

HERALD BICHIK

KBITEHЬ, 2008p. HOME P 201 PIK XVII

APRIL 2008 NO. 201 VOL. XVII Price \$2.25

Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra (AUUC)



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra (AUUC) had a busy schedule for February and March, continuing into April, with five appearances (one of which was cancelled because of a snow storm) for six concerts. A report is printed on page 8.

Home Ownership Now Harder

It has been reported that home ownership is harder now than it has been since 1990.

In Ontario, that phenomenon is tied to the very slow growth in incomes (the slowest among all provinces), coupled with increasing house prices, according to a study by the Royal Bank of Canada.

The bank says that Ontario "may well be tottering on the brink of recession".

"A weaker economy, slower job growth and lower income gains," says the RBC, "should restrain Ontario housing activity in 2008."

The report also indicates that housing prices in Alberta are "cooling off", which the RBC economist Derek Holt

fears "could become a trend." This is actually about dropping housing prices in that province, not just a slowing growth rate.

In Ontario, housing costs for a 900 square foot condo, including mortgage payment, taxes, and utilities went from 46.3% to 47.3% of gross income between the third and fourth quarters of 2007.

The report says that Toronto's housing market remains tight. However, many new condominiums are due to come on the market in the next two years, so that prices should start to level off.

The Vancouver market still boasts very high costs, with a 900 square foot condominium requiring 73.8% of gross income.

Mr. Holt speculates that affordability relief may come by the end of the year, with lower interest rates if the Bank of Canada drops rates.

Or, perhaps not.

Did Kafka Script This?

In 2002, American troops were thousands of miles from home, on the territory of Afghanistan, having gone there to wage a war. The Americans must have had strange ideas about war, for they apparently thought that only one side, their own, was going to do all the killing.

As it turned out, the enemy did shoot back, and some Americans were killed. Rather than accepting this as a cost of war, and treating enemy combatants as that, the Americans decided that the enemy was to be called "illegal enemy combatants" and to

be treated as terrorists and murderers.

That is pretty strange in its own right, but it gets even stranger.

Around the world, child soldiers are treated as victims, rather than malefactors. The United States, however, having captured a child soldier in Afghanistan, a 15-year-old at the time, called Omar Khadr, decided that the juvenile should be treated the same as any other "illegal enemy combatant".

Of course, we should not be totally surprised. The US is a country, after all, in which juveniles can be tried as adults and sentenced to death for certain crimes.

Having captured this juvenile, who at the time had a number of bullet holes in his chest, the American authorities decided that it would be an excellent idea to torture him. Therefore, they turned his questioning, or at least some of it, over to interrogators who were noted for rough interrogation, in a facility noted for detainee abuse.

All the details, of course, are not out yet, and nothing has been proven in court, but the torture is reported to have

included withholding treatment for his wounds, as well as a variety of other tortures while suffering the pain of the wounds.

Apparently, under rather serious duress, the juvenile made self-incriminating statements, which the administration intends to introduce as evidence. While it is not certain that the evidence will be allowed, it is important to note that American courts have recently ruled, in some cases at least, that evidence gained through torture is admissible.

A new wrinkle appeared recently. It seems that there was another person with Khadr at the time the American soldier was killed, and the first report on the fire, written the next day by a commander on the scene, said that the other person, who was later killed himself, had slain the US soldier. A couple of months later, but using the original date, it is now known, that commander changed his report to suggest that Khadr killed the American.

What has not been disclosed yet, is whether the report was changed before or after Khadr made the self-incriminating statements under torture, but two months would be a long time for a wounded 15-year-old to hold out. The statement, therefore, was probably altered to fit the admission, and to fit the prosecution's case.

Of course, in 2002 George "The Torturer" Bush had no legal framework for any of those proceedings, so he had

to establish his rights.

With the help of his staff, and a compliant Congress, he redefined torture several times. At one point, if the victim did not lose an eye, a kidney or some other organ, it was not considered torture — unless the victim died. While that definition was in effect, the President assured everyone that "America does not torture."

Quite recently, he vetoed a bill passed by Congress which would have made waterboarding (which most people agree is torture) illegal. Congress could not override his veto.

The American administration had to develop several designations and definitions for people like Omar Khadr, before finding something which might be acceptable even to judges appointed by President Bush.

The US administration also had to go through several variations of a legal framework for courts and trials, before settling on one that was not totally obvious as a kangaroo court designed to secure convictions rather than reaching verdicts on some reasonable concept of justice.

Khadr is the only Westerner left at Guantanamo, the others having been repatriated at the urging of their governments. The government of Canada, however, is so far up the American digestive tract that Bush does not need to chew his own food.

Therefore, Omar Khadr
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PUBLICATIONS MAIL 40009476
POSTMASTER: IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO
KOBZAR PUBLISHING CO. LTD 602, 9903-104 STREET
EDMONTON AB T5K 0E4

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On the Way to the Third Youth Festival

Many young people in the AUUC travelled to the various World Youth Festivals, later the World Festival of Youth and Students, over the years, often combining that experience with a visit to Ukraine. The story printed below, written over 50 years ago by Olga Berketa, has a different slant from the official reports which regularly appeared in the AUUC press. We print it as part of the series of personal experiences related to the 90th anniversary of the Association.

It all started when I heard the delegates to the first World Youth Festival in Prague report at a public meeting at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, 300 Bathurst Street in Toronto. The Hall was crowded and Joan, my aunt and I took turns sitting on the one chair we had discovered free among the whole crowd.

The youth who spoke that night told of many exciting things, of being able to meet and converse with the youth of the world, of two wonderful weeks of being youth among youth in a city of youth. My mind wandered from the speaker's exact words and I imagined just what it would be like, and right then and there I decided that I, too, wanted to go to see the world.

When I started to work on my very first job, I began to save my money so that my dreams might some day come true.

In those intervening years, I became more and more interested in the youth organizations here in Toronto, and I became a member of both the National Federation of Labour Youth and the AUUC. Later I held executive positions.

At the time of the Second World Youth Festival, in Budapest, I had very little money saved, for I had just recently begun full-time work, and was unable to attend with the other Canadians.

Again I heard the reports back at 300 Bathurst, heard Walter Balay and Norman Penner bring back the wonderful message of the festival, of the great success it had been, of how Canadians had had the opportunity to become friends with the youth of all the world.

When the call went out for the Third World Youth Festival, I knew that I would be financially able to go, for I had very zealously saved every cent I could, even regretting the dentist's bill I had to pay before I left.

The last few months before I left Canada were hectic ones. Our organization, the AUUC, was preparing for the large scale celebration of the 60th anniversary of the first pioneers' arrival in Canada.

I was kept busy with re-

hearsals, with executive and membership meetings. But in the few days before the boat set sail, I was able to see the wonderful achievements our organization had made, I was able to see a festival of such large proportions and such high quality as to surpass our expectations.

For three days people gathered from all across Canada, and the United States too, to celebrate together this momentous anniversary, and to see unveiled for the first time a large monument of the best known and very beloved poet of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko. As the string was pulled and the monument came into view, a gasp went up from the crowd assembled around the base of the monument, for the sculpture we saw was very, very lifelike and seemed to impart to us the very feeling of the spirit of Shevchenko.

To me, Shevchenko is not dead. The wise words he wrote and spoke so many years ago are still true today, and he is as loved today as he was at that time. This man, whose memory is still revered today by all Ukrainians, no matter of what political opinion, because of the way he fought for the freedom of all Ukrainian people shall never die, because of his humaneness, his friendliness, his nearness.

He is in Palermo today and I am very sure that he is happy to be there, with his beloved Ukrainian people who now live in Canada, where they thought to be able to lead a much better life than the one they had lived under the landlords in the old land.

My grandmother had arrived in Canada as a young girl, my Mom had been born in Manitoba and I was born in Toronto. We are Canadians, and very proud of the fact, and also very proud of our ances-



The author attended the 1954 school of the AUUC, part of the regular program of education for potential future cadre. Olga Berketa is fifth from the left in the Front row; her future husband John Dzatko is second from the right in the back row. Among other work, Olga worked for a period as a staff member of *The Ukrainian Canadian*.

try and our rich heritage of music, song and dance, that was brought to Canada with our forefathers as they came to this strange country across the sea.

I know that I never could have departed for Berlin if I hadn't had the opportunity to live through the 60th anniversary celebrations at Palermo. For to me this festival at home also had a great significance and played a large role in our fight for peace.

As it was, I set sail with the memories fresh in my mind of three quite wonderful days and the wonderful knowledge that it was truly a success.

