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RCMP Officers Have a Right to Unionize

The Supreme Court of Canada, reversing a decision made 15 years ago, has ruled that the law forbidding RCMP officers to form a union is constitutional.

According to the ruling, the current arrangement, imposed

on the rank-and-file officers in 1967 by management, violate the constitutional freedom of association, as well as denying them the opportunity to form an independent labour association and engage in "meaningful" collective bar-

gaining.

The RCMP is reportedly the only Canadian police force which is not unionized.

The court gave the government of Canada 12 months to draft suitable legislation.

The 6-1 ruling by the court does not specify that the RCMP must be unionized, but does specify that there must be an association that is independent of management and allows the rank-and-file to have a say in the nature of the association.

Dissenting Justice Marshall Rothstein issued a position strongly critical of his colleagues.

It has been reported that efforts to certify a union will begin immediately, though it was not clear what group was undertaking the certification drive.

Proponents of an independent bargaining unit for RCMP officers say that the force has fallen behind other forces in compensation and working conditions.

Even such issues as complaints of sexual harassment and bullying, it has been suggested, based on the experience of other unionized work situations, would have been handled better with a union in place.

Observers anticipate that the court ruling will be difficult for the government, which has a history of poor labour relations.

At this writing, there has been no considered response to the decision by any government representative.

The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated April, 2015. Announcements of events in April or early May, 2015, or articles for the April issue should be in our office by March 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Child Cancer Free

Back on November 14, 2014, Justice Gethin Edward issued a ruling that allowed the parents of an 11-year-old aboriginal child to take her out of treatment for cancer.

The judge ruled that the child had an indigenous right to choose traditional medicine.

The child's mother argued that traditional medicine could cure the cancer without subjecting the girl to an arduous course of chemotherapy. Opposing the mother's decision were various doctors and the Brant Children's Aid Society (the girl lives on the Six Nations reserve near Brantford).

The girl was taken out of treatment after two weeks of chemotherapy.

Doctors argued that the chemotherapy could save the girl's life and totally cure her, while traditional medicine was essentially a death sentence. McMaster Children's Hospital went to court in an effort to overrule the decision be the girl's mother.

On January 17, it was reported that the girl had been

tested at the Hospital for Sick Children, and found to be cancer free. Verification by a lab in the USA was pending.

Doctors, among them Dr. David Dix of the University of British Columbia, suggest that the remission of the cancer was probably due to the two weeks of chemotherapy, and not the subsequent traditional treatments. Dr. Dix is reported to be certain that there is a 100% probability that the cancer will return, and that it will be more difficult to treat when it does come back.

The full course of chemotherapy treatment in this case would probably have involved four weeks of intensive chemotherapy, followed by six months of heavy chemotherapy and two years of maintenance chemotherapy.

The ultimate outcome remains to be seen, but for the moment an 11-year-old appears to be healthy, without the very difficult course of chemotherapy.

NEC-AUUC Teleconference

The National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians met by teleconference on Saturday, January 17. All members of the NEC and of the National Audit Committee were present.

The discussion focused on reviewing progress on the decisions of the meeting of November 29-30 and of the National Committee in September.

A highlight of the meeting was a report from the meeting of the Lands Development Committee in Toronto on January 15. The report provided a sense that the work of the LDC was about to enter a period of relatively quick progress.

Some progress was recorded on items in the action list to build the AUUC. Discussion on other items produced more clarity on what was intended and how to proceed.

With the Annual General Meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation scheduled for March 7, the NEC discussed measures to facilitate cooperation with that institution in preparing to face the challenges of the future.

The NEC considered many other matters (including a financial report, a report by the Office Coordinator, and others) before setting a date for the next teleconference.

Segregation and Torture

Ashley Smith may be the most famous person to die in a prison segregation cell, but she is far from the only one. If the Correctional Service of Canada, guided by the policies of the government of Canada, has its way, there will be more in the future.

At any given time there are about 800 people held in segregation (or solitary confinement, as it used to be called). About 130 are there for more than 120 days.

Another count is that, in 2014, of the 21,000 people who went through the federal prison system almost a quarter (about 5000 individuals) spent time in segregation. Almost a third of those, or some 1600 people, spent more than 60 days in solitary confinement.

In recent years, there have been an average of 10 suicides annually in Canada's federal prisons. Of these, nearly half were in solitary confinement (segregation), and almost half had mental health issues.

A United Nations special rapporteur recommended that solitary confinement be used only in exceptional circumstances and never more than 15 days at a time. Studies show that even a few days in segregation can have lasting ill effects. The UN considers the imposition of solitary confinement on the mentally ill as cruel and unusual punishment.

People in segregation experience anxiety, fear, boredom, anger, paranoia, and other psychological effects. Many engage in self-harming activities. Not surprisingly, people with mental health issues are particularly susceptible to harmful outcomes.

Edward Snowshoe, convicted of robbery, suffered depression and had suicidal tendencies. He hanged himself in 2010, after 162 days in solitary confinement.

Ashley Smith's example is now taught as a case history of how the system failed. Jailed at age 15 for throwing crabapples at a postal worker, her four month sentence ex-

panded to four years because of acts of assault and vandalism in prison. In the last of those four years, she was moved through 17 different federal institutions. Instead of being in psychiatric care, for the 300 days she was in federal custody she was on segregation status. Essentially, she strangled herself to death in 2007, while her jailors looked on, under orders not to intervene while she was still breathing.

An inquest into the death of Ashley Smith determined that the death was homicide, and made 104 recommendations, including an end to indefinite solitary confinement. A year later, in December, 2014, the federal government responded to the report, by rejecting some key recommendations. (Continued on Page 8.)

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Current Eclectic

Economy Uncertain

The recession has supposedly been over for some time, and another election is just around the corner. It should be a time of high living: good jobs for all, and election promises overflowing.

But it isn't.

One bit of bad news was the jobs situation in December. On January 9, Statistics Canada reported that the economy had a net loss of 4,300 jobs resulting from a loss of 57,700 part-time jobs and a gain of only 53,500 full time jobs.

While the real effect of this is hard to judge because many part-timers hold two or more jobs, it is obvious that job creation did not meet the needs of workers in Canada.

The future does not look any brighter, as Target has just announced a close-down costing over 17,500 jobs. Other businesses, like Sony, are also shedding jobs, major job losses are looming in oil extraction.

Last year ended with an increased trade deficit in November and a deficit in October, following correction of an earlier reported surplus.

Oil is Canada's most valuable export, and the drop in the oil price has been very significant in the trade deficit in-

crease. However exports were down, and deficits up, in nine of the eleven broad trade categories, not just energy.

While experts like Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz were expressing optimism at the end of 2014, by mid-January, 2015, bank representatives were predicting deficits well into the future.

At mid-January, the situation had the government of Canada quite concerned, to the point that Minister of Finance Joe Oliver announced that he would not bring in a budget until April at the earliest. With the situation as unstable as it is, the government is not able to project the promised balanced budget while keeping its other promises.

Still, an election is coming. It will be interesting to see how the Conservatives juggle out of this squeeze.

Cuba-US Thaw

It was incredibly hush-hush, but since mid-2013 Canada has been hosting negotiations between Cuba and the administration of the USA. Just about a week before Christmas, on December 17, 2014, it was simultaneously announced in Cuba and the USA that the two countries had agreed to restore full diplomatic relations, more than five decades after they were broken.

Some American restrictions on travel, banking and cash transfers will be eased, it was announced, and Cuba would be removed from the list of states sponsoring terrorism. Cuba would release a number of convicts on America's list of political prisoners.

In Canada, the announcement was greeted as welcome news, as it was in much of the world. The one fly in the ointment for people in this country was expressed as, "We

better make that trip to Cuba before it becomes too Americanized."

However, that concern is premature. The American president has certain powers in the field of international relations, but Congress has certain powers to legislate. While President Obama can reopen the American embassy in Havana, the ban on tourism to Cuba remains in place — at least for now.

With the Republicans, whipped by the Tea Party, in control in Congress, it may be some time before relations between the two countries can be described as normal.

Clearly, not everyone was pleased about the change. It was reported that the Cuban community in Miami (and throughout the United States, of course) was divided. However, even in that part of the population, the majority saw the change as positive, often

for no other reason than the failure of the embargo to cause a counter-revolution in Cuba.

There have already been beneficiaries of the new relationship. Among them are Alan Gross, who had been serving a prison term in Cuba as a spy, and the final three of the Cuban Five, who were finally returned to their homeland.

Many others are hoping to benefit from the new situation, even if not immediately.

In Canada, Sherritt International Corp, which has been operating in Cuba, hopes that it will be able to trade in the USA again. All in all however, the effect on the Canadian economy is expected to be small.

