jail on charges of bribery, Mr. Kuchma said that Ms. Tymoshenko’s fate depended on her “behavior” President Kuchma’s term “behavior” referred to the release of Ms. Tymoshenko to Western experts of Maj. Mykola Melnychenko’s recordings of conversations in the president’s office which implicated Mr. Kuchma in the murder of journalist Heorhi Gongadze.

In an interview with Yushchenko commented on the hearing, saying it was “a demonstration of force— unfavorable for overcoming the crisis and arranging a normal political dialogue.”

**The Ukrainian Weekly language speaks film**

by Christina Kotlar

Film speaks all languages, and one of the best ways for the world to understand what the Ukrainian state of mind is all about. The language, especially in this present-day – is to create a new state of independence: independent film. While Hollywood manages to hold onto its image (and money) for commercial film dominance, always looking for the next box office bonanza, the independent film industry is chipping away at this proverbial Berlin Wall of big budgets, blockbusters and remakes. Great stories, low budgets and alternative distributions have made inroads for independent filmmakers to show films without having to sell their soul or sign away their first-born.

Film festivals have taken on the role of vehicle and venue, with certain festivals becoming the place for a film’s world premiere and generating enough buzz to take an unknown to the Academy Awards within a year’s strategy on the festival circuit.

There are over 2,200 film festivals going on all over the world this year, providing a venue for just about any genre you can think of.

I found one festival in Ukraine – the Kyiv Molodist Film Festival scheduled in October. It’s been going on for a number of years, but there isn’t a lot of buzz about it in the news (but that can always change). What’s needed is an independent film industry that allows old and new filmmakers to produce and screen films in venues available for the public to see and hear in Ukraine.

Recently, a new film, “Orange Sky” (Prodymyche Nebo), was released in public theaters. I’m not sure what the marketing and distribution plans were for this film, but I do know it was a bold move on the producer’s part, to make the decision to circumvent the independent film festivals and plunge headfirst into an unforgiving spotlight. On the other hand, it could be a great financial investment.

The film business is fickle and extremely tough, especially on a fledgling industry such as in Ukraine. It needs all the support it can get, and, to be honest, the first springboard to success is the support of its core constituency. Perhaps that’s why I hesitate to do a critique on this film, or film reviews in general. It’s a lot of blood, sweat and heartache to make a film, and usually you don’t make a profit of any kind.

I read about “Orange Sky” in The Ukrainian Weekly of March 19, it is certainly an article that was only an opinion, the writer is an editor for the publication and, therefore, to me the opinion counts for something. I was surprised and dismayed that the interpretations were both personal and subjective, inferring a rather negative impression. I usually don’t pay attention to bad critics and try not to be influenced by someone’s hard work; nevertheless, it planted a seed in my mind that the film is not very good. Once that happens, well, then, time for a panakhyda (requiem service).

My views, too, can be critical if I don’t like a highly promoted marketing effort fronted by millions of dollars in P&A (promotion and advertising), but this may not be the case in Ukraine. This is the first “Ukrainian-financed-written-produced-and-directed film for national commercial release” (The Ukrainian Weekly, March 12, front page). If Ukrainian film and filmmakers are going to succeed, they need support from the Ukrainian community worldwide and not be battered because it doesn’t suit someone’s “perhaps I’m a bit prudish” taste. Just as the Orange Revolution changed the country’s political situation, it’s time to plant the seeds that will take root and grow into a viable film business. While “Orange Sky” may not be the film that changes the world, it’s a step in the right direction. I haven’t seen “Orange Sky” and don’t know when I will have the opportunity to do so, but I will see it for sure.

**To The Weekly Contributors:**

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- News stories should be submitted no later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Photographs (originals, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names (i.e., initials) and their correct English spelling must be provided.
- Unpublished and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the information is to be published on the events.
- Persons who submit any materials must provide a daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required. Unsolicited materials submitted will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

Mailing address: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Road 200, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

PLEASE NOTE: Materials may be sent to The Weekly also via e-mail to the address staff@ukrweek.com. Please do include your mailing address and phone number so we may contact you if needed to clarify any information.

Please call or send query via e-mail before electronically sending anything other than Word documents. This applies especially to photos, as they must be scanned according to our specifications in order to be properly reproduced in our newspaper.

Any questions? Call 973-295-9800.
The Ukrainian Weekly – your one reliable source for all the news

by Walter Prochorenko

As we saw in our previous article, there are many ways in which we can accumulate capital and ensure that it grows. However, as many millionaires have found, one of the hardest tasks facing people is actually its preservation. In a world where many companies and individuals know your personal financial position, there are many great covetous and enterprising ones that want a piece of it. Size and celebrity of financial institutions does not always ensure security. As New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer’s crusade recently proved, even the largest institutions are not immune to manipulative and cunning strategies to enhance their own bottom lines. Also who remember Enron and Long Term Capital Management of the 1990s which could have ended far worse than they did, but still cost the U.S. government over $1.4 trillion in bailouts?

So, how should an average individual go about protecting his or her hard-earned capital and ensure that it will be there when he/she needs it? Experts have a great number of advice and solutions, but the main ones center around two: diversification and regular reviews.

Diversification can mean different things to different advisers and experts, but in this case it does not mean investing in 10 different stocks in 10 different companies. By diversification, we mean protection of assets through suitable and meaningful insurance policies, proper investments in diversified groups of financial institutions, and estate planning, and regularly reviewed wills and trusts.

As we have seen in our first article, insurance can be one of the most valuable tools an individual has for capital preservation. One’s lifetime earnings are generally the biggest asset that one possesses. Unfortunately, most people, and for some reason the new immigration of Ukrainians and Eastern Europeans in particular, underestimate the need for insurance. Many newly established here in the United States thousands of commodity and financial futures instruments; and a conglomerator’s gift of life insurance, warrants, options, etc., the choices can be literally mind-boggling. Thus, investing in any or all of these financial instruments can be daunting at best. However, diversification is almost always recommended by experts, and proper diversification should enhance any portfolio.

Diversification and capital preservation can also mean protecting your assets from one’s proper tax and estate planning and properly documenting your wishes and a lifetime of planning through wills and thus, unfortunately, for this type of planning there are no sets of rules to follow. Each and every case and situation is unique unto itself and should be treated as such. Your lawyer, your accountant, your financial planner and your insurance agent should all be consulted to determine an estate plan. Unfortunately, for this type of planning there are no sets of rules to follow. Each and every case and situation is unique unto itself and should be treated as such. Your lawyer, your accountant, your financial planner and your insurance agent should all be consulted to determine an estate plan.

Once you have established the proper national strategies, you should review them at least on a yearly basis, unless the assets are too small to warrant such expenses.

However, the one area that will need your constant attention is your financial portfolio. Here, proper asset allocation, depending on your financial situation, age, risk tolerance, earnings status and years to objective, can make significant differences in how your portfolio is managed. According to Modern Portfolio Management theory, asset allocation has been found to be one of the most effective forms of portfolio maintenance. Although the uses of previous studies on asset allocation have been disputed by such authors as John Nuttall in his article: “The Importance of Asset Allocation,” others do have to do with Jonathan Clements of the Wall Street Journal indicate that “asset allocation has a major influence on your portfolio’s performance.” Thus we believe that proper diversification with relevant asset allocation can be a most important tool to help preserve capital.

Capital preservation

by Myron B. Kuropas

Focusing on the positive by appreciating what we have defies the power of negative thinking and judgments. Expectation, happiness and peace of mind produces good things.

Happier than Zimbabweans?

According to a recent study, people in Ukraine are happier than people in Zimbabwe, but not much happier.

Everyone, of course, wants to lead a happy life, but few of us have found the magic formula. Having money alone is not enough. There is no guarantee that it’s no guarantee that certain winners of the lottery over the years have discovered to their own surprise.

What do we know about the nature of happiness? According to a recent National Review article by Kevin A. Hassett, “Dutch sociologist Ruut Veenhoven has made a career out of happiness. His official title is ‘professor of social conditions for human happiness,’ and he directs the World Database of Happiness, an exhaustive compilation of over 1,300 high-quality self-reported happiness surveys around the world. Using sophisticated statistical techniques, Veenhoven has documented the results of Comorans, Surinam, and reported the average happiness in 90 countries from 1995 to 2005.”

Among other variables, Prof. Veenhoven’s happiness index compared level of happiness with per capita GDP. Interestingly, the score for people in the United States, where the per capita income is around $34,344, is 7.4. In Ukraine, where GDP reportedly hovers around $3,000, the happiness index is around 3.8, slightly above that of Zimbabwe.

Countries such as Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, write Mr. Hassett, “are far happier than we might expect, given their income. Others – such as Ukraine and Zimbabwe – are far unhappier than their circumstances suggest they should be.”

“What do the places that are usually unhappy have in common?” asks Mr. Hassett. “One key factor appears to be that they have very weak rule of law. The more unhappy places tend to be countries with a high degree of religiosity. The five countries with the most surprising happiness, given their income, are predominantly Catholic.”

So what’s Ukraine’s problem? It is lawlessness? Perhaps. Some progress has been made. The decision of Ukraine’s Supreme Court to nullify the Yanukovych presidential victory in 2004 heralded a new commitment to rule of law and, say what you want about President Viktor Yushchenko, he’s no crook. Unfortunately, he appears to be the exception among Ukraine’s ruling elite.

Is Ukraine’s problem a lack of religious faith? I think not. Churches have been competing up and down the street in Ukraine for years. Ukraine’s people have managed to retain their faith in God despite years of Communist oppression. Ukraine’s new political arrangement, the Orange Revolution, has demonstrated that Ukraine is capable of making social changes. Ukraine’s people have managed to retain their faith in God despite years of Communist oppression. Ukraine’s new political arrangement, the Orange Revolution, has demonstrated that Ukraine is capable of making social changes.

The Ukraine Weekly – your one reliable source for all the news about Ukraine and Ukrainians.

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International observers... (Continued from page 1)

process as timely and democratic," said Vladyslav Kaskiv, leader of the Pora Civic Party who announced his resignation after the elections. "We are not asking to repeat the elections in any way. The issue is the lawful, timely and transparent procedure of counting the votes to determine the election's results," he said.

Meanwhile, local elections suffered numerous problems throughout the country. Anatoliy Symonenko, the winner of the mayor's race in the village of Myrne in Crimea, was attacked the day before Election Day. His injuries were so severe that he died on March 28.

He belonged to the Ukrainian Republican Party, which joined with the Ne Tik! Bloc. Police offered no information about who his attackers might have been.

Another violent scandal erupted in Zhytomyr. Mayoral candidate Viktor Rozvadovskyi of Lytvyn's People's Bloc was widely known to give out presents while campaigning, in violation of election laws.

On March 18, Our Ukraine activist Volodymyr Zubrytskyi attended a meeting with Mr. Rozvadovskyi, during which he videotaped the candidate giving out gifts, the Oglyadach Information Agency reported (http://www.oglyadach.com).

When Mr. Rozvadovskyi found out about the video, he had two guards attack Mr. Zubrytskyi, where he was beaten again, according to Mr. Zubrytskyi.