In spite of my eagerness to travel and to attend the third festival, when the boat did set sail I felt very homesick and alone. There is something about such a lot of water surrounding a person, in spite of all the gaiety aboard ship, the movies, the dances, the song sessions at night, when Alex would play his accordion and sing and then all the passengers would join in. Even though I always found someone to talk to, to play cards or checkers with, to walk with on deck, or to dance with, I had a very deep feeling of leaving something behind, of venturing out on something very different and being truly independent for the first time in my life.

They were nine rather long days on board the ship. I don't remember ever playing so

many card games before in all my life!

We had a few discussion periods, but there were a lot of security precautions taken, and actually we never did meet all the delegates on the boat, although we were all there until we landed at Paris.

It was a wonderful feeling at the first meeting we held in Paris to realize just who some of our fellow delegates were; people we had seen but didn't know who they were, and that they too had the same desire and destination as we did.

In Paris we elected our delegation leadership. We chose Sam Michnick as delegation leader, Jessie as secretary, Jean, Chuck and Mary as publicity committee, Stan as program ticket director and Alex and Lisa in charge of the Canadian pageant.

We decided to pretend to be a tourist group of youth and students, and decided to keep our real identities as delegates to the festival as much of a secret as possible.

We arrived in Paris on the 13th of July, the night before Bastille day, and as the train pulled into the Gare Lyon from Cherbourg we saw the fireworks everywhere in the city.

We were finally settled in our hotels; the girls in one called Hotel Mattle. Anca and I shared a room opening out on the front street, and when we opened our windows and looked out we could see the

decorated front of the Folies Bergeres building.

The boys stayed in another hotel, down the street and around the corner, but really quite close — about two minutes walk or so.

We were in the old Montmartre district, what the guide defined as the lower Montmartre when he took us on our bus tour.

We decided to go on a guided bus tour one afternoon. It covered some of the most famous spots in Paris, Notre Dame, and Sacre Coeur, the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower, the Latin Quarter, but to me it seemed actually a waste of an afternoon. I had already seen most of those spots already, and quite a few more, by just getting up earlier in the morning than most of the other kids, taking a Metro (subway) for a few stops, and walking around until I found some famous landmark I had read about or seen photos of back home in Canada.

I discovered the Eiffel Tower myself the morning after the Bastille Day celebrations. We had stood on the sidewalk and watched the huge parade march by. It had taken three solid hours and it certainly was the biggest demonstration for peace I had ever seen in my life.

Beginning with Joliot-Curie, who marched at the head, we saw the men, women, children

(Continued on page 16.)



Alex Ticknovich, Mary Skrypnyk, Olga and Stan Dobrowski visited Kaniv while in Ukraine in 1951.



This 1951 photo was taken during a boat ride on the Dnipro. Olga Dzatko, left and Mary Skrypnyk are in the front row, with Stan Dobrowski, a Ukrainian guide, and Alex Ticknovich standing.

"Nine Decades of Struggle" will return in the next issue.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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Published monthly by Kobzar Publishing Company Ltd.
595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2K4
Phone: (800) 856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

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at 1604 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 1A7
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Subscription price: \$30.00 annually (including GST)
\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.
Advertising rates available on request.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476

Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do not
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Wrong, Wrong, Wrong

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

In spite of my age and experience, I sometimes astound myself with my naivete.

In the July/August, 2006, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, in an editorial concerning the matter discussed in Johan Boyden's article on this page, I wrote, "the accused may actually have a fair trial, instead of just being tossed into some hole to rot".

Shame on me! I was wrong, wrong, wrong.

Two years after their arrest, three of the accused are still in isolation cells, and the others are under house arrest under strict conditions. Their families have reportedly been told that it will be *at least* one more year before the matter goes to trial.

A publication ban is keeping information about evidence secret, except for repeated ban violations by one of the prosecution's star witnesses, both of whom are highly paid police informants. At least one of them may also be considered an *agent provocateur* who, step by deliberate step, led a group of young men into a trap in which their lives, and those of their families have been smashed.

Shame on me for forgetting that the authorities, when they so choose, will find ways to hold prisoners for as long as they want, in whatever conditions they want, with or without justification, as they did with Ukrainians and others during World War One, as they did with Japanese, Communists and others during World War Two, as they did during the so-called Quebec crisis in 1970, as they have done repeatedly, and as they are doing now in the hysterical war on terror.

As have those earlier instances, the excesses of the war on terror can be expected, eventually, to be brought to an end. Perhaps some future government will find itself, once again, issuing apologies for injustices done to target groups, and perhaps reparations will enter the picture. In the meantime, as was the case in those earlier instances, a high price is being, and will be paid, in the tragedies inflicted on individuals and on collectivities ranging from families to entire ethnic and (in this case) religious communities.

I have written it various ways over the last few years, and I want to repeat it: government run amok, supported by a frightened society, is far more of a threat to the majority of citizens, than any suspected group of terrorists. This danger arises from the power of the state and the government, supported by a frightened society to declare any one of us, or any group of us, a threat to society which must be defused by indefinite detention on the basis of undisclosed (maybe, nonexistent) evidence.

COMMENTARY

The Torture of Isolation

In the 1930s and '40s, progressive Ukrainian Canadians and other residents were interned across Canada at various times for their political beliefs. Peace activists, labour organizers, socialists, and communists were arrested, and sometimes deported — and vilified in the media as terrorists and danger to the state.

Today, we live in the time of George Bush's War on Terror. Arab and Muslim people are now vilified and declared terrorists.

First there was Project Thread. Twenty-six Muslim men were arrested as a terrorist cell, then quietly deported without being charged.

Then there was the Secret Trial Five. Four have now been released under conditions of strict house arrest.

And there is Maher Arar, who was extradited to torture in Syria for terrorism. He has now been publicly exonerated.

But there is another case still, of eighteen young men who have also been charged with being part of a terrorist cell. These men are all Canadian citizens. Nobody knows the exact evidence against them, but three are still in solitary confinement — and have been there for well over twenty months, or 600 days.

It is hard to find someone — even Correction Services Canada — who will disagree with the fact that such isolation is torture. But these men are supposedly highly dangerous security risks, part of a cell about to strike, home-grown Osama bin Ladens.

Or are they just ordinary Canadian kids, victims of racial profiling and entrapment, in a weird legal limbo where they spend years in jail before being tried, never mind proven guilty?

Recently, I spoke to Fahim Ahmad, one of the three in solitary. Before his arrest he had just started a family, been accepted to college, and was beginning a new job. He liked

playing soccer and video games and going to restaurants with friends.

Now he "lives" in the Don Jail. Fahim is not allowed touch visits with his wife or his young children. He is not allowed to go outside his cell to the prison yard. He is not allowed more than one twenty-minute phone-call with the outside world a day.

This is an unusual and brutal form of punishment.

"I just hope everyone judges us with an open mind," Fahim tells me. "Unlike the government and the crown prosecutors. We want everyone to know the facts of the case. We want a trial in the courts, not in the media."

However, Fahim is forbidden to speak about the facts because of a publication ban — although, of the two star witnesses against him (who are both police informants), one has come forward and repeatedly broken the ban with interviews to CTV, CBC, and even the BBC.

"The same night as they arrested us, (CSIS and the RCMP) did a press conference and told the media everything they knew about the case. Everything. They've got us at a disadvantage, and I don't think it is fair, because they seem to be able to break the publicity ban at any time. But for us, we can't say anything."

"When I first got arrested, the police said 'you're charged with this, and this, and this' ... they weren't too clear," Fahim says. "They said they were arresting me because I was part of a terrorist cell. And I said, 'Oh yeah? Which one?' and they said 'We could try and tell you, but I don't think it would help your case.'"

The night they arrested

Fahim they kept the light on, so he didn't sleep. Now he lives in a cement square. "The walls are cement. There is no window, just a small square in the door, no natural light. The lights are neon." This has been his world since he was 21. Now he's 23.

From what we've heard, the case smells a lot like entrapment. The two star witnesses were also police informants, paid over \$4 million. One was a cocaine addict — that's an incentive to come up with stories. *The Toronto Star* has said the charges are "almost unbelievable".

No date is currently set for their trial. The families have been told it will take at least a year.

With public pressure, there is reason for optimism in Fahim's case. "People are sending us letters now," he says.

There have been a number of events on campuses with large audiences. "We get mail starting every Monday," he adds. It is something to look forward to.

You can write to Fahim Ahmad at:

Fahim Ahmad
550 Gerrard St. E.
Toronto ON
M4M 1X6

The other two young men at the Don Jail are Zakaria Amara and Ali Mohammad Dine.

In December, some of the other kids who had been arrested finally got bail. "It is uplifting."