In the United States, Farmers, travel companies, and energy producers are keen to get access to the Cuban market. And of course, Major League Baseball is expected to be a major beneficiary, as well as cigar importers.

promising.

Some of the numbers are fascinating, illustrating the difficulty of the search.

Soil bacteria and fungi which produce antibiotics and are readily produced in a lab are only about 1% of all microorganisms; they are all tapped out, with no new ones discovered since 1987.

One gram of soil from a meadow in Maine contained 10,000 strains of bacteria, including the new one which makes teixobactin.

Of course, there is usually a long road between a promising discovery and a useful antibiotic. Of course, too, many promising discoveries never deliver on their promise.

But then, some do.

What About Russia?

As Ukraine sinks deeper into its basket, the question is increasingly raised about the situation in and around Russia. Here are a few items gleaned from the *Toronto Star*.

In an article on December 6, David Olive, can barely get beyond the anti-Russian prejudices of the day, and has hardly a positive word to say about the country.

Nevertheless, he has to recognize that a good working relationship with Russia is crucial to the resolution of many problems of international politics. While Russia may rank 57th on the UN Human Development Index, it ranks 2nd as a world nuclear power.

Of concern to Mr. Olive is that current pressure on Russia has turned it toward China. In his view, China is in the drivers seat in this relationship, which will be detrimental to Russia in the long run, but a boon to China, experts at "reverse engineering".

The threat to the West is global instability, a wasteful arms race. The threat to the Western powers that Mr. Olive did not make explicit is of China as a stronger rival.

As of mid-December, the value of Russia's ruble had dropped by half in about six months, largely as a result of dropping petroleum prices, and

partly because of American and European sanctions.

Efforts to stabilize the currency included increased interest rates and other measures. Proposed megaprojects are being postponed or cancelled, as reported by Tim Harper on December 19.

Another report on that same day said that Russians were stocking up foodstuffs and other goods as a hedge against inflation.

The following day, the *Toronto Star* reported that President Putin, addressing a meeting of top military leaders, had promised the continuation of an "ambitious weapons modernization program". Intercontinental ballistic missiles are being delivered at an increased pace (the report did not say whether these were additions to existing stocks or replacements).

President Putin also indicated that Russia would expand its presence in the Arctic, "essential for ensuring Russia's defence capability".

An article on December 27 addressed Russia's new military doctrine. In a new version of its military doctrine, the third since 2000 and superseding the doctrine adopted in 2010, Russia recognizes NATO's military build-up and its expansion to the borders of

(Continued on Page 10.)

Bank Profits Set to Rise

The January, 2015, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* noted that: "Five years ago, the Toronto-Dominion Bank had a net income of \$3.1 billion; this year it had net earnings of about \$8 billion, and has set aside \$1.93 billion for bonuses. Last year the net was \$6.6 billion."

Over the last five years, this bank has registered an average net income (only technically different from profit) increase of one billion dollars annually.

Canada's other major banks showed similar patterns.

Not to rest on their laurels — after all, one slogan of capitalism is "grow or die" — the banks are taking measures to ensure a continuation of the profit trend line.

TD Canada Trust, whose banking arm is the Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD Bank to us peasants), has announced some rate increases on its chequing accounts, effective March 2, 2015.

On five different accounts, the *fee per transaction*, above what is included in the account, *is being increased from \$1.00 to \$1.25*. That is a whopping 25% increase!

In addition, the bank is increasing its NSF items charge from \$45.00 to \$48.00, and a

new monthly fee of \$1.95 is being applied to the All-Inclusive Banking Plan.

In addition to increasing its fees, the bank is increasing the number of accounts being affected by increasing the minimum monthly balance required for the fees to be waived — by \$500.00 in the case of four of the kinds of accounts and \$1000.00 on the fifth kind.

These fee increases will cost almost everyone, but will weigh less on the rich than on the less-rich.

Maintaining the new minimum balance will cost a lot less in lost potential earnings than paying the new per transaction fee. Those who do not have the resources to keep \$2000.00 or more sitting idle in their bank account will pay a penalty of \$1.25/transaction.

The bank will attribute its profit increase for 2015 to asset management fees, suggesting something different from ordinary chequing accounts. However, the millions in additional income generated by these fee increases will surely play some role.

Of course, changes to savings accounts, Tax Free Savings Accounts and other accounts should be considered.

New Antibiotic Found

An arms race is an upward spiral: a new generation of weapons leads to a new generation of defences, which leads to a new generation of weapons, and so on.

Treating infections is somewhat like that arms race: use of antibiotics leads to resistant strains of bacteria, which leads to the use of new antibiotics, which leads to resistant strains of bacteria, and so on.

According to the web site *emedicinehealth*, there are currently over 100 of antibiotics, but only seven main kinds. Each antibiotic kills or injures only some bacteria.

It has been reported that scientists have discovered a

new class of antibiotic for the first time in almost three decades. If this antibiotic, called teixobactin, can be developed into a drug, it could be a powerful new medical tool at a time when drug-resistant bacteria are an increasing concern.

The new discovery is the result of a relatively new way to cultivate soil bacteria in a laboratory, producing colonies which can be screened for antibiotics.

An article in the journal *Nature* reported this discovery. According to the article, the method was developed in 2002, and has produced almost 25 new antibiotics, of which teixobactin is the most

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Je Suis Charlie?**

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

Since the attack on *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris, France, in January, there has been a lot of messaging about freedom of speech. Much of this has been of the nature of cheerleading: Hoorah for our side; chants of "I am Charlie"; wave a standard identifying the good guys. Some of it has been apparently rational discussion; "apparently rational" because it is essentially sloganeering, a declaration that freedom of expression is "our value" with a suggestion (usually implied, but occasionally explicit) that this value is absolute.

The commercial media, for the most part, have supported and even encouraged this groupthink, although there have been some exceptions.

The historical fact, still true today, is that freedom of expression has never been absolute. The classical counter-example is that there is no right to shout "Fire!" in a crowded theatre.

There are many other examples of ways in which our freedom of expression is limited.

One of these ways is laws related to defamation: one is not allowed, with impunity, to damage the reputation of another person except as provided in law.

In many countries, including Canada, so-called hate laws prohibit communications intended to generate hatred toward some group in society.

These are examples in which laws recognize that free speech can be very harmful to individuals or to society.

Other examples of accepted social restrictions on freedom of speech are the general rejection in Canada of performance in blackface, the use of derogatory words in reference to groups, and so on.

Though not exhaustive, this list of limitations on freedom of expression should adequately establish that this value is not absolute.

Unfortunately, in a time of cheerleading, most of those who believe freedom of speech to be absolute have no interest in thinking about the limitations; nor can they detect in their own thinking the contradictions on this issue. However, those contradictions, which tend to support hurtful depictions of those people who already feel marginalized in a society, lead to increased resentment, anger, or other strong negative emotions.

It is not to be considered that such emotions excuse murder, whether of the staff of a periodical or of a lone police officer. Nor should it be ignored however, that long before terrorism became the universal explanation, those emotions, together with a sense of powerlessness or hopelessness, for example, led to many murders.

COMMENTARY**Mixed Results for NATO Countries**

Canada, the United States of America, Germany and a few other countries of NATO strongly supported the attack on the Ukrainian government of President Yanukovich. This was no accident; they saw the opportunity to pursue the anti-Russian policy which has been NATO's main purpose since the Soviet Union and the socialist community of states left the world stage.

They also saw an opportunity to gouge another market after eliminating the Russian competition, as well as those Ukrainian capitalists who favoured trade with Russia over trade with the West.

NATO got what it wanted when Ukraine's Prime Minister Yanukovich was deposed.

Ukraine's economy needed

an immediate replacement for the loan that Russia was going to provide. The International Monetary Fund and the European Union financiers quickly moved, imposing on Ukraine the same kind of onerous conditions which have oppressed countries around the world, including most recently the countries of southern Europe.

NATO acquired an ally on the border of Russia.

As the new government made moves which further alienated the people of eastern Ukraine, leading to their revolt, and Russia moved to secure its interests in the Crimea, NATO also got an excuse to launch an economic attack on Russia. Other measures to isolate Russia and cause disaffection within the country, like travel restrictions on selected Russians, were also imposed.

While those measures had some effect, not all of those effects were favourable to NATO countries. For one thing, the attack on Russia made President Putin a bit of a hero to the Russian people. More important, and having more lasting consequences, the attack on Russia seems to have led to a closer relationship with China.

China's purpose in this relationship is not altruistic. It recognizes that, when Russia is gone, China will become the target. Therefore, it is using this relationship with Russia to strengthen itself as much as possible for the future contest.

Developments in the international markets for petroleum have taken a heavy toll on Russia, which is expecting a deep recession within the year. However, there is an argument to be made that Russia can weather the economic downturn, as it has two others since 1990.