When Sevastopol nullified the result of its mayoral election after a judge ruled on election day that another court had improperly denied Oleksander Gress his candidacy. When Sevastopol voters received their election ballots, they saw Mr. Gress' name crossed out with a pen, which probably came from voting for the eligible candidate.

Khmelnitsky, voting for the city's incumbent mayor even took place because numerous city election commission members suddenly became ill in the four days leading to elections. Central Election Commission (CEC) Chair Yaroslav Davydovych called it a planned sabotage. Days earlier, a court had dissolved the candidacy of the city's incumbent mayor.

Many local mayoral election results were estimated to have been faked, said Oleksander Cheremko, the press secretary of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU), particularly in Cherkasy, Latsik and Kievohrad, where a judge decided to remove a candidate on election day.

Some Khmelnitsky voters cast their ballots for that candidate, so it's likely the elections will have to be held there again, Mr. Cheremko explained.

After weeks of warnings the Ukrainian government and political blocs that discontinued election monitoring missions would not have any effect on the outcome of the elections.

A team of nine observers led by Jaroslav Zawadiwsky of Cleveland had among the roughest experiences in the Kharkiv Oblast, where locals were intimating the observers, demanding to know who they were and what they were doing.

"The number of leather jackets milling about increased into the evening," he said. "The line at one polling station was 45 minutes long, and numerous voters left without bothering to wait, Mr. Zawadiwsky noted.

More than 28,000 voters and commission members called the CVU's election hotline, making reports, the CVU reported.

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) observers gathered in Kyiv on March 29 to report on their election monitoring missions.

More than 200 observers from the U.S. and France had joined the UCCA mission.

Most reported very positive experiences, and few reported any cases of fraud, violence or intimidation. The Dnipropetrovsk Oblast election monitoring team appeared to have had the most problems.

"We have not had any violent incidents, no problems, no cases of fraud," Mr. Kira said.

A far more serious incident occurred when Andrew Hadzewycz of Morrisstown, N.J., told a police officer in one of the nearly 200 polling stations he had and his colleagues visited in the area of Dnipropetrovsk that he was violating procedures by standing in the voting area.

The officer refused to leave, and a large, intimidating police chief insisted to Mr. Hadzewycz that his officers had a right to be anywhere. Mr. Hadzewycz held his ground and, ultimately, the police chief told the officer to leave the voting area.

"We were very concerned," said Osyp Maksym, the deputy chairman of the CVU.

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Most experiences were positive.

Taking part in his second observation mission to Ukraine, Reno Domenico, a high school principal from Pine Hill, N.J., said he was impressed with Ukraine's uniform national voting system and use of paper ballots, "which makes it difficult to cheat because you can't lose them." "I've seen a lot dirtier elections in Philadelphia and Camden, N.J.,” Mr. Domenico said.

Zden Halkovec of Teaneck, N.J., led a team to Chernyakh, where he noticed only "small technical violations that would not have any effect on the outcome of the elections.""As expected, the missing seals on the ballot boxes was a typical problem reported by many observers. Each ballot box requires two seals, and often only one was applied."

Mr. Hadzewycz reported that in one polling station he visited the ballot boxes were not sealed on both sides as required. He brought this to the attention of the local election commission, which at first said it had not received enough fasteners to seal the boxes, but within minutes found the fasteners and sealed the clear containers.

In Sevastopol, a district election commission mission neglected to send out notifications for voters to register, said Oyp Rothka, who in Sevastopol told The Kiev Times that several hundred citizens were excluded from voting lists and couldn't vote.

Many polling stations opening more than an hour late. Dr. Vassyl Lonchyna of Hinsdale, Ill., reported a Donetsk polling station that delayed opening the polls in order to collect money because of internal fighting and politicizing.

Then, the commission intentionally delayed voting until after the deadline, he said. "The election was a farce."

Mr. Lonchyna said Tallying votes dragged into the next evening when, finally, an election police officer took over the district commission and restored order.

In Kyiv, a monitoring team pulled all-nighters, observing commission members counting votes all night and into the next afternoon. One team in Ivano-Frankivsk was still in its observation mission three days after Election Day.

Olena Chebyniak of Stamford, Conn., said a few commission members at one district in Zhytomyr began fainting for lack of breaks, food and sleep.

"The Central Election Commission needs to pay attention to how people work during elections," Ms. Chebyniak said. "I was here while some people were working on these elections anymore." The UCCA observers sang the praises of Ukraine's women, whose polling stations were widely known to be more organized and efficient than those managed by their male counterparts.

"Every district chaired by a woman was working perfectly," Mr. Halkovec said. "They were disciplined and on time."

This year's observer mission was seen as necessary as it lasted for 190 districts in 2004. UCC observers reported this year's elections were conducted freely and fairly, in accordance with domestic and international election laws.

"Generally, we have received superb cooperation from Ukraine's central and local election commissions and from all parties across the country," said Paul Grod, the UCC's mission chief.

Both the UCC and the International Republican Institute (IRI), whose observers visited more than 100 polls, reported that the multiple elections taking place on a single day made lines longer.

The IRI recommended that the Ukrainian government hold parliamentary and local elections separately, and provide larger polling stations.

"Despite the good-faith efforts on the CEC, the voter lists do contain some inaccuracies, some as a result of the transliteration of names," said IRI reported in a press release, recommend that the CEC establish a national, computerized database of voters.

Mr. Halkovec of the UCCA mission recalled what one woman said on his visit to a Chernyakh village that seemed to sum up this year's elections.

"For the first time in my life, no one is telling me how to cast my vote," he remembered.

For more on international observers' assessments of the parliamentary election see page 5.
Voters examine the multiple ballots, some as long as three feet, that they received at one of the polling stations in Dnipropetrovshynsk.

Party of the Regions...

(Continued from page 1)

Regions proved itself as the dominant force in contemporary Ukrainian politics, earning 32 percent of the vote, according to the CEC’s final tally.

More than 8.1 million Ukrainians believed that the Party of the Regions has the best political outlook for their nation. Almost exclusively a Donetsk party in the 2002 elections, the Party of the Regions has evolved into a national power representing the interests of Ukrainians who want their government to have stronger political, economic and cultural relations with the Russian Federation.

In 2002 it joined the Za Yedynu Ukrayinu (For a United Ukraine) bloc that had supported the policies of former President Kuchma.

For a United Ukraine won 12 percent, or about 3 million votes, largely due to the Party of the Regions’ ability to deliver the Donetsk Oblast, where it secured the support of more than 400,000 voters.

This time around, the Party of the Regions took all the oblasts that had belonged to the Communist Party of Ukraine in the 2002 vote, with the exception of Kyiv.

The party won most the votes in eight eastern and southern oblasts, as well as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, all of which gave Mr. Yanukovych their votes in the 2004 presidential elections.

In the late hours on election day, Mr. Yanukovych declared his party’s interest in forming a parliamentary coalition with the other victors, especially hinting of an agreement with the Party of the Regions. The Kostenko-Pliasch and Pora-Reforms and Order blocs, both of which helped lead the Orange Revolution and shared very similar political positions with Ukraine, fell short of the 3 percent barrier.

More than 470,000 Ukrainians gave their vote to the national-democratic Kostenko-Pliasch Bloc, while 370,000 voted for the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc.

As a result, neither political veterans and Ukrainian patriots such as Yurii Kostenko, Ivan Drach and Stepan Khmara will be in the Rada, nor will Pora leaders Vladyslav Kaskiv and Yevhen Zolotariov.

Mr. Khmara left the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc last September, accusing Ms. Tymoshenko of being an “unpardonable liar” who was ruining Ukraine. He said at the time that he was convinced that she would never become prime minister again.

The other big losers in the 2006 elections were the Communists, who saw their share of the electorate plunge from 20 percent in 2002 to 3.7 percent in this year’s election.

Still, the Communists managed to be the fifth and final political force to qualify for the Verkhovna Rada, earning the support of more than 920,000 Ukrainians. More than 5 million Ukrainians had voted for the Communists in 2002.

Perhaps the election’s biggest loser was Volodymyr Lytvyn, the Verkhovna Rada chairman who created his own political bloc to compete for the Parliament.

Mr. Lytvyn spent a multi-million-dollar war chest on a nationwide advertising campaign to convince Ukrainian voters that he was the voice of reason that would bring understanding between the Orange and pro-Russian forces.

Instead, Ukrainian voters demonstrated that they weren’t interested in a middle-of-the-road, moderate political force, said Serhi Taran, director of the Kyiv-based International Democracy Institute, which is financed by mid-level Ukrainian businesses and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

The vast majority of Ukrainians are either firmly in the Orange camp, or firmly support the Party of the Regions, he said.

Mr. Lytvyn’s bloc earned only 2.4 percent of the vote, despite widespread expectations that it would easily surpass the 3 percent barrier.

As a result, Mr. Lytvyn is shut out of the next Parliament, as are other cronies of former President Kuchma who joined his bloc, including energy magnate Ihor Yeremeyev, former first assistant to President Kuchma Serhiy Liovochkin and former customs chief Mykola Kalemsky.

Among the election’s biggest surprises was the strong performance of Natalia Vitrenko’s People’s Opposition Bloc, which finished just shy of the 3 percent barrier necessary for representation in Parliament.

Her radical pro-Russian campaign platform drew the votes of more than 740,000 Ukrainian citizens, or 2.93 percent of the electorate.

Voters in the Donetsk and Zaporizhia oblasts gave her the most support. Ms. Vitrenko has already announced her plans to stage mass demonstrations to demand a recount.

Also shut out of the Parliament is the notorious Kyiv oligarch clan known as the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine – United, which formed the Ne Tak! bloc for the elections.

Belonging to this clan are former President Leonid Kravchuk, billionaire oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk, Dynamo Kyiv owner Ihorhryi Surkus, Soviet soccer star Oleh Blokhin and political apparatchik Nestor Shufrych.

Though they blanketed the nation’s billboards and radio airwaves with advertising ridiculing the Orange forces, the “Ne Tak!” (Not So!) bloc only earned 1.0 percent of the vote.

No one political party or bloc earned enough votes to form a majority in the Verkhovna Rada.

(Continued on page 23)
WINDHAM, N.Y. – The Carpathian Ski Club held its 52nd ski races here at Ski Windham on Saturday, March 4, with racing in age groups ranging from boys age 4 and under to men 65 and over, and, on the female side, from girls age 5-6 to women over age 50.

The annual ski races organized by KLK (the Ukrainian-based acronym of the club’s name) are a family event that attracts parents and their children. This year’s largest groups were boys/men age 17-20, a group that drew 12 competitors; and boys age 7-8 with seven competitors.

Ninety-eight competitors signed up for the races – the vast majority of them skiers, although there was a sprinkling of snowboarders among the participants, marking the fifth year that boarders competed in separate categories.

The races at Windham took place on a NASTAR-sanctioned course, especially reserved that morning for the Ukrainian skiers. (NASTAR is the acronym for the National Standard Race, the largest public recreational grassroots ski program in the world.)