Still, the conditions of house arrest are extreme and unusual. "But this is what happens when you're charged with terrorism during the war on terror," Fahim says. "I'm hoping for justice to kick in, but I'm not sure I expect it. It's like that old saying I learned long ago, 'expect the worst, hope for the best'. So that's what I do. I don't expect justice but I hope for it."

— Johan Boyden

George "The Torturer" Bush

US President George Bush has vetoed legislation passed by Congress which would have forbidden the CIA to use torture. The House of Representatives failed in an effort to override the veto.

Many have written about the significance of this permission to torture, about the disrepute into which it brings the country, and about the dangers

it creates by justifying such behaviour.

Much of the justification for torture is that the enemy is so cruel that torture is justified to extract information needed to protect ourselves against their schemes.

What I fail to understand is what now distinguishes President Bush and CIA agents from any other terrorist thugs.

— WS

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We invite readers to submit their views in letters to the editor. Letters must be signed. Letters may be edited, but their sense will not be changed.

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

One-Fingered Salute

The Speaker of the *Verkhovna Rada* (Ukrainian Parliament), Arseniy Yatsenyuk, reported that on February 17 he was driving his car in Kyiv, minding his own business and not breaking any traffic laws.

Suddenly a jeep appeared, "broke the rule of the road" (speeding?), and veered in front of Mr. Yatsenyuk's car, cutting him off.

While blocking Mr. Yatsenyuk's way, the driver of the jeep rolled down his window, and showed, according to Mr. Yatsenyuk, a "rather famous sign" which is used "in American films".

When requested to show identification, the other driver refused. Upon later investigation, Mr. Yatsenyuk determined that the driver of the jeep was the Deputy Chairman of the State Traffic Police, Mr. Kozha.

The investigation also revealed that Mr. Kozha owned not only a jeep, but also a Mitsubishi, a Toyota Land Cruiser, and a Porsche.

Upon learning the details of this incident, President Viktor Yushchenko immediately fired not only Deputy Chairman Kozha, but also his boss, the Chairman of the State Traffic Police.

In a severe lecture, President Yushchenko stated, "Nobody gave you the right to this behaviour. The behaviour which the Department of Traffic Police demonstrates today is inadmissible."

Gas Problems

As has been widely publicized in the media, the Russian state gas monopoly Gazprom reduced the supply of gas to Ukraine by 25% on March 3 and an additional 25% on March 4.

As usual, the Russophobes in Ukraine (a minority of the Ukrainian population), immediately labelled the action as still another hostile act by Russia against Ukraine.

Although the cutbacks were precipitated by Ukraine's nonpayment of gas debt for the months of January and February, the underlying reason for the squabble is the escalating power struggle between Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko and Ukraine's new Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

At a meeting in Moscow on February 12, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin worked out a deal for gas supplies to Ukraine. A week later, Yulia Tymoshenko flew to Moscow and unravelled the deal, saying later that

the agreements between the Ukrainian and Russian presidents were only in words.

In a subsequent letter to the Ukrainian President, the Ukrainian Prime Minister stated that the cabinet would not execute the agreement. To add gasoline to the flames, she immediately released the letter to the media!

Yushchenko was quoted in the media as replying, "It is very unpleasant for me to say such things, but I am fed up with this policy of recklessness and intrigue. I truly do not understand just what the prime minister meant by this act."

He also referred to some of her recent allegations as "blatant lies".

The split between the "gas princess" (Tymoshenko made her billionaire fortune in the 1990s when socialist Ukraine's assets were privatized in wild-west fashion) and Yushchenko is old news in Ukraine. They started off as friends and co-heroes of the 2004 "Orange Revolution", but couldn't keep the marriage going for longer than a year.

In 2005, Viktor Yushchenko fired Yulia Tymoshenko from her job as prime minister eight months after appointing her to the position, citing economic failures and alleged corruption.

Against all odds, they now share power again, but according to analysts, their union is set to fail.

"The Ukrainian political forces have created a model which is not viable in real life. It turns out that there isn't anyone in Ukraine who makes final decisions. So the country is virtually ungoverned, which is very dangerous," said Vladimir Zharikhin of the Institute of CIS Studies.

Prime Minister Tymoshenko's persistent differences with President Yushchenko could lead to new disputes with Gazprom, and possibly new reductions in gas supply to Ukraine.

Gay Movie

It may well prove to be the biggest film release ever in Ukraine, but the British movie *Sappho*, which opened at 90 Ukrainian theatres on March 5, has already attracted local scandal.

Set on the Greek island of Lesbos in the 1920s, its story is a love triangle between a young visiting American couple and a Russian emigre woman. Subtitled *Love Without Limits*, its gay themes have certainly caused a stir.

"I made it as a pro-love movie, not pro-gay. (But) it feels like the sky has fallen in," said the movie's director Robert Crombie.

Chief opposition has come from the "Embassy of God" protestant church, whose leader, Nigerian-born Sunday Adelaja, denounced the work — which he admitted he hadn't seen — as "the worst kind of appearance of Western freedom".

Crombie managed to get into Adelaja's tightly controlled press conference, and tried to explain his point of view, but was forcibly ejected. Most other journalists followed him out onto the street.

For now, the director is concerned as to whether opposition will go into the streets to disrupt screenings. "After that, we'll be looking for international distribution. If we can make \$1 million in Ukraine, that's double previous results for anything here to date, and we'll aim to break into the international market."

Shevchenko's Birthday

The Ukrainian leadership laid flowers on March 9 at the monument in Kyiv to Ukrainian poet, artist, and humanist Taras H. Shevchenko. On that day, the country celebrated the bard's 194th birthday.

Taking part in the ceremony were Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, members of the Cabinet of Ministers, deputies of parliament, representatives of the Kyiv mayor's office, and non-governmental groups.

After the ceremony in the capital, the president went to the Morintsi settlement (Cherkassy region) where the great Ukrainian poet was born.

A festive meeting devoted to Taras Shevchenko was also held at Ukraine's National Opera Theatre.

Bribery Costs Higher

The value of a typical large-scale bribe passed to a corrupt Ukrainian official has rocketed past the \$5,000 mark. A typical large-scale bribe in capitalist Ukraine a year ago cost "only" \$3,000 — \$3,500.

According to Leonid Skalozub, director of Ukraine's national economic crimes division, the most common small bribe-takers remain workers in the national health administration, education ministry, and members of the country's widely-disliked DAI traffic police force.

These corrupt officials do not fall into the category of "large-scale bribe-taker", as performing a simple medical test, or avoidance of a standard traffic violation requires a bribe the equivalent of between \$10 and \$20 in most

Ukrainian cities, he said.

Official approval of one's admission application to one of Ukraine's top universities — which theoretically is free — has already crossed the threshold from small-scale to large-scale bribery, and currently can set back a student's parents as much as \$5,000. Grades are also on sale at some universities, with professors demanding from \$20 to \$50 dollars for top marks in a course.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has called state corruption "Ukraine's problem number one".

Unfortunately, his government's efforts to reform itself have shown poor results. Even during 2008, when efforts by the economic crimes division to punish large-scale bribery redoubled, the Ukrainian government so far has convicted only 73 persons of taking bribes in excess of \$2,500.

Said Skalozub, "The top officials taking these bribes have become very clever, and they only work through middlemen. They are well-versed in avoiding government tracking . . . one of their favourite techniques is accepting anonymous deposits to their credit card accounts."

Referendum On NATO

Ukrainian lawmakers went back to work on March 6 after weeks of paralyzing, sometimes colourful, and even comical, discord over the government's efforts to seek NATO membership for this ex-Soviet republic.

Opposition lawmakers, who are against joining the American military alliance, demanded that the government agree to put the question of NATO membership to the people of Ukraine by holding a national referendum.

The government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko refused, and so the opposition parties (Party of Regions and the Communist Party) blockaded the parliamentary chambers so as to prevent the normal operation of parliament.

The protest featured fist-fights, posters on the parliament walls, and the release of blue-and-yellow balloons.

At one point, Parliamentary Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk was locked in his office to prevent him from opening a session.

The discord also prevented President Viktor Yushchenko from delivering his annual state-of-the-nation address.

Ultimately, the confrontation was resolved when the pro-American Ukrainian leadership agreed to the opposition's demands that the Ukrainian people decide the ques-

tion of NATO membership.

On March 6, parliament passed a resolution stipulating that the NATO membership issue will be decided in a nationwide referendum.

"We have overcome one of the longest crises in the history of the Ukrainian parliament," Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk told lawmakers.

American-leaning President Yushchenko has made NATO membership a priority, but public opinion polls have consistently shown that well-over half of the people of Ukraine oppose it.

Army Downsized

The Ukrainian parliament adopted a bill in February to downsize the country's armed forces in 2008. A total of 243 lawmakers out of 441 voted for the bill.