If Russia's economy is in dire straits, Ukraine's is

equally, if not more, a basket case. The only way Ukraine will survive is if the West gives it huge amounts of help, and the West will only do that if Ukraine accepts servitude long into the future.

Ukraine's situation is not assisted at all by its indebtedness to Russia. While Ukraine can confiscate, and is confiscating, with impunity the assets of its internal political enemies, it can not as readily just refuse to pay its debt to Russia.

Ukraine is over a bit of a barrel. It relies on Russia for its energy needs. In large measure, Europe also relies on natural gas and oil from Russia. Though it is taking steps eventually to change that, at this time NATO can not replace the Russian supply.

In the last 25 years, Western Europe and Ukraine, as well as other countries, have experienced what failure by Ukraine to pay its debts to Russia can mean.

In mid-January there was concern that Russia would call the \$3 billion loan it made to Ukraine in 2013. The bonds are callable because of a condition included in the terms of the loan, which is payable if Ukraine's debt exceeds 60% of economic output — which it has,

Ukrainian government bonds are selling at 60% of par value, and the hryvnia is at about 59 cents American, down from par half a year ago. The rate of inflation in December reached 24.9%. Gross domestic product may drop by 6% in 2015, after a drop of an estimated 7.5% in 2014. Foreign reserves have dropped to \$7.5 billion.

The U.S. has pledged up to \$2 billion in loan guarantees, as long as Ukraine abides by IMF's demands.

Germany has given Ukraine an additional 500 million euros in credit guarantees, as long as the money is not spent on the war in Ukraine's east. (How is that to be monitored?)

However, it is estimated by the European Union that Ukraine needs \$15 billion on top of a \$17 billion International Monetary Fund program
(Continued on Page 10.)

From Our Readers

The most vulnerable members of most societies are:

- the children, particularly ill, disabled or orphaned children;
- the elderly, particularly the infirm, and without any concerned family to provide care for them.

They are the least able to exercise their human rights, to protect themselves, to speak out for themselves.

It is, therefore, with great delight that Medical Mercy Canada Society expresses its heartfelt gratitude for the donation of \$2,700 which the Society received recently from AUUC. This donation will be used by MMC in the development of a new Centre which provides care for the frail seniors, and disabled children.

Elaine R.M. Semkuley
MMC Director
Myron Semkuley, M.D.
MMC Director

SEE US ON THE WEB!

AUUC (National)
auuc.ca

Edmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble
www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca

Regina AUUC, Poltava Ensemble
http://www.poltava.ca/

Taras Shevchenko Museum:
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

Vancouver AUUC
http://www.auucvancouver.ca/

Winnipeg AUUC
http://ult-wpg.ca/

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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.

Edmonton Seniors at “English” Christmas

Nina Uhryn was the birthday celebrant for the Edmonton Branch’s senior gathering in December, which had many events to help celebrate the English Christmas.

One of the main features of our gathering was being blessed with live music by the professional Chilean guitar group, composed of six members.

A spokesperson for the group, Dolores Lema, who is married to Jose Mora, originally from Chile, provided the following background to their group.

“Our Chilean guitar group is appreciative of the opportunity to use the space available at the AUUC hall for music practice and occasional events. We’ve been meeting here gratefully since 2012 for our music group. We are delighted to share today some of our music and culture with you, the Ukrainian Canadians.

“In 2007 and 2008 our Latin American group began meeting. We have been meeting in various locations since this time. We are happy to share our ‘World View’ with those who are open to listening!”

Ms. Lema concluded with the observation that music and

food are ways of sharing one’s culture.

Sherry Kapowski suggested that we invite the band to sit at our head table. Delores Lema humbly said to me that she felt unworthy to sit at our head table.

I responded that they “could walk with kings and queens”!

Another feature of the gathering were two large hot butter-basted turkeys that Mike Hollen, one our professional chefs, obtained from the Hutterite colony near Valley View, Alberta.

These turkeys are sold through the family Freson IGA stores here in northern Alberta. They have no additives, nor preservatives, etc. — a quality product.

Our traditional Christmas meal for 40 people was prepared with the help of our other chef, Diane Ries.

Our group is so indebted to both of them for their unfailing conscientious effort to feed us a hot meal each month. On behalf of the group, our president, Paul Greene, presented them each with an honorarium. In addition, Diane was given a special gift which featured an angel!

—Story photos: Victor Horon



Dolores Lema introduced the Chilean guitar group.

Bill Uhryn brought a two-foot high electric Santa who waved to all of us as he graced the head table. Bill also brought tapes of Christmas music which played while the cooks worked, the volunteers decorated the tables (including poinsettias) and folks gathered.

The poinsettias were later given to lucky ticket holders.

Beneath Santa, we had a gift exchange. About 17 guests brought a Christmas gift for exchange.

Called by her/his ticket number, each of those participating would choose a gift, take a look, and decide if to keep it or take one from another person. When it was Anne Husar’s turn, Anne hesitated not a moment. She went straight across the dining tables to where Rose Keryliuk sat and took her gift of a heating pad! Rose had to choose another gift from Santa. Fun was had by all.

Some of our out-of-town guests included Helen Williams, Roy L Piepenburg, and Catherine Piepenburg, as well as Past President Pauline Warick’s sister Gloria Meeder, from Kamloops, B.C.

Our monthly seniors’ gathering has an unsung heroine: though she can not come, Edna Chimilar, a long time



Pauline Warick, Victor Horon and Marion Ursuliak (left to right) look forward to the New Year.

supporter of the seniors, calls each of us the preceding Sunday to see if we will be coming. The number she gets is then relayed to the cooks so they know how many meals to prepare.

With Rose Keryliuk’s artistic help, a manila sized Christmas card was prepared, which we all signed with our fond wishes for our dear Edna. Paul Greene delivered our card to our Edna in time for the Christmas season.

Marion Ursuliak’s comment summarized our gathering: “Merry Christmas. It’s nice to see you!”

During the afternoon, it was agreed that we would do our

gathering on January 20 with some tradition, including the traditional Ukrainian food appropriate to the occasion. After the evil spirits have been heralded to join us, our elder, Anne Husar, will enter with the sheaf of wheat to place next to the kolach on our feature table.

All the traditional dishes will we brought by those in attendance. Sandy Gordy has already taken home the big pan to make her delicious head cheese, as she has done for years.

Lucy Antoniw bakes our Ukrainian breads for such occasions.

—Shirley Uhryn



Edmonton’s Chilean guitar group entertains seniors with classic and folk music.



President Paul Greene (left) and Shirley Uhryn acknowledge our chefs Diane Ries and Michael Hollen.

Vancouver AUUC Dance Recital

Well before the show began on December 14, 2014, the doors to the Ukrainian Cultural Centre were left wide open, allowing anyone who walked past a glimpse of the hustle and bustle within: parents and teachers rushing to and fro setting up chairs, preparing the stage for the show to come, and trying to find the last piece of a dancer’s costume.

The Hall was filled with a soft warm light, a deep glow as if lit by a fire. It felt very much like a cosy nest, compared to the cold air outside, with the smells of a promised feast wafting up the stairs.

As the clock ticks closer to the time of the show, the dancers are ushered downstairs,

and the crowd that gathered to prepare starts to disappear, some into the wings around the stage, others downstairs with the children; a few remain in the Hall to take care of loose ends.

The Vancouver Folk Orchestra sits below the stage, tuning their instruments and waiting for the guests to arrive.

Then the guests appear. Many of them here to see the result of the young dancers’ work; others have come off the street curious about what kind of celebration is taking place within the historic Hall.

Once the guests have all handed in their tickets, they file into the Hall, finding seats

for themselves and their friends and family. Once seated, the guests transform into an audience, quiet, yet vibrating with anticipation of the afternoon’s events.

Then, up the stairs come the main event, the young dancers who had been carefree children but, once they put on their costumes, took on another air in preparation for the dancing to come.

The youngest ones are in the front, little boys and girls, straight-backed and walking mostly in line. Behind them the line gets taller as their elders, still young, make their way up the stairs and through the doors, all of them wearing beautifully made costumes, freshly ironed.

The dancers make their way up the rows of the audience, and enter the wings through a side door to the stage. The lights begin to dim

and, finally, the show begins.

The MC speaks at the microphone, promising the crowd a good evening of entertainment and feasting. When he walks off, the curtains pull back, the whole stage is illuminated, the music rises, and the first of the show’s many performances begins.

The littlest of the performers, the Zaychyky Dancers, make their way onto the stage, led by their teachers Gina Alpen and Taralyn Karras. They cast glances over the stage and audience before them, surprised at the number of people and wondering if they can spot their mom in the crowd.

They flit about the stage in their marvellous costumes, sometimes in time with each other, sometimes not, but they always enjoying themselves — and so is the audience by

the sound of it, all of them chuckling and fawning over the cute dancers on stage.