That evening, athletes of all ages, their families and friends, as well as supporters of KLK attended the awards banquet held at the nearby Hunter Mountain Ski Lodge. KLK President Erko Palydowycz welcomed all to the dinner; masters of ceremonies were Vira Popel and Orest Fedash.

A special guest at the dinner was Karl Plattner (Continued on page 13)

Carpathian Ski Club holds 52nd ski races in upstate New York

The youngest ski champions: girls age 5-6, (from left) Diana Blyznak (with her proud mom behind her), Juliana Paslawsky and Deanna Zawadiwsky.

The largest group of competitors in the 2006 races: boys/men age 17-20 with KLK officer Christine Klufas.

Former World Downhill Champion Karl Plattner (right) shows his award from the Austrian Ski Federation to Erko Palydowycz, president of the Carpathian Ski Club.
Carpathian Ski Club... (Continued from page 12) Plattner, former world downhill champion from Austria, who resides in the town of Hunter. Mr. Plattner, it should be noted, was among six men nominated by the Austrian Ski Federation to be honored in recent ceremonies marking 100 years of Austrian ski racing. Mr. Plattner received a Swarovski crystal award from the president of Austria for his achievements. Mr. Plattner, who is a longtime friend of the Carpathian Ski Club, recalled his 35 years working at Hunter Mountain. Today he is affiliated with Windham Mountain, carrying a business card that identifies him as “ski ambassador.”

Also present at the KLK dinner was Roman Pyndus, who delivered greetings from the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), an umbrella group for Ukrainian sports clubs, among them KLK. Trophies were awarded for first place in each age group, while second- and third-place finishers received medals.

Special traveling trophies, which are passed on from year to year to each successive winner (no repeat winners are allowed), were present- ed for the fastest time posted among male and female competitors. This year’s winners of the highly coveted trophies were Askold Sandursky, 33, who turned in a race time of 25.99, and Katia Kozak, 11, who came in with 30.03. A record-breaking 70 percent of the KLK skiers also received gold, silver and bronze medals awarded by NASTAR based on the course time posted by pacers, as well as the gender and age of each racer.

The Carpathian Ski Club held its first races in the United States in 1954 at Whiteface, near Lake Placid, N.Y. KLK was founded in 1924 and then transported to Europe and the United States, where it grew and flourished. It was re-established in Ukraine in 1989.

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Competitors in the groups of boys age 9-10 (from left): Stefko Maksymowych, Nicholas Paslawsky, Paul Temnycky, Mark Zawadiwsky and Alexander Gorloff.

KLK 2006 race results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys age 4 and under</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys age 5-6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Boys age 15-16</td>
<td>Roman Palydycz, 32.52, Erik Andersen, 47.93</td>
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<td>Boys/men age 17-20</td>
<td>Ben Abram, 27.99, Adrian Rybak, 29.05, Dan Paslawsky, 29.44, John P. Feeney, 31.54, Adrian Chynyk, 31.66, Tim Matijco, 31.91, Markian Kuznowsky, 32.03, Mark Dubas, 37.94, Gregory Honick, 41.16, Timothy Andersen, 42.17, Petro Nikitin</td>
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<td>Women age 40-44</td>
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<td>Women age 50-54</td>
<td>Iwka Doll, SNOWBOARD</td>
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<td>Mark Dubas, 37.94, Gregory Honick, 41.16, Timothy Andersen, 42.17</td>
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Ukrainian Catholic University celebrates licensing of theology

by Petro Didula
and Matthew Matuszek

LVIV – Though it was the first week of Lent according to the Julian calendar, Lviv’s Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) let itself celebrate a little on March 9. The occasion was the licensing of theology as an academic subject by Ukraine’s Ministry of Education, a task that has taken long years of the university’s persistent efforts. The ministry announced its decision on March 2.

Among those joining students and staff for the celebration were a number of bishops and religious of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and representatives of the government and educational institutions.

Dr. Volodymyr Turchynovskyi, director of UCU’s Planning and Development Office, was asked to explain the significance of the March 2 decision of Ukraine’s Ministry of Education. “According to the existing procedure in Ukraine, after receiving a license to offer a certain educational program a university should also go through the process of accreditation of this program,” said Dr. Turchynovskyi. “Usually accreditation happens before the first students graduate, and, if [accreditation] is successful, the university receives the right to award diplomas recognized by the government to the graduates of this program.”

“The uniqueness of our situation,” continued Dr. Turchynovskyi, “is that UCU, after receiving a license, not waiting for four years, immediately started the process of accreditation of its theology program, planning to award its graduates in June 2006 with diplomas in theology recognized by the government. Ukraine’s Ministry of Education has supported this initiative, recognizing that, in fact, the theology program has already functioned at UCU for more than 10 years. It already has had seven graduating classes and achieved international recognition.”

In 1998 the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education accredited UCU’s bachelor’s program in theology, thus allowing graduates to pursue further studies in all Catholic universities worldwide.

“Among other things,” noted Dr. Turchynovskyi, “from now on the students of UCU’s Faculty of Philosophy and Theology can take advantage of all the special rates and reduced fees which the government guarantees to Ukrainian students. In parallel with the accreditation process, UCU is also preparing documents for licensing its master’s degree program in theology at Ukraine’s Ministry of Education. We’re counting on receiving the license at the end of the spring 2006 semester.”

The UCU is also working on the issue of gaining official government accreditation for the hundreds of students to whom it has already awarded bachelor’s degrees in theology. At present their degrees are not recognized in Ukraine, though dozens of them are pursuing graduate studies in Catholic and other institutions throughout the world.

According to the rector of the UCU, the Rev. Borys Gudziak, though, the UCU was at the forefront of this effort, “with every step there were more and more people and institutions that supported the accreditation of theology in Ukraine.”

“Those were the Orthodox hierarchs of different denominations, the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches, seminary administrations, the Lviv Council of Rectors, the journal Krytyka, foreign ambassadors, and politicians and foreign scholarly centers like Harvard University, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Petro Jacyk Center, and other international universities and foundations,” he explained.

Ukraine remained the only country in Central and Eastern Europe, including Belarus and Russia, where theology did not have “civil rights,” as the Rev. Gudziak put it. During his visit to Ukraine in 2001, Pope John Paul II brought up the recognition of theology in his conversation with former President Leonid Kuchma. Though the UCU has played the leading role in getting theology licensed, there are already dozens of theological institutions of various religious denominations that will be able to take advantage of this achievement.

“If from the start of our history to such an epochal event as the Orange Revolution, the Church and Christian principles have been the source of Ukraine’s original genius,” said the Rev. Gudziak. “We are witnesses today of a (Continued on page 18)
Pysanky herald spring at The Ukrainian Museum

by Marta Baczensky

NEW YORK – The quintessential representative of Ukrainian folk culture – pysanky, or Ukrainian Easter eggs – are once again making an appearance at The Ukrainian Museum. Presented in an exhibition are a large number of exquisitely decorated eggs, harkening back to stretches of time in which ancient people attempted to understand and explain their greater and immediate environment. The universe, the sun, the changing seasons, birth, death – these were among the mysteries that taxed the comprehension of people as they struggled to find answers to the natural phenomena that governed their daily lives. They developed myths to mollify their fears of the unknown and appease the forces over which they had no control.

As an example of the mystery of life itself, the egg has been exquisitely and powerfully. Ancient peoples decorated the egg with symbols and colors that held a special meaning in their numerous social events and religious occasions, specifically in the spring. Thus, the egg became a precious talisman, believed to have protective, magical properties. Prominent examples of such potent symbolism can also be seen in the pysanky on display as part of the museum’s exhibition “The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art,” which runs through October 15.

The designs on pysanky are often the most part, geometric, with some plant and animal forms. The most prevalent and recognized motif is the stylized symbol of the sun, which appears as a triangle, a broken cross, an eight-pointed rosette or a star. Endless lines symbolize eternity, while images of animal and bird figures, such as a wolf or a rooster, represent strength. The introduction of Christianity to Ukraine brought with it such elements as crosses, the fish and images of churches.

The art of creating Ukrainian pysanky (from the word “pysaty” – to write) has been handed down from generation to generation. Although most of the relevance of the intricate designs and patterns, as well as the use of specific colors, has been lost over time, decorating pysanky and adhering to some of the customs associated with this craft have remained a strong tradition among the Ukrainian people to this day.

Pysanky are decorated using the wax-resist or dye technique. The tool used to draw the design on the egg is known as a “kistka” or “ryltse.” While the dyes now used are commercial, not too long ago they were made from natural sources, such as vegetables or the bark of a tree. The colors used in pysanky have symbolic meaning as well. For example, red is the color of life, joy or the sun, while yellow stands for fertility and wealth.

Although present-day Ukrainians decorate pysanky and exchange them in the traditional manner at Eastertime, the eggs are considered works of art and are treasured for their uniqueness and beauty. While no longer revered or considered to be a talisman, Ukrainian pysanky remain a magnificent example of the ingenuity and artistry of Ukrainian folk culture.

Related activities

Pysanky-decorating workshops at the museum are open to adults and children over age 12. These workshops will be held on April 8 and 9 at 2-4 p.m. The fee for each session is $15 for adults, $10 for students over age 16 and seniors, and $5 for children age 12-16. Members receive a 15 percent discount. Reservations are required.

A demonstration of the making of pysanky will be held on Saturday, April 15, (the day before Easter) at 1-5 p.m. Accomplished artists will create beautiful pysanky, demonstrating the techniques used to decorate the eggs. Director Slavka Nowinsky’s award-winning film “Pysanka” will be screened at half-hour intervals. The fee is $10 for adults and $5 for students over age 12 and seniors. Children 12 and under are admitted free, and members receive a 15 percent discount. The fee includes admission to the museum’s other exhibitions “The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art” and “Chomohyl + 20: This Is Our Land ... We Still Live Here.”

The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. (between Second and Third avenues). New York, NY 10003. For information call (212) 228-0110; e-mailinfo@ukrainianmuseum.org or log on to www.ukrainianmuseum.org. Museum hours are Wednesday-Sunday 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Kozak battle to be re-enacted at Texas fair

TYLER, Texas – Re-enactors from across America are converging on the Four Winds Renaissance Faire in Tyler, Texas, on April 8 and 9 to fight out a battle from the 1648 Ukrainian War of Independence against Poland, led by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky complete with canons, cavalry and Kozakism! In what may be the largest re-creation of this period in America, participants from living history groups and re-enactors from California to Virginia have been planning this event for over a year. To add to the realism, up to six cannons will be used, along with 50 fighting men and women, period firearms such as matchlock muskets, farm tools like three-pronged forks and, of course, the epitome of the Kozak arsenal – the saber.

To maintain the authenticity of the re-enactment, the sabre fighting will be in what is known as a ‘live blade’ battle, where combatants will be fighting with real steel swords and not with theatrical replicas in unchoreographed duels.

The scheduled battles will take place twice daily. In addition to the battles, a living history presentation on Kozak living, a war-game demonstration and other exhibits will entertain and educate attendees.