The numerical strength of the 200,000-strong Ukrainian armed forces will be cut to 191,000 servicemen by December 31, 2008. By 2011, the forces will be further slashed to 143,000.

Odessa Opera

The Ukrainian National Opera of Odessa, on its 120th anniversary tour, presented *Madame Butterfly* on February 24 in the city of Basingstoke in England.

The company is considered to be one of the finest in Europe. It is based in one of the most spectacular historical buildings in the world, built by the same architect as the Vienna Opera House. The building has been closed for three years for a major renovation which has cost the Ukrainian government more than \$10 million.

In addition to its strong presence at home, with about 300 performances of opera and ballet each year, the Ukrainian National Opera of Odessa has also been able to build a growing international profile. Their production of *Madam Butterfly* was nominated for Opera of the Year Award by the Liverpool Daily Post in 2006.

It's by popular demand that the Ukrainian National Opera of Odessa brought *Madame Butterfly* back to England.

NATO Propaganda Parade

NATO will attempt to improve its currently poor image in Ukraine with information centres and an advertising campaign costing millions of dollars, a Ukrainian government (Continued on Page 13.)

**Ukrainian
Page
Submitted
Separately**

**Ukrainian
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Busy Season for Welland Orchestra

Sometimes things just seem to pile up. The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra (AUUC) had such a time at the start of this year, with performances scheduled on February 19, February 27 and

March 5, with another pair of concerts, with an almost totally different program, set for March 29.

The February 19 concert was in the afternoon at the Bella Senior Care Residence



Conductor Rudy Wasylenky (left) and MC-cum-mandocello-player Wilfred Szczesny blended their voices for "Beer Barrel Polka".

in Chippawa (part of Niagara Falls, Ontario), a new venue for the orchestra.

The program of fifteen items for that appearance included one Ukrainian selection — the medley "Ukrainian Melodies" — and two medleys with Ukrainian portions: "Prairie Dances" and "Centennial Tribute" from the AUUC's 2005 National Ukrainian Centennial Celebration, the festival staged in Regina.

The balance of the program consisted of a multicultural menu of familiar old favourites ("Anniversary Waltz", the German medley "In Rudesheim", the Russian "Dark Eyes", and an instrumental version of "Sentimental Journey"), sing-along music ("Just Because"; the "Happy Wanderer Medley" with trio Ken Speck, Frank Panetta, and Wayne Hosick; and "Beer Barrel Polka", sung by Wilfred Szczesny and Rudy Wasylenky), a humorous rendition of "Good Night, Irene" by Ken Speck, and music from film and stage ("Greek Medley", with three selections from *Never on Sunday*; "Lara's Theme" from *Dr. Zhivago*; "When Irish Eyes



The trio of (left to right) Wayne Hosick, Frank Panetta and Ken Speck led the singing of a medley of three familiar songs: "The Happy Wanderer", "Let Me Call Your Sweetheart", and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game".

Are Smiling" from the 1912 stage production *The Isle o' Dreams* — vocal by Ken Speck; "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen" from the 1932 musical *I Would if I Could* — vocal by Wilfred Szczesny).

The afternoon concert on

February 27 was in Welland, at Woodlands of Sunset, one of eight long-term care facilities in the Regional Municipality of Niagara. The program was a repeat of the one presented the previous week.

Sometimes there is a limited applause at the seniors' residences and the long-term care facilities, and these two occasions were no exception. To overcome any concern about audience appreciation, however, one needed only observe the toe-tapping, the head bobbing and, occasionally, even some dancing. At both concerts, there could be no doubt that the music of the orchestra was received with pleasure.

The third concert in as many weeks was scheduled for March 5 at Linhaven in St. Catharines. Unfortunately, one of the many snowstorms which hit southern Ontario this winter dumped a pile of snow on the Welland area overnight, making many streets impassable. The concert had to be cancelled.

As this is written, the orchestra is in preparation for two concerts at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on the afternoon of Saturday, March 29. These concerts (look for a report in the next issue of the "UCH") will have an entirely different content, with a preponderance of Ukrainian music, including a number of pieces which will be performed publicly by the orchestra for the first time.

That, however, will not be that. In mid-April the orchestra is scheduled to perform at another new venue, Club Capri in Thorold.

— Wilfred Szczesny

Super Bowl Party in Toronto

Even the most diehard CFL fan... no, even a non-football fan would have had a wonderful time at the Super Bowl party at the AUUC Cultural

Centre in Toronto on February 3 this year. Everyone who attended certainly did.

The hall was splendidly decorated in shades of red, silver and blue, the team colours of the two contesting NFL teams, the New York Giants and the New England Patriots. Stand-up cutouts of the team logos acted as centrepieces and a Game Day banner covered the wall overlooking the buffet serving table.

On entering the hall, guests were invited to take part in an NFL trivia contest, with the prize being access to the front-row comfy chairs and couches. Winners of the relaxing honour were Marg Panasiuk, Erik Dobrowolsky and Olga Soldat.



The decorators in "The Crew" always ensure that the hall is appropriately decorated.



"The Crew" on this occasion included Nancy Stewart, Connie Prince, Mark Stewart, Bernardine Dobrowolsky, Erik Dobrowolsky and Jerry Dobrowolsky.



Enjoying front row seats for the exciting finish are (left to right) Rudy Wasylenky, Joe Dzatko, Kay Keniak and George Keniak.

An added attraction to the festivities was the traditional football pool. Under top security, the case holding the official numbers for the pool chart were ceremoniously carried into the hall by Marg Panasiuk, bedecked in a referee-style outfit, whistle and all.

Winner of the first quarter prize of \$25.00 was Fred Panasiuk.

Double jackpot winner of \$50.00 and \$25.00 for both the second and third quarters was Bill Harasym.

Winning the grand final score prize of \$150.00 was Mary Saik, who very generously donated \$50.00 back to the Branch.

Guests were treated to a fantastic chili dinner, prepared by the brother/sister team of Jerry Dobrowolsky and Nancy Stewart. The meal was topped off with delicious sweets prepared by Rose Manning.

Mark Stewart tended to the sports bar like a true champion himself.



Marg Panasiuk, right, escorted by Bernardine Dobrowolsky for "top security", brought in the case holding official numbers for the pool chart.

Thank you again to "The Crew" for all of the planning, preparation and management of this most successful social event.

Plans are already in place for next year's Grey Cup!
—B. Dobrowolsky

**Why not
Renew Your
Sub Today?**

Regina's Annual Concert – Recital



The Novice Class, instructed by Heather Melnyk and Ian Temple, are always ready to steal the show.



The Beginner Group, directed by Heather Melnyk and Ian Temple, performed the Transcarpathian "Tropotyanka".



The Junior Group performed "Kryvuliak" under the direction of Jodi Hall and Mark Gordon.

Praetorius Mandolin Ensemble

The Praetorius Mandolin Ensemble (PME), formed in 2005 by members of the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra (WMO), is having a productive winter here in Winnipeg.

A performance for the Winnipeg Early Music Society (WEMS) on February 17 was well received, and made the statement that the mandolin is (Continued on Page 12.)



The Winnipeg AUUC Praetorius Mandolin Ensemble at Trinity United Church, where they performed with the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra on February 24. Front: Jeanne Romanoski; back (left to right): Ian Walker, Carmen Ostermann and Barrie Webster.

On an extremely cold February night, the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance, as well as the children of the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts, performed at their Annual Concert Recital at the Regina Performing Arts Centre. Nearly 300 people braved the frigid temperatures on Saturday, February 9, 2008, to see this wonderful performance.

The program started with the Poltava Dancers, under the direction of Jodi Hall and Jeff Lozinsky and accompanied by the Poltava Orchestra, under the direction of Natalia Osypenko performing "Vitayemo". This dance featured five regions of Ukraine and the traditional presentation of bread and salt.

The School of Ukrainian Performing Arts was then featured, with the Novice and Beginner groups performing, many for the first time. These children, ranging in age from 3 up to 6, put on the most memorable performances of the night, capturing the crowds full attention.

Our Junior group then performed "Kryvuliak", a spirited dance that the audience thoroughly enjoyed.

The Poltava Orchestra was then featured performing "Gypsy Fantasy", an orchestration influenced by Gypsy melodies from the countries in which the Gypsies travelled and lived.

The Poltava Dancers followed with the premier of their new dance "Bukovenian Motif". The dance featured five couples performing the intricate rhythms associated with this region of Ukraine.

Next Pre-Poltava, the future dancers of Poltava, had a strong performance of "Kozachok". They showcased their strong technique in this central Ukrainian dance.