As the dance ends and the dancers bow to the applause, another wave of music rises, and the older Bilka Dancers burst onto the stage, small yet proud as they go about performing their piece by instructor Karli Dionne.

This piece ends, with much the same reaction from the audience as the first, but then the audience is given a new flavour of dance.

Now the music does not rise up like the others; it seems to blow in slowly like a fog and envelope the audience; the lights change; out from the wings walk two girls, not in resplendent costumes of linen and colour, but in simple tops, tights and skirts.

These two Contemporary dancers, taught by Charlotte

(Continued on Page 6.)

Vancouver Recital



Pre-recital excitement is shown on the faces of the Bilka dancers, including Ellie.



"The Thaw", by Contemporary dance instructor Charlotte Newman, provided a hauntingly beautiful interlude. Shown is dancer Nicole.



Young Sopilka Dancer Jesse wows the audience with his solo in "Moriaky".

(Continued from Page 5.) Newman, perform a dance very different from the last two. There is no leaping or standing in lines; in this piece they lithely move about the stage, in time with each other yet almost seeming as though they are performing wholly different dances of their own. They end with a slow decline in the music's volume as the lights dim once again, and they make their way off stage.

The lights go back to a bright cheer, and after a few words from the MC, the next performances begin.

These next ones are solely musical in nature. A young



A proud couple of Veselka dancers, Katia and Nathan, perform "Zavyrukha Waltz", featuring stolen muffs, snowball fights and an impressive double lift of the girls by the male dancers.

woman accompanying herself on guitar, Meghan Fung, begins filling the hall with her voice, enrapturing the audi-

ence with "Riptide". As she finishes, three others take her place; Chloe, Marlaina and Kael Vincent perform the

— Story photos: Sara Yuristy.



Two of our Zaychyky dancers, Maizie and Micah, were full of concentration during their turn on stage.



Bilka Dancers Kaya (left) and Gabriella performed joyfully in pairs.



Yalynka dancers Lisa and Paulina perform a dance from the Hutsul region wearing vibrant costumes.



"Volynyanka" was an audience favourite and the dancers, including Marlaina and Jack pictured here, seemed to enjoy performing the energetic dance.

piece "Crabbuckitt", their voices entwining and flooding the room.

Then it ends, and the stage is returned to the Dancers.

The Yalynka Dancers take the stage, and dance through a well-choreographed Hutsul dance choreographed by Danya Karras, bringing the sound of feet on hardwood back to the Hall.

The Dancers are more confident, they puff their chests out more, hold their heads higher and backs straighter.

This is clearly evident once the Sopilka Dancers bounce onto the stage, smiling their brightest to the crowd, to perform a lively "Sailors' Dance" by Taralyn Karras.

Once again the stage lies empty, but it is now the turn of the Vancouver Folk Orchestra as they start on "Swir! Swir! Za Kominem" and "Kujawiaczek", two beautiful Polish folk dance songs from the first half of the 20th century, neither with vocals, but each with a well heard message in the notes, by turns lively and graceful.

Then, to keep in the spirit of the season, Meghan Fung returns to the stage to sing "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas", which strongly fills the Hall from floor to ceiling with good cheer and warmth.

Before the stage is handed back to the dancers, the final song is sung: "Stronger", by Kiera Lukomskyj.

Now, nearing the end of the show, the Veselka Dancers enter with "Zavyrukha Waltz" by instructor Gina Alpen, bringing a steady rhythm back to the hall. The winter-themed choreography and costumes fit in well with the time of year, but the beauty of the piece will make it a favourite for any season, with the interplay of two girls and two boys, playing in the snow to a poignant waltz.

The oldest and most experienced dancers of the School of Dance, the Druzhba Dancers, bring the performance to a close with a magnificent "Volynyanka", ending the concert with a high-energy, impeccable performance of Danya and Taralyn Karras' complex but playful choreography.

The curtains close a final time, and the audience can barely contain their eagerness in the rush for the feast, gifts and carolling awaiting them downstairs. The crowd is released, and the people who came to watch the performance go downstairs to celebrate Christmas with many friends and family in the Ukrainian Hall.

Merry Christmas!

— Cohen Parasiuk

Why not renew
your
subscription now?

Ending Strong; Getting Stronger

The Dovbush Dancers, reflecting on 2014 and anticipating 2015, consider that they ended last year strong and are starting this year stronger.

Attributed to their growing success as one of the city's leading Ukrainian dance performance groups, the Dovbush Dancers of Vancouver proudly capped off another busy and fruitful year with two back-to-back performances.

This year the dancers were invited to perform at a multitude of venues, ranging from Ukrainian folk dance demonstration classes at the Scotiabank Dance Centre and an annual performance at the Heart of the City Concert to a new and very exciting invitation to our male dancers to participate in Goh Ballet's production of the *Nutcracker*.

Both venues and audiences for our final performances of 2014 were perfect examples of the diverse appeal that

Ukrainian dance is garnering in Vancouver. Audiences are interested in our energetic young group!

The first of the two performances was for the Teochew International Federation, held at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre — a truly breathtaking venue overlooking Burrard Inlet that hosts the majority of major conventions and events that come to Vancouver.

For the dancers it was an exciting opportunity to showcase their talents in a professional venue.

The 300-plus guests were treated to a multicultural show, set on a beautiful custom stage that was back-dropped by three live-feed screens showing close-ups, graphics and real-time video.

The Dovbush dancers performed first a kozachok entitled "*Hulyanka*" that illustrates elements of Ukrainian folklore as the young women

and men search for true love. As one of the dancers, I must say that it was thrilling to be on stage and see behind us a live-feed of our performance displayed on stage while we performed.

For our second dance we performed our award-winning "*Hopak*", which has pleased and impressed audiences time and time again. In this particular performance we were excited to introduce new solos by Egor Terekhine and Jeff Gonek that were well received and helped to bring new energy to one of the group's strongest dances.

For our second appearance that weekend we had the opportunity to perform once again at the "Best of Slavic Folklore" concert. The event brings together a variety of Slavic artists in dance and music.

The Dovbush dancers were well-received, performing "*Volynyanka*", "*Hulyanka*" and the group's new dance from Kyiv, *Kyivsky Tanets*.

All in all, it was a busy weekend that nicely tied up Dovbush's 2014 year doing what we love.

Earlier in the year the male dancers of Dovbush were approached by the Artistic Director of Goh Ballet (a prestigious ballet school in Vancouver) to be part of their annual production of the *Nutcracker*.

This was an amazing experience for our men — meeting other dancers from Vancouver and sharing the stage with professionals. They did a fantastic job showing their tricks in the "Trepak" section of the production to a lively reception from the audience.

This large-scale production gave the dance group great exposure while fostering connections between Dovbush

and Goh Ballet.

Looking ahead, Dovbush has a lot lined up. "*Malanka*" is always the group's favourite performance and this year's promises not to disappoint! To follow, we have been invited to perform for Chinese New Year in February, and are also looking forward to a workshop with Serguei Makarov.

— Georgina Alpen



The Dovbush Dancers, performing "*Hulyanka*" at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, were thrilled by the three live-feed screens that formed the backdrop.



The women of the Dovbush dancers form a circle in "*Krutak*".

— Story photos: Dan Fung



Vancouver's Dovbush Dancers in the energetic and spirited "*Krutak*", the flirtatious dance from the mountain villages of Transcarpathia, with many twists and turns and swirling skirts.



The men of the Dovbush Dancers in "*Hulyanka*", which was presented for the Teochew International Federation and at the "Best of Slavic Folklore" concert.

**Federation of
Russian Canadians — Alberta**

*All the best to our AVUC friends
in Canada, the Editor, The Board
of Directors, and Feature Writers.*

*We wish health and peace for all
and a world of opportunity and
comfort.*

Together we can achieve our goals!

**Dr. J. P. Tarasoff — Chairperson
Mrs. Lydia Husak — Secretary-Treasurer**

*May 2015
bring
Peace, Happiness and Joy
to all our friends.*

Olga and Myron Shatulsky

*May the message of PEACE
touch all our Friends
Throughout 2015*

Lucy, Vadim, Lisa, Anatole, Jaime, Sean, and
Stacey Nykolyshyn, and
Rudiger and Lydia Hedrich &
their families

The Fellow Traveller

(Continued from page 2.)

So, as I was saying. Although I have virtually little, if any, knowledge about the methods used by Americans (the judiciary or other applicable entities) in making their laws, the one that I plan to relate to you certainly turned out to be a totally incomprehensible (be aware — I do not employ these terms loosely) piece of jerk-kneed rubbish. Yes! Rubbish! Ha!

Now, getting back to this “historic” lawmaking episode.

Former member of the House and well-known progressive activist Dennis Kucinich, who was gerrymandered out (his constituency was dissolved), witnessed the following from the House’s gallery.