For more information regarding this event, readers may contact: Adam Roberts at maks_zobi@msn.com or (501) 655-2161; or visit the Four Winds Renaissance Faire website at www.fourwindsfaire.com or the Ukrainian American Society of Texas website at www.uast.org.
NEWS AND VIEWS: Chicago community honors Shevchenko

by Marta Fairion

CHICAGO – Chicago’s annual concert, organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, on Sunday, March 12, signaled an unexpectedly inspiring rebirth of the Ukrainian diaspora’s cultural life in this city. More than its extraordinary tribute to Ukraine’s most celebrated poet, the occasion marked a pivotal turning point in the Ukrainian diaspora’s cultural succession from one generation to the next.

Positive change has arrived in the Ukrainian American community, and this Shevchenko concert proved it with a dazzling display of professionally performed creative artistry.

Remembering the past

I’ve been a critic of these ritual occasions for many years, and my reluctance was driven by a trained sense of duty, loyalty and personal sacrifice – the predictable sympathy of first-generation Ukrainian immigrants who understood their family’s need to continually memorialize Ukrainian history, culture and language.

The annual Shevchenko concerts, in particular, are remembered as endlessly long programs that inevitably included a fiery speech by a community leader who emphasized the need for patriotism and active engagement in the fight for Ukraine’s freedom as advocated by the prophet Shevchenko, poetry readings by children who had no understanding of either their words’ meaning or delivery, and the inevitable performance of a well-meaning choir and soloist. And as a result, young people used the occasion to socialize and ignore the well-meaning performers and speakers. As times passed, attendance became more limited at these events.

Although memories of the past continued to be part of my emotional schema, I dutifully decided to attend this year’s Shevchenko concert, hoping that it would not last too long and spoil the entire Sunday. My a priori negativity was programmed by my membership as the “child” of the so-called Third Wave of Ukrainian immigration. As the children of parents and grandparents forced to leave Ukraine during the second world war, we became war refugees (the contemporary term), at the time officially tagged as Displaced Persons.

And displaced we indeed were – first, when our parents were housed in camps run by the United Nations managed by the Allies, and later when they were assigned to live in various countries around the world, countries that intended to become temporary settlements, but became permanent new homes for people of my generation.

Displaced or not, we attended American schools and universities, established ourselves in various careers and professions, and eventually more or less assimilated into the American mainstream – although we still lived a dual existence, leading double lives with one foot in the American world and the other foot in what we understood to be the Ukrainian world.

But that Ukrainian world was not inside Ukraine. It was located in America, inside the churches, civic organizations, Saturday schools and summer grounds built by our parents and grandparents to ensure the survival of Ukrainian patriotism, nationalism and culture.

Welcoming the future

With the Soviet Union’s dissolution and Ukraine’s independence, the diaspora was unexpectedly enlarged by an influx of new wave of Ukrainian immigrants, the so-called Fourth Wave. Their arrival here was sometimes welcomed, and sometimes not, by the prior generations of Ukrainian immigrants.

The new immigrants were persons born and raised in a different country than the one our parents and grandparents left 50 years ago. And although these new immigrants also had suffered and worked and survived difficult circumstances, they were different – younger and eager to seize economic and professional opportunities, in frequent contact with their families in Ukraine.

Unlike our “parents’ generation, they were free to travel to Ukraine and visit. They spoke and wrote a Ukrainian language that was current and alive with a new vocabulary and idioms, some sprinkled with Russisms or Americanisms, and they were informed about current events in Ukraine as well as sure of themselves without apology or fear about their futures. Our new friends “unpacked their suitcases” because they did not feel displaced. They know who they are, why they are here and where they are going.

It was sometimes difficult for us older immigrants to appreciate that these new arrivals came from a changed Ukraine, a country that had undergone a structural and cultural metamorphosis in recent decades. We, on the other hand, had been living in a changing and developing America, while clinging to a static Ukraine, unchanged for 50 years. The Ukrainian language we used was and is a language spoken by our parents and grandparents, but a language that was and is not a contemporary language, but a sacred relic from the past.

Unlike our “parents’ generation, we have been proud to become a part of the Ukrainian American community, and this Shevchenko concert proved it with a dazzling display of professionally performed creative artistry.

A group of young bandura players from the Ukrainian Heritage School, Yuliya Stupen, Natalie Midzak and Kateryna Midzak, along with their instructor, Halyna Bodnar, recited their talented voices and Ms. Kutsevych’s skill and mastery of the bandura.

Akkolada performed “Nasha Duma” (Our Duma), “Chy My Sche Ziydemostia Znovi (Will We Meet Again), with solo performances by Mariukha Hopka and Mr. Gengalo, and piano accompaniment by Lesia Nestor, and concluded the concert with “Reve Ta Stolne Dziur Shvydki” (The Migalochka). Mr. Gengalo stated that it was an honor for the choir to take part in honoring and celebrating the remarkable Shevchenko.

Mr. Prasko thanked the keynote address, on the theme “The Irrevocable Sacred Truth of the Kobzhar,” the performers for a wonderful performance, the audience for attending, and all those responsible in organizing the annual concert.

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of the Ukrainian heritage throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046 and can be reached at 215-663-4166 e-mail: contact@ukrainiancenterphila.org. Readers may log on to www.ukrainiancenterphila.org for photographs and video of the Shevchenko concert.

The Akkolada chamber choir performs at the annual Taras Shevchenko concert at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

(Continued on page 20)
NEW YORK — The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSH), jointly with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UAAN), the Harriman Institute of Columbia University (HICU) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), hosted the 26th annual scholarly conference dedicated to Taran Shevchenko on the NTSh headquarters on March 11. The proceedings were chaired by Prof. Vasyl Makho, resident poet at NTSh, who introduced the speakers and enriched the program with his insightful commentary as a literary expert.

Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Olexa Bilaniuk, the immediate past president of UVAN. Whether or not Ukraine ever becomes a truly Ukrainian state, said Dr. Bilaniuk, may depend on the extent to which Shevchenko’s poetry is promulgated in the Russian-speaking regions of Ukraine, because many of the admonitions the great bard had directed at his countrymen still apply to the Ukrainian Russophones of today.

“Poetry as Conversation” was the title of the talk by Dr. Bohdan Rubchak (UVAN), poet, prose writer and literary critic, a retired professor of literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Taras Shevchenko is so familiar to the University of Illinois at Chicago. Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Orest Popovych

Next on the program was a guest speaker from Kyiv, Dr. Nina Polischuk, who holds the position of senior research fellow in the department of the history of Ukrainian philosophy at the Heyhoris Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Currently she is in the U.S. as a visiting researcher in the department of philosophy at Stanford University.

Dr. Polischuk spoke on “The Poets of Modern Ukrainian Philosophical Context.” In her opinion, the task of a philosopher is not to impose a way of thinking upon others, or to pretend to be able to solve some universal truths, but to teach a person to think independently. She claimed to find reinforcement for these ideas in Shevchenko’s poetry.

The history of philosophy, continued Dr. Polischuk, represents a context between traditionalism and innovation. Democratic societies possess the ability to make radical changes, to innovate. So far, the intellectual elite in Ukraine has not participated sufficiently in innovative movements, as a result of which the country has been experiencing

Paul Magocsi delivers Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture at University of Ottawa

OTTAWA – The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa invited Prof. Paul Magocsi, University of Toronto, to deliver the annual Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture that marks its 20th anniversary this year. The public lecture by noted scholars from Canada and abroad has helped raise the profile of Ukrainian studies and awareness of Ukrainian issues in Canada’s capital.

It was launched in 1996 by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association (UCPBA) of Ottawa and the Ukrainian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa, in the initiative of Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw and Ivan Jaworsky, at that time the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa, to honor the memory of Ivan Franko. The Ivan Franko series has featured such well-known names in Ukrainian studies as Roman Szporluk, John-Paul Himka, Frank Sysyn, Peter J. Potichnyj and Marta Dyczok. The Ivan Franko lecture series.

For Prof. Magocsi, an internationally known historian and expert on cultural minorities, delivering a lecture with the very intriguing title “Where Does Europe End? Ukraine? Turkey? Israel?” The lecture was well-attended and proved to be a great success.

Prof. Magocsi began his lecture by citing Liguria, a borderland stretching from Genoa in northern Italy to Nice in southern France, as an example of a natural region of former historical past. In the reality of today’s European Union, with its common market and absence of national borders, the traditionally multicultural regions are returning to their initial status prior to the division of Europe by the great nation-states. For instance, Liguria, an Italian region annexed by France in 1860, is now reviving its Italian heritage. The two local dialects, Nicou and Menéagase, are taught in elementary and secondary schools, while the Italian language is spoken more often on the streets and in churches.

This return of cultural regions to their ancestral past is occurring peacefully and gradually throughout the whole of Europe, from Alasce to Silesia, and, according to Prof. Magocsi, this is likely to happen also in Transylvania once Romania joins the European Union in 2007.

The same “natural” course of events should be followed in approaching the question: “Where Does Europe End?” For Prof. Magocsi, the answer to this question is quite obvious. Europe, as a geographical entity, includes a vast territory from the Atlantic coast of western France to the Ural Mountains in Russia. Thus, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia should be offered membership in the European Union, while Turkey, from the geographical point of view, has never been part of Europe and, therefore, the debate over its eventual entrance into the European Union is pointless.

In his lecture Prof. Magocsi stressed that this question should be viewed rather from an economic perspective. Instead of endlessly whether to welcome Turkey as a new member, the European Union, in Prof. Magocsi’s opinion, should be more creative in its approach to this question and should look for a geopolitical scenario that would be in the best interests of both Europe and Turkey, and especially of the geopolitical sphere in which Turkey is situated.

Such a scenario would be the creation of a Middle East Union, where Israel and Turkey would be the foundation. Prof. Magocsi said. This new framework should be based on economic and not on cultural or linguistic affinity. Just as at the end of World War II the United States favored the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community and then the common market as the first step toward European integration, the European Union and the United States should now favor the formation of a Middle East Union.

Turkey and Israel, which would be a cornerstone of this union, have a lot in common: economically, they are the two most successful countries in the region, both already are trading partners, and both are founded and function as secular states with a strong religious opposition (Orthodox Jews in Israel and fundamentalists in Turkey). Finally, for France and Germany the Middle East and Israel have been assisted by the United States.

Prof. Magocsi said he believes that the United States along with the European Union should continue to support the economic development of Turkey and Israel as a whole, i.e., the Middle-East Union, which would attract other counties in the region (Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, perhaps even the Mediterranean states of Northern Africa). Thus, the European Union would have a strong and stable partner at its southeastern flank.
Sightseeing each day, including one day trip to

Escort by John and Maria Fil, owner's of

Hotels

Round trip air from New York

Seven days in Kyiv

Seven days in Health Resort Truskaveth
Has the Orange Revolution... (Continued from page 2)

ready to sign it as soon as March 27. “I can say that at this moment, our party, the Socialist Party and the Our Ukraine party have fully agreed on the text of a coalition agreement,” she said.