The Intermediate Dancers showed off with their intricate footwork in their dance, "Veseli Hutzulyata".

The first half ended with the Poltava Dancers performing "The Gypsies". This energetic and colourful number left the audience wanting more in anticipation of the second half of the evening.

The second half started with the Poltava Female Dancers performing "Pavlovsky Shawls", a Russian dance in which a hypnotic tapestry of motion occurs across the stage.

The Lileya Dancers followed this by performing "Festive Hopak". These dancers moved across the stage with excitement and grace.

Next, the swords came out to spark the audience during Poltava's performance of "Kuban Plyas".

The Pre-Poltava dancers



Some of the musicians of the Poltava Ensemble Orchestra, conducted by Natalia Osypenko.



Seanna Puszkar, Mark Gordon, Lisa Shmyr and Jeff Lozinsky in the Bukovenian section of the welcoming dance "Vitayemo", directed by Jodi Hall.



Jen Wilson and James Bell in the Volyn section of "Vitayemo".



Poltava Ensemble's welcoming dance sets the right tone for the rest of the concert.

then returned to perform the technically difficult dance "Khmelnysky Tanets".

The orchestra continued with one of their own selections, "Carousel".

Concluding the program was "Hopak", performed by the Poltava Ensemble. This brought the audience to their feet in appreciation of the talents and energy of the Ensemble.

A special "thank you" to the teachers of the dance school: Jodi Hall, Lisa Shmyr, Heather Melnyk, Zach Evans, Mark Gordon, and Ian Tem-

ple. We would also like to make special mention of our vocal soloist Guennadi Ostrikov, who always gets the crowd involved with his renditions of popular Ukrainian folk songs. The two songs he performed this evening were "Cheremshyna" and "How You Deceived Me".

Lastly, a special thanks to the orchestra, who played virtually the entire program, including all the children's numbers.

— Wanda and Sasha Lapchuk

**Submitted
separately
as a .pdf**

Communicating Historical AUUC Values

At the AUUC National Convention in October, there was an exchange of opinion on whether the Association is “left-wing” and whether this way of describing ourselves should be used in our Constitution and other documents intended for the general public.

After discussion, a preliminary vote, and then further consideration of the matter, a fairly wide consensus emerged that “left-wing” suggests a political stance and should not be included in the Constitution.

At the same convention, however, delegates affirmed a value statement which says that AUUC values respect, learning, cooperation, dignity,

equality, justice, democracy, diversity, social justice, peace and international solidarity. Many of these concepts are part of Canadian political language, and people serious about them often use political means to secure them.

In keeping with these value commitments, the delegates passed a resolution calling for the removal of Canadian military forces from Afghanistan, and another resolution calling for the preservation and enhancement of public health care in Canada. Both of these resolutions passed absolutely without dissent, and this at a convention at which almost everything was contested and a definite polarity in the Association was apparent even

to the most casual observer.

Granted that “left-wing” is an unclear and politicized concept, what language should we use to explain ourselves to outsiders who are young enough not to be encumbered with the old ideologies?

“Progressive” has a clear meaning to our older members, but perhaps not to the general public.

“Socialism” is no longer part of the Canadian political vocabulary. Not even the NDP uses the term very much, and when the term is used it seems to refer to a political system marked by excessive governmental interference in people’s lives and a consequent loss of rights and freedoms.

“Social democracy” still has a meaning in Europe, but perhaps not in North America since the rise of neo-liberalism in the 1970s.

So what remains for use in expressing ourselves in the public forum?

A meeting of Canadian Society for Ukrainian Research (CSULR) people with inner-city Grade XI students and their teachers at Winnipeg’s Ukrainian Labour Temple on February 26 served as a laboratory on ways to communicate our values as we have historically expressed them.

Each spring in Winnipeg, there is an Open Doors weekend during which some historic buildings are opened to the public under the sponsorship of Heritage Winnipeg, a community organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of historic buildings.

The idea of involving Grade XI history students in the Open Doors program arose in discussion between Heritage Winnipeg and Phil Reece of the Education degree program at the University of Winnipeg. The idea was to encourage students to visit the buildings and create banners to hang outside the buildings on the Open Doors weekend. Then a duplicate of the banner would be created for the permanent holdings of the building.

So the project was to involve not only the students, but also the History and Education programs at the University of Winnipeg, the classroom teachers, and the student teachers — all of whom were represented at the Labour Temple on February 26.

CSULR president Lily Stearns, Myron Shatulsky, and Nolan Reilly all spoke simply and eloquently in a manner exemplary of how we may talk in a contemporary setting about the Ukrainian Labour Temple movement to an ethnically mixed young audience.

We do not know what the students took away from the session, so we cannot evaluate it from that point of view. Still, we may reflect upon and learn from the approach the speakers took to their subject.

Lily Stearns and Myron Shatulsky, in the context of telling the personal stories of themselves and their families, both vividly painted a picture of what life was like for the immigrants in the early days. After coming to Canada with high hopes engendered by advertising by the Canadian government, they were essentially left on their own once they arrived.

Ms. Stearns described the rigours of the ocean travel, the harsh winters on the prairies, and the mosquitoes, and she showed the students examples of the memoirs of pioneers kept in AUUC archives. She showed how the Ukrainian immigrants lived in a climate of manipulation, intimidation and fear. The immigration laws were used to control the immigrants as, she added, they still are today. The people lived under a constant fear of deportation. Their jobs were insecure. If they were disabled on the job, they could be fired without insurance protection, and if unemployed they could be deported.

Myron Shatulsky told the students that the immigrants did not know English, and thus were hindered in trying to deal with the various Canadian bureaucracies. There was no medicare, no government pension, and no old age security, and the families lived in what would now be officially described as poverty.

Mr. Shatulsky described the small house in which he grew up. There was a toilet and

(Continued on Page 12.)

Winnipeg ULT Stars in Second Movie

When the rate of exchange favoured those spending US dollars in Canada, some US movie producers came to Canada to do their shoots. Winnipeg was sometimes chosen because its exchange area was a good match for Chicago, or other time-worn mid-western or eastern cities.

In *Shall We Dance?*, one of the more successful ventures, Winnipeg’s Ukrainian Labour Temple received an elegant make-over as a dance emporium. That hall rental was a boon to the Winnipeg Branch financially, quite apart from allowing members to brush shoulders with celebrities, and was much publicized in our press at the time.

Now a movie has appeared which makes a quite different, and more interesting, use of the Labour Temple. In this movie nothing was done to the hall, except for two flags which were brought in to stand by the back doors.

The movie is *You Kill Me*, starring Ben Kingsley and Tea Leoni, distributed by Alliance, and now available in the video shops.

The story of the film is set in Buffalo and San Francisco.

In the summer of 2006 the directors came to Winnipeg with a relatively small budget, \$500,000, because they thought Winnipeg would provide a good match for the criminal underbelly of Buffalo in the winter.

Unfortunately they came in the summer, so they had to buy something that looks like snow to scatter outside the Labour Temple on Pritchard Avenue.

The shoot required only a couple of evenings, so the production had a welcome but small impact on the Branch

You Kill Me

Far from perfect, it’s absolutely charming, with a super cast headed by Ben Kingsley as a hit-man with a drinking problem. Sent from Buffalo to San Francisco to dry out when he blows a hit, Kingsley attempts to get his life in order.

Funny, touching and atypical, no one is really a cliché.

As I said its not perfect, it meanders a bit too much and the mob stuff is a bit worn but its still a charming film.

I think the whole thing works thanks to the across the board excellent performances. First and foremost is Ben Kingsley who once again proves himself to be one of the finest comedic actors working today.



This is one of those movies you like with your heart more than with your head. This is one to see and share with as many people as you can force into seeing it.

— dbborroughs

budget.

The Branch was told at the time that in the movie the hall would be used for a labour union meeting. Maybe they said that because they thought that was something the Branch could not resist. In fact, in the movie the hall was the location for an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

The scene occurs at the romantic climax of the film, and so the hall is given generous treatment both from the outside and inside. The Pritchard Avenue side and the main entrance are shown fully, as is also the McGregor Street side, and even a legible street sign on the corner.

In the interior, everything is familiar. The viewer sees the plaques listing donors to the Ukrainian Labour Temple Foundation. The hall’s lectern is up front, and the bust of Matthew Popowich gazes over this strange meeting

from its usual place.

The directors apparently thought the black chairs were too upscale for an AA meeting, so they brought up the older, rickety light brown chairs from the basement. They left the black chairs stacked up at the back where they usually are stored, and showed those as well.

The stage did not look right for an AA meeting either, so all the curtains were drawn open, including the back curtain, thus showing the brick wall and the hall’s ancient stage machinery.