Under a parliamentary motion termed “unanimous consent”, legislative rules can be suspended and any bill can be called up. If any member of Congress objects, the motion is blocked and the bill dies. (Remember, these are U.S. House rules!)

By now, at 10:23:54 p.m., most of the house and the media had emptied out of the chambers after passage of the \$1.1 trillion government spending package. A member rose to ask “unanimous consent” for four committees to be relieved of a Russian sanctions bill.

(At this point the motion, and the legislation, could have been blocked by a single

member who would say, “I object.” No one objected, because no one was watching for last-minute bills to be slipped through.) If any member of Congress objects, the motion is blocked and the bill dies.

The Congressional Record will show that only three of the 425 members were present on the floor to consider the sanctions bill. Two of the three feigned objection, creating the legislative equivalent of a “time out”. After a few words of support, they withdrew their “objections” and the clock resumed.

According to the clerk’s record, once the bill was considered under unanimous consent, it was passed, at 10:23:55 p.m., without objection, in one recorded, time-stamped second, unanimously.

THEN THE HOUSE ADJOURNED!

Here briefly, is what the House (read — three members) passed:

1. Sanctions of Russia’s energy industry, including Rosoboroneport and Gazprom;

2. Sanctions of Russia’s defence industry, with respect to arms sale to Syria;

3. Broad sanctions on Russian’s banking and investments;

4. Provisions for privatization of Ukrainian infrastructure, electricity, oil, gas, and renewables, with the help of the World Bank and USAID;

5. Fifty million dollars to assist in a corporate takeover of Ukraine’s oil and gas sectors;

6. Three hundred and fifty million dollars for military assistance to Ukraine, including antitank, anti-armour, optical, and guidance and control equipment, as well as drones;

7. Thirty million dollars for an intensive radio, television and internet propaganda campaign throughout the countries of the former Soviet Union;

8. Twenty million dollars for “democratic organizing” in Ukraine;

9. Sixty million dollars, spent through groups like the National Endowment for Democracy, “to improve democratic governance, and transparency, accountability [and] rule of law” in Russia;

10. An unverified declaration that Russia has violated the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, is a nuclear “threat to the United States” and should be held “accountable”;

11. A path for the U.S. withdrawal from the INF Treaty, which went into force in 1988;

12. A demand that Russia verifiably dismantle “any ground launched cruise missiles or ballistic with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometres...”

All this means that an entire series of arms agreements are at risk of unravelling. As you will see, it may not be long before NATO pushes its newest client state, Ukraine, to abrogate the Non-Prolifera-

tion Treaty, which Ukraine signed.

Unbelievably, earlier that same day, the Ukrainian parliament in Kiev approved a security plan that will:

1. Declare that Ukraine should become a “military state”;

2. Reallocate more of its approved 2014 budget for military purposes;

3. Put all military operating units on alert;

4. Mobilize military and national guard units;

5. Increase military spending in Ukraine from one (1) percent of GDP to five (5) percent, increasing military spending by \$3 billion over the next few years;

6. Join NATO and switch to NATO military standards.

As Kucinich underlined, “Under the guise of democratizing, the West stripped Ukraine of its sovereignty with a U.S.-backed coup, employed it as a foil to advance NATO to the Russian border and reignited the Cold War.”

—oOo—

One more short titbit of info.

As expected, most of these “initiatives”, to put it mildly, are really part of the United States’ “economic invasion”, much of which has gone largely unnoticed.

Ukraine has some of the largest shale gas reserves in Europe. Not unlike other Europeans, Ukrainians have demonstrated against the fracking of their land, but, and a big BUT at that, is that Ukraine has no restrictive legislation.

Some time ago, I mentioned that U.S. Vice-President Biden’s son is on the Board of Directors of Burisma Holdings, Ukraine’s largest private gas producer. He is also in charge of Holding’s legal unit including its “international expansion”.

The U.S. agribusiness giant Cargill is particularly active in Ukraine, investing in grain elevators, animal feed, a major egg producer and agribusiness firm, UkrLandFarming, as well as the Black Sea port at Novorossisk.

The very active U.S.-Ukraine Business Council includes executives of Monsanto, John Deere, agricultural equipment-maker CNH Industrial, DuPont Pioneer, Eli Lilly & Company.

On December 2, 2014, President Poroshenko swore in three foreigners as cabinet ministers: an American, a Lithuanian and a Georgian. And — NOW GET THIS — he granted them Ukrainian citizenship a few minutes before the ceremony. We would call that expeditious, speedy, quick, prompt, efficient and, of course, good to have friends in high places.

In case you’re concerned, and you certainly should be,

Ukraine’s new Finance Minister is U.S. born Natalie (or Natalia) Jaresko. With a Ukrainian family background and degrees from Harvard and DePaul universities, Jaresko went from the State Department to Kiev when Ukraine gained independence, in order to head the economic department of the newly opened U.S. Embassy. Three years later she left the U.S. Embassy to head the U.S. government-financed Western NIS Enterprise Fund. In 2004 she established her own equity fund. As a supporter of the 2004 Orange Revolution, she served on “Orange” the Foreign Advisory Council of President Viktor Yushchenko.

Oh, oh! If you’re like me, I wouldn’t bet a nickel on that horse.

To continue this list, the new Economy Minister is Lithuanian Aivaras Abromavicius, putting government economic policy clearly under U.S. influence, or rather CONTROL.

And to complete this crew of newly created Ukrainian citizens, we have, bringing up the rear (no, that’s not meant to be a sly remark) the new Health Minister, Aleksandr Kvitashvili from Georgia, who doesn’t speak Ukrainian, but is U.S. educated. He served as health minister in his native Georgia when U.S. puppet and charlatan Mikheil Saakashvili was President (a reference from whom, most definitely, should not be included in your *curriculum vitae*).

—oOo—

The overwhelming majority of the information in this article, including all quotes, I obtained from the following sources:

Andrew Prokop - The huge new Senate report on CIA torture, explained

- *vox.com*

Kenneth G. Eade - Torture Report Shows Need for Accountability

- *opednews.com*

Jon Queally - Torture Report Raises

Hopes, Offers Ammo for Bush & Co.

- *comondreams.org*

Sam Hussein - What “Both Sides” Are Ignoring: Torture Did Work...To Produce Iraq War

- *comondreams.org*

Ray McGovern - What’s the Next Stop to Stop Torture?

- *comondreams.org*

Tim Weiner - Why the Torture Report Won’t Change Anything

- *thenation.com*

Lisa Hajjar - The CIA Didn’t Just Torture, It Experimented on Human Beings

- *thenation.com*

Dennis Kucinich - Three Members of Congress Just Reignited the Cold War While No One was Looking

- *truthdig.com*

Segregation and Torture

(Continued from page 1.)

dations, including the recommendations concerning solitary confinement.

The limitations on solitary confinement are rejected for no reason other than the determination of the federal government to keep more people in prison for longer terms without providing the funds for safe, secure and humane institutions.

The government response (through the Correctional Service of Canada) to the inquest recommendations is that some of them can not be “fully support(ed) without causing undue risk to the safe management of the federal correctional system.”

In a 28-page response, the Correctional Service of Canada indicated that the purpose of administrative segregation (another name for solitary confinement) is to maintain the security of the prison, the inmates and the staff. With cheek typical of this government, the CSC takes issue with the use of the term “solitary confinement” to what happens in the Canadian prison system.

What this means is that solitary confinement (which actually increases danger in a prison environment) is preferable to adequate staffing, enough space (instead of cramming more prisoners into an institution than it was designed to hold), adequate provision for health care, and putting the mentally ill into institutions other than prisons.

In a statement from the office of Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney, the government said that CSC would continue to use all tools, including segregation to correct criminal behaviour, and the government remains focused on victims of crime.

The government seems to believe that its “tough on crime”, including tough on criminals, stance reflects public opinion. It may be the case that Conservative supporters (or at least some of them) believe that Canada’s prisons are like grand hotels, coddling inmates.

Most Canadians, however, do not believe that throwing crabapples should carry a death sentence. Nor do we believe that the punishment of

the accused should precede their conviction, or that the ill should be punished with segregation.

Yet, consider the situation at the Toronto South Detention Centre, supposedly a state-of-the-art super jail which has been accepting inmates for about a year.

The health facilities at the prison were not open a year later. Inmates with health problems, both mental and physical, were kept in solitary confinement to recuperate. In December, 2014, that included 21 inmates, compared to 30 in solitary for disciplinary or administrative segregation.

Among the reasons, apparently, why the healthcare facilities were not open as of December was that staff was still being recruited.