Ms. Tymoshenko said that under the agreement the political force finishing first among the three potential coalition partners would have the right to propose a candidate to form the next government. This, in effect, means that Ms. Tymoshenko will make a bid to regain the premiership she lost in September 2005. A renewed Orange alliance would have to overcome the internal strife that proved to be its downfall when it led the government from January through August 2005. The biggest obstacle would be finding a way for Ms. Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine officials to work together after she accused some prominent members of the pro-presidential party of corrupt practices last year.

But if the official results confirm the trends that political movement want to see the port she received in this election would be a Tymoshenko-Yushchenko reunion – that political movement want to see the recombination of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of Socialists and the Party of the Regions, which are the main opposition parties. 

Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko during the election campaign last year. If Ms. Tymoshenko becomes prime minister, such an Orange alliance would have to account #33641 at the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, 126 7th St., New York, N.Y.

A parastas was held on Thursday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home. A panakhyda was held on Friday, March 31, at 8:00 p.m. at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home.

The funeral services were held on Saturday, April 1, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City with interment at St. Andrew Cemetery.

Eternal Memory

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Trust Fund. Checks may be sent directly to account #33641 at the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, 108 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003. Attn.: Paul Lipeło.

Maria Kupchynsky (neé Jurkiw)

Maria was the second of three sisters. She taught in the public schools of Strýj and Lviv. Maria and her husband Roman immigrated to America in 1947 and settled in Lorain, Ohio. There she fully participated in the life and events of the Ukrainian community. A life-long communicant of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Lorain, Ohio. She was interred beside her beloved husband, Roman at the Calvary Cemetery in Lorain, Ohio.

She is survived by:

Sister – Cecilia Debaylo and her daughter Tyrsa with her husband John and son Ivan Volodymyr

Nephew – Yarem Kupchynsky and his wife Joan with his children Nicholas, Gregory and Laura

Close and distant family members in Ukraine and America

May she rest in peace!
Chicago community...

(Continued from page 16)

brothers had a lot to learn from each other. It became apparent that we wasted too much time on petty misunderstandings, and had expected. I realized that it had taken me far too long to arrive here to approach Ukraine's present circumstances. Shevchenko gave me much more than I had expected. I realized that it had taken me far too long to arrive here to approach an appreciation of the emerging ethnic bridge that spans all our waves of immigration. I realized that so many of our new friends who recently immigrated from Ukraine really are our cultural brothers and sisters who also understand our grandparents' and parents' commitments to protect and preserve Ukrainian culture, and that they will eventually play a role in bringing a common understanding to the role and mission of what is called "the diaspora."
Osnova Credit Union announces plans for a new building

PARMA, Ohio – The board of directors of Osnova Ukrainian Federal Credit Union has announced its plans to relocate to a new, larger state-of-the-art credit union facility under construction here at 5602 State Road.

The board of directors has commissioned the architectural firm of Kulchytsky Architects to design and assist in the construction administration of renovating the exterior and interior of an existing 1,500-square-foot building at the southwest corner of State Road and Pershing Avenue in Parma into an attractive and functional credit union facility.

This location is conveniently located near the Parma post office and many churches and stores frequented by Osnova members and potential future members.

The board of directors has contracted the services of S & E Contracting Inc. to be the general contractor for this project. Comfort Resolutions Inc. will be the mechanical systems subcontractor.

“...We are very pleased to be able to provide our members with a modern, customer service-focused facility,” said Michael Polichuk, chairman of the board of directors. Among the many customer friendly features planned for the new building will be a large parking lot for members, a very convenient drive-up ATM and a bright interior.

“The additional space will be accommodating a number of new products and services once we move into our new facility,” stated Maria Koshkalda, operations manager of Osnova.

Robert Effinger, president and site supervisor of S & E Contracting Inc., indicated that the project is on schedule for completion by early spring.

Osnova Ukrainian Federal Credit Union was originally established in 1964 and has been serving the financial needs of its members with innovative financial products and services since that time. Readers may visit the Osnova website at www.osnovafcu.com.

A new building...

(Continued from page 2)

the dissolution or resignation of the previous one.

Forty-five parties and blocs were vying for parliamentary seats in the March 26 elections, but pre-election day surveys indicated that only six or seven of them have realistic chances of overcoming the 3 percent threshold for representation.

The election was expected to be won by the radical Party of the Regions, which leads in opinion polls with backing of about 30 percent. The combined popularity of the two former Orange Revolution allies, the pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, equalled or even slightly exceeded that for the Party of the Regions as per surveys conducted prior to the election.

A key strategy is there are two likely options for a future governing coalition in Ukraine, depending on how the main contenders fare on March 26.

First, President Yushchenko may try to rebuild the Orange Revolution alliance with Ms. Tymoshenko, with whom he officially split in September 2005 by dismissing her from the post of prime minister. A Yushchenko-Tymoshenko reunion would ensure that Ukraine would continue to stay on track in its efforts to integrate with the rest of Europe, the final objectives being membership in NATO and the European Union.

However, this scenario is fraught with some serious problems. Ms. Tymoshenko has not concealed that she wants back the prime minister’s post. But this is the last thing that many influential politicians in Mr. Yushchenko’s camp would like to see happen. A Cabinet led by her could very likely stir up another conflict within the pro-Yushchenko camp. Besides, a Yushchenko-Tymoshenko coalition would at best have a slim majority in the Verkhovna Rada, making it vulnerable to the national deputies’ insubordinations or defections that have become characteristic of the Ukrainian Parliament.

A much more stable scenario would see Mr. Yushchenko’s Our Ukraine strike a coalition deal with Mr. Yanukovych’s Party of the Regions. A cabinet supported by Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions would seemingly enjoy the safety net of parliamentarian backing. Since Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions are essentially run by oligarchs representing the interests of big business in Ukraine, there would be few obstacles to them agreeing on a basic set of economic, financial or social reforms.

However, such a coalition might encounter difficulties defining Ukraine’s foreign-policy priorities and goals. The parties “traditionally” have opposite geopolitical agendas, largely due to the fact that the Party of the Regions’ electorate is primarily located in Russia-leaning eastern Ukraine, while that of Our Ukraine is principally based in the west of the country, which has closer affinities to Western Europe.

Finding the middle ground between the two in working out a joint foreign agenda would require much wisdom, responsibility and compromise from both sides. But a resulting alliance could be worth the pain – it could testify that the two major political forces in Ukraine see the country as an independent political player, rather than as a participant in a geopolitical tug-of-war.

One of the principal drawbacks of a potential President Yushchenko-Yanukovych alliance is that it would leave Yushchenko open to charges from Ms. Tymoshenko and her followers that he has “betrayed” the Orange Revolution by siding with the man who was his rival in the contentious 2004 presidential election. Mr. Yushchenko could see his support in western Ukraine erode even further, without any guarantee that he will make up for such losses by gaining support in the east.

Our Ukraine’s deputy campaign chief, Roman Zvarych, told RFE/RL before election day that, despite the rumors, there will be no coalition after the elections between Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions.

Mr. Tymoshenko also firmly ruled out the possibility of a post-election coalition with Mr. Yanukovych. “Our positions are mutually exclusive,” Ms. Tymoshenko said on March 21. “The political bloc that I head categorically stands for the complete separation of clans and criminals from the government. The core leadership of the Party of the Regions headed by Mr. Yanukovych represents one of the most powerful of such clans, whose intention is to use the government for the purpose of maximizing its capital. Cooperation between the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc and Party of the Regions is therefore impossible in principle.”

Whatever option President Yushchenko chooses after the March 26 vote, he will have to keep in mind that the days when it was possible to run the country by decree and by bending the Parliament to the president’s will via pressure, bribery or blackmail, which was the case under his predecessor, President Leonid Kuchma, are gone for good.
Tennis Camp
AGES 10-19
Kick off the summer with 2 weeks of intensive tennis instruction and competitive play directed by Georgiy Savchenko. Rooms, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, expert lessons and a life time of memories are included!
June 25 – July 7, 2006
$540.00 UNA Members, $650.00 Non UNA Members + $180 Instructors Fee/Per Student

Exploration Day Camp
AGES 4-9
A day camp for boys and girls ages 7-10, with daily supervised fun in the outdoors!
Session #1: June 26 – June 30, 2006
Session #2: July 3 – July 7, 2006
$100.00 Per Week/Per Child OR $25.00 Per Day/Per Child

Discovery Camp
AGES 6-9
Calling all nature lovers for this sleepover program filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, saunas, organized sports & games, bonfires, song and much more. Older kids will participate in overnight campsouts with focus on wilderness survival skills. Rooms, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, and a life time of memories are included.
Session #1: July 9 – July 15, 2006
Session #2: July 16 – July 22, 2006
$490.00 UNA Members, $590.00 Non UNA Members

Children’s Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp
AGES 9-13
Formerly known as ChamRoy Camp, this day camp exposes kids to their Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games, ending w/a performance.

Summer Camps 2006
Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.
Session #1: July 16 – July 21, 2006
Session #2: July 23 – July 28, 2006
$350 Per Camper, $600 Per Camper If Not Overnight Guest

Scuba Diving Course
AGES 12-ADULTS
This one week course will complete your residence, confined water and open water requirements for PADI open water certification. Classes are given by George Hludaievsky, scuba diving instructor. Space is limited so sign up now!
July 16 – July 22, 2006
$400 for Course (50% Deposit Required)

Ukrainian Sitch Sports Camp
AGES 6-18
This is the 37th Annual Ukrainian “Sitch” Sports Camp that will take place here at Soyuzivka for the 1st time. Run by the Ukrainian Sitch Sports School, this camp will feature soccer and tennis and is perfect for all sports enthusiasts. Registration for this camp is done directly by contacting Marko Bokal at 938/851-4617
Session #1: July 23 – July 28, 2006
Session #2: July 29 – August 3, 2006
$300 Per Camper, $145 for Day Campers

Golf Day Camp & Beach Volleyball Day Camp
AGES 8-ADULTS
Instructional golf sessions w/golf instructors, between 8-1 am & evening beach volleyball w/professional instruction by All American Volleyball Player between 6:30-8:30 pm
Session #2 SitchICampers may participate – call for details.
July 31 – August 4, 2006
GOLF-$35 Per Camper/Per Day & VOLLEYBALL-$55 Per Camper/Per Day

Traditional Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp
AGES 8-16
Directed by Anna Bohachevsky-Londeycevych (daughter of Roman Prymas Bohachevsky). This camp has been a Soyuzivka favorite for over 25 years, offering expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced dancers. Attendance is limited to 60 students. The camps end with a grand recital which is always a summer highlight!
Session #1: July 23 – August 5, 2006 (NEW ADDED WEEK)
Session #2: August 6 – August 19, 2006
$600 UNA Members, $700 Non UNA Members + $350 Instructors Fee/Per Student
$75 Deposit Required to Register Child into most Camps.
For more information & for camp applications call (845) 626-5641 or check out our website at www.Soyuzivka.com