The extras were Winnipeg people, including some from AA.

At the time of the shoot, there was no fanfare in the Branch about the appearance of Ben Kingsley and Tea Leoni in the hall, and no shuffling for a place near the rich and famous.

That’s right, no one knew

about it!

This is not a movie review, so I do not have to detail my misgivings. In my case, I rented the film because curiosity won out over good sense. A member of the orchestra had said to me, “Guess what, I saw the Labour Temple on TV last night, etc.” My first impulse was to doubt it, since I thought I would have heard about Ben Kingsley of *Gandhi* fame coming to the hall, and now, having seen the movie, I can add my assurance that it is truly the case.

Still, in my opinion, the Winnipeg hall wins the Oscar for the best performance.

The directors seem uncertain as to where they wanted to go with the movie, though they did initially have a good idea. A professional hit man, employed in a funeral parlour, has a drinking problem, so he goes to AA for rehabilitation. He meets a pretty younger woman with her own list of problems.

The juxtaposition of a professional killer working in an embalming room, shown in quite vivid detail, may strike some viewers as funny.

There are a few legitimate good laughs in the movie, most of them having to do with the genuinely comical situation of a professional killer’s telling his story, innocently and without contrition, at an ordinary AA meeting.

Of course AA participants are practised in accepting what speakers have to say and keeping it confidential. So the actors do a double take and respond non-judgmentally, in accordance with AA practices.

One of the merits of the film is its sympathetic portrayal of AA.

— Brent Stearns

Joke Time

Feminist's Fairytale!!

Once upon a time, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess happened upon a frog in a pond.

The frog said to the princess, "I was once a handsome prince until an evil witch put a spell on me. One kiss from you and I will turn back into a prince and then we can marry, move into the castle with my

mom and you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children and forever feel happy doing so."

That night, while the princess dined on frog legs, she kept laughing and saying, "I don't think so."

* * *

The newlyweds arrived at the resort in Hilton Head, South Carolina, looking all eager to enjoy their two weeks of vacation/honeymoon. The stunning blonde at the front desk smiled and said, "Hi,

Jimmy. How ya been, lover? Long time no see."

A frosty silence prevailed until the couple reached their room. Once inside, the piqued bride demanded: "And just who was that woman?"

The groom wiped his brow and said, "Please relax honey. I'm going to have enough trouble explaining you to her."

* * *

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office.

After the check-up, the doctor took the wife aside and

said, "If you don't do the following, your husband will surely die".

1. Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast and send him to work in a good mood.

2. Make him a warm, nutritious lunch and put him in a good frame of mind before he goes back to work.

3. For dinner, fix an especially nice meal, and don't burden him with household chores.

4. Satisfy his every whim.

On the way home, the husband asked his wife what the doctor had told her. "You're going to die," she replied.

* * *

A little boy on his first day at school realized that he desperately needed to go to the bathroom. So he raised his hand politely to ask if he could be excused. Of course the teacher said yes, but asked him to be quick.

Five minutes later he returned, looking more desperate and embarrassed. "I can't find it," he admitted.

The teacher sat him down and drew him a little diagram to where he should go and asked him if he will be able to find it now. The boy looked at the diagram, said "yes" and went on his way.

Five minutes later he returned to the class room and said to the teacher "I can't find it."

Frustrated, the teacher asked David, a boy who had been at the school for awhile,

to help him find the bathroom.

So the two fellows went together. Five minutes later they both returned and sat down at their seats.

The teacher asked David, "Well, did you find it?"

David quickly replied: "Oh, sure. He just had his boxer shorts on backwards."

* * *

An old man went to the Wizard to ask him if he could remove a curse he had been living with for the last 40 years.

The Wizard said, "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you."

Without hesitation, the old man said, "I now pronounce you man and wife."

* * *

WIFE: "There's trouble with the car. It has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous."

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"

WIFE: "In the pool."

* * *

The phone rings at FBI headquarters.

"Hello?"

"Hello, is this the FBI?"

"Yes. What do you want?"

"I'm calling to report my neighbour Adrian Thibodeaux! He is hiding marijuana inside his firewood."

"Thank you very much for the call, Sir."

The next day, the FBI agents descend on Thibodeaux's house. They search the shed where the firewood is kept. Using axes, they bust open every piece of wood, but find no marijuana. They swear at Thibodeaux and leave.

The phone rings at Thibodeaux's house. "Hey, Adrian! Did the FBI come?"

"Yeah!"

"Did they chop your firewood?"

"Yep."

"Great, now it's your turn to call. I need my garden ploughed."

Did Kafka Script This?

(Continued from Page 1.) can expect to stand trial, eventually, on charges of murder in violation of the laws of war, attempted murder, conspiracy, spying, and providing material support to terrorism. Quite an impressive list for a 15-year-old.

The trial was most recently set for May 5, but has been delayed indefinitely, perhaps because of uncertainties the prosecution feels in light of the irregularities revealed recently.

— Wilfred Szczesny

Praetorius Mandolin Ensemble

(Continued from Page 9.) a legitimate medium for the expression of early music.

Music performed included Michael Praetorius's "Dances from Terpsichore", derived from his 1612 collection of dance music, an English Country Dance number from 1670 called "Mulberry Garden", a group of mid-1600s basse dances and tourdions, and the "Faerie Queen Suite" by Henry Purcell (ca. 1690).

Praetorius collected some 132 short dance pieces, the first to be so published (1612), and the suite played was chosen and edited by Christopher Ball and published in 1974.

The music was received with enthusiasm by the members of WEMS, most of whom

play recorders and the harpsichord. The sweet music of the classical mandolin once again made its mark.

The night before the performance at the WEMS, PME performed at a party honouring the 92nd birthday of Peter Buchert, a Mennonite Canadian originally from eastern Ukraine.

His family members in the city celebrated at the Inn at the Forks and Mr. Buchert, being in good health, came in from Altona, about an hour and a half south of Winnipeg, in spite of the cold weather.

The evening was jolly, and again, the mandolin music was greatly appreciated.

A week later, the PME performed at a WMO concert in

Trinity United Church in Fort Richmond (south Winnipeg).

The concert had been arranged through the WMO concert master Ian Walker, who also plays in the PME. Many of the congregation at the church were of Ukrainian heritage.

Not only was the mandolin orchestra music a great hit, the PME was also received very well. Once again, the sounds of the classical mandolin opened new pathways to understanding.

The PME will almost certainly participate in the Mostly Mandolins year-end concert by the WMO on May 10. They are currently working on some new music for that event, including a suite by Poulenc in the style of the 17th century, but with some very Poulenc-style wrinkles.

We think the audience will approve.

— Barrie Webster

Communicating Historical Values

(Continued from Page 11.) lavatory, but no bath tub. He was, however, quick to point out that there were compensations and that life, on balance, was good. There were fresh tomatoes and vegetables from the family garden, an incredibly lively and ethnically diverse neighbourhood, and many educational and cultural opportunities.

Mr. Shatulsky went on to say that the Labour Temple people were conscious of the problems they faced, and they were determined to make the world a better place. To that end, before the Ukrainian Labour Temple was built, some of them were members of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, and before that had been involved in radical democratic parties in the old country. In Canada, they tended to support political parties which promised them the better world they sought and a new system of human relations.

The implied question for the students to think over was: wouldn't you have done the same?

Ms. Stearns and Mr. Shatulsky essentially told the stories of the collective experience of Labour Temple people. Mr. Shatulsky used the

term "radical" once or twice, but in general they made no use of generalized concepts or labels.

In historical studies the use of labels is an understandable short cut, but the labels invariably create problems of their own. Were the Dark Ages really dark? Was the Industrial Revolution really a revolution? etc. The history education people wanted the students to have access to the primary sources, and that is what they got.

Nolan Reilly, in his presentation, showed the pleasures of history to young people who may think history is dusty, musty, and old-fashioned. To do this he asked the students to consider a number of questions: What was it like to be active in the hall in the early days? Try to imagine this. And then ask, what buildings in your neighbourhood would you like to have designated as historic 40 years from now?

Thinking about that encourages a number of mental activities. It gets you to think of yourself as an agent in history, and it helps you get back in the mind-set of 90 years ago.

Further to this, Mr. Reilly encouraged the students to ask: What are the causes and

conditions which have brought you to the place where you stand today? He said that in answering this question you will quickly find that your own history is closely intertwined with the histories of others.

To top all this off, Mr. Reilly asked a question which is at the same time obvious and boldly unconventional: Why was it that Myron Shatulsky grew up in a simple house without amenities, while at the same time the wealthy establishment were living in mansions on Wellington Crescent with servants and all the rest?