In a report from a commission of inquiry almost 20 years ago, Justice Louise Arbour recommended greater independent oversight of the Correctional Service of Canada to prevent human rights abuse in Canada’s prisons, but the recommendations have not been implemented. So we are reminded in a press release on December 12, 2014, by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

Energy Shortages

(From a December 27, 2014, report on the *Sputnik* website.)

“Moscow and Kiev have signed an agreement on the supply of 9 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to Ukraine, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak said. He added that Russia has already started the delivery, despite the fact that the terms of the agreement have not been fulfilled yet, and hopes for the subsequent payment (are not guaranteed - **gb**).

“In order to reduce the blackouts and other existing problems, we (Moscow and Kiev) have held negotiations on the supply of 9 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to Ukraine. We have signed an agreement, but the terms of the contract (payment - **gb**) are not currently fulfilled....

“Nevertheless, under the instructions of the Russian president (Putin - **gb**), the decision has been made to carry out such a delivery. Hopefully, the payments will be made in the future.

“Russian Deputy Prime Minister also stated that the electricity will be delivered to Ukraine on favorable terms. ‘The supply of electricity is carried out at internal Russian prices, while the prices on Ukraine’s energy market are much higher.’”

(In counterpoint are Ukrainian President Poroshenko’s remarks as reported in the November 17, 2014, issue of the British *Daily Mail*:

“Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko today said he is ready for ‘total war’ against Russia as he claimed the crisis in eastern Europe is more serious than the threat from Islamic State.”)

Kiev’s Brutal Strategy

(The title above is the title of an article in the January 2 issue of the American daily newspaper *The Los Angeles Times*).

“In mid-December, President Obama signed into law the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, which, among options for more sanctions against Russia, calls on the White House to provide Kiev with assistance for internally displaced persons as well as to cooperate with international organizations to distribute aid in Ukraine.

“Such aid is sorely needed in eastern Ukraine. Much of the infrastructure of Donetsk and Luhansk — the main cities in the Donbas region — has been destroyed, coal and food supplies are disrupted, and Kiev froze government pension and other payments to the region in November.

“With brutal winter conditions approaching, risks of starvation and death are becoming too real. As the United Nations and Amnesty International put it, a humanitarian crisis is looming.

“Unfortunately, recent statements by Col. Oleksiy Nozdrachov, Ukraine’s chief of military and civilian cooperation in eastern Ukraine, show disturbing signs of Kiev’s attitude towards this crisis. Where the U.N. sees a looming humanitarian disaster, Kiev may see an opportunity. Kiev’s strategy, as outlined by Nozdrachov in *USA Today* (an American newspaper - **gb**), is to continue withholding government services from the rebel-held areas in hopes that increased suffering will turn the local population against the separatists. ‘This shows the population in the occupied territory that the situation under the Ukrainian government is much, much better,’ Nozdrachov said.

“In addition, an Amnesty International report posted December 24 said pro-Kiev ‘volunteer battalions’ are increasingly blocking humanitarian aid into eastern Ukraine in a move which will exacerbate a pending humanitarian crisis.

“These actions are reprehensible. Kiev, and most of the world, rightly views the petty warlords in control of Donbas as illegitimate entities. However, if a gunman takes over an office building, no police department in the United States would condone withholding basic necessities from the hostages in the hope that they would rise up and vanquish the perpetrator. Providing aid to civilians trapped in a standoff is not appeasement or negotiation with terrorists; it is a fundamental principle preventing needless loss of life.”

What Europeans Think (a)

According to a recent poll by ICM Research, 55% of European Union citizens say that the Bloc should not provide additional financial aid to Ukraine.

The British Member of Parliament, George Galloway, summed it up by saying that Europeans want to address the Bloc’s own financial problems. “Ukraine’s problems are

of its own making, and in any case, financial assistance we are giving to other countries is actually the money we are borrowing from others in order to give it away.”

Bessarabia: Unknown, Isolated, Forgotten.

(From the January 3 issue of the British *Economist*.) “The isolated region of Ukrainian Bessarabia, which is also known as Budjak, has become one of the latest places for Ukraine-watchers to worry about. Many of the inhabitants fear a spread of the war from eastern Ukraine.

“Geography gives their region great strategic importance, especially if the Russians were ever tempted to try to carve a land corridor across to Crimea, Odessa, and the Romanian border.

“Ukrainian Bessarabia is bounded by the Black Sea, the Danube, and the Moldova. The Russian-controlled breakaway region of Transnistria is to the north. There are no roads, bridges or ferries across the Danube to Romania and only two roads connect the region to the rest of Ukraine. If the bridges over the Dniester were blown up, it would be cut off.

Fewer than half of the region’s 570,000 people are Ukrainian. The rest are Bulgarians, Russians, Moldovans, Gagauz or Albanians. Many have a benign view of Russia, which gave their ancestors land and freedom 200 years ago. Almost everyone speaks Russian and many complain that Ukraine has done little for them.

“The result is a contradiction. For pro-Ukrainians..., too many fellow Bessarabians hope vaguely that ‘Putin will solve all their problems.’ Few have any faith in the government in Kiev. Yet... at the same time as many feel sympathy for Russia, they also favour Ukraine’s unity.

“The question is what Russia wants. State power has changed hands nine times in Bessarabia in just over 200 years.

“Even so, Ukraine’s flag looks likely to fly over Bessarabia for some time to come.”

What Europeans Think (b)

According to a recent poll by ICM Research, the majority of German citizens and more than half of British and French citizens are opposed to the idea of Moldova, Georgia

and Ukraine joining the European Union. In Germany, 71% of respondents said they were opposed to the idea.

(ICM Research is registered in England and Wales, and was founded in 1989.)

Hate You! Need Your Trade!

(Excerpts from the January 5 issue of the American business magazine *Forbes*.)

“Russia and Ukraine have essentially been fighting an undeclared war for most of the past year: thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced....

“It’s been a total disaster, and is probably the closest thing to a full-scale interstate war that Europe has seen since the dark days of the 1940’s.

“Given the fact that they’re shooting at each other,... it might be somewhat surprising to learn that Russia is *still* Ukraine’s single largest trading partner.

“From January-October 2014, Ukraine exported about \$8.8 billion worth of goods and services to the Russian Federation while importing roughly \$11.2 billion.

“What does this suggest?

“What it *does* suggest is that the Ukrainian government’s attempts to rapidly move away from Russia are going to be extremely difficult and a lot more time-consuming than public statements have indicated.

“Difficult doesn’t mean ‘impossible,’ but the current effort to re-orient Ukraine towards Europe will be a decades long process, not something that can be accomplished through holding a few press conferences or signing a few bills into law.

“That the volume of Russia-Ukraine trade is still as high as it is is a testament to the importance of economic institutions and their durability in the face of overwhelming political pressure. Changing that is possible, but it will take a very long time.”

What Germans Think

According to a recent poll taken by ICM Research, most Germans suggest anti-Russian sanctions have backfired, undermining hopes for the resolution of the Ukraine crisis.

Over half of German citizens, 54%, believe that sanctions imposed by the West on Russia amid the Ukrainian crisis have negatively affected hopes for a conflict settlement. Only 16% of German citizens think the sanctions

have affected the situation positively.

Inflation Soars

(From a January 7 broadcast by *Radio Free Europe*, an American agency with headquarters in Washington, D.C.)

“Ukraine’s annual inflation rate reached nearly 25 percent during 2014, the highest rate seen there in 14 years. Ukraine’s State Statistic Service said on January 6 that consumer price inflation soared to 24.9 percent during 2014 compared to 0.5 percent in 2013.

“Major factors driving up inflation included the conflict in the country’s east, which hit major exports such as steel and forced imports of coal and electricity, and the government’s decision to raise the domestic price of natural gas.

“The falling purchasing power of the hryvnia currency, which lost half of its value in 2014, also contributed to rising prices for food, fuel, and services.

“Ukraine’s 2015 budget envisages annual inflation of just over 13 percent. But Central Bank Governor Valeriya Hontareva has said inflation is likely to rise to as much as 18 percent if the government further increases the price of natural gas for home consumption.”

What Ukrainians Think

In a recent poll conducted by the Kiev International Institute of Sociology, only 8.3% of Ukrainians thought that the free-trade deal with the European Union was the most significant event of 2014. In contrast, the thousands of casualties in the conflict in southeastern Ukraine were highlighted by 46.6% of respondents, who considered *it* the “most important” among the list of 18 events suggested by the poll.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko’s election as the new leader and the downed Malaysia Airlines plane turned out to be among the least important events for the country, according to the poll.

Over half of people who took part in the survey — 54% — have denied help to refugees, considering it to be their country’s responsibility.

The survey also showed that people have little trust in their government — only 8.3% of the respondents said they trust their president.

When asked about high-profile crimes, including the Maidan shootings and the inferno ignited by radicals at

(Continued on Page 10.)