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Party of the Regions...
(Continued from page 11)
On March 28 Mr. Yushchenko began the coalition-building process by inviting the leaders of the three leading political blocs to meet with him for an hour in the Presidential Secretariat building on Bankova Street. Mr. Yushchenko didn’t invite Communist Party Chair Petri Symonenko because their political views are too divergent. Arriving in a black Mercedes, Mr. Yanukovych met with the president and told reporters afterwards that he was satisfied with the talks, but the party won’t start official discussions until after all the votes were counted and it became clear which blocs and parties qualified for the Parliament.
The Regions informed (Mr. Yushchenko) that as the leaders of the election campaign, we will form a coalition,” Mr. Yanukovych said. The same day, the party’s election campaign chief Yevhen Kushnariov said the Party of the Regions will concentrate coalition discussions on key principles regarding Ukraine’s domestic and foreign politics, not assigning positions. “The most complicated discussions won’t be economics,” Mr. Kushnariov said. “The main divergencies aren’t there. More complicated are the foreign policy component. For example, this is the subject of NATO. This is means the subjects of Russia as a whole and the Single Economic Space, which, unfortunately, are conflicting.”
Mr. Yanukovych is the party’s only candidate for prime minister, Mr. Kushnariov said, and all discussions will take place on that basis.
Ms. Tymoshenko emerged from the Secretariat wearing a confident smile, though some reporters commented that she looked a bit weary. She and the president discussed defining their goals and uniting around them, she said. Their meeting was the beginning of “detailed, technical discussions regarding nuances and the signing of documents,” she said.
Ms. Tymoshenko repeated her conviction that Mr. Yushchenko would renew the Orange coalition. When asked whether her appointment as prime minister was a stipulation she put to the president, Ms. Tymoshenko replied: “The people’s choice is key to understanding who will occupy which positions. I won’t comment any further on this subject.”
Afterwards, she got into a black BMW and sped away.
“The Orange coalition,” Ms. Tymoshenko acknowledged the president’s power to dismiss the Verkhovna Rada if a majority coalition isn’t formed, but called that a “nuclear weapon.” “I believe that today, on the basis of the people’s choice, everything is in place to find an understanding in Parliament between the three political forces and to sign an agreement forming a democratic coalition,” Ms. Tymoshenko said.
“I absolutely don’t share in the application of the right to fire Parliament, because that would lead to a destabilization of life in Ukraine and a new wave of ruining people’s trust in politicians. That’s why I wouldn’t want such a weapon used,” she added.
Mr. Moroz also greeted the president at the Secretariat building. The Socialist Party’s political council voted on March 28 to support a memorandum that creates a coalition between the three Orange blocs, and Mr. Moroz repeated his wish to see an Orange coalition renewed.
About 5.7 percent of Ukraine’s electorate or 1.4 million votes, cast their ballots for Ms. Tymoshenko in the 2002 elections, the Socialist Party secured 6.9 percent or 1.8 million votes. Rather than forming a coalition with the Party of the Regions, Mr. Moroz said he proposed appointing Regions leaders as oblast council chairs in those four or five oblasts where they have the most support in order to prevent increasing Ukraine’s divide.
In an indication of which way Mr. Yushchenko’s partners are leaning, Our Ukraine’s political council met the same day and agreed to form a democratic coalition.
“The party supports the creation of a democratic coalition in the framework of Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Socialist Party, and demands the removal of deputies’ immunity,” said Volodymyr Stretovych, chair of the Christian-Democratic Union Party.
Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk echoed Mr. Stretovych’s position, adding that the Party of the Regions must meet three conditions to begin discussions with Our Ukraine. “First, rejection of the idea of federalism,” Mr. Tarasyuk said. “Second, rejection of granting the Russian language eminence status. Third, acknowledgment of Ukraine’s road to Euro-integration.”
Our Ukraine won’t make any decisions related to coalition building until its political council meets again on April 7, said party spokeswoman Tetiana Mokridi. Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Moroz both said they want to sign a coalition agreement as soon as possible.
Our Ukraine’s delay in signing an agreement indicates that the bloc is considering uniting with the Party of the Regions. Ms. Tymoshenko commented Prime Minister Yury Yekhanurov met with Mr. Yanukovych on March 29, she said. The political council has yet to make any decision. “The discussions with the Party of the Regions meet the expectation of Ukrainians that the conflict between the Party of the Regions and Our Ukraine representatives, which I believe is unacceptable,” Ms. Tymoshenko said.
Of the 37.2 million Ukrainians eligible to cast ballots in the 2006 parliamentary elections, 67 percent or 25 million voters participated.
Four years ago, voter turnout was about 65 percent, as 24.3 million Ukrainians voted.
Dnipropetrovsk hospital marks 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s first neonatal ICU

by Alexander Kuzma

Dnipropetrovsk – On February 17 doctors and former patients marked the 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s first neonatal intensive care unit at Dnipropetrovsk City Children’s Hospital No. 3. The ICU managed a new discipline in Ukrainian medicine, enabling doctors to treat prematurity babies and infants suffering from low birth weight, underdeveloped lungs and severe congenital defects at a time when other Ukrainian hospitals considered such cases hopeless.

“Prior to 1986 such children were not even counted as live births, as doctors had no way of stabilizing their condition or giving them a chance for survival,” said Dr. Alexander Buyalsky, the director of the neonatal unit. Since that time, doctors at the children’s hospital have made dramatic progress in saving the lives of thousands of children.

Dr. Buyalsky recalled many difficult trials and tribulations during the first 10 years his unit was in operation: “For the first 10 years we struggled without appropriate technology, and we only dreamed of the kind of equipment we have used more recently.

In 2003 the hospital received its first large humanitarian shipment from the New Jersey-based Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund. The airfreight was made possible by a major grant from the Monsanto Foundation, and it brought the first advanced pulse oximeters, ventilators, infant warmers and cardiac monitors. The hospital staff considered the aid so precious that it retained the services of a local Ukrainian army brigade to unload the cargo and to guard against any diversion.

Within the first year since the aid arrived, the Dnipropetrovsk hospital was able to reduce its infant mortality by 46 percent, while at the same time taking on children with lower birth weight and more complex pathologies.

CCRDF’s first in-country director in Ukraine, Iryna Bonacorsa Chehade, helped to build the partnership with Dr. Buyalsky and his staff, monitoring its utilization of donated items. Under the Monsanto grant, the fund has also purchased a Canadian “aurodynamic” diagnostic system to help Dr. Makedonsky and his chief of surgery, Dr. Alexander Hlaziky, to perform even more delicate operations on infants and small children who suffer from infection or from obstructions of the intestines, bowel or urinary tract.

“These operations can mean the difference between a life of self-denial, debilitation and shameful seclusion from society, and a life full of joy and enrichment,” said Dr. Makedonsky.

In the case of one of his proudest successes, a former invalid who underwent such an operation just received a full scholarship to study with the youth ensemble of a major East European ballet company. The Dnipropetrovsk hospital’s reputation has grown to the point that patients from as far away as Kiev and Vladivostok have come to Dr. Makedonsky for treatment.

The neonatal unit has also benefited from the new state-of-the-art Vidar Cub respirator that CCRDF installed with proceeds from a benefit concert last May featuring the Ukrainian Eurovision winner and popular recording artist Ruslana.

“We’ve invited Ruslana to come visit our neonatal unit in February or March so that she can see for herself the babies whose lives she has helped to save,” said Dr. Makedonsky. “As of the end of January, we have used Ruslana’s respirator to strengthen the tiny lungs of 21 newborns who could not breathe on their own.” At the rate of six or seven babies per month, the respirator is expected to save nearly 300 babies in the next six years, and doctors believe the respirator will continue to operate well beyond that time.

Currently, the Dnipropetrovsk neonatal unit has 12 beds for its patients with the most acute needs. Many other Ukrainian hospitals suffer from a lack of basic equipment such as pulse oximeters and respirators, often forcing doctors to make painful choices as to which critically ill newborn will be placed on artificial ventilation equipment which will have to survive without it. To spare doctors the anguish of such choices, and to save more lives, CCRDF has installed modern neonatal equipment in 10 of its partner hospitals, including those in Chernihiv, Rivne, Lutsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odessa and Chernivtsi.

“We still need a great deal of additional equipment to manage our large patient load from across Dnipropetrovsk province (oblast),” said Dr. Makedonsky. “Our most urgent need is to modernize our Newborn Pathology Department, which still uses incubators dating back to the Soviet era. Our great dream is to renovate the Department of Rehabilitation, where young children and babies who suffer during delivery or early childhood can undergo specialized, long-term treatment. Under the direction of Dr. Natalia Krasovska, the rehabilitation unit is currently housed in a building that dates back to the early 1900s and is in desperate need for reconstruction.

To further improve his facility, Dr. Makedonsky and his staff have turned to local businesspeople and government officials for support. “Even with the lack of needed economic reforms in Ukraine, Dnipropetrovsk remains a very prosperous city with a lot of industry and pockets of great wealth,” Dr. Makedonsky noted. “There is no reason for our children not to have the best medical services available. UMC and the Children of Chernobyl have set a good example for our local leaders.”

On January 10 the Dnipropetrovsk Philharmonic hosted a special benefit concert for the children’s hospital’s local charity auxiliary, Ilon Jour, donated $5,000 to the Dnipropetrovsk City Children’s Hospital No. 3 to help purchase new equipment for its surgical ward. The wives of two local business leaders have also volunteered to organize a women’s charity auxiliary for the hospital.

Western aid has helped to forge some vital improvements at this hospital, and perhaps more importantly, it has stimulated a new awareness within the local community that even greater improvements are possible. As the Dnipropetrovsk hospital continues to achieve greater successes, it is hoped that local and national leaders will start taking greater responsibility for the quality of care and for the long-term well-being of Ukraine’s children.

* * *

For more information on the UMC and CCRDF joint campaign to improve conditions at the Dnipropetrovsk City Children’s Hospital No. 3, or to aid other hospitals in Ukraine, readers may call the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund at 973-376-5140 or send e-mail to info@childrenofchornobyl.org. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to CCRDF at 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078.
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**Scholarly societies...**

(Continued from page 17)

inherited from the USSR some of the best material and human resources. Furthermore, Russian culture has persisted in its imperial messages and remains strongly Ukrainophbic, continued the lecturer. In Ukraine, the national elites are strongly opposed to Russian cultural domination, while the other territorial elites are ambivalent about it.

Prof. Ruchchuk said he believes the reason Ukraine’s independence has not resulted in a revival of Ukrainian language and culture is that Ukrainians have internalized the negative self-image of being inferior to the dominant Russians, an image that has been fostered for centuries. In Kyiv, for example, the “dominant discourse” suggests that it is not “normal” to speak Ukrainian; that very notion is ridiculed without even being discussed.

The speaker opined that the present language situation in Ukraine will persist for many years, but he did propose two objective arguments in favor of saving the Ukrainian language: 1) the ecological argument — that the language should be preserved in the interest of diversity, and 2) the legal argument — that language represents one of the human rights of the Ukrainian people.

The program ended with closing remarks by Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, first vice-president of NTIS.

**An election day...**

(Continued from page 1)

going through these trials, overcoming them and still wanting to help the people.”