Yes, why indeed? To answer that question you have to engage in the study of economic history and social theory. This is heavy for a Grade XI student, but there is no better time to plant the seeds. There is no telling where thinking in these terms will lead a student.

And so some stories were told, the imagination was kindled, and some questions were asked. The political oppression of the organization and its members was covered vividly by all three speakers in the context of civil liberties issues that confront Canada today.

Very little attention was paid to the history of the per-

forming arts in the Association. After the session one of the teachers asked, "What is the building used for today?"

The tenacity of the performing arts in the Association even up to the present is an important part of the story, which may not have had its proper emphasis.

What will the banner be like? We will have to wait only a few months to find out. There was some talk of including the hands across the globe and the "Workers of the World Unite". This makes sense, since a neoclassical building with that inscription is probably unique in North America. Also, the 1919 General Strike is, because of its place in the school curriculum, in the forefront of the minds of the teachers.

At a later time, an evaluation of this educational initiative will be possible, and we can learn from our successes and mistakes.

Meanwhile, the CSULR's role in the project has made new contacts and has dealt creatively with a problem we all face: How, on the 90th anniversary of the Association, can we best explain who we are, where we have come from, and what values and visions have moved us?

— Brent Stearns



JOIN US!

Join us for a new season of AUUC activities! Each Branch has a unique schedule of events and activities. To discover what we have to offer, contact the AUUC in your area:

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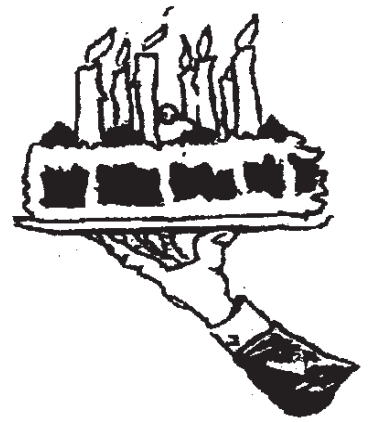
Who, What, When, Where

Calgary — The Calgary Hopak Ensemble of the AUUC is sponsoring the 90th Anniversary Celebration Concert at the University Theatre of the University of Calgary, starting at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2008. Tickets: In advance — \$12.00 ; at the door — \$15.00 ; children 12 and under — \$5.00. For tickets, phone 403-246-1231 or June at 403-288-8470.

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver presents Spring Fling on Saturday, April 5, 2008, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a short concert by the AUUC Performing Arts Groups, followed by a Pasta Dinner and leading into a Family Dance to the live music of Reeltime & pHRockets all for the price of \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Don't miss this great family event for Babas and Didos, Aunts and Uncles, Moms and Dads and kids.

Readers of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* are invited to submit items of interest to the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community for free listing in this column. The deadline for material is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.

Happy Birthday, Friends!



The Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens' Club wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of April:

Anne Husar
Merville Rogers
Cheryl Romach
Leo Tropak

May you have good health, happiness and a daily sense of accomplishment as you go through life.

The Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club extends best birthday wishes to April celebrant:

Marie Harasym

May good health and happiness be yours in the coming year!

The Vancouver Seniors Club extends best April birthday greetings to:

Joan Kowalewich
Nick Mackiewich
Audrey Skalbania

Hope you have a great day!!

The Welland Shevchenko Seniors extend a happy birthday wish to April celebrants:

George Sitak
Greta Taylor

May the coming year bring you all the best in health and happiness!

Sustaining Fund Donations

Olia Musick, Edmonton AB	
<i>In memory of my parents Joseph & Mary Pawlyshyn and my husband Walter Musick</i>	\$100.00
Olga Pawlychyn, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Michael Stefiuk & Otti Nicolai, Mississauga ON	
<i>In memory of Z. Nykolyshyn — Apr 23, 2005 ..</i>	50.00
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Mary Harrison, Winnipeg MB	50.00
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Steve Smoly, Regina SK	20.00
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 5.)
The official announced recently.

More than \$3 million, contributed by the government (taxpayers money) and by unnamed "Western Donors", will go towards the project, said Serhy Shevchuk, a member of Ukraine's parliament. The money will fund the construction and operation of NATO information centres in seven Ukrainian cities, which would work towards showing local media a "true picture" of the military alliance.

Shevchuk's announcement, made during a speech to parliament, came one day after German Prime Minister Angela Merkel said she was not optimistic about Ukraine joining NATO any time soon because of widespread opposition towards the alliance by the Ukrainian population.

Ukraine's current government is controlled by a pro-Western coalition promising to make Ukraine a NATO member as soon as possible. The planned program to improve NATO's image will target Ukrainian youth.

NATO's reputation deteriorated after NATO bombed Serbia in the late 1990s. Many Ukrainians objected to the American-led destruction of Serbia because of ethnic and religious ties between Slavic Ukraine and Slavic Orthodox Christian Serbia.

Further antagonism to NATO has been generated by the American-led invasion of Afghanistan.

Ukraine is one of Europe's most pacifist countries, with its citizens opposing membership in NATO by a two-to-one margin.

Police Boss Robbed

Acting Chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), Valentin Nalyvaychenko, confirmed to journalists that his wallet was stolen. He also stated that he had already reported the theft to the local militia.

The SBU is Ukraine's major national security service, combining both investigation and counterespionage.

According to mass media reports, the wallet was stolen in one of Kyiv's most luxurious hotels, the Hyatt Regency, which is located in the centre of Kyiv, on Sofia Square.

In the wallet were \$400.00 in American dollars, two bank credit cards, and a driver's licence.

Foundation AGM Considers Development

Every Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation is unique in some way. This year, the gathering on March 8 at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto was distinguished by the amount of attention devoted to issues around the development of real estate holdings in Oakville.

Foundation President Bill Harasym introduced the topic in a report which reviewed developments since the 2007 AGM. The report outlined the process leading to participant status for the Foundation at hearings of the Ontario Municipal Board, with the adoption of a Conceptual Site Plan. The report discussed the formation and subsequent activity of the THS Land Development Committee, with representatives of the Resident Executive Committee of the Foundation and National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.

A question and answer period followed, during which authoritative answers to questions were provided by project specialists Grant Morris (a former member of the OMB and currently a planning consultant), Norm Tomas (lawyer) and Len Sedun (architect).

Among the main messages delivered by the panel of experts: the longer the Foundation stays with the project, even without additional input, the higher the value of the property can be expected to



Foundation President Bill Harasym reported on events surrounding the development of Museum property in Oakville.

grow; every additional expenditure made, such as the cost of producing of a draft plan, will be more than recovered by substantial rises in the value of the asset; there are many options available, most of the time, for coping with complications or problems as they arise; the option to "get off the gravy train" by disposing of the property is always available.



Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, who is now the Museum Director, delivered a report recording impressive accomplishments.



Project specialists Grant Morris (left), Norman Tomas and Len Sedun answered many questions concerning the possible development of land in north Oakville. The AGM ratified the decision to take the project to a draft plan.

The meeting was encouraged and reassured by the information provided by the experts, as well as being excited by the vision which was projected. Most important, participants came to believe that the project was manageable, and the work done to date was prudent. As a result, after receiving the President's report, the Board of Directors unanimously adopted a motion to ratify the decision to proceed with the development of a Draft Site Plan.

Anticipating that the land development project would be a major item on the agenda of the AGM, Gerry Shmyr, Robert Seychuk and Steve Smoly, AUUC members of the THS Land Development Committee, accepted the invitation to Toronto. In his remarks to the gathering, AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr indicated that, "The Foundation and the AUUC are moving into an area of development that is not what we would consider a familiar activity, however we are prepared to take on a new challenge that will greatly affect both bodies for years to come."

Though the development



AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr addressed the Foundation as a member of the THS Land Development Committee.

project was the major question before the AGM, it was not the only business to be considered.

Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, Chief Operating officer of the Foundation reported on other aspects of the activity of the Foundation, showing some interesting and substantial achievements.

She reported a growing number of visitors to the Museum including, for the first time, a group of teenagers (with mentors and some parents) from the Ukrainian Youth Association of Mississauga, and a group of chil-

dren from the *Svitlychka* Montessori kindergarten in Toronto.

There has also been a growth of visits to the web site, which now has 31 pages.

Since the last AGM, there have been two successful exhibitions at the Museum, and two successful displays have been mounted at Queen's Park, Ontario's parliament.

With the help of Board member Bob Ivanochko, the travelling exhibition "Spanish Civil War 1936-1939" was displayed in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

An impressive section of the report indicated substantial improvement in media coverage, and solid successes in other outreach.

Ms. Pogoryelov did not fail to thank volunteers Yasin Suzuk and Victoria Kravchyn, who also represent a positive development, and ended with recognition of International Women's Day.