Note: While the text of passages quoted on this page from various sources is consistent with the wording at the source, paragraph breaks may vary. -Sz

What Is Medical Mercy Canada?

Medical Mercy Canada Society (MMC) is a non-religious, non-political charitable organization, registered with the Government of Canada. Its mandate is to provide medical and educational assistance to improve the quality of life in impoverished areas of the world through humanitarian projects with local participation.

MMC's vision is to help create healthy communities by caring for and sharing with those in need by using its Core Values of Compassion, Accountability, Relationships, Empowerment. "CARE".

MMC began in 1991. In January, 1992, the first foreign aid mission went to the Thailand-Burma border to work with Burmese refugees in Thailand. The first mission to Western Ukraine went later in 1992. Teams have gone to both these areas every year since.

The work in both these areas has greatly expanded annually. MMC also now has a medical centre providing free health care on the India-Burma border. MMC also has

many ongoing projects in Nepal.

The work of MMC in Western Ukraine, which began in one village medical aid station (Med Punkt) in 1992, has expanded to over 150 small projects, in over 100 localities in six oblasts (provinces) in Western Ukraine. We do nearly all our development aid work in villages and small towns.

Most of our projects are relatively small, allowing MMC team members to use its Core Values, "CARE", to the fullest. We provide supplies (medical and aids to daily living) and finances for development/restoration of village nursing aid stations (Med Punkt),

Physician-centred village medical clinics (Ambulatoria), small hospitals, schools, child care centres (Sadochek) and Senior Care (Geriatrics) Centres.

MMC has been working on six Senior Care Centres over the past 15 years. We develop them, as we do all projects, slowly, as funds are available, in concert with local (village



Volodya Polevay, MMC Raiyon manager. Tovsteh Care and Rehabilitation Centre in a third-floor room being renovated for disabled children.

councils, regional governments) cooperation.

The largest Senior Care Centre that MMC is helping to develop is located in the small town of Tovsteh, in Zalischehkeh Raiyon (Region), Ternopil Oblast. It is a three-story building. There are presently about 35 seniors living there. Further renovations to the second floor will allow close to 100 seniors to be cared for there. We are helping to renovate the top floor which will be for the care, rehabilitation and education of disabled children from that Raiyon.

MMC is proud of its work to date in this centre for seniors and disabled children. It has been a slow, arduous process. However, with further, ongoing support from Canadians, MMC and the Zalischehkeh Raiyon Government will complete this project.

Donations like that from the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (See "From Our Readers" on Page 4.—Sz) will help to ensure that disabled children will receive humane care that they rightfully need and deserve.

The AUUC funds will be used to fully renovate one or

two rooms on the third floor for these children. That floor may be able to accommodate about 40 children.

The Raiyon Government is providing, and will continue to provide, the ongoing operational necessities. However, anyone in Canada who would desire to volunteer to provide their expertise and/or compassion for the seniors or disabled children in this Centre would be warmly welcomed and accepted.

Please visit the MMC web site www.medicalmercycanada.org for more information and contact the office if interested in donating or volunteering.

MMC extends a sincere thanks to all those in the AUUC who helped raise the funds that AUUC donated for this cause. Thank you, AUUC.

Perhaps sometime in the near future, when you visit Western Ukraine, you may visit this Care Centre and see how your kind donation has helped to "improve the lives of those in need by caring for and sharing with them".

Peace and Harmony.
—**Elaine R.M. Semkuley, MMC Director**
—**Myron Semkuley, M.D., MMC Director**

What About Russia?

(Continued from Page 3.) Russia as the main military threat.

NATO, no surprise, denies that it threatens anyone, in spite of its Strategic Concept, adopted in 2010. The Strategic Concept specifies that "deterrence, based on an appro-

priate mix of nuclear and conventional capabilities, remains a core element" of NATO strategy.

Considering that NATO was set up in the first place to contain the USSR and the socialist community of nations and has expanded presently the very borders of Russia, it would seem best to take NATO's denials with a grain of salt

On December 23, the *To-*

ronto Star had an interesting line about the ruble "one of the worst-performing currencies this year, along with the Ukrainian hryvia". This is interesting because one seldom sees indications that the Ukrainian economy as at least as much in crisis as that of Russia.

Russia is definitely preparing for a full-blown recession within a year.

was quoted as follows.)

"Czech President Milos Zeman has slammed Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, calling him 'a prime minister of war' because he is unwilling to peacefully solve the civil conflict in the country.

"From the statements by PM Yatsenyuk, I think that he is a prime minister of war, because he does not want a peaceful solution to the crisis recommended by the European Commission.

"Yatsenyuk wants to solve Ukrainian conflict by the use of force," added the Czech leader.

"Zeman said he doesn't believe that the February coup, during which then-President Viktor Yanukovich was deposed from power, was a democratic revolution at all.

"Maidan was not a democratic revolution, and I believe that Ukraine is in a state of civil war," Zeman said."

ing answers from Berlin.

"First, though, here's what Yatsenyuk actually said: 'All of us still clearly remember the Soviet invasion of Ukraine and Germany,' he told German state broadcaster ARD. 'We need to avoid [a repeat of] it.'

"Nobody has the right to rewrite the results of the Second World War,' he also added. 'Russia's President Putin is trying to do exactly this.'

"Just as it seemed the story would fade away, the Russian Foreign Ministry made a late intervention, asking Berlin to outline its official position on Yatsenyuk's verbiage. The reply, assuming it ever arrives, will be telling."

"Premier of War"

(In an interview with Czech daily newspaper *Pravo*, Czech President Milos Zeman

Mixed Results

(Continued from Page 4.) to stay afloat.

Russia supplies about 30% of Europe's natural gas, moving about 40% of that through Ukraine. Ukraine receives billions in transit fees for allowing the transportation over its territory. Now Russia it threatening to bypass Ukraine entirely, moving all the gas through Turkey.

There is some question whether Europe would be able to handle it from the border of Turkey and Greece, as well as whether delivering it to Greece would meet the contractual delivery terms.

At the start of January, France suggested that the sanctions against Russia be ended, according to the *New York Times*, and there appears

to be a rising "fatigue" in Europe concerning the situation in Ukraine and in confrontation with Russia.

The "fatigue" may have a bit of self-interest behind it. The sanctions may be hurting Russia, but they also hurt those who export to Russia, such as European food exporters.

The really serious concern is the possibility of Russia defaulting on its debts. That could have a truly devastating effect on the international money regime.

One final observation: Considering the bitterness of relations between Ukraine and Russia, and the apparent vigour of actions against Russia by the countries of NATO, it is ironic and the economies of the two countries are so deeply interwoven that they continue to be each other's greatest trading partners!

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 9.)

Odessa's House of Trade Unions — with both events causing over a hundred deaths — the majority of respondents blamed the government for the crimes remaining unsolved. Over 45% thought the country's officials were motivated to avoiding uncovering the truth.

The main concern in 2014 was rising prices, which bothered 64.8% of respondents.

Foot-In-Mouth Disease

(As reported on January 12 on the Global Research website)

"This week, Ukraine Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said the USSR had invaded Germany and Ukraine in WW2. Despite attempts by the Western press to bury the story, Russia is now demand-

numbers. A fund-raising campaign was started to build a new assembly hall.

Suddenly, one of the brothers died. The remaining one sought out the new pastor the day before the funeral and handed him a check for the amount needed to finish paying for the new building.

"I have only one condition," he said. "At his funeral, you must say that my brother was a saint."

The pastor gave his word, (Continued on Page 11.)

JoKe TiMe

There were two brothers who were rich, and used their money to keep their evil ways hidden. They attended the same church, and appeared to be perfect Christians.

Then, their pastor retired, and a new one was hired. Not only could he see right through the brothers' deception, but he also spoke well and true, and the church started to swell in

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Join the AUUC community! 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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E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net Web site: auuc.ca

VANCOUVER BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
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Phone: (604) 254-3436 Fax: (604) 254-3436
E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net

CALGARY BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
3316-28 Avenue SW
Calgary AB T3E 0R8
Phone: (403) 246-1231
E-mail: calauuc@telus.net

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Ukrainian Centre
11018-97 Street
Edmonton AB T5H 2M9
Phone: (780) 424-2037 Fax: (780) 424-2013
E-mail: auucedm@telus.net

VEGREVILLE BRANCH

c/o Lil Humeniuk
Box 481
Vegreville AB T9C 1R6
Phone: (780) 632-3021

REGINA BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
1809 Toronto Street
Regina SK S4P 1M7
Phone: (306) 522-1188 Web site: www.poltava.ca

WINNIPEG BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
591 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4 ult-wpg.ca
Phone: (204) 582-9269 Fax: 589-3404

OTTAWA BRANCH

c/o Robert Seychuk
24 Attwood Crescent
Ottawa ON K2E 5A9
Phone: (613) 228-0990

TORONTO BRANCH

AUUC Cultural Centre
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone: (416) 588-1639 Fax: 588-9180
auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
342 Ontario Road
Welland ON L3B 5C5
Phone: (905) 732-5656

JoKe TiMe

(Continued from Page 10.)
and deposited the check.