Olena Mytyshyk, 49, said Ms. Tymoshenko was trying to change things around, but the Yushchenko government didn’t allow her to realize her goals.

“I would like to see her back there again,” she said.

Volodymyr Kovinia, 47, worked his whole life in the mines and factories of the Donbas, living in the city of Alchevsk. He visited Talne, his hometown, to vote for the Party of the Regions.

“I remember how we started to live better when [Viktor] Yanukovych became prime minister,” Mr. Kovinia said. “Before him, [Viktor] Yushchenko was prime minister, and I remember how we lived. It was much worse. Mines started closing and there wasn’t work.”

Mr. Kovinia said he is already collecting his pension.

He believes Mr. Yushchenko falsified the 2004 elections instead of Mr. Yanukovych.

Considering how many more people live in the Donbas than western Ukraine, he said he couldn’t imagine how Mr. Yanukovych could have possibly lost the presidential race.

At the polling station situated on the second floor of Talne’s Boarding School, voters said they experienced no problems. Lines weren’t very long, about five minutes on average and 15 minutes at most.

Three voting booths, constructed with a few strips of plywood and draped with blue and yellow curtains, were able to accommodate the 860 voters expected throughout the day.

No one complained of inaccurate voter lists, and no one said they had trouble with the five ballot lists for five different elections: mayoral, city council, district council, oblast council and the Verkhovna Rada.

In fact, the only complaint was that the voting room was a bit stuffy, a much preferable situation to the cold polling stations reported in other parts of Ukraine.

For a while, the district election commission had only 14 members, said Vera Chmyha, its director. During the last week however, the commission was able to bring membership up to 18 members, who worked as long as it took to tally the votes.

The stipend for working election day increased from $3.40 during 2004 elections to $10 this year, Ms. Chmyha noted.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc triumphed in the Chernky Oblast, winning the support of 38 percent of the oblast’s electorate.

So why was Ms. Tymoshenko so popular among Chernky residents?

“Like a good housewife, she’s ready to take on any task,” said Ludmyla Knysh, 34.

Entries in “Out and About” are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com if space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed in a maximum of two times each.

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**OUT AND ABOUT**

**April 7**

New York  
Film at the Institute screening of “Borderland: Ukraine and the Rebirth of Democracy,” Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660

**April 7**

North Port, FL  
Ukrainian Easter Bazaar, St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Church, 941-426-2182

**April 8**

New Britain, CT  
Easter Festival, St. Mary’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 860-828-5087

**April 9**

Silver Spring, MD  
Easter Bazaar and pysanka workshop, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-593-5316.

**April 11**

Toronto  
Roundtable discussion on Ukraine’s parliamentary elections, University of Toronto, 416-947-8113

**April 15**

New York  
Pysanka-making demonstration, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110

**April 28-30**

Kerhonkson, NY  
Spa weekend organized by UNWLA Branch 95 at Sotyyukiza, 845-626-5641
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"It was clear that the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation had an important place in the community and I wanted to be part of it."
— Rose Wasyliw, Union, NJ

Join us now in preserving Soyuzivka and celebrating our Ukrainian Heritage

Every great institution depends on a core of dedicated supporters who are willing to take their commitment beyond the occasional visit and become involved at a deeper level. For the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, that kind of commitment is essential—and can be exhibited in becoming the first members of the new Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation.

There will be many levels of membership, but at the heart of it all, members will be individuals who share the vision of Soyuzivka as the epicenter of the Ukrainian American community, members who desire to promote and preserve their cultural, educational, and historical Ukrainian-American heritage. Since 1950, Soyuzivka has been the heart of the Ukrainian American community, a gathering place to which the descendants of the many waves of Ukrainian immigrants keep returning to experience their rich cultural heritage and to meet other Ukrainian Americans. Today, in the establishment of a Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, Ukrainian Americans and supporters of Soyuzivka join in their efforts to preserve this cultural jewel.

Many of these descendants are experiencing a renewed interest in their ethnic roots. The Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation is an initiative to re-educate both young and old in an effort to maintain a proud heritage.

Members will be people who enjoy Soyuzivka enough to want to give something back—to make a personal investment in its exhibits and programs, and renovation and preservation initiatives—for themselves and for their community.

You can be sure that your membership commitment to the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, at any level of support, will make a difference.

Membership Options (Annual Fees) and Benefits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual Fee</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>(pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 50% discount in gift shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students 17-23</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>(pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 50% discount in gift shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors over 65</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>(pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 50% discount in gift shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family (children under 16)</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
<td>(pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 50% discount in gift shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>(10% discount for catered company party event at the Soyuzivka annually)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Membership Categories:

- Partner
  - $300.00 (pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 50% discount in gift shop and a commemorative brick
- Heritage
  - $500.00 (pay no entrance fee, parking/pool fees) 50% discount in gift shop: “Plant-a-tree!” with commemorative plaque and permanent recognition in the Heritage Founders Circle display
- Legacy
  - $1,000.00 (lifetime no entrance fee, parking/pool fees and a 50% discount for all Soyuzivka services; permanent recognition in the Heritage Founders Circle display

All members who join prior to July 31, 2005, will receive a Soyuzivka logo tote bag.

There are other ways to donate as well...Every Donor $ is appreciated...
The Elionoski Foundation recently donated $1500 for upgrading the PA system.
The Chornomorski Khytyr Plast Kurin is organizing a fund-raiser for new pool equipment.
The UNA Seniors and Spartandy Plast Kurin is sponsoring a children's playground project.
Contact Hector Paslawsky with your ideas...845-629-5441

THANK YOU!
Your $$$ will go to fund new 2006 projects and will create a new financial foundation for Soyuzivka:
- New dual air conditioning/heating system for Veselka
- Additional new mattresses
- New curtains in Main House rooms

Send in your form and we will send you details on your membership ID card and benefits information. Thank you for your support!
New Ukrainian courses and lectures announced at Stanford University

STANFORD, Calif.—The Program in Ukrainian Studies at Stanford continues to expand its activities and courses on campus. Recent visitors have included the poet Volodymyr Dibрова of Harvard University, historian John Paul Himka of the University of Alberta, historian Mark von Hagen of Columbia University and political scientist Prof. Marta Dyckov of University of Western Ontario.

Upcoming talks include: Prof. Catherine Wanner of Pennsylvania State University, who will address “Evangelical Movements in Late Soviet/Post-Soviet Ukraine” on Thursday, April 6, at 5 p.m.; and Prof. Lucan Way of Temple University, who will speak on “Fueled Authoritarianism in Ukraine: The Sources of the Orange Revolution” on Thursday, April 27, at 5 p.m. For complete location information, readers may log on to http://ukrainianstudies.stanford.edu/UpcomingEventsUkr.htm.

The program is offering new courses this year—in Ukrainian language (supported by a gift from the Northern California Committee to Aid Ukraine) and in contemporary Ukrainian literature and politics (supported by the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union of Rochester). Particularly interesting is the course “Politics of Identity in Eastern Europe,” taught by Volodymyr Kulyk, a senior research fellow at the Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences, Kyiv. Prof. Kulyk spent last year at Stanford as a Fulbright Scholar. (For more about him, see http://ukrainianstudies.stanford.edu/VisitingScholarsUkr.htm.)

The Ukrainian Studies Program at Stanford also welcomed its second Chopivsky Fellow this winter, thanks to a generous gift from the Chopivsky Family Foundation. Economist Iryna Lukyanenko arrived from the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA), where she is chief of the department of finance, and deputy dean of the department of economics.

Prof. Lukyanenko also serves on the faculty of the M.A. program in economics at NUKMA. Her research interests include econometric modeling and forecasting, budget systems and macroeconomic policy. Her recent projects on the Ukrainian economy include studies of budgeting systems in Ukraine and the relationship of regional policy stability with local budgets.

Voters’ committee...

(Continued from page 5)

Voters’ committee...

(Continued from page 5)

tions of election legislation during the voting and vote count processes.

However, as CVU continues to observe the process of calculating and summarizing the election day results, the chances of invalidating some local election races are still possible.

The preparatory work on organizing and preparing for the election was conducted at a low level, both from sides of the authorities and political parties (blocs). The conduction of both local and national elections simultaneously, the complicated procedures of voting and vote tabulation, the amendments to the election legislation made in the few days preceding the election and the poor quality of voter lists caused long queues at polling stations and other organizational problems. Approximately 1 million voters were not able to exercise their right to vote because of problems with voter lists and long queues. CVU believes, however, that these problems were not planned, existed in all regions of Ukraine and did not provide an advantage to any political force.

CVU registered some attempts to falsify the voting, specifically for the local elections. Examples of election day violations include the following: a) violations of voter secrecy, b) lack of ballots at polling stations, c) attempts at ballot stuffing, d) bringing ballots outside of a station with the purpose of selling them, e) distribution of false agitation materi- als, and numerous procedural violations by voters and members of election commissions. Nevertheless, such situations were not numerous and did not provide an advantage to any political force.

On election day there was discovered a planned action to produce and distribute blank forms for the purpose of including people on the voter lists through decision by the courts with reference to the Constitution of Ukraine. Such a procedure, authorized by some courts, contradicts the existing legislation and misled voters and election commission members. However, these inclusions were not numerous and do not provide sufficient reason to appeal election results, even for specific polling stations. CVU expects that the vote tabulation in some polling stations will last until Monday evening, and the declaration of preliminary results will not be made until Tuesday morning. CVU advises all members of election commissions and representatives of political parties (blocs) to remain patient and calm.

CVU will release a more comprehensive report later in the week.

Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.
NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2) and regional committees of the SPU, correspondingly.” (Ukrinform)

Election losers voice accusations

KYIV – People’s Opposition bloc leader Natalia Virenko on March 28 accused the incumbent authorities of election forgery. At that point, her bloc had 2.82 percent of the votes. Ms. Virenko contended that the exit polls were deliberately meant to mislead voters by understating her bloc’s chances for clearing the 3 percent barrier. Ms. Virenko also accused the Central Election Commission of providing incorrect election returns on the CEC’s website. She said she does not rule out massive protest actions. Meanwhile, Viche party leader Inna Bogoslovakova and Vadym Karasev maintained that their the party’s votes were stolen in favor of the Party of the Regions, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine. They further contended that the authorities had applied Stalin’s principle, who once said that the way the people vote does not matter, what matters is the way the votes are counted. (Ukrinform)

Pora leader Kaskiv steps down

KYIV – Pora leader Vladyslav Kaskiv has decided to submit his resignation, in view of the party’s obvious failure to clear the 3 percent barrier in the March 26 parliamentary elections, it was reported on March 29. According to Ukrinform Pravda, Mr. Kaskiv was to formally submit his resignation that day. Last week, speaking at a press conference, the Pora leader promised that he would resign the post if the bloc of Pora Reforms and Order failed to get voted in to the new Parliament. According to the Central Election Commission, the bloc had collected 1.47 percent of the votes. Mr. Medvedchuk was President Kliment Kachiv’s chief of staff. (Ukrinform)

Three Ukrainians jailed in Minsk

KYIV – Three Ukrainian citizens remain jailed by the Minsk police department, having been arrested during opposition protest actions, the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry’s spokesman said on March 28. The Ukrainian citizens were reported in satisfactory condition, having no complaints on improper treatment. spokesman Vasyl Filipchuk said the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry’s spokesperson urged the Belarusian authorities to recognize Ukrainian citizens’ rights to peaceful assembly in accordance with generally accepted democratic rules, to be tolerant, to avoid repression and to fire all those detained during the peaceful protest actions. The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry also called on Belarus to launch a dialogue with opposition forces and to consider the conclusions and commentaries by election observation missions of the international community. Mr. Filipchuk added that it was worringly worried about the groundless detention of Ukrainian citizens in Belarus and the denial of entry into Belarus of Ukrainian nationals. “These facts contradict the spirit of friendly and good neighborly relations between the Ukraine and Belarus,” he stressed. (Ukrinform)

Belarusian courts jail 500 protesters

MIENSK – Some 500 of those arrested in Minsk on March 23, 24 and 25 stood trial in nine district courts in the Belarusian capital on March 27 and 28 and were jailed for up to 15 days under an article punishing unsanctioned rallies, Belapan reported. Further trials were expected to take place. Human rights activist Ukhrine Labovich claimed that the Belarusian authorities are violating the United Nations Convention Against Torture. “People were beaten up and threatened when they were arrested. They were not given food and even water for many hours, and not allowed to go to a lavatory,” Mr. Labovich alleged. “Transporting people in paddy wagons, handcuffing them like dangerous criminals, forcing them to stand with their faces against the wall in courts, ordering them not to report their names — these are all torture. Torture is also being applied to their parents. They are denied information about their children’s whereabouts for several days.” Mr. Labovich added, as an example of providing incorrect election returns on the CEC’s website. She said she does not rule out massive protest actions. Meanwhile, Viche party leader Inna Bogoslovakova and Vadym Karasev maintained that their the party’s votes were stolen in favor of the Party of the Regions, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine. They further contended that the authorities had applied Stalin’s principle, who once said that the way the people vote does not matter, what matters is the way the votes are counted. (Ukrinform)

Minsk reacts to Washington’s criticism

MIENS – Andrey Papou, a spokesman for the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, said on March 23 that the United States “has no mandate to reject or recognize the results of elections in other independent countries,” Belapan reported. Mr. Papou was commenting on Washington’s statement earlier that week that the Belarusian opposition’s demands to hold a repeat presidential vote is “Not the White House’s job to decide Belarus’ present government.” It’s the people who elect the president in our country — and not in the street but at polling stations,” Mr. Papou added, in an apparent reference to the U.S. presidential election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Police break up Minsk protest

MIENS – At a 3 a.m. local time on March 24, riot police cleared an opposition tent camp on Minsk’s October Square, seizing some 300 protest tents who had kept vigil there since the evening of March 20 to protest alleged fraud during the March 19 presidential election, RFE/RL’s Belarus Service and Belapan reported. The arrested protesters were subsequently transported in trucks to a detention center on Akroziuna Street in Minsk. Col. Yury Padabed, who was in charge of the operation, said his troops did not resort to violence while making the arrests. “The authoritarian government has once again showed its true face, having failed to withstand the challenges of democracy... This situation will continue to the end. The government has become afraid of the action planned for March 25,” unit opposition presidential candidate Alyaksandr Milinkevich told Belapan. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko against isolating Belarus

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in a television interview on March 23 that he is against isolating Belarus in the international arena or using economic sanctions against that country in the wake of the March 19 presidential vote, which the Belarusian opposition claims was rigged, Interfax-Ukraine reported. “I think it is not a rational policy to work [with Belarus] through a system of economic blockades [and economic ultimatums], given our ties with this country,” Mr. Yushchenko said. At the same time, he said that Ukraine’s “political position” vis-a-vis Belarus is “clear”: “If these elections failed to meet the standards of democracy, we ignored the freedom of assembly and denied equal possibilities to all candidates, etc., we will make the same political assessment as that voiced by observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,” President Yushchenko added. (RFE/RL Newsline)
MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on March 28 that “in seeking to build a system of interstate relations based on principles of equality, mutual respect, pragmatism and mutual beneficial cooperation, Russia looks for- ward to an intensive dialogue with the Ukrainian government. Again, instead of acknowledging the achievements of the Verkhovna Rada,” RIA Novosti reported. The ministry noted that Russian and international media extensively and frequently reported on the planned Crimean referendum and concluded that the election was valid, although they described the process as “an acute political struggle” and noted some information about the Crimean referendum that added that Ukrainians have made a “con- scious choice and shown a high level of political interest.” (RFE/RL Newsline) 

...and slams Belarusian opposition

MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday in a statement on March 28 that the opposition in Belarus had deliber- ately provoked a violent reaction by the security forces. Russian news agencies reported, “It’s clear that the opposi- tion provoked the government to take violent action and thereby created a wave of Erinism against the govern- ment in Minsk,” the statement added. The ministry considers the protests in Minsk to be “an obvious opposi- tion’s tactic during presidential elections in certain other countries [such as Ukraine and Georgia].” Instead of acknowledging one’s opponent’s victory in a civi- lized way, a gamble was made on [playing to] emotions on the street in an attempt to have one’s way, not by popular choice, not at the ballot box, but beyond the legal framework.” President Vladimir Putin con- firmed Tuesday that the state telephone conversations, “Mr. Turchynov told journalists. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Klitschko notes importance of sports

KYIV – Former boxing champion Vitalii Klitschko said Tuesday on March 29 that “in seeking to build a system of inter- state dialogues, Russia looks for- ward to an intensive dialogue with the Ukrainian government. Again, instead of acknowledging the achievements of the Verkhovna Rada,” RIA Novosti reported. The ministry noted that Russian and international media extensively and frequently reported on the planned Crimean referendum and concluded that the election was valid, although they described the process as “an acute political struggle” and noted some information about the Crimean referendum that added that Ukrainians have made a “con- scious choice and shown a high level of political interest.” (RFE/RL Newsline) 

New bishop for Sambir-Drohobych

LVIV – It was reported both in the Ukrainian and Russian that on March 2 Pope Benedict XVI blessed the decision of the bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) to appoint Redemptorist priest, Father Yuriy Rypatz, archimandrite of the Sambir-Drohobych Eparchy of the UGCC, as auxiliary bishop of Sambir and Drohobych. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Ikea to invest in Ukraine

KYIV – The Swedish giant furniture company Iceland plans to invest $700 million to $800 million in Ukraine’s economy. In Kyiv it has started construction of the regional center trade shopping center, which is expected to be opened on December 1, 2006. Mega will occupy a total area of 90,000 square meters, and its rentable area amounts to 130,000 square meters. The center is to contain 200 stores, cafes, children’s playrooms and a movie theater, among other features. In the future the IKEA furniture company will open trading outlets in other major cities of Ukraine such as Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa and Kharkiv. IKEA also contemplates building shopping malls in Zhytomyr, Lutsk and Rivne, as well as the subsequent construction of furniture factories nearby. (Ukrinform)

Over 9,500 new citizens in 2006?

KYIV – Over 9,500 persons may become Ukrainian citizens in 2006. The Ukrainian citizenship is predetermined for 676 scientists and cultural fig- ures and 22 investors with a total contribu- tion of $100,000 (U.S.) into the Ukrainian economy. Moreover, as many as 3,258 rel- atives of Ukrainian citizens and 28 for- mer Ukrainian citizens will have an oppor- tunity to be granted Ukrainian citizenship. As many as 3,731 persons, who are next- of-kin of immigrants in Ukraine and have been staying in Ukraine for the last three years can also obtain Ukrainian citizenship. The immigration quota is established by the government annually in accordance with Ukraine’s law on immigration. In 2005 Ukraine granted citizenship to as many as 7,066 foreigners. (Ukrinform)

New Catholic bishop is ordained

LVIV – Father Bohdan Dziurakh, CSSR, was ordained a bishop on Monday, April 3 at St. Georg- e’s Cathedral in Lviv. The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the UGCC, as auxiliary bishop of Sambir and Drohobych. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Ukraine healthy lifestyles are the prerogative only of affluent people. We would like to make sports clubs affordable and accessible to all citizens who wish to be healthy, he explained. Mr. Klitschko disclosed that the brother of former Ukrainian boxer Vitalii Klitschko Foundation has embarked on implementing a project to establish sports clubs that will provide serv- ices in no way inferior to those offered by most expensive athletic clubs at minimal prices. The first such club will open in Kyiv in June and will be able to accommodate 4,000 athletes. In addition, Mr. Klitschko said the foundation is implementing a project to restore existing sports facilities and to construct new outdoor sports facilities equipped with basic gymnastic apparatus. Last year 10 such sports grounds were restored in Kyiv. (Ukrinform)

Basic gymnastic apparatus.

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Kiev and Astana (Kazakhstan) and Kharkiv. IKEA also contemplates building shopping malls in Zhytomyr, Lutsk and Rivne, as well as the subsequent construction of furniture factories nearby. (Ukrinform)

New air routes begin in April

KYIV – New regular flights between Kyiv and Astana (Kazakhstan) and Symferopol and Astana will be launched in Ukraine on April 28-29, the UM Air Airlines press service told Ukrinform. Moreover, a regular flight between Kyiv and Symferopol-Koln (Germany) is to be launched in April through May. UM Air, established in 1998, is third biggest airl- ine in Ukraine. The company operates A-320, DC-9 and TU-134 VIP airliners. (Ukrinform)
Soyuzivka’s Datebook
April 7-9, 2006
BUG (Brooklyn Ukrainian Group)
Spring Cleaning Volunteer Weekend

April 16, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day
Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 18-19, 2006
Mid-Hudson Ukrainian Migrant Education Program

April 22, 2006
Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal Dinner Banquet

April 23, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 28, 2006
Elenville High School Junior Prom

April 28-30, 2006
Spa Weekend organized by SUNY NEWLA Branch #5

April 29, 2006
Birthday Party Banquet
TAPS New York Beer Festival
at Hunter Mountain, round trip bus from Soyuzivka, $20; special room rate – $60/night

May 5-7, 2006
Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz

May 14, 2006
Mother’s Day Brunch

May 20, 2006
Wedding

May 21, 2006
Communion Luncheon Banquet

May 29-29, 2006
UNA Convention

June 2-4, 2006
Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz

June 3, 2006
Wedding

June 5-9, 2006
Eparchial Clergy Retreat

June 10, 2006
Wedding

June 11-16, 2006
UNA Seniors’ Conference

June 16-18, 2006
3rd Annual Adoption Weekend

June 17, 2006
Wedding

June 18, 2006
Father’s Day Luncheon and Program

June 23-24, 2006
Plast Kurin “Shostokryli” Rada

June 24, 2006
Wedding

June 25-27, 2006
Tabir Ptashat Session #1

June 25-27, 2006
Tennis Camp

June 26-June 30, 2006
Exploration Day Camp