The AGM later changed Ms. Pogoryelov's title to "Director".

REC Treasurer Nancy Stewart presented a financial report which generated some discussion because it reported assets by market value. The change, apparently, was by financial authorities because of new rules which recently came into effect, but Directors were concerned about possible distortions the new reporting method might introduce into the institution's financial picture.

The Auditors' Report, delivered by Anne Magus, indicated that the financial records were in good order.

The final major business to be done by the AGM was the "Nomination and election of Board member candidates and the Resident Executive Committee."

The results of the process were the election to the Board of Larry Kleparchuk (British Columbia), Jim Skulsky (Calgary), Bob Ivanochko (Saskatchewan), Carmen Ostermann (Manitoba), Oryst Sawchuk (Sudbury), Bob Seychuk (Ottawa), and Clara Babi (Welland).

The selection of an Edmonton representative was put into abeyance until the results were known of the Edmonton AUUC Branch AGM, scheduled for April 27.

Elected to the REC were: Lyudmyla Pogoryelov — Museum Director; Bill Harasym (President), Andrew Gregorovich — Vice-President and Librarian; Nancy Stewart — Treasurer; Terry Oraschuk — Recording Secretary; Bill Morris — Vice-Recording Secretary; and George Borusiewicz — Member.

Also elected was an Audit Committee, composed of Bernardine Dobrowolsky, Peter Livingston, and Joe Dzatko.

These elected representa-
(Continued on Page 16.)

—Story photos: Wilfred Szczesny



Anne Magus reported from the auditors (herself and Bernardine Dobrowolsky) that the books were in order.



REC Treasurer Nancy Stewart reported that new rules required a new reporting method, which generated some concern.



Among the Board member attending were Jim Skulsky of Calgary and Bob Kisilevich of Edmonton (seated left and right at the front table), and Carmen Ostermann of Manitoba, Bob Seychuk of Ottawa (looking away), George Borusiewicz of the REC and Larry Kleparchuk of British Columbia.

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Foundation AGM

(Continued from Page 14.) tives will serve pending ratification by the next meeting of the National Committee of the AUUC.

Before ending its business session, the Annual General Meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation set the date of the next AGM for March 7, 2009.

The end of the business meeting was far from the end of the day. After an interlude for relaxation, most of the participants went to the Museum to hear a talk by Lyudmyla Pogoryelov on "Shevchenko's Art" and view the exhibition which was opened earlier in

the year.

As evening arrived, with everyone preparing for dinner, an interlude of song to bandura accompaniment was provided by the duet of Maria Sudak and Yaroslava Stasiw. Their selections, well enjoyed by all, included several songs to the words of Shevchenko and a few folk songs.

The delicious dinner catered by Baby Point Lounge ended the evening, except for those who wanted to stay on and chat.

A pleasant aspect of the day was the attendance as observers of Mary Prokop, who spent decades as a leading member of the Foundation,

and Lillian Carrigan, who was the grounds keeper for many years until the theft of the statue of Taras Shevchenko.

— Wilfred Szczesny

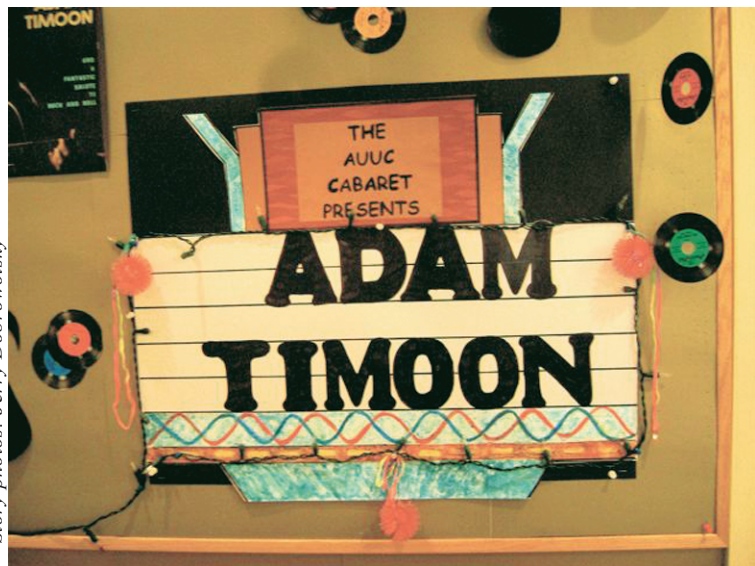


Bob Ivanochko (front) and Bill Uhryn represented Saskatchewan and Edmonton respectively



A pre-dinner musical interlude was provided by the talented duet of Yaroslava Stasiw (left) and Maria Sudak, who played a variety of songs based on Shevchenko's poems and folk songs.

Toronto AUUC Hosts Adam Timoon



On March 2, the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto was transformed into a cabaret starring Adam Timoon. As usual, the decorating committee did a great job in preparing the premises to establish the mood.



Adam Timoon has a fan base in the Toronto AUUC from his days at the Seaway Hotel — not to mention that he's one of "ours".

On Sunday, March 2, the AUUC Toronto Branch had the honour of presenting Adam Timoon, live in concert.

Adam is a well-renowned entertainer who captivates his audiences with his charm, wit and incredible musical talents.

But more dear to the hearts of everyone in the audience, is the fact that Adam was a member of the AUUC Toronto Youth Choir before launching his solo music career. And most cherished is the fact that

our Mary Kuzyk was Adam's mandolin teacher. So we give Mary full credit for his success!!

The sold-out crowd was welcomed into a beautiful cabaret-like atmosphere as they entered the hall. The round tables were tastefully decorated with white tablecloths and heart-warming accents of burgundy and gold.

The stage immediately drew everyone's attention with its shimmering gold backdrop and the nostalgic sign titled "Adam's Inn". This of course, was in reference to the room at the Seaway Hotel that was renamed in Ad-

am's honour during his performing days there several years ago.

After enjoying platters of hors d'oeuvres prepared by Baby Point Lounge, the guests were treated to two rousing sets of many familiar songs from Adam's extensive repertoire.

Among the mellow favourites were "Malaguena", "Spanish Eyes" and "Yellow Bird". A medley of Greek numbers delighted everyone, as well as a collection of tunes from the fabulous '50s.

Expectations were particularly satisfied on hearing Adam's comedic adaptation of "Little Red Riding Hood" in which the character of the big bad wolf is portrayed by the persona of Aleksandr Yakushev, from the infamous 1972 Canada-Russia hockey tournament.

Probably the emotional climax of the show was Adam's invitation to everyone to join him in singing "The Strangest Dream".

And a most welcomed surprise was a performance by Adam's son, Danny, on the Afro-Peruvian percussion instrument, the *cajon*.

A father-son duet was indeed the piece de resistance.

The afternoon ended with sweets and coffee, and everyone left with a sense of warm nostalgia, totally appreciative of Adam's outstanding talents and honoured by his presence.

— B. Dobrowolsky



A capacity audience enjoyed the banter and music of one of the top nightclub entertainers in the Toronto area.



The attendance of Mary Prokop, left and Lillian Carrigan was a pleasant surprise to many attending the AGM.

Third World Youth Festival

(Continued from Page 3.) and youth march for peace. "The Sky Was Made for Doves not Bombs", "We Want Peace", "Henri Martin, Liberte", "Butter not Bombs", "Leave France French", "American go home" — the people's signs and chants revealed their sentiments.

The youth marched and worked during the parade. We saw a hundred-voice strong mixed choir sing peace songs along the route. We saw a young girl dressed in a long white gown, with her hand outstretched, holding a live peace dove, we saw the youth with their festival scarves around their necks, the scarves that Picasso had designed especially for marching in the parade, collecting money to send youth as delegates to Berlin, selling copies of the youth newspaper *L'Avant-Garde* and selling tags and buttons for peace, for the Spanish people, and for Berlin.

We were impressed by the way they worked, with all their energy, and in such large numbers. We wished that the Ca-

nadian people had been able to receive the same message of the Berlin festival, and that Canadian youth too were going in friendship with the youth of the world.

We knew that the average Canadian knew nothing or very little about the coming event, so far away from Canadian shores, and wished that we had been able to spread the news much more, as the French youth had succeeded in doing.

That night we celebrated with the youth of France as they danced in the streets to the many orchestras that played.

There was one orchestra which played all night on the corner, just across the street and in front of the Folies. Four of our fellows became quite drunk, and as the evening wore on I found myself quite alone and afraid to wander about the street by myself, so I watched a great deal of the celebration from my hotel window, wishing I had more stamina and nerve, more courage to join in the fun myself.

— Olga Berketa (Dzatkko)