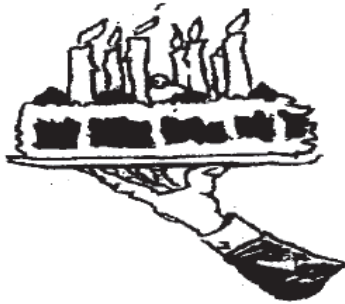
The next day, at the funeral, the pastor did not hold back. "He was an evil man," he said. "He cheated on his wife and abused his family."

He concluded with, "But, compared to his brother, he was a saint."

* * *

An elderly man in Toronto called his son in Winnipeg and said, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your

Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens' Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of February and March:

Lucy Antoniw
Clarence Capowski
Fanny Hruschak

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

The **Toronto Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to February and March celebrants:

Patricia Dzatko
Alexandra Tomaszewski

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** wishes the best of health and happiness in the coming year to February and March celebrants:

Margaret Hallstrom
Dianna Kleparchuk
Leona Levchuk
Dora Stewart

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to February and March celebrants:

Margaret Card
Joy Edwards
Bill Lukan
Wanda Lukan
Olga Young

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

mother and I are divorcing; 45 years of misery is enough."

Then he hung up.

Frantic, the son called his sister in Calgary, who exploded. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouted.

She called Toronto and yelled, "You are NOT getting

divorced. Don't do anything until my brother and I get there tomorrow!"

The old man turned to his wife. He said, "Okay, they're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way. What do we tell them for Christmas?"

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will present **Ukrainian Arts and Cultural Festival** at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street, on Friday, **February 27**, and Saturday, **February 28**. The event will feature choral and orchestral **workshops**, Ukrainian bead making and other **crafts**, and an **Open Mic Perogy Dinner** at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

* * *

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will present **Perogy Lunch and Mini Bazaar** at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street, on Sunday, **April 19**, from **11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

* * *

Regina — **Concert-Recital** featuring 125 performers from the **AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts** and the **Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance**, will be staged on Saturday, **February 7**, at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre (RPAC)**, 1077 Angus at 4th Avenue. For **tickets call the RPAC Box Office** at (306) 779-2277.

* * *

Weyburn — **AUUC Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance** will appear **In Concert** on **March 1**, at **Cugnet Centre**, as part of Weyburn Concert Series "**Stars for Saskatchewan**". See local media for tickets. **Sponsored by the Saskatchewan Organization of Arts Councils.**

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host **Love and Laughter** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **February 15**. Among the planned activities are a presentation by the **Hahilka Singers** and a **joke contest**. **Admission: \$10.00/person.**

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host a **movie afternoon** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, on Sunday, **March 8**. The date is tentative for this event, which will feature a program appropriate to International Women's Day. For more information, contact the Branch Executive.

* * *

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.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Mike Boychyn estate	\$1025.00
AUUC Welland Branch, Welland On	500.00
Helen Galange, Brantford ON	
<i>In memory of my dear husband Bill</i>	100.00
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Lawrence Kleparchuk, Vancouver BC	70.00
Anne Koivu, Chemsford ON	70.00
Helen Galange, Brantford ON	
<i>In memory of Joe Caryk</i>	50.00
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Hrappstead Family, The Pas MB	10.00
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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.

33rd NATIONAL AUUC CONVENTION FEATURES YOUTH, WOMEN AND VETERANS

From Our History — 40 years ago

The 33rd AUUC National Convention, held at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, 300 Bathurst Street in Toronto, was a four-day event with 120 delegates. The report on that Convention, reprinted from the April, 1975, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*, provides a rich view of the AUUC legacy. Spelling and grammar is presented as it was in the original.

Delegates to the National Convention of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians meeting in Toronto February 27, 28 and March 1, 2, were enthusiastically unanimous that this was the finest Convention in memory.

The convention drew on a long history of achievements and progress to illuminate and help plan the work of the Association in many cities and towns of Canada where it is a viable and productive part of the Canadian cultural scene.

What enthused the 120 delegates were the well-thought-out reports, the resolutions, many sent in from the various branches, and the very rich contributions by the delegates.

All of them reflected the commitment of the organization to the struggle for peace and to closer ties with the motherland of their fathers; to the great cause and objectives of International Women's Year; to urgent economic problems in Canada. They reflect the faith of the younger generations in the goals of the Association and its community.

Prominent and noticeable was the active presence and participation of women and youth delegates in the work of

the sessions.

In the main organizational report by National Secretary, William Harasym, it was stated that; "During the weeks and months of preparation for the Convention the past NEC has noted an overwhelming agreement with the proposition that this, our 33rd National gathering, should be a practical working convention" and further, "that this Convention needs to deal with the question of how?" and not "why?"; of "how best to build and strengthen the AUUC" and not to preoccupy itself with side issues.

The national secretary's report spelled out the challenge to the delegates in session. The delegates reported on work well done, work in progress and exciting new plans for growth and new successes in the future.

One of the highlights of the Convention underlining the concern of the AUUC with peace was the Declaration adopted marking the 30th Anniversary of Victory Over Fascism in World War II. During the reading of the Declaration an Honourary Presidium of Ukrainian-Canadian Veterans of World War II and Ukrainian-Canadian Veterans



The 33rd National Convention covered a wide range of topics in four days of sessions. What emerged from the deliberations of 120 delegates was a strong sense of community progress and optimistic plans for the future.

of the International Brigade that fought in the Spanish Civil War occupied the stage.

The concern of the Association and its members with the struggle for world peace was further underscored by an eloquent message by Rev. John Morgan, President of the Canadian Peace Congress; by resolutions on detente and peace and an end to Canadian commitment to NORAD; and by speakers and resolutions on solidarity with the oppressed peoples of the world.

There were 52 women delegates from the various provinces. International Women's Year was very much on the agenda of this Convention to which a special session was devoted. It's (sic) spirit was eloquently summed up in the Declaration on International Women's Year and in outstanding contributions to the issues of IWY by a number of women delegates. (See full text of Declaration on Page 6.)

Other special reports dealt with a review of the present situation in the Ukrainian Canadian community; a report on the AUUC delegation to the Ukraine; and also contributions on the publishing activities covering the recent period and on the special AUUC history project for the future.

There were a number of contributions by the delegates on the great possibilities for further cultural development in the various communities with such projects as the Heritage Television Series; the production of Adam's Sons as a special for the Calgary Centennial Celebrations, (followed by performances in Edmonton and Lethbridge); a National Youth seminar this summer at Husavick in Manitoba and many other events and activities. Education was strongly emphasized for young and old alike — with a number of educational programs in preparation.

A review of major cultural events since the last convention and plans for the present

and in the immediate future revealed an organization that is very active, innovative, and productive. One got the feeling that there was great promise in future contributions to multi-culturalism. Festival Winnipeg 100, the film of the AUUC Poltava Dancers of Regina, and a long list of concert events and special projects attest to the community scale on which the AUUC works, and continues to make its contribution to the cultural life of the country.

There was an inspiring tape with a 40-minute greeting from Society Ukraina in Kiev featuring its President, Yuri Smolych and Chairman Olexander Pidsukha, as well as representatives from the Western Regions of the Ukraine. There were also contributions from representatives of the arts, including an exquisite musical program. The Convention also heartily applauded greetings from the League of American Ukrainians by its secretary, M. Torchenko.

Another highlight among the many in the greetings to the Convention was the brief address by Julian Koteles, chairman of the National Advisory Council to the Minister on Multi-Culturalism (sic). His was an inspiring message

that breathed with optimism. He spoke of new challenges and opportunities in the field of multiculturalism.

There were greetings from Canadian Solidarity Committees with the peoples of Chile and South Africa, as well as from progressive ethnic fraternal organizations in Canada.

The Convention banquet of 400 guests in the Crystal Ball Room of the King Edward-Sheraton Hotel heard greetings from the Ambassador of the USSR to Canada, O.M. Yakovlev and from Nickolas Leluk, Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Culture and Recreation. Mr. Leluk brought greetings from Ontario's Premier, Wm. Davis. The Hahilka Choir sang some traditional Ukrainian songs and were greeted enthusiastically by the packed house.

There was no question in the minds of the delegates that the 33rd National Convention will serve as a landmark for the Association and the community in the 70's and more immediately as a guide to a further strengthening of the organization and its contribution to both the ethnic group and Canadian society as a whole.

— Wm Repka



Officers of the Convention Committee: Roy Semak Montreal, chairman, with William Harasym and Peter Prokop.



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